

Supporting information

Ring-opening of Methylenecycloalkenes via the C-C Bond Cleavage.

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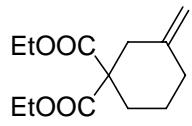
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1. General Methods

Toluene was distilled from sodium benzofenone ketyl. All other reagents were obtained from commercial sources. GC analyses were obtained on a Shimadzu GC-17A chromatograph equipped with a ZB-5 column (5% phenyl – 95% dimethyl-polysiloxane). Infrared spectra were recorded on a Thermo Nicolet Avatar 370 FT-IR and are reported in wave numbers (cm^{-1}). ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded as CDCl_3 solution on a Varian UNITY 400 INOVA (^1H at 400 MHz, ^{13}C at 100 MHz) or Varian VN-MRS 300 (^1H at 300 MHz, ^{13}C at 75 MHz) by using Me_4Si as an internal standard. Mass spectra were obtained on a FINNIGAN MAT INCOS 50 instrument. HR mass spectra were recorded on a ZAB-SEQ VG Analytical spectrometer. All reactions were carried out under argon atmosphere in oven-dried Schlenk tubes. ^1H NMR yields were determined by using an internal standard (mesitylene).

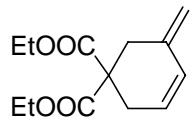
2. Preparation of Starting Material

Diethyl 3-methylenecyclohexane-1,1-dicarboxylate (1a). The synthesis of the title compound was carried out according to the previously reported procedure.¹



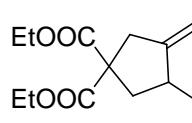
¹H NMR 300MHz (CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H), 1.62-1.72 (m, 2H), 2.05 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.12 (dd, *J* = 6.3, 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.67 (s, 2H), 4.10-4.25 (m, 4H), 4.74 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR 300MHz (CDCl₃) δ 14.03, 24.13, 31.05, 33.91, 39.56, 56.55, 61.19, 110.48, 144.20, 171.18. The spectral characteristics of **1a** were in agreement with the previously published data.¹

Diethyl 5-methylenecyclohex-3-ene-1,1-dicarboxylate (1b). The synthesis of the title



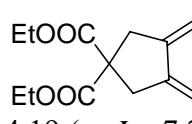
compound was carried out according to the previously reported procedure.² ¹H NMR 400MHz (CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 1.21 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H), 2.65-2.69 (m, 2H), 2.86 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 2H), 4.10-4.25 (m, 4H), 4.88-4.93 (m, 2H), 5.75-5.82 (m, 1H), 6.15 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H). The spectral characteristics of **1b** were in agreement with the previously published data.³

Diethyl 3-methyl-4-methylenecyclopentane-1,1-dicarboxylate (1c). The synthesis of the



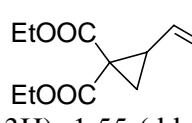
title compound was carried out according to the previously reported procedure.⁴ ¹H NMR 400MHz (CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 1.11 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.71-1.79 (m, 1H), 2.51-2.60 (m, 2H), 2.94 (d, *J* = 16.9 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (dm, *J* = 17.1 Hz, 1H), 4.14-4.23 (m, 4H), 4.78-4.82 (m, 1H), 4.89-4.92 (m, 1H). The spectral characteristics of **1c** were in agreement with the previously published data.⁵

Diethyl 3,4-dimethylenecyclopentane-1,1-dicarboxylate (1d). The synthesis of the title



compound was carried out according to the previously reported procedure.² ¹H NMR 400MHz (CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H), 3.03 (bs, 4H), 4.19 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 4.95 (bs, 2H), 5.39 (bs, 2H). The spectral characteristics of **1d** were in agreement with the previously published data.²

Diethyl 2-vinylcyclopropane-1,1-dicarboxylate (1e). The synthesis of the title compound



was carried out according to the previously reported procedure.⁶ ¹H NMR 400MHz (CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 1.27 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.55 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 1.69 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.54-2.61 (m, 1H), 4.14-4.28 (m, 4H), 5.14 (ddd, *J* = 10.0, 1.7, 0.5 Hz, 1H), 5.30 (ddd, *J* = 17.1, 1.7, 0.5 Hz, 1H), 5.44

