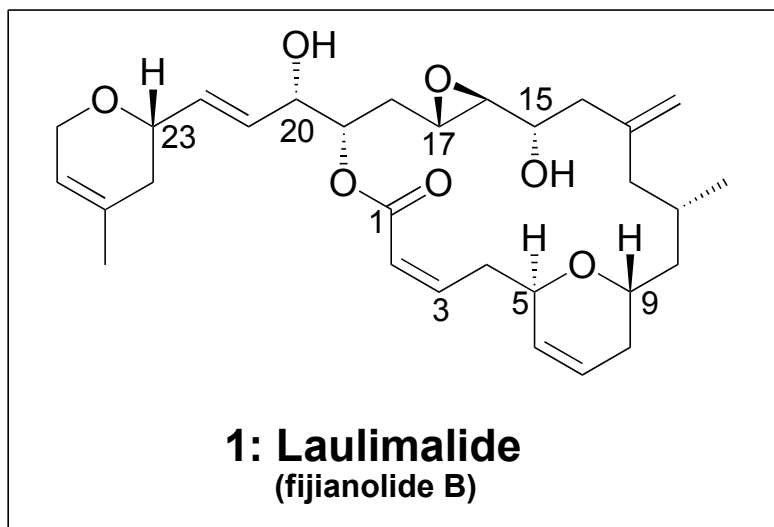


# Total synthesis of *Laulimalide*

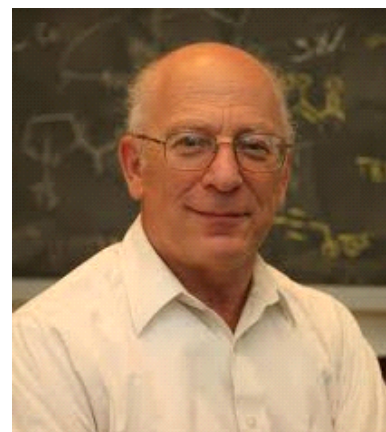


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  - toward the atom economy-
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  - 3-4. Asymmetric Direct Aldol Reaction via a Dinuclear Zn Catalyst
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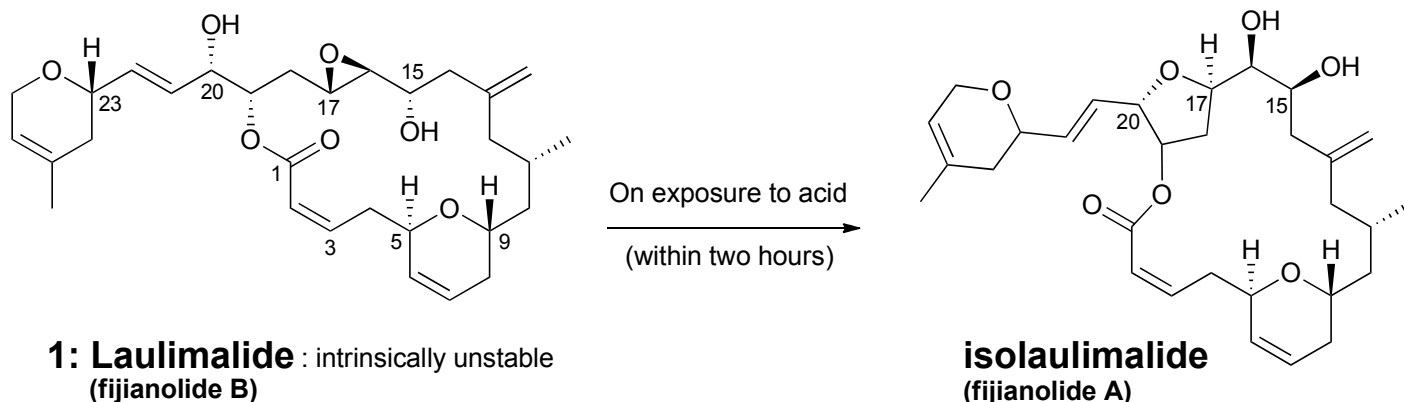


Marine Sponge,  
*Cacospongia mycofijiensis*



Barry M. Trost

# 1. Introduction



## <Isolation>

- From { various marine sponges such as *hyattela sp.*, *Cacospongia mycofijiensis*, *fasciospongia rimosa*  
a marine sponge in the genus *Dactylospongia*  
a nudibranch, *Chromodoris lochi*
- with its tetrahydrofuran containing isomer isolaulimalide

## <Structure>

- Determined NMR analysis and X-ray crystallographic analysis  
Corley, D. G *et al. J. Org. Chem.* **1988**, 53, 3644.  
Quinoa, E *et al. J. Org. Chem.* **1988**, 53, 3642.
- 20-membered macrolide

## <Biological activity>

- like Taxol® (paclitaxel), induces microtubule polymerization and stabilization
- unlike Taxol® (paclitaxel), retains activity in multidrug resistant cell lines
- binds to a different site than other known microtubule stabilizers
- suggesting new opportunities for chemotherapy ??

## <Total synthesis>

- Hot topic for over a decade (more than 10 reports !)

due to { its significant clinical potential  
its strict natural supply  
unique and complex molecular architecture

Ghosh, A. K. *et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2000**, 122, 11027.

Ghosh, A. K. *et al. J. Org. Chem.* **2001**, 66, 8973.

Mulzer, J. *et al. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2001**, 40, 3842.

Paterson, I. *et al. Org. Lett.* **2001**, 3, 3149.

Enev, V. S. *et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2001**, 123, 10764.

Wender, P. A. *et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, 124, 4956.

Crimmins, M. T. *et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, 124, 5958.

Williams, D. R. *et al. Tetrahedron Lett.* **2002**, 43, 4841.

Nelson, S. G. *et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, 124, 13654.

Ahmed, A. *et al. J. Org. Chem.* **2003**, 68, 3026.

Gallagher, B. M. *et al. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2004**, 14, 475.

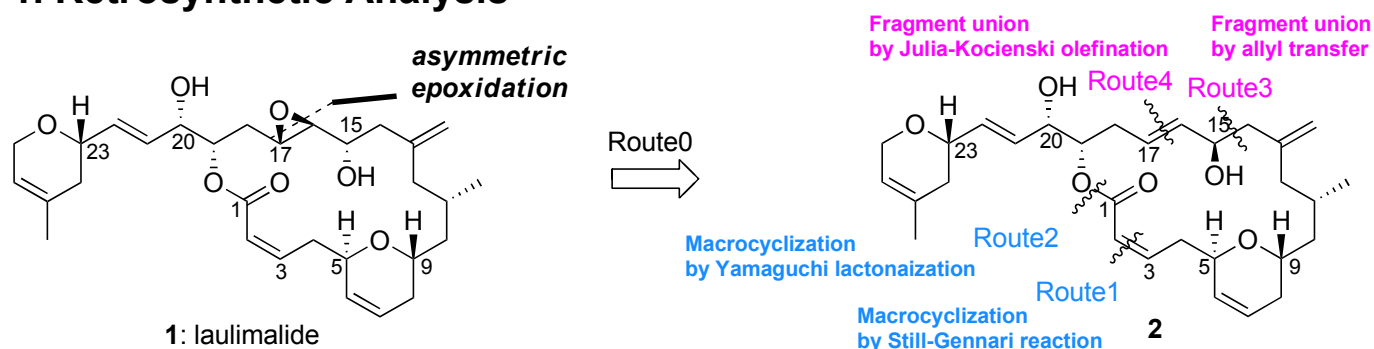
Uenishi, J. *et al. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2005**, 44, 2756.

Gollner, A. *et al. Chem.-Eur. J.* **2009**, 15, 5979.

Trost, B. M. *et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, 131, 17089.

## 2. Previous Total Synthesis

### 2-1. Retrosynthetic Analysis



Although more than 10 syntheses were reported, the retrosynthetic route was limited.  
(route0 → the combination of route1-4)

## 3. Trost's Total Synthesis

### 3-1. What is "synthetic efficiency"??

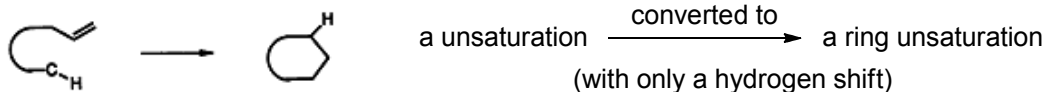
Trost, B. M. *et al. Science*. 1991. 254, 1471.

- Efficient synthetic methods require to
  - chemo-/regio-/diastereo-/enantio-selectivity
  - atom economy = how much of the reactants end up in the product

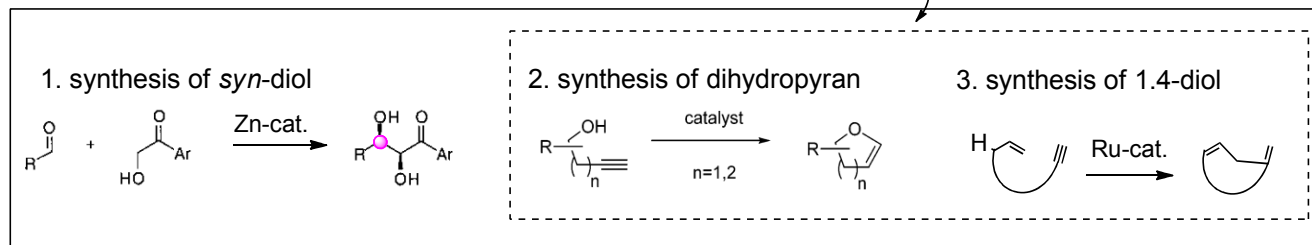
An process that is both selective and atom economical remains a challenge.  
Transition metal catalysis enable this??



- Cycloisomerizations offer opportunities for enhancing efficiency for construction of difficult medium and large rings

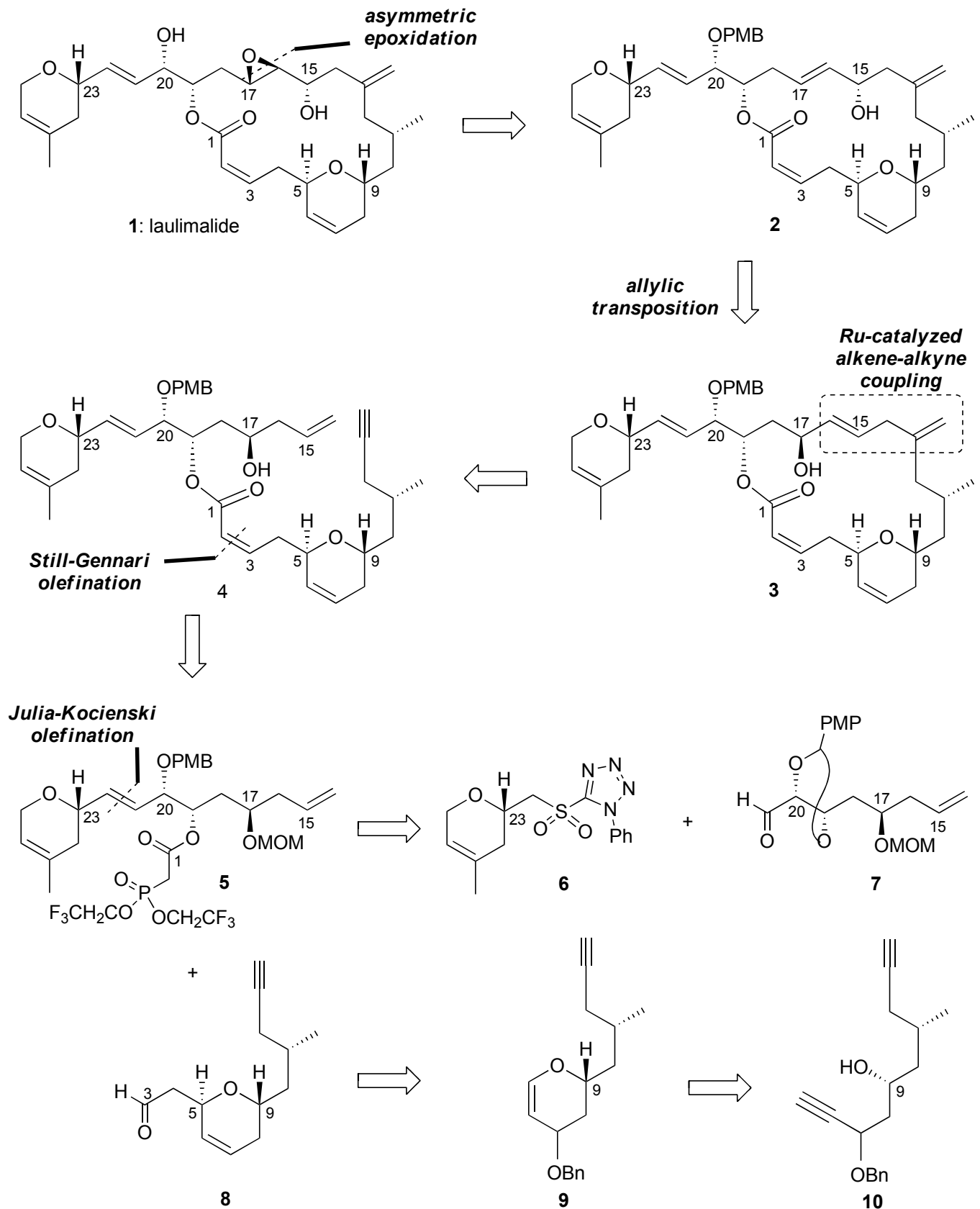


Trost used 3 atom economic reactions in total synthesis of laulimalide, and 2 of these is cycloisomerization



