Unexpected Cycloisomerizations of Nonclassical Carbocation Intermediates in Gold(I)-Catalyzed Homo-Rautenstrauch Cyclizations

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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: An unexpected gold(I)-catalyzed homo-Rautenstrauch rearrangement of 1-cyclopropyl propargylic esters to cyclohexenones is disclosed. This rearrangement represents new evidence for the recently discussed gold-stabilized noncloseical earbeation character of intermediates in gold establish



classical carbocation character of intermediates in gold catalysis. A mechanistic study proved partial chirality transfer from optically active propargyl acetates.

ue to its strong relativistic effects, gold's unique reactivity to activate unsaturated moieties has made homogeneous gold catalysis one of the most rapidly growing research fields in recent years.¹ In contrast to the impressive advances made in preparative applications, comprehension of the nature of the involved organogold intermediates of many reactions is still a matter of debate. One controversially discussed topic is the dichotomy of the carbene versus carbocation character of gold-carbon bonds formed during homogeneous gold catalysis.² Recently, we developed a new Au-catalyzed homo-Rautenstrauch rearrangement of stabilized 1-cyclopropyl propargylic esters to give five-, sixand seven-membered carbocycles under mild conditions (Scheme 1).³ A chirality transfer study in these reactions suggested that gold-stabilized nonclassical carbocations with a certain configurational stability might be involved. A vinyl substituent at the cyclopropyl ring in substrate 1 capable of stabilizing the positive charge in proposed intermediates 3 and 4 >was found to be a key factor for the successful progression of this transformation to cyclohexenones 5. In this paper, we describe the surprising finding that a change in the substitution pattern of this vinyl group led to the selective formation of completely different cyclohexenones: instead of the expected homo-Rautenstrauch⁴ rearrangement products 5 reported earlier, substituents $R^1 (R^1 = alkyl, R^2 = R^3 = H)$ led to compounds 6 (Scheme 2). These results represent a convincing proof of the concept that nonclassical carbocations are intermediates in gold catalysis.5

The novel transformation was discovered during our attempts to synthesize naturally occurring odorants, i.e. carvone (5a) and cryptomerione, by utilizing the Au-catalyzed homo-Rautenstrauch rearrangement sequence (Scheme 2).⁶ Under standard Au-catalyzed homo-Rautenstrauch rearrangement conditions,^{3a} the functionalized cyclopropyl propargylic ester **1a** did not cyclize to the expected product carvone but instead generated cyclohexenone **6a** at elevated temperature after methanolysis.

To understand and further explore the scope of this unexpected cycloisomerization reaction, several other isopropenyl-substituted





Scheme 2. Unexpected Cycloisomerization of 1a in Gold(I)-Catalyzed Homo-Rautenstrauch Cyclizations



1-cyclopropyl propargylic esters, 1b-d, were synthesized. As shown in Scheme 3, ethyl 5-methylhex-4-enoate (8) was first prepared from 2-methylbut-3-en-2-ol and triethyl orthoacetate via a Johnson–Claisen rearrangement according to the literature method.⁷ After three classical transformations, successive treatment of ketones 11a-d with *N*-bromosuccinimide and potassium

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Scheme 3. Synthesis of Cyclopropyl Alkynyl Acetates 1^a



^a Conditions: (a) 1,1,1-triethyl orthoacetate, oxalic acid, 145 °C, 24 h, 78%; (b) 50% NaOH (aq), EtOH, reflux, 12 h, 92%; (c) *N*,*O*-dimethylhydroxylamine, DCC, Et₃N, CHCl₃, 4 h, 83%; (d) R¹MgBr, THF, 3 h, 93–88%; (e) NBS, KOH, DMSO, H₂O, 80–85%; (f) *N*-(triethylammoniumsulfonyl)carbamate, 80–87%; (g) *t*-BuOK, HC=CH, THF, 83–87%; (h) Ac₂O, Et₃N, DMAP; 89–92%.

hydroxide in DMSO afforded the 2-(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)cyclopropyl ketones 12a-d.⁸ The relative configuration of 12 was assigned to be completely trans; their spectra were in accordance with those reported by Cossy and Meyer,⁹ who revised initially incorrect assignments.⁸ Selective dehydration of 12 by methyl *N*-(triethylammoniumsulfonyl)carbamate (Burgess reagent) afforded isopropenylcyclopropyl ketones 13a-d in high yields.¹⁰ The 1-cyclopropyl propargylic esters 1a-d were obtained after acetylene addition and consecutive esterification.

The gold-catalyzed rearrangement of 1 was then investigated by applying different conditions. As shown in Table 1, different gold complexes, counteranions, and various alkyl substituents at the propargylic positions were tolerated. The reactions were complete after 120 min at room temperature (entry 1). At elevated reaction temperatures, substrates were converted in 30 min (entries 2-4) and the cyclohexenone products 6a-cwere obtained in good yields after in situ methanolysis. Through the elaboration of Table 1 we experienced that a substantial variation of the reaction conditions was necessary to perform the individual reactions successfully. There was no single set of reaction parameters that worked equally well for all substrates, even if small changes of substituent R¹ appeared to be trivial. Thus, while the reaction of substrates with a methyl or ethyl substituent proceeded similarly well to afford cyclohexenone 6a or **6b** by using Ph₃PAuCl/AgSbF₆, substrate 1c, bearing a propyl substituent, did not result in product 6c using the same cationic gold(I) complex as catalyst even after a substantially prolonged reaction time (entry 5). Switching to the NHC-derived catalyst B and increasing the catalyst dosage to 10 mol % gave only a very low yield after 120 min (entry 6). Finally, application of 20 mol % of catalyst C allowed us to isolate product 6c in 80% yield (entry 4). To our surprise, compound 1d bearing an n-butyl substituent worked again well using the NHC complex B (entry 7). Similarly subtle structure-reactivity relationships were also observed by Zhang et al. in a homogeneous gold-catalyzed cycloisomerization of 1,5-enynes.¹¹ In order to prove that the reactions were not simply catalyzed by protons, a control experiment using a catalytic amount of triflic acid was performed which expectedly led to the cyclopropane opening product **6f** (entry 9).¹