(ddd, $J = 17.1, 10.0, 8.3$ Hz, 1H). The spectral characteristics of **1e** were in agreement with the previously published data.⁶

Diethyl cyclopent-3-ene-1,1-dicarboxylate (1f). The synthesis of the title compound was carried out according to the previously reported procedure.⁷ ¹H NMR 300MHz (CDCl_3 , Me_4Si) δ 1.25 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 6H), 3.01 (bs, 4H), 4.19 (q, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 4H), 5.61 (bs, 2H). The spectral characteristics of **1f** were in agreement with the previously published data.⁷

Diethyl 2-methylenecyclopentane-1,1-dicarboxylate (1g). The synthesis of the title compound was carried out according to the previously reported procedure.¹ ¹H NMR 400MHz (CDCl_3 , Me_4Si) δ 1.26 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 6H), 1.74 (dd, $J = 7.0, 7.0, 7.0, 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.34 (dd, $J = 6.9, 6.9$ Hz, 2H), 2.43-2.49 (m, 2H), 4.19 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 4.20 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 5.26 (brdd, $J = 2.1, 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 5.32 (brdd, $J = 2.3, 2.3$ Hz, 1H). The spectral characteristics of **1g** were in agreement with the previously published data.¹

Diethyl di(prop-2'-en-1'-yl)propandoioate (9). Diethyl allylmalonate (4 g, 25 mmol), Na (0.58 g, 25 mmol), allyl bromide (3.2 g, 26.4 mmol) and ethanol (25 mL). Yield 4.69 g (78 %) of a colourless liquid: ¹H NMR (CDCl_3 , Me_4Si) δ 1.25 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 6H), 2.64 (dt, $J = 7.1, 1.0$ Hz, 4H), 4.18 (q, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 4H), 5.07-5.15 (m, 4H), 5.60-5.72 (m, 2H). The spectral characteristics of **9** were in agreement with the previously published data.⁸

3. General Procedure for C-C Bond Cleavage

General Procedure for C-C Bond Cleavage in the presence of Et_3Al . To a solution of a malonate **1** (0.5 mmol) and $\text{NiBr}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_3$ (18.6 mg, 0.025 mmol) in dry toluene (3 mL) was added 1.9M solution of Et_3Al in toluene (0.5 mL, 1 mmol) under argon. The reaction mixture was stirred under argon at 20°C for 24 hours. After that it was quenched with a portion of water (1 mL) followed by 3M solution of HCl (3 mL). Organic layer was separated and dried (Na_2SO_4). The product was separated by column chromatography (silica gel, hexan/EtOAc).

General procedures for C-C Bond Cleavage in the presence of Me_3Al , $i\text{-Bu}_3\text{Al}$ or MAO. Reactions were carried out in the same manner as the one with Et_3Al .

One pot procedure for cycloisomerization and the C-C bond Cleavage. To a solution of diethyl diallylmalonate **9** (114 mg, 0.5 mmol) and NiBr₂(PBu₃)₃ (16 mg, 0.025 mmol) in dry toluene (3 mL) was added 1M solution of Et₂AlCl in toluene solution in toluene (0.11 mL, 0.1 mmol) under argon. The reaction mixture was stirred under argon at 20 °C for 1 hour. Then was added 1.9M solution of Et₃Al in toluene (0.5 mL, 1 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred at 20 °C for additional 24 hours. After that it was quenched with a portion of water (1 mL) followed by 3M solution of HCl (3 mL). Organic layer was separated and dried (Na₂SO₄). Column chromatography on silica gel (hexan/EtOAc) afforded 86 mg (75%) of **2c**.

