

# Synthesis of Fused-Ring and Attached-Ring *bis*-Tetrahydrofurans via Pd-Catalyzed Carboetherification

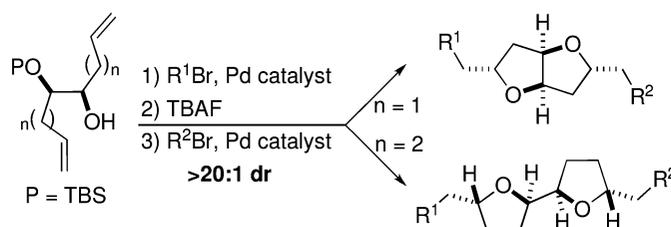
Amanda F. Ward and John P. Wolfe\*

Department of Chemistry, University of Michigan, 930 North University Avenue,  
Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48109-1055

*jpwolfe@umich.edu*

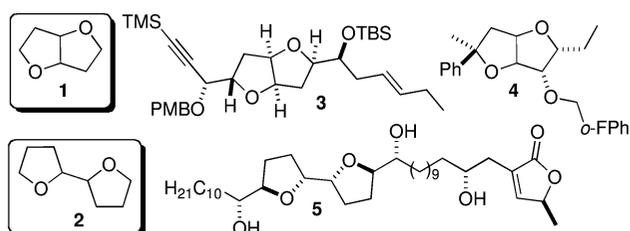
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## ABSTRACT



A five step-synthesis of fused *bis*-tetrahydrofurans and attached *bis*-tetrahydrofurans from butadiene diepoxide is described. Two sequential Pd-catalyzed carboetherification reactions between protected 1,2-diols and aryl/alkenyl bromides, each of which form both a C–O bond and a C–C bond, are used to generate the heterocyclic rings with >20:1 dr. Installation of different R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> groups is achieved in a straightforward fashion through use of different aryl or alkenyl bromide coupling partners.

A large number of interesting compounds contain attached-ring or fused-ring tetrahydrofuran scaffolds (Figure 1). The



**Figure 1.** Examples of biologically active *bis*-tetrahydrofurans.

2,6-dioxabicyclo[3.3.0]octane framework (**1**) is found in both naturally occurring<sup>1</sup> and synthetic molecules that are relevant

to human health (e.g., **3**; antitumor activity)<sup>2</sup> and agriculture (e.g., **4**; herbicide).<sup>3</sup> Attached-ring tetrahydrofurans (**2**) are displayed in a vast number of natural products, including the annonaceous acetogenins,<sup>4</sup> of which asimicin (**5**) is a member.

A variety of different approaches have been developed for the construction of these useful compounds.<sup>4,5</sup> Many of these strategies involve generation of the *bis*-tetrahydrofuran framework via sequential (or tandem) ring-closing reactions of 1,2-diols bearing pendant functional groups such as alkenes, epoxides, alcohols, or allylic acetates/halides.<sup>6</sup> Although these methods effectively form the heterocyclic

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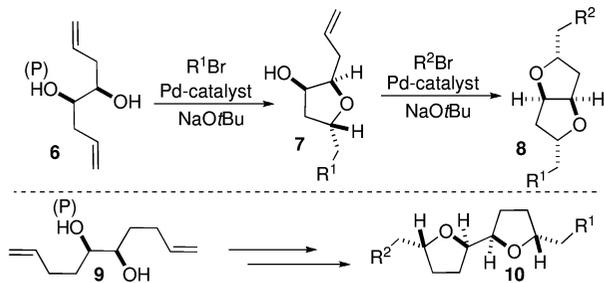
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ring, they do not allow the simultaneous construction of a C–C bond. Thus, substituents attached to the tetrahydrofuran C2-position, such as the side chains present in **3–5**, must be installed in separate steps either prior to or following ring-closure.

We felt that an alternative approach to the construction of substituted fused-ring tetrahydrofurans with the general structure **8** could be developed using sequential Pd-catalyzed carboetherification reactions<sup>7,8</sup> of unsaturated 1,2-diols such as **6**. As shown in Scheme 1, treatment of **6** with an aryl or

Scheme 1. Synthetic Strategy



alkenyl halide in the presence of NaOtBu and a palladium catalyst should provide **7**, which could be converted to **8** in a second catalytic transformation. This strategy could also be applied to the synthesis of attached-ring tetrahydrofurans (e.g., **9** to **10**) by simply extending the tether between the alcohols and the alkenes by one methylene unit. Importantly, each carboetherification reaction would generate both a C–O bond (to form the heterocyclic ring) and a C–C bond, thus providing a more concise approach to substituted bis-tetrahydrofurans compared to currently available methods.