In general terms, the stabilization of positive charge by an appropriate substitution pattern at the cyclopropane unit is essential for a smooth conversion of 1 into the cyclization products 6. In light of

NOTE

Scheme 4. Postulate of the Reaction Mechanism



the recently discussed nonclassical carbocationic nature of carbenoidlike intermediates of gold-catalyzed enyne cyclizations,^{1a} a mechanism accounting for the formation of unexpected enol acetates rac-6a' is proposed in Scheme 4. The cycle begins with a gold-promoted 1,2acyloxy migration¹³ of propargylic ester rac-1a, leading to the formation of the Au-carbenoid A. This Au-carbenoid can also be interpreted as the resonant gold-stabilized cyclopropylmethyl cation B.^{1a,2e} Theoretical studies have revealed that the $C_4H_7^+$ cation undergoes facial interconversions of cyclopropylcarbinyl, cyclobutyl, and homoallyl derivatives.¹⁴ The nonclassical character of carbocation B had been embodied previously to explain the formation of the homo-Rautenstrauch type cycloisomerization product 5 (structures 3 and 4, Scheme 1).³ In the present case, intramolecular cyclization and isomerization of intermediates A/B would finally result into a new nonclassical cation with isomeric structures C-F, triggered by low steric hindrance at the distal methylene group and stabilization of the localized cation D. From there, only the involvement of cyclobutyl cation E as part of the new nonclassical assembly can illustrate the rearrangement of intermediates into the observed product rac-6a'. Further evidence for this mechanistic scenario comes from the conversion of deuterated compound 1e, which afforded the expected cyclohexenone 6e in high yield (Table 1, entry 8). The acidic alkyne deuterium atom does not become part of the nonclassical carbocation, and hence no D shifts occur during the reaction.

The extent of chirality transfer in potentially cationic processes reveals valuable information regarding the mechanistic proposal. Therefore, optically active 1-cyclopropyl propargylic ester (1*S*,2*S*)-**20** (ee = 90%) was prepared by kinetic resolution from *rac-trans*-carboxylic acid **16** according to Scheme 5^{15,16} to further study the nature of our nonclassical carbonium ions.

A series of gold complexes were utilized to optimize the cycloisomerization of **20** (Table 2). The best case using IPrAuCl/AgNTf₂ (10 mol %) catalyst afforded, after methanolysis, (S)-cyclohexenone **21** in 56% yield and 37% ee. Other catalytic systems and lower temperatures only decreased the yield without significantly improving the ee value (Table 2, entries 2–6). Interestingly, the achiral octa-2,6-dienone **22** was also isolated, albeit in only 30% yield (Table 2), which constitutes

Table 1. Au(I)-Catalyzed Cycloisomerization of Cyclopropyl Alkynyl Acetates^a



B = IPrAuCl/AgNTf₂ (10 mol%)

 $C = PPh_3AuCl/AgNTf_2$ (20 mol%)

entry	substrate	product	cat.	time	temp.	yield
				(min)	(°C)	(%)
1	1a $R^1 = Me, R^2 = H$	6a	В	120	R.T.	73
2	1a	6a	Α	30	85	70
3	$\mathbf{1b}$ $\mathbf{R}^{1} = \mathbf{Et}, \mathbf{R}^{2} = \mathbf{H}$	6b	Α	30	85	86
4	1 c $R^1 = Pr, R^2 = H$	6с	С	30	85	80
5	1c	6c	Α	120	85	_ ^b
6	1c	6с	В	120	85	11
7	1d $R^1 = Bu, R^2 = H$	6d	В	30	85	88
8	1e $R^1 = Bu, R^2 = D$	6e	В	30	85	85
9	1b	OAc 6f	HOTf	30	85	65

^{*a*} Conditions: compound 1 (0.68 mmol) and a catalyst in CH₂ClCH₂Cl (2 mL) under an argon atmosphere were stirred for 30 min at 85 °C. Then K_2CO_3 (1.36 mmol) and MeOH (2 mL) were added at room temperature. The mixture was stirred for a further 2 h. ^{*b*} The starting material disappeared, but 6c could not be detected by GC-MS. ^{*c*} 10 mol % of triflic acid used.

