## **Supporting Materials**

## Reaction of TCPE+MTAD

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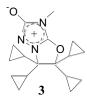
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**Experimental Section**: <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were taken at 400 MHz and 100 MHz respectively with CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> as the solvent at low temperatures and CDCl<sub>3</sub> at room and elevated temperature. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million using the solvent resonance for calibration. Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (app = apparent, par obsc = partially obscured,ovrp = overlapping, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet, br = broad), and integration. APCI mass spectra were obtained by direct injection on a Finigan Navigator LC-PDA-MS in the Florida International University Advanced Mass Spectrometry Facility Center. Dicyclopropyl ketone, titanium (IV) chloride, zinc dust, THF, 4-methyl-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-dione (MTAD), chloroform-d, dichloromethane-d<sub>2</sub> were purchased from Aldrich and used without any purification.



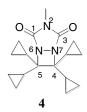
**1,1,2,2-tetracyclopropylethylene** (TCPE, **2**): It was synthesized by McMurry reaction  $^{1,2}$ . TiCl<sub>4</sub> (5.3 mL, 50 mmol) was added to 130 mL of dried THF in 500 mL of round bottom flask. This reaction vessel was placed in ice water bath and 6.4 g of Zn dust (100 mmol) was added portion wise to the solution under  $N_2$  atmosphere with stirring. The color of the solution turned from yellow to dark brown and gray slurry was formed. The slurry was allowed to stir for 15 minutes. Dicyclopropyl ketone (5.0 mL, 50 mmol) was added to 120 mL of dried

THF which was added drop wise to the TiCl<sub>4</sub>/Zn solution over 45 minutes. Once the addition was complete, the solution was refluxed for 24 hours. The resultant reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature then 20 mL of 10 % Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> was added. The solution was extracted three times successively with 20 mL of pentane. The pentane extracts were washed with water and saturated NaCl solution. The pentane extract was dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solution was filtered and solvent was evaporated under vacuum. The crude mixture was purified by silica flash chromatography (230-400 mesh) with pentane as a solvent. The solvent was carefully evaporated and the resulting residue was further purified by vacuum distillation (70-72 °C/0.5 torr) in a relatively low yield (~20%) of highly pure product (95%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.42-1.35 (m, 4H), 0.63-0.56 (m, 8H), 0.56-0.48 (m, 8H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  137.8, 13.8, 5.9.



**5,5,6,6-tetracyclopropyl-3-methyl-5,6-dihydro-oxazolo[3,2-***b***][1,2,4]-triazolium-2-olate** (**3**): A solution of TCPE (5  $\mu$ L, 0.027 mol) in 0.75 mL of CDCl<sub>3</sub> in NMR tube was prepared and 4-methyl-1,2,4-triazoline-3,5-dione (MTAD) (0.0040 g, 0.036 mmol) was added to the solution and agitated at room temperature. The red color of the MTAD quickly faded to pink with the formation of intermediate product (**3**) which is quite stable in refrigerator for several days:  $^1$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.18 (s, 3H), 1.40-1.33 (m, 2H), 1.22-1.15 (m, 2H), 1.05-

0.99 (m, 2H), 0.74-0.68 (m, 2H), 0.66-0.54 (m, 10H), 0.43-0.37 (m, 2H);  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  159.2, 150.9 107.3, 73.3, 26.4, 14.9, 13.9, 2.8, 2.4, 2.3, 2.2.



**6,6,7,7-tetracyclopropyl-3-methyl-1,3,5-triaza-bicyclo[3,2,0]heptane-2,4-dione (4)**: The reaction of TCPE+MTAD in CDCl<sub>3</sub> yields intermediate product **(3)** which was heated to 55 °C in an NMR tube using a thermostated water bath. After 63 hours of heating the intermediate product **(3)** disappeared with simultaneous formation of the corresponding diazetaine as the major product:  $^{1}$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  3.03 (s, 3H), 1.05-0.98 (m, 4H), 0.91-0.84 (m, 4H), 0.70-0.57 (m, 8H), 0.55-0.43 (m, 4H); 13C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 160.7, 80.0, 25.8, 14.9, 3.9, 2.5.

**Determination of Arrhenius plot:** TCPE+MTAD  $\rightarrow$  intermediate (3): NMR tube with 0.027 mmol TCPE in 0.5 mL of CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was cooled in dry ice/acetone bath. After adding 0.036 mmol of cold MTAD dissolved in CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, NMR tube was transferred to NMR probe which had been precooled to a given temperature. Proton NMR spectra were collected with short acquisition times over the range of temperature -50 ~ -20 °C. Two sets of peaks were monitored and integrated (eq. 1, Figure S1) to determine rate constant from the plot of left term of eq. 1 as a function of time. A different solution was prepared and used for each temperature in determining the 2<sup>nd</sup> order rate constant (aA + bB  $\rightarrow$  product, a = b, C<sub>A,0</sub>  $\neq$  C<sub>B,0</sub>).<sup>3</sup>

$$\frac{1}{C_{MTAD,0} - C_{TCPE,0}} \ln \left( \frac{C_{TCPE,0}}{C_{MTAD,0}} \frac{C_{TCPE}}{C_{MTAD}} \right) = k_{obs} t \tag{1}$$

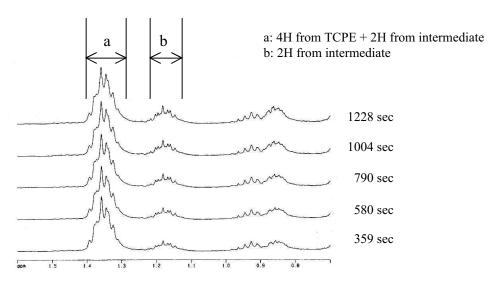


Figure S1. Proton NMR peaks from TCPE+MTAD at -30 °C.