To examine the feasibility of the strategy outlined above, we elected to examine the selective monocyclization of known diols **6**<sup>6i</sup> and **9**,<sup>9</sup> which can be generated by Cu-catalyzed addition of vinylmagnesium bromide or allylmagnesium bromide to commercially available butadiene diep-

(6) For representative examples of attached-ring tetrahydrofuran synthesis, see: (a) Li, P.; Wang, T.; Emge, T.; Zhao, K. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1998**, *120*, 7391–7392. (b) Hoye, T. R.; Ye, Z. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1996**, *118*, 1801–1802. (c) Wysocki, L. M.; Dodge, M. W.; Voight, E. A.; Burke, S. D. *Org. Lett.* **2006**, *8*, 5637–5640. (d) Marshall, J. A.; Sabatini, J. J. *Org. Lett.* **2006**, *8*, 3557–3560, references cited therein. (e) Carlisle, J.; Fox, D. J.; Warren, S. *Chem. Commun.* **2003**, 2696–2697. (f) Sinha, A.; Sinha, S. C.; Keinan, E. *J. Org. Chem.* **1999**, *64*, 2381–2386. (g) Beauchamp, T. J.; Powers, J. P.; Rychnovsky, S. D. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1995**, *117*, 12873–12874. For representative examples of fused-ring tetrahydrofuran synthesis, see: (h) Reference 2. (i) Wang, J.; Pagenkopf, B. L. *Org. Lett.* **2007**, *9*, 3703–3706. (j) Duclos, A.; Fayet, C.; Gelas, J. *Synthesis* **1994**, 1087–1090.

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oxide. We also prepared *mono*-TBS-protected<sup>10</sup> derivatives **11** and **12** (Figure 2), as our prior studies indicated that

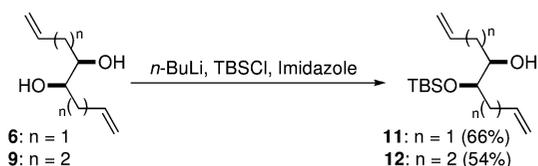


Figure 2. Protection of 1,2-diols.

carboetherification reactions of *mono*-protected 1,2-diols are often more efficient than transformations of the corresponding unprotected diols.<sup>8</sup>

Preliminary attempts to effect selective monocyclization of unprotected diols **6** and **9** provided unsatisfactory results (Figure 3). Treatment of **6** with one equivalent of bromoben-

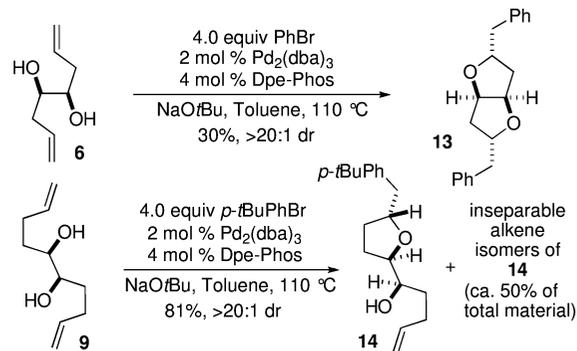
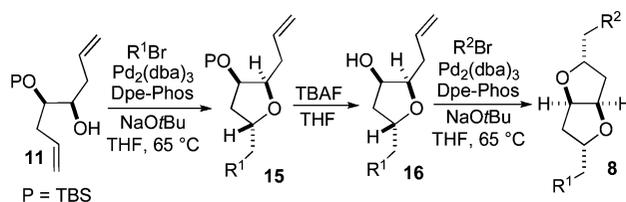


Figure 3. Attempted monocyclization of 1,2-diols.

zene under our standard carboetherification conditions (NaOtBu, cat. Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub>/Dpe-Phos)<sup>11</sup> afforded mixtures of *bis*-cyclized product **13** and unreacted starting material. Treatment of **6** with four equivalents of bromobenzene led to complete consumption of starting material and the formation of **13** with >20:1 dr, albeit in only 30% yield. Efforts to achieve monocyclization of **9** did lead to the formation of desired tetrahydrofuran **14**, but yields were low and isomerization of the second alkene was problematic. Use of excess aryl halide in this reaction failed to generate significant amounts of the *bis*-tetrahydrofuran target, and instead provided an 81% combined yield of **14** and inseparable alkene isomers.

