

Recent Synthetic Developments in Polyquinane Chemistry

By L. A. Paquette



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I Introduction

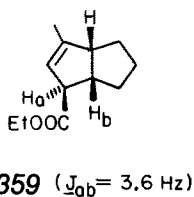
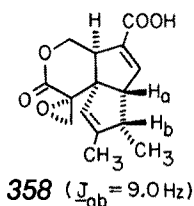
By the mid-1970's it had become clear that the area of polyquinane chemistry was on the verge of an explosive growth period. There were several underlying reasons for this surge of interest in molecules whose frameworks featured mutually fused cyclopentane rings. Perhaps the most evident was the realization that little attention had previously been paid to methodology for annulating one five-membered ring to another. The need for suitably efficient protocols of this type was arising on several fronts. On the one hand, new natural products were being isolated, the di- or triquinane skeletons of which had not heretofore been appreciated as biogenetically derivable from farnesyl pyrophosphate or related precursors. Independently and with equal intensity, a growing fascination for the possibly unusual physical and chemical properties of yet unknown spherical compounds such as dodecahedrane was gaining rapid momentum. In addition, many novel polycyclopentanoid alicyclic systems of theoretical interest were awaiting the implementation of ingenious routes to their acquisition in the laboratory.

In 1979, we authored a review in *Topics in Current Chemistry* entitled "The Development of Polyquinane Chemistry"¹). Numerous early experimental investigations in this field were surveyed and compiled therein. In the few, short intervening years, the level of research activity dealing with polyquinanes has literally mushroomed. Accordingly, the writing of an updated, complementary review as a means of keeping oneself abreast of the many new and imaginative developments seemed entirely appropriate and even necessary. As before, the intention has been to gather together all relevant new facets of pertinent synthetic methodology in the polyquinane field with a view to stimulating yet more exciting future scientific ventures.

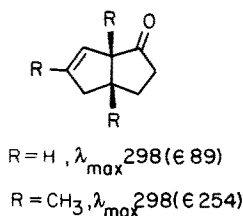
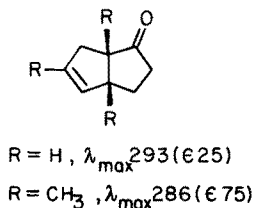
IV Spectral Data on Bicyclo[3.3.0]octanes

^{13}C NMR data for a wide range of bicyclo[3.3.0]octanes, too extensive to compile here, have been reported ^{44,54,66,187,188}. The influence of a variety of substituents on chemical shifts is now known. Furthermore, the basis for determining regio- and stereochemical features is now at hand. ^{13}C chemical shifts for a much more limited group of linearly fused tricyclopentanoids have also been published ^{66,189}.

Although similar tabulations of ^1H NMR data do not exist per se, it is clear that chemical shifts can be of considerable diagnostic value in structural assignment (see 91). Coupling constants as illustrated for pentalenolactone (358) ¹⁹⁰ and 359 ³³ can likewise prove most helpful.



Distinction between β,γ - and γ,δ -unsaturated ketones is also feasible by UV spectroscopy. The enhanced absorption of the $n \rightarrow \pi^*$ transition in the former is clearly apparent when the functional groups reside in different rings ⁴⁴.

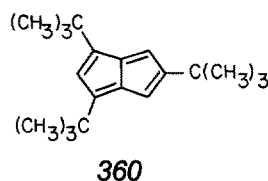


In a different context, (+)-*endo-cis*-bicyclo[3.3.0]oct-7-en-2-ol has been shown to be an effective tool for determination of the absolute configurations of chiral acids ¹⁹¹.

V Simpler Molecules of Theoretical Interest

A Pentalene

While theoretical interest in pentalene expectedly persists¹⁹²⁾, some progress has been made in unraveling the nature of this electronically unusual alternant cyclic polyolefin. Since 1,3,5-tri-*tert*-butylpentalene (**360**) remains the only alkyl derivative



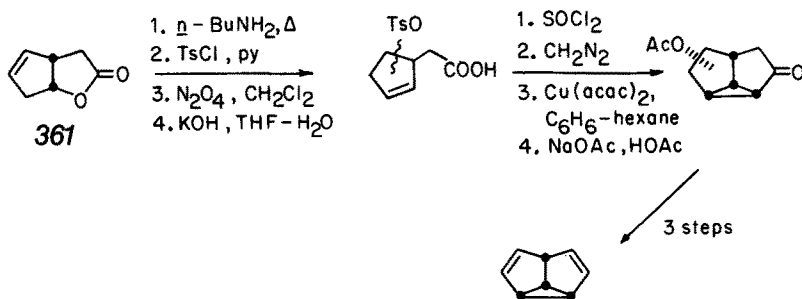
so far which is stable at room temperature, provided that prolonged exposure to air is avoided, it has become a prime target for study. Its photoelectron (PE) and absorption (UV-VIS) spectra have been determined. The first four bands in the PE spectrum have been assigned by comparison with calculated orbital energies. Similar treatment of the absorption data indicates that bond alternance is operative¹⁹³⁾.

The ESR spectra of the radical anion and cation of **360** have been reexamined under higher resolution and the coupling constants of all the protons were determined¹⁹⁴⁾. Since the experimental data agree with values predicted by the simple MO model, the π -spin distributions in $360^{\cdot-}$ and $360^{\cdot+}$ appear not to differ significantly from those of the parent species. However, the spectra of 360^- taken at low temperatures show no specific line broadening which could arise from bond-shifting between the two Kekulé forms. Proton hyperfine data have also been determined for the radical anions and cations of dibenzo[*b,f*]pentalene and its 5,10-dimethyl derivative¹⁹⁵⁾. The coupling constants approximate closely the values obtained for the radical ions of **360**.

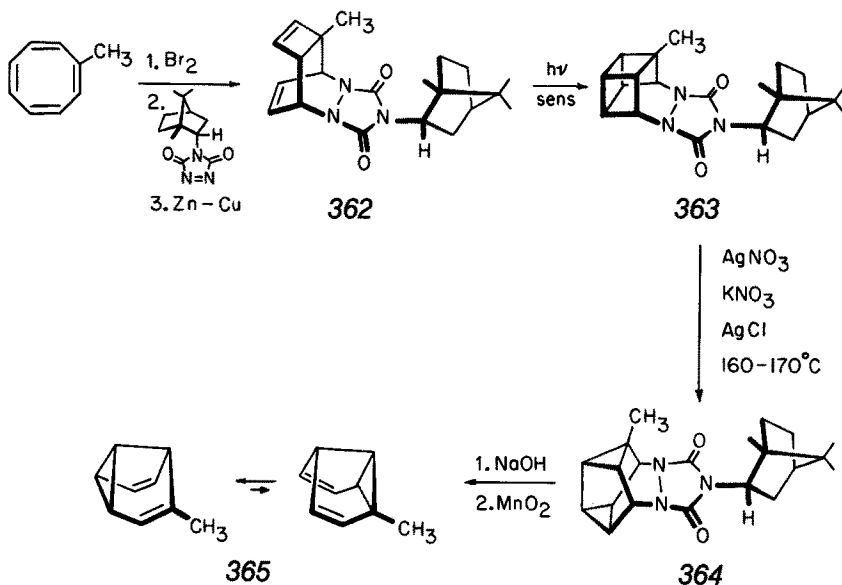
The mechanism of the dehydrogenative transannular ring closure of cyclooctatetraene in the presence of various inorganic reagents to provide complexes of pentalene has been the subject of debate^{196,197)}.

B Semibullvalenes

Serratose, et al., have succeeded in converting readily available lactone **361** to semibullvalene. The scheme, which involves no skeletal rearrangement, is based on diazoketone cyclization chemistry within an oxygenated cyclopentenyl derivative¹⁹⁸⁾.



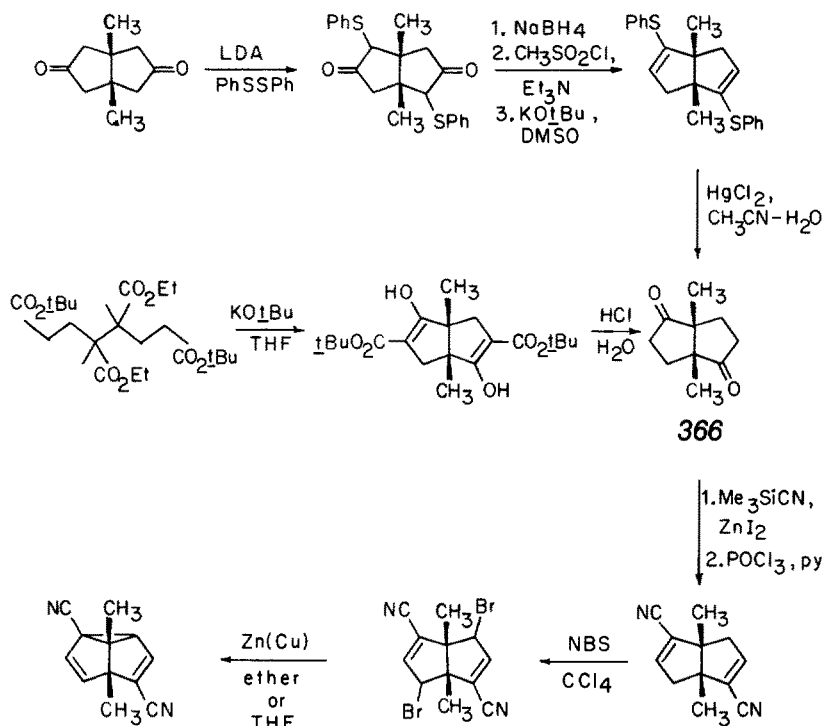
The synthesis of an optically active semibullvalene has been realized for the first time¹⁹⁹. Sequential reaction of methylcyclooctatetraene with one equivalent each of bromine and (–)-*endo*-bornyltriazolinedione gave a mixture of Diels-Alder adducts which when debrominated afforded 362. Photocyclization to bishomocubane 363 allowed for chromatographic separation of the two diastereomers. Silver ion-



catalyzed rearrangement of the crystalline isomer delivered dextrorotatory 364 whose absolute configuration was elucidated by x-ray analysis. Hydrolysis-oxidation of (–)-364 gave (+)-365 whose absolute configuration is as shown.

2,6-Dicyano-1,5-dimethylsemibullvalene (367) has been synthesized by two groups and found to exist as a classical ground state molecule which lies 5 kcal/mol below the homoaromatic transition state of the Cope rearrangement^{200,201}. Both syntheses proceed ultimately from diketone 366 along identical lines (Scheme XXIX). However, Askani relies on a carbonyl transposition sequence within an existing diquinane while Quast makes use of a cyclization process.

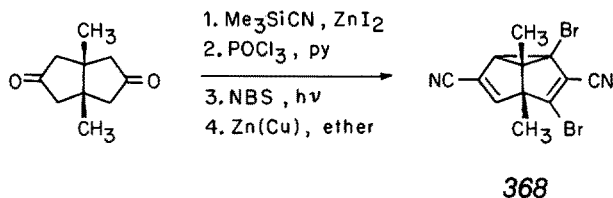
V Simpler Molecules of Theoretical Interest



367

Scheme XXIX

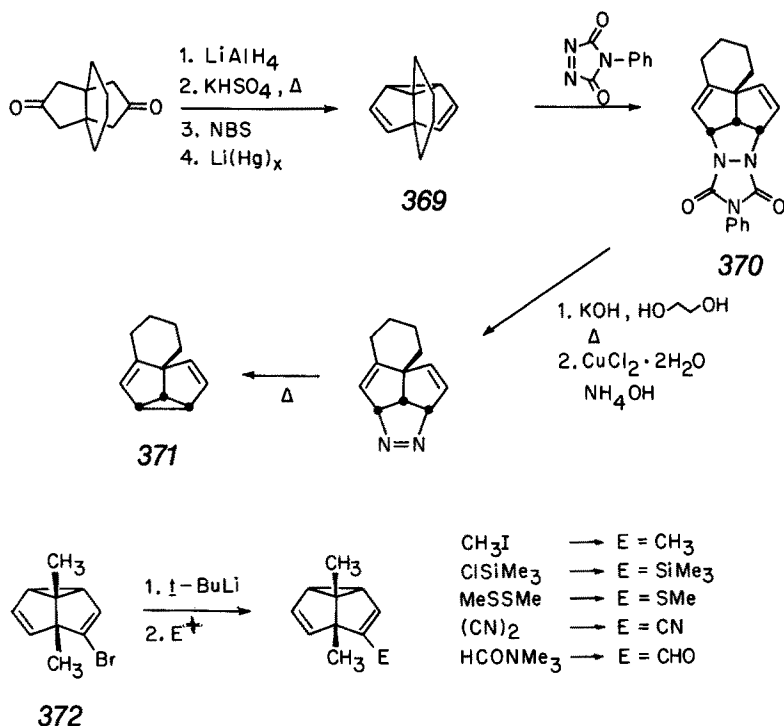
When the dibromo dicyano derivative 368 was later prepared, it was found to exhibit a higher activation barrier to degenerate Cope rearrangement than the parent hydrocarbon²⁰²⁾.



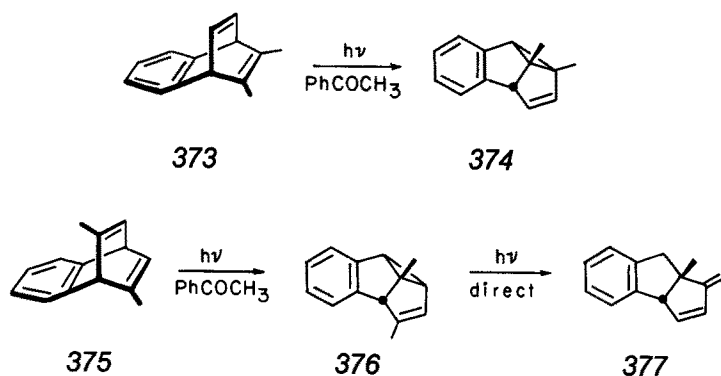
368

Askani has observed that 3- and 7-substituted semibullvalenes, of which 369 is exemplary, undergo cycloaddition to N-phenyltriazolinedione with rearrangement of the carbon skeleton²⁰³⁾. The products are dihydrodiazatriquinacenes (e.g. 370) which when converted to their azo counterparts and heated to 80 °C or above are transformed into isomeric semibullvalenes such as 371.

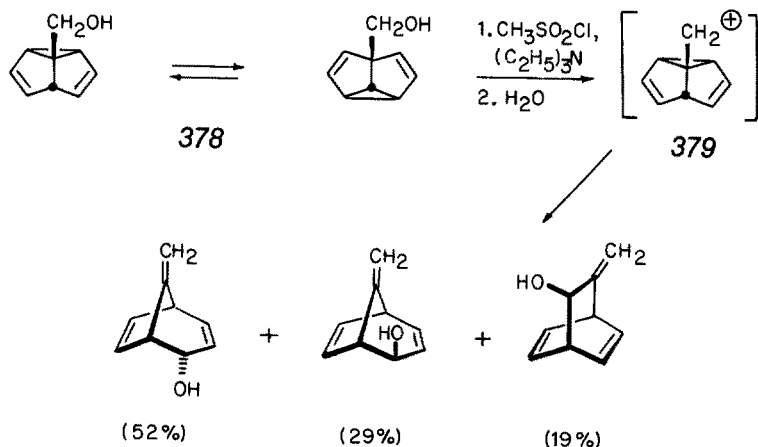
By means of halogen-metal exchange and electrophilic capture, bromosemibullvalene 372 has been functionalized in a variety of ways²⁰⁴⁾. 2(4)-Chlorosemibullvalene has been similarly treated²⁰⁵⁾.



Semibullvalenes 374 and 376 are the major products formed from acetophenone sensitized irradiation of 373 and 375, respectively. When 376 is in turn subjected to direct or chlorobenzene-sensitized irradiation, conversion to 377 results²⁰⁶.

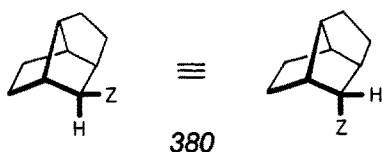


1-Semibullvalenylcarbinol (378) undergoes ionization under the conditions of mesylate preparation to generate cation 379 which undergoes cyclopropane ring cleavage to give three alcohols²⁰⁷.



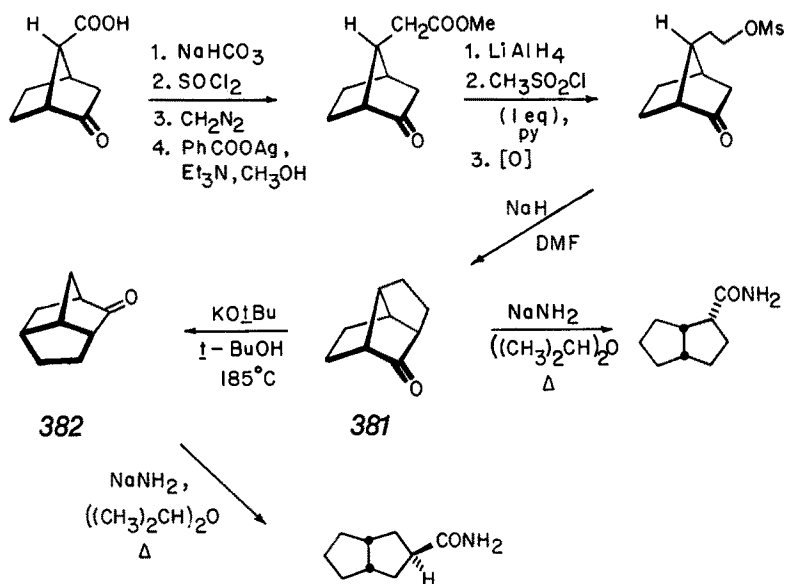
C Brexanes, Brendanes, and *syn/anti*-Sesquiorbornanes

The unique features of the tricyclic C_9 framework 380 called brexane have previously been emphasized²⁰⁸. Two norbornyl units can be identified in brexane and these are so arranged that the substituent Z at C_2 is simultaneously exo to one and endo to the other. Thus, interchange of H and Z at C_2 produces neither a diastereomer nor an



enantiomer, but a molecule superimposable on the original. The ionization behavior of brex-2-yl systems uniquely reveals the relative importance of anchimeric assistance and steric interference because both of these factors act on Z simultaneously but oppose each other. While the tricyclic cation derived from the departure of Z regenerates its mirror image on Wagner-Meerwein rearrangement, 1,3-hydrogen shifts are detectable because they produce a new ion which can, by a single Wagner-Meerwein shift, give the brendane skeleton. The synthesis of brexan-2-one (381) and its isomerization to brendan-2-one (382) on heating to 185 °C in the presence of potassium *tert*-butoxide is outlined in Scheme XXX²⁰⁹.

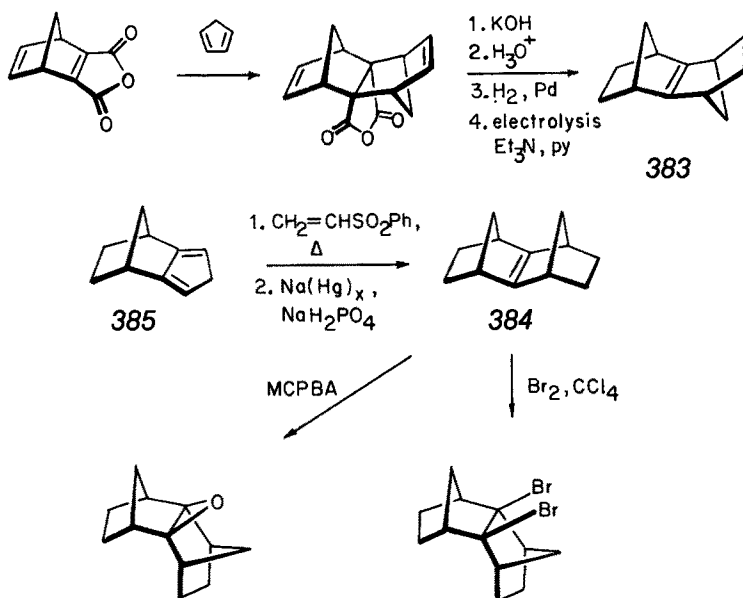
Bartlett²¹⁰ and Paquette²¹¹ have recently succeeded in preparing *anti*- (383) and *syn*-sesquiorbornene (384). Whereas placement of the bridge hydrogen atoms in 383 appear to totally block concerted reaction with the $\text{C}=\text{C}$ as a whole, attack at one end of the double bond remains possible. Furthermore, the double bond in 383 and its derivatives is essentially planar^{212, 213}. In contrast, that of *syn*-sesquiorbornenes is bent downwardly rendering the π system highly reactive and prone to ready electrophilic attack from above despite the high steric congestion which develops^{212, 214–216}. The ready conversion of 384 to its dibromide²¹⁷ and epoxide²¹⁸ are exemplary. The only exception occurs during acetone-sensitized photochemical



Scheme XXX

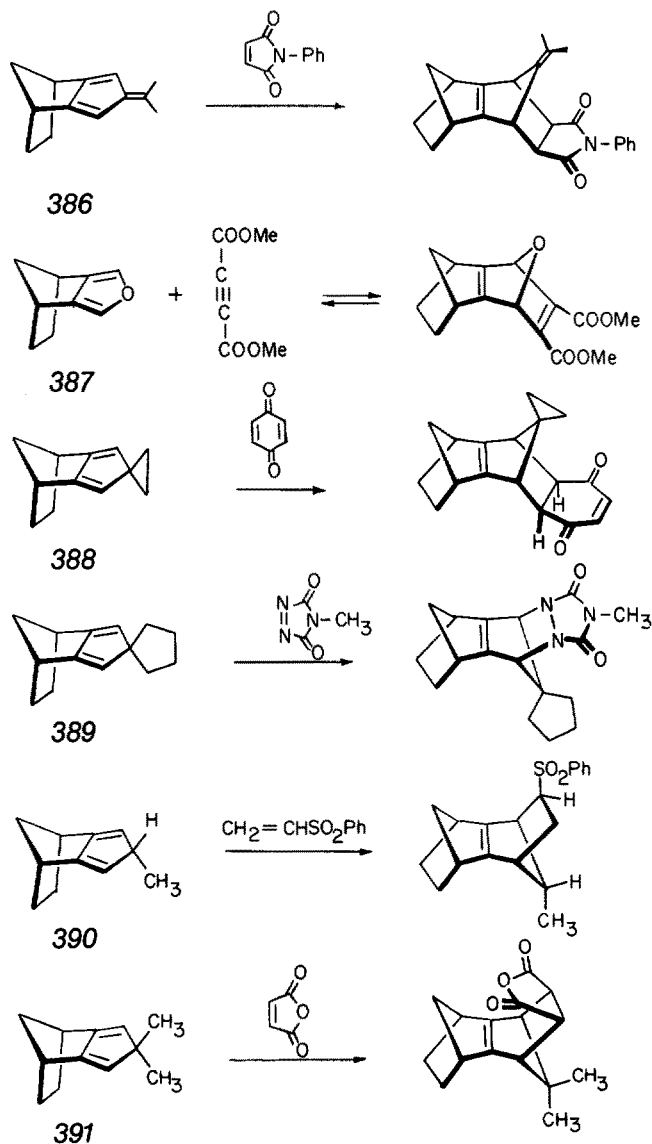
activation, when acetonyl addition and hydrogenation products result. In the latter instance, the hydrogens enter mainly from the endo direction ²¹⁹⁾.

Isodicyclopentadiene (385) adds dienophiles stereoselectively from its endo surface in most cases. While this π -facial behavior is similarly followed by fulvene 386 ²²⁰⁾, furan 387 ²²¹⁾, and the spirocyclopropane 388 ²¹⁴⁾, a reversal of this trend is

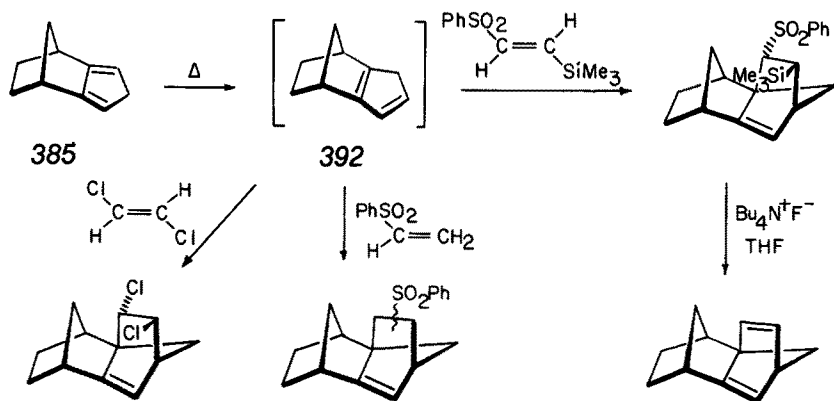


encountered with 389–391 (Scheme XXXI)^{213,214}. This phenomenon correlates with ¹³C NMR shifts of the pendant carbons immediately attached to the cyclopentadiene ring²²² and has been analyzed on theoretical grounds^{223,224}.

The anion of 385 is captured stereoselectively from its endo face with a host of electrophilic reagents²²⁵. When 385 is heated, [1,5] hydrogen sigmatropy occurs to give the fleeting isomer 392 which can be trapped if dienophiles of low reactivity are present^{226,227}. The higher Diels-Alder reactivity of 392 due to the presence of a norbornene double bond is responsible for this selectivity.

