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STUDIES ON THE SYNTHESIS OF THE C-GLYCOSIDIC PART OF NOGALAMYCIN, PART 2

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ABSTRACT

The stereochemistry of the addition of metalloaryls 11w-z to the methyl ketones 10a-e was studied in connection with the construction of the hogalamycin *C*-glycoside. Excellent selectivities towards the (*S*)-isomer 13a were observed in the β -chelate model **B** in the reaction of the benzyl ethers 10a with the cerium reagent 11y and the titanium reagent 11z or the alcohol 10c with the lithium compound 11w. A moderate 3:1 selectivity in favor of the desired (*R*)-isomer was observed in the reaction of the silyl ether 10d with 11w. A reversal of the addition sequence (reaction of 15a with MeMgI) led exclusively to 13a whereas the alcohol 15c gave a 5:3 mixture of 12c:13c.

INTRODUCTION

In studies aimed at the generation of the C-glycosidic bond of the nogalamycin family of antitumor antibiotics it was shown that the addition of ArLi to ketone 1 predominantly formed the wrong (S)-isomer (Scheme 1).¹



Scheme 1

In the present paper we present extended work on the stereochemical outcome of the addition of a variety of metalated aryls 11w-11z to the 4-acetyl-1,3-dioxanes 10a,c,d,e with inverted configuration of the oxygen function at C-5 as compared to that in 1. We investigated how the inversion at C-5 influenced the stereochemistry of the addition of the metalated dimethoxybenzene to the acetyl side chain of the 1,3-dioxane system.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The metal in the metalaryl compounds 11 was systematically changed [M=Li (11w), MgBr (11x), CeCl₂ (11y), Ti(OiPr)₃ (11z)] as well as the oxygen functionality at C-5 of the substrates [R=Bzl (10a), H (10c), SiMe₃, (10d) and Si-*t*-BuMe₂ (10e)] to cover the entire range of possible transition states from chelate controlled to the non-chelated ones.

The stereochemistry at C-5 of the 1,3-dioxane in 10 required the inversion of configuration at C-3 if D-glucose was used as the starting material. The transformation was achieved in the usual way by borohydride reduction of 1,2:5,6-di-O-isopropylidene- α -D-*ribo*-hexofurano-3-ulose to the allofuranose as described by Fleet et al.² The required dimesylate **3a** was obtained by benzylation, selective acetal cleavage and mesylation as decribed in the literature.³ The corresponding *p*-methoxybenzyl ether (MPM ether) **3b** was obtained in a similar way from the known 1,2-O-isopropylidene-3-O-(4-methoxybenzyl)- α -D-allofuranose.⁴ The *p*-methoxybenzyl ether protecting group was introduced to enable selective deprotection of 5-OH in presence of the double bond in **10b** (see below). The introduction of the double bond in **4a,b** was achieved by treatment of

3a,b with an excess of sodium iodide in butanone.⁵ Cleavage of this double bond served to create the requisite aldehyde group of the sugar as exemplified in the preceding paper.¹

The next steps required acid-catalyzed cleavage of the acetonides **4a,b** to the anomeric mixtures of the furanoses **5a,b**. These were subjected to reduction with lithium alanate to yield the open chain triols **6a,b**. As observed with the corresponding C-3 epimer,¹ both triols **6a** and **6b** selectively formed the 1,3-dioxanes **7a** and **7b** upon treatment with benzaldehyde in a thermodynamically controlled reaction. The chain extension to the required acetyl compounds **10a** and **10b** was performed by oxidation to the aldehydes **8a,b**. Subsequent Grignard reaction with methylmagnesium iodide gave the epimeric mixtures of the secondary alcohols **9a,b** which were immediately oxidized to the ketones **10a** and **10b** with pyridinium chromate (PDC)/acetic acid anhydride (Scheme 2).

The MPM ether 10b was cleaved selectively by treatment with dichlorodicyano benzoquinone (DDQ) to afford the alcohol 10c. The alcohol 10c was protected as the trimethylsilyl ether 10d and also the sterically demanding *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl ether 10e.

With the substrates 10a,c-e with an equatorial oxygen substituent at C-5 in hand, the addition of the metalated dimethoxybenzenes 11w-z was studied next (Scheme 3). The reaction of the benzyl ether 10a with 11w-z was examined most extensively and the results are summarized in Table 1. The addition of 2-lithio-1,4-dimethoxybenzene (11w) at different temperatures in THF (entries 1-3) resulted in the predominant formation of the desired (R)-isomer 12a over the (S)-compound 13a. The structures of the tertiary alcohols were unambigously established by X-ray structure analysis of the (S)-isomer 13a(see Figure 1).

A temperature dependence with respect to the stereochemical result was not observed (Table 1, entries 1-3). However, the reaction in diethyl ether (entry 4) changed the ratio of (R):(S) from ca. 1.5:1 to 1:1.5. The addition of chelate breaking reagents such as TMEDA, HMPT or the reaction in dimethoxytetrahydrofuran (entries 5, 6 and 7) decreased the ratio of the (R)- to (S)-isomer 12a:13a.

From the literature⁶⁻¹⁰ it was known that the stereochemistry of the addition of lithium alkyls and aryls on chiral alkoxycarbonyl compounds can be rationalized by the cyclic Cram model.^{6,11} However, in our system the formation of competing α - and β -



a: R=Bzl; b: R=MPM; c: R=H; d: R=SiMe3; e: R=Sit-BuMe2

Scheme 2



a: R=Bzl; c: R=H; d: R=SiMe₃; e: R=Sit-BuMe₂

Scheme 3

Entry	Temp.	Educt	Reagent	Solvent	12a:13a	Yield 12a	Yield 13a
1	-50 °C	10a	11w	THF	1.6:1	52 %	35 %
2	−10 °C	10a	11w	THF	1.5:1	58 %	34 %
3	0 °C	10a	11w	THF	1.8:1	58 %	32 %
4	–40 °C	10a	11w	Et ₂ O	1:1.5	35 %	53 %
5	−50 °C	10a	11w	THF, TMEDA	1:1	43 %	42 %
6	−70 °C	10a	11w	THF, HMPT	1:1	45 %	46 %
7	–25 °C	10a	11w	2,5-di-OMe-THF	1:1	40 %	41 %
8	-40 °C	10a	11x	THF	1:1.5	34 %	51 %
9	0 °C	10a	11x	THF	1:1.5	35 %	53 %
10	-40 °C	10a	11x	Et ₂ O	1:1.5	33 %	49 %
11	−78 ° C	10a	11y	THF	1:70	2 %	91 %
12	0 °C	10a	11z	THF	-	0 %	75 %
13	−20 °C	10c	11w	THF	-	0 %	81 %
14	–20 °C	10d	11w	THF	3:1	64 %	19 %
15	−20 °C	10e	11w	THF	1.3 : 1	both 53 %	

Table 1. Reaction of the metal aryls 11w-11z with the ketones 10a,c,d,e



Figure 1. The molecular structure of 13a.

chelates is possible, represented by chelate models **A** and **C** or **B** and **D** as shown in Scheme 4. Formation of the predominant (*R*)-12a is realized either by *Re*-attack in the α chelate **A** or the *Si*-attack in the β -chelate **B**. In all these models, additional complexation of the lithium cation with the nucleophilic solvent THF is assumed. The stereochemical outcome is reversed by reaction in the less Lewis basic diethyl ether (entry 4). The stereoselectivity is entirely lost by addition of chelate breaking strong Lewis bases such as TMEDA, HMPT or reaction in 2,5-dimethoxytetrahydrofuran (entries 5, 6 and 7).



OCH₃



B: β-chelate, Si-attack



D: β-chelate, *Re*-attack

Scheme 4

CH₃O

C: a-chelate, Si-attack

In non-chelate controlled reactions, the open Felkin-Anh model can be applied as shown by Cohen et al.¹² and Amouroux et al.¹³ On the other hand, the stereochemical result of the nucleophilic addition of alkyl or aryl Grignard reagents has also been explained by the cyclic Cram model.⁸⁻¹⁰ The ratio of **12a:13a** found for the Grignard reagents **11x** was 1:1.5 (Table 1, entries 8-10). In addition, no temperature or solvent dependence was observed and it remains unclear what model can be applied to rationalize these results.

Furthermore, we investigated the less basic¹⁴ aryl cerium compound **11y** which could be prepared from the organolithium compound **11w** by addition of anhydrous cerium trichloride (compare references 15-17). Cyclic Cram models^{18,19} as well as Felkin-Anh models²⁰ have been discussed in the literature to explain the stereoselectivity. A very high (70:1) selectivity in the reaction with the aryl cerium reagent towards the unwanted (*S*)-isomer **13a** was observed. Assuming a β -chelate, similar to **B** (Ce instead of Li), the attack occurs from the less hindered *Si*-side.

Very strong chelates may also be formed with titanium reagents and Reetz et al. proved their existence for the first time experimentally by ¹³C NMR spectroscopy.²¹ An outstanding selectivity was observed in the reaction of $ArTi(O-i-Pr)_3$ with **10a** yielding the (S)-isomer **13a** exclusively.