additional evidence for the mechanism depicted in Scheme 4: compound 22 was brought about by a species analogous to nonclassical cyclopropylcarbinyl cations D or the homo-allyl cations F. In comparison to derivative 1a, vicinal strain entailed by the additional methyl group at the cyclopropane unit of 20 accounts for this result. The absolute configurations of compound 16 (90% ee) and compound 21 (47% ee) were unequivocally determined by electronic circular dichroism (ECD) measurements.¹⁷ In an elegant stereoselective synthesis of sesquiterpene (-)-cubebol based on a Pt-, Au-, or Cu-catalyzed cycloisomerization, Fehr and co-workers have reported that the cycloisomerization reaction of enantioenriched propargyl pivalates occurs with substantial chirality transfer.¹⁸ The mechanistic hypothesis is also consistent with a related study by Toste, who proposed a mechanism involving cyclization and ring expansion for gold(I)-catalyzed cycloisomerization of enynes containing an embedded cyclopropane unit.19

In summary, we have developed an unprecedented gold(I)catalyzed cycloisomerization of 1-cyclopropyl propargylic acetates which instructively complements the gold-catalyzed homo-Rautenstrauch rearrangement previously reported by our group. From a mechanistic point of view, the unique feature of the present cycloisomerization is the gold-stabilized nonclassical carbocationic nature of organo-gold species, especially the occurrence of nonclassical cyclobutyl cations involved in the transformation. Partial chirality transfer in the reaction also reveals the intrinsically stereospecific nature of these transformations.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

IPrAuNTf₂ was prepared according to the reported procedure.²⁰ The Weinreb amide **10** was prepared by following the literature method, starting from 2-methylbut-3-en-2-ol (7).⁸ The γ , δ -unsaturated ketones **11** were obtained by reacting **10** with the corresponding Grignard reagent

Scheme 5. Synthesis of 2-((15,2S)-2-Methyl-2-(1-methylethenyl)cyclopropyl)but-3-yn-2-yl Acetate^a



^a Conditions: (a) ethyl 2-diazoacetate, catalyst Rh₂(OAc)₄, CH₂Cl₂, overnight, yield 43%; (b) 50% NaOH (aq), EtOH, reflux, 12 h, yield 95%; (c) (+)-MTDP, isopropyl ether, yield 80%, ee = 90%; (d) N,Odimethylhydroxylamine, DCC, Et₃N, CHCl₃, 5 h, yield 89%, ee = 90%; (e) CH₃MgBr, THF, 3 h, yield 85%, ee = 90%; (f) *n*-BuLi, HC \equiv CH, THF, yield 90%; (g) Ac₂O, Et₃N, DMAP, yield 87%.

Table 2. Au(I)-Catalyzed Chirality Transfer in the Conversion of Compound 20



 $\mathbf{C} = (PPh_3)AuCl/AgNTf_2 (10 mol%)$ $E = (PPh_3)AuCl/AgSbF_6 (10 mol\%)$

entry	cat.	time	temp (°C)	product (ratio)	yield (%)	ee (%)
1	Α	30 min	85	21/22 (7/3)	56	37
2	В	2 h	room temp	21 (100%)	56	42
3	С	3 h	room temp	21/22 (8/2)	30	20
4	D	2 d	room temp	21 (100%)	28	47
5	Α	2 d	0	n.r.		
6	Е	3 h	85	complex ^a		

^a The starting material disappeared, but neither 21 nor 22 could be detected by GC-MS.

 $R^{1}MgBr$ in dry THF by Woerpel's procedure.²¹ Hydroxy ketones 12a-dwere prepared according to the method of Dechoux.⁸

trans-1-[2-(1-Hydroxy-1-methylethyl)cyclopropyl]ethanone (12a). Analytical data were reported.^{10b}

trans-1-[2-(1-Hydroxy-1-methylethyl)cyclopropyl]propa**none (12b).** Colorless oil; 83% yield. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.60 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.05-1.99 (m, 1H), 1.59-1.52 (m, 2H), 1.41–1.21 (m, 6H), 1.17–1.01 (m, 5H) ppm. $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 211.2 (s), 68.4 (s), 36.7 (t), 35.6 (d), 29.5 (q), 29.2 (q), 23.9 (d), 13.3 (t), 8.1 (q) ppm. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₉H₁₆O₂ (M + H)⁺ 157.1229, found 157.1221.

trans-1-[2-(1-Hydroxy-1-methylethyl)cyclopropyl]butanone (12c). Colorless oil; 80% yield. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.53 (t, $J = 7.2 \text{ Hz}, 2\text{H}, 2.06 - 2.00 \text{ (m, 1H)}, 1.69 - 1.51 \text{ (m, 4H)}, 1.43 - 1.21 \text{ (m, 1H)}, 1.69 - 1.51 \text{ (m, 2H)}, 1.69 - 1.51 \text{ (m, 2H$ 6H), 1.18–1.12 (m, 1H), 1.04–0.91 (m, 4H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 210.9 (s), 68.5 (s), 45.6 (t), 35.7 (d), 29.5 (q), 29.2 (q), 24.2 (d), 17.6 (t), 13.8 (q), 13.4 (t) ppm. EI-MS (*m/z*, relative intensity): 170 $(M^+, 0.4), 43 (100).$

trans-1-[2-(1-Hydroxy-1-methylethyl)cyclopropyl]pentanone (12d). Colorless oil; 85% yield. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.54 NOTE

(t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.06–1.84 (m, 2H), 1.65–1.51 (m, 3H), 1.37–1.25 (m, 8H), 1.17-1.11 (m, 1H), 1.04-0.98 (m, 1H), 0.91 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 211.1 (s), 68.5 (s), 43.4 (t), 35.7 (d), 29.5 (q), 29.2 (q), 26.2 (t), 24.2 (d), 22.3 (t), 13.8 (q), 13.4 (t) ppm. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{11}H_{20}O_2$ (M + H)⁺ 185.1542, found 185.1537.

