## [3 + 2] Annulation of $\beta$ -Heteroatom-Substituted $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -Unsaturated **Acylsilanes with Methyl Ketone Enolates: Scope and Investigation** of the Reaction Course

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A new route to (Z)- $\beta$ -silylacryloylsilanes **10** and the improved conditions for the [3 + 2] annulation using 10 and alkyl methyl ketone enolates are reported. Also, details of investigations defining a reaction course of the [3 + 2] annulation using  $\beta$ -phenylthio- and  $\beta$ -trimethylsilyl-acryloylsilanes 1 (X = SPh, SiMe<sub>3</sub>) and alkyl methyl ketone enolates are described.

## Introduction

The development of synthetic methodologies for the highly efficient and stereoselective construction of fivemembered rings has been a very active area of research.<sup>1</sup> In 1993 we reported a novel [3 + 2] annulation approach to obtain cyclopentenol derivatives that involves the reaction of  $\beta$ -heteroatom-substituted acryloylsilanes with ketone enolates.<sup>2</sup> The synthetic utility of the reaction has been successfully demonstrated in the synthesis of natural products, including untenone A<sup>3</sup> and clavulones (claviridenones).4

An intriguing feature of the reaction of acryloylsilanes with ketone enolates is that the products and the product distributions depend on the  $\beta$ -substituent of the acryloylsilanes. Thus, in contrast to the observation with (E)and (*Z*)- $\beta$ -phenylthic derivatives **1** (X = SPh) in which isomeric cyclopentenols 3 (major) and 4 (minor) were obtained in almost the same ratio irrespective of the acylsilane geometry, the trimethylsilyl derivative  $\mathbf{1}$  (X = SiMe<sub>3</sub>) afforded cyclopentenols **5** and uncyclized enol silyl ether 6 in a ratio depending on the vinylsilane geometry (Scheme 1). Thus, cyclopentenol 5 was a major product from (Z)-acylsilane, whereas (E)-acylsilane afforded uncyclized enol silyl ether 6 as a major product. On the other hand, crotonoylsilane 1 (X = Me) did not afford cyclopentenol but cyclopropanol derivative 7.5

In this paper, we present additional information on the reaction pathway depending on the  $\beta$ -substituent as well as the scope of the [3 + 2] annulation.

Scheme 1 OSiR<sub>3</sub> ØSiR₃ X = SPh-80 to -30 °C PhS ОH OH 3 55-71% 4 5-19% SiR<sub>3</sub> QSiR<sub>3</sub> QSiR<sub>3</sub> X = SiMe<sub>3</sub> -80 to -30 °C Me<sub>3</sub>Sí 0 R Me<sub>3</sub>Si ΟĤ 5 6 11-17% 43-63% 48-51% 16-22% R<sub>3</sub>SiQ X = Me -80 to -30 °C R Mé

## **Results and Discussion**

[3+2] Annulation Using ( $\beta$ -(Trimethylsilyl)- and **β-(Dimethylphenylsilyl)acryloyl)silanes.** Although the [3 + 2] annulation methodology using ( $\beta$ -(phenylthio)acryloylsilanes  $\mathbf{1}$  (X = SPh) has proved to be very efficient for the synthesis of highly functionalized five-membered carbocycles, the process of preparing the acryloylsilanes produces the unpleasant-smelling byproduct thiophenol. Consequently, we decided to reinvestigate the [3 + 2]annulation using ( $\beta$ -(trimethylsilyl)acryloyl)silane, which we previously reported to afford a cyclopentenol derivative in lower yields relative to the corresponding  $\beta$ -phenylthio derivative and in a better yield from (Z)-1 (X =  $SiMe_3$ ) than from (*E*)-1 (X =  $SiMe_3$ ). Our first task was to find a stereoselective route to (Z)-10a, because the reported procedure provides only (*E*) or a mixture of (*E*) and (Z) derivatives<sup>6</sup> and to optimize the conditions for the annulation process using (Z)-10a leading to 5. Also, we examined [3 + 2] annulation using (Z)- $\beta$ -(dimethyl-(phenyl)silyl)acryloylsilane (Z)-10b, which would signifi-