These last two examples showed a way to achieve excellent stereoselectivity, but unfortunately in the undesired direction. Therefore, we decided to prepare the sterically more hindered silyl ethers **10d** and **10e** via the alcohol **10c** as described above (Scheme 2). Not surprisingly, the alcohol **10c** exclusively yielded the (S)-isomer **13c** (entry 13) in agreement with the model for a β -chelate proposed by Horton et al.²² (see preceding paper). The structure of **13c** was confirmed by selective benzylation to **13a**. These results indicated that β -chelation (entries 11-13) in models related to the configuration of **10** favors **Si**-attack to form (S)-**13** (model **B** in Scheme 4).

Considering these general considerations it was interesting to see if the trimethylsilyl ether 10d could effectively break β -chelate formation. In fact, instead of exclusive formation of (S)-isomer, the (R)-isomer 12d was formed predominantly in a 3:1 ratio over 13d (Table 1, entry 14). We expected that the stereoselectivity could be further increased in the reaction of the *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl ether 10e. However, the excess of 12e over 13e was only 16 % (Table 1, entry 15).

In conclusion, the stereochemical results shown in Table 1 demonstrate that strong β -chelation can effectively lead to exclusive formation of the (S)-isomers 12. On the other hand, the diastereofacial differentiation in the α -chelate or the non-chelated Felkin-Ank models is relatively poor.

Inversion of addition sequence

If stereocontrol was excellent in some β -chelate models towards the formation of the (S)-isomers 13, a reversal of the addition sequence of the organometallic reagents M-Me and M-Ar might lead to the corresponding (R)-isomers 12. Therefore, the arylketones 15a and 15c were prepared by reaction of the aldehydes 8a and 8b with 2-lithio-2,4-dimethoxybenzene (11w) to yield the benzyl ethers 14a and the dimethoxybenzyl ethers 14b both as the usual mixture of diastereoisomers. The alcohols 14a and 14b were oxidized to the corresponding arylketones 15a and 15b without further purification using

PDC/Ac₂O in 88 and 87 % yield, respectively. The MPM ether 15b was then oxidatively cleaved using DDQ to afford the alcohol 15c in 93 % yield (Scheme 5).

The addition of MeCeCl₂ on 15a in THF exclusively afforded the (S)-isomer 13a in excellent yield (95 %, Table 2, entry 1). The same result was obtained in the reaction of 15a with MeMgBr in diethyl ether (Table 2, entry 2) (92 % of 12a). The alcohol 15c was also treated with MeMgBr in diethyl ether. In this case a 5:3 ratio of the adducts 12c and 13c were formed. These results show that a reversal of the reaction sequence did not result in a reversal of the stereochemical outcome as assumed. Evidently, the conformation and diastereofacial differentiation of the aryl ketones 15 differ from those of the methyl ketones 10. In addition, the smaller methyl Grignard reagent may differentiate less effectively between the diastereofacial sides on 10 than the more bulky aryl reagents. The important role of the size of the incoming nucleophile is demonstrated also in the following paper.²³

EXPERIMENTAL

For general procedures and instrumentation see reference 24. The compounds are oils if not otherwise indicated.

3-O-Benzyl-1,2-O-isopropylidene-5,6-dideoxy-\alpha-D-*ribo***-hex-5-enofuranose (4a**). A solution of dimesylate **3a**³ (45.11 g, 0.097 mol) in dry butanone (600 mL) was treated with NaI (72.51 g, 0.483 mol) and the mixture was refluxed for 12 h (TLC control). A saturated aqueous solution of Na₂S₂O₃ (200 mL) was then added with stirring, the mixture diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (200 mL) and the organic phase separated. The aqueous phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (200 mL), washed with water (200 mL), dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered and concentrated to yield **4a** (24.02 g, 90 %) as a yellow oil; $[\alpha]_p^{20}$ +65.1 (*c* 1.3, CHCl₃); IR (CH₂Cl₂) 3020 cm⁻¹, 2930, 2840, 1618, 1602, 1584, 1522, 1455, 1332, 1247, 1024; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.36, 1.62 (s, 6 H, 2 x CH₃), 3.50 (dd, *J*_{3,4} = **8.8** Hz, *J*_{2,3} = 4.3 Hz, 1 H, 3-H), 4.47 (dd, *J*_{3,4} = **8.8** Hz, *J*_{4,5} = 6.9 Hz, 1 H, 4-H), 4.56 (t, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1 H, 2-H), 4.62 and 4.75 (AB-signal, *J*_{A,B} = 12.3 Hz, 2 H, OCH₂Ph), 5.26 (dt, *J*_{5,6cis} = 10.4 Hz, *J* = 1.1 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{cis})), 5.45 (dt, *J*_{5,6trans} = 17.2 Hz, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{trans})), 5.73 (d, *J*_{1,2} = 3.8 Hz, 1 H, 1-H), 5.81



Scheme 5

Table 2. Reaction of the metalated methyls with the ketones 15a,c

Entry	Temp.	Educt	Reagent	Solvent	12:13	Yield 12	Yield 13
1	–20 °C	15a	MeCeCl ₂	THF	-	0%	95 %
2	−20 °C	15a	MeMgI	Et ₂ O	-	0 %	92 %
3	−15 °C	15c	MeMgI	Et ₂ O	5:3	54 %	32 %

(ddd, $J_{5,6trans} = 17.2$ Hz, $J_{5,6cis} = 10.4$ Hz, $J_{4,5} = 6.9$ Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂), 7.27–7.37 (m, 5 H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 25.98, 26.26, (q, 2 x CH₃), 71.73 (t, OCH₂Ph), 76.25, 78.60, 81.27, (d, C-2, C-3, C-4), 103.26 (d, C-1), 112.43 (s, C(CH₃)₂), 118.33 (t, C-6), 127.45, 127.48, 127.95 (d, 5 C, C-Ar), 134.37 (d, 5-C), 137.03 (s, C-Ar); MS (CI / NH₃, pos.) *m*/*z* (%) 304 (2) [M⁺ + NH₄], 296 (62), 160 (5), 108 (7), 91 (100) [PhCH₂+].

Anal. Calcd for C₁₆H₂₀O₄ (276.33): C, 69.57; H, 7.25. Found: C, 69.48; H 7.31.

1,2-O-Isopropylidene-5,6-di-O-methanesulfonyl-3-O-(4-methoxybenzyl)- α -Dallofuranose (3b). A solution of 1,2-O-isopropylidene-3-O-(4-methoxybenzyl)- α -Dallofuranose⁴ (9.53 g, 28.0 mmol) and triethylamine (7.09 g, 70.0 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (300 mL) was treated at 0 °C with methanesulfonyl chloride (7.71 g, 67.1 mmol). After 30 min (TLC control) the solution was successively washed with aqueous solutions of NaHSO₄, NaHCO₃ and brine, dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated to yield the dimesylate **3b** (12.89 g, 93 %) as an oil; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ +62.1 (*c* 0.42, CHCl₃); IR (CH₂Cl₂) 3063 cm⁻¹, 2938, 1613, 1514; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.34, 1.56 (s, 6 H, 2 x CH₃ (acetonide)), 2.99, 3.02 (s, 6 H, 2 x SO₃CH₃), 3.79 (s, 3 H, OCH₃), 3.91 (dd, *J*_{3,4} = 8.9 Hz, *J*_{2,3} = 4.2 Hz, 1 H, 3-H), 4.17 (dd, *J*_{3,4} = 8.9 Hz, *J*_{4,5} = 3.1 Hz, 1 H, 4-H), 4.33–4.37 (m, 2 H, 6-H), 4.58 and 4.67 (AB-signal, *J*_{A,B} = 11.0 Hz, 2 H, OCH₂Ar), 4.57 (t, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1 H, 2-H), 5.04–5.08 (m, 1 H, 5-H), 5.71 (d, *J*_{1,2} = 3.4 Hz, 1 H, 1-H), 6.88 (d, *J*_{ortho} = 8.4 Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.30 (d, *J*_{ortho} = 8.4 Hz, 2 H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 26.47, 26.85 (q, 2 x CH₃ (acetonide)), 37.70, 38.74 (q, 2 x SO₃CH₃), 55.30 (q, OCH₃), 66.71 (t, C-6), 71.88 (t, OCH₂Ar), 76.65, 77.01, 77.49, 77.68 (C-2, C-3, C-4, C-5), 104.21 (d, C-1), 113.64 (s, *C*(CH₃)₂), 113.97 (d, 2 x C-Ar), 128.75 (s, C-Ar), 130.12 (d, 2 x C-Ar), 159.69 (s, C-Ar); MS (EI) *m*/*z* (%) 496 (2) [M⁺], 365 (3), 242 (7), 152 (12), 136 (18), 123 (100), 109 (6), 85 (10), 78 (14).

Anal. Calcd for $C_{19}H_{28}O_{11}S_2$ (496.54): C, 45.97; H, 5.64. Found: C, 45.86; H, 5.78.