4. Product characterization

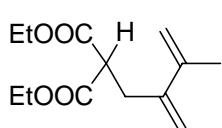
Diethyl 2-(4-methylpent-4-enyl)malonate (2a**).** ¹H NMR 300MHz (CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 1.24 (EtOOC)₂C(CH₃)CH₂CH=CH₂ (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H), 1.39-1.52 (m, 2H), 1.69 (s, 3H), 1.84-1.92 (m, 2H), 2.11 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.32 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (q, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 4H), 4.65-4.73 (m, 2H). The spectral characteristics of **2a** were in agreement with the previously published data.⁹

Diethyl 2-(4-methylpenta-2,4-dienyl)malonate (2b**).** **Major isomer:** ¹H NMR 400MHz (EtOOC)₂C(CH₃)CH₂CH=CHCH=CH₂ (CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 1.27 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H), 1.88 (bs, 3H), 2.88 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 3.38 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 4.87 (bs, 1H), 4.99 (bs, 1H), 5.33 (dt, *J* = 11.6, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 5.92 (dd, *J* = 11.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 13.98, 23.04, 27.70, 52.25, 61.32, 116.09, 125.96, 133.39, 141.10, 168.89. **Minor isomer:** ¹H NMR 400MHz (CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H), 1.80 (bs, 3H), 2.69 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 3.42 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 4.90 (bs, 1H), 4.91 (bs, 1H), 5.59 (dt, *J* = 15.6, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.21 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 14.00, 18.44, 31.88, 51.97, 61.29, 115.70, 125.27, 135.62, 141.46, 168.83. IR (neat) 3071, 2976, 2940, 2874, 1752, 1369, 1263, 1227, 1029, 893 cm⁻¹; EI-MS m/z (%) 240 (M⁺, 18), 194 (10), 166 (20), 149 (13), 137 (24), 121 (20), 93 (100), 81 (27), 55 (25), 41 (25); HRMS calcd for C₁₅H₂₀O₄ 240.1362, found 240.1365.

Diethyl 2-(2,3-dimethylbut-3-enyl)malonate (2c**).** ¹H NMR 400MHz (CDCl₃, Me₄Si) δ (EtOOC)₂C(CH₃)₂CH=CH₂ 1.04 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.27 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.66 (bs, 3H), 1.94 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 6.6, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 2.18-2.24 (m, 1H), 3.33

(dd, $J = 7.9, 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.17 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 4.20 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 4.69-4.71 (m, 1H), 4.74-4.76 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ 14.01, 14.06, 18.36, 19.62, 33.53, 39.21, 50.22, 61.20, 61.27, 111.15, 147.97, 169.57, 169.71; IR (neat) 3072, 2980, 2968, 2938, 2872, 1751, 1733, 1446, 1368, 1266, 1230, 1150, 1030, 895, 859 cm^{-1} ; EI-MS m/z (%) 242 (M^+ , 2), 224 (20), 197 (37), 173 (48), 160 (100), 151 (42), 123 (44), 95 (53), 55 (72), 41 (81); HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_4$ 242.1518, found 242.1524.

Diethyl 2-(3-methyl-2-methylenebut-3-enyl)malonate (2d). ^1H NMR 400MHz (CDCl_3 ,

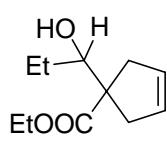


Me_4Si) δ 1.26 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 6H), 1.90 (s, 3H), 2.91 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.61 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.18 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 4H), 5.03 (bs, 2H), 5.11 (d, $J = 14.8$ Hz, 2H). The spectral characteristics of **2d** were in agreement with the previously published data.¹⁰

Diethyl (but-2'-en-1'-yl)propandioate (2e). ^1H NMR 400MHz (CDCl_3 , Me_4Si) δ 1.26 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 6H), 1.63 (dm, $J = 6.2$ Hz, 3H), 2.54-2.62 (m, 2H), 3.36 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.14-4.24 (m, 4H), 5.32-5.44 (m, 1H), 5.49-5.60 (m, 1H).