## 3-2. Retrosynthetic Analysis

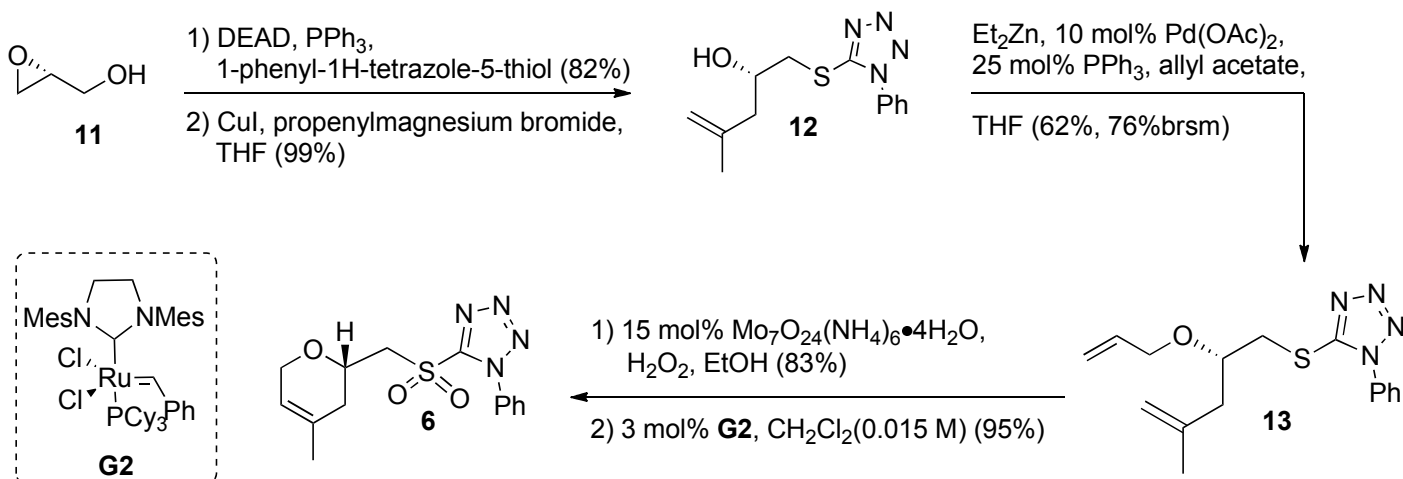
Trost's retrosynthetic analysis is based on the notion that laulimalide **1** could be formed from 1,4-diene **3**.



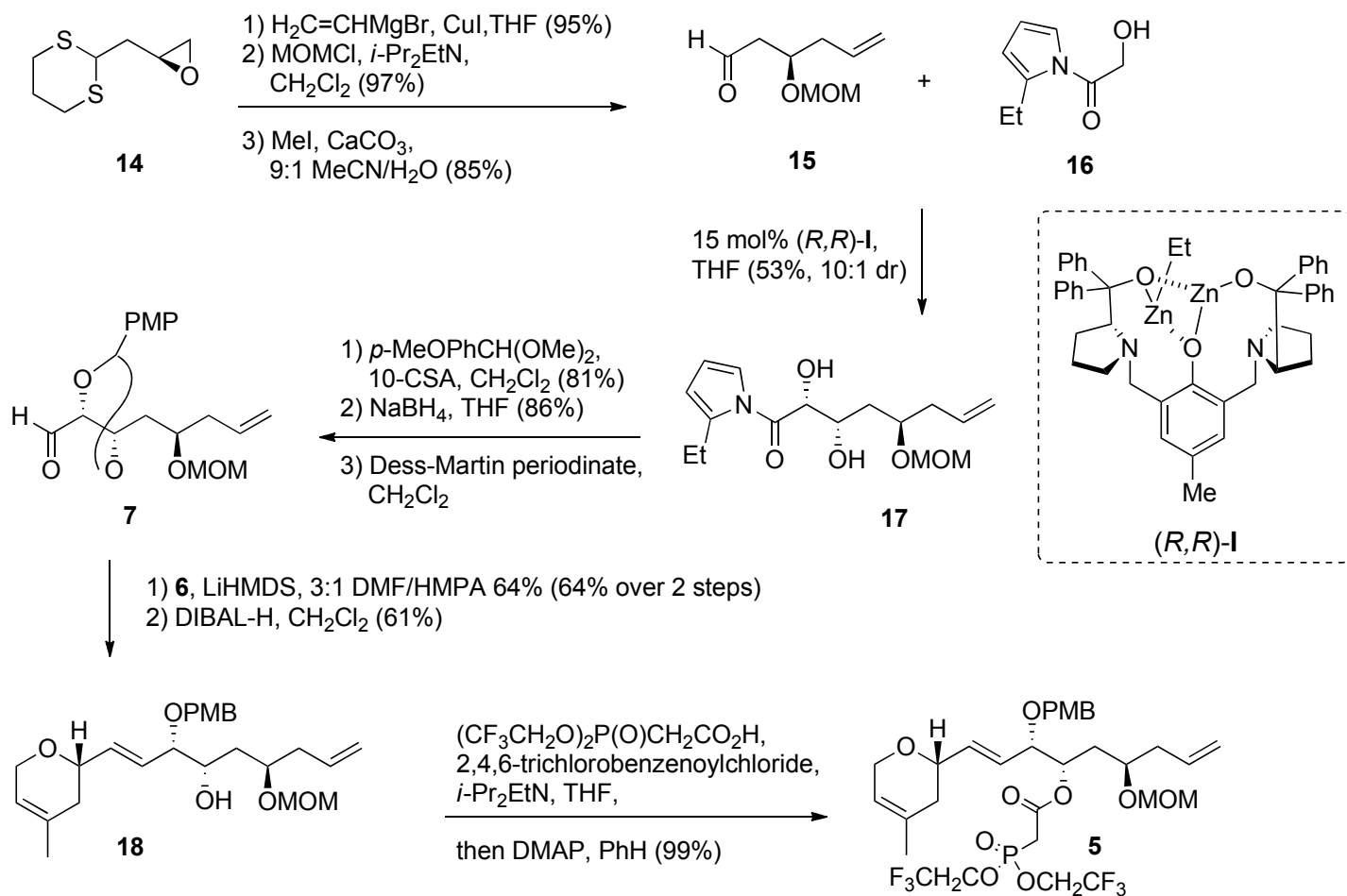
### 3-3. Total Synthesis

Trost, B. M. et al. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, *131*, 17087.

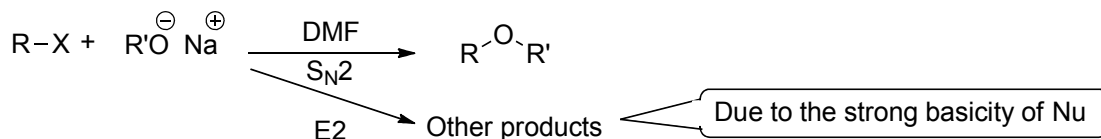
#### <Synthesis of 6>



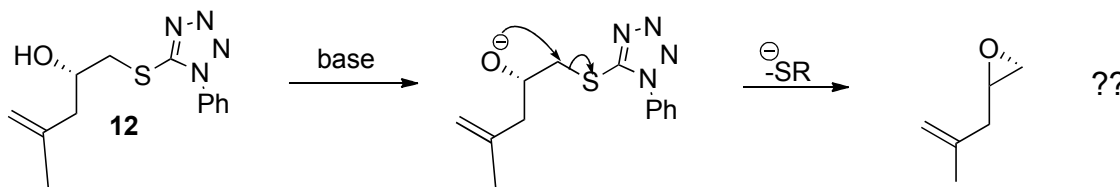
#### <Synthesis of 5>



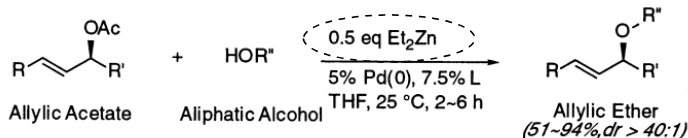
-Generally, Williamson ether synthesis (S<sub>N</sub>2 type O-alkylation) is impractical.



-Also in this case, allylation under basic or acidic condition were ineffective.



Alternative approach: **Pd-catalyzed allylic etherification**

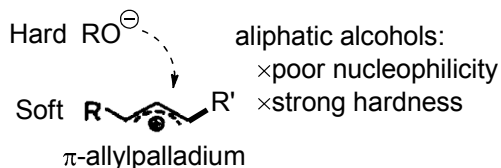


The addition of O-nucleophile to an η<sup>3</sup>-allylmetal intermediate

↓

Mild & Stereoselective

**MISMATCH !**



modulating the apparent "hardness" of RO<sup>-</sup>

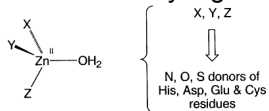
Can the **Zinc effect** lead to "softening" ??

→Zn(II)-bound alkoxides possess weakened basicity while retaining sufficient nucleophilicity !!

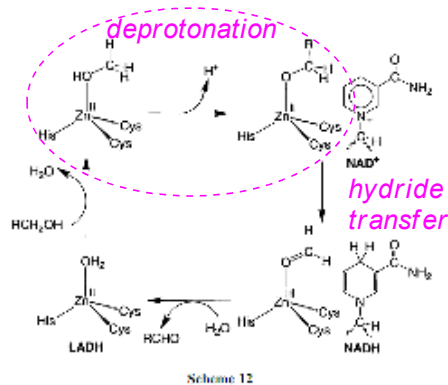
**the zinc effect in biochemistry: the Zn enzyme LADH**

Kimura, E. *et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1992**, 114, 10134.  
 Parkin, G. *et al. Chem. Commun.* **2000**, 1971.

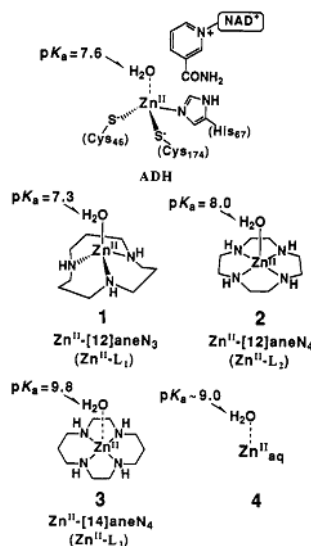
Zn<sup>II</sup>-containing liver alcohol dehydrogenases (LADH)



LADH catalyze the hydride transfer from alcohol to NAD<sup>+</sup>



The pK<sub>a</sub> of alcohols (normally ~16) can be reduced by about 9 units upon coordination to Zn<sup>II</sup> ??



Nucleophilicity is retained.

Table 2. Properties of Zn<sup>II</sup> that are relevant to its role in enzymatic discrimination between S<sub>N</sub>2 and S<sub>N</sub>1.

