New Approach to the Stereoselective Synthesis of Metallated Dienes via an Isomerization-Elimination Sequence

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Supporting Information

Detailed reaction procedure and analytical data

General

All reactions involving air- and moisture- sensitive compounds were carried out under argon atmosphere, using flamed flask and dry, oxygen-free solvents. Diethyl ether and tetrahydrofuran were distilled under argon from sodium benzophenone ketyl. HMPA was distilled under vacuum from CaH₂. Allyl bromide, allyl chloride and methallyl chloride were distilled under argon from K₂CO₃. n-BuLi was commercially obtained from Aldrich and titrated under argon atmosphere by 1M 2 isobutanol solution in toluene, using 1,10-phenantrolin as an indicator. All NMR spectra were recorded at room temperature with a Bruker-AM-200 and Bruker-AM-400 instruments. Chemical shifts are referenced to the residual proton or carbon resonance of the deuterated solvent and are reported relative to $Si(CH_3)_4$.

1-Methoxy-2-pentyl-(Z)1,4-pentadiene 3Z

To an ethereal solution (100 ml) of dibutyl cuprate reagent, prepared from CuI (4.26 g, 25 mmol) and *n*BuLi (36.76 ml, 50 mmol, 1.36M solution in hexane) was added dropwise at -50 °C, methoxyallene (2.8 g, 40 mmol) in 20 ml of Et₂O. The mixture was stirred at -40° C for 30 min, while the formation of the alkenyl cuprate reagent was confirmed by GC analysis. The reaction mixture was cooled down to – 65°C, and allyl bromide (10.15 ml, 120 mmol) in THF (20 ml) was slowly added. After the addition, the temperature was allowed to reach -40° C and was maintained at this temperature for 1h. Hydrolysis was carried out by a saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl/NH₄OH=2:1. The mixture was then stirred 1h and then filtered through a pad of Celite, on a sintered glass funnel (the salts were washed several times with ether). The aqueous phase was extracted with ether (5 \times 50 ml), the combined organic extracts and filtrates were washed with a saturated solution of NH₄Cl (until the blue color vanished), brine and dried over K₂CO₃. Filtration and concentration under reduced pressure afforded an orange crude oil, which was then distilled on Kügel-Rohr (130 °C/30 mmHg) to yield 6 g (89%) of **3Z**. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.85 (t, J=6.97Hz, 3H), 1.15-1.39 (m, 6H), 1.83 (t, J=7.43Hz, 2H), 2.76 (d, J=6.58Hz, 2H), 3.51 (s, 3H), 4.91-5.05 (m, 2H), 5.64-5.81 (m, 1H), 5.77 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.9, 22., 27.7, 31.3, 31., 31.6, 59.1, 114.5, 116.2, 136.6, 142.3.

1-Methoxy-2-pentyl-(E)1,4-pentadiene 3E

The reaction was carried out according to the procedure described above, but in THF instead of Et₂O: CuI (457.1 mg, 2.4 mmol), nBuLi (194 ml, 2.4 mmol), THF (15 ml), methoxyallene (140 mg, 2 mmol) in THF (5 ml), allyl bromide (0.3 ml, 3.5 mmole) in THF (2 ml). Purification by chromatography on silica gel (Hexane/EtOAc=90:1) yielded 0.2 g (60%) of **3E**. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.87 (t, *J*=6.88Hz, 3H), 1.15-1.41 (m, 6H), 2.01 (t, *J*=7.78Hz, 2H), 2.57 (d, *J*=6.65Hz, 2H), 3.51 (s, 3H), 4.94-5.06 (m, 2H), 5.65-5.79 (m, 1H), 5.74 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.9, 22.5, 27.7, 31.3, 31.5, 31.6, 59.1, 114.5, 116.2, 136.6, 142.3.

