Journal of Organic Chemistry

**Supporting Information to Accompany :** 

### A Novel Deoxygenation Reaction of Epoxides by Indium

Mohan Mahesh<sup>†</sup>, John A. Murphy<sup>\*,†</sup> and Hans Peter Wessel<sup>‡</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry, University of Strathclyde, 295, Cathedral Street, Glasgow G1 1XL, U. K.

<sup>‡</sup>Pharma Research, Discovery Chemistry, F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd., Basel, CH-4070, Switzerland

E-mail: john.murphy@strath.ac.uk

Contents List		Page No.
Table	of	S1 - S2
Contents		
General		S3 – S4
Points		

General		methods	for		the	pro	eparation		of	<b>S</b> 5
epoxides	•••••			••••						
Experimen	ntal Pro	ocedures f	for the deox	xygenati	on of ep	poxide	s and spe	ectros	copic	
data of alk	enes	•••••	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • •							S5 – S15
References	s for th	e Experim	nental Secti	on						S15 - S16
$^{1}\mathrm{H}$	and	<sup>13</sup> C	C N	IMR	sp	ectra	O	f	1	S17 and S18
			•••••		•••••					
$^{1}\mathrm{H}$		and	<sup>13</sup> C		NMR		spectra		of	S19 and S20
<b>2</b> ( <i>E</i> )				•••••	•••••					
$^{1}\mathrm{H}$		and	<sup>13</sup> C		NMR		spectra		of	S21 and S22
<b>4</b> ( <i>E</i> )		•••••	•••••							
$^{1}\mathrm{H}$		and	<sup>13</sup> C		NMR		spectra		of	S23 and S24
6a	•••••									
$^{1}\mathrm{H}$		and	<sup>13</sup> C	NMR	sp	ectra	of		<b>8</b> ( <i>E</i> )	S25 and S26
			•••••							
$^{1}\mathrm{H}$		and	<sup>13</sup> C		NMR		spectra		of	S27 and S28
9				•••••						
$^{1}\mathrm{H}$	and	<sup>13</sup> C	NMR	spectra	of	6	( <b>E</b>	and	Z	S29 and S30
mixture)										
$^{1}\mathrm{H}$		and	<sup>13</sup> C		NMR		spectra		of	S31 and S32
11										
$^{1}\mathrm{H}$		and	<sup>13</sup> C		NMR		spectra		of	S33 and S34
12										
$^{1}\mathrm{H}$		and	<sup>13</sup> C		NMR		spectra		of	S35 and S36
13										

$^{1}\mathrm{H}$	and	<sup>13</sup> C	NMR	spectra	of	S37 and S38
15						
$^{1}\mathrm{H}$	and	<sup>13</sup> C	NMR	spectra	of	S39 and S40
16						
$^{1}\mathrm{H}$	and	<sup>13</sup> C	NMR	spectra	of	S41 and S42
17			•••••			
<sup>1</sup> H	and	<sup>13</sup> C	NMR	spectra	of	S43 and S44
<b>19</b> ( <i>E</i> )						
<sup>1</sup> H	and	<sup>13</sup> C	NMR	spectra	of	S45 and S46
20						
${}^{1}H, {}^{1}H - {}^{1}H$	COSY, <sup>13</sup>	C (DEPT)	NMR spectra	a of <b>21</b> ( <i>E</i> a	and Z	S47, S48 and S49
mixture)						
1D <sup>1</sup> H nOe, 21	D <sup>1</sup> H NOE	ESY and D	QFCOSY NM	IR spectra and	their	
interpretation of	details for	the ste	reochemistry	of <b>21</b> ( <i>E</i>	and	S50 - S53
Z)						
$^{1}\mathrm{H}$	and	<sup>13</sup> C	NMR	spectra	of	S54 and S55
22						
<sup>1</sup> H	and	<sup>13</sup> C	NMR	spectra	of	S56 and S57
25			•••••			
<sup>1</sup> H	and	<sup>13</sup> C	NMR	spectra	of	S58 and S59
31						

#### **General Points:**

Infra-red spectra were recorded on FT-IR spectrometers. Proton NMR (<sup>1</sup>H) spectra were recorded at 400 MHz or at 300MHz. Carbon NMR (<sup>13</sup>C) spectra were similarly recorded at 100.61 MHz or 75.50 MHz . The two-dimensional (2D) homonuclear (<sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H) shift correlation experiments were carried out at 400 MHz and two dimensional heteronuclear (<sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C) shift correlation experiments were performed at 100 MHz. The 1D <sup>1</sup>H nOe NMR data and two-dimensional <sup>1</sup>H NOESY and DQFCOSY NMR data were acquired at 400.13 MHz using a Dual (BBO) probehead at a temperature of 300 K. The NMR experiments were, in general, carried out in deuterochloroform (CDCl<sub>3</sub>), unless, otherwise specified. The chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are quoted in parts per million (ppm) from TMS as the internal standard. Multiplicities are abbreviated as s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet; br, broad. The coupling constants (*J*) are reported in Hertz (Hz).

High and low resolution mass spectra were recorded were recorded using electron impact (EI), chemical ionization (CI), fast atom bombardment (FAB) or electrospray (ES) techniques as stated for each compound.

Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) was performed at Strathclyde University.

Melting points (mp) were carried out and are uncorrected.

Flash chromatography was performed using silica gel 60 (200-400 mesh). Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed using aluminium sheets of silica gel 60  $F_{254}$  and was visualized under uv lamp (254 nm). The plates were developed with aqueous potassium permanganate solution, methanolic phosphomolybdic acid (10-20% w/v), acidic *p*-anisaldehyde (10% v/v) or acidic methanolic vanillin solutions.

All reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification unless otherwise stated. As required, organic solvents were dried and / or distilled prior to use. Tetrahydrofuran was dried by distillation from sodium and benzophenone, dichloromethane was dried by distillation over calcium hydride, diethyl ether was dried over sodium wire, and petroleum ether was

distilled at 60-80°C. *n*-Heptane used for flash chromatography was of  $\geq$ 99.3% purity and was used without further purification. In experiments where sodium hydride (60% suspension in mineral oil) has been utilized as a base, it was washed with petroleum ether or THF at least twice prior to use.

Indium metal power of 99.99% purity (purity excludes ~1% Mg as anticaking agent) or of 99+% purity. Indium(I) chloride (anhydrous) was of 99.99% purity and ammonium chloride from Fisher Scientific of 99+% purity.

*trans*-Stilbene oxide and *trans*-1,3-diphenyl-2,3-epoxypropan-1-one were each  $\geq$ 98% purity. *cis*-Stilbene oxide, *exo*-2,3-epoxynorbornane and ethyl 3-phenylglycidate (a mixture of *cis* and *trans*) of 97%, 97% and 92% purity respectively.

All reactions requiring anhydrous conditions were performed in flame-dried apparatus under a nitrogen or argon atmosphere. Organic extracts were, in general, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate ( $MgSO_4$ ) or sodium sulfate ( $Na_2SO_4$ ).

#### **Preparation of the epoxides**

The epoxides 1-bromo-2,3-epoxy-3-phenylpropane<sup>1</sup> (1), ethyl 6-chloro-3,4-epoxy-4-phenyl-1,2,3,4tetrahydroquinolin-2-one-3-carboxylate<sup>2</sup> (12), 10,11-epoxy-10,11-di-hydrodibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5one<sup>3</sup> (14), 1a,2,3,7b-tetrahydro-1-oxa-cyclopropa[a] naphthalene<sup>4</sup> (16), (E)-4-{(1S,6R)-2,2,6-trimethyl-7-oxa-bicyclo[4.1.0]hept-1-yl}-but-3-en-2-one<sup>5</sup> (20), 2-methyl-2-phenyloxirane<sup>6a</sup> (22) (Corey-Chaykovsky Method<sup>6b</sup>), 1,3,3-trimethyl-7-oxa-bicyclo[4.1.0]heptan-2-one<sup>7</sup> (25) were prepared according to the respective literature procedures and the spectral data of each of the epoxides were consistent with those reported in the literature.

#### Deoxygenation of 2-bromomethyl-3-phenyloxirane (1) by indium

#### Method I



1-Bromo-2,3-epoxy-3-phenylpropane 1 (0.213 g, 1.0 mmol, 1.00eq) was dissolved in freshly distilled THF (20 ml) and deionized water (20 ml) was added to the solution. Indium metal powder (0.229 g, 2.0 mmol, 2.00 eq) was then added to the mixture and stirred vigorously for 48 h under a nitrogen atmosphere at r.t. before evaporation to dryness and extraction with ethyl acetate (100 ml). The ethyl acetate layer was washed with deionized water (3  $\times$  75 ml), saturated brine solution (100 ml), evaporated to dryness and chromatographed on silica [ethyl acetate/dichloromethane = 1:9] to give cinnamyl alcohol 2 (0.030g, 22%) as a pale brown semi-solid which later crystallized as prisms on long standing, mp 30-32 °C (lit.<sup>8a</sup> mp 30-32 °C) [Found (FAB): MH<sup>+</sup> 135.0816, C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O requires MH 135.0810]; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) 3367, 3105, 3082, 3060, 3028, 2921, 2866, 1656, 1599, 1578, 1494, 1449, 1412, 1379, 1296, 1266, 1203, 1092, 1070, 1009, 968, 920, 835, 802, 734, 694 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  2.48 (broad s, 1H,), 4.32 (dd, J = 5.7, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 6.38 (dt, J = 15.9, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.44 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.61 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ64.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 127.0 (CH), 128.2 (CH), 129.0 (CH), 129.1 (CH), 131.7 (CH), 137.2 (C); GC-MS retention time 12.08 min., m/z (EI) 134 (M<sup>+•</sup>, 26%), 133 (14), 116 (20), 115 (42), 105 (25), 103 (22), 92 (100), 91 (81), 89 (10), 79 (25), 78 (27), 77 (33), 65 (10), 63 (9), 51 (21). The spectroscopic data of the cinnamyl alcohol 2 were consistent with those of an authentic commercial sample and those reported in the literature.<sup>8</sup>

#### Method II



Under nitrogen, 1-bromo-2,3-epoxy-3-phenylpropane **1** (0.320 g, 1.5 mmol, 1.00 eq) was dissolved in ethanol (20 ml) at room temperature, indium metal powder (0.3445 g, 3.0 mmol, 2.00 eq) and

ammonium chloride (0.160 g, 3.0 mmol, 2.00 eq) were added to the solution, which was then heated to reflux at 78 °C for 6 h under nitrogen. Additional indium powder (0.1148 g, 1.0 mmol, 0.67 eq) was then added and the reflux was continued for another 18 h. When the reaction was complete (TLC), the mixture was filtered through Celite,<sup>®</sup> evaporated, and the residue partitioned between water (50 ml) and ethyl acetate (50 ml). The aqueous portion was extracted with ethyl acetate (50 ml) and the combined organic phases were washed with water ( $2 \times 50$  ml), dried, filtered and evaporated to obtain a brown semi-solid, which was purified by chromatography on silica gel to obtain 1-[(*E*)-3-ethoxyprop-1-enyl]benzene **4** (0.046 g, 19%) as a colorless liquid using dichloromethane/petroleum ether (2:3) as eluent and cinnamyl alcohol **2** (0.044 g, 22%) as a pale brown semi-solid using ethyl acetate/dichloromethane (1:9) as eluent.