5,6–Dideoxy–1,2–*O*–isopropylidene–3–*O*–(4–methoxybenzyl)-α-D-*ribo*-hex-5enofuranose (4b). A solution of dimesylate 3b (11.32 g, 22.82 mmol) and dry NaI (17.38 g, 114 mmol) in dry butanone (200 mL) was reacted as described for 4a to afford the olefin 4b (5.98 g, 86 %) as an oil; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ + 53.8 (*c* 1.43, CHCl₃); IR (film) 2990 cm⁻¹, 2940, 2840, 1615, 1588, 1516, 1464; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.35, 1.61 (s, 6 H, 2 x CH₃), 3.48 (dd, *J*_{3,4} = 8.9 Hz, *J*_{2,3} = 4.2 Hz, 1 H, 3-H), 3.80 (s, 3 H, OCH₃), 4.43–4.48 (m, 1 H, 4-H), 4.51–4.54 (m, 1 H, 2-H), 4.55 and 4.67 (AB-signal, *J*_{A,B} = 11.8 Hz, 2 H, OCH₂Ar), 5.24 (d, *J*_{5,6cis} = 10.4 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{cis})), 5.43 (d, *J*_{5,6trans} = 17.1 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{trans})), 5.73 (d, *J*_{1,2} = 3.6 Hz, 1 H, 1-H), 5.80 (ddd, *J*_{5,6trans} = 17.1 Hz, *J*_{5,6cis} = 10.4 Hz, *J* H, CH=CH₂), 6.88 (d, *J*_{ortho} = 8.5 Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.28 (d, *J*_{ortho} = 8.5 Hz, 2 H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 26.37, 26.63 (q, 2 x CH₃), 5.14 (q, OCH₃), 71.74 (t, OCH₂Ar), 77.51, 78.94, 81.38,(d, C-2, C-3, C-4), 103.65 (d, C-1), 112.72 (s, C(CH₃)₂, 113.73(d, 2 x C-Ar), 118.42 (t, C-6), 129.45 (d, 2 x C-Ar), 129.49 (s, C-Ar), 134.86 (d, C-5), 159.38 (s, C-Ar); MS (CI / NH₃, pos.) *m/z* (%) 324 (24) [M⁺ + NH₄], 282 (18), 266 (62), 236 (14), 224 (30), 138 (21), 121 (100).

Anal. Calcd for C17H22O5 (306.36): C, 66.67; H, 7.19. Found: C, 66.55; H, 7.32.

 α - and β -3-O-Benzyl-5,6-dideoxy-D-*ribo*-hex-5-enofuranose (5a). A solution of acetonide 4a (10.0 g, 36.2 mmol) in THF (250 mL) and 2 N HCl (200 mL) was refluxed for 4 h (TLC control). The mixture was neutralized by addition of 2 N NaOH, the organic

phase was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 x 100 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated to yield an anomeric mixture of the oily enofuranose **5a** (8.1 g, 95 %) which was reduced in the subsequent reaction without further purification; $[\alpha]_{D}^{20}$ +56.4 (*c* 1.54, CHCl₃); IR (CH₂Cl₂) 3555 cm⁻¹, 3067, 3036, 2936, 2876, 1607; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, D₂O) selected data: δ 4.45–4.71 (m, 6 H, 2 x OCH₂Ph, 2 x 4-H), 5.15–5.32 (m, 6 H, 2 x 1-H, 4 x 6-H), 5.74 (ddd, *J*_{5,6trans} = 16.8 Hz, *J*_{5,6cis} = 10.7 Hz, *J*_{4,5} = 6.1 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (α -anomer)), 5.90 (ddd, *J*_{5,6trans} = 17.3 Hz, *J*_{5,6cis} = 10.1 Hz, *J*_{4,5} = 7.1 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (β -anomer)), 7.26–7.40 (m, 10 H, 2 x Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃), α -anomer: selected data: δ 72.88 (t, OCH₂Ph), 74.07 (d, C-2), 80.89, 80.97 (d, C-3, C-4), 96.42 (d, C-1), 117.14 (t, C-6), 135.44 (d, C-5), 136.82 (s, C-Ar); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃), β -anomer: selected data: δ 72.72 (t, OCH₂Ph), 75.45 (d, C-2), 82.15, 82.19 (d, C-3, C-4), 101.74 (d, C-1), 117.57 (t, C-6), 137.59 (d, C-5), 137.20 (s, C-Ar); MS (CI / NH₃, pos.) *m/z* (%) 254 (5) [M⁺ + NH₄], 150 (12), 145 (35), 91 (100) [PhCH₂+].

Anal. Calcd for C13H16O4 (236.27): C, 66.10; H, 6.78. Found: C, 65.94; H, 6.89.

 α - and β -5,6-Dideoxy-3-O-(4-methoxybenzyl)-D-ribo-hex-5-enofuranose (5b). A solution of acetonide 4b (5.01 g, 16.4 mmol) in THF (125 mL) and 2 N HCl (125 mL) was refluxed for 3 h as described for 5a to afford the oily enofuranose 5b (3.96 g, 91 %) as a 1:1 anomeric mixture; $[\alpha]_{D}^{20}$ +39.3 (c 1.62, CHCl₃); IR (CH₂Cl₂) 3600 cm⁻¹, 3555, 3009, 2938, 2915, 2840, 1613, 1514; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, D₂O) selected data: δ 3.79 (s, 3 H, OCH₃, β-anom.) 3.85 (s, 3 H, OCH₃, α-anom.), 4.41 and 4.71 (AB-signal, $J_{A,B} = 11.3 \text{ Hz}, 2 \text{ H}, \text{ OCH}_2\text{Ar}, \beta\text{-anom.}), 5.26 \text{ (d}, J = 10.2 \text{ Hz}, 1 \text{ H}, \text{ CH}=CH_2 (H_{cis}), \beta\text{-}$ anom.), 5.37 (d, J = 17.1 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂, (H_{trans}), β -anomer), 5.90 (ddd, J = 17.2 Hz, J = 10.2 Hz, J = 7.1 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂, β -anom.), 5.72-5.80 (m, 1 H, CH=CH₂, α anom.); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) (α-anomer) δ 55.72 (q, OCH₃), 70.45 (d, C-2), 73.22 (t, OCH₂Ar), 81.24, 81.30, (d, C-3, C-4), 97.08 (d, C-1), 114.51 (d, 2 x C-Ar, 117.76 (t, C-6), 129.21 (s, C-Ar), 130.13 (d, 2 x C-Ar), 135.87 (d, C-5), 138.12, 160.16 (s, 2 x C-Ar); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) (β-anomer) δ 55.09 (d, OCH₃), 68.84 (t, OCH₂Ar), 75.11 (d, C-2), 75.71 (d, C-3), 84.51 (d, C-4), 105.59 (d, C-1), 113.65 (d, 2 x C-Ar), 117.17 (t, C-6), 129.21 (s, C-Ar), 129.57 (d, 2 x C-Ar), 135.11 (s, C-Ar), 137.19 (d, C-5), 159.11 (s, C-Ar); MS (CI / NH₃, pos.) m/z (%) 284 (8) [M⁺ + NH₄], 256 (100), 224 (8), 164 (38), 146 (97), 121 (44).

Anal. Calcd for C14H18O5 (266.29): C, 63.16; H, 6.77. Found: C, 63.31; H, 6.62.

(2S,3R,4R)-3-O-Benzyl-5-hexen-1,2,4-triol (6a). A solution of the furanose 5a (15.02 g, 63.3 mmol) in dry THF (350 mL) was treated portionwise with lithium alanate (6.30 g, 166.7 mmol). The suspension was refluxed for 3 h (TLC control) and then hydrolyzed carefully by dropwise addition of ice-water. The organic phase was separated, the aqueous phase acidified by addition of 3 N HCl and extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 150 mL). The combined organic phases were successively washed with aqueous NaHCO3, water and brine. The solution was dried (MgSO4), filtered and concentrated to yield the triol 6a after column chromatography on silica gel (CH2Cl2/3 % methanol) (12.02 g, 85 %) which solidified: mp 68 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ +17.2 (c 0.26, CHCl₃); IR (CH₂Cl₂) 3535 cm⁻¹, 3065, 2886, 1605, 1455; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, D₂O) δ 3.45 (t, J = 6.0 11.6 Hz, $J_{1b,2} = 3.4$ Hz, 1 H, 1b-H), 3.81–3.86 (m, 1 H, 2-H), 4.34 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 1 H, 4-H), 4.58 and 4.65 (AB-signal, $J_{A,B}$ = 10.8 Hz, 2 H, OCH₂Ph), 5.21 (dt, $J_{5,6cis}$ = 11.1 Hz, J = 1.2 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{cis})), 5.34 (dt, $J_{5,6trans} = 17.0$ Hz, J = 1.3 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{trans})), 5.99 (ddd, J_{5,6trans} = 17.0 Hz, J_{5,6cis} = 10.8 Hz, J_{4,5} = 6.3 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂), 7.24-7.34 (m, 5 H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 63.31 (t, C-1), 72.61, 73.50, 82.00 (d, C-2, C-3, C-4), 73.75 (t, OCH2Ph), 116,61 (t, C-6), 127.86, 127.92, 128.36 (d, 5 x C-Ar), 137.27 (d, C-5), 137.75 (s, C-Ar); MS (EI) m/z (%) 238 (1) [M+], 220 (5), 181 (12), 108 (67), 91 (100), 85 (10).

Anal. Calcd for C13H18O4 (238.28): C, 65.55; H, 7.56. Found: C, 65.48; H, 7.69.