Peak group "a" includes four protons (C-H) of TCPE and two protons (C-H) of intermediate and peak group "b" includes only two protons (C-H) of intermediate. Relative integration of peak group "b" was achieved based on the area of peak group "a". Based on the equation,  $1-\{2*Area(b)/(area(a)+Area(b))\}$   $\propto$  remaining concentration of starting material (C), a plot of left term of eq. 1 as a function of time was obtained. A representative graph as a function of time (sec) at -30 °C is plotted as Figure S2. Analogous plots were obtained at -20, -40 and -50 °C.

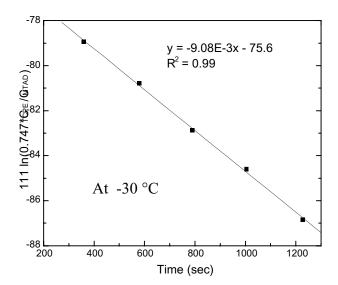


Figure S2. Plot of  $1/(C_{MTAD,0}-C_{TCPE,0}) \ln(C_{TCPE,0}/C_{MTAD,0} \bullet C_{TCPE}/C_{MTAD})$  as a function of time (sec) at -30 °C.

A slope  $(k_{obs})$  of 9.08 x  $10^{-3}$  (mol<sup>-1</sup> sec<sup>-1</sup>) was obtained from the graph at -30°C. Second order rate constants were obtained at -20, -40 and -50 °C in the same fashion yielding 2.08 x  $10^{-2}$ , 5.09 x  $10^{-3}$  and 2.00 x  $10^{-3}$  (mol<sup>-1</sup> sec<sup>-1</sup>), respectively.

The activation energy was obtained from the slope of the plot (Figure S3) of the logarithm of  $k_{obs}$  versus the reciprocal of the reaction temperature according to eq. 2.

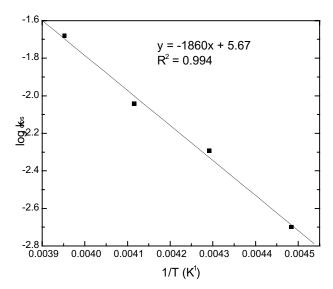


Figure S3. Arrhenius plot of log k versus 1/T for the formation of intermediate product (3).

$$\log k = \left(\frac{-E_a}{2.30R} \bullet \frac{1}{T}\right) + \log A \tag{2}$$

The slope of the graph corresponds to  $-E_a/2.30R$  where  $E_a$  is activation energy (kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>) for the formation of intermediate and R is gas constant (1.98 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> K<sup>-1</sup>) as in eq. 2. An activation energy of 8.47 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> and a pre-exponential factor of 4.68 x  $10^5$  dm<sup>3</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup> sec<sup>-1</sup> were obtained at our experimental conditions.

Intermediate  $\rightarrow$  diazetaine (4): NMR tube with 0.027 mmol intermediate (3) in CDCl<sub>3</sub> was cooled to 0 °C in ice water. The NMR tube was put into preheated NMR probe with a temperatures at 40, 45, 50 and 55 °C. Two sets of peaks were monitored and integrated to determine the lnC plot of intermediate product 3 as a function of time (eq. 3) to fit 1<sup>st</sup> order rate equation. Different solution was prepared for each different temperature range to fit the 2<sup>nd</sup> order rate equation. <sup>1</sup>H peak group of diazetaine at  $\delta$  0.91-0.84 ppm (2H from intermediate, a) was integrated and compared with peak group of intermediate at  $\delta$  1.40-1.33 ppm (4H from diazetaine, b). Based on the equation, 1–{Area(b)/(2\*area(a) +Area(b))},  $\infty$  remained concentration of starting material (C), lnC plot of intermediate as a function of time was obtained. Different solution was prepared for each different tempearature range.

$$ln C = ln C_0 - k_{obs} t$$
(3)

First order rate constants were obtained at 40, 45, 50 and 55 °C yielding 3.63 x  $10^{-6}$ , 6.52 x  $10^{-6}$ , 9.78 x  $10^{-6}$  and 1.60 x  $10^{-5}$  (sec<sup>-1</sup>), respectively. The activation energy was obtained from the slope of the plot (Figure S4) of the logarithm of  $k_{obs}$  versus the reciprocal of the reaction temperature according to eq. 2.

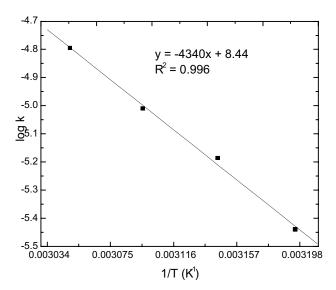


Figure S4. Arrhenius plot of log k versus 1/T for the formation of diazetaine product (4).

The activation energy of 19.8 kcal  $\text{mol}^{-1}$  and a pre-exponential factor of 2.75 x  $10^8$  sec<sup>-1</sup> were obtained from our experimental conditions.

## **References & Notes**

<sup>1.</sup> Lenoir, D. Synthesis 1989, 883-897.

<sup>2.</sup> Lenoir, D. Synthesis 1977, 553-554.

<sup>3.</sup> Metz, C. R. *Schaum's Outline Series, Theory and Problems of Physical Chemistry* 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., **1989**, McGraw-Hill Book Co. Singapore, 236-239.