Lewis Acid-Induced Intramolecular Friedel-Crafts Cyclization of 1,3-bis-Exocyclic Dienes. A New Route to 4a-Methyltetrahydrofluorenes.

Thierry Lomberget, Emilie Bentz, Didier Bouyssi, Geneviève Balme*

Laboratoire de Chimie Organique 1, associé au CNRS, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, CPE, 43 Bd du 11 Novembre 1918, 69622 Villeurbanne, France <u>balme@univ-lyon1.fr</u>

Supplementary Information & Experimental.

General. Proton magnetic resonance (¹H NMR) and carbon magnetic (¹³C NMR) resonance spectra were measured at 300 MHz with a Bruker AM 300 and ALS 300 spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) downfield from tetramethylsilane (scale). The multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, br = broad, number of protons and coupling constants (reported in Hz)) are indicated in parentheses. High-resolution mass spectra were recorded on a Thermoquest Finnigan MAT 95 Xl. Elemental analyses were performed by Service Central d'Analyses du CNRS de Solaize, FRANCE. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 298 or Perkin-Elmer FT-IR PARAGON 500. Melting points were measured on a BUCHI B-540 and are uncorrected.

All reactions were performed under an atmosphere of dry nitrogen or dry argon in glassware equipped with a magnetic stirring bar and a rubber septum. Standard inert atmosphere techniques were used in handling all air and moisture sensitive reagents. Reaction were monitored by analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) using commercial aluminium sheets pre-coated (0.2 mm layer thickness) with silica gel $60F_{254}$ (Merck). Product purification by flash column chromatography was performed using Merck Silica Gel 60 Å (40-63 m). Anhydrous toluene was freshly distilled from CaH₂, THF from sodium-benzophenone ketyl radical. Chloroform (CHCl₃) was used as received without purification.

Starting material :

Experimental procedure for the synthesis of 1,3-bis-exocyclic dienes:

Potassium hydride (35% in mineral oil) was washed with anhydrous THF, dried and stored under nitrogen prior to use.

To a suspension of KH (48 mg, 1.2 mmol) in 3 ml of anhydrous THF was added 18-C-6 (53 mg, 0.2 mmol), 2-(4-methylene-hex-5-ynyl)-malonic acid dimethyl ester (191 mg, 1 mmol) in 4 ml of THF, and iodobenzene (170 μ l, 1.5 mmol). This mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 min. In a separate flask, *n*BuLi (2M in hexanes) was added dropwise at room temperature to a suspension of PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂ (35 mg, 0.05 mmol) in 3 ml of THF until the mixture becomes dark green. After heating at reflux for 5 min and cooling, the mixture turned to a dark red homogeneous solution and was added at room temperature *via* a cannula to the anion solution prepared above. The resulting mixture was then stirred at 30 °C for 3 h (monitored by TLC until completion). The solution was then filtered through a short pad of silica gel (eluting with diethyl ether) and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure.

The residue was purified by flash chromatography with petroleum ether/ Et_2O 80/20 to afford **1a** as a pale yellow solid (182 mg, 61%).

(E)-3-Methylene-2-methylene-cyclohexane-1,1-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester 1a



Mp 91-92°C. IR (KBr): 3050, 3020, 2990, 2930, 2860, 1735, 1720, 1630, 1435, 1280, 1240, 1190, 1115, 1080, 990, 910, 840 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): 1.71 (m, 2H), 2.40 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 4H), 3.79 (s, 6H), 4.76 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (m, 1H), 6.12 (s, 1H), 7.13-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.31 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): 24.31, 33.96, 36.26, 52.73, 65,00, 116.58, 126.73, 126.77, 127.89, 129.04, 137.03, 139.72, 143.07, 170.80. Microanalysis (%) : found : C 71.93, H 6.65; calcd. for C₂₁H₂₆O₇: C 71.98, H 6.71.

(*E*)-3-Methylene-2-(3,4,5-trimethoxy-benzylidene)-cyclohexane-1,1-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester 1b



Brown solid, yield 83%. Mp 93-95°C. IR (KBr): 3008, 2954, 2939, 2839, 1742, 1729, 1580, 1508, 1457, 1430, 1334, 1288, 1263, 1232, 1126, 1001, 903, 875, 816 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): 1.73 (m, 2H), 2.41 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 3.80 (s, 6H), 3.82 (s, 6H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 4.85 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.98 (s, 1H), 6.05 (s, 1H), 6.59 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): 24.40, 34.02, 36.27, 52.90, 56.14, 61.03, 65.13, 106.45, 116.62, 126.60, 132.40, 137.18, 139.45, 143.31, 152.72, 170.85. Microanalysis (%) : found : C 64.74, H 6.57; calcd. for C₁₈H₂₀O₄: C 64.60, H 6.71.