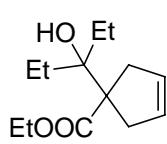
The spectral characteristics of **2e** were in agreement with the previously published data.¹¹

Ethyl 1-(1-hydroxypropyl)cyclopent-3-enecarboxylate (2f). ^1H NMR 300MHz (CDCl_3 ,



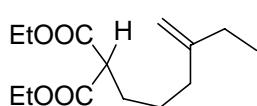
Me_4Si) δ 1.02 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H), 1.16-1.32 (m, 1H), 1.27 (t, $J = 9.3$ Hz, 3H), 1.42-1.55 (m, 1H), 2.43 (dm, $J = 16.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.55 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.58-2.78 (m, 2H), 2.88 (dm, $J = 17.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.57 (ddd, $J = 9.6, 7.5, 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.19 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 5.56-5.61 (m, 1H), 5.62-5.67 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ 11.33, 14.17, 25.37, 38.78, 40.55, 57.02, 60.92, 77.65, 128.05, 129.11, 177.23; IR (neat) 2960, 2922, 2854, 1739, 1728, 1659, 1465, 1449, 1378, 1261, 1095, 1021, 799 cm^{-1} ; EI-MS m/z (%) 198 (M^+ , 1), 180 (11), 151 (14), 140 (20), 123 (18), 107 (35), 94 (17), 79 (33), 67 (100), 41 (29); HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3$ 198.1256, found 198.1253.

Ethyl 1-(3-hydroxypentan-3-yl)cyclopent-3-enecarboxylate (2f'). ^1H NMR 400MHz



(CDCl_3 , Me_4Si) δ 0.92 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 6H), 1.29 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 1.46-1.59 (m, 4H), 2.17 (s, 1H), 2.68-2.87 (m, 4H), 4.20 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 5.60 (bs, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ 8.74, 14.05, 28.40, 39.38, 61.22, 61.36, 76.48, 128.71, 178.24; EI-MS m/z (%) 208 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{H}_2\text{O}$, 4), 197 (18), 179 (3), 151 (22), 140 (30), 135 (14), 87 (15), 79 (7), 67 (53), 57 (100).

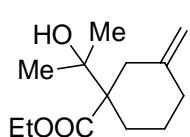
Diethyl 2-(4-methylenehexyl)malonate (7). ^1H NMR 400MHz (CDCl_3 , Me_4Si) δ 1.02 (t, J



= 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H), 1.42-1.51 (m, 2H), 1.89 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.00 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.06 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 3.34 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 4.70 (bs, 1H), 4.72 (bs, 1H); ^{13}C

NMR (CDCl_3) δ 12.30, 14.08, 25.42, 28.42, 28.57, 35.72, 51.97, 61.28, 108.08, 150.58, 169.51; IR (neat) 1754, 1734, 1651, 1262, 1094, 1022, 802, 692 cm^{-1} ; EI-MS m/z (%) 256 (M^+ , 1), 211 (15), 173 (41), 160 (45), 136 (22), 96 (100), 81 (40), 67 (45), 55 (38), 41 (70); HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_4$ 256.1675, found 256.1676.

Ethyl 1-(2-hydroxypropan-2-yl)-3-methylenecyclohexanecarboxylate (8). ^1H NMR



400MHz (CDCl_3 , Me_4Si) δ 1.20 (s, 3H), 1.21 (s, 3H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.42-1.48 (m, 2H), 1.75-1.83 (m, 1H), 1.87-1.97 (m, 1H), 2.09 (ddd, J = 13.2, 2.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 2.17-2.28 (m, 2H), 2.78 (bs, 1H), 2.79 (ddd, J = 13.2, 2.8, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (dq, J = 6.8, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 4.68-4.71 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ 14.18, 24.96, 25.48, 25.99, 28.76, 34.38, 37.77, 57.29, 60.66, 73.65, 109.72, 146.11, 175.32; IR (Diffuse Reflectance) 2958, 2923, 2850, 1720, 1650, 1451, 1372, 1254, 1207, 1096, 1026, 887, cm^{-1} ; EI-MS m/z (%) 208 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{H}_2\text{O}$, 1), 181 (2), 163 (4), 153 (2), 145 (1), 122 (3), 105 (3), 95 (6), 44 (22), 40 (100).

5. References

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