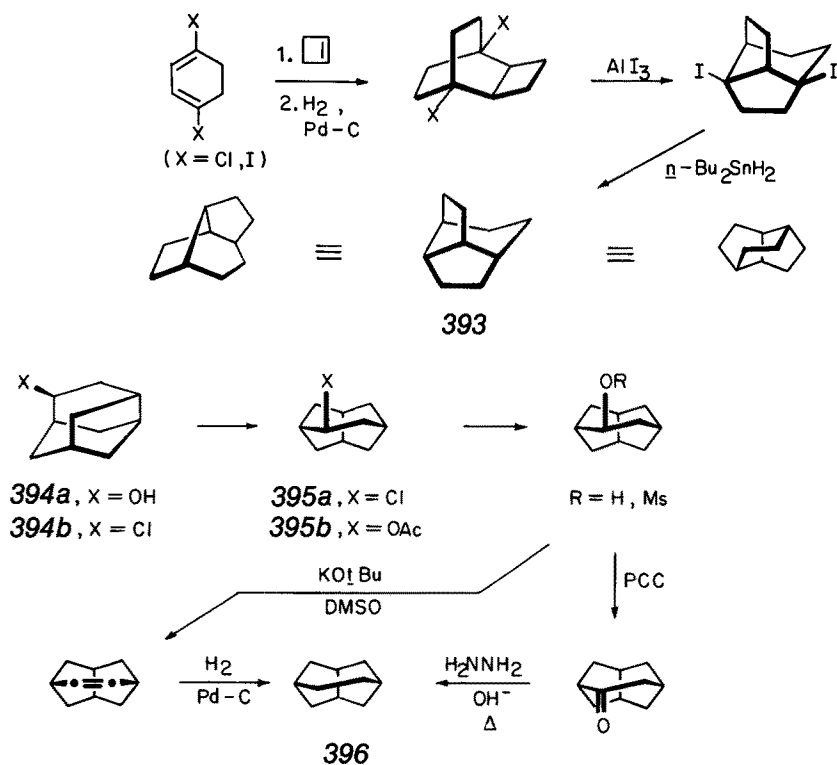


Scheme XXXI

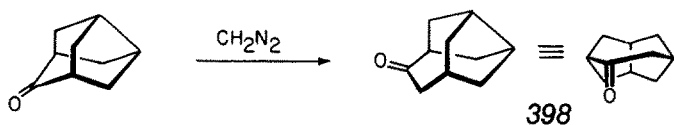
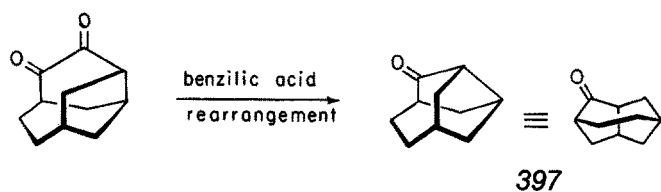


D Adamantane Isomers

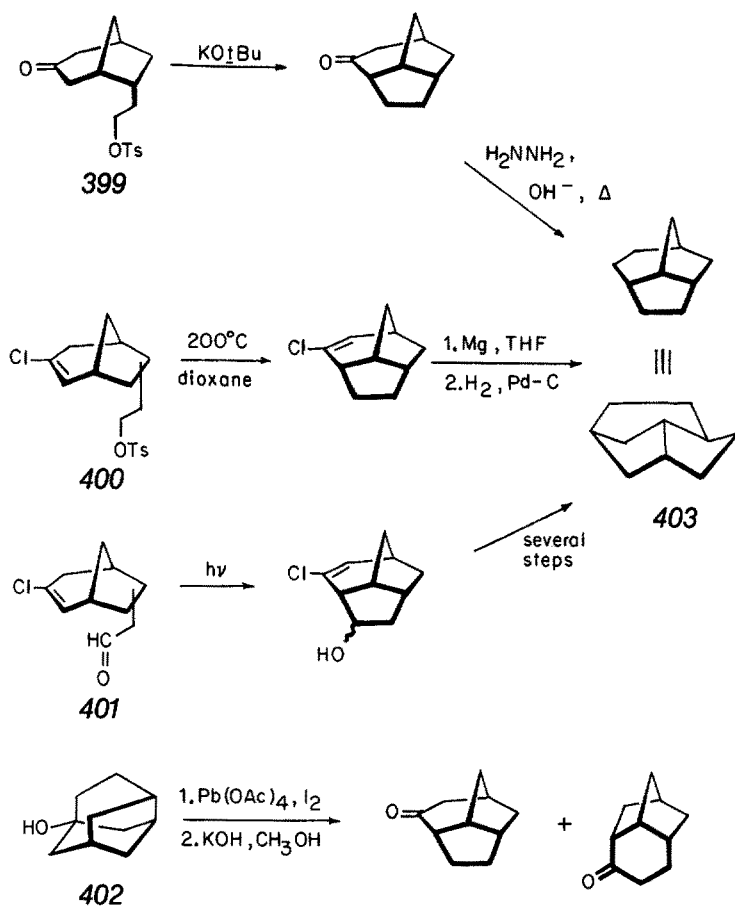
Wiseman and coworkers have succeeded in preparing tricyclo[5.3.0.0^{4,8}]decane (393), a C₁₀H₁₆ hydrocarbon which unlike adamantane is chiral. Their elegantly simple approach entails Diels-Alder addition of cyclobutene to 1,4-dihalogyclohexa-1,3-dienes, catalytic hydrogenation of the adduct, reaction with aluminium triiodide, and ultimately di-*n*-butyltin dihydride reduction.



V Simpler Molecules of Theoretical Interest



Scheme XXXII



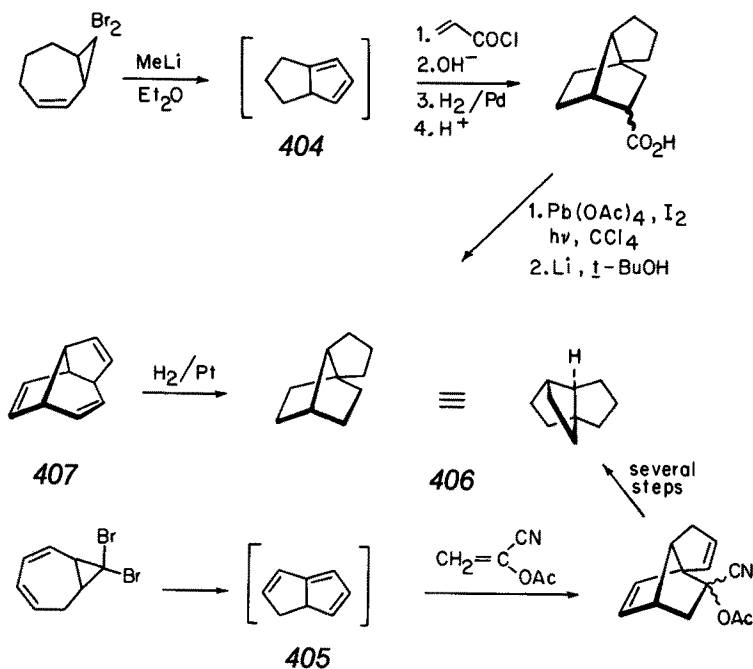
Scheme XXXIII

The isomeric tricyclo[3.3.2.0^{3,7}]decane hydrocarbon (396) has also recently yielded to synthesis²²⁹⁾. Thus, reaction of 394a with either thionyl chloride or phosphorus pentachloride led to rearrangement and formation of chloride 395a. Alternatively,

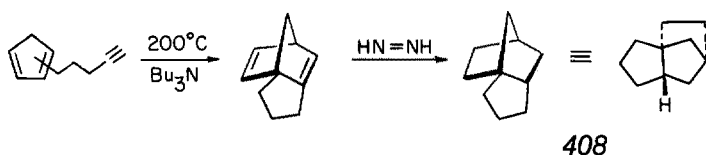
acetolysis of **394b** led to **395b**. Subsequent transformations (Scheme XXXII) gave **396**. Majerski, et al., have arrived at the ketone derivatives **397** and **398** through appropriate ring contraction or expansion processes ²³⁰⁾.

Ganter has developed three different approaches to tricyclo[5.2.1.0^{4,8}]decane (**403**), yet another of the nineteen isomeric hydrocarbons of "adamantaneland" ²³¹⁾. As seen in Scheme XXXIII, the routes involve intramolecular cyclization of keto tosylate **399** followed by Wolff-Kishner reduction of the resulting ketone, thermocyclization of **400** and subsequent dechlorination, hydrogenation, and photocyclization of aldehydes **401**. Majerski's approach involved hypiodite cleavage of alcohol **402** ²³²⁾.

Only two members of "adamantaneland" contain a *trans*-diquinane ring system as their central structural element and both have recently yielded to synthesis. The first, tricyclo[4.2.2.0^{1,5}]decane (**406**), has been independently prepared by Schleyer ²³³⁾ and Ganter ²³⁴⁾. By making recourse to a carbene rearrangement, **404** could be acquired transiently and trapped with acryloyl chloride. Subsequent functional group manipulation gave **406**. Alternatively, the more highly unsaturated **405** was captured as its α -acetoxyacrylonitrile Diels-Alder adduct, from which point **406** could be easily arrived at. The hydrogenation of **407** ²³⁵⁾ served to intercorrelate this chemistry with past experience.

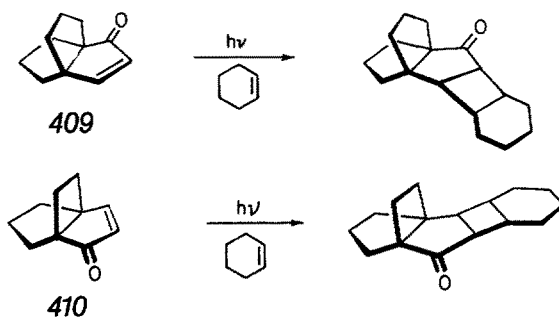


Two very similar and very direct approaches serve to make tricyclo[5.2.1.0^{1,5}]decane (**408**) readily available ^{236, 237)}.

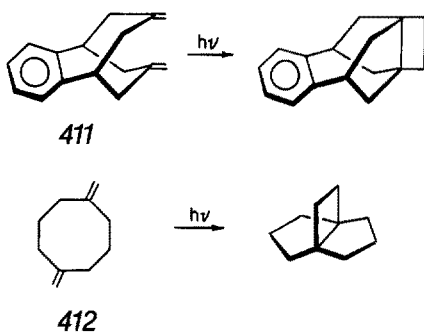


E Propellanes

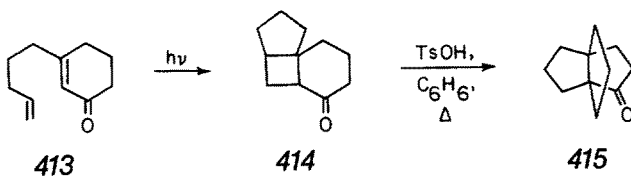
When the propellenones **409** and **410** are irradiated in cyclohexene, the indicated [2+2] adducts are formed as the major products ²³⁸).



When exposed to ultraviolet light, dienes **411** and **412** undergo intramolecular [2+2] cycloaddition. The latter reaction provides a particularly convenient synthetic entry to [3.3.2]propellane from a readily available starting material ²³⁹).

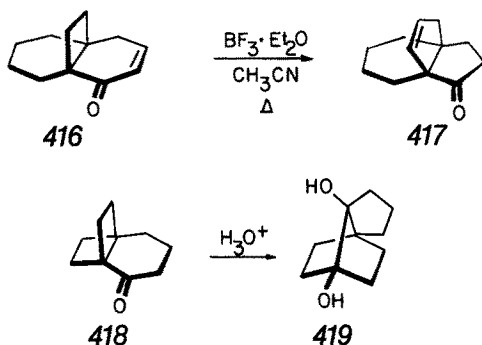


Irradiation of **413** leads in high yield to **414** as the sole product. When heated in benzene solution containing *p*-toluenesulfonic acid, isomerization to triquinane ketone **415** results ²⁴⁰).

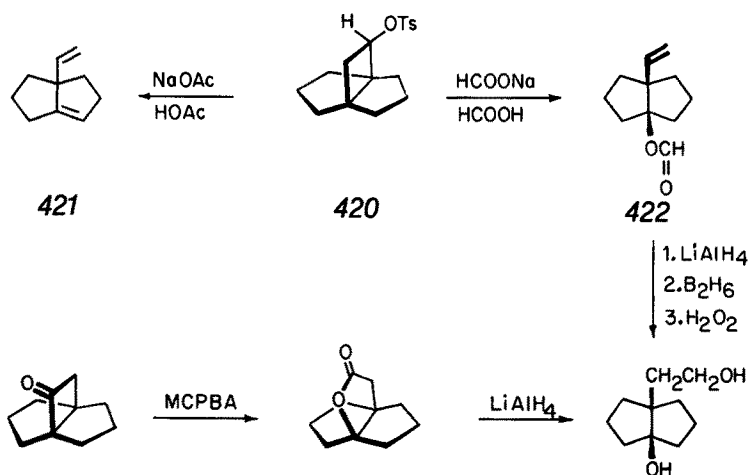


Similarly, boron trifluoride etherate in hot acetonitrile acts on enone **416** to promote its rearrangement to **417** ²⁴¹).

By comparison, treatment of the [4.2.2]propellanyl ketone **418** with any of a variety of acids leads quickly and efficiently only to **419** ²⁴²).



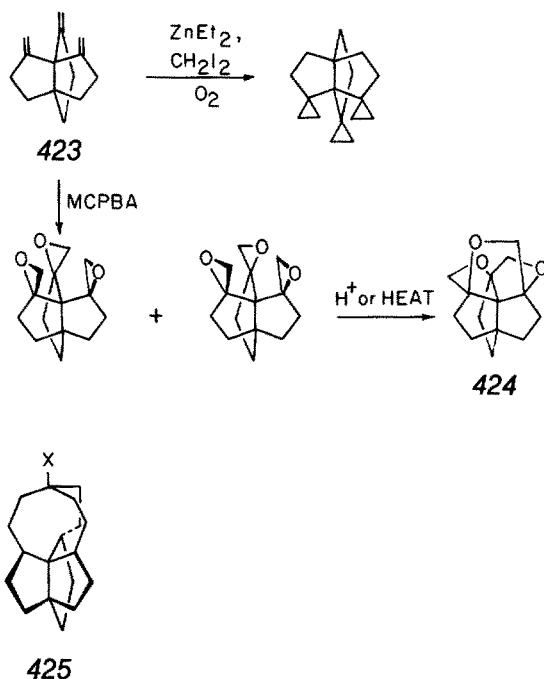
Buffered acetolysis of tosylate **420** gives diene **421** as the major product along with unrearranged acetate. In buffered formolysis, the *cis* formate **422** evolves as the principal component. The structural assignments were confirmed by the chemical intercorrelations shown ²⁴³).



Simmons-Smith cyclopropanation of triene **423** delivers a triscyclopropyl hydrocarbon which exhibits chiral fluxional properties ²⁴⁴). On epoxidation, a mixture of two triepoxides results; these rearrange rapidly under a variety of conditions to **424**, the first topologically nonplanar molecule ^{245, 246}). The reaction path for this isomerization has been elucidated by means of oxygen isotope effects on ^{13}C chemical shifts ²⁴⁷).

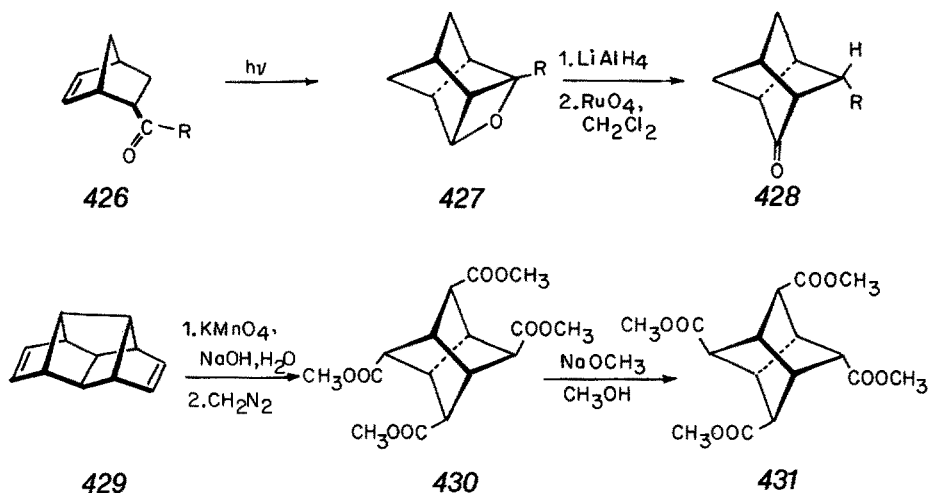
The capped propellane **425** has been proposed as a precursor of a carbocation which might exhibit pure $\text{pp}-\sigma$ bonding ²⁴⁸).

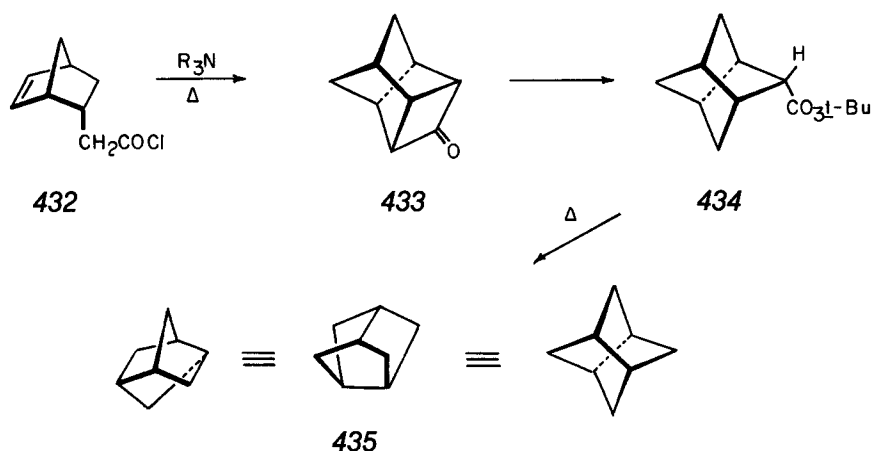
V Simpler Molecules of Theoretical Interest



F Tricyclo[3.3.0.0^{3,7}]octanes

Sauers and coworkers have applied the Paterno-Büchi reaction to *endo*-5-acylnorbornenes (426) and observed regiospecific conversion to oxetanes of general formula 427 (Scheme XXXIV)²⁴⁹. Reductive cleavage of these products with lithium aluminium hydride is also regioselective and leads, following oxidation, to ketones



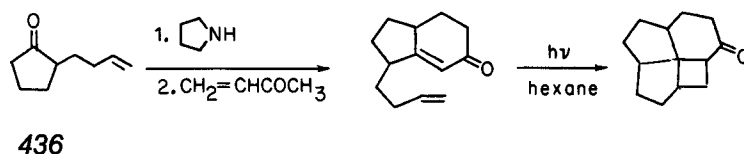


428^{249, 250}). The C_{2v} - and S_4 -symmetric tetraesters of tricyclo[3.3.0.0^{3,7}]octane (430 and 431) have been prepared by oxidation of diene 429²⁵¹). To access the parent hydrocarbon (435), acid chloride 432 was transformed to the derived ketene which undergoes intramolecular [2+2] cycloaddition²⁵²). The resulting cyclobutanone (433) serves as precursor to perester 434 whose thermal decomposition proceeds with chain transfer in competition with cleavage²⁵²). The unique arrangement of the carbon atoms in 435 is such that the smallest rings are all five-membered. The highly symmetric structure may be viewed as a constrained cisoid bicyclo[3.3.0]octane (as well as the symbol of NATO).

G Fenestranes

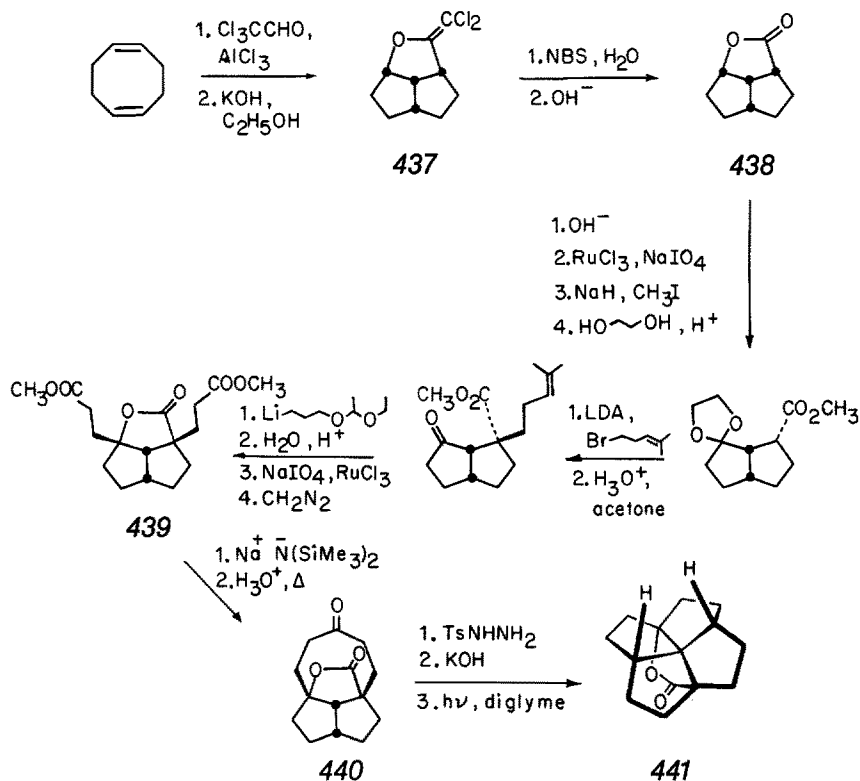
The synthesis of [4.4.4]fenestrane or “windowpane” has become an active area of research due to the aesthetic appeal of the hydrocarbon and the nature of its central quaternary carbon atom which is expected to be distorted from normal tetrahedral geometry²⁵³). Ongoing investigations have generated a number of ring-expanded triquinane and tetraquinane ([5.5.5]fenestrane) homologs. These molecules form the subject matter of the discussion which follows.

The earliest pioneering work, due to Georgian and Saltzman²⁵⁴), began with Robinson annulation of 436 and intramolecular [2+2] photocyclization of the bicyclic enone.



Keese's group has achieved a more advanced stage of development beginning with 1,5-cyclooctadiene (Scheme XXXV)²⁵⁵). Following condensation with chloral and

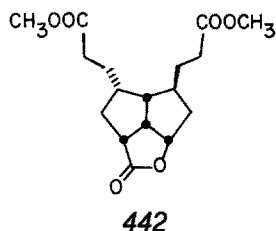
dehydrohalogenation to arrive at **437**²⁵⁶), reaction with N-bromosuccinimide in the presence of water afforded a bromohydrin which in the presence of base afforded lactone **438**. This intermediate could be elaborated into the lactone diester **439** where the side-chains are configurationally fixed. Dieckmann cyclization and hydrolytic



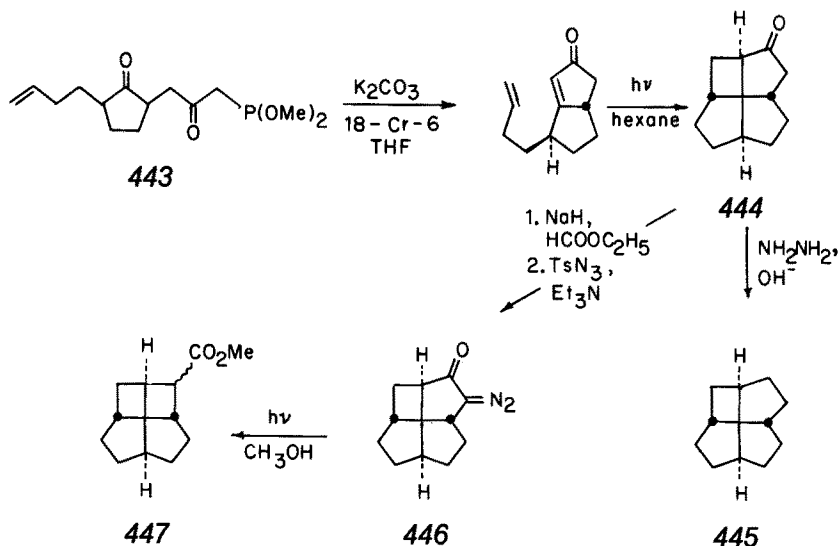
Scheme XXXV

decarboxylation delivered **440**. Photolysis of the potassium salt of the tosylhydrazone in diglyme yielded the tetraquinane **441**.

Beginning with dicyclopentadiene, it has also proven possible to prepare **442** which could serve in its own right as a tetraquinane precursor²⁵⁷).



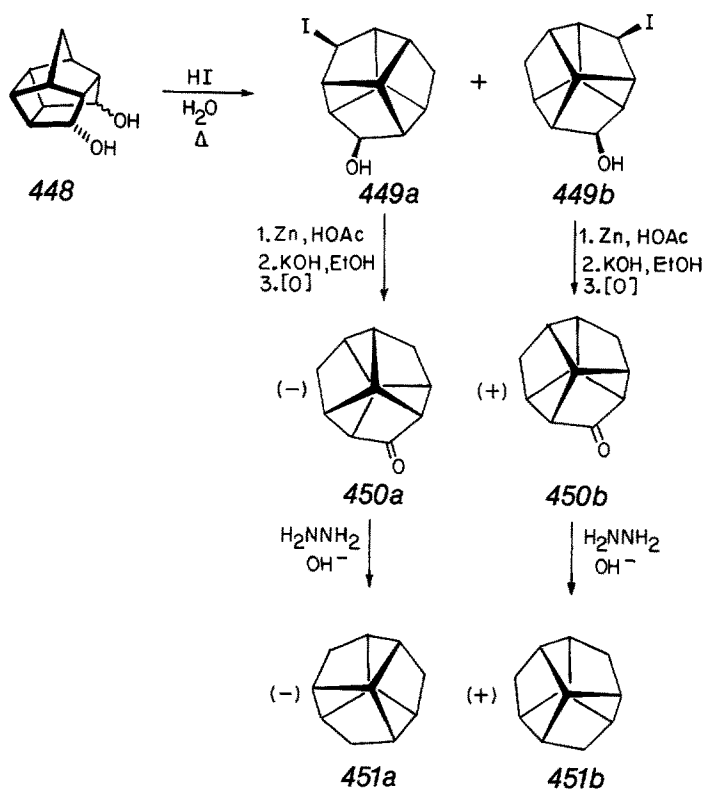
The Dauben-Walker approach has yielded the smallest and most strained fenestrane known to date²⁵⁸). Following the intramolecular Wadsworth-Emmons cyclization of **443** which also epimerizes the butenyl sidechain to the more stable *exo* configuration, intramolecular photocycloaddition was smoothly accomplished to provide **444**. Wolff-Kishner reduction of this ketone afforded the C_2 -symmetric hydrocarbon **445**. Application of the photochemical Wolff rearrangement to α -diazo ketone **446** gave **447**.