1-Methoxy-2-pentyl-(Z)1,5-hexadiene 4

The reaction was carried out according to the procedure described for **3Z**: *n*BuLi (5.37 ml 7mmol), CuI (666.54 mg, 3.5 mmol) in Et₂O (25 ml), methoxyallene (465.5 mg, 6.65 mmol). Then, freshly distilled HMPA (1.22 ml, 7 mmol) in THF (8 ml) followed by 4-iodo-but-1-ene (1.27 g, 7 mmol) in THF (5 ml) were dropwise added at -30°C. The mixture was allowed to reach room temperature and stirred for 3h at +20°C, then hydrolyzed at -20°C with 3N HCl (16.8 ml). After classical treatment, the crude was purified by chromatography on basic alumina (Hexane/EtOAc=100:1) to yield 0.8 g (66%) of **4** as pale yellow oil. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.86 (t, *J*=6.79Hz, 3H), 1.24-1.39 (m, 6H), 1.83 (t, *J*=7.27Hz, 2H), 2.10 (s, 2H), 2.11 (s, 2H), 3.501 (s, 3H), 4.88-5.03 (m, 2H), 5.79-5.84 (m, 1H), 5.74 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.2, 22.8, 26.6, 28.1, 31.6, 31.7, 32.2, 59.4, 114.1, 118.2, 139.2, 142.5.

1-Methoxy-2-pentyl-(Z)1,6-heptadiene 5

The reaction was carried out according to the procedure described for **3Z**: *n*BuLi (3.86 ml, 5.26 mmol), CuI (500.85 mg, 2.63 mmol) in Et₂O (18 ml), methoxyallene (350 mg, 5 mmol). Then, freshly distilled HMPA (0.92 ml, 5.26 mmol) in THF (5 ml) followed by 5-iodo-pent-1-ene (1.03 g, 5.26 mmol) in THF (5 ml) and triethylphosphite (1.35 ml, 7.89 mmol) were dropwise added at -30°C. The mixture was allowed to reach room temperature and stirred for 17h at +20°C, then hydrolyzed at -20° C with 5N HCl. After classical treatment, the crude was purified by chromatography on silica gel (Hexane/EtOAc=100:1) to yield 790 mg (80%) of **5**. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.86 (t, *J*=6.94Hz, 3H), 1.15-1.34 (m, 6H), 1.42 (q, *J*=7.89Hz, 2H), 1.82 (t, *J*=7.23Hz, 2H), 1.96-2.07 (m, 2H), 3.49 (s, 3H), 4.89-5.02 (m, 2H), 5.73 (s, 1H), 5.75-5.89 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.2, 22.5, 26.4, 27.1, 27.9, 31.4, 31.5, 33.7, 59.2, 114.1, 118.4, 139.1, 142.1.

1-Methoxy-2-(7-octene)-E(1)-heptene 6

The reaction was carried out according to the procedure described for **3Z**: *n*BuLi (3.87 ml, 5.23 mmol), CuI (498 mg, 2.6 mmol) in Et₂O (12 ml), methoxyallene (347 mg, 5 mmol), freshly distilled HMPA (1.83 ml, 10.46 mmol) in THF (5 ml), 8-iodo-oct-1-ene (0.88 ml, 5.23 mmol) in THF (5 ml) and triethylphosphite (1.34 ml, 7.85 mmol) were dropwise added at -30°C. The mixture was allowed to reach room temperature and stirred for 1 h at +20°C, then hydrolyzed at -20° C with 5N HCl. After classical treatment, the crude was purified by chromatography on silica gel (Hexane/EtOAc=100:1) to yield 786 mg (66%) of **6**. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.86 (t, J=7.04Hz, 3H), 1.27 (m, 14H), 1.81 (t, J=7.17Hz, 2H), 1.96-2.07 (m, 4H), 3.49 (s, 3H), 4.87-5.00 (m, 2H), 5.71 (s, 1H),

5.71-5.86 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.0, 22.5, 26.7, 27.7, 27.9, 28.9, 29.0, 29.4, 31.4, 31.6, 33.8, 59.2, 114.1, 118.9, 139.3, 141.9.

1-Methoxy-2-pentyl-Z(1,4)-trans-hexadiene 7.

The reaction was carried out according to the procedure described for **3Z**: CuI (2.23 g, 12 mmol), *n*BuLi (19.5 ml, 24 mmol), Et₂O (50 ml), methoxyallene (700 mg, 10 mmol) in Et₂O (8 ml), crotylbromide (3.1 ml, 3.0 mmol) in Et₂O (8 ml). The reaction was complete within 1h 40 min. Purification by chromatography on silica gel (Hexane/EtOAc=100:1) gives 1.045 g of pure **7** and 66 mg of the isomeric 1-methoxy-3-methyl-2-pentyl-Z(1,4)-pentadiene (the balance being the mixture of the two products) ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.85 (t, *J*=7.15Hz, 3H), 1.17-1.38 (m, 6H), 1.6 (d, *J*=4.81, 3H), 1.82 (t, *J*=7.36Hz, 2H), 2.68 (d, *J*=5.18Hz, 2H), 3.51 (s, 3H), 5.26-5.48 (m, 2H), 5.73 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.0, 22.5, 27.7, 30.3, 31.2, 31.5, 31.8, 59.2, 115.0, 125.2, 138.2, 141.9.