(2*S*,3*R*,4*R*)-3-*O*-(4-Methoxybenzyl)-5-hexen-1,2,4-triol (6b). A solution of furanose **5b** (3.23 g, 12.1 mmol) in dry THF (80 mL) was reduced with lithium alanate (3.20 g, 84.7 mmol) as described for **5a** to afford the triol **6b** (2.17 g, 67 %) as an oil; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ +25.4 (*c* 0.74, CHCl₃); IR (CH₂Cl₂) 3550 cm⁻¹, 3023, 2950, 2882, 1613, 1509, 1455; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.49 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1 H, 3-H), 3.54–3.76 (m, 6 H, 3 x OH, 1-H, 2-H), 3.78 (s, 3 H, OCH₃), 4.35 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 4-H), 4.51 and 4.59 (AB-signal, *J*_{A,B} = 10.9 Hz, 2 H, OCH₂Ar), 5.22–5.26 (m, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{cis}, *J* = 10.6 Hz)), 5.33–5.40 (m, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{trans}, *J* = 16.9 Hz)), 6.00 (ddd, *J*_{5,6trans} = 16.9 Hz, *J*_{5,6cis} = 10.6 Hz, *J*_{4,5} = 6.1 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂), 6.87 (d, *J*_{ortho} = 8.5 Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.24 (d, *J*_{ortho} = 8.5 Hz, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 55.08 (q, OCH₃), 63.19 (t, CH₂OH), 72.41, 73.40 (d, C-2, C-3), 73.32 (t, OCH₂Ar), 81.36 (d, C-4), 113.73 (d, 2 x C-Ar), 116.49 (t, C-6), 129.47 (d, 2 x C-Ar), 129.66 (s, C-Ar), 137.15 (d, C-5), 159.22 (s, C-Ar); MS (FAB, NBA) *m/z* (%) 267 (2) [M⁺ –H], 241 (4), 121 (100) [MPM⁺].

Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₂₀O₅ (268.31): C, 62.69; H, 7.46. Found: C, 62.61; H, 7.39.

(2R,4S,5R,6R)-5-Benzyloxy-4-hydroxymethyl-2-phenyl-6-vinyl-[1,3]dioxane (7a). A solution of triol 6a [(11.03 g, (46.2 mmol) in dry CHCl₃ (300 mL) was treated with benzaldehyde (19.61 g, 184.8 mmol) and trifluoroacetic acid (1.5 mL)]. The solution was refluxed for 7 h (TLC control) and the water formed during the reaction was trapped by 3 Å molecular sieves placed in a dropping funnel which was used as a reflux column. The solution was then washed with aqueous NaHCO3, (2 x 100 mL), the organic phase was separated and the aqueous phase extracted with CH2Cl2 (2 x 50 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated to yield the benzylidene acetal 7a (12.00 g, 80 %) which solidified as white crystals: mp 91.5 °C; $[\alpha]_{D}^{20}$ +24.38 (c 1.3, CHCl₃); IR (CH₂Cl₂) 3374 cm⁻¹, 3064, 2945, 2867, 1498, 1453; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.13 (m, 1 H, OH), 3.47 (t, J = 9.2 Hz, 1 H, 5-H), 3.75-3.80 (m, 2 H, CH_2OH), 3.91–3.94 (m, 1 H, 4-H), 4.19 (dd, J = 9.2 Hz, J = 6.5 Hz, 1 H, 6-H), 4.57 and 4.69 (AB-signal, $J_{A,B}$ = 10.8 Hz, 2 H, OCH₂Ph), 5.33 (dt, J = 10.6 Hz, J = 1.2 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{cis})), 5.55 (dt, J = 17.2 Hz, J = 1.2 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{trans})), 5.64 (s, 1 H, 2-H), 6.07 (ddd, J = 17.2 Hz, J = 10.4 Hz, J = 6.5 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂), 7.34-7.41 (m, 8 H, Ar-H), 7.54-7.57 (m, 2 H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) & 61.98 (t, CH2OH), 73.49, 80.49, 81.35 (d, C-4, C-5, C-6), 74.71 (t, OCH2Ph), 100.38 (d C-2), 118.65 (t, CH=CH2), 126.27, 128.09, 128.14, 128.27, 128.52, 129.07 (d, 10 x C-Ar), 135.06 (d, CH=CH2), 137.48, 137.50 (s, 2 x C-Ar); MS (EI) m/z (%) 326 (1) [M+], 269 (3), 179 (20), 164 (40), 91 (100) [PhCH₂+].

Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₂₂O₄ (326.39): C, 73.62; H, 6.75. Found: C, 73.64; H, 6.75.

(2*R*,4*R*,5*R*,6*R*)–4–hydroxymethyl–5–(4–methoxybenzyloxy)–2-phenyl-6-vinyl-[1,3]dioxane (7b). A solution of the triol 6b (982 mg, 3.7 mmol) in dry CHCl₃ (30 mL) was converted to the benzylidene acetal as described for 7a to yield 7b (1.304 g, 78 %) as a white solid: mp 122 °C (diethyl ether/petroleum ether); $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ +37.1 (*c* 0.32, CHCl₃); IR (CH₂Cl₂) 3600 cm⁻¹, 3065, 2876, 1613, 1514; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.10 (bs, 1 H, OH), 3.44–3.50 (m, 1 H, 5-H), 3.75–3.80 (m, 2 H, CH₂OH), 3.82 (s, 3 H, OCH₃), 3.92–3.96 (m, 1 H, 4-H), 4.18–4.23 (m, 1 H, 6-H), 4.53 and 4.64 (A,B-signal, *J*_{A,B} = 10.5 Hz, 2 H, OCH₂Ph), 5.38 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{cis})), 5.57 (d, *J* = 17.1 Hz,1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{trans})), 5.65 (s, 1 H, 2-H), 6.09 (ddd, *J* = 17.1 Hz, *J* = 10.5 Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.37–7.40 (m, 3 H, Ar-H), 7.52–7.55 (m, 2 H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 55.12 (q, OCH₃), 61.81 (t, CH₂OH), 72.99, 80.34, 81.23 (d, C-4, C-5, C-6), 74.19 (t, OCH₂Ph), 100.20 (d, C-2), 113.74 (d, 2 x C-Ar), 118.46 (t, CH=CH₂), 126.12, 128.11, 128.90, 129.72 (d, 7 x C-Ar), 129.48, 137.33, 159.35 (s, 3 x C-Ar), 134.95 (d, CH=CH₂); MS (CI / NH₃, pos.) m/z (%) 374 (1) [M⁺ + NH₄], 357 (5) [M⁺ + H], 179 (18), 137 (42), 121 (100) [MPM⁺].

Anal. Calcd for C₂₁H₂₄O₅ (356.42): C, 70.79; H, 6.74. Found: C. 70.48; H, 6.72.

(2R,4R,5R,6R)-5-Benzyloxy-4-formyl-2-phenyl-6-vinyl-[1,3]dioxane (8a). A solution of freshly prepared pyridinium dichromate (PDC) (418 mg, 1.11 mmol) and acetic acid anhydride (484 mg, 4.74 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) was treated with a solution of the alcohol 7a (514 mg, 1.58 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL). The mixture was refluxed for 2 h, the chromium salts were precipated by addition of ethyl acetate and the filtered solution was passed through a column of silica gel and eluted with ethyl acetate. The colorless filtrate was evaporated at reduced pressure and traces of acetic acid and pyridine were removed by repeated (3 x) azeotropic distillation with toluene to afford an oil of 8a (476 mg 93 %).

(2R,4S,5R,6R)-4-formyl-5-(4-methoxybenzyloxy)-2-phenyl-6-vinyl-[1,3]dioxane (8b). Alcohol 7b (634 mg, 1.78 mmol) was oxidized with PDC (467 mg, 1.24 mmol) as described for 8a to afford the aldehyde 8b (573 mg, 91 %) as an oil.

(1*R*)- and (1*S*,2*R*,4*R*,5*R*,6*R*)-5-Benzyloxy-4-[1-hydroxyethyl]-2-phenyl-6-vinyl-[1,3]dioxane (9a). A solution of methylmagnesium iodide [prepared from magnesium turnings (92 mg, 3.78 mmol) and methyl iodide (534 mg, 3.76 mmol) in dry diethyl ether (20 mL)] was treated with a solution of the aldehyde **8a** (300 mg, 0.923 mmol) in diethyl ether (20 mL). The solution was stirred for 12 h at 20 °C and was then hydrolyzed by addition of a saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl (10 mL). The organic phase was separated and the aqueous phase extracted with diethyl ether (2 x 20 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with water, dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated to yield the alcohol **9a** (294 mg, 94 %, 1 : 1 mixture of diastereoisomers) which was oxidized to the ketone without further purification.

(1*S*)- and (1*R*,2*R*,4*S*,5*R*,6*R*)-4-[1-hydroxyethyl]-5-(4-methoxybenzyloxy)-2phenyl-6-vinyl-[1,3]dioxane (9b). Aldehyde 8b (111 mg, 0.31 mmol) was reacted with methylmagnesium iodide [from Mg (135 mg, 5.55 mmol) and methyl iodide (112 mg, 5.51 mmol)] as described for 9a to afford 9b as an oily 1 : 1 mixture of diastereoisomers (491 mg, 72 %).