**1-**[*(E*)-**3-**Ethoxyprop-1-enyl]benzene (**4**): [Found (ESI):  $MNH_4^+$  180.1384,  $C_{11}H_{14}O$  requires *MNH<sub>4</sub>* 180.1383]; IR (neat) 3082, 3060, 3027, 2975, 2929, 2865, 2795, 1599, 1496, 1485, 1449, 1374, 1354, 1132, 1121, 1101, 1080, 1011, 966, 743, 692 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.30 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 3.59 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 4.18 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 6.35 (dt, *J* = 15.9, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.45 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.61 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  15.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 65.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 71.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 126.6 (CH), 126.7 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 128.7 (CH), 132.3 (CH), 137.0 (C); *m*/*z* (EI) 162 (M<sup>++</sup>, 19%), 133 (23), 117 (76), 115 (183), 105 (100), 103 (25), 91 (86), 77 (47), 65 (17), 51 (33), 43 (34). The spectroscopic data of the ether **4** were consistent with literature values.<sup>9</sup>

**Cinnamyl alcohol (2):** The spectral data for the cinnamyl alcohol **2** were consistent with the data of the same compound obtained from the previous method and those reported in the literature.<sup>8</sup>

Deoxygenation of ethyl-(±)-3-phenylglycidate (7) (following general procedure B)



Ethyl-( $\pm$ )-3-phenylglycidate **7** (0.1045 g of 92% mixture of *cis* and *trans*, 0.5 mmol, 1.00 eq), afforded the *trans*-ethyl cinnamate **8** (0.010 g, 11%) and ethyl 3-ethoxy-2-hydroxy-3-phenylpropanoate<sup>10</sup> **9** (0.104 g, 87%) as colorless liquids:

Ethyl 3-ethoxy-2-hydroxy-3-phenylpropanoate<sup>10</sup> (9): [Found (ESI): MNH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> 256.1546, C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>4</sub> requires *MNH*<sub>4</sub> 256.1543]; IR (neat) 3474, 3088, 3064, 3032, 2978, 2933, 2876, 1739, 1495, 1455, 1370, 1302, 1263, 1203, 1103, 1075, 1024, 940, 888, 867, 753, 702 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.20 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.22 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 2.90 (broad s, 1H), 3.44 (dq, *J* = 9.3, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.52 (dq, *J* = 9.3, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.46 (broad s, 1H), 4.63 and 4.67 (2 × d, *J* = 4.2 and 3.3 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.37 (5H, m, ArH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.61 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  14.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>, major), 14.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>, minor), 15.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>, minor), 15.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>, major), 61.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>, major), 61.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>, minor), 65.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>, minor), 65.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>, major), 74.7 (CH, major), 75.4 (CH, minor), 82.1 (CH, minor), 82.9 (CH, major), 127.4 (CH, minor), 137.3 (C, major), 138.1 (C, minor), 172.1 (C, major), 172.2 (C, minor); *m/z* (CI) 256 [(M+NH<sub>4</sub>)<sup>+</sup>, 100%], 239 (5), 221 (3), 212 (7), 210 (24), 196 (3), 194 (8), 177 (4), 162 (4), 137 (4), 135 (8).

Ethyl cinnamate (8): Data for ethyl cinnamate (8) were as reported in the Experimental Section of this paper.

#### Deoxygenation of *cis*-stilbene oxide (10) (following General Procedure C)



*cis*-Stilbene oxide **10** (0.098 g, 0.5 mmol, 1.00 eq), yielded stilbene **6** (0.076 g, 84%) as an inseparable mixture of *cis* and *trans*- isomers in the ratio of 1:3 respectively.

The ratio of the *cis* and *trans* isomers was determined by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectral analysis. The presence of *cis* and *trans*-stilbene was further verified by GC-MS analysis comparing with those of an authentic

sample from Aldrich. The spectroscopic data and GC-MS data of the *cis* and *trans*-stilbene were consistent with those of an authentic commercial sample and with literature values.<sup>11</sup>

*trans*-Stilbene: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ7.16 (s, 2H), 7.28-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.53-7.62 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.61 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 126.7 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 128.9 (CH), 129.0 (CH), 137.6 (C); GC-MS retention time 14.72 min., *m*/*z* (EI) 180 [M<sup>+•</sup>, 100%], 179 (86), 178 (57), 177 (8), 176 (8), 166 (13), 165 (37), 153 (4), 152 (9), 139 (1), 115 (1), 102 (2), 89 (4), 77 (2), 76 (5), 63 (2), 51 (2).

*cis*-Stilbene: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 6.65 (s, 2H), 7.20-7.30 (m, 10H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.61 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 127.3 (CH), 128.4 (CH), 129.1 (CH), 130.4 (CH), 137.4 (C); GC-MS retention time 13.60 min., *m/z* (EI) 180 [M<sup>+\*</sup>, 99%], 179 (100), 178 (77), 177 (9), 176 (14), 165 (56), 152 (18), 151 (5), 139 (2), 115 (2), 102 (4), 89 (7), 77 (2), 76 (9), 63 (4), 51 (5).

#### Deoxygenation of *cis*-stilbene oxide (10) (following General Procedure B)



*cis*-Stilbene oxide **10** was deoxygenated following the general procedure **B** by heating a mixture of *cis*-stilbene oxide **10** (0.098 g, 0.5 mmol, 1.00 eq), indium metal powder (0.201 g, 1.75 mmol, 3.50 eq), indium(I) chloride (0.113 g, 0.75 mmol, 1.50 eq) in absolute ethanol (15 ml) at 80 °C for 8 h under an argon atmosphere to yield a colorless oil. The crude material was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to afford *trans*-stilbene **6a** (0.027g, 30%) as a colorless solid using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:49) as the eluant and 2-ethoxy-1,2-diphenylethanol **11** (0.076g, 63%) as a colorless semi-solid using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:9) as the eluant.