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	$\mathbb{R}^1$	$\mathbb{R}^2$	11	12	13		
10a	Me	Et	75	5	9		
10a	Me	<i>n</i> -Pr	70	4	19		
10a	Me	<i>i</i> -Pr	76	9	10		
10b	Ph	Et	72	3	10		
10b	Ph	<i>n</i> -Pr	71	3	10		
10b	Ph	<i>i</i> -Pr	80	4	5		

cantly enhance the synthetic versatility of the process because of the ability of the silyl group to act as a hydroxyl surrogate in combination with Fleming's oxidative desilylation protocol.<sup>7</sup> The new route to (Z)-**10a**,**b** started from *O*-protected propargyl alcohol **8**,<sup>8</sup> which was converted to **9a**,**b** by a 2-fold silylation followed by deprotection. Transformation of **9a**,**b** into acryloylsilanes **10a**,**b** was carried out with hydroboration<sup>9</sup> followed by Swern oxidation.<sup>10</sup>

Having developed an efficient route to (Z)-10, we optimized the reaction conditions for [3 + 2] annulation using (Z)-10. The best results were obtained when the reaction mixture was warmed to 0 °C. A trace amount of diastereomeric cyclopentenol 12 was detected in addition to 11, in contrast to the results obtained in our previous study,<sup>2a</sup> in which 11a was formed exclusively (Table 1). Also, unlike in our previous study in which (*E*)- and (*Z*)-13 were obtained in various proportions, (*E*)-13 was formed exclusively.

Although we also reexamined the reaction using (*E*)-**10a** by elevating the reaction temperature to 0 °C, no improvement in the yield of **11a** and no formation of cyclopentenol **12a** were observed. The difference in the product distribution of *E* and *Z* derivatives will be discussed later.

A Mechanistic Proposal for [3 + 2] Annulation. In an earlier stage of this research, as a mechanism to explain the reaction outcome outlined in Scheme 1, we proposed the reaction mechanism illustrated in Scheme 3, which involves two competing pathways.<sup>11</sup>

The first one, path a, involves delocalized allylic carbanion intermediate **15** that is derived from the 1,2adduct **14** by way of Brook rearrangement.<sup>12</sup> Path b involves the cyclopropanolate intermediate **16** that is generated by internal attack on the carbonyl group by the carbanion derived by Brook rearrangement. We considered that the reaction proceeds through either path a or path b, depending on the  $\alpha$ -carbanion-stabilizing





ability of the  $\beta$ -substituent of the acryloylsilanes. In the case of an anion-stabilizing substituent such as a phenylthio group, the carbanion 17 (X = SPh) generated by Brook rearrangement immediately delocalizes to give an intermediate 15. Consequently, the olefin geometry of 15 arising from (E)- and (Z)-1 can be the same if conformational interconversion occurs faster than cyclization. On the other hand, in the case of a methyl group, which does not have  $\alpha$ -carbanion-stabilizing ability, carbanion 17 (X = Me) attacks the  $\beta$ -carbonyl group before allylic delocalization to give 7 via 16. If it is assumed that a trimethylsilyl group has less ability to stabilize the  $\alpha$ -carbanion than does a phenylthio group, the results with  $(\beta$ -(trimethylsilyl)acryloyl)silane **1** (X = SiMe<sub>3</sub>) could be explained as being due to the formation of vinylcyclopropanolate followed by oxyanion-accelerated vinylcyclopropane rearrangement<sup>13</sup> to cyclopentenone ( $16 \rightarrow 5$ ) in which (*E*)- and (*Z*)-16 can retain their geometries in  $\mathbf{1}$  $(X = SiMe_3)$  and possibly have different reactivities. This hypothesis is based on the fact that 3, 4, and 5 were recovered unchanged after treatment with LDA (1 equiv) in THF at -80 to 0 °C, respectively, and the fact that the reaction of 1 (X = SPh) with lithium enolate 18 of alkenyl methyl ketone produces [3 + 2] annulation product **19** in sharp contrast with the reaction of  $\mathbf{1}$  (X = SiMe<sub>3</sub>) that affords cycloheptenone derivatives, 21, a [3 + 4] annulation product (Scheme 4). Our previous study<sup>14</sup> has established that the latter process proceeds via anionic oxy-Cope rearrangement of divinylcyclopropanolate 20.