(2R,4R,5R,6R)-4-Acetyl-5-benzyloxy-2-phenyl-6-vinyl-[1,3]dioxane (10a). The secondary alcohol 9a (326 mg, 0.96 mmol) was oxidized with PDC/Ac₂O (248 mg, 0.66

mmol)/(294 mg, 2.88 mmol) as described for **8a** to afford the oily ketone **10a** (308 mg, 95 %); $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ +46.8 (*c* 1.1, CHCl₃); IR (CH₂Cl₂) 3065 cm⁻¹, 2872, 1730 (C=O), 1455, 1395; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.29 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 3.56 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1 H, 5-H), 4.22 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1 H, 4-H), 4.22–4.28 (m, 1 H, 6-H), 4.61 and 4.67 (AB-signal, *J*_{A,B} = 10.4 Hz, 2 H, OCH₂Ph), 5.40 (dt, *J* = 10.6 Hz, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1 H, CHC=CH₂ (H_{cis})), 5.59 (dt, *J* = 17.2 Hz, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{trans})), 5.68 (s, 1 H, 8-H), 6.09 (ddd, *J* = 17.2 Hz, *J* = 10.6 Hz, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂), 7.30–7.57 (m, 10 H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 27.15 (q, CH₃), 73.56 (d, C-6), 74.25 (t, OCH₂Ph), 81.28, 83.66 (d, C-4, C-5), 100.30 (d, C-2), 119.09 (t, CH=CH₂), 126.18, 128.23, 128.45, 128.55, 129.17 (d, 10 x C-Ar), 134.50 (d, CH=CH₂), 136.98, 137.27 (s, 2 x C-Ar), 204.42, (s, C-7); MS (CI / NH₃, pos.) *m/z* (%) 356 (24) [M⁺ + NH₄], 256 (22), 250 (43), 233 (100), 177 (8), 121 (10), 91 (8).

Anal. Calcd for C21H22O4 (338.40): C, 74.56; H, 6.51. Found: C, 74.07; H, 6.48.

(2R,4R,5R,6R)-4-Acetyl-5-(4-methoxybenzyloxy)-2-phenyl-6-vinyl-[1,3]dioxane (10b). The mixture of epimeric alcohols 9b (364 mg, 0.98 mmol) was oxidized with PDC (256 mg, 0.68 mmol) and acetic acid anhydride (300 mg, 2.95 mmol) as described for 8a to yield the ketone 10b (302 mg, 86 %) which solidified as a white solid: mp 104 °C; $[\alpha]_{D}^{20}$ +39.1 (c 0.38, CHCl₃); IR (CH₂Cl₂) 3056 cm⁻¹, 2954, 2863, 1745 (C=O), 1641, 1453; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.28 (s, 3 H, 2'-H), 3.56 (t, J = 9.2 Hz, 1 H, 5-H), 3.81 (s, 3 H, OCH₃), 4.20 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 4-H), 4.18–4.25 (m, 1 H, 6-H), 4.53 and 4.59 (A,B-signal, J_{A,B} = 10.1 Hz, 2 H, OCH₂Ar), 5.38-5.42 (m, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{cis}, J = 10.5 Hz)), 5.54–5.61 (m, 1 H, CH= CH_2 (H_{trans}, J = 17.2 Hz)), 5.66 (s, 1 H, 2-H), 6.08 (ddd, J= 17.2 Hz, J = 10.5 Hz, J = 6.5 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂), 6.89 (d, J_{ortho} = 8.7 Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.25 (d, J_{ortho} = 8.7 Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.38 – 7.55 (m, 5 H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) & 26.97 (q, C-2'), 55.11 (q, OCH₃), 73.15, 73.74, 81.16 (d, C-4, C-5, C-6), 83.60 (t, OCH₂Ar), 100.13 (d, C-2), 113.67 (d, 2 x C-Ar), 118.83 (t, CH=CH₂), 126.06, 128.11, 128.98, 130.03 (d, 7 x C-Ar), 134.47 (d, CH=CH2), 136.88 (s, 2 x C-Ar), 159.35 (s, C-Ar), 204.29 (s, C-1'); MS (CI /NH3, pos.) m/z (%) 386 (13) [M⁺ + NH₄], 266 (100), 233 (21), 121 (16), 85 (8).

Anal. Calcd for C₂₂H₂₄O₅ (368.43): C, 71.74; H, 6.52. Found: C, 71.65; H, 6.63.

(2R,4R,5R,6R)-4-Acetyl-5-hydroxy-2-phenyl-6-vinyl-[1,3]dioxane (10c). A suspension of the MPM ether 10b (180 mg, 0.5 mmol), dichlorodicyano benzoquinone (DDQ) (159 mg, 0.7 mmol), CH₂Cl₂ (8.0 mL) and water (0.4 mL) was stirred vigorously

at 20 °C for 24 h (TLC control). The mixture was filtered over celite and the red filtrate was washed with aqueous NaHCO₃. The organic phase was separated and the aqueous phase extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 x 10 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated to yield after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (CH₂Cl₂) the alcohol **10c** (109 mg, 90 %) as white needles: mp 90 °C (CH₂Cl₂/petroleum ether); $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ +47.2 (*c* 0.12, CHCl₃); IR (CH₂Cl₂) 3065 cm⁻¹, 2847, 1789, 1604, 1391; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.36 (s, 3 H, 2'-H), 3.42 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1 H, OH), 3.63 (dt, *J* = 9.1 Hz, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1 H, 5-H), 4.04 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 4-H), 4.11–4.15 (m, 1 H, 6-H), 5.33–5.36 (m, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{cis}, *J* = 10.7 Hz)), 5.49–5.54 (m, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{trans}, *J* = 17.2 Hz)), 5.70 (s, 1 H, 2-H), 6.05 (ddd, *J* = 17.2 Hz, *J* = 10.7 Hz, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂), 7.38–7.55 (m, 5 H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 26.70 (q, C-2'), 67.49 (d, C-5), 80.62 (d, C-6), 83.22 (d,C-4), 100.53 (d, C-2), 118.22 (t, CH=CH₂), 126.14, 128.27, 129.16 (d, 5 x C-Ar), 133.96 (d, CH=CH₂), 137.01 (s, C-Ar), 210.70 (s, C-1'); MS (CI / NH₃, pos.) *m/z* (%) 266 (28) [M⁺ + NH₄], 160 (16), 143 (100) [M⁺ – PhCO].

Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₆O₄ (248.28): C, 67.74; H, 6.45. Found: C, 67.59; H, 6.32.

(2R,4R,5R,6R)-4-Acetyl-2-phenyl-5-trimethylsilanyloxy-6-vinyl-[1,3]dioxane (10d). A solution of the alcohol 10c (98 mg, 0.4 mmol) in dry THF (1.5 mL) was treated successively with pyridine (55 mg, 0.7 mmol) and trimethylsilyl chloride (106 mg, 0.99 mmol) and the suspension was stirred for 24 h at 20 °C. The mixture was then diluted with diethyl ether (5 mL) and hydrolyzed by addition of 1 N HCl (1 mL). The organic phase was separated and the aqueous phase extracted with diethyl ether (2 x 3 mL). The combined organic phases dried (MgSO₄), filtered, concentrated at reduced pressure and purified by filtration through a short column of silica gel to yield the silyl ether 10c (106 mg, 84 %) as an oil. $[\alpha]_{D}^{20}$ + 56.2 (c 0.17, CHCl₃); IR (film) 2963 cm⁻¹, 2843, 1726, 1496; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.10 (s, 9 H, Si(CH₃)₂), 2.32 (s, 3 H, 2'-H), 3.67 (t, J = 8.9 Hz, 1 H, 5-H), 4.07–4.12 (m, 2 H, 4-H, 6-H), 5.35 (d, J = 10.6 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{cis})), 5.49 (d, J = 17.1 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{trans})), 5.67 (s, 1 H, 2-H), 5.95 (ddd, J =17.1 Hz, J = 10.6 Hz, J = 6.6 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂), 7.37-7.41 (m, 3 H, Ar-H), 7.51-7.55 (m, 2 H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) & 0.46 (q, Si(CH₃)₃), 26.96 (q, C-2'), 67.78 (d, C-5), 82.43, 85.34 (d, C-4, C-6), 100.10 (d, C-2), 119.03 (t, CH=CH₂), 126.05, 128.08, 128.94 (d, 5 x C-Ar), 134.23 (d, CH=CH₂), 136.94 (s, C-Ar), 204.10 (s, C-1'); MS (CI / NH₃, neg.) m/z (%) 319 (3) [M⁺ – H], 283 (2), 190 (14), 121 (12), 85 (100).

Anal. Calcd for $C_{17}H_{24}O_4Si$ (320.46): C, 63.75; H, 7.50. Found: C, 63.94; H, 7.64.

(2R,4R,5R,6R)-4-Acetyl-2-phenyl-5-*tert*-butyldimethylsilanyloxy-6-vinyl-[1,3]dioxane (10e). A solution of alcohol 10c (64 mg, 0.26 mmol), imidazole (112 mg, 1.64 mmol) and *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl chloride (170 mg, 1.13 mmol) in dry DMF (1 mL) was stirred for 4 days at 70 °C (TLC control). The reaction mixture was hydrolyzed by addition of water (1 mL) and extracted twice with diethyl ether (2 x 10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried (MgSO₄), filtered, concentrated and purified by filtration through a short column of silica gel to yield the oily silyl ether 10e (69 mg, 75 %); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.01 (s, 3 H, SiCH₃), 0.09 (s, 3 H, SiCH₃), 0.91 (s, 9 H, C(CH₃)₃), 2.34 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 3.74 (m, 1 H, 5-H), 4.12 (m, 2 H, 4-H, 6-H), 5.37 (d, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1 H, CH=*CH*₂ (H_{cis})), 5.52 (d, *J* = 17.2 Hz, 1 H, CH=*CH*₂ (H_{trans})), 5.69 (s, 1 H, 2-H), 6.02 (ddd, *J* = 17.2 Hz, *J* = 10.4 Hz, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂), 7.40–7.55 (m, 5 H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -4.37 (q, SiCH₃), - 3.66 (q, SiCH₃), 17.83 (s, *C*(CH₃)₃), 25.63 (q, 3 x CH₃), 26.99 (q, COCH₃), 67.52 (d, *C*-5), 82.57, 85.89 (d, C-4, C-6), 100.03 (d, C-2), 119.19 (t, CH=CH₂), 126.07, 128.06, 128.92 (d, Ar-C), 134.51 (d, CH=CH₂), 137.00 (s, Ar-C), 203 69 (s, CO).