1-Pentyl-2-methoxy-Z(1,4)-pentadiene 8

The reaction was carried out according to the procedure described for **3Z**: *n*BuLi (1.71 ml, 2.4 mmol), CuI (228.5 mg, 1.2 mmol) in Et₂O (10 ml) on methyloxy-hexa-1,2,5-triene (110mg, 1 mmol) in Et₂O (5 ml). The reaction was stirred over 1 h at -20°C. Purification by column chromatography on basic alumina (hexane as eluent) afforded 118 mg (70%) of **8** (Z/E ratio equal 10:1). ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.86 (t, *J*=6.63Hz, 3H), 1.24-1.42 (m, 6H), 1.93 (m, 2H), 2.85 (d, *J*=6.1 Hz, 2H), 3.46 (s, 3H), 4.39 (t, *J*=7.34Hz, 1H), 5.02 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.0, 22.5, 26.4, 30.6, 31.4, 34.9, 54.1, 97.6, 115.3, 136.0, 156.9.

1-iodo-(1,1)-bisdeutero-hex-3-trans-ene

A 150-ml dry 4-necked flask under Ar, equipped with mechanical stirrer and reflux condenser was loaded with ethyl *trans*-3-hexenoate (4.25 ml, 0.026 mol) and dry Et₂O (60 ml). Then LiAlD₄ powder (900 mg, 0.0214 mol) was added in portions, keeping the temperature of the reaction mixture at -5° C. After the addition, the reaction mixture is heated under reflux for 1h. The reaction was quenched by 1ml of aqueous solution of saturated Na₂SO₄ at 0°C. After 2h of stirring, the white precipitate was filtered off, washed several times with ether and the combined ethereal phases were removed under vacuum (30 mmHg). The crude (1,1)-bisdeutero-hex-3-trans-ene-1-ol (84.3%) was without further purification, transformed into the corresponding mesylate in the step (b). ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.95 (t, *J*=7.46Hz, 3H), 2.00 (m, 2H), 2.20 (d, *J*=6.68Hz, 2H), 5.26-5.40 (m, 1H), 5.50-5.64 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.06, 24.9, 35.7, 60.1(q), 124.7, 135.73.

(b) Mesityl chloride (2.08 ml, 0.027 mol) was added dropwise at 0°C to the mixture of E-(1,1)-bisdeutero-hex-3-ene-1-ol (2.3 g, 0.022 mol) and Et₃N (4.65 ml, 3.3 mol) in dichloromethane (50 ml). The reaction was allowed then to reach the ambient temperature, and stirred for 45 min. When the reaction was complete (followed by TLC, 20% ethyl acetate-hexane), ice water was added and the separated aqueous layer was washed several times with dichloromethane. The combined organic extracts were successively washed with an aqueous solution of HCl 1M, brine, then dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated, to afford 4.02 g (100% yield) of the crude *E*-methanesulfonic acid (1,1)-bisdeutero-hex-3-enyl ester.

(c) To the crude *E*-methanesulfonic acid (1,1)-bisdeutero-hex-3-enyl ester (4 g, 0.022 mol), NaI (5.32 g, 0.035 mol) and acetone (22 ml). The reaction was over within 3h, as indicated by TLC analysis. Distillation of the crude residue by means of Kügel-Rohr apparatus (80-95 °C/30 mmHg) afforded the title product in 76% yield (3.58 g). ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.95 (t, *J*=7.44Hz, 3H), 1.91-2.05 (m, 2H), 2.48 (d, *J*=6.47Hz, 2H), 5.31 (dt, *J*=6.59Hz, 15.54Hz, 1H), 5.38 (dt, *J*=6.39Hz, 15.46Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.6 (q), 13.9, 25.7, 36.9, 127.5, 135.5.