<b>Basicity</b>	The deprotonation of an alcohol is facilitated by the presence of a Zn <sup>II</sup> center, which acts as a Lewis acid, to coordinate to the OH <sup>-</sup> and O <sup>-</sup> .
<b>Coordination geometry</b>	The tetrahedral geometry of Zn <sup>II</sup> in the active site of LADH is a consequence of the coordination of the Zn <sup>II</sup> center to the NAD <sup>+</sup> and the alcohol, which are both tetrahedral. This geometry is also favored by the presence of the Zn <sup>II</sup> center in the active site of LADH.
<b>Coordination of NAD<sup>+</sup></b>	The Zn <sup>II</sup> center of the active site of LADH is coordinated to the NAD <sup>+</sup> and the alcohol, which are both tetrahedral. This geometry is also favored by the presence of the Zn <sup>II</sup> center in the active site of LADH.
<b>Coordination of alcohol</b>	The Zn <sup>II</sup> center of the active site of LADH is coordinated to the NAD <sup>+</sup> and the alcohol, which are both tetrahedral. This geometry is also favored by the presence of the Zn <sup>II</sup> center in the active site of LADH.
<b>Ligand coordination</b>	As a result of the tetrahedral geometry, the Zn <sup>II</sup> center is coordinated to the NAD <sup>+</sup> and the alcohol, which are both tetrahedral. This geometry is also favored by the presence of the Zn <sup>II</sup> center in the active site of LADH.

•13 → 6: oxidation of the sulfide into the corresponding sulfone using H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and Mo(VI)catalyst

-Although sulfoxides and sulfones are important in synthetic organic chemistry, only a few reports are available for selective oxidation of sulfides to sulfoxides and sulfones

The oxidation of sulfides to sulfoxides with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

Kaczorowska, K. *et al. Tetrahedron*. **2005**, *61*, 8315.

Several disadvantages of sulfide oxidation:

- × long reaction times
- × inconvenient reaction conditions
- × expensive oxidants
- × undesired reactions at other FGs
- × low yield



H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> is the most attractive oxidant :

- selective sulfide oxidation
- relative mild conditions
- an ideal waste-avoiding oxidant: water is only byproduct !
- only a small excess of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>
- high yield
- liquid-phase reactions
- good solubility in water and many organic solvents

Moreover, aqueous H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> has further advantages:

- safe in storage, operation, and transportation
- commercially available
- relatively cheap

However, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> alone has possibility of an over-oxidation reaction.



The oxidation of sulfides to sulfoxides with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> & catalyst

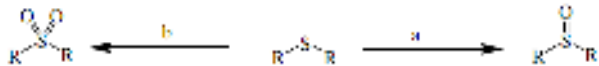
Controlled oxidation of sulfides to sulfoxides and sulfones } is possible !  
Chiral oxidation

**Mo(VI) catalyst/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system at room temperature**

Jeyakumar, K. *et al. Tetrahedron. Lett.* **2006**, *47*, 4573.

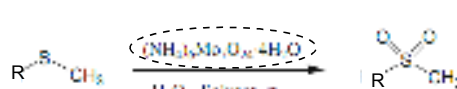
Jeyakumar, K. *et al. Catalysis. communications.* **2009**, *10*, 1948.

MoO<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system



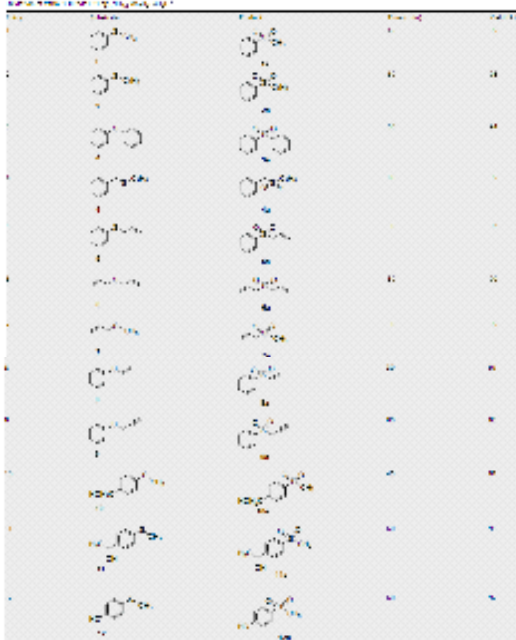
Scheme 1. Optimized reaction conditions for 4 mmol of substrate. Reagents and conditions: (a) MoO<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1.5 mol %), 30% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (1.05 equiv), acetone/water (1.5:1), rt; (b) MoO<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (15 mol %), 30% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (4 equiv), acetonitrile, rt.

New system ← used in this time



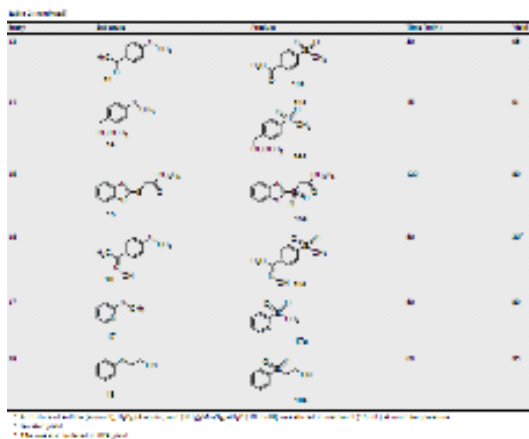
(NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>6</sub>Mo<sub>7</sub>O<sub>24</sub>•4H<sub>2</sub>O is } commercially available  
cheap  
air stable

Substrate Scope of (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>6</sub>Mo<sub>7</sub>O<sub>24</sub>•4H<sub>2</sub>O/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> System

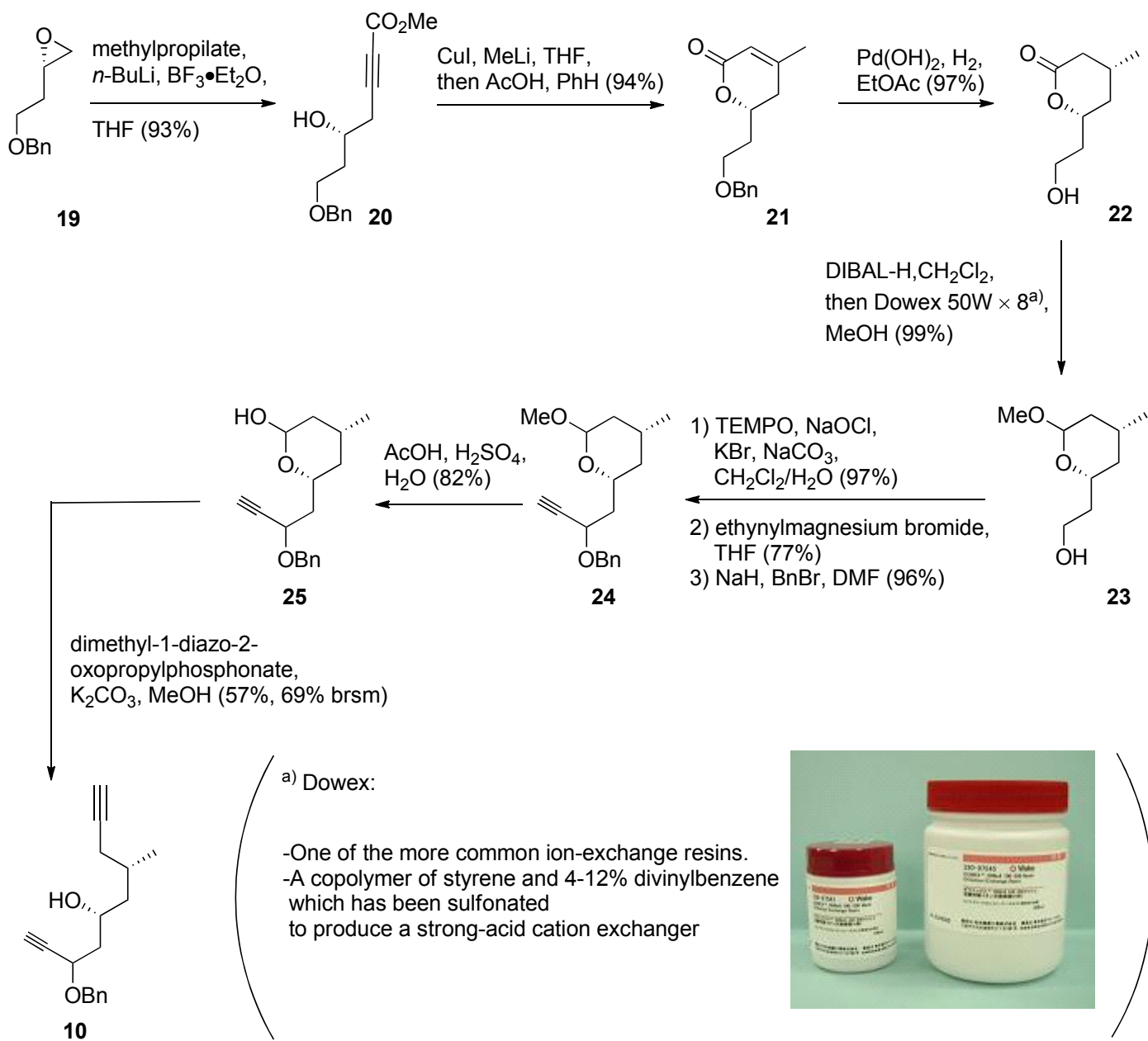


-Both systems provide excellent yield with short time.

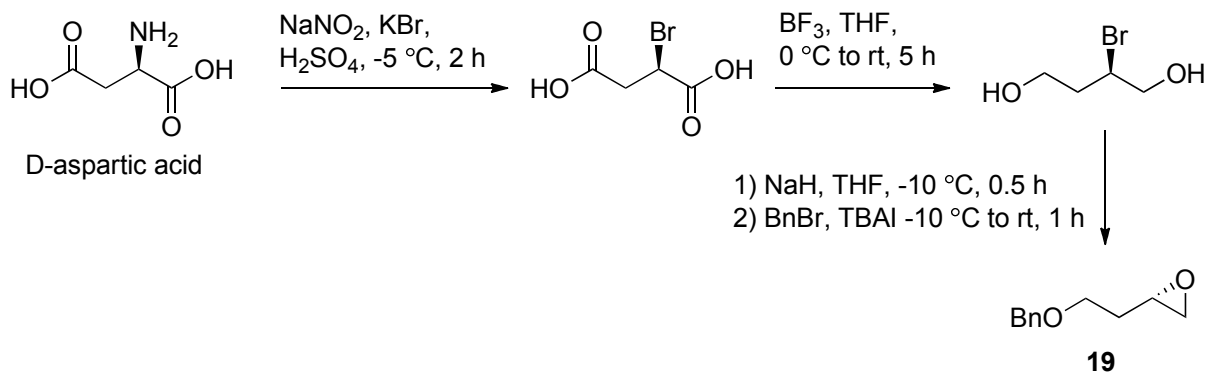
-In both systems, various sensitive functional groups are tolerated such as alkyl, allyl, vinyl, propargyl, alcohol, ketone, ester, and remarkably oxime !