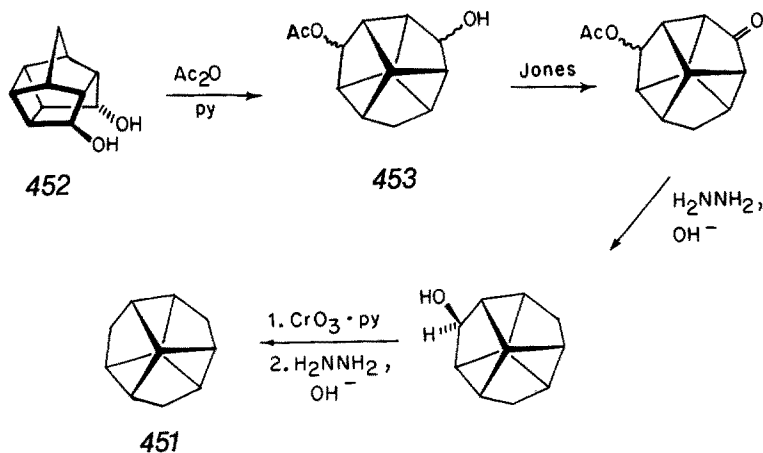
H (D_3)-Trishomocubanes and Congeners

(D_3)-Trishomocubane (**451**) is a saturated pentacyclic cage compound whose carbon skeleton is made up of fused five-membered rings. The molecule, which is intrinsically chiral, possesses the rare D_3 point group symmetry and is consequently of interest as a test system for chiroptic theories. Whereas racemic **451** has been known for more than a decade^{259–261}), the enantiomers have recently become available and absolute configurational assignments made^{262–264}). The approach used by Helmchen and Staiger involved conversion of diol **448** with hydriodic acid into **449a** and **449b** which were separated chromatographically as their diastereomeric (–)-camphanic acid esters (Scheme XXXVI). Subsequent zinc reduction, hydrolysis, and Jones-Kiliani oxidation furnished the optically active trishomocubanones **450a** and **450b**. The hydrocarbons were arrived at by Wolff-Kishner reduction. ^1H NMR and x-ray methods were utilized to establish the absolute configurations²⁶²).

Nakazaki's group also relied upon skeletal rearrangement, specifically that which occurs upon controlled acetylation of **452**. With the diastereomeric *cis* monoacetates **453** in hand, they proceeded to (\pm)- D_3 -trishomocubanol which was resolved via its acid phthalate as the (+)-2-(1-aminoethyl)naphthalene salt. Collins oxidation and Wolff-Kishner reduction completed their scheme²⁶³).



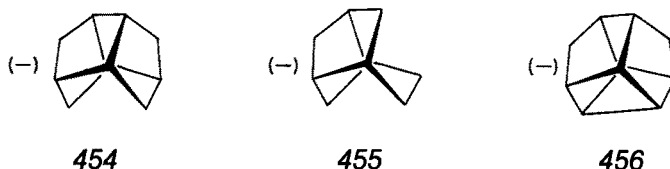
Scheme XXXVI



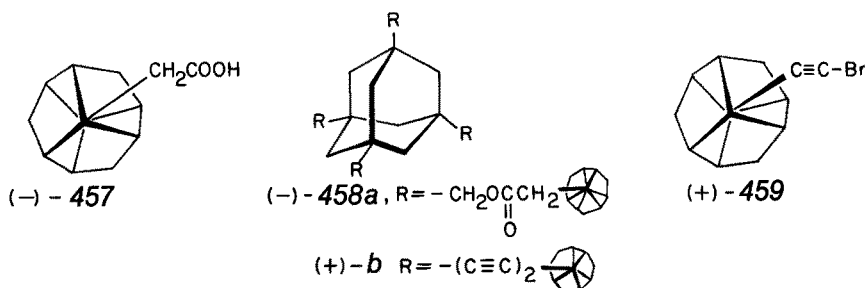
Eaton and Leipzig chose to resolve racemic trishomocubanone by reaction with *l*-ephedrine and separation of the diastereomers by fractional crystallization. Subsequent acid hydrolysis delivered the enantiomeric ketones²⁶⁴.

Successive removal of a diagonal CH_2 bridge from (–)-**451** furnishes (–)-ditwist-brendane (C_2 symmetry) (**454**) and (–)-twist-brendane (C_2 symmetry) (**455**). Also,

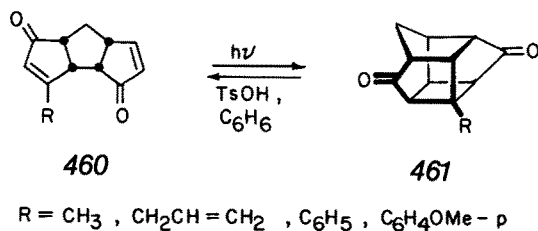
(-)-451 may be regarded as a higher homologue of (-)- C_2 -bishomocubane (456). The preparation of all three hydrocarbons in optically active form has recently been realized and absolute configurations assigned^{263,265,266}.



By rather analogous chemistry, Nakazaki and Naemura succeeded in gaining access to (-)-2- D_3 -trishomocubaneacetic acid (457). Esterification of this acid with 1,3,5,7-tetrakis(hydroxymethyl)adamantane gave (-)-458a, believed to be the first T symmetric organic molecule with known absolute configuration²⁶⁷. This claim was shown to be incorrect by Mislow who pointed out that asymmetry was introduced by the CH_2OCOCH_2 groups connecting the T_d adamantane core to the C_3 -trishomocubane components²⁶⁸. However, Nakazaki has more recently arrived at (+)-458b by coupling of 1,3,5,7-tetraethynyladamantane with (+)-459²⁶⁹. The highest attainable static and time-averaged dynamic symmetry of this molecule are T and (C_3)⁴.

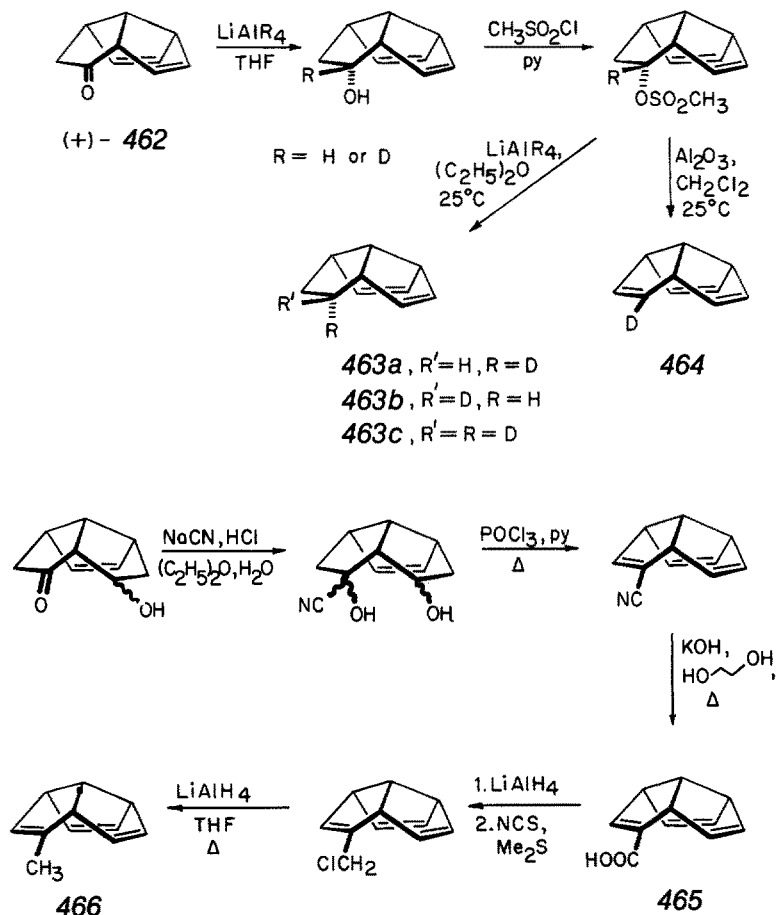


Irradiation of *cis,syn,cis*-enones 460 in ethyl acetate results in facile intramolecular cyclization to the trishomocubane diones 461. Interestingly, these substances undergo smooth cycloreversion to 460 when exposed to catalytic amounts of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid in benzene at 30 °C²⁷⁰.



I Triquinacenes and Related Molecules

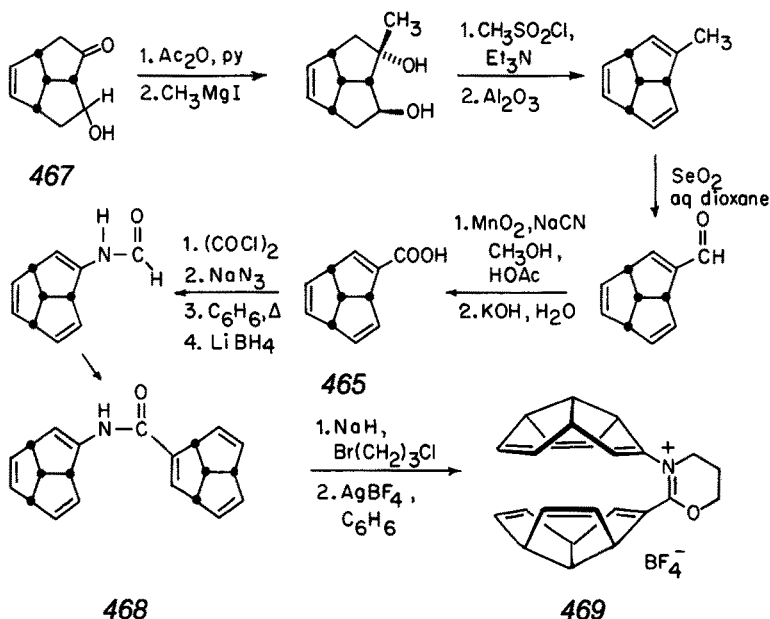
Full details have now appeared concerning the photoisomerization of triquinacene²⁷¹⁾, its bridgehead substitution via photochlorination²⁷²⁾, and the S_N1 solvolytic reactivity of these halides²⁷²⁾. The three deuterated, optically active 2,3-dihydrotri-quinacenes **463** of known absolute configuration have been prepared from (+)-**462** (Scheme XXXVII)²⁷³⁾. The dextrorotatory monodeuterated triquinacene **464** was



Scheme XXXVII

obtained from the same precursor and (—)-(1*S*)-2-methyltriquinacene (**466**) from (—)-triquinacene-2-carboxylic acid (**465**)²⁷³⁾. The absorption and circular dichroism spectra of these hydrocarbons have been measured and analyzed in terms of the contributions of the composite double bonds and peripheral substituents. By this technique, triquinacene is shown not to be homoaromatic²⁷³⁾.

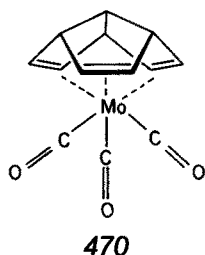
An alternative practical synthesis of triquinacene-2-carboxylic acid (as the dextro-rotatory enantiomer) has been described by Deslongchamps and Soucy²⁷⁴. Their protocol begins with hydroxy ketone **467** and passes via the 2-methyl derivative (Scheme XXXVIII). Selenium dioxide oxidation of the hydrocarbon provided the aldehyde which was further oxidized and then hydrolyzed to arrive at the acid.



Scheme XXXVIII

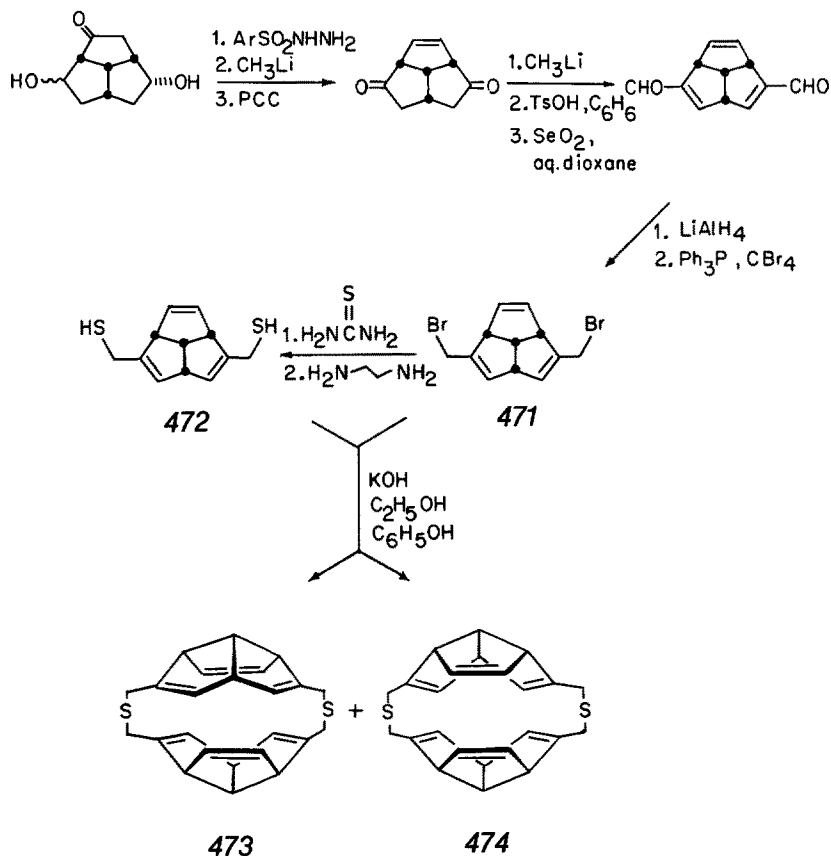
Following resolution with (–)-quinine, (+)-**465** was transformed into the (+)-2-formamido derivative which was condensed with the acid chloride of (+)-**465** to give the secondary amide **468**. From this point, the cyclic imide salt **469** was prepared, but cyclization to the dodecahedrane nucleus could not be realized²⁷⁴.

With Thiele's acid as starting material, several routes to triquinacene and 2,3-dihydrotriquinacen-2-one (**462**) have been developed²⁷⁵. Triquinacene reacts with $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_6$ to give tricarbonyl(triquinacene)molybdenum (**470**) and with $(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_3$ -



$W(CO)_3$ to give tricarbonyl(triquinacene)tungsten²⁷⁶. X-ray analysis has revealed 470 to possess the indicated structure.

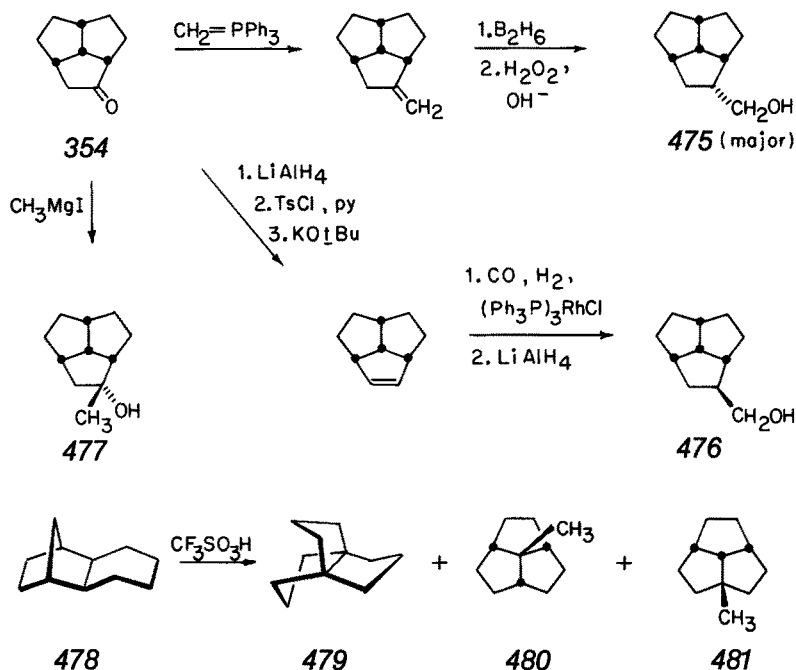
Following the preparation of 2,6-di(bromomethyl)triquinacene (471), dimercaptan 472 was synthesized conventionally. Coupling of these intermediates produced a 3.5 to 1 mixture of *anti*- and *syn*-triquinacenophanes 473 and 474. These isomers were separated chromatographically and identities established by x-ray structure determination of 473²⁷⁷.



As part of a general study of the fate of perhydrotriquinacene 2-carbinyl cations, ketone 354 was converted to 475–477¹⁸⁴.

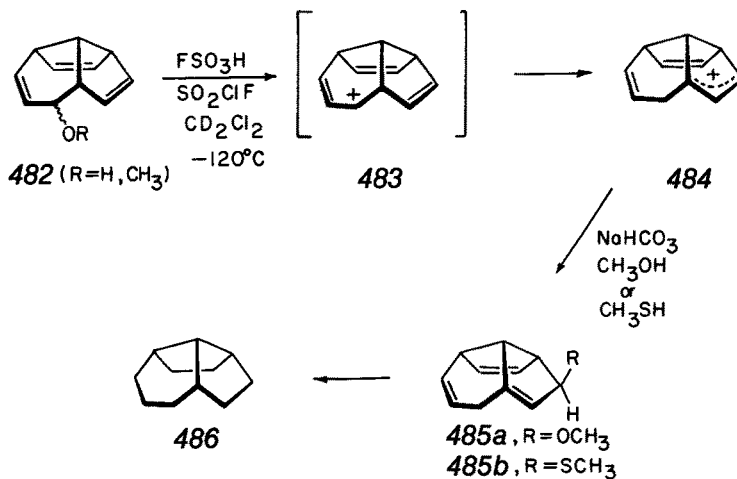
Amidst the complex mixture of products formed upon trifluoromethanesulfonic acid-catalyzed skeletal rearrangement of tricyclo[6.2.1.0^{2,7}]undecane (478) has been found [3.3.3]propellane (479) and the methylated perhydrotriquinacene 480 and 481²⁷⁸.

Treatment of 482 as the ether or alcohol with magic acid generates carbocation 483 which rapidly isomerizes to 484 whose spectra are observable. Quenching experiments carried out with sodium bicarbonate suspensions in methanol or methyl mercaptan at $-110^\circ C$ produced 485a and 485b. Dissolution of 485a in magic acid

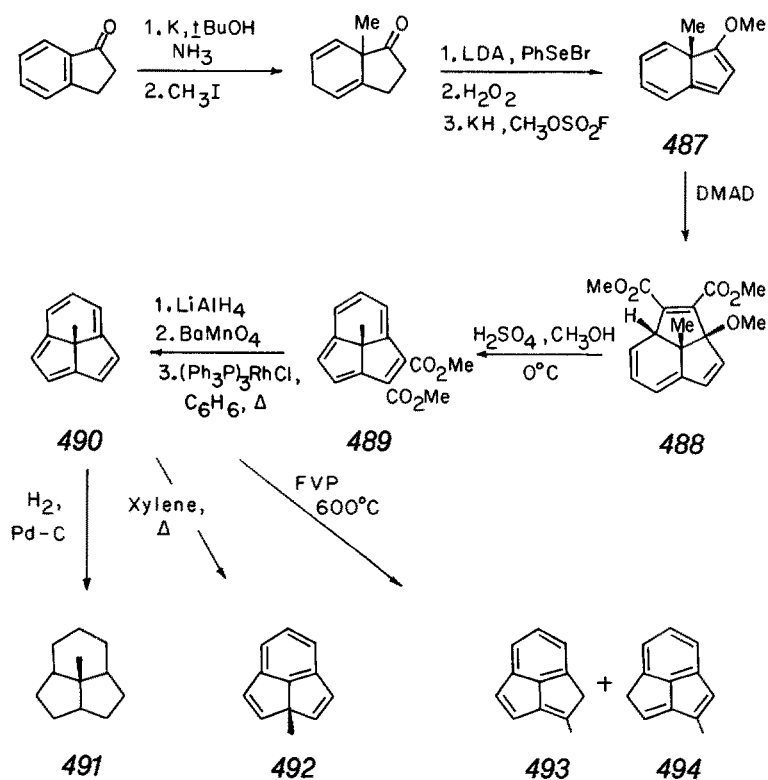


regenerated 484. Reduction of 485b with Raney nickel followed by hydrogenation over 10% palladium on charcoal gave 486 as the only detectable product²⁷⁹.

Following the successful preparation of 3-methoxy-3a-methyl-3aH-indene (487), cycloaddition with dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate was found to occur across the 3- and 4-positions to give 498²⁸⁰. Dissolution of 488 in a 1:1 mixture of concentrated sulfuric acid and methanol at 0 °C results in loss of the elements of methanol and conversion to a new tricyclic aromatic [10]annulene (Scheme XXXIX)²⁸¹. Diester 489 was subsequently transformed into the unsubstituted system (490). Catalytic hydro-



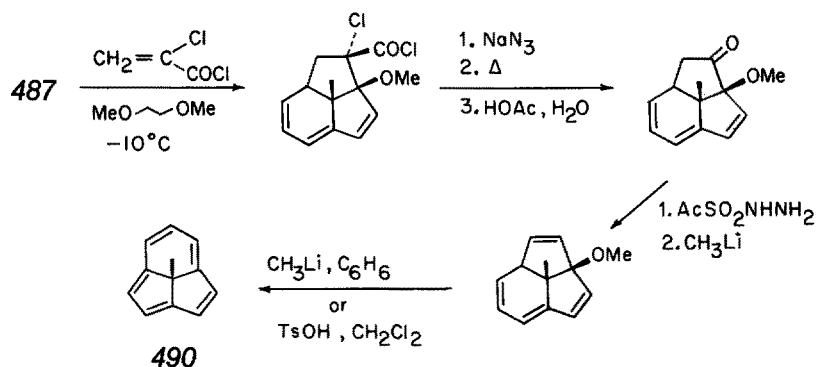
V Simpler Molecules of Theoretical Interest

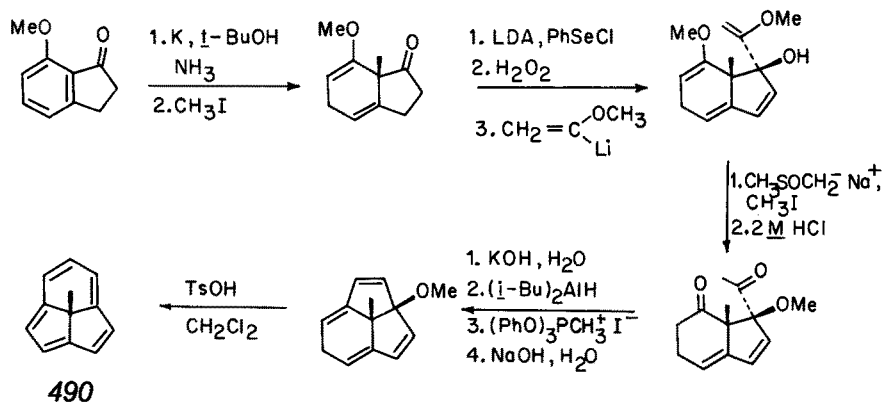


Scheme XXXIX

genation produced **491** while thermal rearrangement in refluxing xylene gave rise to **492**. Flash vacuum pyrolysis at 600°C resulted in further isomerization and formation of **493** and **494** ²⁸².

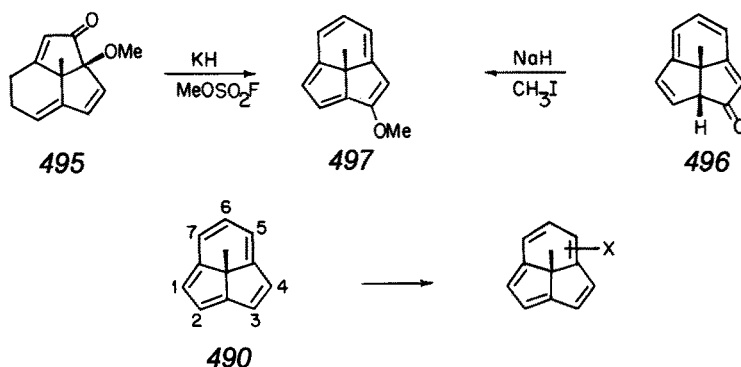
More recently, two improved syntheses of **490** have been realized in Rees' laboratory ^{283, 284}. The main features of these approaches are summarized in Scheme XL.





Scheme XL

The intermediate tricyclic ketones **495** and **496** have been transformed to the methoxy-substituted derivative **497**^{284, 285}. The latter ketone is subject to hydrogen-deuterium exchange only under basic conditions and appears to exist entirely in the keto form despite the ready formation of its anion and successful methylation on oxygen²⁸⁵). In agreement with the aromatic nature of **490**, the hydrocarbon undergoes electrophilic substitution reactions²⁸³).



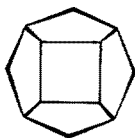
$\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2, \text{Ac}_2\text{O}, 0^\circ\text{C}$	Isomer	1-	2-	5-	6-
$\text{Ac}_2\text{O}, \text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2, \text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$	$\text{X} = \text{NO}_2$	40	5	40	15
$\text{Cl}_2\text{CHOBu-n}, \text{TiCl}_4, \text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$	$\text{X} = \text{COMe}$	20	0	75	5
	$\text{X} = \text{CHO}$	4	0	93	3

J Peristylanes

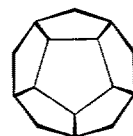
Garratt and White have pointed out the similarities in the topologies of **498–500** and their more spherical counterparts **501–503**²⁸⁶). Following Eaton's lead²⁸⁷), they proposed to name **498–500** as [3]-, [4]-, and [5]-peristylanes, respectively, to reflect



498



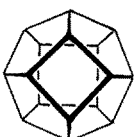
499



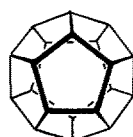
500



501



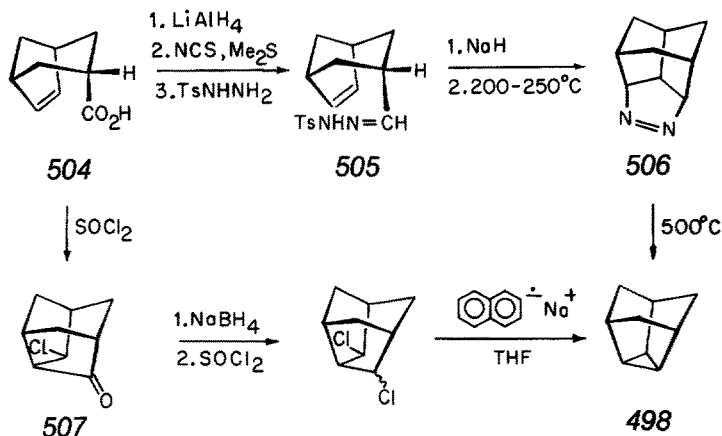
502



503

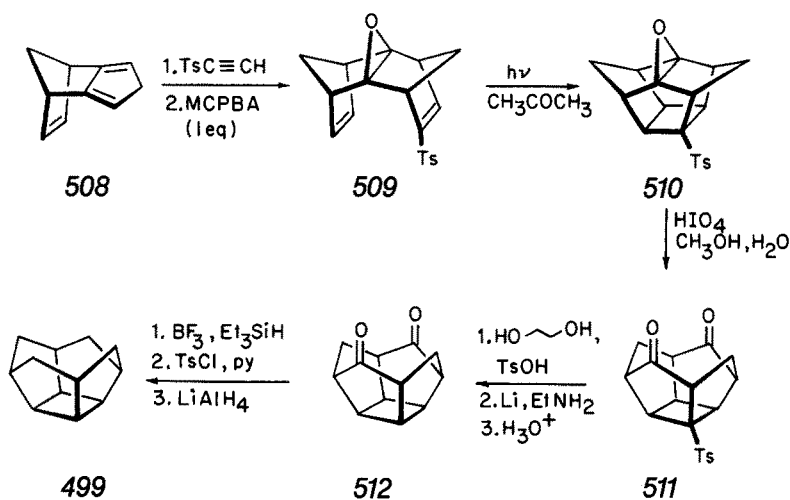
the size of the basal ring. The first member of this series to yield to synthesis was 498 and three approaches are currently available. In expedient fashion, Nickon and Pandit pyrolyzed the sodium salt of the tosylhydrazone of noradamantan-2-one²⁸⁸⁾. Regiospecific C—H insertion leads directly and exclusively to 498. The synthetic entries devised by Garratt and White both start from carboxylic acid 504. Conversion to tosylhydrazone 505 and pyrolysis of its sodium salt afforded azo compound 506 which itself on pyrolysis gave 498. Alternatively, 504 reacts with thionyl chloride to provide chloro ketone 507. Once dichloride 508 was arrived at, reduction with sodium naphthalenide delivered 498.