1-Methoxy-(3,3)-bisdeutero-2-pentyl-Z(1,5)-octadiene 18

The reaction was carried out according to the procedure described for **3Z**: *n*BuLi (5.37 ml, 7mmol), CuI (666.54 mg, 3.5 mmol) in Et₂O (25 ml), methoxyallene (465.5 mg, 6.65 mmole) in Et₂O (10 ml), freshly distilled HMPA (1.22 ml, 7 mmol) in THF (8 ml), 1-iodo-(1,1)-bisdeutero-hex-3-*trans*-ene (1.48 g, 7 mmol) in THF (5 ml) were dropwise added at -30 °C. The mixture was allowed to reach room temperature and stirred overnight at +20°C, then hydrolyzed at -20° C with 5N HCl (12 ml). After classical treatment, the crude was purified by chromatography on basic alumina (hexane) to yield 294 mg of **18**. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.89-1.00 (m, 6H), 1.17-1.38 (m, 6H), 1.82 (t, *J*=7.36Hz, 2H), 1.9-2.05 (m, 4H), 3.51 (s, 3H), 5.35-5.45 (m, 2H), 5.69 (s, 1H).

General Procedure for the isomerization-elimination sequence mediated by zirconocene 1

A solution of n-butylithium in hexane (2.4 eq) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconiumdichloride (1.2 eq) in dry THF at -78° C under inert atmosphere. The temperature was slowly allowed to reach -50° C and the substrate (1 eq), diluted in 5 ml THF, was added dropwise, keeping the temperature below -50° C. When the addition was finished, the cooling bath was removed and the reaction mixture was warmed as fast as possible to room temperature (the delay in warming the reaction mixture may cause the formation of side products). It was then heated to $+50^{\circ}$ C for 15 min, and the metallated diene is ready for further use, or, alternatively, can be hydrolyzed by 1N HCl, after cooling down to room temperature. The layers were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted 5 times with ether. The combined organic extracts were washed successively with sodium bicarbonate saturated solution, brine and dried over MgSO4. The obtained residue is finally purified by column chromatography on silica gel.

2-Pentyl-1,3-trans-pentadiene 10

The previously described procedure was carried out on **3Z**; (168 mg, 1mmol) in THF (5 ml), Cp_2ZCl_2 (350.6 mg, 1.2 mmol) in THF (15 ml) and *n*BuLi (1.8 ml, 2.4 mmol). The purification of the crude residue afforded the desired diene in 80% of yield. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.87 (m, 3H), 1.22-1.49 (m, 6H), 1.73 (d, *J*=6.08Hz, 3H), 2.15 (t, *J*=7.96Hz, 2H), 4.80 (s, 1H), 4.83 (s, 1H), 5.71 (dq, *J*=6.58, 15.72Hz, 1H), 6.01 (d, *J*=15.77Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.3, 17.5, 21.9, 27.4, 31.2, 31.6, 111.9, 123.9, 132.8, 145.9. Anal. Calcd for C₁₀H₁₈: C, 86.87; H, 13.12 Found: C, 87.10 H, 13.67

1-Iodo-2-pentyl-(Z,E)1,3-pentadiene 11

The previously described procedure was carried out on **3Z**; (295 mg, 1.75 mmol) in THF (5 ml), Cp_2ZCl_2 (614 mg, 2.01 mmol) in THF (15 ml) and *n*BuLi (1.7 ml, 4.2 mmole). Iodinolysis (1.1 g, 4.4 mmol) in THF was carried out at -40°C. After

classical work-up, crude **11** was obtained as reddish oil. Due to the high sensitivity to light, heat and acidic conditions, **11** was quickly purified by florisil (pentane as an eluent) to afford 11 in 75% of yield. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 0.81 (m, 3H), 1.02-1.21 (m, 6H), 1.47 (dd, *J*=1.19, 6.64Hz, 3H), 2.01 (t, *J*=7.78Hz, 2H), 5.5-5.71 (m, 1H), 5.75 (s, 1H), 6.42 (d, *J*=15.8Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.0, 18.5, 22.6, 28.4, 31.5, 35.0, 76.7, 129.8, 132.3, 145.9.