## <Synthesis of 10>

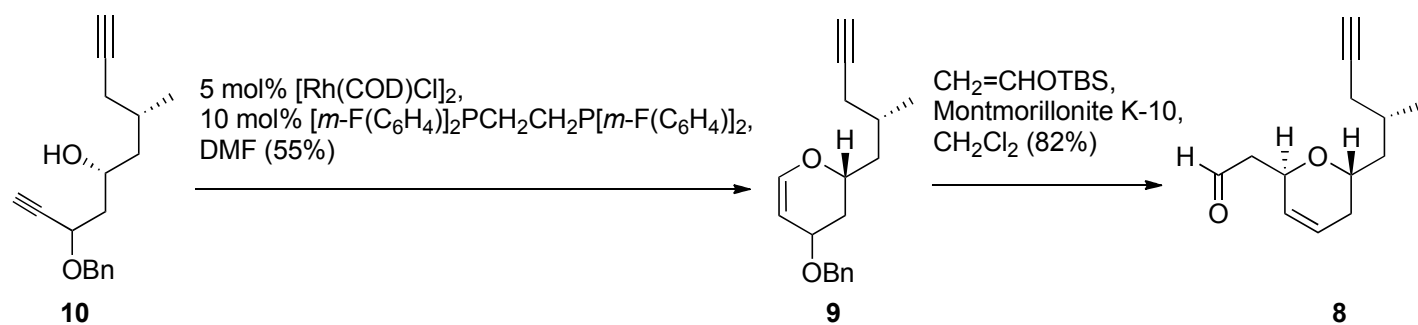


### •preparation of 19

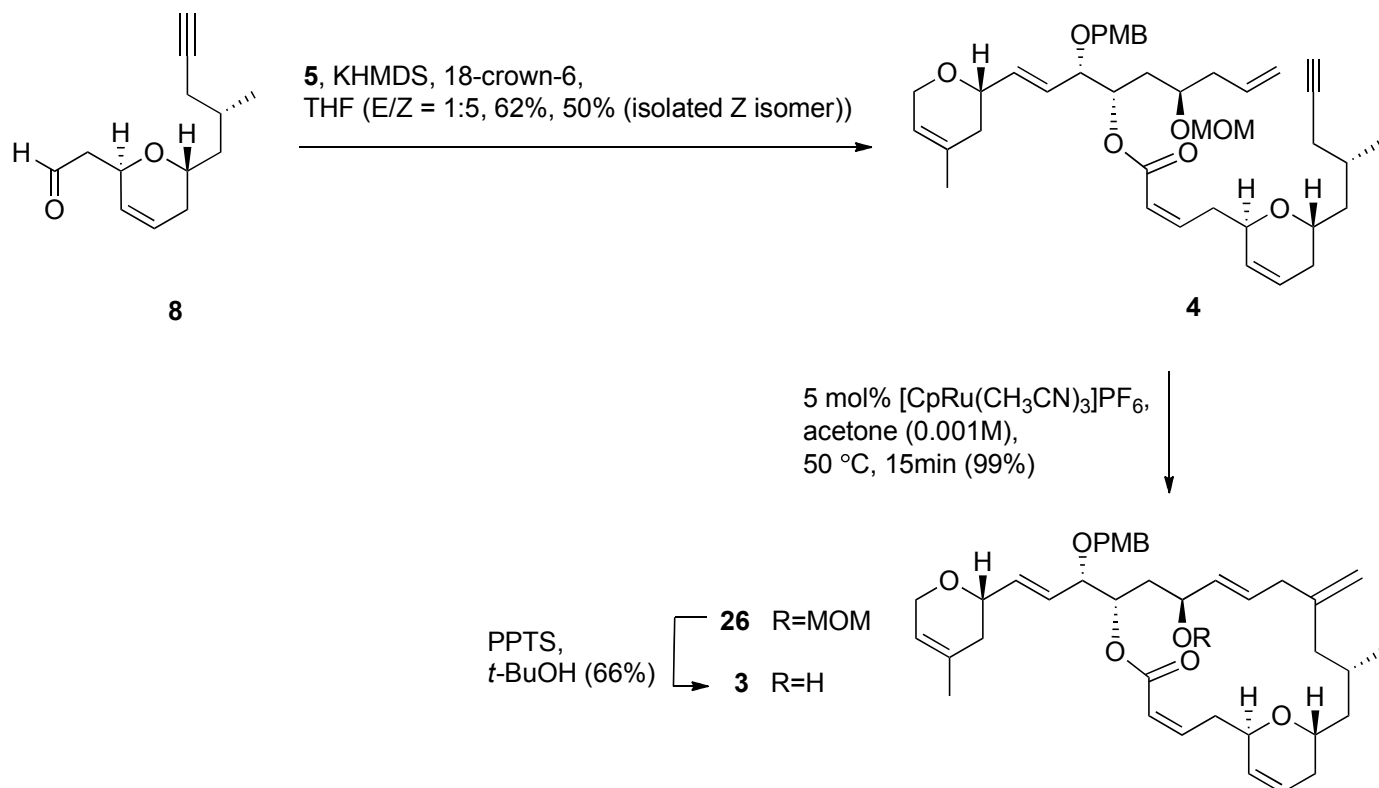




### <Synthesis of 8>

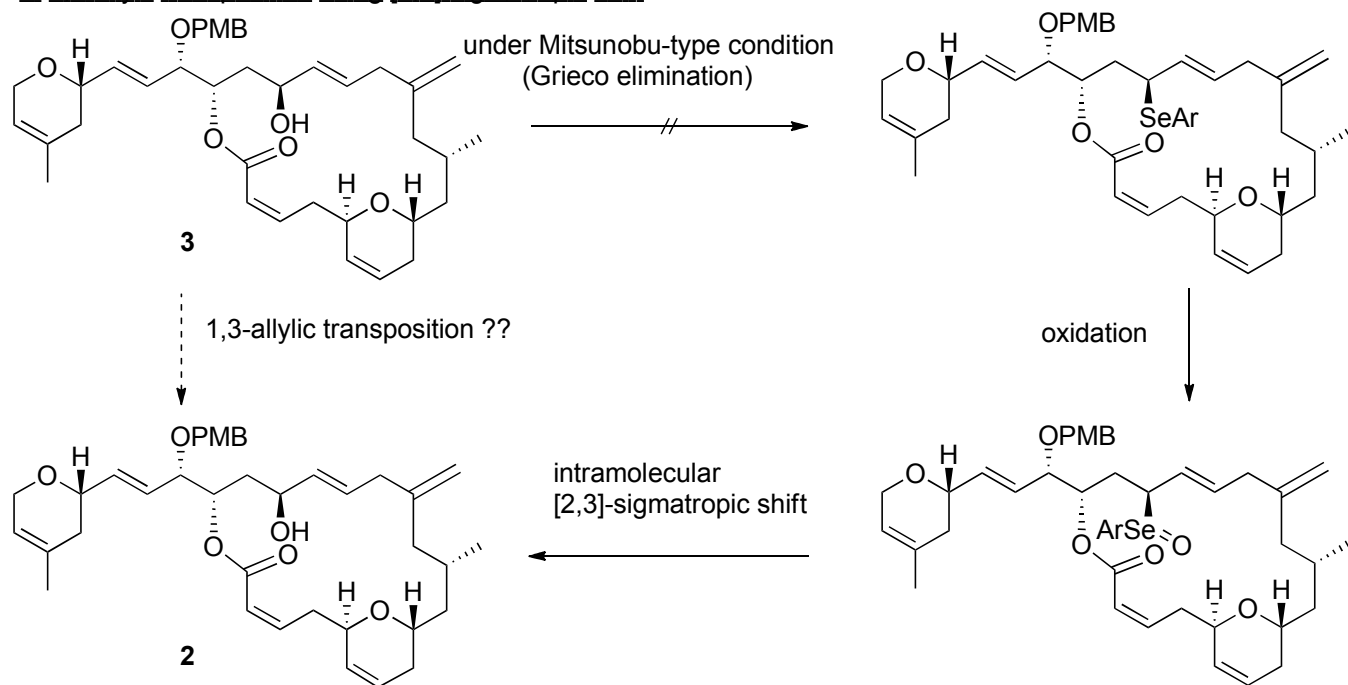


### <Synthesis of 3: Intramolecular Ru-Catalyzed Alkene-Alkyne Coupling>

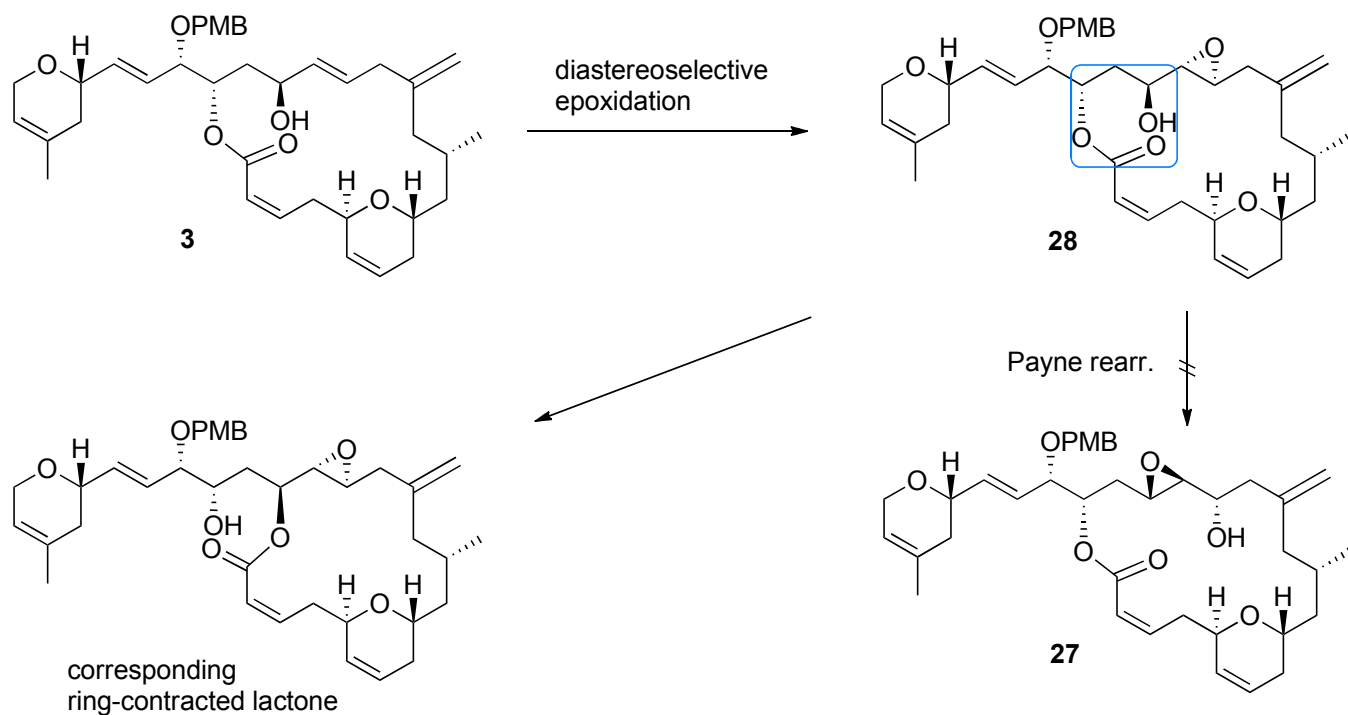


## <Two failures in the step 3 → 1>

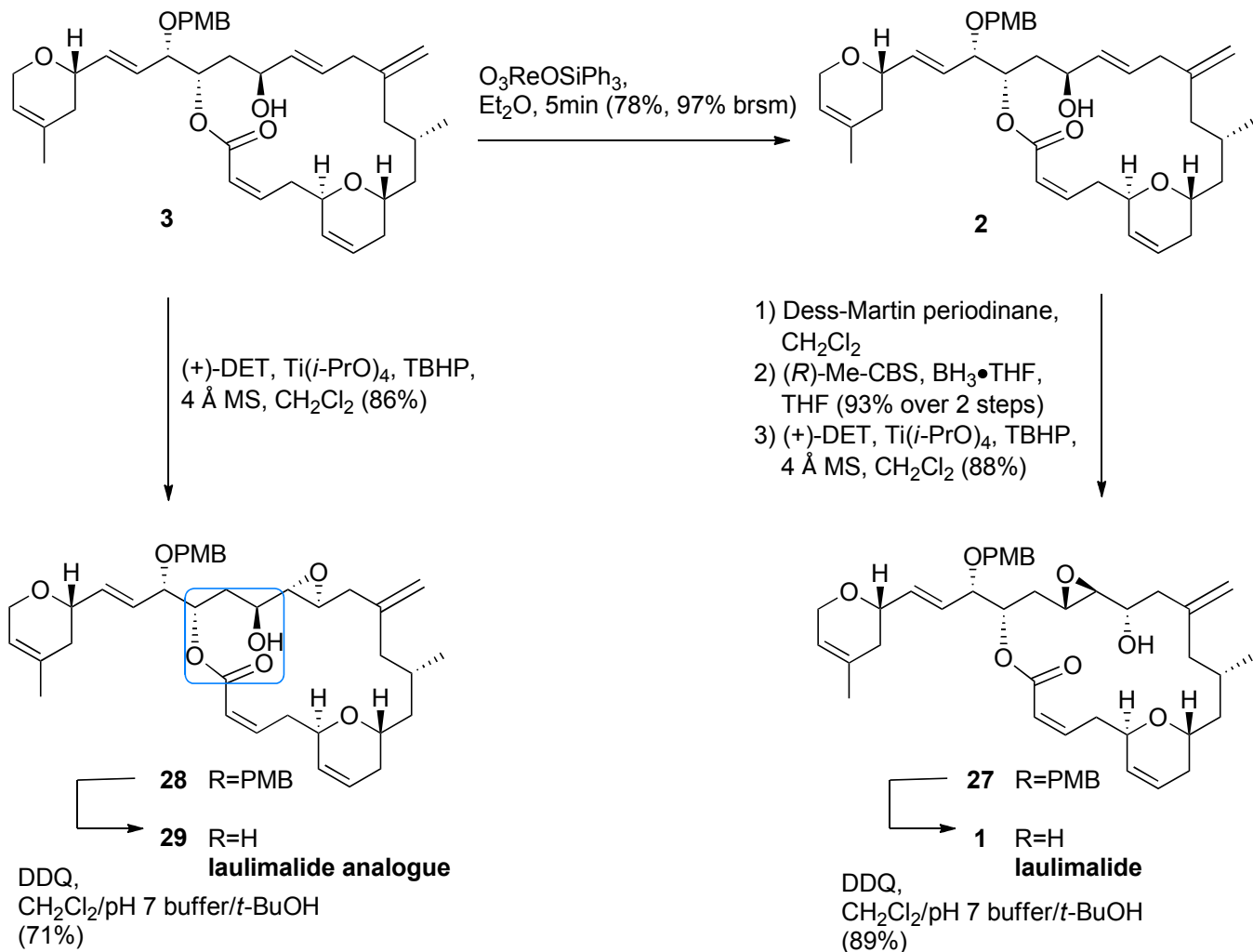
### 1. 1,3-allylic transposition using [2,3]-sigmatropic shift



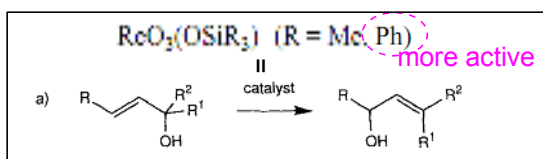
### 1. Payne rearrangement under basic condition



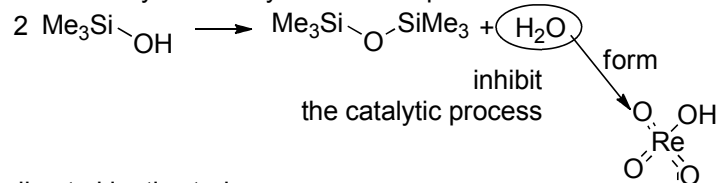
## <Synthesis of laulimalide and its analogue>



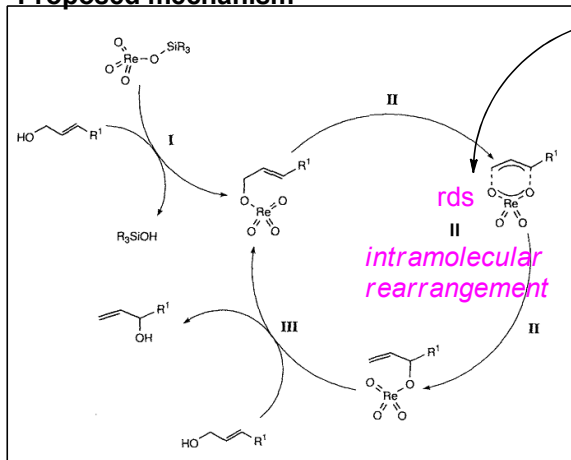
### •3 → 2: 1,3-allylic transposition utilizing Re oxo catalysis



These catalyst are very sensitive to presence of water.



### Proposed mechanism



According to kinetic study,

$$v_1 = k[\text{cat.}]^2[\text{substrate}]^2$$

Some calculations confirm the involvement of a cyclic transition state.

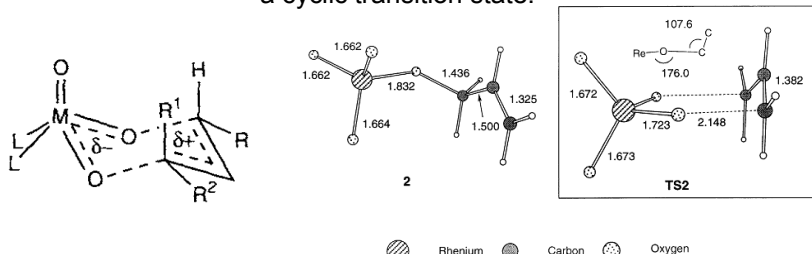


Fig. 15. Optimized geometries of the reactant and the corresponding transition state for the allylic rearrangement of the system  $\text{ReO}(\text{OCH}=\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2-\text{OH})$  (reactant with selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] (HF method)).

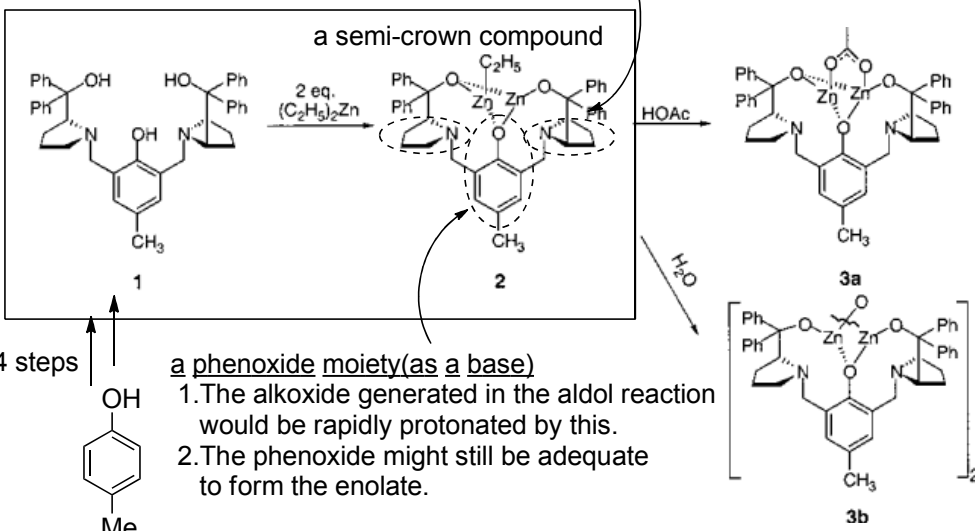
# 3-4. Asymmetric Direct Aldol Reaction via a Dinuclear Zinc Catalyst

## <A Dinuclear Zinc Catalyst Design>

Trost, B. M. *et al.* *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2000**. 122, 12003.  
 Trost, B. M. *et al.* *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2001**. 123, 3367.

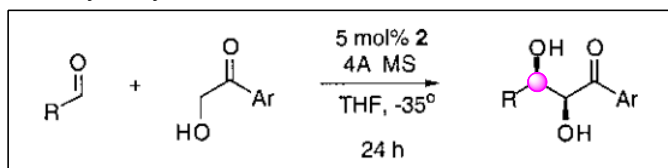
two nitrogens

The strong coordinating elements for some metals