Eaton's synthesis of [5]-peristylane (500)²⁸⁷⁾ was discussed in our earlier review¹⁾.



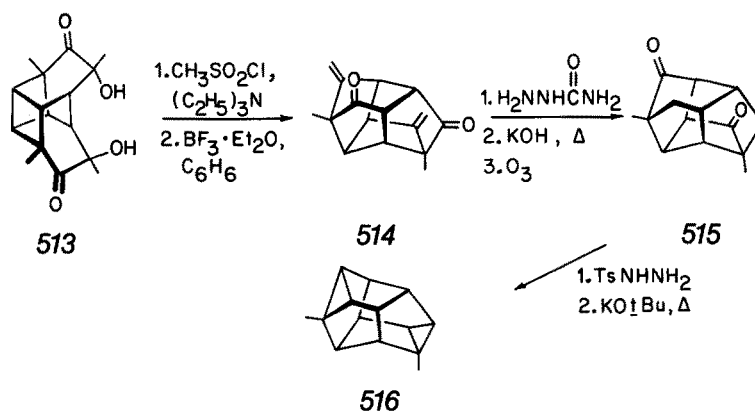
A fully stereocontrolled preparation of 499 has recently been completed by Paquette and coworkers²⁸⁹⁾. When triene 508 was treated with *p*-toluenesulfonyl-acetylene, highly stereoselective addition from the endo surface occurred to deliver an adduct which was directly epoxidized (Scheme XLI). The proximity of the two π bonds in 509 allows for ready photocyclization. Oxidative cleavage of 510 afforded

diketone **511** which was desulfonylated after bisketalization. Stepwise reduction of **512** furnished the desired **499**.



Scheme XLI

A synthesis of a dimethyl derivative of **501** has also recently been announced by Hirao, et al.²⁹⁰). Following conversion of **513** to its dimesylate, Lewis acid-catalyzed rearrangement gave dienedione **514** as the major product. Heating of the disemicarbazone of **514** with powdered KOH furnished the diolefin which was transformed into **515** by ozonolysis. When the ditosylhydrazone of **515** was heated with potassium



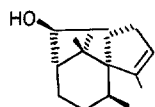
tert-butoxide in glyme, the C_2 -symmetric product **516** containing two cyclopropane rings resulted.

A discussion of dodecahedrane chemistry is deferred to a later section of this review.

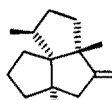
VI Natural Products Chemistry

A Isolation and Physical Properties

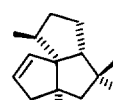
Bohlmann and his coworkers have continued their impressive pace in the isolation of polyquinane-based natural products. These include pardalianchol (517)²⁹¹, β -isocomene (518)²⁹², silphinene (519)^{293,303}, 13-acetoxymodhephene (520)²⁹⁴, 5-oxo-silphiperfol-6-ene (521)²⁹⁵, 8- α -hydroxypresilphiperfolene (522)²⁹⁶, 1-acetoxysilphiperfol-6-ene (523)²⁹⁷, and several additional derivatives of this ring system²⁹⁸. From other laboratories have come the characterization of such interesting substances as magellanine (524)²⁹⁹, paniculatin (525)³⁰⁰, arnicenone (526)³⁰¹, riolozatrione (527)³⁰², stoechospermol (528)³⁰⁴, ptychanolide (529)³⁰⁵, yuzurimine (530)^{306,307}, yuzurimine-A (531a)^{307,308}, macrodaphniphyllamine (531b)³⁰⁹, structurally related alkaloids of this family³⁰⁶⁻³¹¹, laurenene (532)³¹², the only naturally occurring fenestrane molecule, and several oxygenated 1,7-diepicedrane sesquiterpenes³¹³.



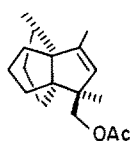
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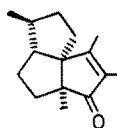
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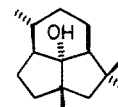
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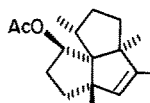
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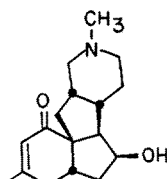
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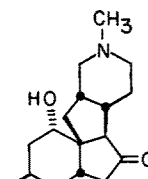
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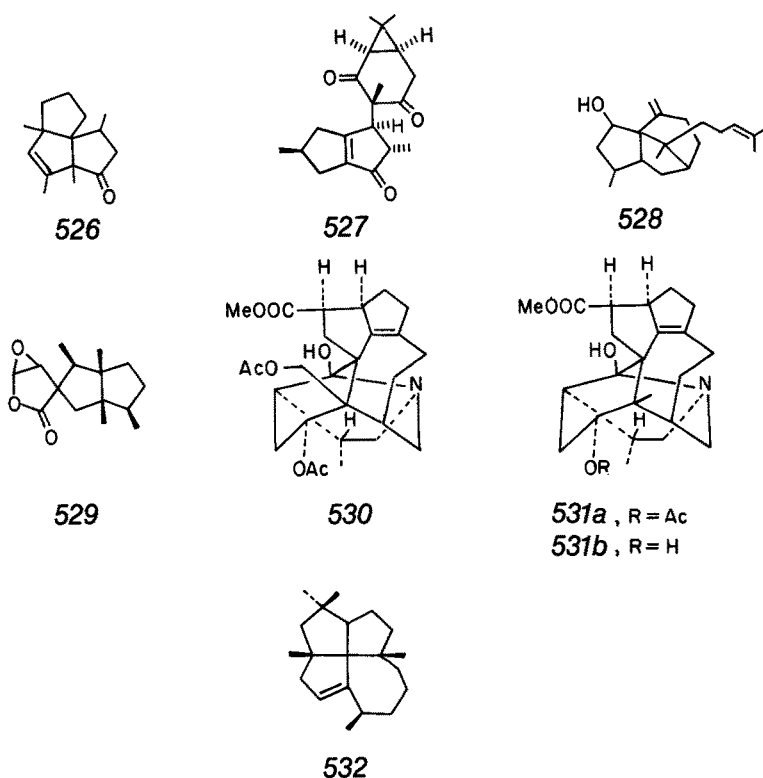
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524



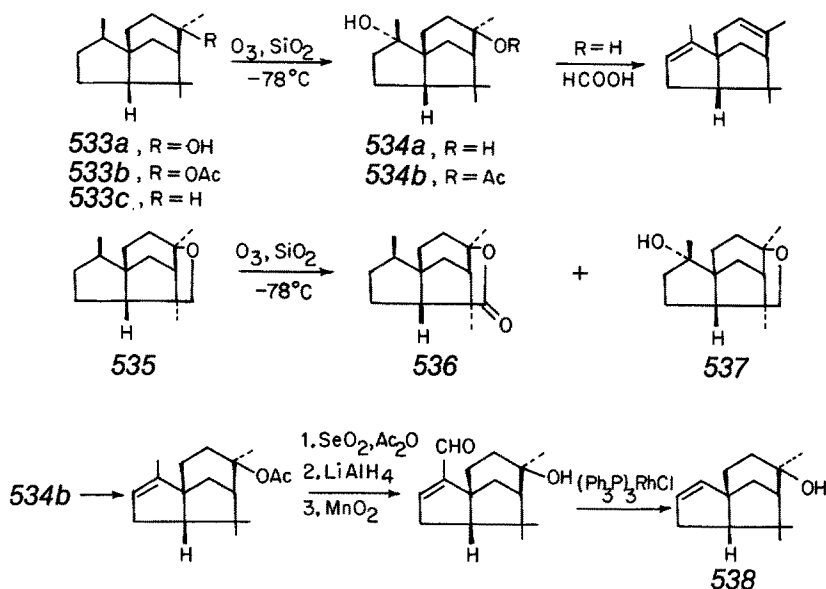
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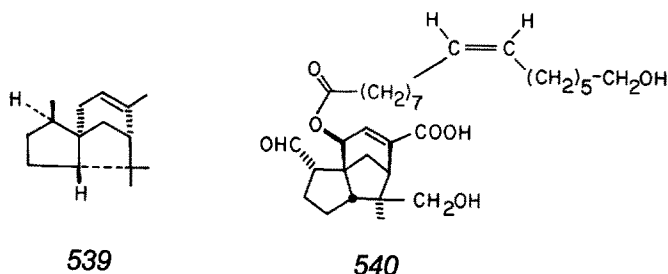
B Chemical Transformations

Cedrol (533a), its acetate (533b), and 8 α H-cedrane (533c) undergo selective hydroxylation with ozone adsorbed on silica gel to produce 534a or b³¹⁴. Cedrane oxide (535) gives the lactone 536 (30%) and tertial alcohol 537, thereby revealing that —CH₂O— and tertiary C—H groups are of similar reactivity. The conversion of 534b to C₁₄-noredrenol (538) has also been accomplished (Scheme XLII)³¹⁴. With PhICl₂, cedryl acetate affords the tertiary chloride corresponding to 534b. The autoxidation of 8R-hydroxycedran-13-al has been reported³¹⁵.

Borohydride reduction of 9-oxo, 10-oxo- and 8-ene-10-oxo-cedranoids proceeds in general to give the β -hydroxy epimer³¹⁶. Details concerning the reductive ring opening of several cedrane oxides have been disclosed, as have the circular dichroism spectra of cedran-10-ones³¹⁷. The configuration of the bromination product of dimethyl 8,13-epoxy-9-oxocedrane-12,15-dioate has also been established³¹⁸. One of the sesquiterpene hydrocarbons previously obtained³¹⁹ by solvolysis of the *p*-bromobenzenesulfonate of *allo*-cedrol has recently been shown to be identical with α -funebrene (539)³²⁰. The total synthesis of jalaric ester-I (540) has been accomplished through selective condensation of 16-hydroxy-(*Z*)-9-hexadecanoic acid and jalaric acid^{321,322}. The possible importance of this compound in the elaboration of lac resin by insects has been pointed out.



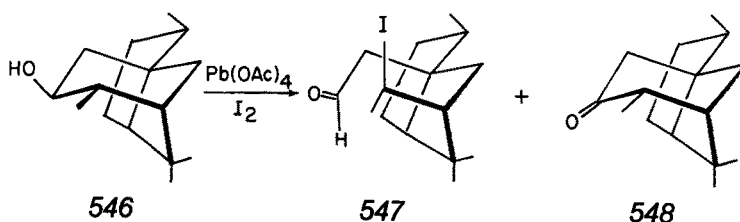
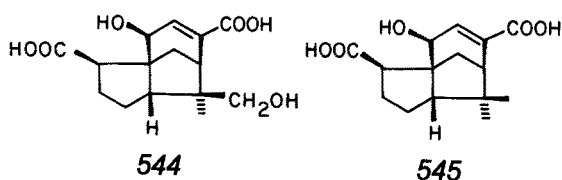
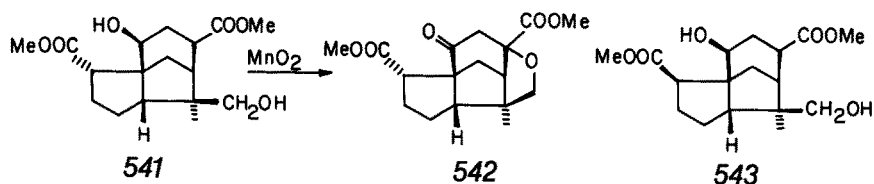
Scheme XLII



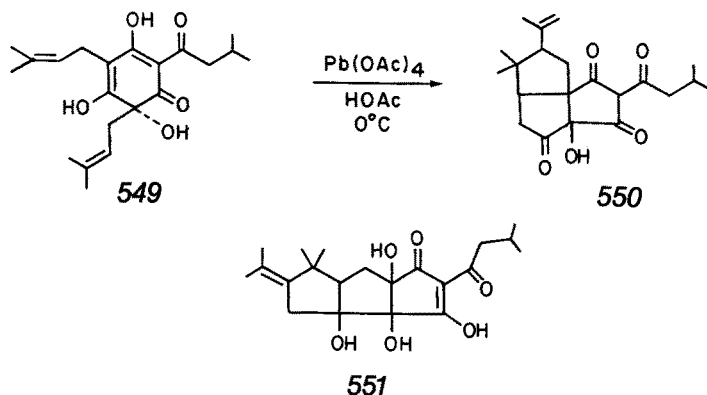
The action of activated manganese dioxide on *541* gives the oxo-ether *542* as a single product in quantitative yield. On the other hand, *543* leads under analogous conditions to a mixture of six products³²³. The configurations of shellolic (*544*) and laccishelloic acids (*545*) have been correlated by conversion of the C_{13} -hydroxymethyl function of the former into the methyl group of the latter via two routes involving reduction of an intermediate thioacetal and an iodo derivative, respectively³²⁴.

Because of the absence of a suitably positioned C—H bond, the alkoxy radical derived from *546* cannot undergo heterocyclization. β -Fragmentation therefore ensues to give *547* along with a small amount of parent ketone. An empirical predictive rule has been developed to account for the stereoelectronic control observed in such reactions²³⁵.

Tricyclodehydroisohumulone (*550*), detected as a new bittering component present in beer and in stored hops, is formed in low yield by boiling aqueous humulone (*549*) in air. This highly functionalized triquinane, originally believed to possess an alternative structure³²⁶, is best prepared (30%) by reaction of *549* with lead tetra-

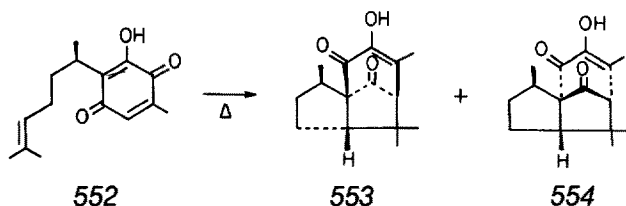


acetate³²⁷⁾. On the basis of recent spectroscopic evidence the structural assignment to isohumulione A has been revised to 551³²⁸⁾.

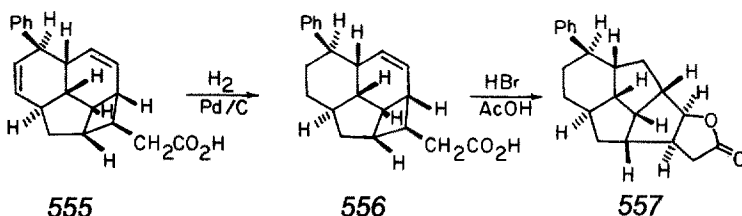


While the chirality of perezone (552) has been known for some time³²⁹⁾, that of the α - (553) and β -pitzols (554) which are derivable from 552 by thermolysis was rigorously proven only recently by chemical transformation to cedrene and x-ray diffraction³³⁰⁾. The cyclization of 552 has been shown to involve a concerted [4+2] cycloaddition which lacks stereochemical induction by the chiral center already present, since 553 and 554 are obtained in equimolar amounts³³¹⁾. However, a stepwise mechanism having higher stereoselectivity is followed by 552 in the presence

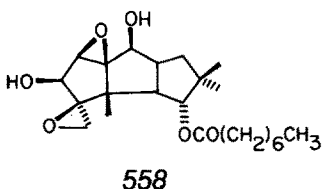
of boron trifluoride (90 % of 553)³³². The stereochemistries of the closely related cedranolides α -, β -, and γ -perezol have been assigned from their respective ORD curves³³⁰.



Hydrogenation of endiandric acid (555) with an aged palladium catalyst afforded the dihydro derivative 556 which isomerized to the triquinane lactone 557 when heated with HBr in acetic acid³³³.



Chemical modification of coriolin B (558) of rather extensive scope has been described^{334, 335}.

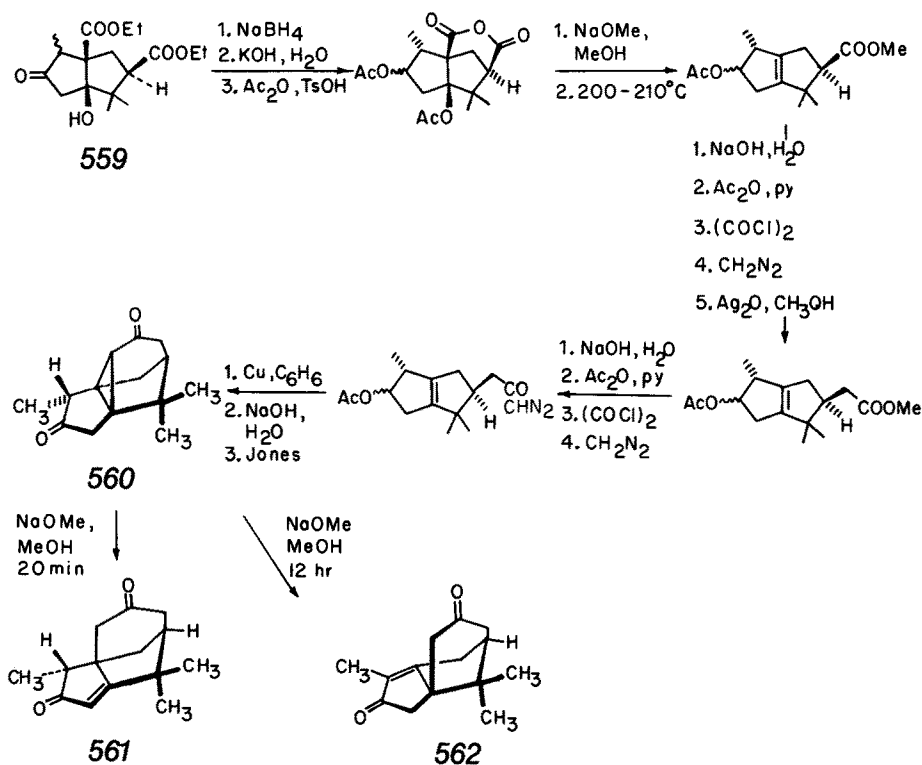


Experimental studies delineating an extensive number of chemical transformations of laurenene (532)^{312, 336}, including the crystal structure analysis of a bromo derivative³³⁷, have been published.

VII Synthesis of Diquinane Natural Products

A Cedranoids

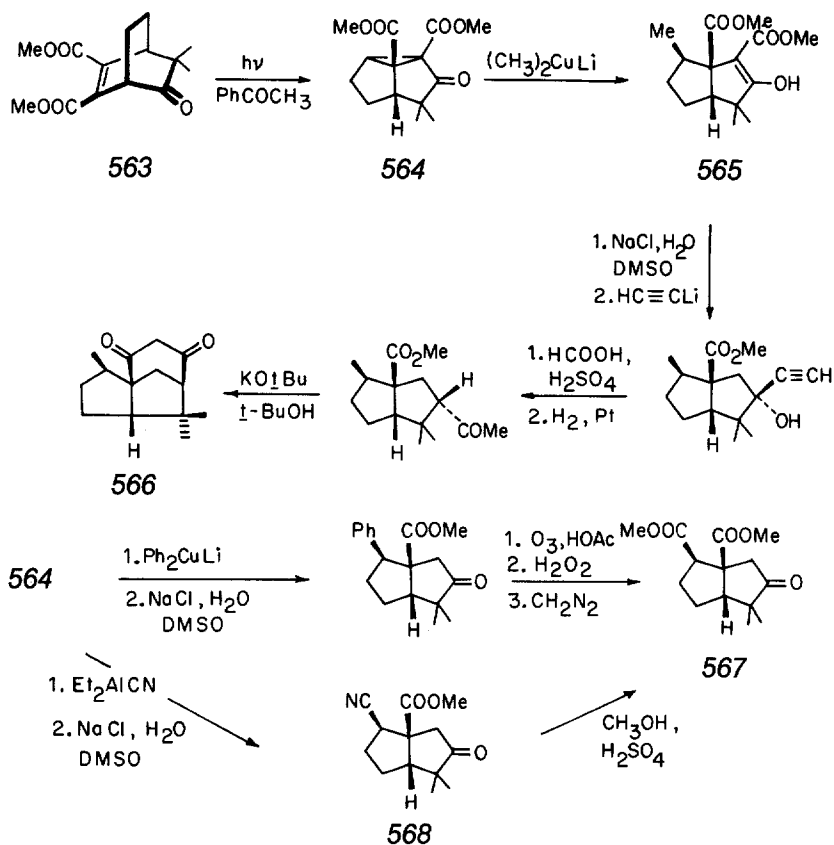
Although cedranoid sesquiterpenes have earlier been synthesized, a renewed interest in alternative methods for elaborating these frameworks has arisen. The stereo-specific approach to α -cedrene and α -patchoulene skeletons designed by Deslongchamps and summarized in Scheme XLIII is a case in point³³⁸). Beginning with the Stork-Clarke intermediate 559, the tetracyclic cyclopropyl diketone 560 was elaborated via a series of standard transformations. Treatment of 560 with three equivalents of sodium methoxide in methanol at room temperature for 20 min



Scheme XLIII

gave the tricyclic enedione **561** (cedrene skeleton) as the only product. When the same reaction was carried out for 12 hr, the isomeric enedione **562** (patchoulene skeleton) was formed uniquely. Thus, **561** is the kinetic product and **562** the thermodynamic product.

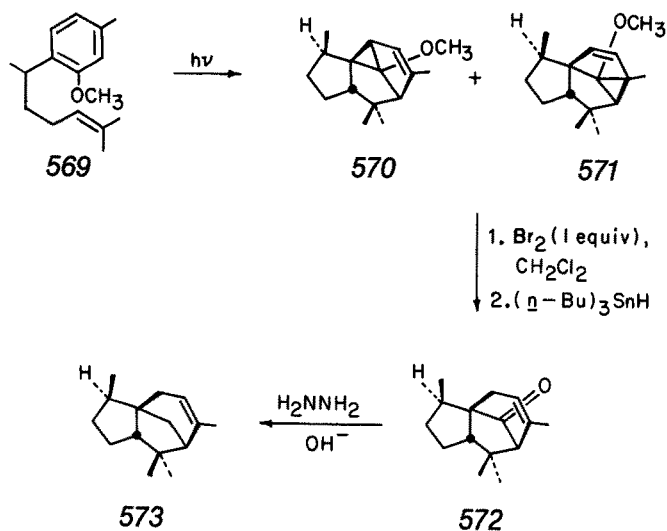
Yates and Stevens have devised an interesting synthesis of diketone **566** which is potentially adaptable to the introduction of additional functionality³³⁹. Taking advantage of the efficiency with which **563** enters into oxa-di- π -methane rearrangement and **564** undergoes homoconjugative addition, these workers gained access to **565**. This keto ester was subjected to Rupe rearrangement conditions which led ultimately to **566** as shown.



The viability of this synthetic approach to the introduction of a carboxylic acid function at C_2 has been demonstrated in two ways. Following lithium diphenylcuprate addition to **564**, the newly introduced phenyl group is subsequently degraded by ozonolysis to provide **567**. Alternatively, reaction of **564** with diethylaluminium cyanide in toluene gives **568** which is also conveniently transformed into **567**^{339,340}.

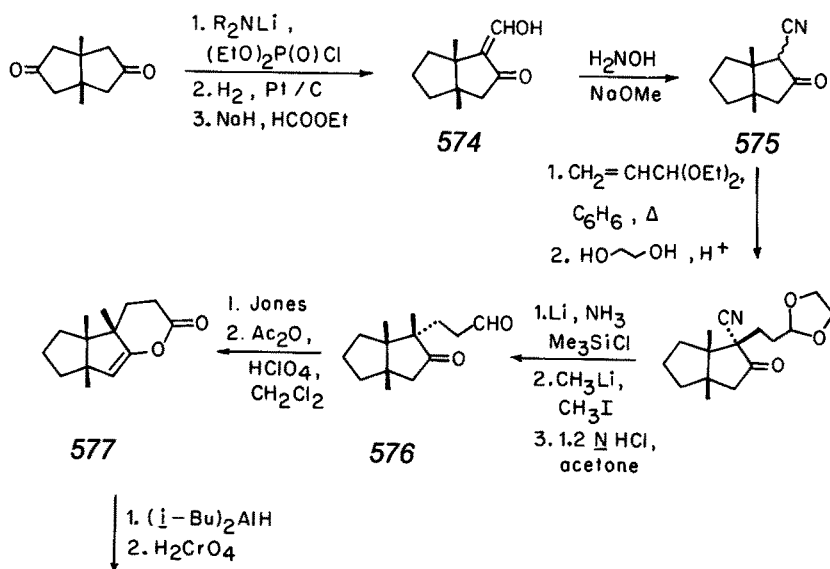
Making elegant use of the intramolecular arene-olefin meta-cycloaddition reaction, Wender and Howbert have achieved a total synthesis of (\pm) -cedrene (**573**)³⁴¹. Irradiation of **569** led to an approximately equal mixture of **570** and **571** which

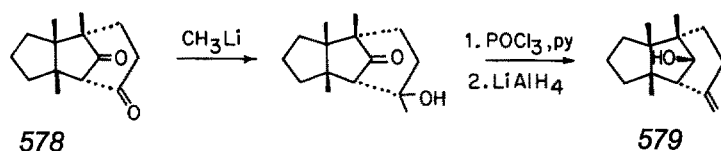
without separation were converted to cedren-11-one (572) by a bromination-reduction sequence. Wolff-Kishner reduction of this product gave 573 in 59% overall yield.