5-Pentyl-(Z,E)-1,4,6-octatriene 12

The previously described procedure was carried out on **3Z**; (168 mg, 1 mmol) in THF (5 ml), Cp₂ZCl₂ (350.64 mg, 1.2 mmol) in THF (17 ml) and *n*BuLi (1.17 ml, 2.4 mmol). When the formation of the dienyl zirconium derivative **9** was complete and confirmed by GC analysis, freshly distilled allyl chloride (0.12 ml, 1.5 mmol), CuCl (9.9 mg, 0.1 mmol) and LiCl (85 mg, 2 mmol) were added at 0°C. The solution was then heated to +60 °C and stirred at this temperature for 1 h. Quenching the reaction by addition of an aqueous mixture of NH₄Cl/NH₄OH (2:1) was done at room temperature and the solution was worked-up as usual. Further purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) afforded the expected **12** as a unique isomer in 70 % yield. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.87 (t, *J*=6.78Hz, 3H), 1.24-1.52 (m, 6H), 1.76 (d, *J*=6.744Hz, 3H), 2.14 (t, *J*=7.92Hz, 2H), 2.88 (t, *J*=6.83Hz, 2H), 4.93-5.05 (m, 2H), 5.21 (t, *J*=7.5Hz, 1H), 5.62-5.84 (m, 2H), 6.24 (d, *J*=15.7Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.0, 18.6, 22.5, 28.7, 31.6, 31.9, 34.2, 114.5, 124.0, 125.1, 127.4, 134.6, 137.3.

5-pentyl-1-4Z-6E-nonatriene 13

The previously described procedure was carried out on **4** (182 mg, 1 mmol) in THF (5 ml), Cp_2ZCl_2 (350.6 mg, 1.2 mmol) in THF (17 ml) and *n*BuLi (1.65 ml, 2.4 mmol). When the formation of dienyl zirconium derivative was complete and confirmed by GC analysis, freshly distilled allyl chloride (0.12 ml, 1.5 mmol), CuCl (9.9 mg, 0.1 mmol) and LiCl (85 mg, 2 mmol) were added at 0°C. The solution was heated then to +60°C and stirred at this temperature for 2 h. After classical treatment and further purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane), **13** was isolated as a unique isomer in 68% yield. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.87 (t, *J*=6.7Hz, 3H), 1.01 (t, *J*=7.46Hz, 3H), 1.24-1.50 (m, 6H), 2.05-2.18 (m, 2H), 2.88 (t, *J*=6.73Hz, 2H), 4.92-5.07 (m, 2H), 5.23 (t, *J*=7.48Hz, 1H), 5.65-5.82 (m, 2H), 6.22 (d, *J*=15.7Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.8, 14.0, 22.5, 26.3, 28.6, 31.6, 31.9, 34.2, 114.5, 124.3, 125.0, 132.3, 137.3, 137.5.

5-Pentyl-1-4Z-6E-decatriene 14

The previously described procedure was carried out on **5** (98 mg, 0.5 mmol) in THF (3 ml), Cp₂ZCl₂ (306.81 mg, 1 mmol) in THF (15 ml) and *n*BuLi (1.38 ml, 2 mmol). When the formation of dienyl zirconium derivative was complete and confirmed by GC analysis, freshly distilled allyl chloride (0.17 ml, 2.1 mmol), CuCl (9.9 mg, 0.1 mmol) and LiCl (110.2 mg, 2.6 mmol) were added at 0°C. The solution was heated then to +60 °C and stirred at this temperature for 2 h. After classical treatment and further purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) pure **14** was isolated in 65% yield. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.83-0.92 (m, 6H), 1.23-1.52 (m, 8H), 2.03-2.18 (m, 4H), 2.88 (t, *J*=6.86Hz, 2H), 4.93-5.05 (m, 2H), 5.22 (t, *J*=7.48Hz, 1H), 5.61-5.9 (m, 2H), 6.21(d, *J*=15.7Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.0, 14.3, 22.5, 22.7, 28.6, 31.6, 31.8, 34.2, 35.4, 114.5, 124.2, 126.1, 130.6, 137.3, 137.5.

2-Pentyl-1-3E-decadiene 15

The previously described procedure was carried out on **6** (131 mg, 0.55 mmol) in THF (3 ml), Cp_2ZCl_2 (208.6 mg, 0.71 mmol) in THF (13 ml) and *n*BuLi (0.89 ml, 1.43 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) yielded 63% of the desired product **15**. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.84-0.87 (m, 6H), 1.23-1.48 (m, 14H), 2.01-2.19 (m, 4H), 4.81 (s, 1H), 4.84 (s, 1H), 5.67 (dt, *J*=6.78, 15.75Hz, 1H), 5.98 (d, *J*=15.8Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.0, 22.5, 22.6, 28.0, 28.9, 29.4, 29.7, 31.7, 31.8, 32.3, 32.8, 112.7, 130.1, 132.0, 146.6.

