SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

SYNTHESIS OF BICYCLIC ORTHO ESTERS BY EPOXY ESTER REARRANGEMENTS AND STUDY OF THEIR RING OPENING REACTIONS

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Experimental protocols and spectral characterization for 11b, 11c, 12b, 12c, 29a, 29b, 31a, and 31b; ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra for all new compounds.

- **4-(1,2-Dimethyl-1-phenethyl-propoxy)-2-methyl-butane-1,2-diol (11b).** According to the procedure described for **11a**, oily **11b** (0.21 g, 72%) was obtained as a 1:1 mixture of diastereomers from acetal **9** (0.25 g, 1.0 mmol) and i PrMgBr (2 M solution in Et₂O, 2.0 mL): IR (neat) 3468, 2933, 1718, 1069, 699 cm⁻¹; 1 H NMR δ 7.33-7.19 (m, 5 H), 3.88 (bs, 1 H), 3.69-3.61 (m, 1 H), 3.61-3.58 (m, 1 H), 3.55-3.40 (m, 2 H), 2.90 (b, 1 H), 2.65-2.59 (m, 2 H), 2.00-1.92 (m, 2 H), 1.83-1.76 (m, 2 H), 1.72-1.63 (m, 1 H), 1.24 (s, 3 H), 1.15 (s, 3 H), 0.96-0.90 (m, 6 H); 13 C NMR δ 142.7, 128.6, 128.4, 125.9, 80.3, 72.8, 70.3, 57.4, 38.1, 38.0, 37.4, 33.7, 29.8, 24.5, 24.4, 19.0, 17.7, 17.2; HRMS (EI) calcd. for $C_{15}H_{23}O_3$ (M- C_3H_7) 251.1654, found 251.1647.
- **2-Methyl-4-(1-methyl-1,3-diphenyl-propoxy)-butane-1,2-diol (11c).** According to the procedure described for **11a**, oily **11c** (0.21 g, 63%) was obtained from acetal **9** (0.25 g, 1.0 mmol) and C_6H_5MgBr (3 M solution in Et_2O , 1.3 mL): IR (neat) 3450, 2928, 1719, 1453 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 7.45-7.13 (m, 10 H), 3.96-3.73 (m, 2 H), 3.24-3.07 (m, 3 H), 2.93 (bs, 1 H), 2.57-2.50 (m, 2 H), 2.16 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 2 H), 1.94-1.86 (m, 2 H), 1.71-1.66 (m, 1 H), 1.66 (s, 3 H), 1.28 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR δ 144.5, 142.2, 128.3, 128.2, 127.0, 126.0, 125.7, 78.7, 73.0, 69.1, 59.3, 44.3, 39.8, 30.3, 24.7, 24.5, 23.5; HRMS (EI) calcd. for $C_{21}H_{29}O_3$ 329.2117, found 329.2122.
- **3,4-Dimethyl-1-phenyl-pentan-3-ol (12b)**. According to the procedure described for compound **12a**, oily **12b** (33 mg, 85%) was obtained from **11b** (59 mg, 0.20 mmol), pyridinium chlorochromate (0.34 g, 1.6 mmol, 8 eq.), 4Å molecular sieves (0.30 g) and 3.6 mL (9 eq.) of 0.5 M solution of piperidinium acetate in benzene: IR (neat) 3462, 2963, 1455, 1373 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 7.33-7.20 (m, 5 H), 2.75-2.68 (m, 2 H), 1.81-1.75 (m, 4 H), 1.19 (s, 3 H), 0.97 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3 H), 0.96 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3 H); ¹³C NMR δ 142.9, 128.4, 125.8, 74.8, 41.9, 37.1, 30.0, 23.1, 17.6, 17.0; HRMS (EI) calcd. for C₁₃H₁₈ (M-H₂O) 174.1409, found 174.1408.
- **2,4-Diphenyl-butan-2-ol (12c).** According to the procedure described for compound **12a**, oily **12c** (36 mg, 80%) was obtained from **11c** (66 mg, 0.20 mmol), pyridinium chlorochromate (0.34 g, 1.6 mmol, 8 eq.), 4Å molecular sieves (0.30 g) and 3.6 mL (9 eq.) of 0.5 M solution of piperidinium acetate in benzene: IR (neat) 3448, 2930, 1495, 1446, 699 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 7.52-7.49 (m, 2 H), 7.40 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2 H), 7.31-7.25 (m, 3 H), 7.18-7.13 (m, 3 H), 2.74-2.56 (m, 1 H), 2.52-2.40 (m, 1 H), 2.19-2.12 (m, 2 H), 1.80 (bs, 1 H), 1.64 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR δ 147.6, 142.3, 128.5, 128.4, 126.8, 125.8, 124.9, 74.8, 46.0, 30.6, 30.5; HRMS (EI) calcd. for C₁₆H₁₈O 226.1358, found 226.1353.