Cyclopropyl ketone 13a was synthesized by dehydration of 12a using Burgess' protocol.^{10b} Compounds 13b,c were prepared using the same method.

trans-1-[2-(1-Methylethenyl)cyclopropyl]propanone (13b). Colorless oil; 80% yield. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.77 (s, 2H), 2.61 (q, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.00 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.66 (s, 3H), 1.38–1.31 (m, 1H), 1.14–1.07 (m, 4H) ppm. $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 210.0 (s), 143.3 (s), 110.4 (t), 36.8 (t), 30.9 (d), 28.0 (d), 23.0 (q), 16.0 (t), 7.9 (q) ppm. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₀H₁₄O (M + H)⁺ 139.1123, found 139.1132.

trans-1-[2-(1-Methylethenyl)cyclopropyl]butanone (13c). Colorless oil; 84% yield. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 4.77 (bs, 2H), 2.54 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.00 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.69–1.61 (m, 5H), 1.38–1.32 (m, 1H), 1.14–1.10 (m, 1H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 209.7 (s), 143.3 (s), 110.5 (t), 45.7 (t), 31.0 (d), 28.3 (d), 20.4 (q), 17.5 (t), 16.0 (t), 13.7 (q) ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₀H₁₆O (M + Na)⁺ 175.1099, found 175.1105.

trans-1-[2-(1-Methylethenyl)cyclopropyl]pentanone (13d). Colorless oil; 87% yield. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.90–4.76 (m, 2H), 2.56 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.02–1.97 (m, 2H), 1.66–1.58 (m, 5H), 1.38-1.30 (m, 3H), 1.14-1.08 (m, 1H), 0.92 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 209.8 (s), 143.3 (s), 110.5 (t), 43.6 (t), 31.0 (d), 28.3 (d), 26.2 (t), 22.3 (t), 20.4 (q), 16.0 (t), 13.8 (q) ppm. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{11}H_{18}O (M + H)^+$ 167.1436, found 167.1444.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of Alcohols 14a-d. In a 250 mL flask, t-BuOK (9.74 g, 87.0 mmol) was dissolved in 100 mL of dry THF. Acetylene was slowly bubbled through the solution for 30 min at 25 °C. Then bubbling was stopped. The unsaturated cyclopropyl ketone (72.5 mmol) 13 was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred for an additional 3 h, quenched by the addition of H₂O (100 mL), and then extracted with MTBE (3 \times 50 mL). The combined extracts were dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was subjected to bulb-to-bulb distillation to give the acetylenic alcohols 14a-d.

trans-2-[2-(1-Methylethenyl)cyclopropyl]but-3-yn-2-ol (14a). Colorless oil; 87% yield. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.78-4.70 (m, 2H), 2.41 (s, 1H), 2.25-2.15 (m, 1H), 1.76-1.64 (m, 4H), 1.59-1.50 (m, 3H), 1.29-1.18 (m, 1H), 0.98-0.70 (m, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃; major isomer): δ 145.0 (s), 108.9 (t), 85.2 (s), 71.9 (s), 69.2 (d), 29.8 (q), 29.6 (d), 21.9 (d), 20.9 (q), 9.6 (t) ppm. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{10}H_{14}O (M + Na)^+$ 173.0942, found 173.0938.

trans-3-[2-(1-Methylethenyl)cyclopropyl]pent-1-yn-3-ol (**14b**) Colorless oil; 83% yield. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.71 (bs, 2H), 2.41 (s, 1H), 2.26-2.12 (m, 1H), 1.92-1.76 (m, 2H), 1.68 (bs, 3H), 1.60-1.53 (m, 1H), 1.21-1.05 (m, 4H), 0.97-0.67 (m, 2H) ppm. $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3; major isomer): δ 144.8 (s), 108.9 (t), 83.8 (s), 73.2 (d), 73.1 (s), 35.6 (t), 28.0 (d), 23.0 (d), 20.8 (q), 8.7 (q), 8.1(t) ppm. EI-MS (*m*/*z*, relative intensity) 164 (M⁺, 2.2), 96 (100).

trans-3-[2-(1-Methylethenyl)cyclopropyl]hex-1-yn-3-ol (14c). Colorless oil; 87% yield. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 4.89–4.63 (m, 2H), 2.41 (s, 1H), 2.10–1.55 (m, 9H), 1.39–0.71 (m, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃; major isomer): δ 144.8 (s), 108.9 (t), 84.0 (s),73.1 (d), 72.6 (s), 45.0 (t), 28.4 (d), 23.0 (d), 20.9 (q), 17.6 (t), 14.2 (q), 8.2 (t) ppm. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{12}H_{18}O (M + Na)^+$ 201.1255, found 201.1256.

trans-3-[2-(1-Methylethenyl)cyclopropyl]hept-1-yn-3-ol (14d). Colorless oil; 86% yield. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.84-4.66 (m, 2H), 2.41 (s, 1H), 2.13–1.01 (m, 1H), 1.82–1.74 (m, 2H), 1.68 (s, 3H), 1.58–1.48 (m, 3H), 1.43–1.32 (m, 2H), 1.25–1.16 (m, 1H), 1.02–0.66 (m, 5H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃; major isomer): δ 144.8 (s), 108.9 (t), 84.1 (s), 73.1 (d), 72.6 (s), 42.5 (t), 28.4 (d), 26.4 (t), 23.0 (d), 22.8 (t), 20.9 (q), 14.0 (q), 8.2 (t) ppm. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₃H₂₀O (M + H)⁺ 193.1592, found 193.1593.