2E-4Z-decadiene 17

The previously described procedure was carried out on **8** (100 mg, 0.59 mmol) in THF (3ml), Cp_2ZCl_2 (208.6 mg, 0.714 mmol) in THF (15 ml) and *n*BuLi (1.02 ml, 1.4 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) yielded 17 in 75% yield. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.81-0.90 (m, 3H), 1.25-1.38 (m, 6H), 1.76 (d, *J*=6.44Hz, 3H), 2.13 (m, 2H), 5.28 (dt, *J*=7.43Hz, 1H), 5.65 (m, 1H), 5.93 (t, *J*=10.75Hz, 1H), 6.28 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.09, 22.56, 22.7, 27.66, 29.37, 31.5, 31.95. Anal. Calcd for $C_{10}H_{18}$: C, 86.87; H, 13.12 Found: C, 87.02 H, 13.56

2-pentyl-3,5-bisdeutero-1,3-trans-octadiene 19

The previously described procedure was carried out on **18** (105 mg, 0.49 mmol) in THF (5 ml), Cp₂ZCl₂ (434.2 mg, 1.48 mmol) in THF (20 ml) and nBuLi (2.2 ml, 2.9 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) yielded 62% of the desired **19**. An unidentified side product was formed as well. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.86 (m, 6H), 1.23-1.49 (m, 10H), 1.93-2.06 (m, 1H), 2.15 (t, *J*=7.88Hz, 2H), 4.82 (s, 1H), 4.84 (s, 1H), 5.62, (d, *J*=6.4Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.9, 14.0, 22.1, 22.7, 28.0, 29.7, 31.5, 31.8, 32.2 (t), 112.7, 129.9, 130.6(t), 146.5.

(Nona-1,3-diene-3-sulfonyl)-benzene 21a

A solution of *n*BuLi (11.8 ml, 17.7 mmol, 1.50M in hexane) was slowly added to the stirred solution of allylphenyl sulfone (3.0g, 16.5 mmol) in THF (20ml) at -78° C. After being stirred at -78° C for 30 min, a solution of valeraldehyde (1.80g, 16.9 mmol) in THF (5ml) was added and stirred for 1h at that temperature. Then, acetic anhydride (7.5 ml) was added and warmed up to room temperature for 2h, followed by addition of a solution of KOH (10g, 178 mmol) in water (10ml). The reaction mixture was stirred for an additional 2h. The mixture was then diluted with water (50ml) and dichloromethane (50 ml). After classical treatment, the crude was purified by chromatography on silica gel [eluent: hexane-ethyl acetate(1:9)] to give the title compound 21a as a mixture of two geometric isomers trans/cis 85/15 in 72% yield. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 200 MHz) (major) δ 7.80 – 7.73 (m, 2H), 7.56 – 7.37 (m, 3H), 6.96 (t, J = 7.6Hz, 1H), 6.26 – 6.11 (dd, J = 17.7, 11.5 Hz, 1H), 5.45 (d, J = 17.9Hz, 1H), 5.32 (d, J = 11.6Hz, 1H), 2.30 – 2.02 (m, 2H), 1.46 – 1.19 (m, 6H), 0.81 (bs, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 50 MHz) δ 143.41, 142.92, 140.05, 132.84, 128.73, 127.64, 125.40, 122.84, 31.19, 28.37, 28.06, 22.14, 13.70.

(1-Cyclohexyl-buta-1,3-diene-2-sulfonyl)-benzene 21b

The previously described procedure was carried out for the preparation of 21b with cyclohexane carboxaldehyde; Combined yield 70%

21b (E): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 200 MHz) δ 7.75 – 7.71 (d, J = 8.0Hz, 2H), 7.53 – 7.36 (m, 3H), 6.79 (d, J = 10 Hz, 1H), 6.26-6.12 (dd, J = 17.7, 11.6 Hz, 1H), 5.47 (d, J = 17.3 Hz, 1H), 5.29 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 2.41 – 2.36 (m, 1H), 1.65 – 1.60 (m, 4H), 1.17 (bs, 6H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 50 MHz) δ 147.83, 140.13, 137.60, 132.87, 128.79, 127.65, 125.48, 122.60, 37.50, 31.80, 25.50, 25.10

21b (**Z**): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 200 MHz) δ 7.81 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.58 – 7.29 (m, 3H), 6.49 – 6.35 (dd, J = 17.0, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 6.06 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 5.35 (d, J = 17.0 Hz, 1H), 5.10 (d, J = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 3.31 – 3.25 (m, 1H), 1.76 – 1.61 (m, 4H), 1.30 – 0.89 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 50 MHz) δ 148.05, 141.68, 138.42, 133.12, 131.71, 128.88, 127.04, 118.15, 37.49, 32.39, 25.91, 25.43.

