ligand (or insertion of CO into the Ta-COSiMe₃ bond) to produce a ketene intermediate, analogous to the transitory ketene Cp*₂Th[OC(CO)CH₂CMe₃]Cl formed from CO and the acyl Cp*₂Th(η^2 -COCH₂CMe₃)Cl.¹¹ The SiMe₃ and oxygen substituents should stabilize resonance structures C and D, imparting significant electrophilic character to the ketene α -carbon.¹² Nucleophilic attack by ether may be promoted by concurrent Ta-O bonding (E). Zwitterionic species similar to E have been proposed as intermediates in analogous reactions in which ethers are cleaved by arynes.¹³ We are unaware of any such reactions involving ketenes, however. A mechanism involving ether cleavage by an acidic tantalum center seems unlikely, since this would be expected to produce a stable Ta-OCH₂CH₃ derivative.¹ Further studies on the mechanism of this reaction are in progress.

The formation of silaacyl intermediate A was observed by NMR and IR spectroscopy. A benzene- d_6 solution of 3 absorbed 1 mol of CO to produce an orange solution containing two new signals in the ¹H NMR at 2.15 and 0.42 ppm; if ¹³CO is used, the peak at 0.42 ppm appears as a doublet (${}^{3}J_{CH} = 2.4$ Hz). The acyl carbon atom of A* appears as a singlet at 351 ppm in the ¹³C NMR spectrum.³ The C–O stretching frequency of A (1462 cm⁻¹; 1428 cm⁻¹ for ¹³C-labeled A*) is relatively low.^{11a} Complex A is stable for hours at room temperature in solution but rapidly reacts further in the presence of excess CO. Attempts to isolate A have so far proven unsuccessful.

Also consistent with the mechanism in Scheme I is the reaction of 3 with CO (50 psi) and 2-methyltetrahydrofuran (as solvent or with 1 equiv in pentane, eq 3), leading to the ring-opened product product $6.^6$



In tetrahydrofuran as solvent, no evidence for the analogous CO insertion chemistry was obtained. Instead, the products appear to result from a ligand-induced reductive elimination of Me_3SiCl (identified by GC/MS) to form the Ta(III) product 7⁶ (eq 4).

$$3 + 2CO \xrightarrow{\text{THF}}_{50 \text{ psi CO}} Cp^* \text{TaCl}_2(CO)_2(\text{THF}) + Me_3 \text{SiCl} \qquad (4)$$

Apparently the β -hydrogens of tetrahydrofuran are not sterically accessible for abstraction via a mechanism analogous to Scheme I. Alternatively, diethyl ether and 2-methyltetrahydrofuran, being poorer ligands toward tantalum(V), cannot induce elimination of Me₃SiCl.¹⁴

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Supplementary Material Available: Spectroscopic and analytical data for 4-7 (1 page). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

Tetracyclo[5.1.0.0^{1,6}.0^{2,7}]octane, a [1.1.1]Propellane Derivative, and a New Route to the Parent Hydrocarbon

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Recently Wiberg has shown that the heat of hydrogenation of [1.1.1] propellane (1) leading to bicyclo[1.1.1] pentane (2a) is



virtually the same as the one of cyclopropane affording propane.^{1,2} As a consequence, formation of 1 by reduction of 1,3-dibromobicyclo[1.1.1]pentane (**2b**) is an energetically feasible reaction, as has been demonstrated by Wiberg and Walker.³ It is interesting to note that bicyclo[1.1.1]pentane (**2a**) and bicyclo-[1.1.0]butane (**3a**) have similar strain energies (66.6 kcal/mol⁴ vs. 63.9 kcal/mol⁵). This suggests that it might be possible to construct the [1.1.1]propellane framework starting from a properly substituted bicyclo[1.1.0]butane derivative, as **3c**. In this paper we wish to report our results on the synthesis of tetracyclo-[5.1.0.0^{1,6}.0^{2,7}]octane (**4**), a derivative of **1**. In addition, we present a facile route to **1**.