Method A: General Procedure for the Synthesis of Cyclopropyl Propargyl Acetates 1a–e. A mixture consisting of cyclopropyl propargyl alcohol 14 (48.78 mmol), Ac₂O (14.92 g, 146.3 mmol), Et₃N (24.63 g, 243.9 mmol), and DMAP (0.30 g, 2.44 mmol) was stirred overnight and quenched by the addition of H₂O (100 mL). The mixture was extracted with MTBE (3×50 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃, dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was subjected to bulb-to-bulb distillation to furnish pure substrates 1a–d.

trans-2-[2-(1-Methylethenyl)cyclopropyl]but-3-yn-2-yl Acetate (**1a**). Colorless oil; 90% yield. dr = 45:55. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.85–4.62 (m, 2H), 2.52 (s, 1H), 2.04 (s, 3H), 1.84–1.66 (m, 6H), 1.63–1.55 (m, 1H), 1.46–1.38 (m, 1H), 1.12–0.76 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃; major isomer): δ 169.2 (s), 144.6 (s), 108.8 (t), 81.2 (s), 76.6 (s), 73.9 (d), 27.8 (d), 27.0 (q), 22.4 (d), 21.9 (q), 21.2 (q), 10.2 (t) ppm. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₂H₁₆O₂ (M + Na)⁺ 215.1048, found 215.1055.

trans-3-[2-(1-Methylethenyl)cyclopropyl]pent-1-yn-3-yl Acetate (**1b**). Colorless oil; 92% yield. dr = 24:76. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.89–4.66 (m, 2H), 2.53 (s, 1H), 2.31–1.96 (m, 5H), 1.85–1.75 (m, 1H), 1.74–1.63 (m, 3H), 1.63–1.57 (m, 1H), 1.47–1.40 (m, 1H), 1.17–1.09 (m, 1H), 1.04 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 0.90–0.78 (m, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃; major isomer): δ 169.2 (s), 144.6 (s), 109.2 (t), 81.3 (s), 79.9 (s), 75.1 (d), 33.1 (t), 25.1 (d), 23.1 (d), 21.9 (q), 20.7 (q), 10.1 (t), 8.5 (q) ppm. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₃H₁₈O₂ (M + H)⁺ 207.1385, found 207.1366.

trans-3-[2-(1-Methylethenyl)cyclopropyl]hex-1-yn-3-yl Acetate (**1c**). Colorless oil; 89% yield. dr = 35:65. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.71 (s, 1H), 4.68 (s, 1H), 2.52 (s, 1H), 2.22–1.68 (m, 5H), 1.66–1.40 (m, 7H), 1.16–1.10 (m, 1H), 0.97–0.77 (m, 4H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃; major isomer): δ 169.2 (s), 144.6 (s), 109.2 (t), 80.8 (s), 80.1 (s), 75.0 (d), 42.1 (t), 25.5 (d), 23.1 (d), 22.0 (q), 20.7 (q), 17.5 (t), 14.0 (q), 10.2 (t) ppm. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₄H₂₀O₂ (M + Na)⁺ 243.1361, found 243.1356.

trans-3-[2-(1-Methylethenyl)cyclopropyl]hept-1-yn-3-yl Acetate (*1d*). Colorless oil; 92% yield. dr = 32:68. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.79–4.46 (m, 2H), 2.46 (s, 1H), 2.30–2.05 (m, 2H), 1.96–1.90 (m, 3H), 1.75–1.16 (m, 9H), 1.09–1.02 (m, 1H), 0.97–0.79 (m, 3H), 0.78–0.72 (m, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃; major isomer): δ 169.1 (s), 144.5 (s), 109.1 (t), 80.8 (s), 80.1 (s), 75.0 (d), 39.7 (t), 26.2 (t), 25.5 (d), 23.1 (d), 22.6 (t), 21.9 (q), 20.7 (q), 13.9 (q), 10.1 (t) ppm. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for $C_{15}H_{22}O_2$ (M + H)⁺ 235.1698, found 235.1679.

trans-1-Deuterium-3-[2-(1-methylethenyl)cyclopropyl]hept-1-yn-3-yl Acetate (**1e**). To a solution of **1d** (150 mg, 0.64 mmol) in dry THF (1 mL) at -78 °C was added dropwise a 1.6 mol/L solution of *n*-BuLi in hexanes (0.5 mL, 0.72 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at the same temperature and quenched by the addition of D₂O (5 mL). The mixture was extracted with Et₂O (3 × 2 mL). The organic phases were dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. Product **1e** was purified by bulb-to-bulb distillation. Colorless oil; 93% yield. D incorporation: 68%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.79–4.63 (m, 2H), 2.30–1.98 (m, 2H), 2.05–2.01 (m, 3H), 1.79–1.28 (m, 9H), 0.98–0.73 (m, 5H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃; major isomer): δ 169.3 (s), 145.1 (s), 108.7 (t), 81.1 (s), 80.8 (s), 75.0 (d), 39.7 (t), 26.3 (t), 25.6 (d), 22.6 (d), 22.0 (t), 21.2 (q), 20.8 (q), 14.0 (q), 10.2 (t) ppm. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₅H₂₁DO₂ (M + Na)⁺ 258.1580, found 258.1588.