(1-Benzyl-buta-1,3-diene-2-sulfonyl)- benzene 21c

21c (E): White solid, 89%. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 200 MHz) δ 7.88 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.57 – 7.33 (m, 8H), 6.43 – 6.28 (dd, J = 18.3, 11.6 Hz, 1H), 5.88 (d, J = 18.2 Hz, 1H), 5.44 (d, J = 11.7Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 50 MHz) δ 139.93, 138.60, 138.20, 133.25, 133.08, 130.35, 129.92, 128.88, 128.58, 128.05, 126.40, 123.85.

General Experimental Procedure for the preparation of 24a-c

A solution of *n*butyllithium in hexane (3.4 mmmol) was added slowly to a solution of bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium dichloride (1.7 mmol) in dry THF (10ml) at -78° C. The solution was stirred for 30 min at -78° C and the vinylsulfone **21a-c** (1 mmol) was added at -78° C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature very rapidly and stirred for 2h for **21c** and overnight for **21a-b**. Then, the reaction mixture was quenched by a 1M HCl aqueous solution and diluted with ether (10ml). The layer was separated; the aqueous layer was extracted with ether (3 x 5ml). The combined organic layers were washed with aqueous NaHCO₃ (3x10ml), brine (3x10ml) and evaporated under vacuum to afford a crude residue, which was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using hexane as eluent.

Nona-1,3Z-diene 24a

52 %; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.72-6.53 (dt, J = 16.8, 10.5 Hz, 1H), 5.97 (t, J = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 5.50 –5.37 (m, 1H), 5.14 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 5.05 (d, J = 10.2 Hz, 1H), 2.21 – 2.07 (m, 2H), 1.43 – 1.23 (m, 6H), 0.89 – 0.83 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 133.10, 132.39, 129.13, 116.63, 31.45, 29.30, 27.72, 22.53, 14.02. Anal. Calcd for C₁₀H₁₀: C, 92.25; H, 7.77 Found: C, 92.73 H, 7.95

Buta-1,3Z-dienyl-cyclohexane 24b

Yield: 71%; ¹HNMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.72-6.53 (m, 1H), 5.87 9(t, *J* = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 5.28 (t, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 5.15 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 5.04 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (m, 1H), 1.60 (m, 4H), 1.16 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.9, 132.6, 127.3, 115.1, 36.8, 33.2, 26.0, 25.8. Anal. Calcd for C₁₀H₁₆: C, 88.15; H, 11.84 Found: C, 88.62 H, 12.24

Buta-1,3Z-dienyl-benzene 24c

Yield 73%; ¹HNMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.41-7.17 (m, 5H), 6.97 (dt, *J* = 16.8, 11.4 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 6.25 (t, *J* = 11.4 Hz, 1H), 5.36 (d, *J* = 16.7 Hz,1H), 5.22 (d, *J* = 10.1 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.36, 133.21, 130.79, 130.42, 129.01, 128.22, 127.04, 119.61.

Transmetallation of vinyl zirconocene 23aZr into 23aCu. Isomerization of Metallated Dienes.

After the formation of vinyl zirconocene 23aZr, anhydrous CuCl (1.8 mmol) and LiCl (3.6 mmol) were added to the reaction mixture and heated at $45^{\circ}C$ for 1hr. Then, a mixture of 25% NH₃ and saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl (1:1) was added and stirred for 2h. The mixture was then filtered through celite and washed with ether (50ml). After classical treatment, the crude product obtained was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with hexane as eluent to give the corresponding trans diene exclusively.

Buta-1,3E-dienyl-benzene 24c

Yield 73%; ¹HNMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.41-7.17 (m, 5H), 6.97 (dt, *J* = 16.8, 11.4 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 6.25 (t, *J* = 11.4 Hz, 1H), 5.36 (d, *J* = 16.7 Hz,1H), 5.22 (d, *J* = 10.1 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.36, 133.21, 130.79, 130.42, 129.01, 128.22, 127.04, 119.61.