Tricyclo[4.1.0.0^{2,7}]heptane-1-methanol (**5c**),⁶ obtained in 70% yield from **5a** after metalation to **5b** by *n*-butyllithium (BuLi) in ether at room temperature for 24 h and subsequent addition of formaldehyde, was converted to **5d** by 2 equiv of BuLi in ether, followed by bromination of **5d** with *p*-toluenesulfonyl bromide⁷ giving rise to a 55% yield of 7-bromotricyclo[4.1.0.0^{2,7}]heptane-1-methanol (**5e**): ¹H NMR (CCl₄) δ 1.40 (broadened s, 6 H), 1.90 (br s, 1 H), 2.80 (s, 2 H), 4.10 (s, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 19.8 (t, 2 C), 20.3 (t), 22.1 (s), 26.0 (s), 49.0 (d, 2 C), 62.2 (t); HRMS calcd for C₈H₁₁⁷⁹BrO 201.9993, found 201.999. Anal. C, H. 1-Bromo-7-chloromethyltricyclo[4.1.0.0^{2,7}]heptane (**5f**) was prepared from **5e** by refluxing the carbinol with 1.1 equiv of triphenylphosphine in carbon tetrachloride for 12 h (yield 65–90%):⁸ ¹H NMR (CCl₄) δ 1.42 (narrow m, 6 H), 2.75 (broadened s, 2 H), 3.88 (s, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (CCl₄/C₆D₆) δ 19.5 (t, 2 C), 20.1 (t), 21.8 (s), 27.1 (s), 44.5 (t), 49.3 (d, 2 C); HRMS calcd for C₈H₁₀⁷⁹Br³⁵Cl 219.96545, found 219.965.

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(8) Appel, R.; Halstenberg, M. In "Organophosphorus Reagents in Organic Chemistry"; Cadogan, J. I. G., Ed.; Academic Press: London, New York, Toronto, Sydney, San Francisco, 1979; pp 387-431.

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⁽¹²⁾ We thank a reviewer for comments regarding the ketene intermediate's structure. A further possibility with respect to activation of the ketene toward nucleophilic attack is an interaction of the terminal oxygen with a Lewis acid center, ^{11a} since unsaturated Ta species are expected to be present in solution.

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⁽¹⁴⁾ In the reaction involving diethyl ether (eq 1) traces of tantalum carbonyl species were detected (by ir), implying that loss of Me₃SiCl and ether cleavage are competing reaction pathways which are heavily influenced by the ether solvent.

⁽¹⁾ Wiberg, K. B. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1983, 105, 1227-1233.

⁽²⁾ Wiberg, K. B. Acc. Chem. Res. 1984, 17, 379-386.

⁽³⁾ Wiberg, K. B.; Walker, F. H. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1982, 104, 5239-5240.

⁽⁴⁾ Wiberg, K. B.; Wendoloski, J. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1982, 104, 5679-5686.

⁽⁶⁾ Properties of **5c**: bp 31-32 °C (10^{-3} torr); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.40 (m, 7 H), 2.25 (t, 1 H), 2.50 (m, 2 H), 4.00 (d, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.9 (d), 19.7 (s), 20.4 (t, 2 C), 20.9 (t), 42.6 (d, 2 C), 63.2 (t); MS (70 eV), m/e 124 (13%, M⁺).

⁽⁷⁾ For previous use of *p*-toluenesulfonyl bromide as brominating reagent, see: Szeimies-Seebach, U.; Schöffer, A.; Römer, R; Szeimies, G. Chem. Ber. **1981**, 114, 1767-1785.



on its spectroscopic data: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.85 (s, 9 H, CH₃), 1.25 (s, 2 H, 8-H₂), 1.45-1.80 (m, 6 H, 3-H₂, 4-H₂, 5-H₂), 2.25 and 2.27 (s on top of broadened s, 3 H, 7-H, 2-H, 6-H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) § 17.8 (t, C-4), 22.0 (t, C-3, C-5), 27.7 (q, CH₃), 28.5 (d, C-7), 32.2 (s, CMe₃), 42.7 (t, C-8), 53.5 (s, C-1), 54.8 (d, C-2, C-6); MS (70 eV), m/e 164 (5%, M⁺).