It seemed that verification of the proposed mechanism would require (1) comparison of relative  $\alpha$ -carbanion-stabilizing abilities of trimethylsilyl and phenylthio groups, (2) verification of the stereochemical integrity of the starting acryloylsilanes under the reaction conditions, and (3) examination of whether the vinylcyclopropane-cyclopentene rearrangement ( $16 \rightarrow 5$ ) proceeds at temperatures below -30 °C.

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Scheme 4







**Comparison of**  $\alpha$ -**Carbanion-Stabilizing Abilities of the Phenylthio and Trimethylsilyl Groups.** We compared the  $\alpha$ -carbanion-stabilizing abilities of the two groups based on the relative rates of the base-catalyzed Brook rearrangement of the  $\beta$ -heteroatom-substituted  $\alpha$ -silylallyl alcohol **22** to **25** and **26**.<sup>15</sup> This stems from the fact that the Brook rearrangement is facilitated by electron-withdrawing substituents.<sup>12</sup> Thus, the rates of formation of **25** and **26** would increase as the  $\alpha$ -carbanion-stabilizing ability of the substituent X increases. The result that the half-life of **22a** is much shorter than that of **22b** suggests that the phenylthio group stabilizes  $\alpha$ -carbanion more strongly than does the trimethylsilyl group, at least in this system (Scheme 5), thus, providing good support for the above-postulated mechanism.

Low-Temperature Quenching of the Reaction of  $\beta$ -(Phenylthio)- and ( $\beta$ -(Trimethylsilyl)acryloyl)-





silanes and Lithium Enolate of Acetone. To verify whether the stereochemical integrity of the acryloylsilanes 27 was preserved under the reaction conditions, low-temperature quenching experiments were carried out, and the results are shown in Table 2. Loss of the olefin geometry of 27 was observed in all cases in which the starting material was recovered. The possibility that isomerization occurred during the workup/purification process was ruled out by subjecting 27 without 28 to the same workup conditions and purification process.

The fact that the stereochemical outcome was almost the same irrespective of the olefin geometry in the [3 + 2] annulation of **27** can be partly attributed to the loss of the stereochemical integrity of the starting acylsilanes. To obtain information on the origin of the E-Z isomerization, reaction of (*E*)-**29** with LDA at -80 °C for 10 min was carried out, and the results are shown in Scheme 6.

The nearly stereorandom formation of acryloylsilanes **27** suggests that a retro-aldol process  $(29 \rightarrow 27 + 28)$  exists in the [3 + 2] annulation in which isomerization of the double bond can occur; however, the mechanism is not clear.

On the other hand, the corresponding reaction of  $\beta$ -trimethylsilyl derivative **10a** with **28** was found to be different from that of  $\beta$ -phenylthio derivative **27** (Table 3). In the reaction of (*E*)-**10a**, **10a** was not recovered; instead, **33**, a reduction product by a slight excess of LDA,

<sup>(15)</sup> Takeda, K., Ubayama, H.; Sano, A.; Yoshii, E.; Koizumi, T. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1998**, *39*, 5243–5246.



<sup>a</sup> Yield of **33**. <sup>b</sup> Yield of (Z)-**10a**. <sup>c</sup> Yield of (E)-**34**. <sup>d</sup> Yield of (Z)-**34**.

was obtained.<sup>16</sup> In contrast, in the reaction of (*Z*)-**10a**, a significant amount of **10a** was recovered without E/Z isomerization. Moreover, since we previously showed that (*Z*)-**10a** cannot be reduced by LDA, in contrast to the fact that reduction of (*E*)-**10a** by LDA is a rapid process even at -80 °C, the fact that **33** was not obseved in the reaction of (*Z*)-**10a** suggests that a detectable amount of (*E*)-**10a** was not formed and, hence, that E/Z isomerization did not occur.