*trans*-Stilbene (6a): The IR, <sup>1</sup>H-NMR, <sup>13</sup>C-NMR, LRMS and HRMS data of *trans*-stilbene 6a were consistent with those reported above for the same compound and with literature values.<sup>8a,11</sup>

**2-Ethoxy-1,2-diphenylethanol (11):** [Found (ESI): MNH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> 260.1645, C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>2</sub> requires *MNH<sub>4</sub>* 260.1645]; IR (neat) 3550, 3469, 3087, 3063, 3031, 2975, 2928, 2876, 1604, 1494, 1454, 1389, 1341, 1319, 1298, 1259, 1223, 1197, 1157, 1091, 1074, 1060, 1014, 916, 900, 851, 820, 766 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.33 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 3.47-3.61 (m, 2H), 3.74 (broad s, 1H), 4.32 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.09-7.17 (m, 4H), 7.24-7.32 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.61 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  15.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 64.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 78.8 (CH), 87.6 (CH), 127.5 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 127.9 (CH), 128.0 (CH), 128.1 (CH), 128.2 (CH), 138.3 (C), 139.5 (C); *m/z* (CI) 260 [(M+NH<sub>4</sub>)<sup>+</sup>, 99%], 242 (27), 225 (100), 214 (24), 196 (50), 135 (21). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR data of 2-ethoxy-1,2-diphenylethanol **11** was consistent with those reported in the literature.<sup>12</sup>

Deoxygenation of Ethyl 6-chloro-3,4-epoxy-4-phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolin-2-one-3carboxylate (12) (following General Procedure C)



Ethyl 6-chloro-3,4-epoxy-4-phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolin-2-one-3-carboxylate **12** (0.103 g, 0.3 mmol, 1.00 eq) was deoxygenated following the general procedure **C** to afford ethyl-6-chloro-1,2-dihydro-2-oxo-4-phenylquinoline-3-carboxylate **13** (0.092 g, 94%) as a white powder, mp 223-224 °C (lit.<sup>13</sup> mp 223-224 °C) [Found (ESI): MH<sup>+</sup> 328.0734, C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>14</sub>ClNO<sub>3</sub> requires *MH* 328.0735]; IR (KBr) 3149, 2986, 2912, 2873, 1739, 1645, 1556, 1485, 1444, 1411, 1374, 1344, 1301, 1277, 1242, 1176,

1142, 1089, 1007, 955, 887, 856, 826, 826, 776, 756, 706 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.98 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 4.14 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.26-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.36-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.56 (m, 5H), 13.6 (broad s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.61 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  14.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 62.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 118.9 (CH), 121.1 (C), 127.2 (CH), 127.6 (C), 129.0 (C), 129.1 (CH), 129.2 (CH), 129.8 (CH), 132.4 (CH), 134.4 (C), 137.4 (C), 150.2 (C), 161.6 (C), 165.7 (C); m/z (EI) 327 [M<sup>++</sup>, 25%], 284 (14), 283 (13), 282 (40), 256 (25), 255 (29), 254 (71), 253 (31), 236 (11), 220 (22), 219 (20), 202 (12), 201 (20), 200 (9), 199 (32), 191 (40), 190 (100), 189 (16), 188 (17), 176 (8), 165 (15), 164 (44), 163 (69), 162 (15), 150 (10), 137 (10), 123 (10), 113 (10), 99 (8), 88 (10), 87 (15), 77 (16), 75 (18), 63 (20), 51 (22), 44 (54).

Deoxygenation of 10,11-epoxy-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[*a*,*d*]cyclohepten-5-one (14) (following General Procedure C)



10,11-Epoxy-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-one **14** (0.111 g, 0.5 mmol, 1.00 eq) was deoxygenated general procedure С following to afford 10,11-epoxy-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-one **15** (dibenzosuberenone) (0.084 g, 81%) as a pale-yellow solid, mp 88-89 °C (lit.<sup>14a</sup> mp 89 °C) [Found (ESI): MH<sup>+</sup> 207.0805, C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O requires *MH* 207.0804]; IR (KBr) 3057, 3024, 2979, 1647, 1590, 1481, 1458, 1427, 1416, 1318, 1300, 1244, 1228, 1208, 1168, 1154, 1113, 1039, 990, 956, 932, 886, 857, 807, 794, 770, 722, 691 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.09 (s, 2H), 7.54-7.62 (m, 4H), 7.66 (ddd, J = 7.5, 7.4, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 8.27 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.61 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  129.3 (CH), 130.7 (CH), 131.3 (CH), 132.2 (CH), 132.4 (CH), 135.4 (C), 139.2 (C), 193.5 (C); *m/z* (EI) 206 [M<sup>+•</sup>, 33%], 178 (94), 176 (24), 152 (20), 139 (6), 126 (7), 113 (7), 102 (8), 98 (10), 89 (16), 87 (21), 76 (24), 74 (38), 63 (57), 50 (79), 39 (100). The spectroscopic data of the dibenzosuberenone **15** were consistent with those of an authentic commercial sample and with those reported in the literature.<sup>14b</sup>