## <Substrate scope and Proposed catalytic cycle>

•  $\alpha$ -hydroxyketones as donors



c.f. simple ketones as donors

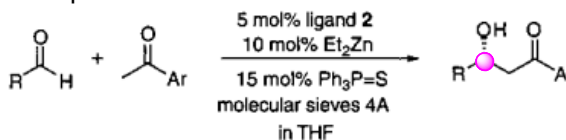
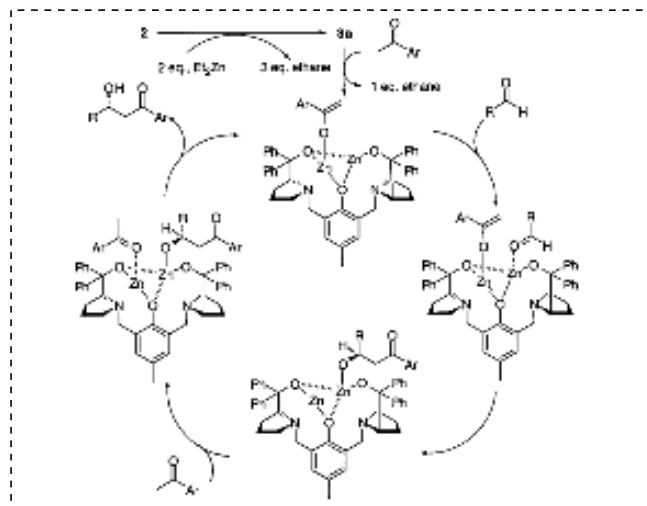


Table 2. Asymmetric Aldol Reaction<sup>a</sup>

entry	R	Ar	Yield (%)	ee (%)	ref.
1	Ph	Ph	87	81	52
2	Ph	Ph	76	71	50
3	Ph	Ph	91	77	50
4	Ph	Ph	77	8	50
5	Ph	Ph	74	ONLY 100%	50
6	Ph	Ph	97	100	51
7	Ph	Ph	65	67	51
8	Ph	Ph	73	61	52
9	Ph	Ph	78	8	51
10	Ph	Ph	63	7	51
11	Ph	Ph	67	200	56
12	Ph	Ph	86	74	55
13	Ph	Ph	91	81	57
14	Ph	Ph	96	63	56
15	Ph	Ph	77	63	53
16	Ph	Ph	99	74	55

<sup>a</sup> All reactions as in eq 3 using a 1:5:1:0 ratio of hydroxyketone to aldehyde using 2.5 and 1% catalyst unless noted otherwise. <sup>b</sup> See ref 7. <sup>c</sup> Determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy on the crude mixture. <sup>d</sup> Determined by chiral HPLC on a Chiral OD or OD column. <sup>e</sup> For this run, 5.0 mol % catalyst was employed. <sup>f</sup> Reactions performed using a 1:1:1:0 ratio of hydroxyketone to aldehyde. <sup>g</sup> Reaction performed at -55 °C. <sup>h</sup> Reactions performed using 1:1:1:0 ratio of hydroxyketone to aldehyde.

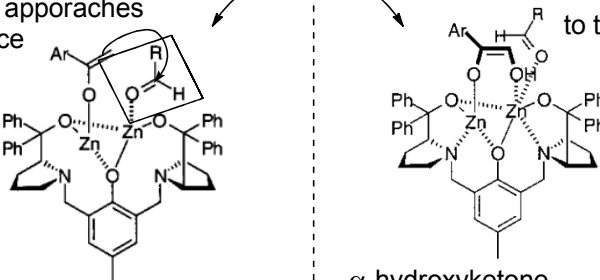


• simple ketone

•  $\alpha$ -hydroxyketone

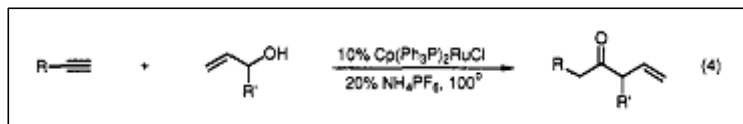
the enolate approaches to the *re* face

to the *si* face

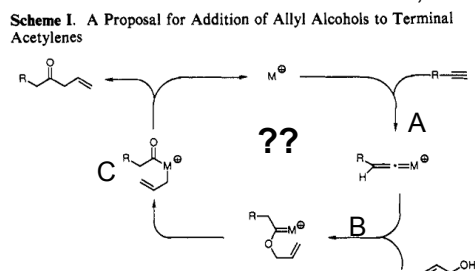


### 3-5. Rh(I)-Catalyzed Cycloisomerization of Homo- and Bis-homopropargylic Alcohols

#### <Ru-Catalyzed Reconstitutive Condensation of Allylic Alcohols and Terminal Alkynes>

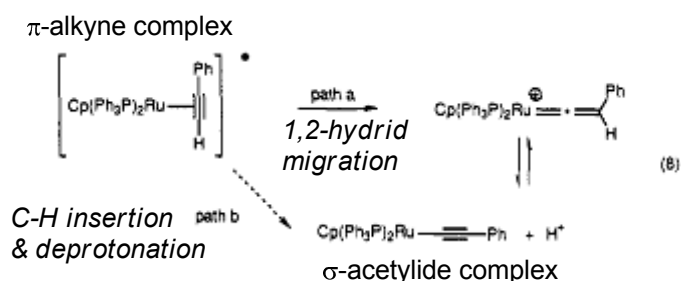
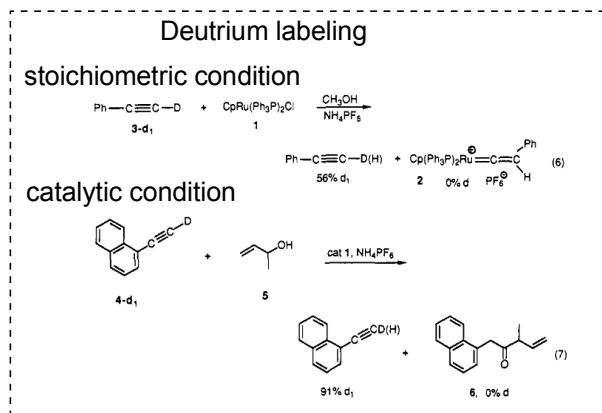


Trost, B. M. *et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1992**, *114*, 5579.