B Gymnomitrol

Gymnomitrol (579), a tricyclic sesquiterpenoid which occurs as a major metabolite of the liverwort *Gymnomitrium obtusum* (Lindb.) Pears, contains a rare 4,8-methanoazulene (diquinane) carbon skeleton with five adjacent chiral centers, three of them

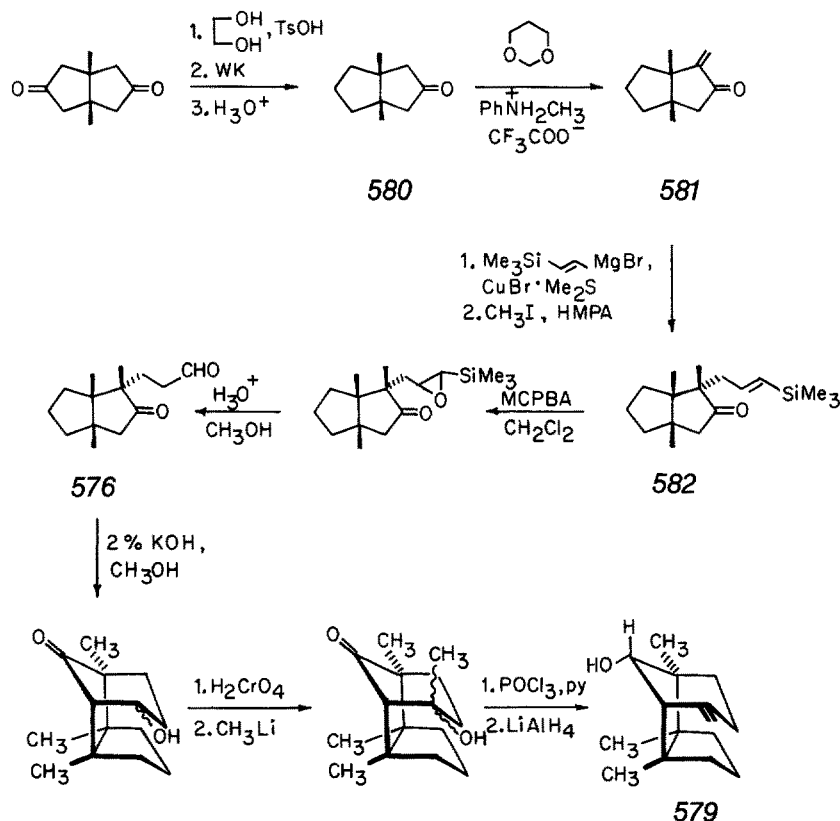




Scheme XLIV

quaternary. This molecule probably sets a record in that five different syntheses were reported in a span of only two months³⁴²⁻³⁴⁷. The Coates protocol (Scheme XLIV) centers about elaboration of hydroxymethylene ketone (574) into the tricyclic diketone (578). Alkylation of keto nitrile 575 proceeds exclusively *cis* to the angular methyl groups as does the subsequent reductive methylation. These authors were not able to achieve aldol cyclization of keto aldehyde 576 and consequently proceeded to enol lactone 577³⁴²). The addition of a methyl group to 578 could be achieved regioselectively. Subsequently dehydration gave 579 and its endocyclic isomer which were separated chromatographically.

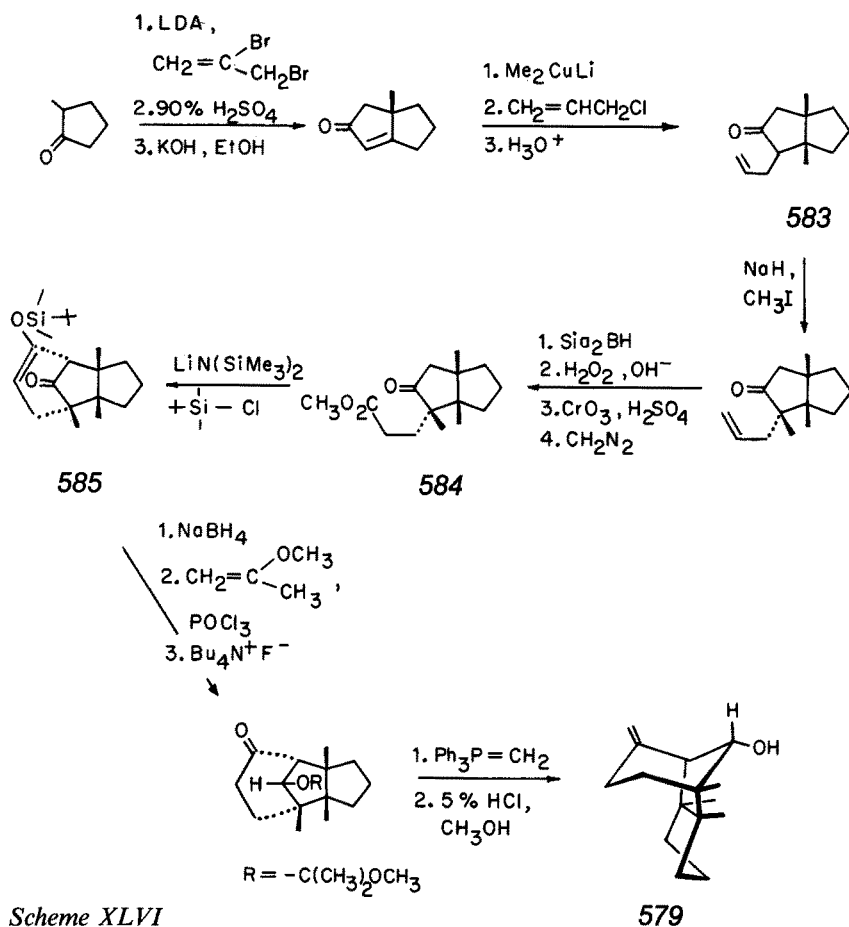
Paquette and Han chose to append their sidechain to 580 by preforming the α -methylene ketone 581 and carrying out a conjugate addition of a vinyl silane organo-



Scheme XLV

metallic reagent concurrent with methylation (Scheme XLV)³⁴³. Epoxidation and acid hydrolysis of 582 generated keto aldehyde 576 which they were able to cyclize with 2% potassium hydroxide in methanol. The remainder of the synthesis bears close similarity to the Coates approach.

Welch's stereoselective synthesis centered about the tandem conjugate addition of a methyl group and allylation to produce 583 (Scheme XLVI)³⁴⁴. A second methylation, combined with oxidation of the allyl sidechain, gave 584 which was successfully cyclized under Claisen conditions. Trapping of the enolate as in 585 permitted differentiation between the two potential ketone carbonyl groups.

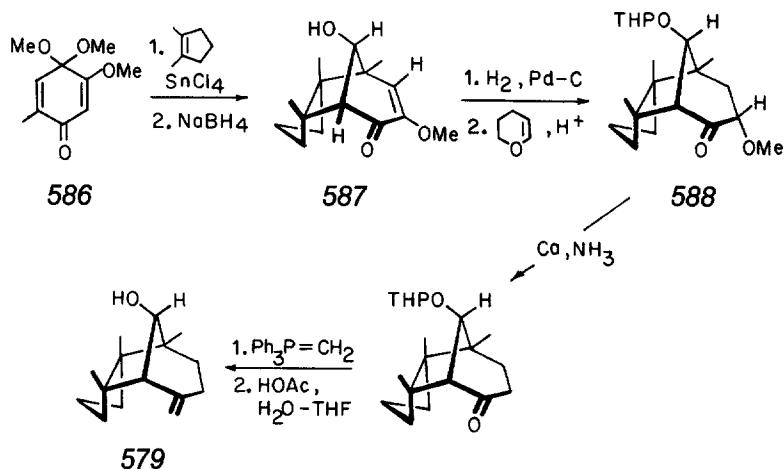


Scheme XLVI

In a clever adaptation of the acid-catalyzed addition of *p*-quinone ketals to olefins³⁴⁵, Büchi and Chu condensed 586 with 1,2-dimethylcyclopentene in the presence of stannic chloride and immediately reduced the two diastereomeric adducts with sodium borohydride³⁴⁶. The major alcohol 587 was separated, catalytically hydrogenated, and converted to the tetrahydropyranyl derivative 588 (Scheme XLVII).

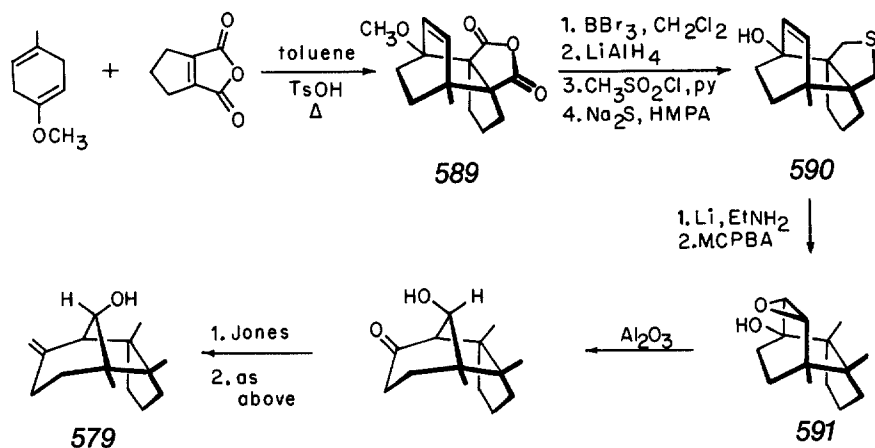
VII Synthesis of Diquinane Natural Products

The subsequent conversion to gymnomitrol proved uneventful and the overall sequence is the most expedient yet devised.



Scheme XLVII

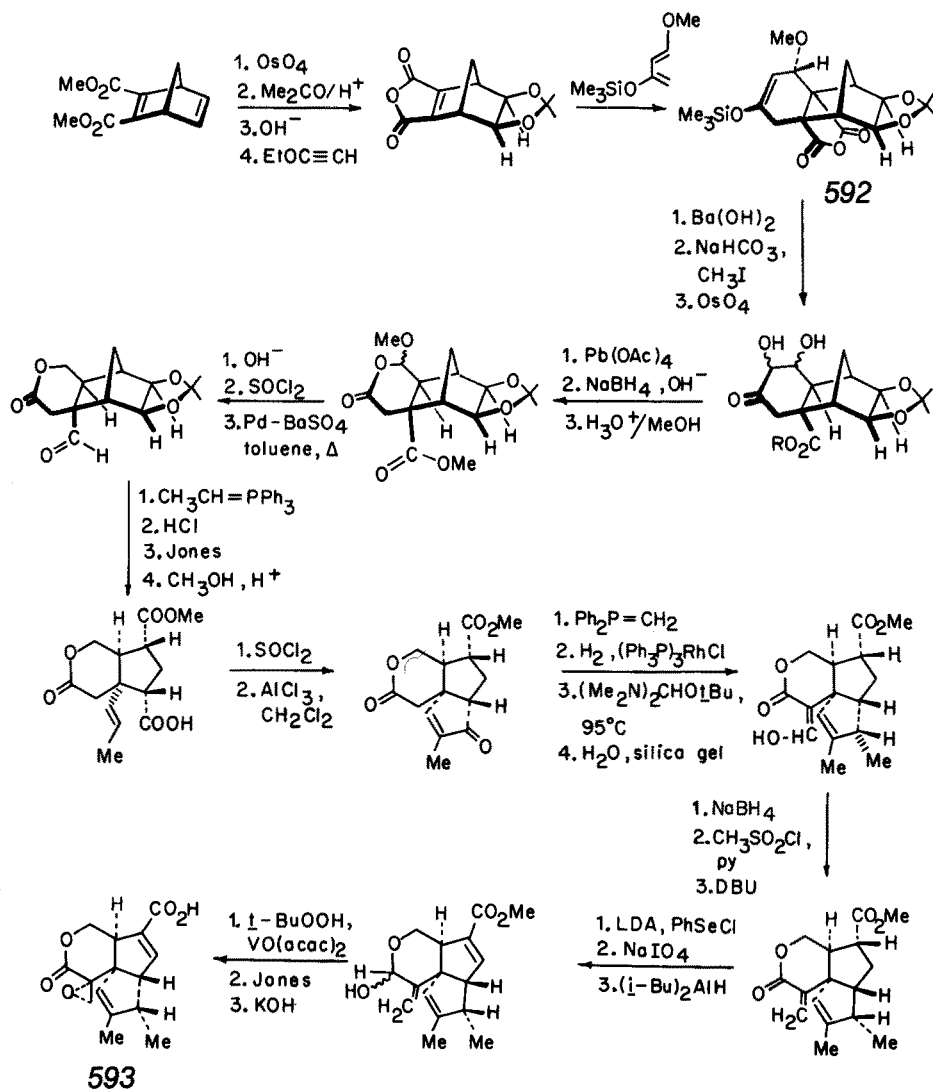
The last synthesis to evolve which is due to Ito and his coworkers is interesting in that it relies on a stereospecific skeletal rearrangement of a bicyclo[2.2.2]octane system which in turn was prepared by Diels-Alder methodology (Scheme XLVIII)³⁴⁷. Heating of a toluene solution of cyclopentene 1,2-dicarboxylic anhydride and 4-methylcyclohexa-1,4-dienyl methyl ether in the presence of a catalytic quantity of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid afforded 589. Demethylation was followed by reduction and cyclization to sulfide 590. Desulfurization set the stage for peracid oxidation and arrival at 591. Chromatography of this intermediate on alumina induced isomerization to keto alcohol 579. Jones oxidation afforded diketone 593 which had earlier been transformed into gymnomitrol.



Scheme XLVIII

C Pentalenolactone

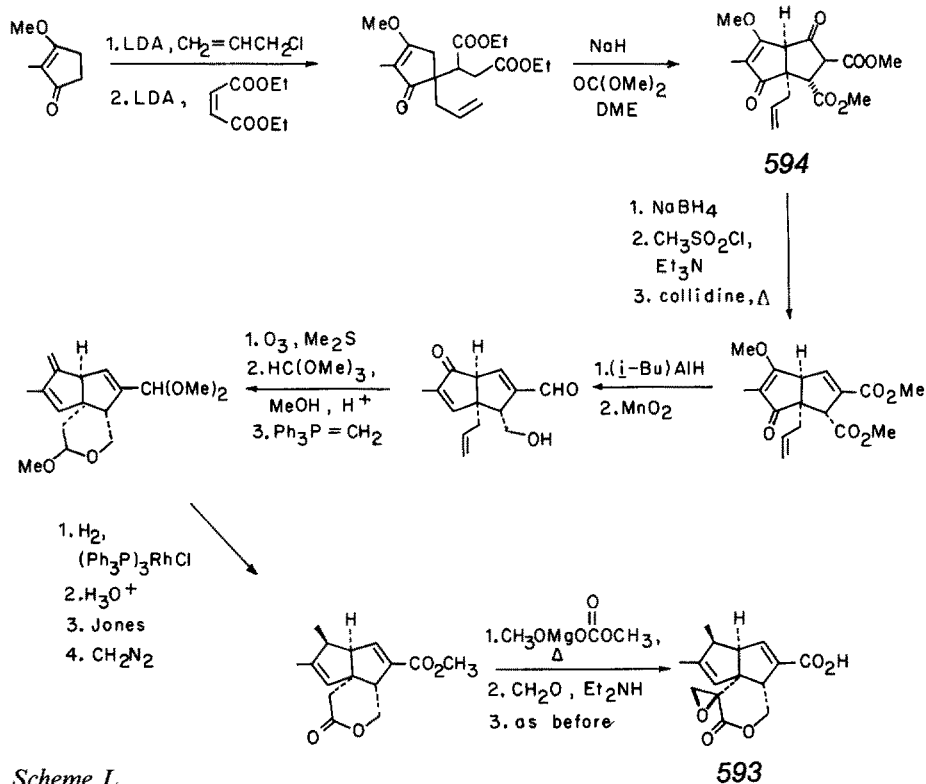
Pentalenolactone (593) is an antibiotic, tumor inhibitory agent whose provisional structural assignment was later revised on the basis of x-ray studies. Biosynthetic studies show pentalenolactone to be of sesquiterpenoid origin³⁴⁸). Two syntheses of 593, due to Danishefsky³⁴⁹) and Schlessinger³⁵⁰), have been reported to date. In the first (Scheme IL), the operating strategy was to arrive at keto ester 592 by Diels-Alder cycloaddition. Following incorporation of the essential stereochemical information in this manner, an additional five-membered ring was crafted and the cyclo-



Scheme IL

hexenone subunit was modified so as to become the epoxy lactone portion of the natural product.

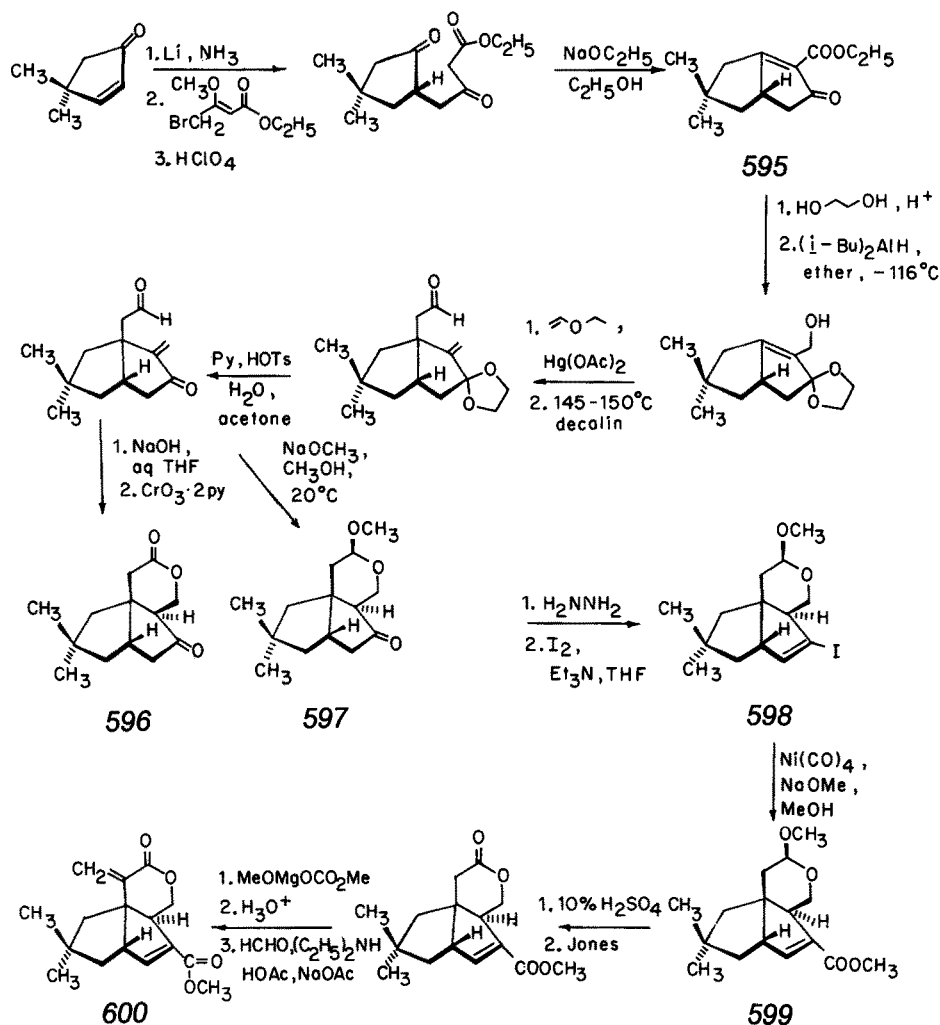
The quite different route implemented by Schlessinger commences with an expedient construction of the diquinane nucleus 594. This accomplishment is followed by an interlude of functional group reorganization. The concluding steps are concerned with appropriate introduction of carbon atoms 14 and 10 (Scheme L).



Scheme L

D Pentalenolactone E Methyl Ester

In the course of biosynthetic experiments involving *Streptomyces* UC5319, Cane and Rossi treated the acidic fraction of an ether extract with diazomethane and obtained 600 which they called pentalenolactone E methyl ester³⁵¹. Paquette's solution to the total synthesis of this substance (Scheme LI)³⁵² was founded upon a new protocol for stereocontrolled lactone annulation³⁵³. 4,4-Dimethylcyclopentenone was suitably annulated to give 595 which was subjected to controlled reduction. Application of the Claisen rearrangement and implementation of an intramolecular Michael addition-oxidation sequence led to the tricyclic lactone 596 or the lactol ether 597. Once vinyl iodide 598 was produced, the nickel carbonyl-sodium methoxide reagent furnished ester 599 which served as progenitor to the target molecule.

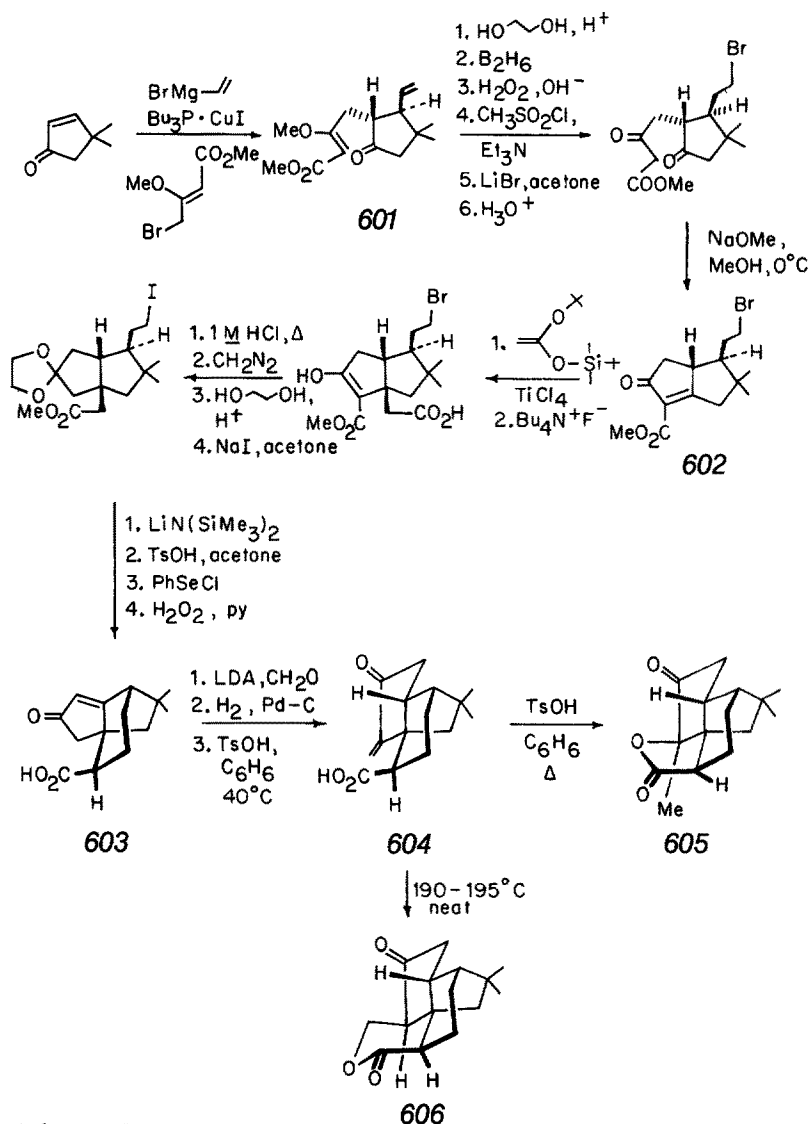


Scheme LI

E Quadrone

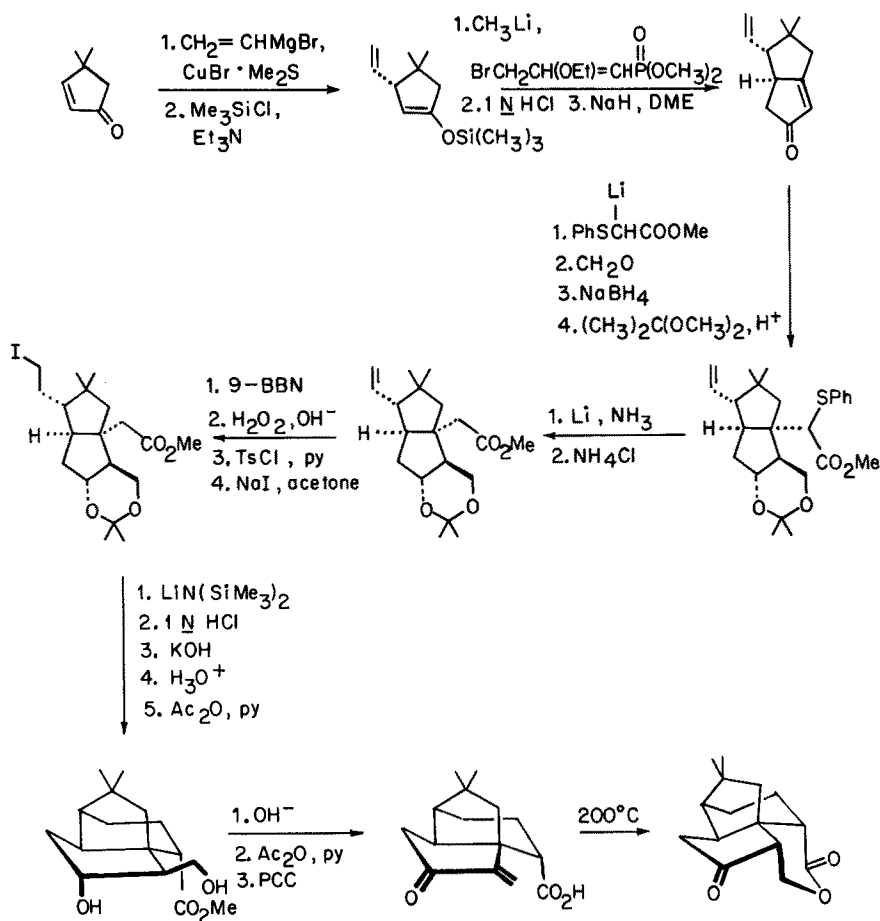
Interest in the total synthesis of the *Aspergillus terreus* derived quadrone (606), an antitumor agent³⁵⁴, has been very intense. Success was first realized in Danishefsky's laboratory³⁵⁵. Once 601 was reached, its sidechain was elaborated and ring closure effected (Scheme LII). Condensation of 602 with 1-*tert*-butoxy-1-*tert*-butyldimethylsiloxyethylene in the presence of titanium tetrachloride and subsequent desilylation resulted in introduction of an angular acetic acid moiety. The two sidechains were next connected by intramolecular alkylation and the resulting keto acid was subjected to selenenylation in order to produce 603. The α,β -unsaturated double bond was used to force enolization to the α' position. Indeed, 604 was

obtained conventionally. However, upon exposure to *p*-toluenesulfonic acid in refluxing benzene, **604** gave predominantly **605**, an isomer of quadron. On the other hand, heating **604** to 190–195 °C in the absence of the solvent induced proper lactonization and resulted in the formation of **606**.