Method B: General Experimental Procedure for the Preparation of Compounds 6a-f. A 0.25 M Au(I) catalyst was prepared as follows: in a flame-dried 50 mL flask, the Au catalyst (5 mmol) and Ag catalyst (5 mmol) or TfOH (as shown in Table 1) were added to dry CH₂ClCH₂Cl (20 mL) under an argon atmosphere. To the preprepared catalyst solution (10 mmol % or as specified in Table 1) was added a solution of substrate 1 (2 mL, 0.34 M) in CH₂ClCH₂Cl. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature or heated to 85 °C (as specified in Table 1) until complete. The reaction was monitored by GC-MS. After completion, the reaction mixture was loaded directly onto a silica gel column and eluted with 100/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate to afford the enol acetates 6', which were directly subjected to methanolysis by adding a mixture of K₂CO₃ (2.0 equiv) and MeOH (5 mL) at room temperature for 2 h. Dilute HCl (20 mL) was added, and the mixture was extracted by MTBE $(3 \times 10 \text{ mL})$, dried (MgSO₄), and concentrated under reduced pressure. Ketones 6 and acetate 6f were purified by flash chromatography or bulb-to-bulb distillation.

2,4-Dimethyl-4-vinylcyclohex-2-enone (**6a**). Colorless oil; 70% yield. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.39 (s, 1H), 5.80 (dd, J = 10.5, 17.4 Hz, 1H), 5.10 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 2.49–2.34 (m, 2H), 1.93–1.89 (m, 2H), 1.80 (s, 3H), 1.22 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 199.8 (s), 151.1 (d), 143.3 (d), 134.4 (s), 113.8 (t), 39.6 (s), 35.0 (t), 34.3 (t), 27.3 (q), 16.0 (q) ppm. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₁₀H₁₄O (M + Na)⁺ 173.0942, found 173.0936.

2-Ethyl-4-methyl-4-vinylcyclohex-2-enone (**6b**). Colorless oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.33 (s, 1H), 5.81 (dd, J = 10.5, 17.4 Hz, 1H), 5.10 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 2.51–2.38 (m, 2H), 2.38–2.20 (m, 2H), 1.92–1.88 (m, 2H), 1.23 (s, 3H), 1.03 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 198.4 (s), 148.5 (d), 142.4 (d), 139.0 (s), 112.7 (t), 38.4 (s), 33.8 (t), 33.6 (t), 26.5 (q), 21.4 (t), 12.0 (q) ppm. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₁₁H₁₆O (M + H)⁺ 165.1279, found 165.1286.

4-Methyl-2-propyl-4-vinylcyclohex-2-enone (**6**c). Colorless oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.33 (s, 1H), 5.84 (dd, J = 10.5, 17.4 Hz, 1H), 5.10 (dd, J = 0.9, 10.5 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (dd, J = 0.9, 17.4 Hz, 1H), 2.52–2.31 (m, 2H), 2.20–2.14 (m, 2H), 1.92–1.87 (m, 2H), 1.47–1.40 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.22 (s, 3H), 0.90 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 199.4 (s), 150.6 (d), 143.4 (d), 138.4 (s), 113.8 (t), 39.5 (s), 34.9 (t), 34.6 (t), 31.5 (t), 27.5 (q), 21.8 (t), 13.8 (q) ppm. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₁₂H₁₈O (M + Na)⁺ 201.1255, found 201.1254.

6-Butyl-4-methyl-4-vinylcyclohexa-1,5-dienyl Acetate (**6d**'). This compound was prepared according to the general procedure without applying the in situ methanolysis. Colorless oil; 90% yield. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.87 (dd, *J* = 10.5, 17.4 Hz, 1H), 5.32–5.30 (m, 2H), 5.07 (dd, *J* = 1.3, 17.4 Hz, 1H), 4.97 (dd, *J* = 1.3, 10.5 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 9.2 Hz, 2H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 1.96 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.43–1.27 (m, 4H), 1.14 (s, 3H), 0.90 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.5 (s), 146.5 (s), 144.7 (d), 132.6 (s), 132.1 (d), 111.3 (d), 111.3 (t), 37.6 (s), 35.1 (t), 30.6 (t), 30.4 (t), 25.3 (q), 22.4 (t), 20.8 (q), 13.9 (q) ppm. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₅H₂₂O₂ (M + Na)⁺ 257.1518, found 257.1517.

2-Butyl-4-methyl-4-vinylcyclohex-2-enone (**6d**). Colorless oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.33 (s, 1 H), 5.80 (dd, *J* = 10.5, 17.4 Hz, 1H), 5.10 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (d, *J* = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 2.57–2.31 (m, 2H), 2.29–2.12 (m, 2H), 2.02–1.83 (m, 2H), 1.58–1.14 (m, 7H), 1.07–0.76 (m, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 199.4 (s), 150.4 (d), 143.4 (d), 138.6 (s), 113.7 (t), 39.5 (s), 34.9 (t), 34.6 (t), 30.9 (t), 29.2 (t), 27.5 (q), 22.5 (t), 13.9 (q) ppm. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₃H₂₀O (M + Na)⁺ 215.1412, found 215.1412.