(*E*)-2-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-ylmethylene-3-methylene-cyclohexane-1,1- dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester 1c



Yellow oil, yield 79%. IR (film): 3082, 2952, 1732, 1634, 1606, 1505, 1488, 1445, 1247, 1155, 1039, 935, 911, 807, 733 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): 1.70 (m, 2H), 2.37 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 4H), 3.78 (s, 6H), 4.82 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 4.95 (d, J = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 5.91 (s, 2H), 6.00 (s, 1H), 6.70 (m, 2H), 6.89 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): 24.40, 34.03, 36.28, 52.82, 65,07, 101.00, 107.97, 109.12, 116.59, 123.31, 126.27, 130.92, 138.61, 143.25, 146.48, 147.19, 170.90. HRMS calcd for C₁₉H₂₀O₆ (MH⁺) 345.1338, found 345.1340.

(E)-2-(2-Methyl-benzylidene)-3-methylene-cyclohexane-1,1- dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester 1d



White solid, yield 63%. Mp 69-71°C. IR (KBr): 3080, 2980, 2953, 2935, 1735, 1638, 1478, 1459, 1446, 1432, 1283, 1256, 1230, 1199, 1098, 995, 901, 753 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): 1.68 (m, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.31 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 2.41 (m, 2H), 3.78 (s, 6H), 4.50 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.78 (m, 1H), 6.18 (s, 1H), 7.01-7.13 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): 19.93, 24.08, 33.65, 36.11, 52.75, 64.54, 116.37, 125.37, 126.81, 126.87, 126.88, 129.56, 136.25, 136.97, 139.49, 142.71, 171.07. HRMS calcd for C₁₉H₂₂O₄ (MH⁺) 315.1596, found 315.1596.

(*E*)-2-(3-Isopropyl-4,5-dimethoxy-2-methyl-benzylidene)-3-methylene-cyclohexane-1,1-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester 1e



Brown oil, yield 76%. IR (film): 3084, 2952, 2872, 1739, 1634, 1590, 1455, 1434, 1314, 1252, 1154, 1121, 1083, 903, 783 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): 1.31 (d, J = 7.2Hz, 6H), 1.67 (m, 2H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 2.29 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.41 (m, 2H), 3.34 (s, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 6H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 4.51(d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.19 (s, 1H), 6.50 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): 16.58, 21.57, 23.99, 28.42, 33.53, 35.97, 52.69, 55.66, 60.79, 64.37, 110.87, 116.30, 126.64, 128.28, 132.77, 138.63, 139.58, 142.44, 147.21, 150.38, 171.12. HRMS calcd for C₂₄H₃₂O₆ (MH⁺) 416.2198, found 416.2194.

(E)-2-(2-bromo-benzylidene)-3-methylene-cyclohexane-1,1- dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester 1f



White solid, yield 34%. Mp 100-102°C. IR (KBr): 3011, 2958, 2939, 2873, 1748, 1726, 1635, 1465, 1442, 1258, 1230, 1156, 1084, 906, 748 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): 1.69 (m, 2H), 2.34 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 6H), 4.62 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 4.82 (s, 1H), 6.18 (s, 1H), 7.04 (m, 1H), 7.13-7.24 (m, 3H), 7.50 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): 24.00, 33.66, 36.01, 52.82, 64,38, 116.75, 124.14, 126.78, 126.90, 128.32, 130.73, 132.27, 138.04, 140.76, 142.57, 170.81. Microanalysis (%) : found : C 57.30, H 5.05; calcd. for C₁₈H₁₉BrO₄: C 57.01, H 5.05.

(E)-2-(4-methoxycarbonyl-benzylidene)-3-methylene-cyclohexane-1,1- dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester 1g



White solid, yield 67%. Mp 62-64°C. IR (KBr): 3084, 2953, 1764, 1735, 1717, 1605, 1456, 1436, 1277, 1239, 1147, 1107, 1013, 938, 902, 888, 786, 766, 716 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): 1.74 (m, 2H), 2.40 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 4H), 3.79 (s, 6H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 4.72 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (s, 1H), 6.14 (s, 1H), 7.37 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.9 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): 24.20, 33.97, 36.20, 52.03, 52.82, 64.98, 117.17, 125.94, 128.32, 129.04, 129.25, 141.98, 141.98, 142.80, 166.95, 170.57. Microanalysis (%) : found : C 66.88, H 6.25; calcd. for C₂₀H₂₂O₆: C 67.03, H 6.19.