# Deoxygenation of 1a,2,3,7b-tetrahydro-1-oxa-cyclopropa[*a*]naphthalene (16) (following General Procedure C)



1a,2,3,7b-Tetrahydro-1-oxacyclopropa[*a*]naphthalene **16** (0.102 g, 0.7 mmol, 1.00 eq) was deoxygenated following the general procedure **C** to afford 1,2-dihydronaphthalene **17** (0.063 g, 69%) as a colorless liquid with pleasant odour [Found (EI):  $M^{+*}$  130.0783,  $C_{10}H_{10}$  requires *M* 130.0782]; IR (neat) 3032, 2931, 2888, 2880, 1484, 1452, 1438, 1428, 1326, 1278, 1223, 1220, 1159, 1116, 1032, 1026, 1010, 939, 885, 868, 781, 744 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 2.31 (m, 2H), 2.79 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.02 (dt, *J* = 9.5, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (dt, *J* = 9.5, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.98-7.04 (m, 1H), 7.05-7.18 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  23.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 126.3 (CH),126.9 (CH), 127.3 (CH), 128.0 (CH), 128.2 (CH), 129.1 (CH), 134.6 (C), 135.9 (C); *m*/z (EI) 130 [M<sup>++</sup>, 100%], 129 (58), 128 (18), 127 (10), 115 (25), 102 (3), 77 (4). The spectroscopic data of the 1,2-dihydronapthalene **17** were consistent with those of an authentic commercial sample and with those reported in the literature.<sup>15</sup>

## Deoxygenation of *trans*-2,3-epoxy-1,3-diphenyl-1-propanone (18) (following General Procedure A)



*trans*-2,3-Epoxy-1,3-diphenyl-1-propanone **18** (0.561 g, 2.5 mmol, 1.00 eq) was deoxygenated following general procedure **A** to yield (*E*)-1,3-diphenylpropenone **19** (0.264 g, 51%) as a pale-yellow solid, mp 55-56 °C (lit.<sup>16</sup> mp 55-56 °C) [Found (ESI): MH<sup>+</sup> 209.0963,  $C_{15}H_{12}O$  requires *MH* 209.0961];

IR (KBr) 3083, 3051, 3023, 1664, 1607, 1575, 1495, 1448, 1337, 1308, 1287, 1215, 1182, 1156, 1033, 1015, 989, 927, 852, 786, 752 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.41-7.46 (m, 3H), 7.49-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.63 (m, 1H), 7.65-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 8.00-8.07 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.61 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  122.4 (CH), 128.6 (CH), 128.7 (CH), 128.9 (CH), 129.2 (CH), 130.8 (CH), 133.0 (CH), 135.2 (C), 138.5 (C), 145.1 (CH), 190.8 (C); *m/z* (EI) 208 [M<sup>++</sup>, 33%], 207 (44), 179 (14), 165 (8), 152 (3), 131 (22), 115 (2), 105 (52), 103 (33), 89 (5), 77 (100), 63 (9), 51 (83), 39 (13). The spectroscopic data of the (*E*)-1,3-diphenylpropenone were consistent with those of an authentic commercial sample and with those reported in the literature.<sup>17</sup>

Deoxygenation of (*E*)-4-{(1*S*,6*R*)-2,2,6-trimethyl-7-oxabicyclo[4.1.0]hept-1-yl}but-3-en-2-one (20) (following General Procedure C)



(*E*)-4-{(1*S*,6*R*)-2,2,6-Trimethyl-7-oxabicyclo[4.1.0]hept-1-yl}but-3-en-2-one **20** (0.104 g, 0.5 mmol, 1.00 eq) was deoxygenated following general procedure **C** and afforded a 0.7 : 1 mixture of (*Z*)- and (*E*)-4-[(*S*)-2,2,6-trimethylcyclohexylidene]butan-2-one **21** (0.079 g, 81%) as a colorless oil with pleasant odour; IR (neat) 2956, 2928, 2869, 1721, 1463, 1357, 1160, 983, 868, 668 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 1.04 (*Z*) and 1.12 (*E*) (2 × d, *J* = 6.6 and 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.11 (*E*), 1.13 (*Z*) and 1.27 (*Z*) (3 × s, 6H), 1.28-1.86 (*E*) and (*Z*) (m, 6H), 2.16 (*E*) and 2.17 (*Z*) (2 × s, 3H), 2.28-2.41 (*Z*) and 2.76-2.87 (*E*) (2 × m, 1H), 3.11 (*E*), 3.21 (*E*) and 3.42 (*Z*) (3 × dd, *J* = 17.3, 7.1; 17.3, 7.1 and 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 5.30 (*Z*) and 5.47 (*E*) (td and t, *J* = 7.2, 1.6 and 7.1 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.61 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (*E* + *Z*) 18.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 20.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.9 (CH), 30.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 30.2 (CH), 30.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 31.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 32.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 33.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 35.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 35.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 36.8 (C), 38.3 (C), 41.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 42.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 43.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 44.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 112.2 (CH), 113.4 (CH), 152.4 (C), 153.7 (C), 208.1 (C),

208.2 (C); (*E*)-isomer: GC-MS retention time 12.97 min., m/z (EI) 195 [(M+1)<sup>+</sup>, 14%], 194 (2), 179 (20), 177 (73), 176 (52), 161 (100), 151 (4), 149 (3), 147 (4), 137 (7), 136 (20), 133 (20), 123 (19), 122 (8), 121 (76), 120 (13), 119 (34), 109 (23), 107 (22), 106 (36), 105 (30), 95 (40), 94 (11), 93 (37), 91 (26), 81 (40), 79 (33), 77 (16), 67 (32), 65 (8), 55 (6), 43 (21), 41 (26); (*Z*)-isomer: GC-MS retention time 13.16 min., m/z (EI) 195 [(M+1)<sup>+</sup>, 11%], 194 (2), 179 (18), 178 (10), 177 (68), 176 (43), 161 (100), 151 (3), 149 (3), 147 (4), 137 (7), 136 (19), 133 (21), 123 (20), 122 (8), 121 (67), 120 (12), 119 (32), 109 (22), 108 (8), 107 (22), 106 (36), 105 (25), 95 (41), 93 (33), 91 (24), 81 (40), 79 (34), 77 (16), 69 (9), 67 (36), 65 (8), 55 (7), 53 (4), 51 (3), 43 (22), 41 (28). The IR and <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectroscopic data of the alkene **21** were in accordance with the literature.<sup>18</sup>

The *E*:*Z* ratio of the alkene **21** was estimated from the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum and further verified by GC-MS analysis. *E* and *Z* isomers and the stereochemistry of the alkene **21** were determined by 1D <sup>1</sup>H nOe, 2D <sup>1</sup>H NOESY and DQFCOSY NMR experiments.