As the addition of t-BuLi to the central bond of highly strained small-ring propellanes⁹ has been observed previously,¹⁰ the precursor of **6a** is probably the [1.1.1] propellane **4**, which is formed by ring closure of 5g and which reacts with the excess of the base leading to 6a. When the reduction of 5f was repeated with 1.3 equiv of t-BuLi under otherwise identical conditions, a new hydrocarbon was produced in 30% yield, which could be purified by preparative GC (column 4 m, 20% Silicon GE SE-30 on kieselghur, 65 °C). The spectroscopic properties of the hydro-carbon are in accord with structure 4: ¹H NMR (C_6D_6) δ 1.05-1.28 (m, 4 H, 3-H₂, 5-H₂), 1.35-1.63 (m with s at 1.55, 4 H, 4-H₂, 8-H₂), 2.75 (narrow m, 2 H, 2-H, 6-H); ¹³C NMR (C₆D₆) δ 9.4 (s, C-1, C-7), 18.9 (t, C-4), 20.8 (t, C-3, C-5), 66.6 $(t, J({}^{13}C-{}^{1}H) = 162 \text{ Hz}, \text{ C-8}), 86.5 \text{ (d}, J({}^{13}C-{}^{1}H) = 159 \text{ Hz}, \text{ C-2},$ C-6); MS (70 eV), m/e 106 (40%, M⁺), 91 (100), 78 (55), 65 (20), 51 (30), 39 (35); IR (pentane) 595 cm^{-1.3}

The yield of 4 was raised to 55-65% when BuLi, instead of t-BuLi, was chosen as a reducing agent for 5f. 4 proved to be stable against BuLi in ether at -30 °C; in contrast, when 4 was exposed to an excess of t-BuLi in pentane/ether (3:2) in the presence of lithium bromide at -30 °C, 6a after aqueous workup was obtained in high yield. Thiophenol and 4 afforded the thioether **6b**,¹¹ probably via a radical chain process. The propellane 4 shares with the parent hydrocrbon 1^3 an unexpected thermal stability: the ¹H NMR spectrum of a sample of 4 in C_6D_6 in a sealed NMR tube was unchanged after the sample had been kept at 105 °C for 30 min.

Recently Skattebøl, Baird, et al.¹² have shown that treatment of 1,1-dibromo-2-(chloromethyl)cyclopropanes with methyllithium leads to the formation of 1-bromobicyclo[1.1.0] butanes.¹³ This observation combined with the facile ring closure of 5g giving 4 suggested an efficient synthesis of 1 starting from 7 and proceeding via the bicyclo[1.1.0]butane 3c as an intermediate: To a solution of 7¹⁴ in pentane/ether (3:2) at -50 °C, 2.2 equiv of BuLi was

(12) Nilsen, N. O.; Skattebøl, L.; Baird, M. S.; Buxton, S. R.; Slowey, P. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1984**, 2887–2890. (13) Düker, A.; Szeimies, G. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1985**, 3555–3558.

added and the mixture was kept for 30 min at this temperature. Aqueous workup followed by distillation of the volatile organic material from a 30 °C bath into a dry-ice trap under vacuum afforded a solution of 1 in pentane/ether.¹⁵ Addition of thiophenol to this fraction produced a 34% yield (based on 7) of thioether 2d,¹⁶ indicating that 1 had been formed in a reasonable yield.

Finally we would like to point out that the reaction sequence leading to 4 could be applied to any bicyclo[1.1.0] butane hydrocarbon carrying hydrogen at the bridgehead positions.¹⁷

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(15) In addition to 1, the pentane/ether fraction contained some 1bromobutane

(16) Properties of **2d**: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.90 (s, 6 H), 2.65 (s, 1 H), 7.10–7.30 (m, 5 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 28.6 (d), 45.6 (s), 54.0 (t, 3 C), 127.3, 128.6, 133.4 (3 d), 134.1 (s); HRMS calcd for C₁₁H₁₂³²S 176.06592, found 176.067.

(17) Note Added In Proof: Tetracyclo[4.1.0.0^{1,5}.0^{2,6}]heptane, the lower homologue of 4, was obtained in 45% yield from 1-bromo-6-(chloromethyl)-tricyclo[3.1.0.0^{2,6}]hexane and methyllithium in ether at -30 °C: ¹H NMR (C₆D₆) δ 1.54 (s, 4 H), 2.32 (s, 2 H), 2.73 (s, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (C₆D₆) δ 11.8 (s), 25.1 (t, 2 C), 70.7 (t), 84.1 (d, 2 C).