2-Butyl-6-deuterium-4-methyl-4-vinylcyclohex-2-enone (**6e**). Colorless oil. D incorporation: 68%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.33 (s, 1H), 5.80 (dd, *J* = 10.5, 17.4 Hz, 1H), 5.06 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 5.96 (d, *J* = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 2.45–2.32 (m, 1H), 2.25–2.16 (m, 2H),

1.92–1.87 (m, 2H), 1.42–1.2 (m, 4H), 1.22 (s, 3H), 0.90 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 198.5 (s), 149.4 (d), 142.5 (d), 137.6 (s), 112.8 (t), 38.5 (s), 33.9 (t), 33.6 (t), 29.9 (t), 28.2 (t), 26.4 (q), 21.5 (t), 12.9 (q) ppm. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₁₃H₁₉DO (M + Na)⁺ 216.1475, found 216.1470.

(5*Z*)-6-*E*thyl-2-*me*thylocta-1,5-dien-7-yn-3-yl Acetate (**6f**). Colorless oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.67 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.24 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 4.95 (s, 1H), 4.90 (s, 1H), 3.13 (s, 1H), 2.46 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.18–2.06 (m, 5H), 1.75 (s, 3H), 1.07 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.2, 142.7, 132.3, 126.4, 112.7, 81.9, 81.7, 76.1, 33.8, 30.1, 21.1, 18.4, 13.1 ppm. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₃H₁₈O₂ (M + Na)⁺ 229.1204, found 229.1218.

Preparation of (15,25)-2-Methyl-2-(1-methylethenyl)cyclopropanecarboxylic Acid $(16)^{15}$. To a solution of 2,3-dimethylbuta 1,3-diene (24.27 g, 296.0 mmol) and Rh₂(OAc)₄ (0.70 g, 1.47 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (200 mL) was added dropwise at room temperature ethyl 2-diazoacetate (16.87 g, 148.0 mmol) over a period of 1 h. The mixture was stirred further for 3 h and filtered through a pad of silica gel at reduced pressure. The residue was washed repeatedly with CH₂Cl₂, and the filtrate was collected. The solvent was evaporated to give a residue that was subjected to flash column chromatography (PE/MTBE, 50/1) to give *trans*-15 as a colorless oil. Yield: 10.70 g (43%).

To a solution of **15** (17.49 g, 104.1 mmol) in THF (90 mL) and MeOH (45 mL) was added NaOH (20.82 g, 520.5 mmol) in H₂O (45 mL). The mixture was stirred for 2 days and then diluted by H₂O (100 mL) and washed with isohexane (3×30 mL). The aqueous phase was neutralized by HCl to pH 5, extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3×30 mL), and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give the racemic acid *trans*-**16**.

A three-necked 250 mL flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer and a reflux condenser, was charged with 50 mL of isopropyl ether and the resolving agent (15,2S)-(+)-2-(dimethylamino)-1-[4-(methylthio) phenyl]propane-1,3-diol ((15,2S)-(+)-MTDP; 9.48 g, 39.3 mmol).¹⁶ The suspension was heated under reflux until the materials were completely dissolved. A solution of the racemic acid trans-16 (10.01 g, 71.4 mmol) dissolved in 20 mL of isopropyl ether was added. The mixture was heated under reflux and stirred for an additional 30 min. After the mixture was cooled to room temperature, the precipitated salt was separated by filtration. The salt was then washed three times with 10 mL of isopropyl ether and dried at 25 °C/24 mbar to furnish the crude (+)-salt. The acid was extracted by toluene after acidifying with 1 M HCl to give a yellow oil, which was resolved once again with the chiral amine (1S,2S)-(+)-MTDP to improve the ee value up to 90%. The absolute configuration was assigned to be 15,25 by means of a theoretical simulation of its electronic circular dicroism spectra (ECD; see also the Supporting Information).

Yellow oil; 4.01 g (yield 80%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.98–4.70 (m, 2H), 2.00–1.69 (m, 4H), 1.53–1.22 (m, 5H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 178.9 (s), 148.0 (s), 111.1 (t), 33.3 (s), 26.0 (d), 20.8 (t), 20.1 (q), 16.9 (q) ppm. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₈H₁₂O₂ (M + Na)⁺ 163.0735, found 163.0740.

Preparation of (15,25)-*N*-Methoxy-*N*,2-dimethyl-2-(1methylethenyl)cyclopropanecarboxamide (17). To a solution of 16 (5.00 g, 35.70 mmol), *N*,*O*-dimethylhydroxyamine hydrochloride (3.48 g, 35.70 mmol), and Et₃N (5.41 g, 53.60 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (100 mL) was added DCC (7.37 g, 35.70 mmol) slowly with ice–water cooling. The mixture was stirred overnight, diluted with H₂O (200 mL), and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3×30 mL). The combined organic extract was dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residual mass was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, PE-EA, 25/1) to give the Weinreb amide 17. Colorless oil; 5.81 g (yield: 89%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.86 (s, 1H), 4.80 (s, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 2.33–2.16 (m, 1H), 1.88–1.76 (m, 3H), 1.30–1.24 (m, 4H), 1.13–1.09 (m, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 172.2, 148.6, 110.4, 61.4, 32.7, 30.8, 24.4, 20.0, 18.1, 16.8 ppm. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₀H₁₇NO₂ (M + Na)⁺ 206.1157, found 206.1157.