Scheme LII

The Helquist approach to quadron begins in the same fashion and has many close similarities to the Danishefsky effort. Importantly, however, a key element of novelty in Scheme LIII is the deployment of a lactone annulation procedure which bypasses the regiochemical complications earlier encountered³⁵⁶.

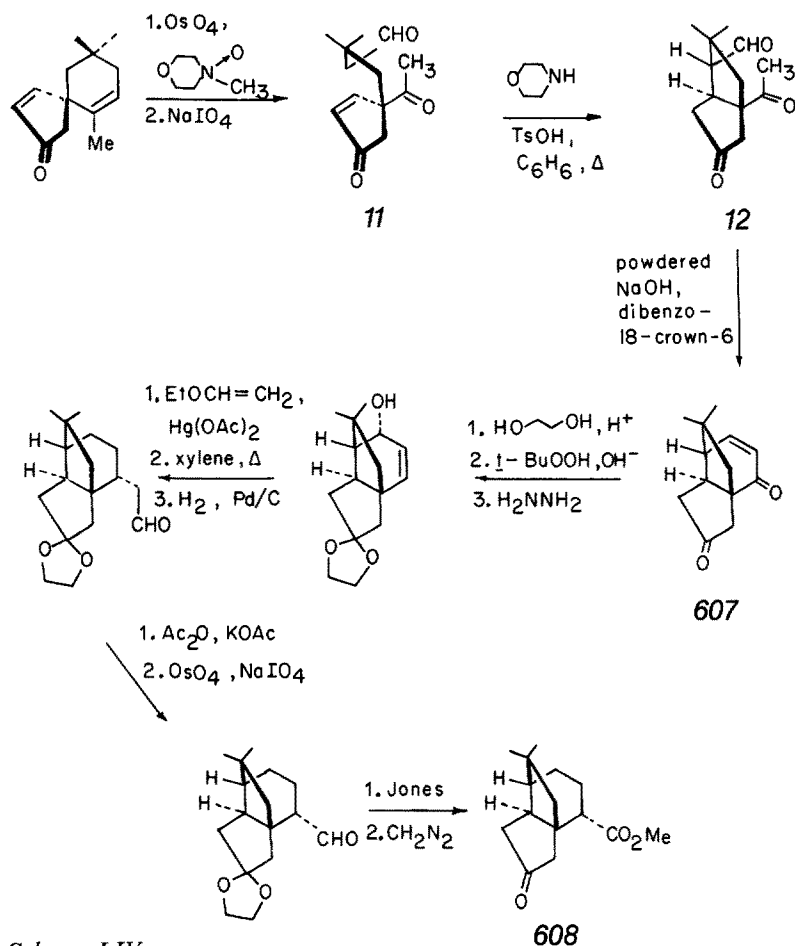


Scheme LIII

The starting material in Burke's phenomenologically different approach to quadrone was a spiro[4,5]decadienone which is readily available from 2-methyl-dimedone isobutyl ether (Scheme LIV)³⁵⁷ Oxidative cleavage of the trisubstituted double bond in 606 set the stage for controlled intramolecular Michael addition (11→12)¹². Once aldol cyclization to give 607 had been accomplished, the remaining major obstacle was installation of the lactone ring. The ester sidechain in 608 was introduced through combined application of Wharton and Claisen rearrangements and a one-carbon degradation scheme. Keto ester 608 linked up with both previous syntheses of quadrone.

An interestingly short total synthesis of quadrone was developed by Kende and coworkers who made application of Pd(II)-mediated cycloalkenylation of silyl enol ethers (Scheme LV)³⁵⁸. Their point of departure was 609 which was converted directly to 610. Reaction of this silyl enol ether with palladium acetate in acetonitrile gave predominantly 611 which could be cyclized to 612. From this intermediate, it was possible to prepare the known keto acid.

VII Synthesis of Diquinane Natural Products

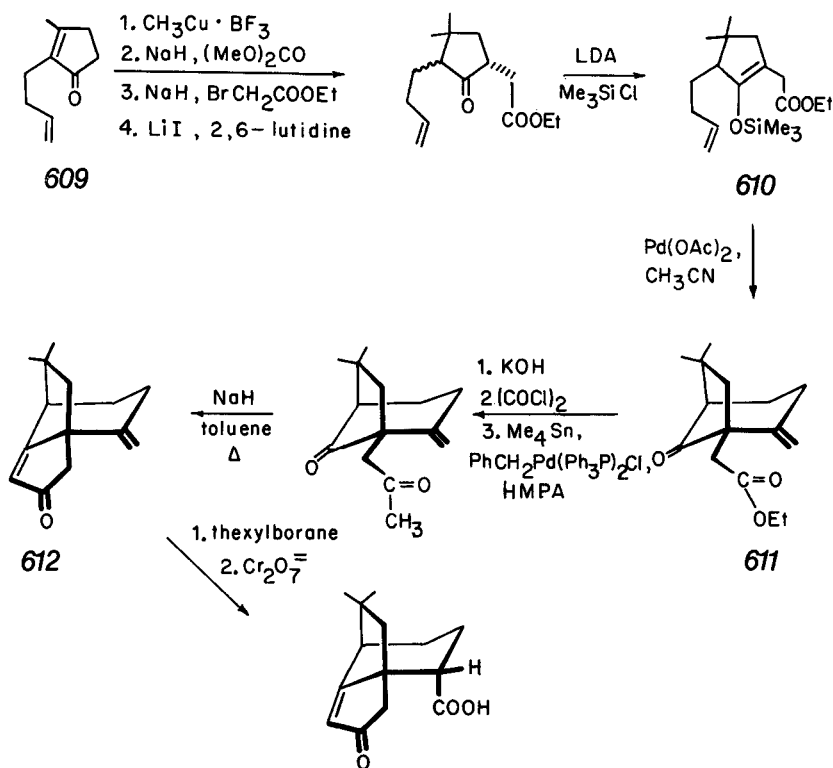


Scheme LIV

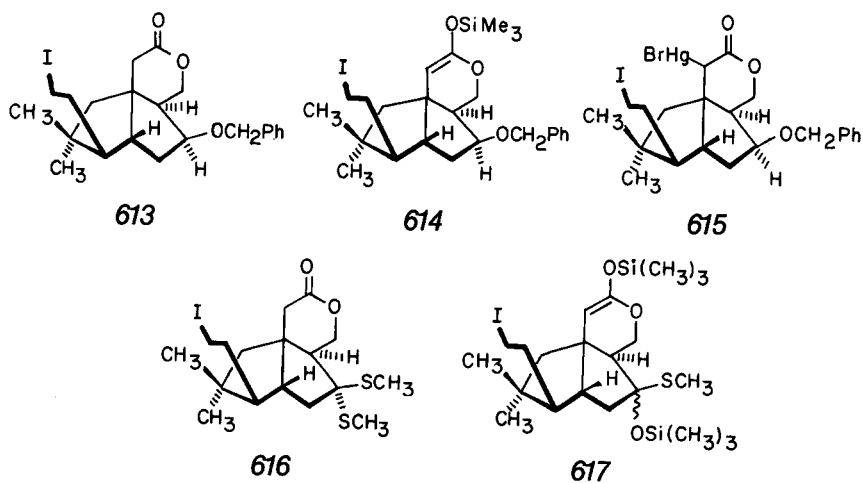
It is seemingly important that the lactone ring be formed last due to the strain present in the quadrone molecule. This conclusion is based upon Paquette's findings that cyclization of intermediates such as 613–617 could not be induced under a myriad of conditions³⁵².

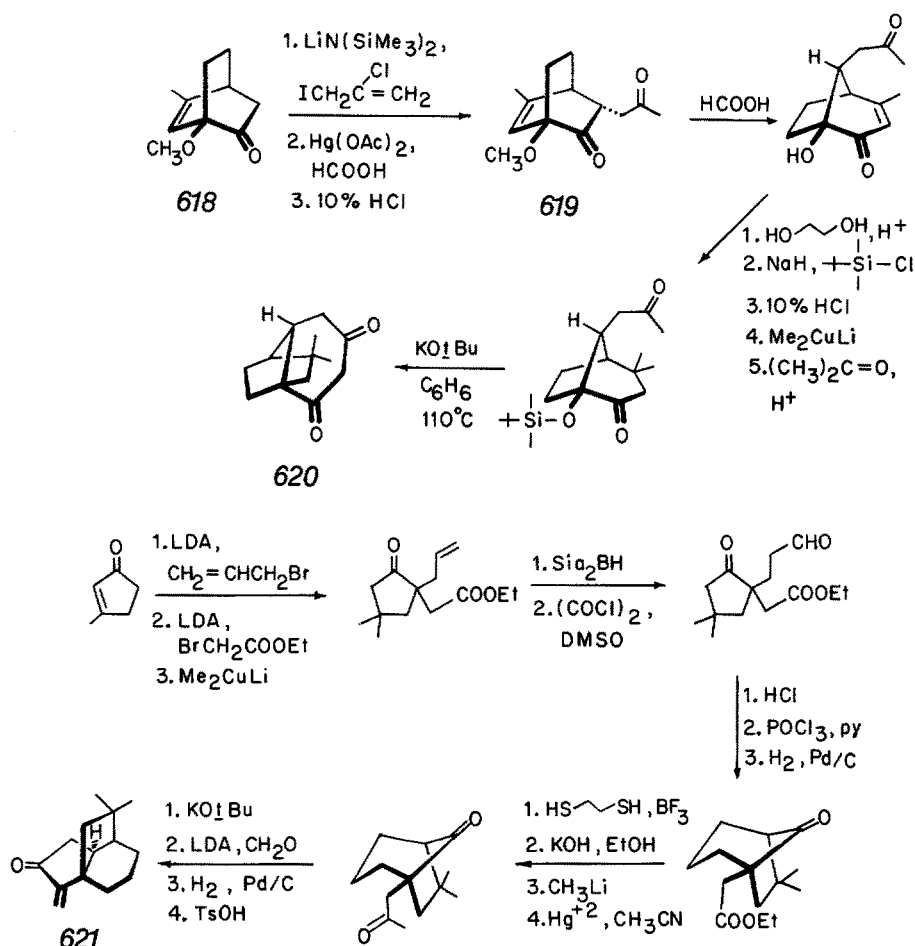
The preparation of 620, a tricyclic intermediate suited for elaboration into quadrone, has been reported by Monti and Dean³⁵⁹. Following introduction of the proper C_{5a} stereochemistry by alkylation of 618 under kinetically controlled conditions, diketone 619 was subjected to acid-catalyzed rearrangement. After functional group manipulation, a tandem intramolecular aldol-pinacol rearrangement gave 620.

A synthesis of descarboxylquadrone (621) has been described³⁶⁰. The presence of the α,β -unsaturated carbonyl system causes this substance to be biologically active, presumably in parallel with the latent α -methylene cyclopentanone functionality believed responsible for the cytotoxic activity of quadrone.



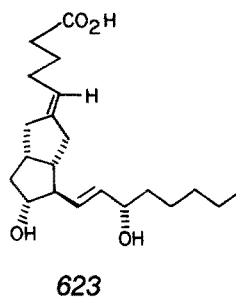
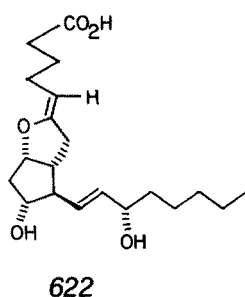
Scheme LV





F Carbaprostaglandins

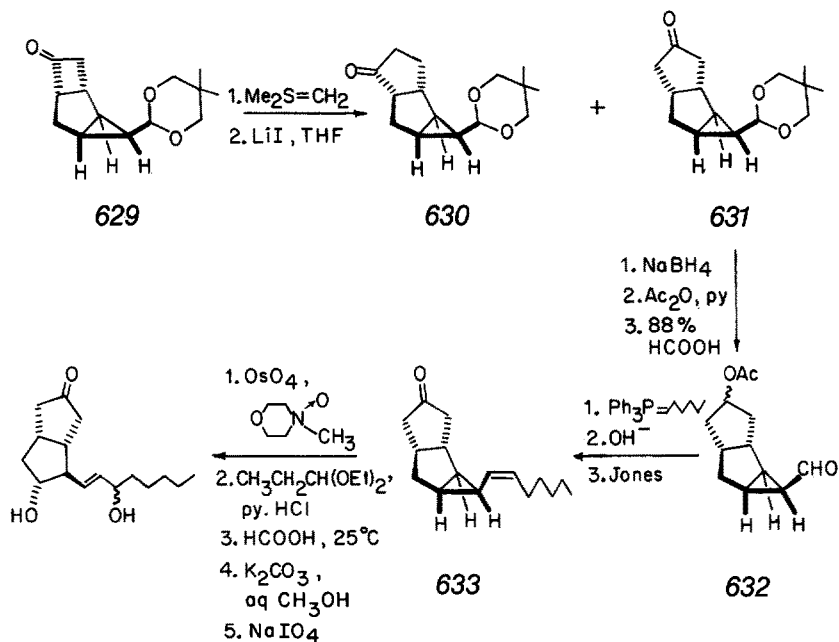
Prostacyclin (PGI_2 , **622**) appears to play an important role in preventing stroke, thrombosis, and heart attack^{361,362}). However, this substance is very unstable because of its labile enol ether linkage. This property has prompted intense research



Involvement of 625 in a Wittig reaction with 4-carboxybutyl(triphenyl)phosphorane dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide generates a mixture of double bond isomers rich in 623.

The Kojima-Sakai approach, which makes use of trans-cis diester 626, is summarized in Scheme LVII³⁶⁴. This intermediate was homologated by the Arndt-Eistert method, converted to olefin 627, and oxidatively cleaved to produce ultimately the diester 628. Dieckmann condensation was used to construct the diquinane core which was subsequently transformed to 623 by standard reactions.

The first synthesis of 623 in optically active form is due to Morton and Brokaw³⁶⁵. Reaction of resolved cyclobutanone 629 with dimethylsulfonium methylide and ring expansion with lithium iodide in tetrahydrofuran gave the isomeric cyclopentanones 630 and 631 (major) (Scheme XVIII). In the next step, 631 was reduced with sodium borohydride, acetylated, and hydrolyzed to endo aldehyde 632. This substance was then condensed with *n*-hexyldenetriphenylphosphorane, saponified, and oxidized to generate the presolvolysis ketone 633. Following hydroxylation, the isomeric cis glycols were treated with triethyl orthopropionate and rearranged in anhydrous formic acid. The formate mixture was hydrolyzed and exposed to sodium meta-periodate to give a keto diol which served as precursor to 623.

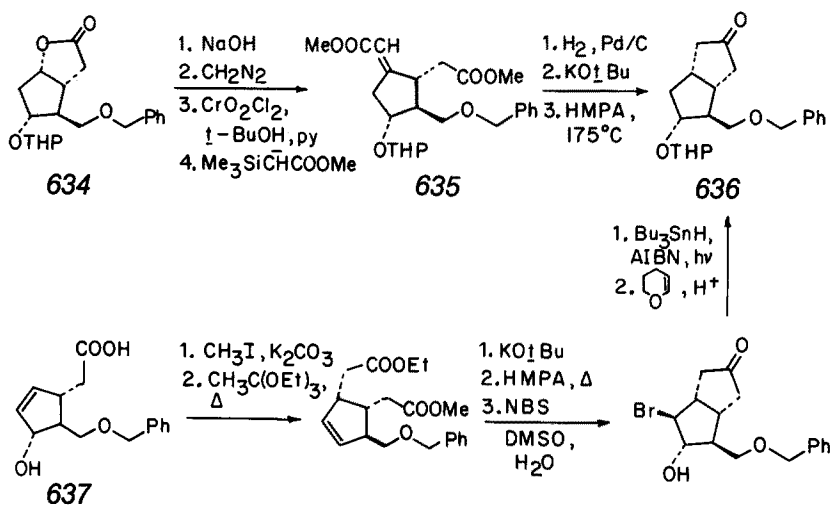


Scheme LVIII

The same feat was achieved by Hayashi and coworkers who began with the readily available, optically active lactone 634 (Scheme LIX)³⁶⁶. Cleavage of the oxygenated ring followed by reaction with excess lithio trimethylsilylacetate afforded the α,β -unsaturated ester 635. Hydrogenation, ring closure, and demethoxycarbonylation proceeded without event to furnish ketone 636 and its epimer which were separated

chromatographically. A second route to the same ketone was realized from the optically active hydroxy acid **637**. The conversion of **636** to carbaprostacyclin followed established protocol.

Ikegami has devised an interesting approach based upon 1,3-cyclooctadiene monoepoxide as starting material (Scheme LX)³⁶⁷. Transannular cyclization, Sharpless epoxidation, and silylation leads to **638** which is opened with reasonable regioselectivity upon reaction with 1,3-bis(methylthio)allyllithium. Once aldehyde **639** had been accessed, *n*-amyllithium was found to be stereoselective, perhaps because of the location of the *tert*-butyldimethylsilyloxy group. Nevertheless, **640** is ultimately produced in low overall yield. This situation is rectified in part by the initial formation of **641** and eventual decarboxylative elimination of **642** to arrive at **643**. An additional improvement has appeared in the form of a 1,2-carbonyl transposition sequence which successfully transforms **641** into **644**³⁶⁸.

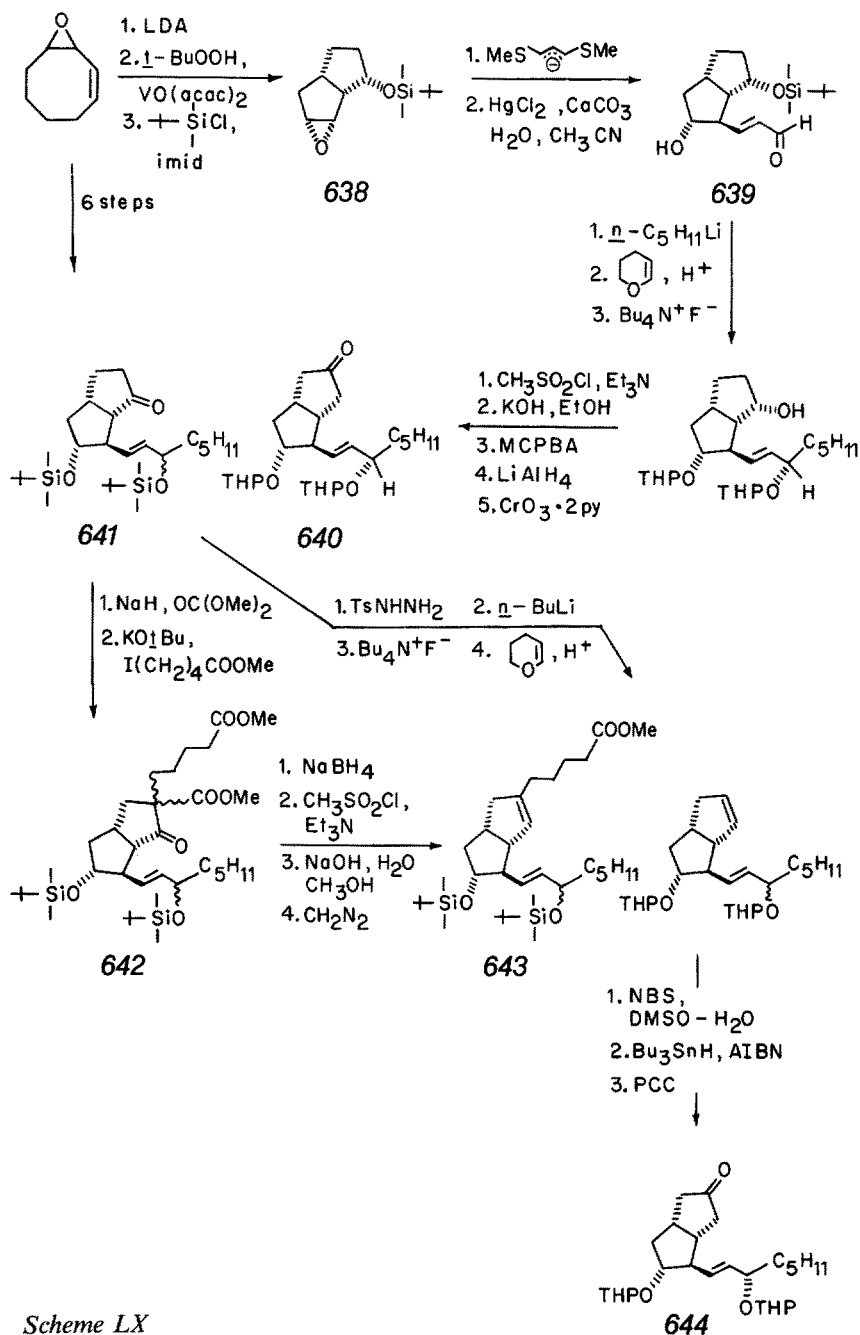


Scheme LIX

Recently, more economical routes to carbaprostaglandins have been developed. Beginning with the commercially available, optically active lactone **645**, Skuballa and Vorbrüggen achieved a clever replacement of the ring oxygen atom by a methylene group (Scheme LXI)³⁶⁹. The subsequent conversion of **646** to **647** was accomplished in 88% overall yield. After ketalization and sidechain oxidation of this intermediate, these workers prepared **648** which proved to be an analogue with the same pharmacological activity profile and efficacy as **623**. This activity is not seen with many analogues³⁷⁰.

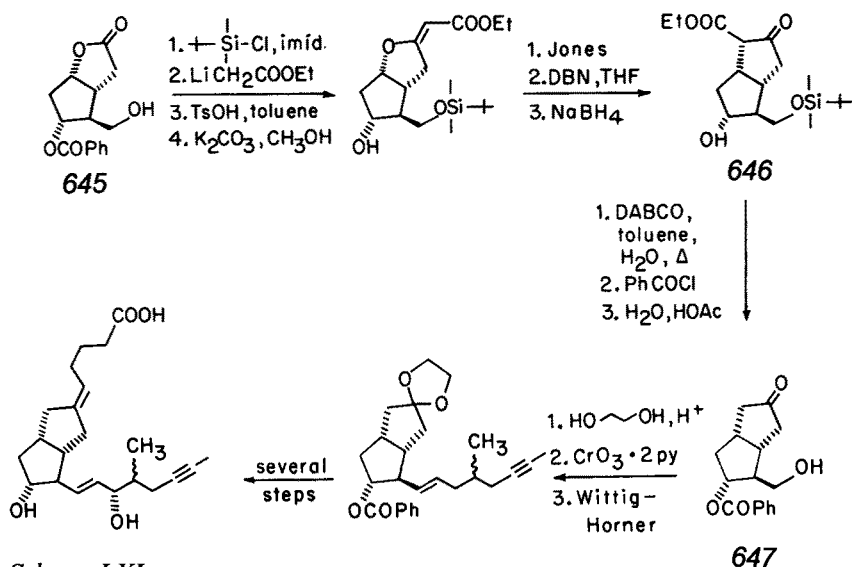
Seemingly, Aristoff has designed the most practical synthesis of prostacyclin to date. In his ingenious approach to optically active **623**, **648** was treated with

VII Synthesis of Diquinane Natural Products



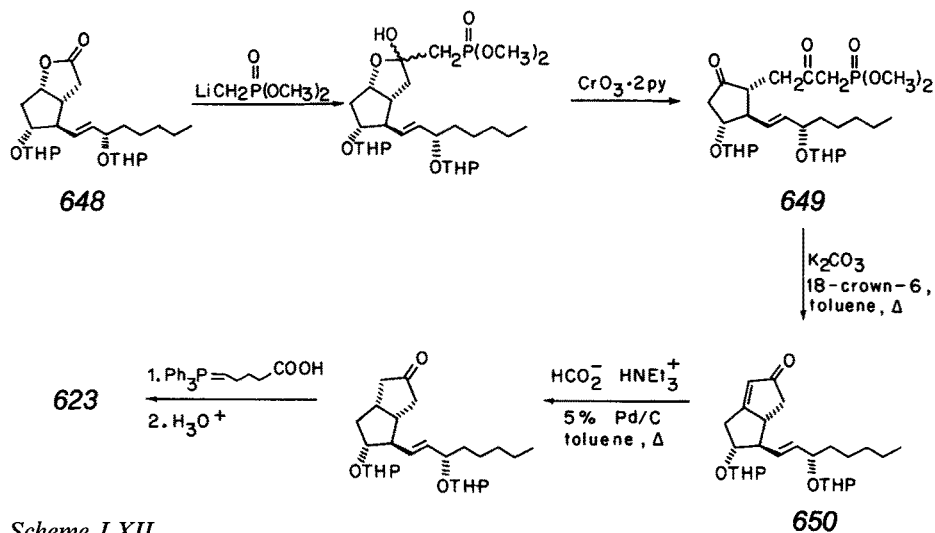
Scheme LX

lithium dimethyl methylphosphonate and subjected to modified Collins oxidation (Scheme LXII)³⁷¹). Cyclization of 649 could not be accomplished using standard methods. However, with potassium carbonate and 18-crown-6 in warm toluene, 650



Scheme LXI

was obtained in 77% yield. Reduction with triethylammonium formate in the presence of palladium catalyst led to the cyclopentanone derivative which was transformed to 623 by sequential Wittig reaction with (4-carboxybutyl)triphenylphosphorane and hydrolysis.