Organometallic-Crown Reagents. Anti-Cram Selectivity via R₂CuLi·Crown and Enhanced Cram Selectivity via RLi-Crown and RMgX-Crown

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It is widely agreed that the reaction of organometallic reagents with ordinary chiral aldehydes having no ability to be chelated produces the Cram (or Felkin) type isomer predominantly (eq 1). We report herein the surprising stereochemical behavior

$$R - M + R'CHCHO - R' - R' R (1)$$

$$M = L_1, Mg, C_2, \dots CH_3 - CH_3$$

exhibited by R₂CuLi-crown reagents; the anti-Cram isomer is produced preferentially (eq 2). We have also discovered that

the Cram selectivity is enhanced with RLi(or RMgX) crown reagents.¹ These findings provide not only a new useful method for 1,2-asymmetric induction but also a conceptual advance in empirical models to rationalize the stereoselectivity in reactions of chiral aldehydes. The results are summarized in Table I.

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⁽⁹⁾ For definition, see: Ginsburg, D. "Propellanes", Verlag Chemie: Weinheim, 1975

⁽¹⁰⁾ Wiberg, K. B.; Walker, F. H.; Pratt, W. E.; Michl, J. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1983, 105, 3638-3641 and references therein.

⁽¹¹⁾ Properties of **6b**: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.45-1.75 (m with s at 1.63, 8 H, 3-H₂, 4-H₂, 5-H₂, 8-H₂), 2.43 (narrow m, 2 H, 2-H, 6-H), 2.58 (s, 1 H, 7-H), 7.05–7.42 (m, 5 H, Ar H); 13 C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 18.1 (t, C-4), 20.7 (t, C-3, C-5), 30.7 (d, C-7), 48.4 (s, C-1), 49.7 (t, C-8), 58.1 (d, C-2, C-6), 126.8, 128.3, 133.6 (3 d, Ar C), 133.7 (s, Ar C); HRMS calcd for $C_{14}H_{16}^{32}S$ 216.09727, found 216.096.

^{(14) 7} was obtained in 45% yield from commercially available 3-chloro-2-(chloromethyl)-1-propene by addition of dibromocarbene (from bromoform and 50% aqueous sodium hydroxide in dichloromethane at 25 °C under the conditions of phase-transfer catalysis). Properties of 7: mp 45–46 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.80 (s, 2 H), 3.91 (s, 4 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 32.0 (s), 33.9 (t), 35.2 (s), 47.6 (t, 2 C). Anal. C, H.

⁽¹⁾ For organolithium reactions in the presence of crown ethers and cryptates, see: (a) Pierre, J. L.; Handel, H.; Perraud, R. Tetrahedron Lett. **1977**, 2013. (b) Biellmann, J. F.; Vicens, J. J. *Ibid*. **1974**, 2915. (c) Atlani, P. M.; Biellmann, J. F.; Dube, S.; Vicens, J. J. *Ibid* **1974**, 2665. (d) Chassaing, P. M.; Bleilmann, J. F.; Duce, S.; Vicens, J. J. 101a 1974, 2605. (d) Chassaing, G.; Marquet, A. Tetrahedron 1978, 34, 1399. (e) Maruoka, K.; Yamanoto, H. J. Synth. Org. Chem. Jpn. 1985, 43, 437. For reduction with metal hydrides, see: (f) Handel, H.; Pierre, J. L. Tetrahedron Lett. 1976, 741; Tetrahedron 1975, 31, 997; 1975, 31, 2799. (g) Pierre, J. L.; Handle, H.; Perraud, R. Ibid. 1975, 31, 2795. (h) Loupy, A.; S-Penne, J. Tetrahedron Lett. 1978, 2571. (i) Loupy, A.; S-Penne, J.; Tchoubar, B. Ibid. 1976, 1677. (j) Lee, H. S.; Isagawa, K.; Toyoda, H.; Otsuji, Y. Chem. Lett. 1984, 363 and C22. En Ceineral matrixers (h) Eicher. U. C. L. King, B. L. A. 673. For Grignard reactions, see: (k) Richey, H. G., Jr.; King, B. A. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1982, 104, 4672 and references cited therein.