$(E)\mbox{-}3\mbox{-}Methylene-2-(3\mbox{-}trifluoromethyl-benzylidene)\mbox{-}cyclohexane-1,1- dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester 1h$



Colorless solid, yield 52%. Mp 75-77°C. IR (KBr): 3080, 2943, 1729, 1638, 1593, 1436, 1331, 1289, 1261, 1237, 1164, 1127, 1074, 998, 911, 805, 701 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): 1.74 (m, 2H), 2.41 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 3.79 (s, 6H), 4.71 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.92 (s, 1H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, J = 7.6Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): 24.52, 34.28, 36.49, 52.70, 65.25, 117.47, 123.75, 124.52, 125.64, 126.22, 128.66, 130.67, 132.61, 138.14, 141.95, 143.01, 170.90.

Friedel-Crafts cyclizations :

With BF₃.Et₂O: diene **1a** (R = H) (60 mg, 0.2 mmol) was dissolved in 2.5 ml of CHCl₃ at 0°C. BF₃.Et₂O (152 l, 1.2 mmol) was slowly added and the resulting solution stirred at 40°C for 6 hours. The reaction mixture was then quenched with 2 ml of water and 5 ml of CH₂Cl₂ were added, aqueous phase was extracted with 5 ml of CH₂Cl₂. Combined organic phases were dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated to yield a crude product. Purification by gel flash column chromatography yielded **2a** as a white solid (56 mg, 93%).

With Sc(OTf)₃: diene **1a** (R = H) (30 mg, 0.1 mmol) was dissolved in 1 ml of toluene and Sc(OTf)₃ (10 mg, 0.02 mmol) was added. After 4 hours at reflux, the reaction was stopped and the resulting mixture directly purified by gel flash column chromatography to yield **2a** as a white solid (29 mg, 96%).

4a-Methyl-2,3,4,4a-tetrahydro-fluorene-1,1-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester 2a



Mp 98-100°C. IR (KBr): 2990, 2918, 2847, 1748, 1731, 1466, 1451, 1436, 1292, 1265, 1245, 1225, 1178, 1122, 1089, 994, 893, 754 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): 1.08 (td, J = 13.2, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.16 (s, 3H), 1.71 (m, 2H), 1.88 (m, 1H), 2.14 (dd, J = 12.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (dd, J = 12.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 6.63 (s, 1H), 7.17-7.25 (m, 3H),

7.34 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): 19.4, 22.1, 34.4, 37.4, 51.2, 52.7, 53.0, 58.9, 121.1, 121.7, 125.1, 126.2, 126.8, 141.2, 149.5, 154.1, 170.5, 171.2. HRMS calcd for C₁₈H₂₀O₄ (MH⁺) 301.1439, found 301.1440.

5,6,7-Trimethoxy-4a-methyl-2,3,4,4a-tetrahydro-fluorene-1,1-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester 2b



scale : diene **1b** (100 mg, 0.26 mmol); purification: flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent : PE:Et₂O 50:50); yield: 94%. Mp 120-122°C. IR (KBr): 2978, 2940, 1754, 1737, 1608, 1571, 1471, 1450, 1408, 1356, 1292, 1251, 1231, 1136, 1114, 1100, 1076, 1034, 1018, 982, 922, 878 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): 1.14 (td, J = 13.4, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.23 (s, 3H), 1.86 (m, 3H), 2.45 (d, J = 12.6 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (d, J = 12.6 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 6.48 (s, 1H), 6.68 (s, H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): 19.5, 20.5, 34.7, 36.5, 52.6, 59.9, 53.3, 56.6, 59.1, 61.3, 101.5, 126.1, 137.4, 137.8, 140.7, 150.0, 150.4, 153.7, 170.8, 171.6. Microanalysis (%) : found : C 64.55, H 6.58; calcd. for C₂₁H₂₆O₇: C 64.60, H 6.71.

4b-Methyl-4b,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1,3-dioxa-cyclopenta[b]fluorene-8,8-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester 2c



scale : diene **1c** (80 mg, 0.23 mmol); purification: flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent : PE:Et₂O 75:25); yield: 81%. Mp 109-111°C. IR (KBr): 2982, 2964, 2938, 2865, 1743, 1720, 1496, 1474, 1439, 1294, 1267, 1245, 1218, 1145, 1044, 941, 872, 830 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): 1.04 (td, J = 13.0, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 1.11 (s, 3H), 1.68-1.75 (m, 2H), 1.84 (tt, J = 13.8, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 2.06 (br.d, J = 12 Hz, 1H), 2.66 (br.d, J = 11.8 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 5.93 (s, 2H), 6.52 (s, 1H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): 19.5, 22.2, 34.5, 37.7, 51.0, 52.7, 53.0, 58.9, 101.0, 102.6, 102.8, 125.7, 134.7, 146.0, 146.6, 148.2, 148.5, 170.5, 171.2. Microanalysis (%) : found : C 66.20, H 5.93; calcd. for C₁₉H₂₀O₆: C 66.27, H 5.85.