Reaction of metallated 2,5-dimethylbenzene with the methyl ketone 10a.

Method 1: A solution of 2-bromo-1,4-dimethoxybenzene (650 mg, 3.0 mmol) in dry THF (10 mL) was treated at -80 °C with a solution of *n*-BuLi (2 mL, 1.5 M in *n*-hexane, 1 equiv). The solution was stirred for 15 min at -50 °C and was then treated with a solution of ketone 10a (501 mg, 1.5 mmol) in dry THF (5 mL). Stirring was continued for 30 min at the temperatures indicated in Table 1. The reaction was then quenched with aqueous solution of NH₄Cl (15 mL), the phases were separated and the aqueous phase extracted with diethyl ether (2 x 15 mL). The combined organic phases were dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated at reduced pressure. The residue was separated by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleumether/15 % ethyl acetate) to yield the isomers 12a and 13a as indicated in Table 1. The reaction was also performed in diethyl ether (entry 4), by addition of tetramethylenediamine (TMEDA) (348 mg, 3.0 mmol, entry 5) or hexamethylphosphoric acid triamide (HMPT) (538 mg, 3.0 mmol, entry 6) or in 2,5-dimethoxytetrahydrofuran at -25 °C (entry 7).

Method 2: A solution of 2-bromo-1,4-dimethoxybenzene (650 mg, 3.0 mmol) in dry THF (15 mL) was lithiated at -60 °C with *n*-BuLi (2 mL, 1.5 M in *n*-hexane, 1 equiv).

The solution was added dropwise at -90 °C to a suspension of CeCl₃ (1.481 g, 6.0 mmol) in dry THF (20 mL) and the mixture was stirred for 1 h at -78 °C. A solution of ketone **10a** (499 mg, 1.5 mmol) in dry THF (5 mL) was then added and the mixture was stirred for 2 h at -78 °C to yield the ratio of **12a/13a** indicated in Table 1 (entry 8).

Method 3: A suspension of lithium (112 mg, 16 mmol), magnesium chloride (785 mg, 8 mmol) and naphthalene (218 mg, 17 mmol) in dry THF (10 mL) was stirred vigorously for 36 h at 20 °C. The black suspension of highly active magnesium was then treated with a solution of 2-bromo-1,4-dimethoxybenzene (650 mg, 3.0 mmol) in dry THF (5 mL) and the mixture was refluxed for 2 h. The Grignard reagent was then treated with a solution of ketone **10a** at the temperatures indicated in Table 1 (entries 9 and 10). The reaction was also performed in diethyl ether (entry 11).

Method 4: Chlorotriisopropoxy titanium was prepared by mixing a solution of $Ti(O-i-Pr)_4$ (21.31 g, 0.075 mol) in dry *n*-hexane (25 mL) at 0 °C with $TiCl_4$ (4.75 g, 0.025 mol). The solvent was removed and the residue was distilled at reduced pressure (0.1 mbar) to yield a colorless liquid (23.6 g, 90%), bp: 53 °C. A solution of 2-bromo-1,4-dimethoxybenzene (416 mg, 1.9 mmol) in dry THF (5 mL) was lithiated at -90 °C with *n*-BuLi (1.2 mL, 1.6 M in *n*-hexane, 1.9 mmol, 1 equiv). After 10 min $ClTi(O-i-Pr)_3$ (0.95 mL, 2 M in *n*-hexane, 1 equiv) was added and the yellow suspension was allowed to warm to 0 °C and react with ketone **10a** (498 mg, 1.5 mmol) in dry THF (5 mL) (entry 12, Table 1).

Data for (2R,4R,5R,6R)-5-Benzyloxy-4-[(1R)-1-hydroxy-1-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-ethyl]-2-phenyl-6-vinyl-[1,3]dioxane (12a). $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ +9.1 (*c* 1.61, CHCl₃); IR (CH₂Cl₂) 3553 cm⁻¹, 3063, 2938, 2838, 1495, 1466, 1455; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.79 (s, 3 H, 2'-H), 3.74 (t, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1 H, 5-H), 3.78 (s, 6 H, 2 x OCH₃), 3.85 (s, 1 H, OH), 4.30 (dd, *J* = 9.0 Hz, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1 H, 6-H), 4.53 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1 H, 4-H), 4.67 and 4.76 (AB-signal, *J*_{A,B} = 10.4 Hz, 2 H, OCH₂Ph), 5.39–5.43 (m, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{cis}, *J* = 10.4 Hz)), 5.57 (s, 1 H, 2-H), 5.56–5.64 (m, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{trans}, *J* = 17.3 Hz)), 6.16 (ddd, *J* = 17.3 Hz, *J* = 10.4 Hz, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂)), 6.77 (dd, *J_{ortho}* = 8.8 Hz, *J_{meta}* = 3.0 Hz, 1 H, 4"-H), 6.83 (d, *J_{ortho}* = 8.8 Hz, 1 H, 3"-H), 7.14 (d, *J_{meta}* = 3.0 Hz, 1 H, 6"-H), 7.27–7.39 (m, 10 H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.60 (q, C-2'), 55.53, 55.89 (q, 2 x OCH₃), 72.83 (t, OCH₂Ph), 74.35 (d, C-5), 76.65 (s, C-1'), 81.80 (d, C-6), 83.14 (d, C-4), 99.11 (d, C-2), 111.89 (d, C-4"), 112.18 (d, C-3"), 113.22 (d, C-6"), 119.03 (t, CH=CH₂), 125.67, 127.49, 127.52, 127.80, 128.21, 128.30 (d, 10 x C-Ar), 135.49 (d, $CH=CH_2$), 135.78 (s, C-1"), 137.57, 137.60 (s, 2 x C-Ar), 150.61, 153.46 (s, C-2", C-5"); MS (CI / NH₃, pos.) m/z (%) 494 (8) [M⁺ + NH₄], 477 (62) [M⁺ + H], 373 (100), 250 (10), 227 (90), 181 (10), 138 (8), 121 (28).

for (2R,4R,5R,6R)-5-Benzyloxy-4-[(1S)-1-hydroxy-1-(2,5-dimethoxy-Data phenyl)-ethyl]-2-phenyl-6-vinyl-[1,3]dioxane (13a). mp 122 °C (diethyl ether); $\left[\alpha\right]_{D}^{20}$ +27.8 (c 1.59, CHCl₃); IR (CH₂Cl₂) 3553 cm⁻¹, 3034, 2940, 2909, 2869, 2838, 1607, 1588, 1493; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) & 1.72 (s, 3 H, 2'-H), 3.17 (s, 1 H, OH), 3.51 (t, J = 9.1 Hz, 5-H), 3.68 and 4.24 (AB-signal, $J_{A,B} = 10.4$ Hz, 2 H, OCH₂Ph), 3.74, 3.77 (s, 6 H, 2 x OCH₃), 4.18–4.23 (m, 1 H, 6-H), 4.65 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 4-H), 5.30 (dt, J = 10.4 Hz, J = 0.8 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{cis})), 5.51 (dt, J = 17.2 Hz, J = 1.2 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{trans}) , 5.74 (s, 1 H, 2-H), 6.04 (ddd, J = 17.2 Hz, J = 10.4 Hz, J = 6.6 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂), 6.64 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 6.87-6.90 (m, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.20-7.21 (m, 3 H, Ar-H), 7.38–7.41 (m, 4 H, Ar-H), 7.53–7.57 (m, 2 H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) & 25.72 (q, C-2'), 55.55, 55.67 (q, 2 x OCH₃), 72.41 (t, OCH₂Ph), 73.33 (d, C-5), 74.25 (s, C-1'), 81.64 (d, C-6), 81.93 (d, C-4), 99.18 (d, C-2), 111.77, 111.88 (d, C-4", C-3"), 112.97 (d, C-6"), 118.57 (t, CH=CH₂), 125.92, 126.93, 127.20, 127.58, 128.00, 128.60 (d, 10 x C-Ar), 133.63 (s, C-1"), 135.22 (d, CH=CH₂), 137.78, 137.98 (s, 2 x C-Ar), 150.62, 153.20 (s, C-2", C-5"); MS (EI) m/z (%) 476 (2.5) [M⁺], 181 (100) [M⁺ -C₁₀H₁₃O₃], 91 (39) [PhCH₂⁺].

Anal. Calcd for $C_{29}H_{32}O_6$ (476.57): C, 73.11; H, 6.72. Found for **12a**: C, 73.05; H, 6.76. Found for **13a**: C, 72.96; H, 6.75.