Also, the reaction of (*E*)- and (*Z*)-**34** with LDA afforded **33** and (*Z*)-**10a**, respectively, without E/Z isomerization (Scheme 7).

The slower reaction of (*Z*)-**10a** with **28** relative to (*E*)-**10a** is attributed in part to an unfavorable equilibrium of 1,2-adduct (*Z*)-**34** toward the starting materials, which can be ascribed to the relatively severe steric repulsions in the (*Z*)-1,2-adduct. A similar trend was previously observed for reactions of (*E*,*Z*)-**10a** with lithium enolate of alkenyl methyl ketone.<sup>14</sup>

There are several possibilities concerning the origin of **35** in Table 3, including protonation during workup of

cyclopropanolate intermediates 38 or of allyllithium derivatives **39** and **42**, and an intermolecular protonation of 41 (Scheme 8). The allyllithium derivatives 39 and 41 may also arise from ring-opening of **38** and/or directly from **14** ( $X = SiMe_3$ ). Protonation of **38** followed by a ringopening would provide both (E)- and (Z)-35. On the other hand, while protonation of 39 should afford some amount of 1,3-silyl-migration product  $40^{17}$  in addition to (Z)-35, (*E*)-**35** would become a major product upon protonation of **42**. In the reaction of both (*E*)- and (*Z*)-**10a**, the greater formation of (*E*)-**35** with increase in reaction temperature and with progress of the reaction and no formation of detectable amounts of 40 suggests that 35 could come from both unreacted 38 and dienolate 42 at lower temperatures and that 42 becomes a major precusor for 35 with increasing temperature.

Low-Temperature Oxyanion-Accelerated Vinylcyclopropane-Cyclopentene Rearrangement. Although the vinylcyclopropane-cyclopentene rearrangement only proceeds at high temperatures, usually at tempertures over 250 °C,<sup>18</sup> Danheiser found that an oxyanion substituent on the cyclopropane ring dramatically accelerated the rearrangement.<sup>13a,b,19</sup> However, even in these cases, a temperature in excess of 25 °C is required for the reaction. Consequently, in our case (16  $\rightarrow$  11, 12), it was questionable whether the rearrangement would proceed at a temperature below -30 °C. We decided to prepare four diastereomeric vinylcyclopropanolate intermediates **16** ( $X = SiMe_3$ , R = Me) by an independent route and to examine the reactivity to the cyclopentene derivatives and the stereochemistry of the reaction. We sought a synthetic route that would permit the rapid generation of cyclopropanolate even at -80 °C, and we found that the reaction of 2 equiv of MeLi with the corresponding cyclopropyl acetates 45 was suitable for this purpose. The acetates **45** were prepared by the reaction of dienol silvl ethers **43**<sup>14</sup> with acetoxy carbene complex 44 (Chart 1).<sup>20,21</sup> The dienol silyl ethers, in turn, were prepared from the corresponding acylsilanes and lithiomethyl phenyl sulfone utilizing the Brook rearrangement according to Reich's method.<sup>22</sup>

The reaction of **45** with MeLi (2.2 equiv) was carried out in both THF and toluene at -80 °C for 30 min and followed by elevation of the temperature (from -80 ° to -50 °C and -30 °C) over a 30-min period and then

(21) The relative stereochemistry was assigned on the basis of results of NOESY experiments.

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Chart 1



quenched with a cetic acid (2.2 equiv). The results are shown in Table  $4.^{23}$ 

When the reaction was performed in THF, in most cases, cyclopentenols **36** and **37**, which are exactly the same as those obtained in the [3 + 2] annulation, and a ring-opening product **35** were obtained.<sup>24</sup> The fact that the minor diasetereomer **37** was obtained only from (*Z*)-**45** is also consistent with the results of the [3 + 2] annulation. Particularly noteworthy is the substantial formation of cyclopentenol **36** from the (*Z*)-derivative