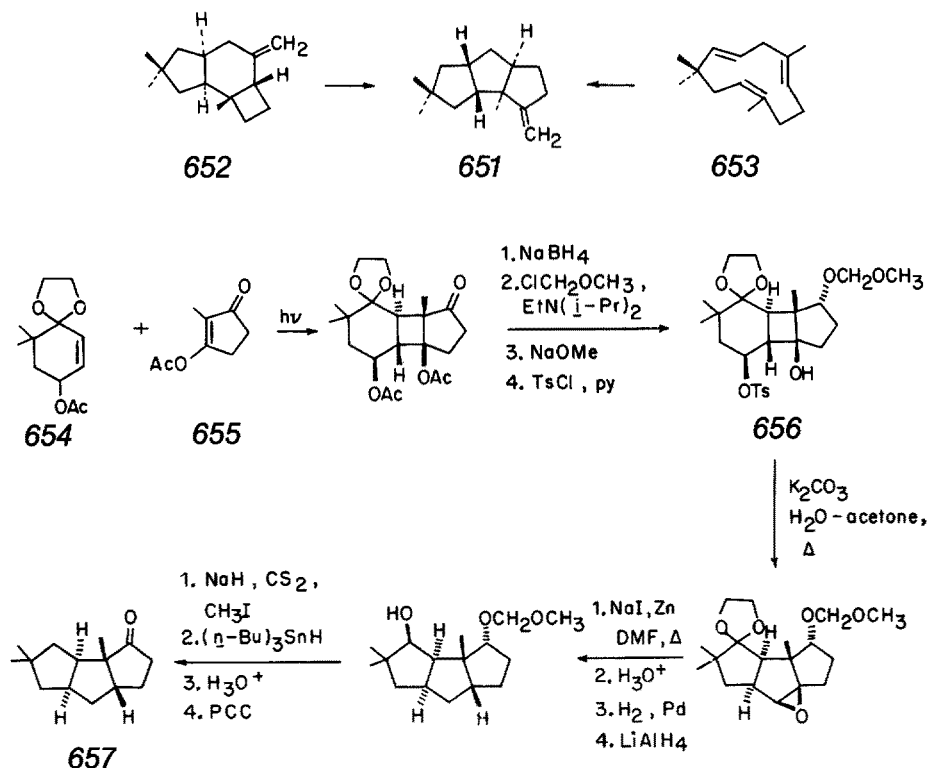
Scheme LXII

VIII Synthesis of Triquinane Natural Products

A Linear Triquinanes

1 Hirsutine

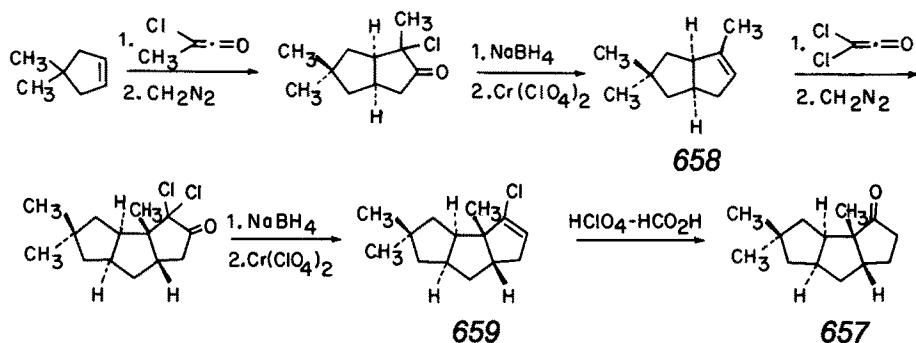
In 1976, Nozoe, et al. isolated and identified hirsutene (651) from an extract of the mycelium of *Coriolus consors*. Matsumoto has described the transformation of the protoilludene 652^{372,373}) and humulene (653) into 651 and other compounds possessing this *cis,anti,cis*-tricyclo[6.3.0.0^{2,6}]undecane carbon skeleton³⁷⁴). Beyond this, hirsutene has proven to be a popular synthetic target and fertile testing ground for new and interesting synthetic protocols. For example, Tatsuta's elegant stereo-



Scheme LXIII

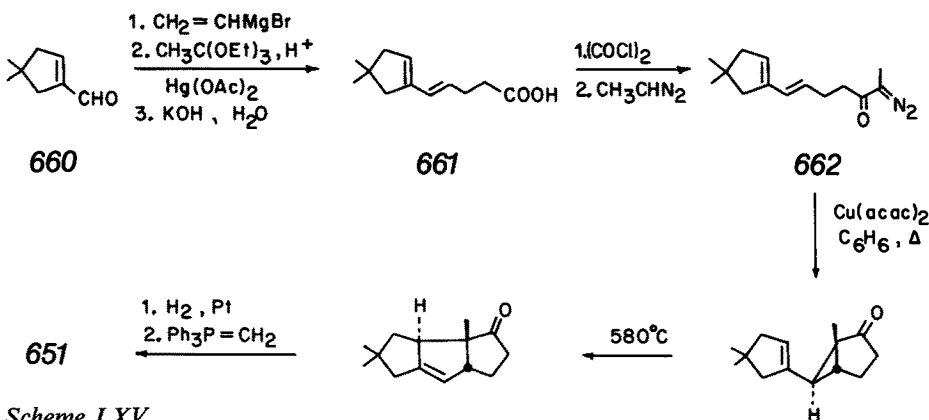
controlled synthesis (Scheme LXIII) began with the head-to-head photocycloaddition to **654** to **655**³⁷⁵. Following functionality modification to give **656**, skeletal rearrangement was effected in high yield by heating with potassium carbonate in aqueous acetone. This transformation is facilitated by the breaking of parallel C—C bonds. Once the norketone **657** was in hand, the formal synthesis was completed, since this substance had previously been transformed into **651**³⁷⁶.

For Greene, hirsutine proved to be a molecule which could be prepared by iterative application of his three-carbon annulation procedure³⁷⁷. 4,4-Dimethylcyclopentene was cycloadded to methylchloroketene and the resulting cyclobutanone was ring expanded with diazomethane (Scheme LXIV). Once a double bond was introduced as in **658**, the sequence was repeated with dichloroketene to produce **659**. Hydrolysis ultimately led to **657**.



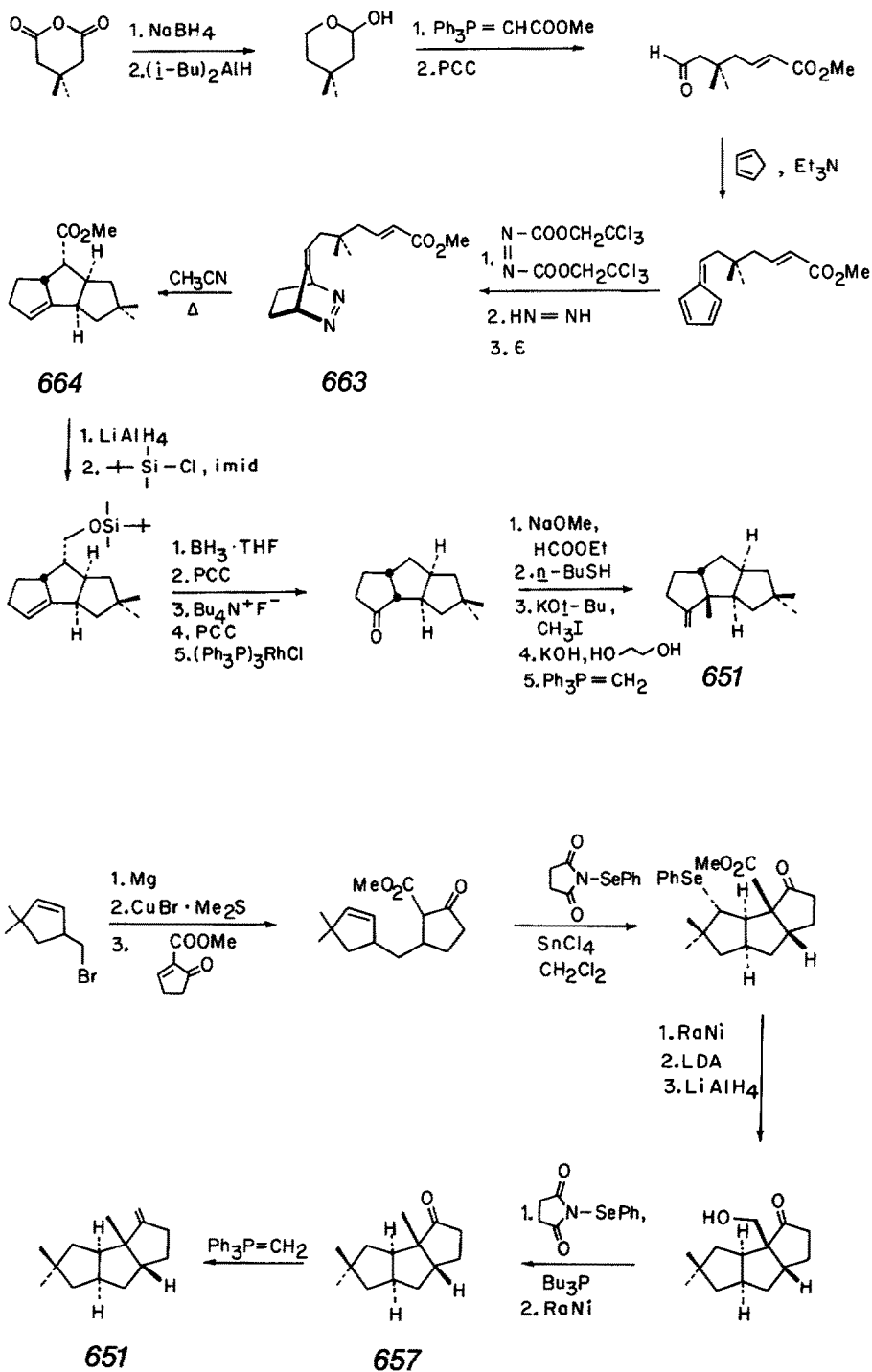
Scheme LXIV

Hudlicky saw in **651** an occasion to apply α -diazo ketone cyclization methodology³⁷⁸. With cyclopentene aldehyde **660** as the starting point, dienyl carboxylic acid **661** was elaborated and transformed into **662** (Scheme LXV). Cyclization, thermal isomerization, and catalytic hydrogenation gave **657** and ultimately hirsutine.



Scheme LXV

VIII Synthesis of Triquinane Natural Products

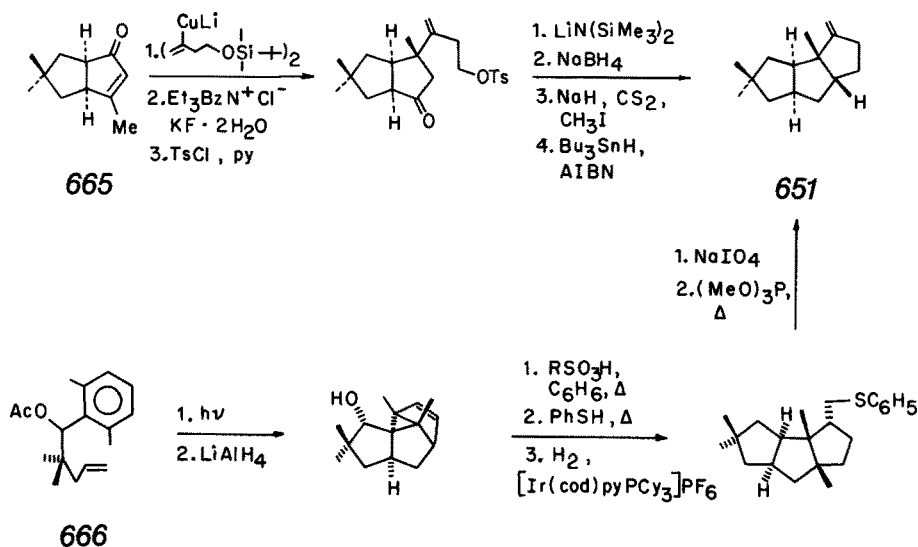


Scheme LXVII

With the intent of exploiting the intramolecular 1,3-diyl trapping reaction, Little and Muller prepared azo compound **663** and decomposed the substance in refluxing acetonitrile (Scheme LXVI)³⁷⁹. Triquinane **664**, isolated in 85% yield, was then degraded to a saturated ketone which was methylated in the angular position prior to olefination.

Ley and Murray have developed a short synthesis of hirsutine in which the key step involves intramolecular cyclization of a β -oxoester to an alkene with *N*-phenylselenophthalimide and stannic chloride (Scheme LXVII)³⁸⁰.

The bicyclic enone **665** (see Scheme IX) has been utilized as a precursor to hirsutene³⁸¹. The mold metabolite has also been attained in clever fashion from **666** using meta-photocycloaddition methodology³⁸².

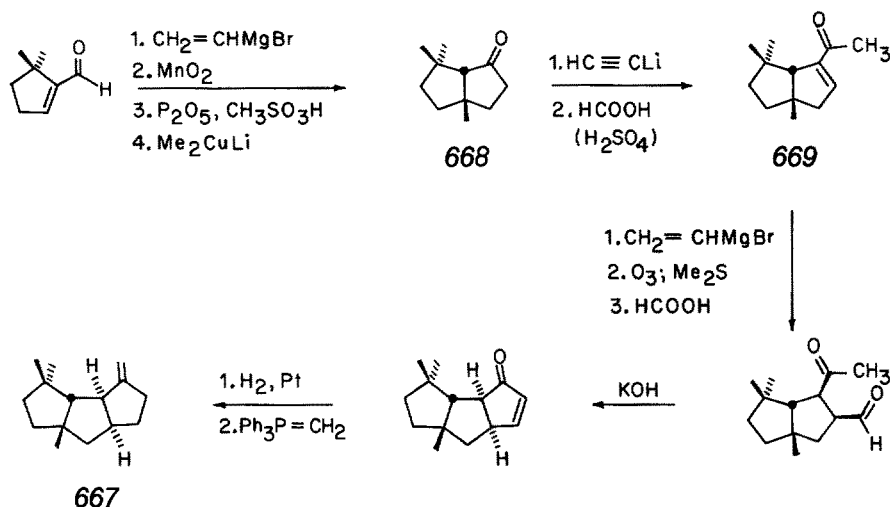


2 The Capnellene Group

Capnellane is the generic name applied to a group of sesquiterpene alcohols and the hydrocarbon isolated from the soft coral *Capnella imbricata*³⁸³. $\Delta^{9(12)}$ -Capnellene (**667**), the presumed biosynthetic precursor of the capnellenols, was first synthesized in 1981 by Stevens and Paquette³⁸⁴. Their synthetic plan called for the construction of bicyclic ketone **668** and its appropriate annulation. The latter event was achieved by application of the Rupe rearrangement to **668**, conjugate addition of a vinyl group to **669**, ozonolysis, and cyclization (Scheme LXVIII). Hydrogenation and olefination completed the sequence.

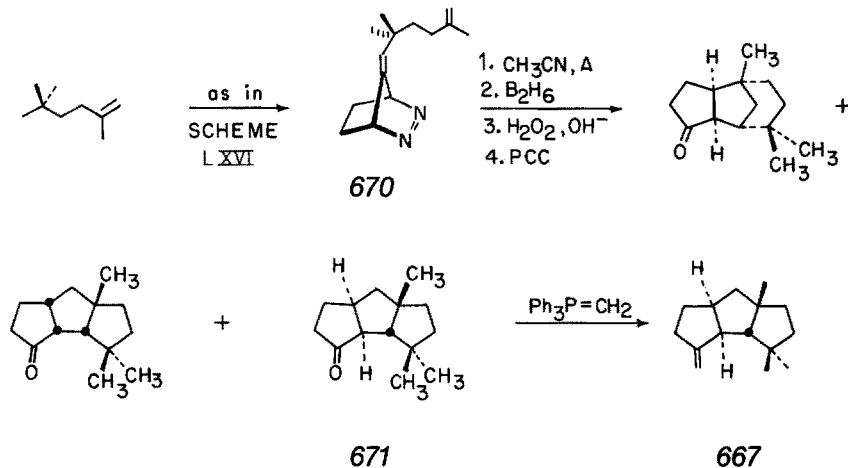
More recently, Little has synthesized **667**³⁸⁵ during his studies of the applicability of 1,3-diyl trapping reactions to the construction of tricyclopentanoids³⁸⁶. Capitalizing on a reversal of the "normal" regioselective mode of these transformations which gives rise to linearly fused triquinanes, he decomposed diazene **670** in refluxing acetonitrile and immediately subjected the product mixture to a hydroboration-

VIII Synthesis of Triquinane Natural Products



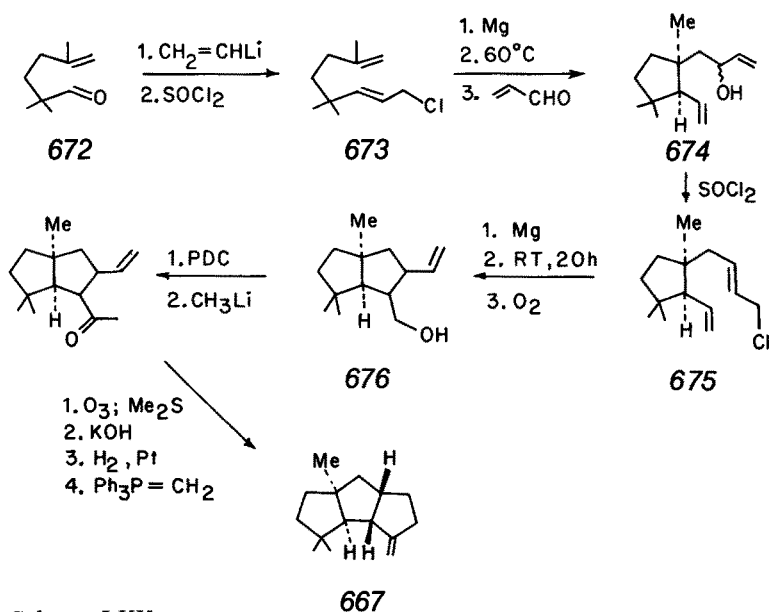
Scheme LXVIII

oxidation sequence (Scheme LXIX). The less dominant ketone 671 gave $\Delta^{9(12)}$ -capnellene upon Wittig olefination.



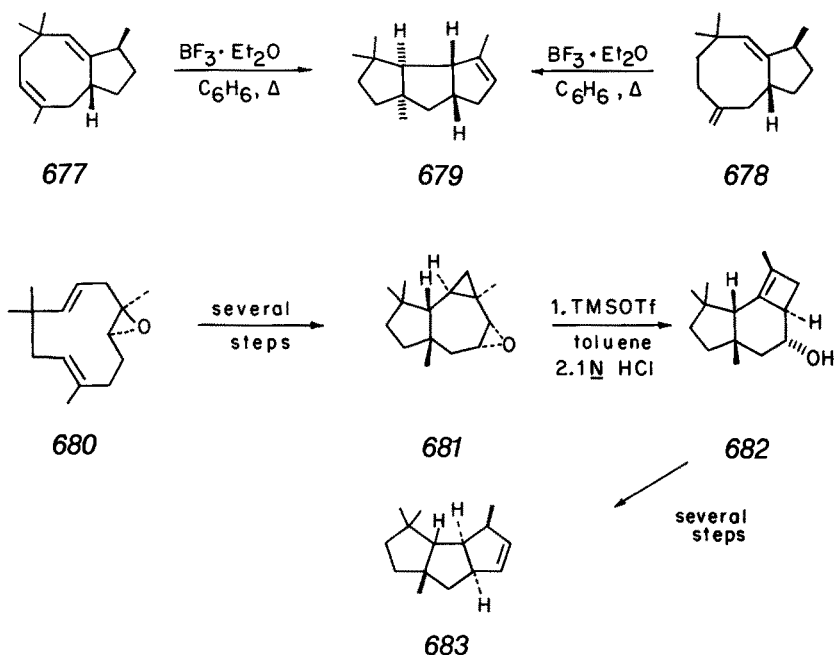
Scheme LXIX

Oppolzer and Bättig have prepared the marine sesquiterpene via ingenious application of iterative intramolecular “magnesium-ene” reactions³⁸⁷. Aldehyde 672 was converted to the allylic chloride 673, the Grignard of which was heated at 60 °C for 23 hours and subsequently treated with acrolein to furnish alcohol 674 (Scheme LXX). An analogous sequence transformed 675 to 676 and set the stage for final transformations which were patterned after earlier work.



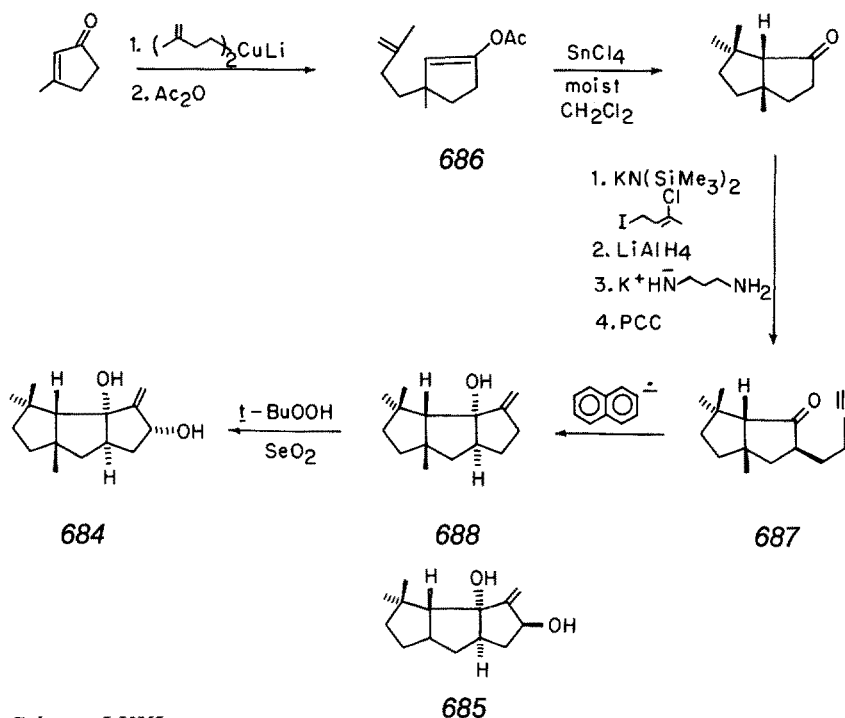
Scheme LXX

Two transannular cyclizations have been reported which lead to isomers of 677. Thus, treatment of 677 or 678 with boron trifluoride etherate gives rise to $\Delta^{8(9)}$ -capnellene (679)³⁸⁸. Also, conversion of humulene 6,7-oxide (680) to tricyclic epoxide 681³⁸⁹ has provided the opportunity for trimethylsilyl triflate-promoted



isomerization to the methyl migrated product **682**, from which Δ^7 -capnellene (**683**) was fashioned ³⁹⁰).

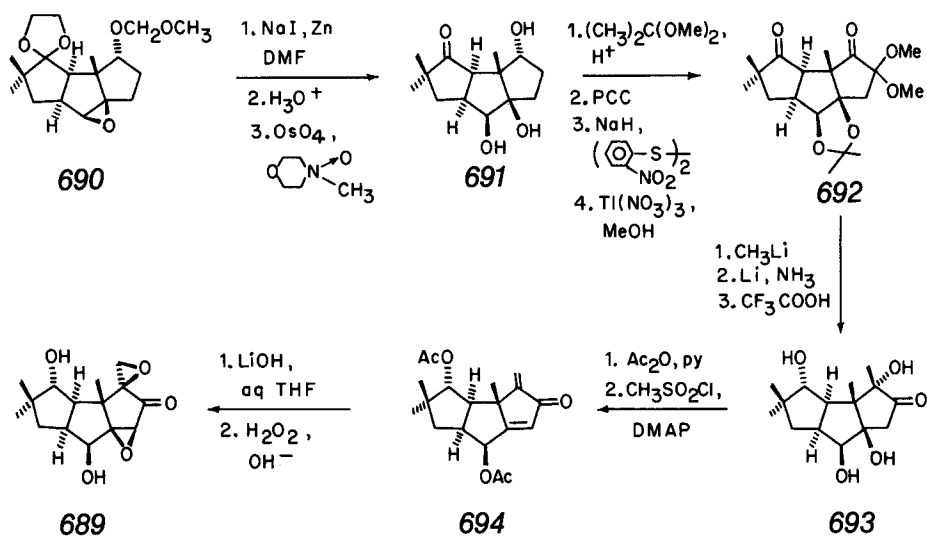
Pattenden and Teague have prepared tricyclic diol **684** which is epimeric to the naturally occurring $\Delta^{9(12)}$ -capnellene-8 β ,10 α -diol (**685**) ³⁹¹. Their strategy, which is summarized in Scheme LXXI, encompasses two critical cyclization steps. The first is the Lewis acid-catalyzed ring closure of enol acetate **686** and the second involves reductive closure of acetylenic ketone **687**. It is of interest that the oxidation of **688** proved to be stereospecific.



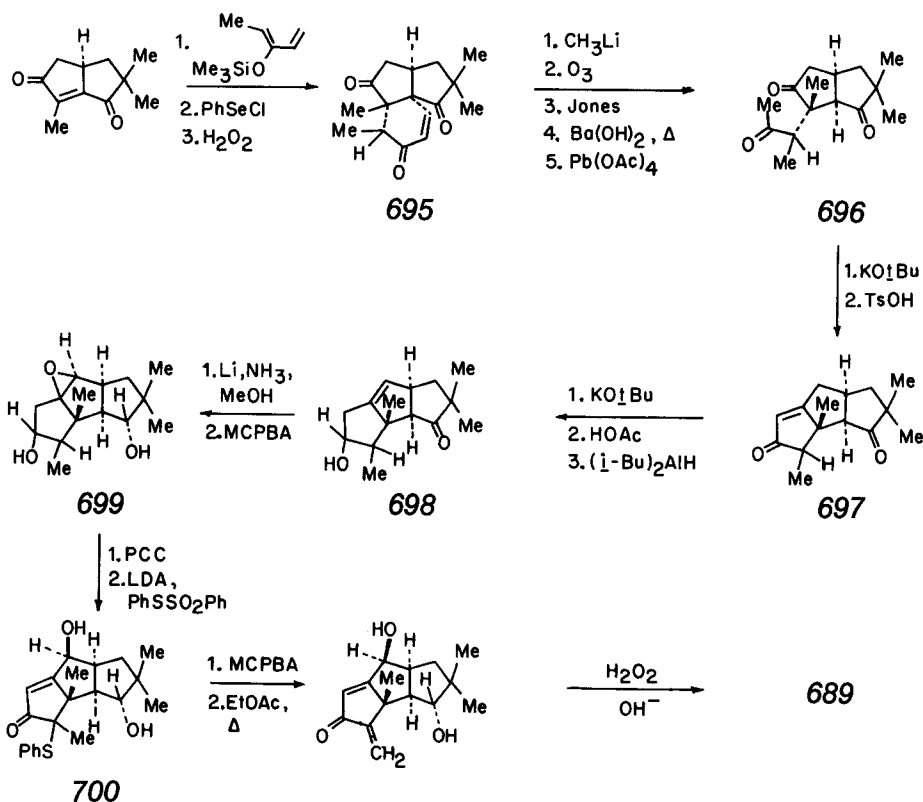
Scheme LXXI

3 Coriolin

Coriolin (**689**), a metabolite of the Basidiomycete *Coriolus consors*, has attracted widespread interest because of its unusual anti-tumor activity and highly functionalized triquinane structure. Accordingly, a number of syntheses of **689** have appeared on the scene. One of the earliest, due to Tatsuta, et al., begins with epoxide **690**, whose preparation had been earlier realized in connection with their work on hirsutine (see Scheme LXIII). Deoxygenation of **690**, hydrolysis, and cis-hydroxylation provided keto triol **691** (Scheme LXXII) ³⁹². The derived acetone was transformed via **692** into tetraol **693** which could be selectively acetylated and dehydrated on both flanks of the carbonyl group. Deacetylation of **694** followed by epoxidation completed the synthesis.