The close examination of the mechanism  
 -Ligand substitution  
 -Kinetic and deuterium experiments  
 -Identity of the reactive profile

#### A. Vinylidene Formation



(1) the NMR spectrum of **2** in CDO<sub>3</sub>D containing of NDPF<sub>4</sub>  
 the absence of the vinylic hydrogen  
 &  
 the disappearance of <sup>13</sup>C signal for the vinylidene carbon  
 (with all the other <sup>13</sup>C signals remaining)

(2) deuterium loss of **3** in eq 6  
 → reversibility of vinylidene formation

(3) little deuterium loss of **3** in eq 7  
 → β-protonation of σ-acetylide > reversal to π-alkyne complex  
 faster

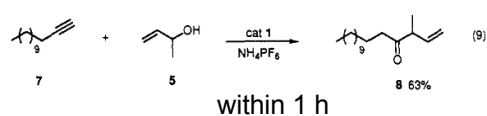
summary:

- Vinylidene complex is formed.
- The equilibration of the vinylidene complex with starting alkyne is more slow than its further reaction.

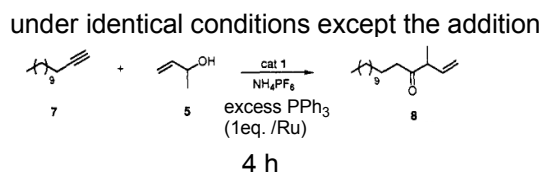
#### B. Addition of Allylic Alcohols

(1) the extremely facile loss of PPh<sub>3</sub> from cat. **1**

(2) addition of PPh<sub>3</sub>  
 retardation or the rate of the condensation reaction

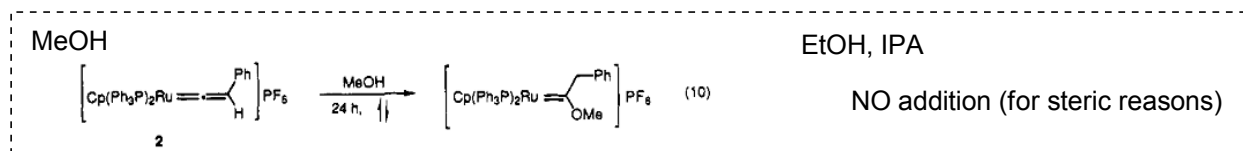


addition of PPh<sub>3</sub>

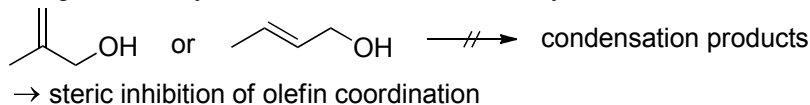


(3) comparison of the reactivity of 3-buten-2-ol **5** with other alcohols

**5**, sterically equivalent to IPA, reacted much more rapidly than MeOH.

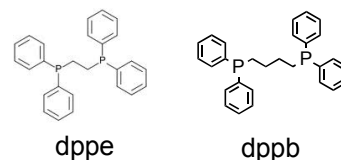


(4) placing Me directly on the double bond of the allylic alcohols



(5) replacing PPh<sub>3</sub> with the chelating ligands dppe and dppb

inhibition of the condensation reaction  
 → preclusion of precoordination of the olefinic group of the allylic alcohols  
 (due to reluctance of the ligands to dissociate a phosphine)



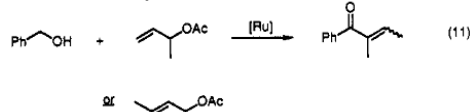
summary:

-Precoordination of the olefinic group is required and actually takes place.

### C. The Nature of the Allyl Intermediate : evidence regarding the role of $\sigma$ - vs. $\pi$ -allyl complexes

(0) precedents of Ru-catalyzed coupling

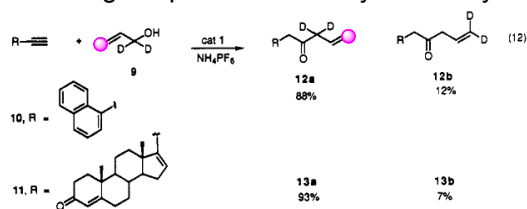
→ intrinsic preference for C-C bond formation to the more substituted allyl terminus



Tsuiji, Y. *et al. J. Organomet. Chem.* **1989**, 369, C51.

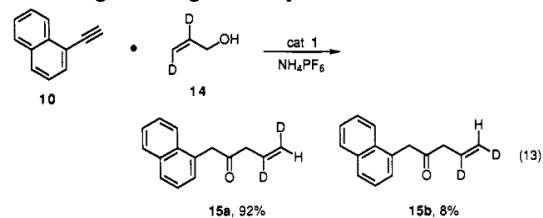
(1) regiochemical outcome from eq 12

retaining the positional identity of the allylic alcohol



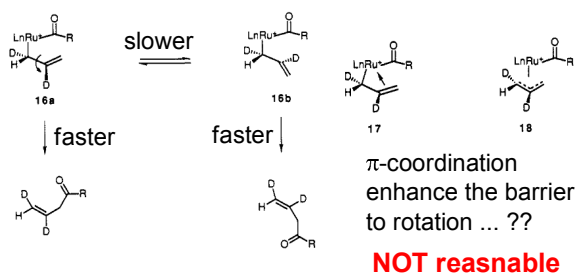
(2) geometrical outcome from eq 13

retaining olefin geometry

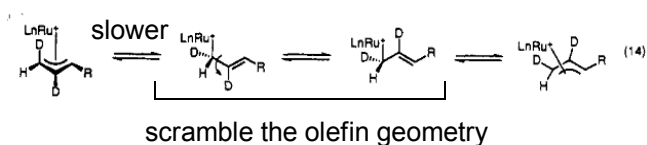


→ little intervention of  $\sigma$ -complex  
 (See the right column.)

a) Slower C-C bond rotation than reductive elimination



b) Slower  $\eta^3$  to  $\eta^1$  allyl slippage than reductive elimination

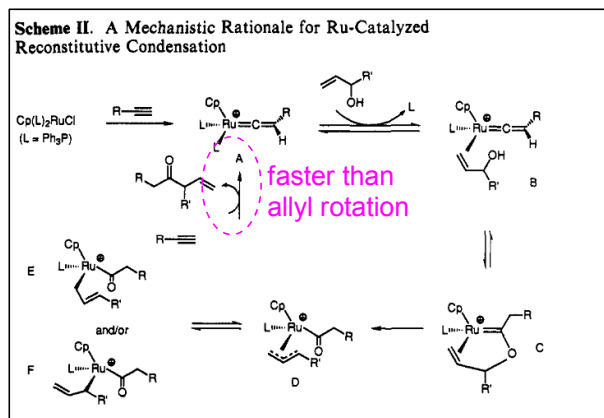


summary:

-Judging from almost no scramble of both regiochemistry and olefin geometry,

$\eta^3$ - $\pi$ -allyl complex undergoes reductive elimination much faster than both allyl rotation and  $\eta^3$  to  $\eta^1$  allyl slippage

► This scheme accommodates all of the preceding observations.

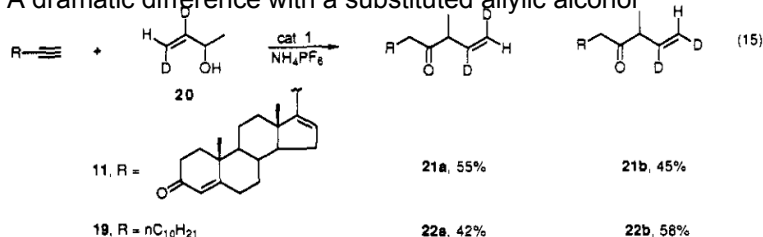


If R=H (unsubstituted allyl alcohol),  
D should be sufficiently destabilized  
to ensure rapid reductive elimination

(Due to the presence of the acyl group  
on an already electron-poor Ru(IV) species)  
→ relatively slow  $\eta^3$  to  $\eta^1$  allyl slippage

But if R≠H (substituted allyl alcohol),  
the competition between the rate  
for reductive elimination and  $\eta^3$  to  $\eta^1$  allyl slippage  
is changed ! (See below.)

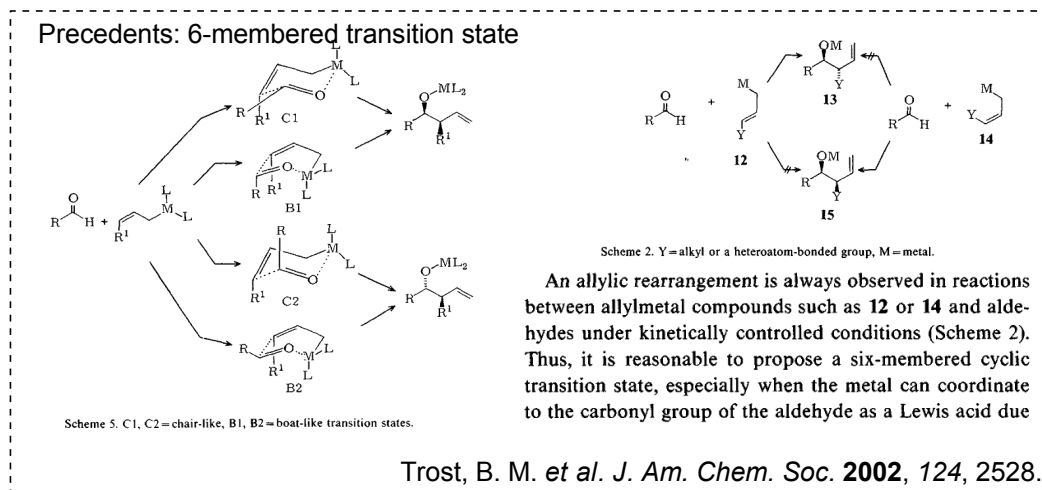
A dramatic difference with a substituted allylic alcohol



The high regioselectivity  
&  
The loss of olefin geometry

-Scrambling of olefin geometry →  $\sigma$ -complex E as an obligatory intermediate or a species in dynamic equilibrium  
-The high regioselectivity → reminiscent of eq 11 (the reaction of monosubstituted allyl organometallics at the more substituted allyl terminus)

**Why C-C bond formation the more substituted allyl terminus is favored ??**



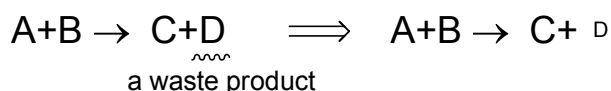
Like such a reaction, the metal itself prefers the less substituted allyl terminus  
and cyclic transition state invokes allyl inversion ??





### 3-6. Ru-Catalyzed Alkene-Alkyne Coupling

► To maximize the atom economy ...