even at -80 °C. This result indicates that oxyanionaccelerated vinylcyclopropane-cyclopentene rearrangement in the case of substrates having the substitution pattern shown in structure **16** ( $X = SiMe_3$ ) (Scheme 3) can proceed at temperatures below  $-30 \,^{\circ}C^{25}$  and consequently provides support to our assumption of intermediacy of vinylcyclopropanolate derivative 16 in the [3 + 2] annulation. Furthermore, the same trend in product distribution and difference in reactivity depending on the vinylsilane geometry as that observed in the [3 + 2]annulation was observed. The greater formation of (*E*)-35 with increases in reaction temperature and with progress of the reaction is also consistent with the results of [3 + 2] annulation. Although these results seem to support the proposed pathway involving cyclopropanolate (**16** ( $X = SiMe_3$ ), Scheme 3), there remains the question of why cyclopentenol 36 was obtained as a major product irrespective of the stereochemistry of the vinylcyclopropanolates and the question of why (Z)-45 gives more cyclopentenol **36** than does (*E*)-**45** under comparable conditions. To explain the stereochemistry of the process  $(45 \rightarrow 36, 37)$ , we propose a mechanism in which cyclopentenol **36** is produced via a [1,3]-sigmatropic shift of the internally oxygen-silicon-coordinated anti-(Z)-46 (Scheme 9).<sup>26</sup> The stereochemical course from anti-(Z)-46 to the cyclopentenol 36 is in agreement with that predicted by orbital symmetry considerations (suprafacial-inversion). Anti-(Z)-46 may be generated from three other diastereomers by a ring-opening, a geometric isomerization, and a ring-closure sequence via 47 and/ or 48. The intermediate should undergo more facile

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<sup>(24)</sup> Although we previously reported in a preliminary communication (ref 23) that cyclopentenol **36** was the only cyclized product in the reaction of (Z)-**45**, reexamination of the original spectral data revealed the formation of a trace amount of **37**.

<sup>(25)</sup> For the effect of a substituent on the rate of thermal vinylcyclopropane-cyclopentene rearrangement, see: Trost, B. M.; Scudder, P. H. *J. Org. Chem.* **1981**, *46*, 506–509.

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Table 4.



rearrangement to cyclopentenol than the other isomers presumably because of its fixed conformation that is suitable for the overlap of the orbitals required for the rearrangement. The observations that 35 is produced to a larger extent from the (E)-derivatives than from the (Z)-derivatives and that the products ratio is unaffected by the C-1 stereochemistry can be explained by assuming that the syn/anti isomerization proceeds much faster than does the E/Z isomerization. The assumption made above that the origin of (*E*)-**35** is **38** and/or **41** seems to rationalize the result that (*E*)-46 produces more 35 than (Z)-46 does.

Me<sub>3</sub>Si

If interconversion between the four diastereomeric 46 via ionic intermediates 47 and/or 48 exists, as we assumed, the use of a less-polar solvent would cause a decrease in the rate of isomerization and would consequently result in decrease in the formation of 36 from *syn*-(*Z*)-**46** and (*E*)-**46** relative to *anti*-(*Z*)-**46**. In fact, when the reaction of 45 with MeLi was conducted in toluene, syn-(Z)-45 afforded less cyclopentenol 36 than did anti-(Z)-45, and reaction of the (E)-derivatives resulted in recovery of the starting material (Table 4).

Next, to try to obtain further evidence supporting the assumption of a role of internal chelation of the silicon ylphenylsilyl derivatives 49 and 50 with MeLi, anticipating that, in both reactions, the syn isomers would afford less **36** analogue relative to the corresponding anti isomers because of internal chelation such as 51 and 52, which can be more stabilized by the phenyl group than the corresponding trimethylsilyl and tert-butyldimethylsilyl derivatives, respectively (Chart 2).<sup>27</sup> Thus, if the assumption that the formation of **36** from *anti-(Z)*-**46** is faster than that from other isomers is correct, the rate from anti-(Z)-51 and from syn-52 would increase and decrease, respectively, owing to increased concentrations of *anti*-(*Z*)-**51** and *syn*-**52**. Consequently, in both cases, more **36** would be obtained from anti-(Z) derivatives relative to that from syn-(Z) derivatives.