- (2,5,5-Trimethyl-2-phenethyl-[1,3]dioxan-4-yl)-methanol (29a). According to the procedure described for **9**, oily **29a** (0.22 g, 84%) was obtained from ortho ester **15** (0.25 g, 1.0 mmol) and CH₃MgBr (3 M solution in Et₂O, 1.0 mL, 3.0 mmol, 3 eq.): IR (neat) 3440, 2958, 2871, 1378, 1251, 1131, 1036 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 7.34-7.19 (m, 5 H), 3.76-3.58 (m, 4 H), 3.26 (d, J = 11.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.64 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 2 H), 2.22-2.08 (m, 2 H), 1.98 (dd, J = 6.9, 10.7 Hz, 1 H), 1.48 (s, 3 H), 1.05 (s, 3 H), 0.80 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR δ 141.9, 128.6, 128.3, 126.0, 100.3, 77.8, 71.7, 61.9, 32.9, 31.4, 30.7, 26.8, 21.7, 18.9; HRMS (EI) calcd. for C₁₆H₂₅O₂ 249.1855, found 249.1839.
- (5,5-Dimethyl-2-phenethyl-2-phenyl-[1,3]dioxan-4-yl)-methanol (29b). According to the procedure described for **9**, oily **29b** (0.26 g, 79%) was obtained as a 3:1 mixture of diastereomers from ortho ester **15** (0.25 g, 1.0 mmol) and C_6H_5MgBr (3 M solution in Et₂O, 1.0 mL, 3.0 mmol, 3 eq.). Major isomer: IR (neat) 3426, 2958, 1149, 1124, 1027 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 7.63 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.47-7.32 (m, 3 H), 7.28-7.24 (m, 3 H), 7.11 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 3.74-3.64 (m, 3 H), 3.37 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.85-2.78 (m, 1 H), 2.55-2.48 (m, 1 H), 2.44-2.35 (m, 2 H), 2.11-2.07(m, 1 H), 1.99 (bs, 1 H), 0.97 (s, 3 H), 0.93 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR δ 142.5, 141.3, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 128.0, 127.3, 125.6, 101.3, 78.0, 71.8, 61.9, 34.9, 32.5, 30.1, 22.6, 19.2; HRMS (EI) calcd. for $C_{21}H_{26}O_3$ 326.1882, found 326.1875.
- (2-Methyl-2-phenethyl-hexahydro-benzo[1,3]dioxin-8a-yl)-methanol (31a). According to the procedure described for **9**, oily **31a** (0.17 g, 57%) was obtained from ortho ester **16** (0.27 g, 1.0 mmol) and CH₃MgBr (3 M solution in Et₂O, 1.0 mL, 3.0 mmol, 3 eq.): IR (neat) 3399, 2933, 1040 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 7.33-7.17 (m, 5 H), 4.02 (dd, J = 4.6,11.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.89 (dd, J = 5.5, 12.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.74 (dd, J = 6.5, 11.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.41 (dd, J = 5.3, 6.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.81 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 2 H), 2.06-1.31 (m, 12 H), 1.49 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR δ 142.5, 128.4, 125.8, 99.2, 75.3, 67.4, 61.0, 43.8, 34.1, 32.3, 30.3, 26.1, 25.8, 22.8, 22.4; HRMS (EI) calcd. for C₁₈H₂₆O₃ 290.1882, found 290.1880.
- **3-Phenyl-propionic acid 2-oxo-cyclohexylmethyl ester (31b).** According to the procedure described for **9**, **31b** (0.24 g, 68%) was obtained from ortho ester **16** (0.27 g, 1.0 mmol) and C_6H_5MgBr (3 M solution in Et_2O , 1.0 mL, 3.0 mmol, 3 eq.) as a colorless solid: Mp. 100-101 °C (hexanes); IR (neat) 3083, 2939, 1447, 1032 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 7.53-7.50 (m, 2 H), 7.41-7.15 (m, 8 H), 4.19 (dd, J = 3.6, 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.66 (dd, J = 3.8, 8.1 Hz, 1 H), 3.31, 3.17 (AB of ABX, $J_{AB} = 11.7$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 4.5$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 8.7$ Hz, 2 H), 2.90 (dt, J = 4.8, 13.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.67 (dt, J = 4.5, 12.9 Hz, 1 H), 2.16-1.93 (m, 4 H),

1.78-1.28 (m, 8 H); 1 3 C NMR δ 144.8, 142.4, 128.5, 128.3, 127.8, 125.6, 99.8, 75.3, 66.7, 65.9, 62.7, 48.2, 34.1, 32.6, 30.0, 25.8, 24.3, 21.5, 15.3; HRMS (EI) calcd. for $C_{23}H_{28}O_{3}$ 226.1358, found 226.1353.

























































































