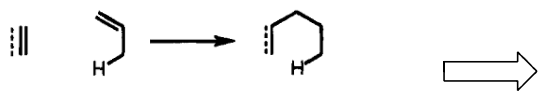


Trost, B. M. *et al.* *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1995**, 117, 615.

Trost, B. M. *et al.* *Chem. Rev.* **2001**, 101, 2067.

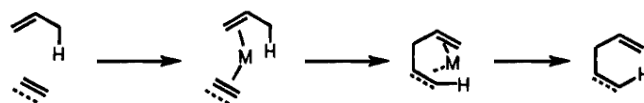
► Diels-Alder type reactions are ideal: They incorporate all of the atoms of the reactants

• Ideal catalysis of the Alder en reaction



- the simplest form
- catalysis : only TS energy ↓
- one-step process

• Alternative catalytic concept



- catalysis : precoordination of two reactant partners
- one or more steps

### <Cross coupling of alkynes with alkenes>

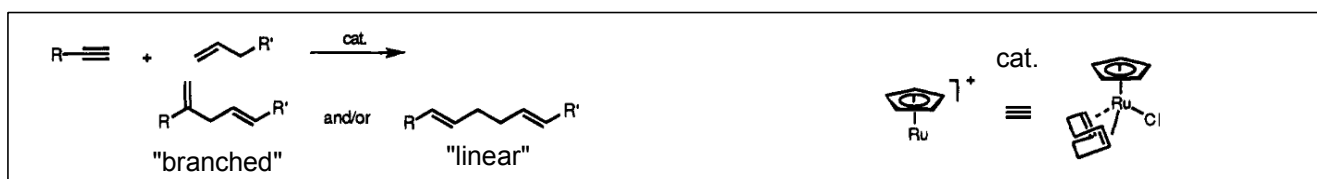


Table 2. Ruthenium-Catalyzed Alder-ene Reaction<sup>a</sup>

R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>3</sup>	catalyst	Ratio A:B	Yield
CH <sub>2</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> -	H	-CH <sub>2</sub> (OH)	1	5.2:1	56%
CH <sub>2</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> -	H	-CH <sub>2</sub> (OH)	1	4:1	53%
CH <sub>2</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> -	H	-COCH <sub>3</sub>	1	3.8:1	50%
CH <sub>2</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> -	H	-CH <sub>2</sub> (CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> )	1	3.8:1	71%
CH <sub>2</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> -	H	-CH <sub>2</sub> (CH=CH <sub>2</sub> )	1	6.4:1	52%
Boc-C-	H	-CH <sub>2</sub> (OH)	1	5.6:1	50%
TBDMSOCH <sub>2</sub> -	H	-CH <sub>2</sub> (OH)	1	5.0:1	56%
CH <sub>2</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> -	H	-CH <sub>2</sub> (CH=CHCO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> )	1	5.3:1	46%
CH <sub>2</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> (CH(OBoc)-)	H	-CH <sub>2</sub> (OH)	1	1:2.0	53%
	H	-CH <sub>2</sub> (OH)	1	1.9:1	65%
HOCCH <sub>2</sub> -	CH <sub>3</sub>	-CH <sub>2</sub> (CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> )	1	1:2.6	38%
MUNHCH <sub>2</sub> -	CH <sub>2</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> -	-CH <sub>2</sub> (CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> )	1	1:1.8	54%
NC(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> -	H	-CH <sub>2</sub> (CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> )	2	8:1	65%
PhCH(NHBoc)(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> -	H	-CH <sub>2</sub> (CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> )	2	>20:1	54%
CH <sub>2</sub> (CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> )	H	-CH <sub>2</sub> (CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> )	2	5:1	56%
	H	-CH <sub>2</sub> (CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> )	2	10:1	75%
(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> C(OH)-	H	-CH <sub>2</sub> (CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> )	2	1:3.2	91%
NO <sub>2</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> -	CH <sub>2</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> -	-CH <sub>2</sub> (CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> )	2	5.3:1	73%
PhCH(NHBoc)(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> -	-CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	-CH <sub>2</sub> (CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> )	2	1:5	82%
			1	1:3.5	61%
TBDMSOCH <sub>2</sub> -	-TMS	-CH <sub>2</sub> (CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> )	2	>98:2	78%
HOCCH <sub>2</sub> -	-TMS	-CH <sub>2</sub> (OH)	2	>98:2	79%
CH <sub>2</sub> (OH)-	-TMS	CH <sub>2</sub> (CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> )	2	>98:2	61%
CH <sub>2</sub> (OH)-			1	>98:2	31%
CH <sub>2</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> -	-TMS	-CH <sub>2</sub> (CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> )	2	>98:2	56%

<sup>a</sup> Catalyst: **1** - CpRu(COD)Cl, **2** - CpRu(CH<sub>2</sub>CN)<sub>2</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> = the more reactive cationic complex

Table 3. Chemoselectivity<sup>a</sup>

entry	R	R'	solvent	conversion <sup>b</sup>	isolated yield % <sup>c</sup>	ratio <sup>d</sup> branched:linear
1	<i>n</i> -C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>	<i>n</i> -C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>	4:1 DMF-H <sub>2</sub> O	80	56(69)	5.2:1
2	<i>n</i> -C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>	CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> OH	1:1 DMF-H <sub>2</sub> O	95	57(60)	4.0:1
3	<i>n</i> -C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>	COCH <sub>3</sub>	1:1 DMF-H <sub>2</sub> O	100 <sup>d</sup>	50(-)	3.8:1
4	<i>n</i> -C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>	CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	1:1 DMF-H <sub>2</sub> O	95	71(75)	3.8:1
5	<i>n</i> -C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>	CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH=CH <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> OH <sup>b</sup>	99	52(-)	6.4:1
6	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub> C	<i>n</i> -C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>	3:1 DMF-H <sub>2</sub> O	100	90(-)	5.6:1
7	TBDMSOCH <sub>2</sub>	<i>n</i> -C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>	3:1 DMF-H <sub>2</sub> O	100	86(-)	5.0:1
8		<i>n</i> -C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>	3:1 DMF-H <sub>2</sub> O	100	85(-)	1.7:1
9	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub> C	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> CH=CO <sub>2</sub> C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	3:1 DMF-H <sub>2</sub> O	65	46(70)	5.3:1

<sup>a</sup> All reactions were performed with 5 mol% **3** at 100 °C for 2 h unless otherwise stated.

<sup>b</sup> Determined by gas chromatography. <sup>c</sup> Reaction performed for 16 h.

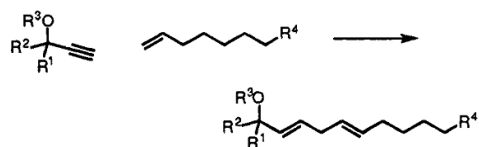
<sup>d</sup> Numbers in parentheses represent isolated yields based upon unreacted starting material.

► Extremely high chemoselectivity & control of olefin geometry  
free OH, TBS ethers, ketones, and esters in either the alkene or alkyne

► Generally, the major product is the branched one.

► Branching at propargylic position has significant effect on regio selectivity. (the linear product ↑)

► Replacing an alkyl branch by an oxygen inverts the regioselectivity.



► As the size of R<sub>3</sub> ↑, then the linear ↑

Table 4. Reaction of Propargylic Ethers and Analogues with Terminal Alkenes<sup>a</sup>

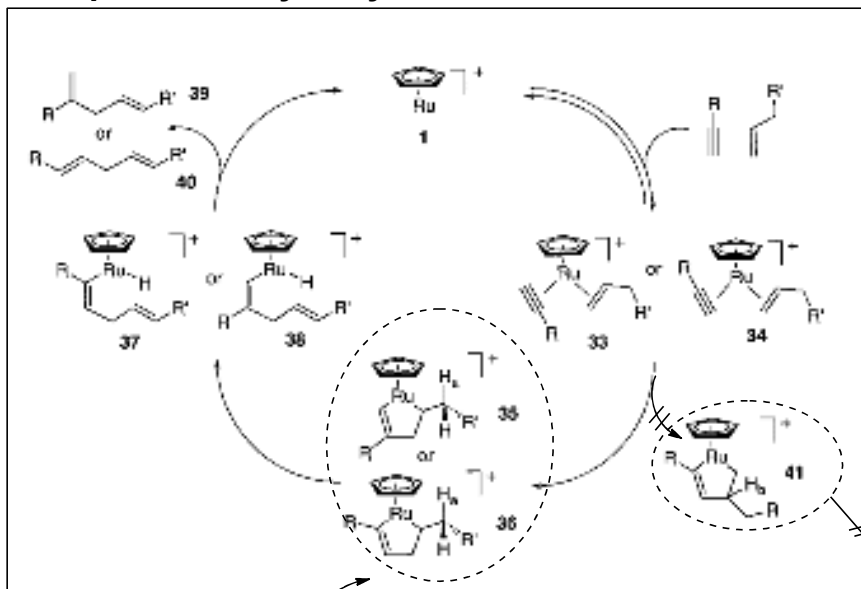
entry	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>3</sup>	R <sup>4</sup>	solvent ratio DMF-H <sub>2</sub> O	conversion <sup>b</sup>	isolated <sup>c</sup> yield	ratio <sup>d</sup> branched:linear
1	<i>n</i> -C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>	H	PhCH <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	3:1	65	53(82)	1:2.0
2	<i>n</i> -C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>	H	TBDMS	CH <sub>3</sub>	3:1	100	88(-)	1:2.4
3	<i>n</i> -C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>	H	TIPS	CH <sub>3</sub>	3:1	60 <sup>b</sup>	41(68)	1:3.7
4	-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> -	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	3:1	85	65(76)	1:9.9
5	CH <sub>3</sub>	-O(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> O-	CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	3:1	60	41(68)	1:5.6
6	CH <sub>3</sub>	-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> O-	CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	1:1	90	59(65)	1:5.6

<sup>a</sup> All reactions were performed with 5 mol% **3** at 100 °C for 2 h unless stated otherwise.

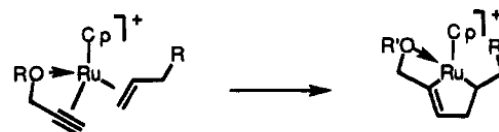
<sup>b</sup> Reaction time = 16 h. <sup>c</sup> Determined by gas chromatography.

<sup>d</sup> Numbers in parentheses represent isolated yields based upon unreacted starting material.

## <Proposed catalytic cycle>



► This model may explain the effect of a propargylic oxygen substituent.



Ru coordinates the oxygen.

If the alkyne coordinates with the opposite orientation ... (possible in principle)

Syn-β-hydrogen elimination of H<sub>b</sub>

### Electronic effect vs. Steric effect

- Electronically, **35** is favored.

Carbometalations normally prefer to attach the less substituted terminus of the alkyne.

Which effect is dominant??

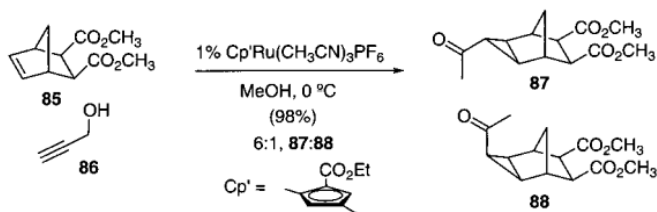
Normally, electronic rather than steric effects dominate leading via **35** to the branched **39**.

- Sterically, **36** is favored.