Attempted deoxygenation reaction of 2-methyl-2-phenyloxirane (22) (following General Procedure C)



Attempted deoxygenation reaction of 2-methyl-2-phenyloxirane **22** was performed following general procedure **C** by heating a mixture of 2-methyl-2-phenyloxirane **22** (0.134 g, 1.0 mmol, 1.00 eq), indium metal powder (0.345 g, 3.0 mmol, 3.00 eq), indium(I) chloride (0.225 g, 1.5 mmol, 1.50 eq) in *t*-butanol (4.8 ml) and water (0.2 ml) at 84 °C for 4 h under an argon atmosphere to yield a colorless oil. Purification of the oil by chromatography on silica [ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:4] afforded 2-*tert*-butoxy-2-phenylpropan-1-ol **31** (0.051 g, 24%) as a colorless oil; [Found (ESI): MNH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> 226.1801,  $C_{13}H_{20}O_2$  requires *MNH*<sub>4</sub> 226.1802]; IR (neat) 3449, 3060, 2976, 2930, 2873, 1492, 1447, 1391, 1365, 1229, 1191, 1168, 1124, 1071, 1046, 1026, 986, 921, 837, 760, 701 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

 $\delta$  1.17 (s, 9H), 1.84 (s, 3H), 2.34 (broad s, 1H), 3.21 (d, *J* = 10.6 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (d, *J* = 10.6 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.53 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.61 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  22.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 31.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 75.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 76.0 (C), 79.3 (C), 127.0 (CH), 127.6 (CH), 128.4 (CH), 146.6 (C); *m/z* (CI) 226 [(M+NH<sub>4</sub>)<sup>+</sup>, 50%], 191 (57), 152 (100), 134 (4).

#### Reduction of $\beta$ -ionone (26) by indium and indium(I) chloride



Indium metal powder (0.230 g, 2.0 mmol, 4.00 eq), indium(I) chloride (0.150 g, 1.0 mmol, 2.00 eq) were added to a stirred solution of  $\beta$ -ionone **26** (0.096 g, 0.5 mmol, 1.00 eq) in *t*-butanol (4.8 ml) and water (0.2 ml) at 30 °C. The mixture was heated to reflux at 84 °C under argon. A white turbidity appeared in the reaction mixture intially which later turned to deep white-grey precipitate. After 30 h, the reaction mixture was cooled and washed through Celite<sup>®</sup> with ethyl acetate (100 ml) using sintered funnel. The filterate was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure to a brown oily residue. This was redissolved in ethyl acetate (100 ml) and washed with brine solution (3 × 100 ml) using a separating funnel. The organic layer was separated, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered, concentrated *in vacuo* to obtain a brown oil residue. Purification of the crude material by flash chromatography on silica [ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 7:93] afforded an inseparable 0.8 : 1 mixture of (*Z*)- and (*E*)-4-[(*S*)-2,2,6-trimethylcyclo hexylidene]butan-2-one **21** (0.082 g, 84%) as a colorless oil with a pleasant odour. The spectral data of the alkene **21** were consistent with those of the same compound reported earlier and with the literature.<sup>18</sup>

#### **References for Experimental Section**

(1) Dickinson, J. M.; Murphy, J. A.; Patterson, C. W.; Wooster, N. F. J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1 1990, 1179.

- (2) Walser, A.; Szente, A.; Hellerbach, J. J. Org. Chem. 1973, 38, 449.
- (3) Krishnan, S.; Kuhn, D. G.; Hamilton, G. A. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1977, 99, 8121.
- (4) Göksu, S.; Seçen, H.; Sütbeyaz, Y. Synthesis 2002, 2373.
- (5) (a) Srikrishna, A.; Nagamani, S. A. J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1 1999, 3393. (b) Aleu, J.;

Brenna, E.; Fuganti, C.; Serra, S. J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1 1999, 271.

(6) (a) Pedragosa-Moreau, S.; Archelas, A.; Furstoss, R. Tetrahedron 1996, 52, 4593. (b) Corey, E.

J.; Chaykovsky, M. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1965, 87, 1353.

(7) Adam, W.; Hadjiarapoglou, L.; Smerz, A. Chem. Ber. 1991, 124, 227.

(8) (a) Fleming, I.; Frackenpohl, J.; Ila, H. J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1 1998, 1229. (b) Fisher, G.

B.; Fuller, J. C.; Harrison, J.; Alvarez, S. G.; Burkhardt, E. R.; Goralski, C. T.; Singaram, B. J. Org. Chem. **1994**, *59*, 6378.

(9) (a) Haight, A. R.; Stoner, E. J.; Peterson, M. J.; Grover, V. K. J. Org. Chem. 2003, 68, 8092. (b)

Gómez-Gallego, M.; Mancheño, M. J.; Ramírez, P.; Piñar, C.; Sierra, M. A. *Tetrahedron* 2000, 56, 4893.

(10) Horiuchi, C. A.; Takeda, A.; Chai, W.; Ohwada, K.; Ji, S. –J.; Takahashi, T. T. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2003**, *44*, 9307.

(11) (a) Matsukawa, S.; Kojima, S.; Kajiyama, K.; Yamamoto, Y.; Akiba, K. -y.; Re, S.; Nagase, S. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2002, 124, 13154. (b) Shi, M.; Xu, B. J. Org. Chem. 2002, 67, 294. (c) Masllorens, J.; Moreno-Mañas, M.; Pla-Quintana, A.; Roglans, A. Org. Lett. 2003, 5, 1559. (d) Aitken, R. A.; Drysdale, M. J.; Ryan, B. M. J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1 1998, 3345.