Crystal Structure Determination of 13a:²⁵ C₂₉H₃₂O₆, M_r = 476.6, monoclinic, space group P 2₁, a = 9.335(5), b = 16.095(8), c = 9.572(4) Å, β = 115.35(2)°, V = 1299(1) Å³, Z = 2, D_r = 1.218 g/cm³, F(000) = 508, T = 296(1) K. Siemens R3m diffractometer, graphite monochromator, λ (MoK α) = 0.71073 Å, μ = 0.08 mm⁻¹, colorless crystal, size 0.35 x 0.51 x 0.56 mm, ω -2 Θ scan, 5064 intensities collected 4 < 2 θ < 50°, -11 < h < 11, -19 < k < 19, -11 < 1 < 11, 3 standards every 400 reflections showed only random deviations, Lp correction, 4593 unique intensities (R_{int} = 0.018), 3800 with F > 4 σ (F). Structure solved by direct methods,²⁶ full-matrix least-squares refinement based on F² and 320 parameters,²⁷ all but H atoms refined anisotropically, H atoms refined with riding model on idealized positions, refinement converged at R1(F) = 0.036, wR2(F², all data) = 0.089, S = 1.048, max(Δ/σ) < 0.001, min/max height in final Δ F map -0.15/0.18 e/Å³. Figure 1 shows the molecular structure.

Reaction of metallated 2,5-dimethylbenzene with the methyl ketone 10c. (2R,4R,5R,6R)-6-Ethenyl-5-hydroxy-4-[(1S)-hydroxy-1-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl]-2-phenyl-[1,3]dioxane (13c). A solution of 2-bromo-1,4-dimethoxybenzene (325 mg, 1.50 mmol) in dry THF (5 mL) was lithiated as described above with *n*-BuLi (1 mL, 1.5 M in *n*-hexane, 1 equiv). The suspension was then treated with a solution of ketone 10c (87 mg, 0.35 mmol) in dry THF (2 mL) and the mixture was stirred at -20 °C for 30 min. Workup was performed as described above for 12a to yield the oily alcohol 13c (109 mg, 81 %); $[\alpha]_{D}^{20}$ +35.1 (c 0.11, CHCl₃); IR (film) 3454 cm⁻¹, 3071, 2937, 2837, 1495, 1454; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.77 (s, 3 H, 2'-H), 3.65 (s, 1 H, OH), 3.77 (s, 3 H, OCH₃), 3.81 (t, J = 9.1 Hz, 1 H, 4-H), 3.92 (s, 3 H, OCH₃), 4.15 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1 H, 5-H), 4.14–4.17 (m, 1 H, 4-H), 5.12 (s, 1 H), 5.35 (d, J = 10.6 Hz (J_{cis}), 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{cis}) , 5.53 (d, J = 17.3 Hz (J_{trans}), 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{trans})), 5.62 (s, 1 H, H-2), 6.12 $(ddd, J = 16.9 \text{ Hz}, J = 10.6 \text{ Hz}, J = 5.7 \text{ Hz}, 1 \text{ H}, CH=CH_2), 6.82 (dd, J_{ortho} = 8.9 \text{ Hz})$ J_{meta} = 2.9 Hz, 1 H, 4'-H), 6.89 (d, J_{ortho} = 8.9 Hz, 1 H, 3'-H), 7.08 (d, J_{meta} = 2.9 Hz, 1 H, 6'-H), 7.32–7.43 (m, 5 H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 22.54 (q, CH₃), 55.54, 55.86 (q, 2 x OCH₃), 67.42 (d, C-5), 77.13 (s), 80.79, 81.83 (d, C-4, C-6), 99.47 (d, C-2), 112.03, 112.94, 114.46, (d, 3 x C-Ar), 117.50 (t, CH=CH₂), 125.76, 127.86 128.45 (d, 5 x C-Ar), 132.67, 137.61, 150.32, 153.58 (s, 4 x C-Ar), 134.73 (d, CHCH₂); MS (CI / NH₃, pos.) m/z (%) 387 (2) [M⁺ + H], 386 (6) [M⁺], 369 (5), 281 (40), 263 (28), 181 (80), 143 (100).

Anal. Calcd for C₂₂H₂₆O₆ (386.44): C, 68.39; H, 6.74. Found: C, 68.28; H, 6.79.

Reaction of the Silyl Ether 10d with 2-Lithio-1,4-dimethoxybenzene (11w). A solution of 2-bromo-1,4-dimethoxybenzene (67 mg, 0.31 mmol) in dry THF (2 mL) was lithiated in the usual manner by reaction at -50 °C with *n*-BuLi (0.2 mL, 1.5 M in *n*-hexane, 1 equiv) and reacted with silyl ether (82 mg, 0.26 mmol) in dry THF (1 mL) for 30 min at -10 °C. Workup was performed as described for **12a** and the crude product mixture in THF (2 mL) was then treated with a 1 M solution of tetrabutylammonium fluoride in THF (0.4 mL, 0.4 mmol). After stirring for 1 h at 20 °C the solvent was removed at reduced pressure and the residue separated by preparative TLC to afford the (*R*)-alcohol **12c** (55 mg, 68 %) from the less polar and (*S*)-alcohol **13c** (19mg, 23 %) from the polar fraction (entry 14, Table 1).

Reaction of the Silyl Ether 10e with 2-Lithio-1,4-dimethoxybenzene (11w). A solution of 11w [prepared from 2-bromo-1,4-dimethoxybenzene (0.08 ml, 0.54 mmol)

and *n*-BuLi (0.34 ml, 1.5 M in *n*-hexane, 0.54 mmol)] was reacted with the ketone **10e** as described above for the reaction of **10d** with **11w**. The isomeric mixture was then treated with tetrabutylammonium fluoride (63 mg, 0.2 mmol) in THF (0.2 ml) to afford a mixture of **12c** and **13c** (52 mg, 2 steps 49 %) in a ratio of 1 : 1.3 by GC (entry 15, Table 1).

1'-(R)- and 1'-(S)-(2R,4R,5R,6R)-5-Benzyloxy-4-[(R)-hydroxy-2,5-dimethoxyphenylmethyl]-2-phenyl-6-vinyl-[1,3]dioxane (14a). A suspension of Li (224 mg, 33 mmol), MgCl₂ (1.570 g, 17 mmol) and naphthalene (436 mg, 34 mmol) in dry THF (15 mL) was stirred for 48 h at rt. The mixture was then treated successively with a solution of 2-bromo-1,4-dimethoxybenzene (2.602 g, 12 mmol) in dry THF (15 mL) (30 min reflux) and the aldehyde **8a** (1.012 g, 3 mmol) in dry THF (10 mL) (2 h reflux). Workup was performed as described for **9a** to yield the isomeric mixture of **14a** (1.262 g, **88** %) as an oil. The ketone **8a** can also be treated with **11w** (91 % yield of **14a**).

1'-(R)- and 1'-(S)-(2R,4R,5R,6R)-4-[(S)-hydroxy-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-5-(4-methoxybenzyloxy)-2-phenyl-6-vinyl-[1,3]dioxane (14b). The aldehyde 8b was reacted with 11w as described for 9b to yield 14b (1.281 g, 86 %) which was oxidized to the ketone 15b without purification.

(2R,4R,5R,6R)-(5-Benzyloxy-2-phenyl-[1,3]dioxan-4-yl)-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl-6-vinyl)methanone (15a). The oxidation with PDC (177 mg, 0.47 mmol) and acetic anhydride (201 mg, 1.97 mmol) of 14a (315 mg, 0.68 mmol) was performed as described for 10a to yield 15a (269 mg, 86 %) as an oil. Swern oxidation²⁸ of 14a furnished **15a** in 87 % yield; $[\alpha]_{p}^{20}$ +36.7 (c 1.23, CHCl₃); IR (CH₂Cl₂) 2985 cm⁻¹, 2863, 1756 (C=O), 1650, 1546, 1440; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.79, 3.86 (s, 6 H, 2 x OCH₃), 3.81-3.87 (m, 1 H, 6-H), 4.34 (dd, J = 9.2 Hz, J = 6.4 Hz, 1 H, 5-H), 4.65 and 4.79 (AB-signal, $J_{A,B}$ = 10.2 Hz, 2 H, OCH₂Ph), 5.25 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1 H, 4-H), 5.41 (dt, J = 10.5 Hz, J = 1 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{cis})), 5.61 (dt, J = 17.2 Hz, J = 1.1 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{trans})), 5.74 (s, 1 H, 2-H), 6.15 (ddd, J = 17.2 Hz, J = 10.5 Hz, J = 6.4 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂), 6.92 (d, J_{ortho} = 9.0 Hz, 1 H, 3'-H), 7.07 (dd, J_{ortho} = 9.0 Hz, J_{meta} = 3.2 Hz, 1 H, 4'-H), 7.23–7.35 (m, 4 H, Ar-H), 7.46–7.49 (m, 2 H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 55.73, 56.29 (q, 2 x OCH₃), 74.31 (d, C-5), 74.38 (t, OCH₂Ph), 81.41, 82.16 (d, C-4, C-6), 100.82 (d, C-2), 113.35, 114.45, 121.03 (d, C-3', C-4', C-6'), 118.70 (t, C-1), 126.85 (s, C-1'), 126.13, 127.73, 128.09, 128.12, 128.23, 128.84 (d, 10 x C-Ar), 134.96 (d, C-2), 137.31, 137.79,(s, 2 x C-Ar), 153.49, 153.61 (s, C-2', C-5'), 195.99 (s, C=O); MS (EI) *m/z* (%) 460 (1) [M⁺], 336 (5),266 (12), 253 (23), 213 (58), 181 (36), 143 (100), 121 (18), 91 (23).