Although 49<sup>21</sup> could be prepared from the corresponding dienol silyl ethers in a manner similar to that described for the preparation of 45, in the case of 50, the cyclopropanation step failed. We prepared 50<sup>21</sup> via desilvlation of 45 followed by dimethyl(phenyl)silvlation. The results of the reactions of 49 and 50 with MeLi are shown in Tables 5 and 6, respectively. Replacement of the methyl group in the trimethylsilyl group with a

<sup>(27)</sup> Brook and coworkers reported the rate of C-to-O migration of silvl group in the reaction of diphenyl(trimethylsilyl)carbinol with diethylamine. Replacement of methyl on trimethylsilyl group by phenyl accelerates the 1,2-migration (the Brook rearrangement), which is believed to proceed via a pentavalent silicon intermediate, by a factor of about 6. Brook, A. G.; LeGrow, G. E.; MacRae, D. M. Can. J. Chem. 1967. 45. 239-253.



			yield (%)			
	49	conditions	53	54	55 (E:Z)	
	syn	−80 °C, 5 min	16	0	80 (1.1:1)	
	syn	−80 °C, 30 min	20	0	75 (1.6:1)	
E	syn	−80° to −30 °C	80	0	12 (only <i>E</i> )	
	anti	−80 °C, 5 min	18	0	77 (0.96:1)	
	anti	−80 °C, 30 min	21	0	74 (0.92:1)	
	anti	−80° to −30 °C	83	0	8 (only <i>E</i> )	
	syn	−80 °C, 5 min	64	7	21 (1.4:1)	
	syn	−80 °C, 30 min	70	9	19 (2.2:1)	
Z	syn	-80° to 30 °C	81	8	6 (only <i>E</i> )	
	anti	−80 °C, 5 min	66	8	16 (1.6:1)	
	anti	−80 °C, 30 min	72	8	18 (1.7:1)	
	anti	−80° to −30 °C	83	8	4 (only <i>E</i> )	
Table 6.						



			yield (%)		
entry	50	conditions	56	<b>57</b> ( <i>E</i> : <i>Z</i> )	58
1	syn-(E)	-80 °C, 30 min	0	92 (1:5.8)	0
2	syn-(E)	−80 to −30 °C	4	90 (1:2.5)	0
3	anti-(E)	−80 °C, 30 min	0	96 (1:1.6)	0
4	anti-(E)	−80 to −30 °C	11	83 (1:1.5)	0
5	syn-(Z)	−80 °C, 30 min	8	40 (2.1:1)	43
6	syn-(Z)	−80 to −30 °C	28	65 (5.3:1)	0
7	anti- $(Z)$	−80 °C, 30 min	20	35 (2.6:1)	21
8	anti- $(Z)$	$-80$ to $-30\ ^\circ C$	28	48 (only- <i>E</i> )	14

phenyl group resulted in a significant enhancement of the reaction rate in both (E)- and (Z)-**49**. As expected, there was little difference in the ratios of **53**/**55** between syn and anti derivatives. This is thought to be due to the delicate balance between enhanced reactivity and increased stabilization of the internal chelation induced by introduction of a phenyl group.

In contrast to the enhanced reactivity by introduction of a phenyl group in the vinylsilyl group, the introduction of a dimethyl(phenyl)siloxy group in place of the *tert*butyldimethylsiloxy group resulted in a decrease in the rate of the reaction. Particularly noteworthy is that a more predominant formation of cyclopentenol **56** from *anti*-**50** than from *syn*-**50** was observed at -80 °C as expected (Table 6, entries 2, 4, 5, and 7). Moreover, *syn*cyclopropandiol derivative **58** was obtained from both syn and anti derivatives **50**, suggesting facile interconversion between *syn*- and *anti*-cyclopropanolates and an impor-



tant role of the stabilization by chelation involving pentacoordinate silicon species, as shown in Scheme 9.

Furthermore, our previous observation on the reaction of 1,2-divinylcyclopropanolates **59** where the formation of seven-membered ring via [3 + 4] annulation can compete with the formation of five-membered ring via [3 + 2] annulation provides additional support for the chelation and the rapid interconversion between the syn and anti isomers (Scheme 10). Thus, the five-membered carbocycle **63** was obtained as a major product from *anti*-(*Z*)-**59**, which can involve a five-coordinated silicon atom, in contrast to the fact that no formation of *anti*-(*E*)-**59** where chelation cannot take place.