(12) Inoue, M.; Taguchi, Y.; Sugita, T.; Ichikawa, K. Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn. 1978, 51, 2098.

(13) Tawada, H.; Natsugari, H.; Ishikawa, E.; Sugiyama, Y.; Ikeda, H.; Meguro, K. Chem. Pharm. Bull. **1995**, 43, 616.

- (14) (a) Avram, M.; Dinulescu, I. G.; Dinu, D.; Mateescu, G.; Nenitzescu, C. D. Tetrahedron 1963,
- 19, 309. (b) Platzek, J.; Snatzke, G. Tetrahedron 1987, 43, 4947.
  - (15) Padwa, A.; Caruso, T.; Nahm, S.; Rodriguez, A. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1982, 104, 2865.
  - (16) (a) Padwa, A.; Hamilton, L. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1967, 89, 102. (b) Silver, N. L.; Boykin Jr., D.
- W. J. Org. Chem. 1970, 35, 759.
  - (17) Urawa, Y.; Nishiura, K.; Souda, S.; Ogura, K. Synthesis 2003, 2882.

(18) Subba Rao, G. S. R.; Rajaram, J.; Rathnamala, S.; Sivaramakrishnan, R. *Proc. Indian Acad. Sci.* **1977**, 86 A, 435.













21 Apr 2004

0.0

----

1

Acquisition Time (sec)	3.7224						
Comment	ARC= 2004000033322 Labjournal MM303 Probenmenge 10 mg Labgroup ID wesselh Contact Person Name Mahesh Mohan Contact Person Address 092/6.24A						
Date	15 Apr 2004 19:36:56	Date Stamp	15 Apr 2004 19:36:56				
File Name	C:\PROGRAM FILES\ARCADE\CLIENT\TEMPDIR\62408405.JDX						
Frequency (MHz)	399.73	Nucleus	1H				
Number of Transients	16	Origin	NMR_Roche_Basel				
<b>Original Points Count</b>	32768	Owner	serv				
Points Count	32768	Solvent	CHLOROFORM-D				
Sweep Width (Hz)	8802.82	Temperature (degree C)	30.160				

,

		$7.53 \int 7.52$	-7.36									-1.51
		4.(	01 2.00									
l-1-4-4-	******	8	7		6		5		4	3	2	
[ <u></u>	1.		<u> </u>	<u> </u>				ernical c	suur (bbui)			1
No.	(ppm)	(Hz)	Height	No.	(ppm)	(Hz)	Height	No.	(ppm)	Value	Absolute Value	
1	-0.00	-0.1	0.0425	13	7.34	2933.3	0.3381	1	[7.10 7.12]	2.000	2.36593e+9	1
2	1.51	603.9	0.1848	14	7.34	2934.7	0.1400	2	[7.24 7.28]	2.431	2.87615e+9	4
3	7.11	2842.3	1.0000	15	7.35	2939.8	0.2571	3	[7.30 7.41]	4.000	4.73137e+9	
4	7.23	2892.0	0.0561	16	7.36	2941.1	0.5955	4	[7.49 7.53]	4.009	4.74243e+9	]
5	7.24	2893.3	0.1084	17	7.37	2946.5	0.0958					
6	7.24	2894.4	0.0601	18	7.38	2948.4	0.2956					
7	7.25	2898.9	0.6907	19	7.50	2997.8	0.0559					
8	7.26	2900.6	0.3041	20	7.50	2999.7	0.4697					
9	7.26	2902.4	0.0914	21	7.51	3000.8	0.4990					
10	7.27	2906.7	0.1170	22	7.52	3005.9	0.1137					
11	7.27	2907.8	0.2211	23	7.52	3007.7	0.4657					
12	7.28	2909.1	0.1199	24	7.53	3009.1	0.3286					

-7.11

16 Apr 2004

Acquisition Time (sec)	1.7302							
Comment	Sample ID MM303-A Name Mahesh Department PRBD-CM Phone 624 13C_CPD CDCl3 u canmr2 64							
Date	15 Apr 2004 21:10:19	Date Stamp	15 Apr 2004 21:10:19					
File Name	\\PR-BA-DATA4\MOHAM	M.MY DOCUMEN	TS\NMR\T61935_2.DX					
Frequency (MHz)	75.48	Nucleus	13C					
Number of Transients	1024	Origin	oanmr2					
<b>Original Points Count</b>	32768	Owner	oanmr2					
Points Count	32768	Solvent	CHLOROFORM-D					
Sweep Width (Hz)	18939.39							















S36
















## 17 Feb 2004

Acquisition Time (sec)	5.2691		
Comment	Sample ID MM280 (Epoxid	e) Name MohanM D	epartment PRBD-CM Phone 624 1H_16 CDCl3 u oanmr3 58
Date	17 Feb 2004 14:03:24	Date Stamp	17 Feb 2004 14:03:24
File Name			
Frequency (MHz)	300.23	Nucleus	1H
Number of Transients	16	Origin	Bruker BioSpin GmbH
<b>Original Points Count</b>	32768	Owner	service
Points Count	32768	Solvent	CHLOROFORM-D
Sweep Width (Hz)	6218 91		