Anal. Calcd for C₂₈H₂₈O₆ (460.53): C, 73.04; H, 6.09. Found: C, 72.87; H, 6.14.

(2R,4R,5R,6R)-[5-(4-methoxybenzyloxy)-2-phenyl-6-vinyl-[1,3]dioxan-4-y]]-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)methanone (15b). The epimeric mixture of the alcohols 14b (247 mg, 0.50 mmol) was oxidized by PDC (132 mg, 0.35 mmol) and acetic anhydride (154 mg, 1.51 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL) as described for 15a to afford the aryl ketone 15b (214 mg, 87 %) as an oil; $[\alpha]_{p}^{20}$ + 41.7 (c 0.33, CHCl₃); IR (CHCl₃) 3005 cm⁻¹, 2937, 2880, 1684, 1610, 1496; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) & 3.81, 3.82, 3.88 (s, 9 H, 3 x OCH₃), 3.88-3.93 (m, 1 H, 6-H), 4.33 (dd, J = 9.1 Hz, J = 6.9 Hz, 1 H, 5-H), 4.59 and 4.72 (A,B-signal, $J_{A,B}$ = 9.9 Hz, 2 H, OCH₂Ar), 5.23 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1 H, 4-H), 5.42 (d, J = 10.6 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{cis})), 5.68 (d, J = 17.0 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{trans})), 5.75 (s, 1 H, 2-H), 6.16 (ddd, J = 17.0 Hz, J = 10.6 Hz, J = 6.4 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂), 6.85 (d, $J_{ortho} =$ 8.4 Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 6.95 (d, Jortho = 8.6 Hz, 1 H, 4'-H), 7.13 (dd, Jortho = 8.4 Hz, Jmeta = 2.9 Hz, 1 H, 3'-H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.29–7.60 (m, 5 H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR $(50 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3) \delta = 55.69, 56.24, 56.81 \text{ (q, 3 x OCH}_3), 74.51 \text{ (t, OCH}_2\text{Ar}), 74.58 \text{ (d, } 3.23 \text{ (c)})$ C-6), 81.94, 82.71 (d, C-4, C-5), 101.30 (d, C-2), 113.88, 114.14 (d, 3 x C-Ar), 117.19 (t, CH=CH₂), 126.33, 128.60, 129.31, 130.29, 132.76 (d, 9 x C-Ar), 127.46, 130.29 (s, 2 x C-Ar), 135.54 (d, CH=CH₂), 137.86, 153.96, 154.10, 159.75 (s, 4 x C-Ar), 196.53 (s, C=O); MS (CI / NH₃, pos.) m/z (%) 504 (2) [M⁺ + NH₄], 455 (2), 370 (4), 271 (32), 248 (21), 208 (100), 192 (42), 127 (14), 121 (10), 85 (24), 79 (12).

Anal. Calcd for C₂₉H₃₀O₇ (490.55): C, 71.02; H, 6.12. Found: C, 70.93; H, 6.28.

(2*R*,4*R*,5*R*,6*R*)-(5-hydroxy-2-phenyl-6-vinyl-[1,3]dioxan-4-yl)-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)methanone (15c). The MPM ether 15b (400 mg, 0.82 mmol) was oxidized with DDQ (225 mg, 0.99 mmol) as described for 10c to yield the oily alcohol 15c (282 mg, 93 %); $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ +53.2 (*c* 0.21, CHCl₃); IR (CHCl₃) 3562 cm⁻¹, 2951, 2839, 1670, 1496, 1415; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.23 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1 H, OH), 3.79, 3.86 (s, 6 H, 2 x OCH₃), 3.91 (dt, *J* = 9.0 Hz, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1 H, 5-H), 4.25 (dd, *J* = 9.2 Hz, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1 H, 6-H), 4.88 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1 H, 4-H), 5.37 (d, *J* = 10.6 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{cis})), 5.56 (dd, *J* = 17.1 Hz, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{trans})), 5.76 (s, 1 H, 2-H), 6.14 (ddd, *J* = 17.1 Hz, *J* = 10.6 Hz, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂), 6.92 (d, *J_{ortho}* = 9.0 Hz, 1 H, 3'-H), 7.07 (dd, *J_{ortho}* = 9.0 Hz, *J_{meta}* = 3.2 Hz, 1 H, 4'-H), 7.17 (d, *J_{meta}* = 3.2 Hz, 6'-H), 7.29–7.32 (m, 3 H, Ar-H), 7.38–7.41 (m, 2 H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 56.21, 56.76 (q, 2 x OCH₃), 68.29 (d, C-5), 80.95, (d, C-6), 83.90 (d, C-4), 101.39 (d, C-2), 113.36 (d, C-3'), 114.77 (d, C-6'), 118.47 (t, CH=*C*H₂), 121.30 (d, C-4'), 126.39, 128.56, 129.24 (d, 5 x C-Ar), 126.90 (s, C-1'), 134.91 (d, *C*H=CH₂), 137.81, (s, C-Ar), 153.73, 153.97, (s, C-2', C-5'),191.253 (s, C=O); MS (CI / NH₃, pos.) *m*/*z* (%) 388 (14) [M⁺ + NH₄], 371 (8), 353 (16), 273 (32), 265 (100), 256 (8), 233 (12), 209 (10), 165 (10), 121 (22).

Anal. Calcd for $C_{21}H_{22}O_6$ (370.40): C, 68.11; H, 5.95. Found: C, 67.95; H, 5.89. **Reaction of Arylketone 15a with MeCeCl₂ and MeI.** A suspension of CeCl₃ (666 mg, 2.70 mmol) in dry THF (10 mL) was treated at -78 °C with a solution of MeLi (1.6 mL, 2.60 mmol, 1.6 M in diethyl ether). After stirring for 1 h the arylketone **15a** (571 mg, 1.24 mmol) in dry THF (5 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred for 2 h. The reaction was quenched by addition of a saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl (15 mL), the organic phase was separated and the aqueous phases extracted with diethyl ether (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified by filtration through a short column of silica gel (petroleum ether / 15 % ethyl acetate) to yield the (*S*)-alcohol **13a** (560 mg, 95 %) (see Table 2, entry 1). The arylketone **15a** (703 mg, 1.5 mmol) was reacted in a similar way in dry diethyl ether (5 mL) with MeMgI prepared from Mg (195 mg, 8.0 mmol) and MeI (228 mg, 1.6 mmol) for 3 h at -20 °C to yield **13a** (671 mg, 92 %) (see Table 2, entry 2).

Reaction of Arylketone 15c with MeMgI. A 3 M solution of MeMgI in diethyl ether (0.25 mL, 0.68 mmol) was added dropwise at -15 °C to a solution of the arylketone **15c** (63 mg, 0.17 mmol) in dry diethyl ether (2 mL) and stirred for 1 h. Workup proceeded as described above to yield after separation by column chromatography on silica gel (CH₂Cl₂) the alcohols **12c** (36 mg, 54 %) and **13c** (21 mg, 32 %) (see Table 2, entry 3).

Data for (2R,4R,5R,6R)-5-hydroxy-4-[(1R)-hydroxy-1-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl]-2-phenyl-6-vinyl-[1,3]dioxane (12c). $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ +26.2 (*c* 0.10, CHCl₃); IR (film) 3451cm⁻¹, 2939, 2835, 1496, 1450; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.65 (s, 3 H, 2'-H), 3.52 (bs, 1 H, OH), 3.61, 3.79 (s, 6 H, 2 x OCH₃), 3.66–3.72 (m, 1 H, 6-H), 3.94 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1 H, 4-H), 4.03 (t, J = 9.0 Hz, 1 H, 5-H), 5.22 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{cis})), 5.34 (bs, 1 H, OH), 5.40 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂ (H_{trans}), 5.59 (s, 1 H, 2-H), 5.93 (ddd, J =17.4 Hz, J = 10.5 Hz, J = 6.4 Hz, 1 H, CH=CH₂), 6.70 (dd, $J_{ortho} = 8.8$ Hz, $J_{meta} = 2.7$ Hz, 1 H, 4"-H), 6.80 (d, $J_{ortho} = 8.8$ Hz, 1 H, 3"-H), 7.27–7.32 (m, 4 H, Ar-H), 7.37–7.41 (m, 2 H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 27.27$ (q, C-2'), 55.42, 56.21 (q, 2 x OCH₃), 67.00 (d, C-5), 78.04 (s, C-1'), 81.62, 84.79 (d, C-4, C-6), 100.25 (d, C-2), 112.80 (d, C-6"), 113.10, 113.67 (d, C-3", C-4"), 117.92 (t, CH=CH₂), 125.93, 127.94, 128.59 (d, 5 x C-Ar), 132.23 (s, C-1"), 134.66 (d, CH=CH₂), 137.61 (s, C-Ar), 150.86, 153.53 (s, C-2", C-5"); MS (CI / NH₃, pos.) *m/z* (%) 387 (14) [M⁺ + H], 386 (2) [M⁺], 281 (42), 263 (38), 181 (72), 143 (100).

Anal. Calcd for C₂₂H₂₆O₆ (386.44): C, 68.39; H, 6.74. C, 68.31; H, 6.82.

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