Next, we turned our attention to [3 + 2] annulation using ( $\beta$ -(phenylthio)acryloyl)silanes **27**. Although the results of the low-temperature quenching experiments described above showed that the independence of the stereochemical outcome of [3 + 2] annulation using **27** to its olefin geometry is partly due to loss of the stereochemical integrity of **27** during the reaction, this does not tell us whether the annulation occurs via a cyclopropanolate intermediate. We decided to examine the reaction of the corresponding phenylthio derivatives **64**. Cyclopropyl acetates **64**<sup>21</sup> were prepared in a manner similar to **45**. Unfortunately, *syn*- and *anti*-(*E*)-**64** could not be separated. The results of the reaction with MeLi are shown in Table 7.

The remarkable difference between the [3 + 2] annulation using **27** and the reaction of **64** with MeLi was the product distribution depending on the olefin geometry of the starting materials, in addition to the enhanced reactivity in the latter case. Thus, the reaction of (*Z*)-**64** provided two diastereomers **31** and **32** in about a 5:4 ratio, while the reaction of (*E*)-**64** almost exclusively provided **31**. Also, since the change of the vinyl substituent in the vinylpropanolates from trimethylsilyl to diScheme 11







methyl(phenyl)silyl and to phenylthio groups increased the reactivity of the rearrangement, it appears to be a general trend that the rate of the rearrangement increases, when the  $\alpha$ -carbanion-stabilizing character of the substituent on the vinyl group increases. The enhanced reactivity is attributed to acceleration of the ring-opening of cyclopropane caused by the generation of a carbanion character at the  $\alpha$ -position of the  $\beta$ -heteroatom substituent.

-80 to -30 °C

-80 to -30 °C

-80 °C, 30 min

syn-Z

48

48

48

39

35

40

Although the origin of the observed stereoselectivity is not clear at present, the results rule out the possibility of the intermediacy of cyclopropanolate **16** (X = SPh) in the major reaction pathway of [3 + 2] annulation of **27**.

## Conclusions

The results described above seem to indicate a need for a slight modification of the initially proposed mechanistic pathway for the [3 + 2] annulation shown in Scheme 3. (E)- and (Z)-27 were found in equilibrium under the reaction conditions (Scheme 6 and Table 2). Although the possibility that either of (E)- or (Z)-27 is the only precursor leading to cyclopentenols 3 and 4 cannot be entirely ruled out, the existence of the equilibrium does not necessarily mean that the delocalized allylic carbanion 15 is not involved as a common intermediate. The intermediacy of 15 is consistent with the failure in [3 + 4] annulation of **27**, which requires the formation of a cyclopropanolate intermediate. Consequently, we believe that delocalized allylic anion 15 is an intermediate in the major reaction pathway in the [3 + 2] annulation of **27** (Scheme 11). The reason for the preferential formation of **3**, which seems to be thermodynamically less stable than 4 due to steric repulsion between the phenylthio group and alkyl groups, is unclear at present because of potential complications associated with the structures of sulfur-stabilized allylic carbanions, their relative reactivities, and the relative conformation of the carbonyl group.

In the case of the trimethylsilyl derivatives **10a**, we propose a reaction pathway for the formation of **11** that involves the initial formation of vinylcyclopropanolate intermediates syn-(E)- and syn-(Z)-**67** followed by the isomerization to *anti*-(Z)-**67** and rearrangement to **11** via a 1,3-sigmatropic shift, although the mechanistic origin of the minor product **12** is still not clear.

Although a full understanding of the actual mechanism of the [3 + 2] annulation must await further detailed mechanistic experimentation, our current data have provided significant insights into the reaction sequence of the annulation. **Acknowledgment.** This research was partly supported by a grant from the Takeda Science Foundation.

**Supporting Information Available:** Full experimental detail and characterization data for all new compounds

described in the text. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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