Preparation of 1-[(15,25)-2-Methyl-2-(1-methylethenyl)cyclopropyl]ethanone (18). To a solution of 17 (6.12 g, 33.42 mmol) in THF (50 mL) at 0 °C was added methylmagnesium bromide (freshly prepared, 66.84 mmol) dropwise under an argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h, quenched by the addition of 1 M HCl, and extracted with MTBE (3 × 30 mL). The organic extracts were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The crude residue was purified by bulb-to-bulb distillation to give the pure ketone **18**. Colorless oil; 4.62 g (yield: 85%). ee = 90%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.84–4.74 (m, 2H), 2.27 (bs, 3H), 2.07 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 1.78 (bs, 3H), 1.35–1.15 (m, 5H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 205.9 (s), 148.4 (s), 110.8 (t), 35.1 (s), 34.6 (d), 32.0 (q), 20.5 (t), 20.2 (q), 16.1 (q) ppm. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₉H₁₄O (M + Na)⁺ 161.0942, found 161.0954. [α]²⁰_D = +269.84° (*c* 1.0, MeOH).

Preparation of 2-[(15,25)-2-Methyl-2-(1-methylethenyl)cyclopropyl]but-3-yn-2-ol (19). In a flame-dried 250 mL flask, acetylene was bubbled into the flask slowly and dissolved in dry THF (15 mL) for 5 min. A 1.6 mol/L solution of n-BuLi in hexanes (28.1 mL, 45.00 mmol) was added dropwise into the flask at -78 °C. The reaction was stirred for a further 25 min. Then bubbling was stopped, and ketone 18 (4.14 g, 30 mmol) was added dropwise with stirring. The reaction mixture was stirred further for 3 h and quenched by careful addition of H_2O (70 mL). The mixture was extracted with MTBE (3 \times 20 mL). The organic layer was separated, dried over MgSO4, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by bulbto-bulb distillation to afford the propargyl alcohol 19. Colorless oil; 4.43 g (yield: 90%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.60 (bs, 1H), 4.55 (bs, 1H), 2.41 (s, 1H), 1.94 (bs, 1H), 1.63 (bs, 3H), 1.54 (bs, 3H), 1.35 (bs, 3H), 1.05–1.00 (m, 1H), 0.89–0.84 (m, 1H), 0.73–0.69 (m, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 150.6 (s), 109.3 (t), 87.5 (s), 73.0 (s), 68.5 (d), 34.6 (d), 31.8 (q), 27.5 (s), 20.1 (q), 17.1 (q), 16.8 (t) ppm. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₁₁H₁₆O (M + Na)⁺ 187.1099, found 187.1085.

2-((15,25)-2-Methyl-2-[(1-methylethenyl)cyclopropyl]but-3-yn-2-yl Acetate (20; Method A). Colorless oil; 4.52 g (yield 87%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.73 (s, 1H), 4.68 (s, 1H), 2.68 (s, 1H), 2.04 (s, 3H), 1.93 (s, 3H), 1.74 (bs, 3H), 1.52–1.37 (m, 4H), 1.06–0.96 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.3 (s), 150.5 (s), 109.4 (t), 83.3 (s), 77.5 (s), 75.7 (d), 33.0 (d), 29.0 (d), 27.9 (s), 22.0 (q), 20.0 (q), 17.6 (t), 17.2 (q) ppm. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₃H₁₈O₂ (M + Na)⁺ 229.1205, found 229.1204.

(5)-2,4-Dimethyl-4-(1-methylethenyl)cyclohex-2-enone (21; Method B). Colorless oil. ee = 37%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.61 (s, 1H), 4.80 (s, 1H), 4.72 (s, 1H), 2.68–2.48 (m, 2H), 2.42–2.36 (m, 1H), 2.33–2.22 (m, 1H), 1.77 (s, 3H), 1.72 (s, 3H), 1.13 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 199.6 (s), 149.6 (s), 142.6 (d), 135.1 (s), 110.7 (t), 49.4 (t) 42.2 (s), 37.1 (t), 25.9 (q), 19.3 (q), 15.5 (q) ppm. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₁₁H₁₆O (M + Na)⁺ 187.1099, found 187.1099.

2,6,7-Trimethylcycloocta-2,6-dienone (22). Colorless oil; 19 mg (yield: 24%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.03 (t, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.91 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 2.77 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.80 (s, 3H), 1.65 (s, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 208.6 (s), 137.6 (s), 132.3 (d), 130.0 (s), 128.2 (s), 43.3 (t), 35.6 (t), 30.0 (t), 21.3 (q), 21.0 (q), 19.4 (q) ppm. EI-MS (*m*/*z*, relative intensity): 164 (M⁺, 52.8), 93 (100). HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₁H₁₆O (M + H)⁺ 165.1279, found 165.1267.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information. Figures and text giving ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra for **1a**–**d**, **6a**–**f**, **12b**–**d**, **13b**–**d**, **14a**–**d**, and

16–22, details of the ECD study on chiral molecules 16 and 21, and chiral GC spectra of 16 and 21. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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