Although carboetherification reactions of **6** and **9** were generally ineffective, transformations of TBS-protected substrates **11** and **12** proceeded smoothly. As shown in Table 1, treatment of **11** with an aryl bromide in the presence of NaOtBu and a catalyst composed of Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub> and Dpe-Phos provided tetrahydrofurans **15** in good yields with excellent diastereoselectivities. Cleavage of the silyl ether protecting group was achieved under standard conditions, and carbo-

(11) Dpe-Phos = *bis*(2-diphenylphosphinophenyl)ether.

**Table 1.** Stepwise Synthesis of Fused Tetrahydrofurans<sup>a</sup>

entry	R <sup>1</sup>	yield <b>15</b> (%) <sup>b</sup>	yield <b>16</b>	R <sup>2</sup>	yield <b>8</b> (%) <sup>b</sup>	overall yield (%) <sup>c</sup>
1	Ph	86	92	<i>p</i> -F <sub>3</sub> CPh	86	68
2				<i>p</i> -PhC(O)Ph	94	74
3	<i>p</i> -Tol	91	91	3-pyridyl	91	75
4				<i>m</i> -MeOPh	81	67
5	<i>p</i> - <i>t</i> BuPh	71	90	<i>p</i> -PhPh	87	43
6				2-naphthyl	85	54
7	<i>p</i> -PhC(O)Ph	44	92	( <i>E</i> )- $\beta$ -styryl	67	27
8				6-MeO-2-naphthyl	89	36

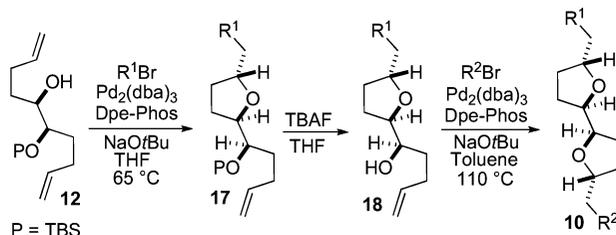
<sup>a</sup> Conditions: Steps 1 and 3: 1.0 equiv **11** or **16**, 2.0 equiv ArBr, 2.0 equiv NaOtBu, 2 mol % Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub>, 4 mol % Dpe-Phos, THF, 65 °C. Step 2: 1.0 equiv **15**, 10 equiv TBAF, THF, rt. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yields (average of two or more experiments). All products were obtained with >20:1 dr. <sup>c</sup> Yield obtained over the three step sequence from **11** to **8**.

etherification of the resulting alcohols **16** provided fused tetrahydrofurans (**8**) as single stereoisomers (>20:1 dr). Both cyclizations led to products that are *trans*-2,5-disubstituted around the tetrahydrofuran ring(s), which is consistent with our previously reported observations and stereochemical models for the conversion of  $\gamma$ -hydroxy alkenes to tetrahydrofurans.<sup>8</sup>

The first carboetherification reaction in this sequence (**11** to **15**) was sensitive to the electronic properties of the aryl bromide, and the best yields were obtained with electron-neutral substrates (entries 1–6). However, the scope of the second carboetherification reaction (**16** to **8**) was much

broader, and a number of different aryl bromides were effectively coupled. In addition, use of  $\beta$ -bromostyrene in the second transformation was also successful (entry 7). Diastereoselectivities were uniformly high in all of the carboetherification reactions (>20:1 dr), and in many cases the overall yield of **8** exceeded 50% over the three-step sequence.

The synthesis of attached-ring *bis*-tetrahydrofurans was achieved by subjecting protected diol **12** to an analogous sequence of carboetherification (**12** to **17**), deprotection (**17** to **18**), and carboetherification (**18** to **10**). As observed in the transformations of **11**, the scope of the second carboet-