4a,8-dimethyl-2,3,4,4a-tetrahydro-fluorene- dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester 2d



scale : diene **1d** (120 mg, 0.38 mmol); purification: flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent : PE:Et₂O 80:20); yield: 97%. Mp 45-47°C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): 1.09 (td, J = 13.2, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 1.15 (s, 3H), 1.70 (m, 2H), 1.88 (m, 1H), 2.12 (dd, J = 12.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.68 (dd, J = 12.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 6.73 (s, 1H), 7.02-7.08 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): 18.6, 19.5, 22.1, 34.6, 37.5, 51.4, 52.6, 53.0, 58.9, 118.5, 124.3, 125.3, 127.9, 130.9, 139.0, 148.9, 154.0, 170.5, 171.2. HRMS calcd for C₁₉H₂₂O₄ (MH⁺) 315.1596, found 315.1594.

7-Isopropyl-5,6-dimethoxy-4a,8-dimethyl-2,3, 4,4a-tetrahydro-fluorene- dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester 2e



scale : diene **1e** (428 mg, 1.03 mmol); purification: flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent : PE:Et₂O 80:20); yield: 73%. Mp 145-147°C IR (KBr): 2944, 1740, 1722, 1613, 1452, 1318, 1304, 1271, 1246, 1223, 1203, 1171, 1123, 1045, 1031, 974, 914, 856, 837, 774 cm^{-1.1}H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): 1.17-1.28 (m, 1H), 1.24 (s, 3H), 1.32 (d, J = 7 Hz, 3H), 1.35 (d, J = 7 Hz, 3H), 1.69 (m, 2H), 1.88 (m, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.43 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 2.65 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (m, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 6.62 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): 16.0, 19.1, 20.4, 21.7, 21.8, 28.3, 34.4, 36.1, 52.2, 52.5, 52.9, 58.7, 60.1, 60.3, 124.2, 124.7, 136.8, 138.9, 142.7, 147.7, 147.9, 150.6, 170.6, 171.4. HRMS calcd for C₂₄H₃₂O₆ 416.21989, found 416.21898.

2-(2-Bromo-benzylidene)-3-methyl-cyclohex-3-ene-1,1- dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester 2f



scale : diene **1f** (60 mg, 0.16 mmol); purification: flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent : PE:Et₂O : 90:10); yield: 67%. Mp 106-108°C. IR (KBr): 2924, 2854, 1728, 1560, 1455, 1434, 1252, 1233, 1166, 1075, 980, 856, 763 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): 2.01 (s, 3H), 2.20 (m, 2H), 2.31 (t, J = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 3.39 (s, 6H), 5.78 (br. s, 1H), 6.65 (s, 1H), 7.08 (m, 1H), 7.21 (m, 1H), 7.55 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.1 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): 22.0, 23.4, 31.9, 52.3, 58.9, 124.6, 126.7, 127.2, 127.9, 128.8, 131.2, 131.8, 132.9, 134.6, 137.3, 171.1.

2-(4-Methoxycarbonyl-benzylidene)-3-methyl-cyclohex-3-ene-1,1-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester 2g



scale : diene **1g** (76 mg, 0.2 mmol); purification: flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent : PE:Et₂O : 75:25); yield: 60%. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): 1.98 (s, 3H), 2.22 (m, 2H), 2.28 (m, 2H), 3.37 (s, 6H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 5.80 (br. s, 1H), 6.83 (s, 1H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.98 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): 22.0, 23.3, 32.2, 52.2, 52.5, 58.7, 127.5, 127.8, 128.5, 128.8, 129.0, 132.8, 135.4, 142.3, 167.1, 171.0. Microanalysis (%) : found : C 67.03, H 6.19; calcd. for C₂₀H₂₂O₆: C 67.01, H 6.58.

3-Methyl-2-(3-trifluoromethyl-benzylidene)-cyclohex-3-ene-1,1-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester 2h



scale : diene **1h** (37 mg, 0.1 mmol); purification: flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent : PE:Et₂O : 90:10); yield: 65%. IR (KBr): 2953, 2847, 1747, 1732, 1622, 1590, 1486, 1435, 1335, 1248, 1164, 1124, 1074, 1017, 991, 912, 805, 777, 735, 704, 666 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): 1.98 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 3H), 2.21 (m, 2H), 2.29 (m, 2H), 3.38 (s, 6H), 5.80 (br.s, 1H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 7.42-7.52 (m, 3H), 7.63 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): 22.2, 23.5, 32.4, 52.7, 58.9, 124.6, 124.8, 126.0, 127.1, 128.2, 128.5, 130.3, 132.7, 132.9, 135.8, 138.3, 171.2. HRMS calcd for C₁₉H₁₉F₃O₄ (MH⁺) 369.1313, found 369.1317.

¹H NMR 1c





¹H NMR 1e

