Reaction of 23cCu with allyl chloride

Preparation of E-(2-vinyl-penta-1,4-dienyl)-benzene 29

When the transmetalation step was over as described above, the reaction mixture was cool down to 0^oC and then freshly distilled allyl chloride (5 mmol, 3 fold excess) was added followed by heating at 45^oC for 1h. The reaction mixture was then hydrolyzed with aqueous. NH₄Cl and 25 % NH₃ solution (1:1). The mixture was filtered off through a celite pad on a sintered glass funnel, and after classical treatment, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent hexane) to give the title product in 76% yield. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.37 (m, 5H), 6.62 (s, 1H), 6.55 – 6.41 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 10.7 Hz, 1H), 6.10 (m, 1H), 5.29 (d, *J* = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 5.15 – 5.07 (m, 3H), 3.22 – 3.18 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.36, 137.45, 137.26, 135.95, 132.80, 128.77, 128.18, 126.94, 115.87, 113.70, 31.30. Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₄: C, 91.70; H, 8.28 Found: C, 91.45 H, 8.66

Preparation of cis-3-bromo-4-phenyl-1,3-butadiene 25¹

When the transmetalation step was over as described above, the reaction mixture was cool down to 0^oC and then NBS (1.7 mmol, 1.7 eq.) was added. After classical treatment, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent hexane) to give the title product in 61% yield. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.70 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.41 – 7.25 (m, 3H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 6.56 – 6.43 (dd, *J* = 16.2, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 5.72 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 5.33 (d, *J* = 10.3 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.11, 135.57, 132.31, 129.55, 128.27, 128.15, 123.92, 119.02.

Preparation of 3E-(1-benzylidene-allyl)-cyclohexanone 30

A premixed solution of cyclohexenone (0.18 ml, 1.8 mmol) and TMSCl (0.3 ml, 2 mmol was added to the mixture in THF at 0° C. After 30 min, the cool bath was removed and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. After usual work-up, the purification by column chromatography on silica gel afforded **30** in 59% yield. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35-7.13 (m, 5H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 6.50 –

6.36 (dd, J = 17.2, 10.9 Hz, 1H), 5.56 – 5.47 (dd, J = 17.4, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 5.18 – 5.13 (dd, J = 10.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 3.24 – 3.12 (m, 1H), 2.53 (t, J = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 2.35 – 2.24 (m, 3H), 2.11 – 2.01 (m, 1H), 1.84-1.78 (m, 2H), 1.68 – 1.62 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 210.75, 142.19, 137.09, 136.02, 128.62, 128.36, 127.28, 126.92, 115.86, 46.33, 41.13, 39.20, 30.03, 25.37. Anal. Calcd for C₁₆H₁₈O: C, 84.91; H, 8.01 Found: C, 85.23 H, 8.44

Preparation of trans-(hept-6-en-2-one)-benzene 28

Yield: 75%; ¹H NMR, (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36 – 7.20 (m, 5H), 6.50 (s, 1H), 6.46 – 6.32 (dd, J = 17.6, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 5.24 (d, J = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 5.12 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 2.77 – 2.57 (m, 4H), 2.11 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 207.81, 140.05, 138.97, 137.77, 132.14, 128.54, 128.35, 126.92, 113.00, 42.67, 29.74, 20.66. Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₆O: C, 83.95; H, 8.05 Found: C, 84.22 H, 8.62

Pd-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling Reactions

Preparation of cis-(2-vinyl-oct-1-en-3-ynyl)-benzene 26

When the transmetalation step was over as described above, the reaction mixture was cool down to room temperature and Pd(PPh₃)₄ (10%) and 1-iodohexyne (1mmol) was added. The mixture was heated to reflux at 68 ^oC for 4hrs. Then, after hydrolysis and classical treatment, the crude was purified by chromatography on silica gel (eluent hexane) to afford the desired product in 61% yield. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.44-6.87 (m, 10H), 6.78 – 6.64 (dd, *J* = 17.2, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 6.56 (s, 1H), 5.13 (d, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 4.83 (d, *J* = 17.3 Hz, 1H), 2.83 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.17, 142.03, 137.10, 134.00, 132.51, 131.60, 131.31, 130.30, 128.17, 127.06, 116.50, 21.23.

Preparation of cis-(2-vinyl-oct-1-en-3-tolyl)-benzene 27²

The same experimental procedure was used with piodotoluene and 27 was obtained in 59% yield. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.18 (m, 4H), 6.62 (s, 1H), 6.55 – 6.41 (dd, *J* = 16.9, 10.1 Hz, 1H), 5.71 (d, *J* = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 5.24 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 2.51 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.70 – 1.42 (m, 4H), 0.95 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.81, 138.73, 136.22, 128.90, 128.12, 128.03, 121.71, 119.04, 115.96, 30.69, 22.08, 19.48, 13.60.

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