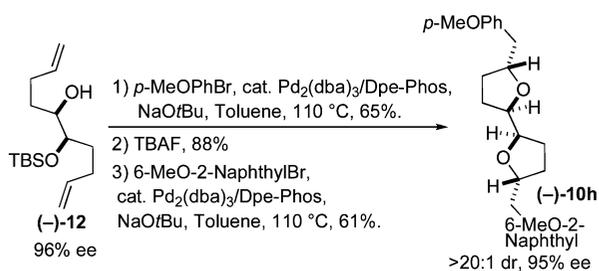
**Table 2.** Stepwise Synthesis of Attached Tetrahydrofurans<sup>a</sup>

entry	R <sup>1</sup>	yield <b>17</b> (%) <sup>b</sup>	yield <b>18</b> (%) <sup>b</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	yield <b>10</b> (%) <sup>b</sup>	overall yield (%) <sup>c</sup>
1	<i>p</i> - <i>t</i> BuPh	73	89	<i>p</i> -Tol	64	42
2				<i>p</i> -PhPh	63	41
3	Ph	72	91	3-pyridyl	54	35
4				2-naphthyl	61	40
5	<i>m</i> -MeOPh	64	91	<i>p</i> -F <sub>3</sub> CPh	75	44
6				<i>p</i> -PhC(O)Ph	72	42
7	<i>p</i> -MeOPh	55	96	3,5-Cl <sub>2</sub> Ph	71	37
8				6-MeO-2-naphthyl	53	28

<sup>a</sup> Conditions: Steps 1 and 3: 1.0 equiv **12** or **18**, 2.0 equiv ArBr, 2.0 equiv NaOtBu, 2 mol % Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub>, 4 mol % Dpe-Phos, Toluene or THF, 65 or 110 °C. Step 2: 1.0 equiv **17**, 10 equiv TBAF, THF, rt. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yields (average of two or more experiments). All products were obtained with >20:1 dr. <sup>c</sup> Yield obtained over the three step sequence from **12** to **10**.

herification step is considerably broader than the first (with respect to the aryl bromide component). Yields of attached-ring tetrahydrofurans were slightly lower than the corresponding fused-ring products described above. However, diastereoselectivities were excellent, and all products were obtained with >20:1 dr favoring 2,5-*trans*-stereochemistry around both tetrahydrofuran rings.

To further probe the synthetic utility of these transformations, we sought to determine if nonracemic starting materials could be converted to *bis*-tetrahydrofuran products without loss of enantiomeric purity. To this end, (–)-**12** was prepared in 96% ee via asymmetric dihydroxylation of commercially available *trans*-1,5,9-decatriene<sup>12</sup> followed by *mono*-TBS-protection of the resulting diol. This substrate was converted to (–)-**10h** using a sequence of reactions identical to that shown in Table 2, entry 8, and the product was obtained with >20:1 dr and 95% ee (Figure 4).



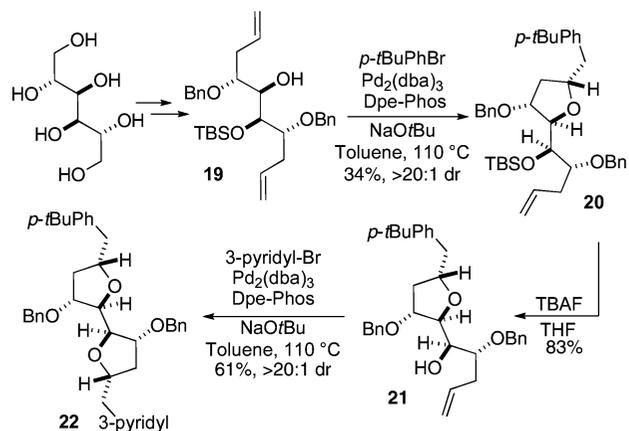
**Figure 4.** Synthesis of an enantioenriched *bis*-tetrahydrofuran.

The synthesis of more elaborate tetrahydrofuran products is also feasible using this method. For example, protected tetraol derivative **19** was generated from D-mannitol using standard transformations.<sup>13</sup> This substrate was converted to *bis*-tetrahydrofuran **22** with >20:1 dr using the same reaction sequence described above (Scheme 2).

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**Scheme 2.** Synthesis of a Highly Substituted *bis*-Tetrahydrofuran



In conclusion, we have developed a concise approach to the construction of both attached-ring and fused-ring *bis*-tetrahydrofurans using sequential Pd-catalyzed carboetherification reactions. This strategy allows for preparation of derivatives bearing different substituents at the 2-position of each tetrahydrofuran ring, and provides access to derivatives that could not be easily generated with existing methods. Further studies on the application of these reactions to the synthesis of natural products and molecules of medicinal interest are currently underway.

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**Supporting Information Available:** Experimental procedures, spectroscopic data, and copies of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra for all new compounds reported in the text. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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