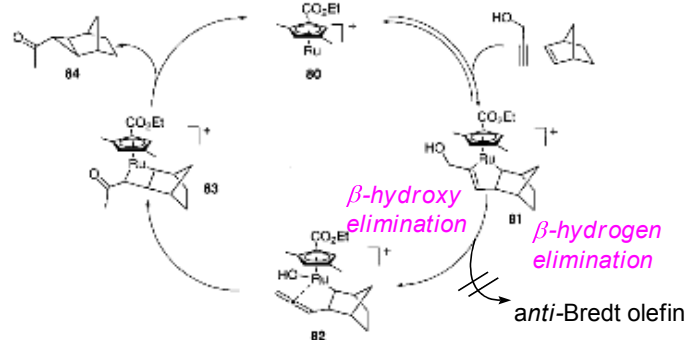
On the other hand, as R increases in size, steric effects become more important:

**17** → **19** should be disfavored relative to **16** → **18**.

### When β-hydrogen elimination is inhibited ...

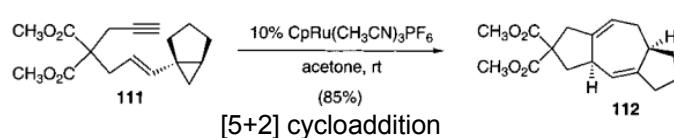
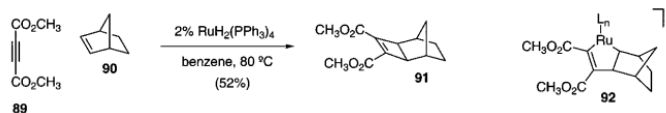


#### Scheme 5



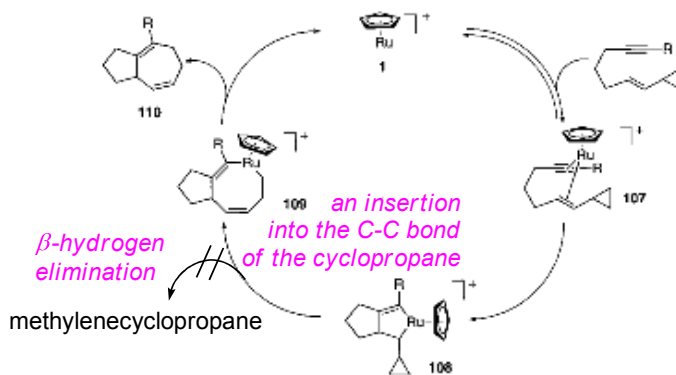
- The ruthenium cycle **81** cannot achieve the required geometry.
- β-hydrogen elimination would generate *anti*-Bredt olefin.

→ Then, if even β-hydroxy elimination is impossible, what occurs??



[5+2] cycloaddition

#### Scheme 7



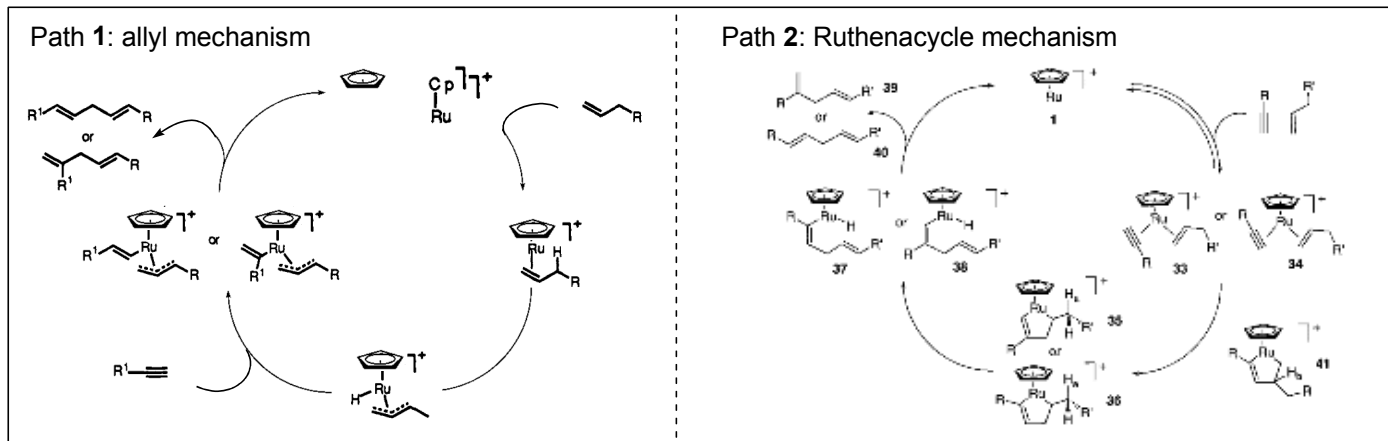
β-hydrogen elimination

methylenecyclopropane

an insertion into the C-C bond of the cyclopropane

## <How the reaction mechanism was confirmed ??>

- This Ru-catalyzed reaction proceeds without complications arising from self-condensation of either partner.
  - How does this practical reaction occur ??

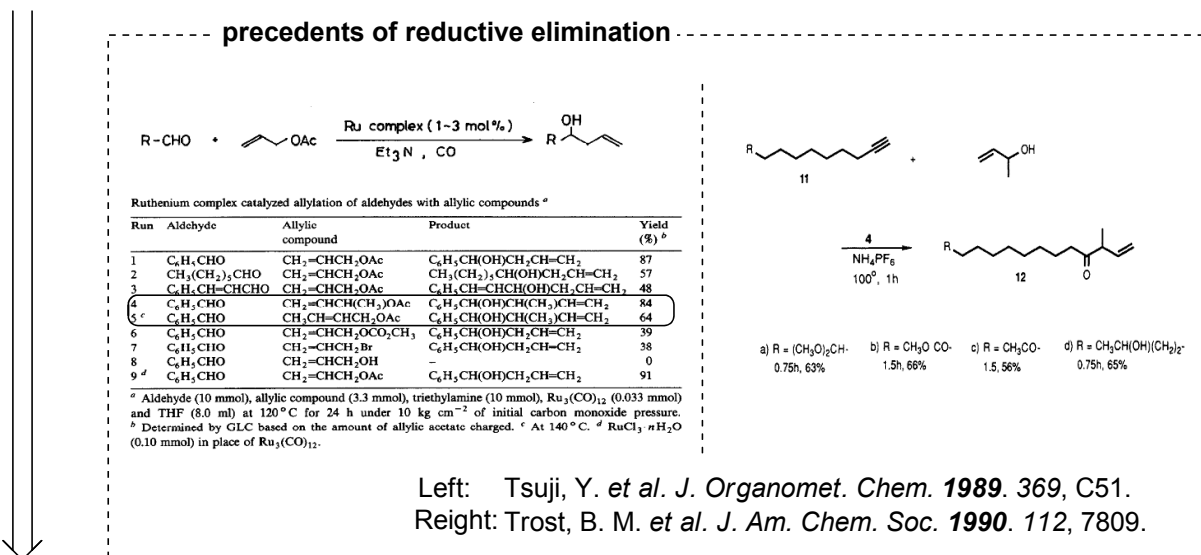


- Initially, path 1 seemed more possible than path 2 due to absence of homo-coupling product.

-If Path 2 operates, the formation of a ruthenacyclopentadiene should be preferred to that of a ruthenacyclopentene. lead to homo-coupling products lead to cross-coupling products

- However, the validity of path 1 was questioned, because the regioselectivity about alkene was disturbing.

-In light of other work, the formation of a  $\pi$ -allylruthenium complex should undergo reductive elimination with formation of the new C-C bond to the more substituted allyl terminus.



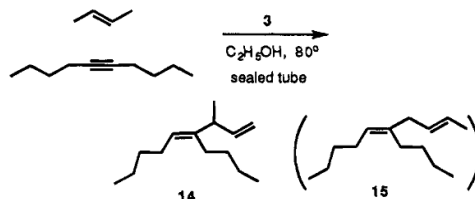
- Path 1 was abandoned by the experimental support.

-To probe the involvement of a  $\pi$ -allylruthenium chemistry, the reaction of (E)-2 butene was explored.

If path 1 operates, this reaction should result in the same regioisomer as a 1-alkene: obtaining **15** as the product.

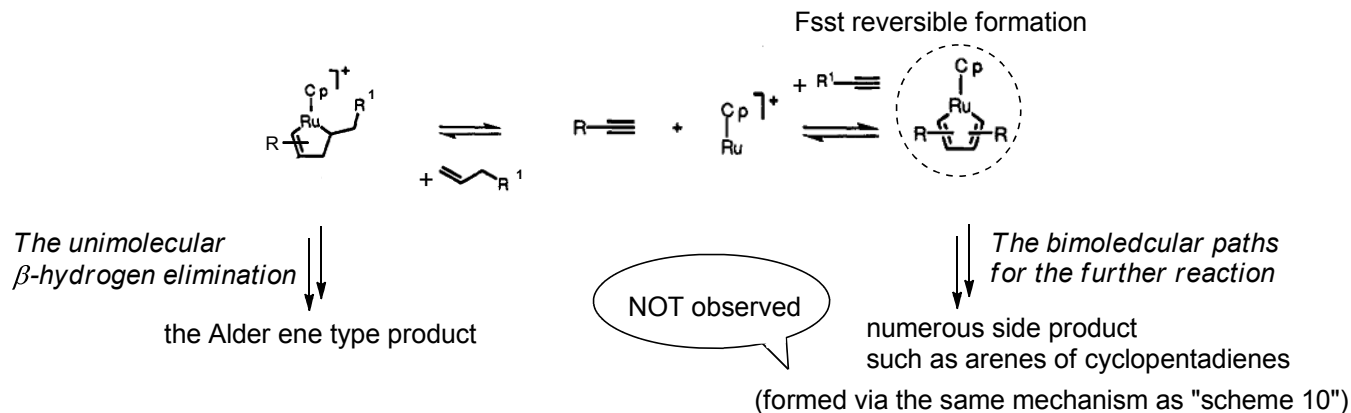
Spectral data clearly show the adduct is **14** and not **15**.

This experiment suggests NOT involving  $\pi$ -allylruthenium mechanism and supports path 2, which, furthermore, more consistently rationalizes the regioselectivity.



## <Why self-coupling of alkyne does not dominate ??>

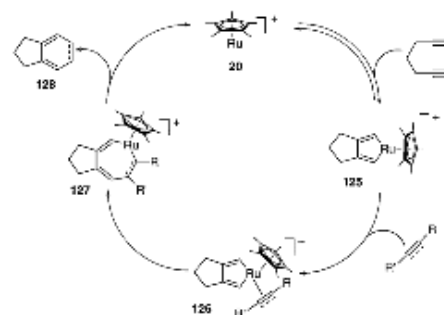
If the ruthenacyclopentene and ruthenacyclopentadiene are in dynamic equilibrium, the products then depend upon the rate of further reactions.



The unimolecular reaction may dominate over the bimolecular reaction.

So, although the ruthenacyclopentadiene species was formed, only the cross-coupling product was obtained.

Scheme 10



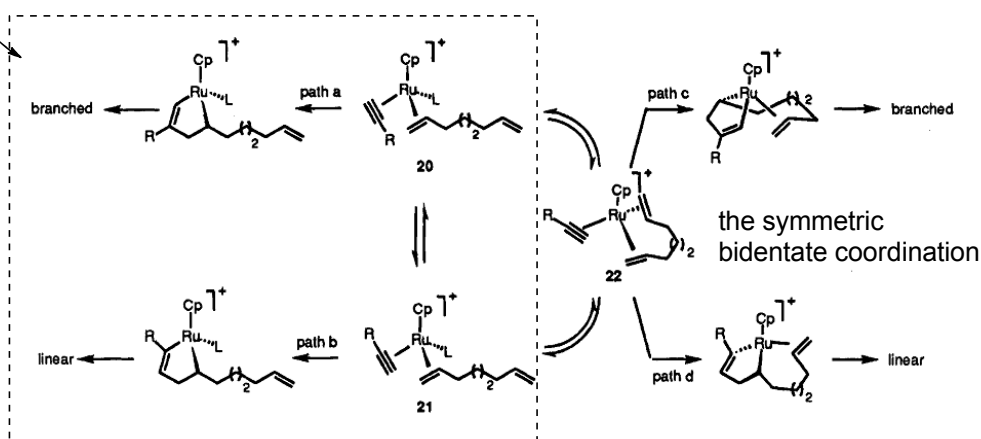
## <the unique ability of a remote olefin>

► The reaction of 1,7-octadiene proceeds with the enhanced selectivity for branched product.

If the reaction followed paths a and b exclusively...

The branched to linear ratio should be the same as for 1-octene, which is not the case.

→ Other paths should be involved!



If **22** was formed, steric factors arising from interaction of R and the olefin are eliminated from consideration.

The bias for branched vs linear product may simply reflect the intrinsic steric and electronic factors associated with the tautomerization to the metallacycle (paths c and d)