			23 Feb 2004
Acquisition Time (sec)	1.7302		
Comment	Sample ID MM280 Name Mc	hanM Department PF	RBD-CM Phone 624 13C CPD CDCI3 u oanmr3 39
Date	20 Feb 2004 00:10:49	Date Stamp	20 Feb 2004 00:10:49
File Name	C:\DOCUMENTS AND SET	TINGS\MOHANM\LC	CAL SETTINGS\TEMPORARY INTERNET FILES\OLK62\U56449 1.DX
Frequency (MHz)	75.50	Nucleus	13C
Number of Transients	1024	Origin	oanmr3
<b>Original Points Count</b>	32768	Owner	oanmr3
Points Count	32768	Solvent	CHLOROFORM-D
Sweep Width (Hz)	18939.39		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·



No.	(ppm)	(Hz)	Height
1	22.26	1680.8	0.9340
2	24.83	1875.0	1.0000
3	53.19	4015.9	0.7657
4	55.53	4192.2	0.9405
5	77.08	5819.9	0.5824
6	77.51	5852.3	0.5682
7	77.71	5867.3	0.1080
8	77.93	5884.1	0.5844
9	126.54	9553.8	0.7513
10	128.82	9726.0	0.8846
11	128.86	9728.9	0.8471
12	129.97	9812.7	0.8484
13	132.99	10041.0	0.2491
14	137.12	10352.6	0.2442

				2 Mar 2004
Acquisition Time (sec)	5.2691	]		
Comment	Sample ID MM282-A (Alker	ne) Name Mahesh De	epartment PRBD-CM Phone 624 1H 16 CDCI2 u commer 57	
Date	02 Mar 2004 17:25:37	Date Stamp	02 Mar 2004 17:25:37	
File Name	\\PR-BA-DATA4\MOHANM	MY DOCUMENTS	NMR\U57067.1 DX	
Frequency (MHz)	300.23	Nucleus	1H	
Number of Transients	16	Origin	Bruker BioSpin GmbH	
<b>Original Points Count</b>	32768	Owner	service	
Points Count	32768	Solvent	CHLOBOFORM-D	
Sweep Width (Hz)	6218 91			



NAME OF A DESCRIPTION OF A

Relation

			3 Mar 2
Acquisition Time (sec)	1.7302	7	
Comment	Sample ID MM282-A Na	me Mahesh Departm	ent PRBD-CM Phone 624 13C, CPD CDCI3 (Loanmr3 59
Date	03 Mar 2004 00:46:04	Date Stamp	03 Mar 2004 00:46:04
File Name	\PR-BA-DATA4\MOHAM	M. MY DOCUMEN	TS\NMR\U57069_1.DX
Frequency (MHz)	75.50	Nucleus	13C
Number of Transients	1024	Origin	oanmr3
<b>Original Points Count</b>	32768	Owner	oanmr3
Points Count	32768	Solvent	CHLOROFORM-D
Sweep Width (Hz)	18939.39		





5

11129.099746.30.923512134.5710160.10.2600 13 135.90 10260.7 0.2715















NMR studies of the (Z)- and (E)-4-[(S)-2,2,6-trimethylcyclohexylidene]butan-2-one (21) to determine the stereochemistry of the molecule

## **Experimental Details**

NMR data were acquired at 400.13 MHz on at a temperature of 300 K. The sample was freshly prepared, dissolved in CDCl<sub>3</sub> and admitted to a 5 mm NMR tube.

1D <sup>1</sup>H nOe NMR data were acquired using the pulse programme noemul driven by the au program noemult. Frequency lists, containing 6 irradiation points each, were established for 9 independent irradiations including one control. Each irradiation was carried out during 70 ms for each frequency per list and each list was cycled through 100 times to provide an overall irradiation time of 7 s per list. Irradiation power was set at 90 dB below maximum power using the decoupler channel. The overall experiment time was 5 hrs.

2D <sup>1</sup>H NOESY and DQFCOSY NMR data were acquired to assist with the interpretation of the 1D <sup>1</sup>H nOe data. NMR data were acquired over frequency widths of 6 ppm (2.4 kHz) in both  $\omega_2$  and  $\omega_1$  into 2 K complex data points for each of 256 t<sub>1</sub> increments acquired in TPPI mode (acquisition time = 426 ms). Fourier transformation was carried out using  $\pi/2$ -shifted squared sine-bell window functions in both dimensions. Data were imported into SPARKY version 3.111 for ease of handling and interpretation.

All NMR data were processed offline on a Dell Precision 340 Workstation operating under Windows 2000 Professional using Xwin-NMR version 3.0.

FIGURE 1. 1D <sup>1</sup>H nOe difference spectra compared with the 1D <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of alkene 21



h





## Result

The solution to the NMR data interpretation problem with regard to the stereochemistry of the alkene **21** is summarized below:



The rationale behind the assignments is given below.

Signal **C** integrates for two protons and corresponds to two magnetically equivalent geminal protons in one isomer. Signals **D** and **E** correspond to a geminal pair of non-magnetically equivalent protons.

Irradiating at **A** results in an nOe to **D** and **E** and to a sharp singlet methyl signal **N**, which integrates for 6 protons relative to signal **A**. Signal **A** is assigned to the proton attached to the double bond of the *E* isomer, signal **N** corresponding to two magnetically equivalent methyl groups associated with the sixmembered ring. Irradiating **F** results in an nOe to the methyl doublet **M** and strong nOes to both **D** and **E**. The relative intensities of the nOes **F** to **D**/**E** and **F** to **M** in the 2D NOESY data indicate that methyl **M** is further away from the **D**/**E** geminal proton pair than proton **F**. From model building, these data are consistent with the stereochemistry at \* as shown. Irradiating at proton **B** results in a strong nOe to doublet **P**, thereby locating proton **B** and methyl **P** in the *Z* isomer. Irradiaton of **C** results in an nOe to **K** (strong) and to **L** (weak). From the 2D COSY data, proton **C** shows a  ${}^{4}J_{HH}$  coupling to proton **H**. By the same token, protons **D** and **E** show similar couplings to methyl protons **J**.






S74



S75





S79