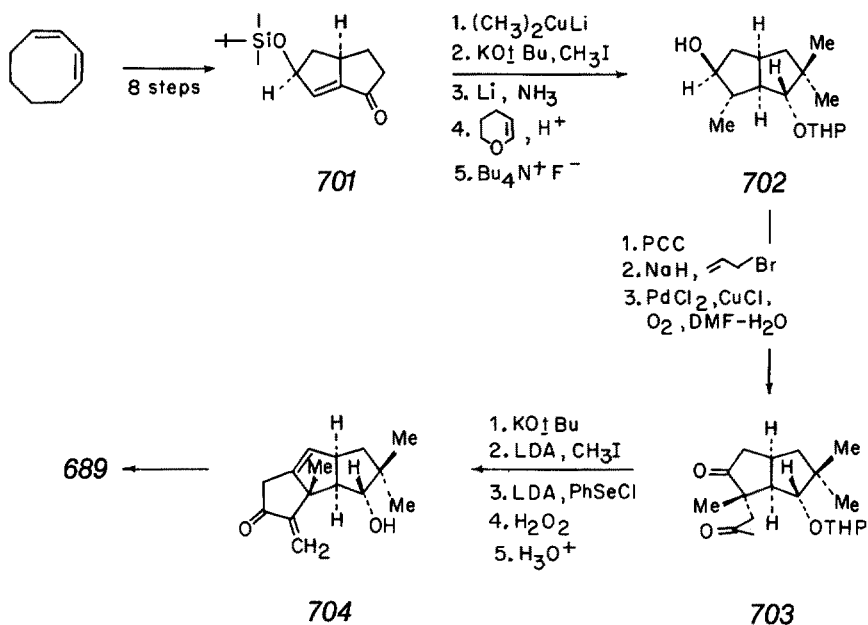


Scheme LXXII

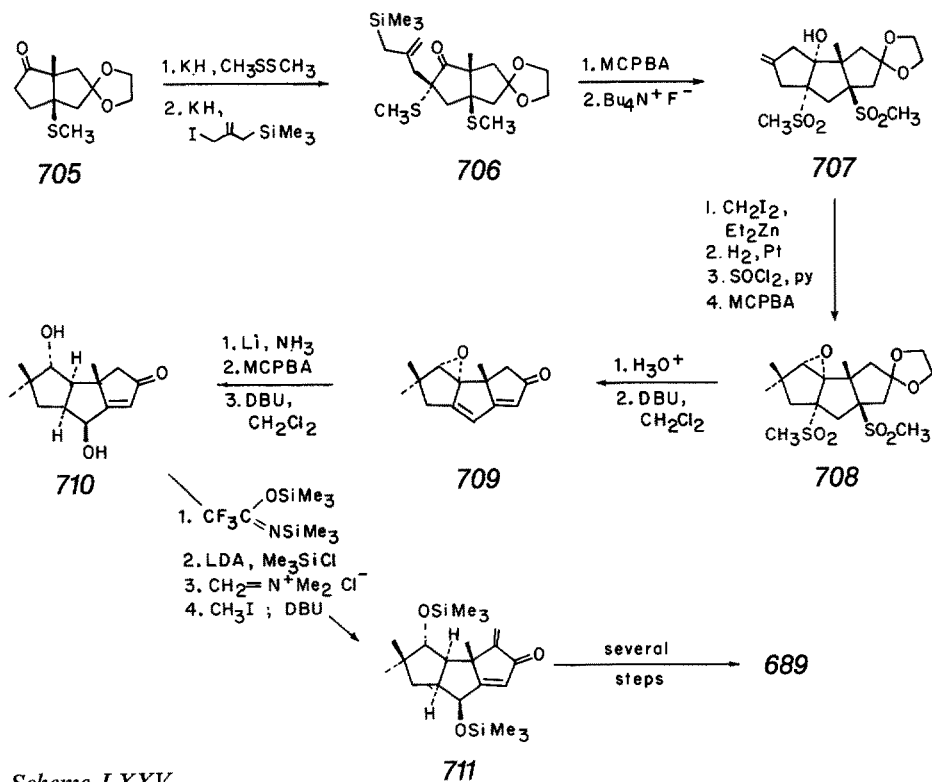


Scheme LXXIII

VIII Synthesis of Triquinane Natural Products



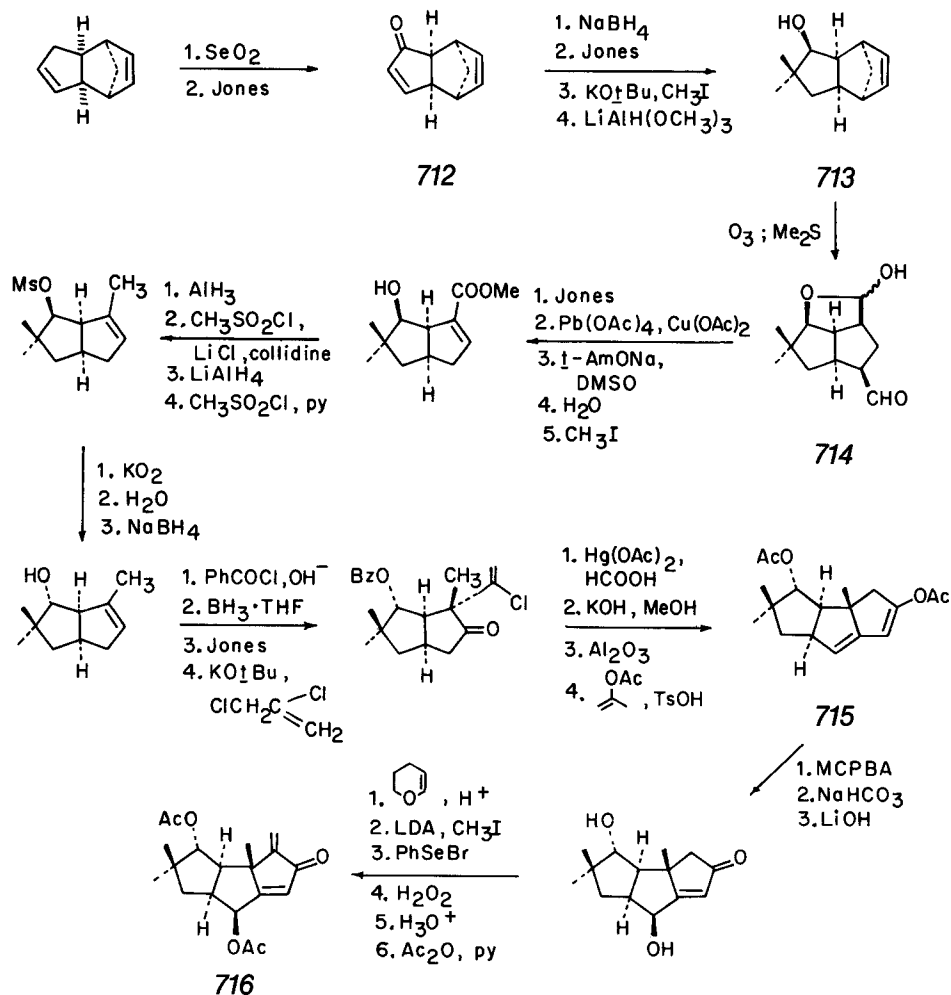
Scheme LXXIV



Scheme LXXV

To arrive at racemic coriolin, Danishefsky and coworkers chose to add an acetonide fragment to a bicyclic enedione by Diels-Alder chemistry (Scheme LXXIII)^{393, 394}. Treatment of the resulting adduct **695** sequentially with a series of conventional reagents produced the key intermediate **696**. Suitable aldolization delivered **697**, the functionality in which was adjusted by deconjugation and reduction. Further reduction of **698** with lithium in liquid ammonia and methanol followed by epoxidation afforded **699**. Selective oxidation of the more accessible hydroxyl group and phenyl-sulfonylation gave **700** which experiences smooth elimination to **701** after conversion to the sulfoxide. As before, epoxidation completed the sequence.

In a manner paralleling somewhat their strategy for carbaprostaglandin synthesis (Scheme LX), Ikegami, et al., have realized a coriolin total synthesis starting from 1,3-cyclooctadiene. With **701** in hand, they proceeded to elaborate the functionalized

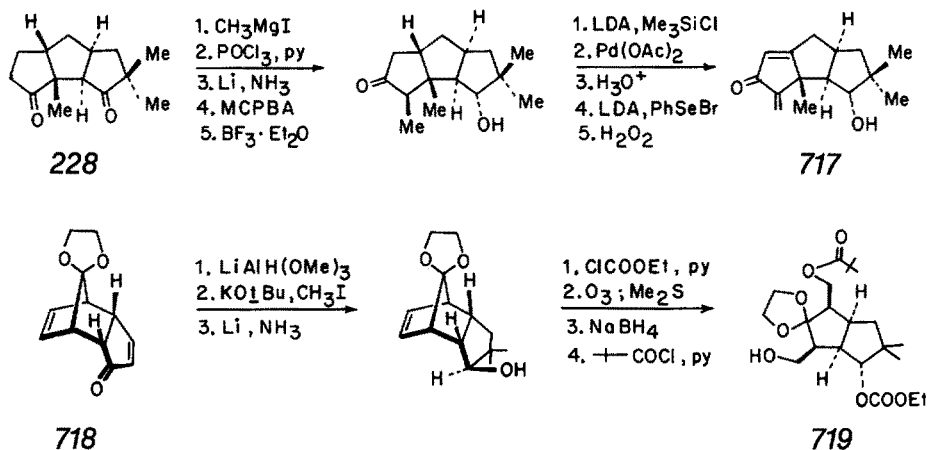


diquinanes **702** and **703** (Scheme LXXIV)³⁹⁵. Once the tricyclic enone **704** had been attained, introduction of the remaining functionality proved to be straightforward.

The Trost-Curran coriolin synthesis makes use of **705** as starting material (Scheme LXXV)³⁹⁶. Monosulfonylation and alkylation of this intermediate provided **706** which was oxidized and subjected to fluoride-induced cyclization. To introduce the gem-dimethyl group, **707** was cyclopropanated and hydrogenolyzed. The derived dehydration product was epoxidized to provide **707** from which the sulfone groups could be removed by exposure to catalytic quantities of DBU. To introduce the needed secondary hydroxyl group, **709** was reduced under dissolving metal conditions, epoxidized, and directly isomerized to allylic alcohol **710**. Once its hydroxyl groups were silylated, the kinetic enol silyl ether of **710** was generated and treated with Eschenmoser's salt. Elimination and deblocking afforded the customary penultimate intermediate to coriolin.

The diacetate of **711** has also been produced in stereoselective fashion via a route beginning with dicyclopentadiene (Scheme LXXVI)³⁹⁷. Ketone **712** was transformed into dimethylated alcohol **713** whose ozonolysis provided **714**. Following Jones oxidation, decarboxylation with concomitant introduction of a double bond was realized by application of Kochi's procedure. A lengthy sequence of steps to adjust functionality led up to annulation by a modified Wichterle sequence. The conversion of **715** to **716** was accomplished by standard reactions.

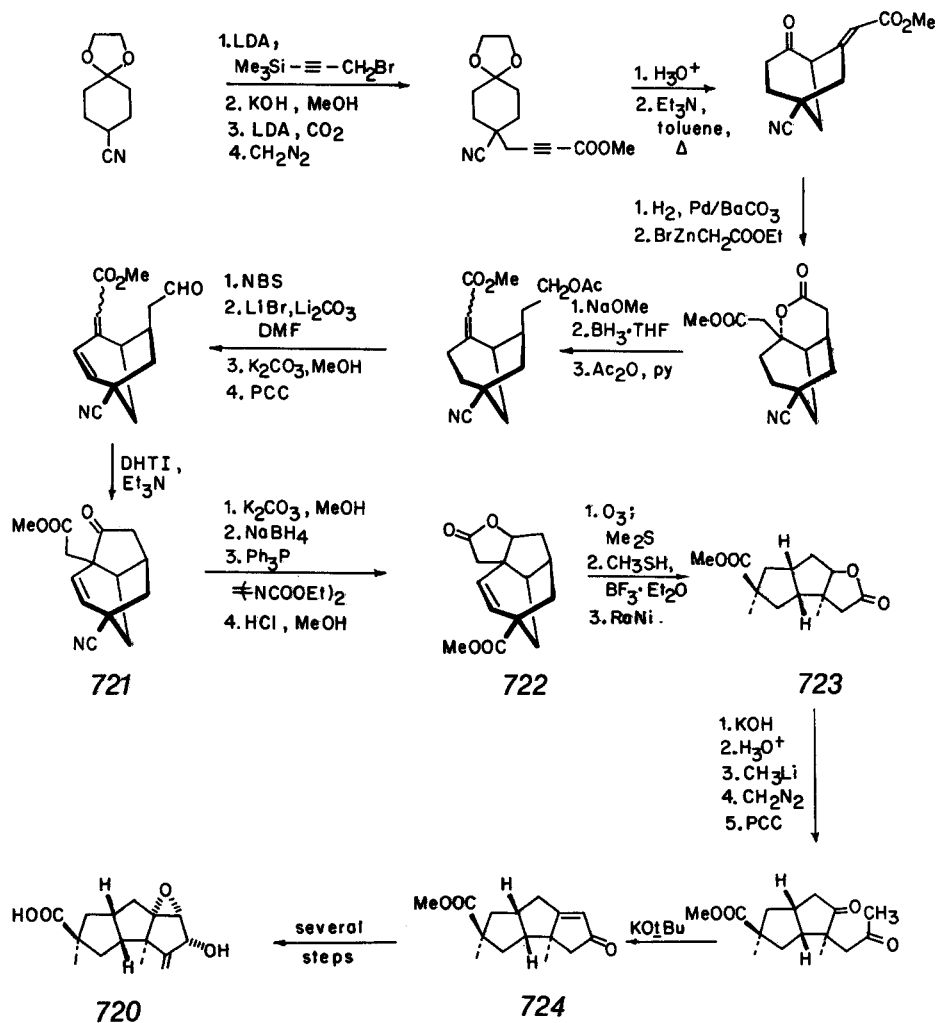
Diketone **228**, prepared by Mehta in conjunction with another study, has been transformed into **717** in a clever sequence of reactions which required no protection steps³⁹⁸. The conversion of methanoindene **718** into the highly functionalized intermediate **719** that might be serviceable as a coriolin precursor has been published³⁹⁹.



4 Hirsutic Acid

The first stereocontrolled synthesis of (\pm)-hirsutic acid (**720**) was achieved by Trost⁴⁰⁰. In this work, four of the seven asymmetric centers are fixed in the correct relative stereochemistry in bridged bicyclic compound **721** which in turn is formed by

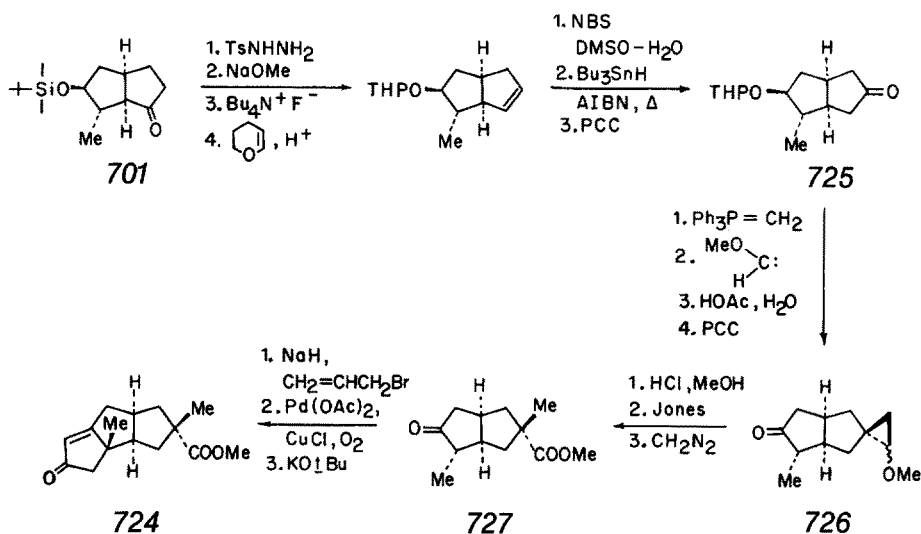
two intramolecular Michael addition reactions (Scheme LXXVII). This key intermediate was reduced, hydrolyzed, and lactonized. Hydrolysis of the nitrile to give 722 set the stage for conversion of the double bond to methyl groups. Tricyclic lactone 723 was hydrolyzed and transformed conventionally to a known methyl ketone. Aldolization furnished 724 which earlier had been transformed to hirsutic acid.



Scheme LXXVII

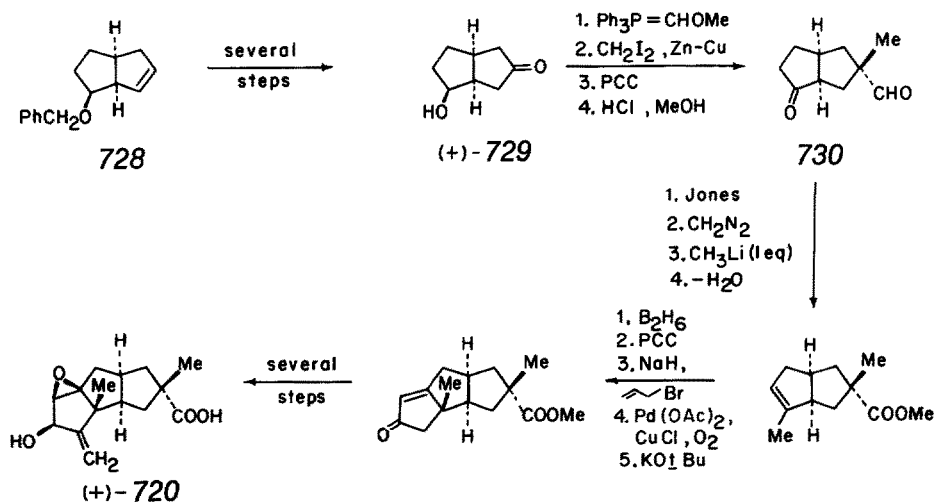
Ikegami's successful synthesis of racemic 720 materialized by initial conversion of 701 to 725 via a 1,2-carbonyl transposition sequence (Scheme LXXVIII)⁴⁰¹. Treatment of 725 with methoxycarbene, deprotection, and oxidation provided 726. Acid-promoted cyclopropane ring cleavage and added functional group manipulation led to 727 which could be allylated stereoselectively. The tricyclic enone 724 was subsequently produced conventionally.

VIII Synthesis of Triquinane Natural Products



Scheme LXVIII

More recently, the same group achieved a simple, highly stereocontrolled total synthesis of (+)-hirsutic acid (Scheme LXXIX)⁴⁰². This chirally directed effort developed subsequent to reaction of *dl*-728 with (+)-di-3-pinanylborane, alkaline hydrogen peroxide oxidation, chromatography, PCC oxidation, and hydrogenolysis. The dextrorotatory hydroxy ketone 729 was nicely crafted into keto aldehyde 730 from which 720 was readily obtained. Once again, the Wacker oxidation played an instrumental role in annulation of the third five-membered ring. The remainder of the asymmetric synthesis was completed as before.

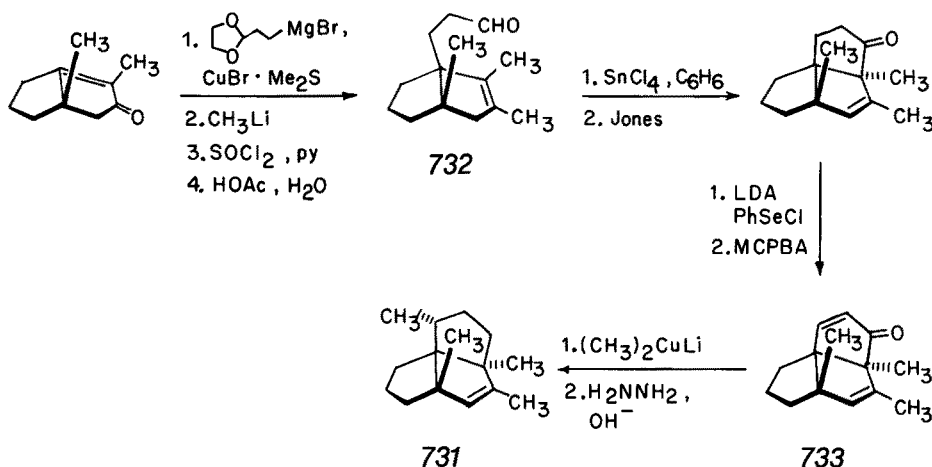


Scheme LXXIX

B Angular Triquinanes

1 Isocomene

The first naturally occurring tricyclo[6.3.0.0^{4,8}]undecane to be synthesized was isocomene (731), a colorless oily sesquiterpene hydrocarbon isolated from several plant sources. In 1979, Paquette and Han reported an efficient, stereospecific approach starting with a preformed bicyclic enone, to which the third five-membered ring was appended with proper attention to stereochemistry and position of unsaturation (Scheme LXXX) ⁴⁰³. The pivotal steps are seen to be the stannic chloride-induced cyclization of aldehyde 732 and the conjugate addition of lithium dimethylcuprate to 733 which sets the stereochemistry of the last methyl group.



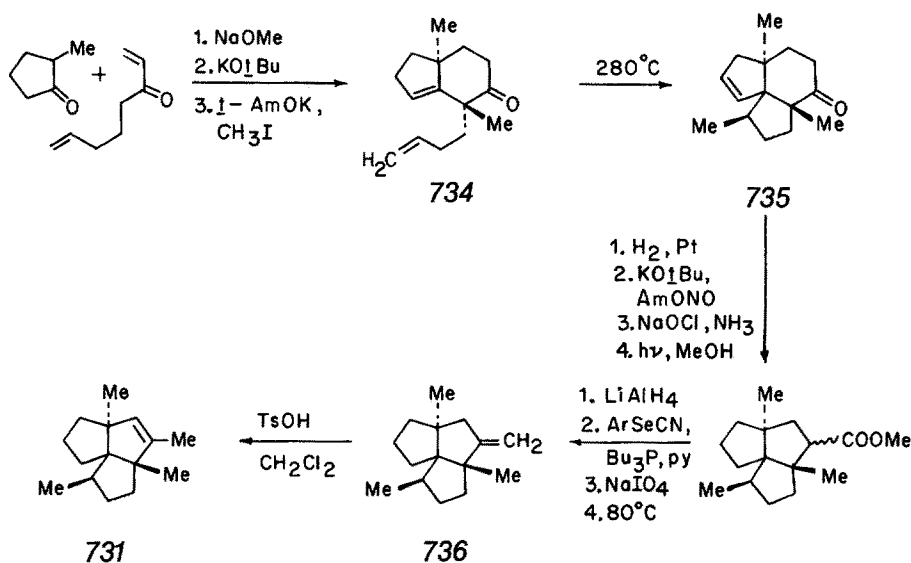
Scheme LXXX

Concurrently, two other approaches to isocomene made their appearance. The first of these due to Oppolzer, et al., features as its key step an intramolecular thermal ene reaction which converts 734 to 735 (Scheme LXXXI) ⁴⁰⁴. Another point of interest is the fact that penultimate intermediate 736 is also a natural product (β -isocomene).

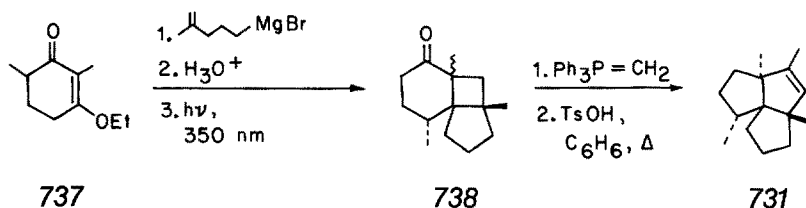
The Pirrung synthesis is notable for its brevity and clever amalgamation of [2 + 2] photocycloaddition and Wagner-Meerwein rearrangement chemistry ⁴⁰⁵. Enol ether 737 was reacted with the Grignard reagent from 5-bromo-2-methyl-1-pentene, subjected to acid hydrolysis, and irradiated to generate the tricycle 738. Wittig olefination of this ketone and treatment with *p*-toluenesulfonic acid provided racemic isocomene.

A purportedly expedient synthesis of isocomene outlined by Chatterjee is unquestionably bogus ^{403,405}. However, success in arriving at 731 has been enjoyed by several other research groups. For Wender and Dreyer, the meta-photocycloaddition

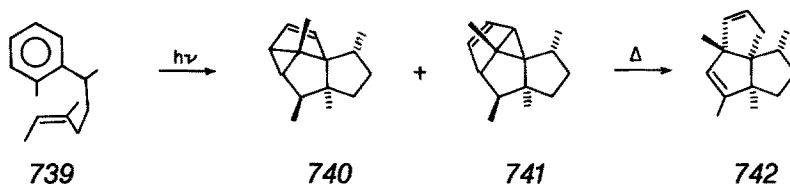
VIII Synthesis of Triquinane Natural Products



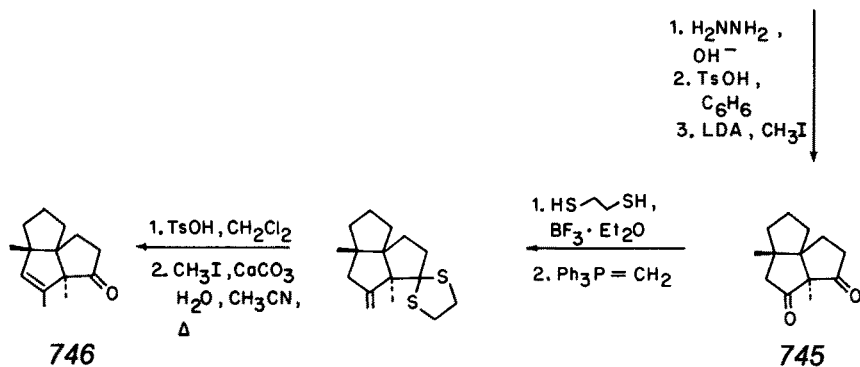
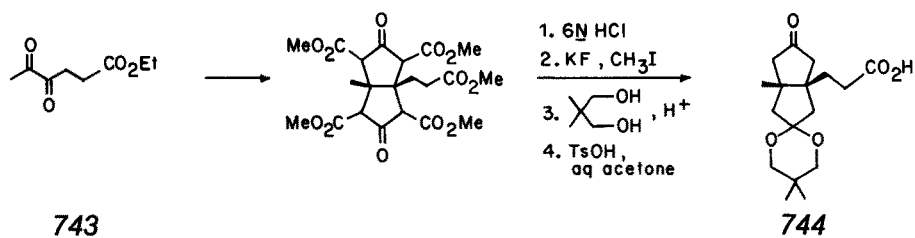
Scheme LXXXI



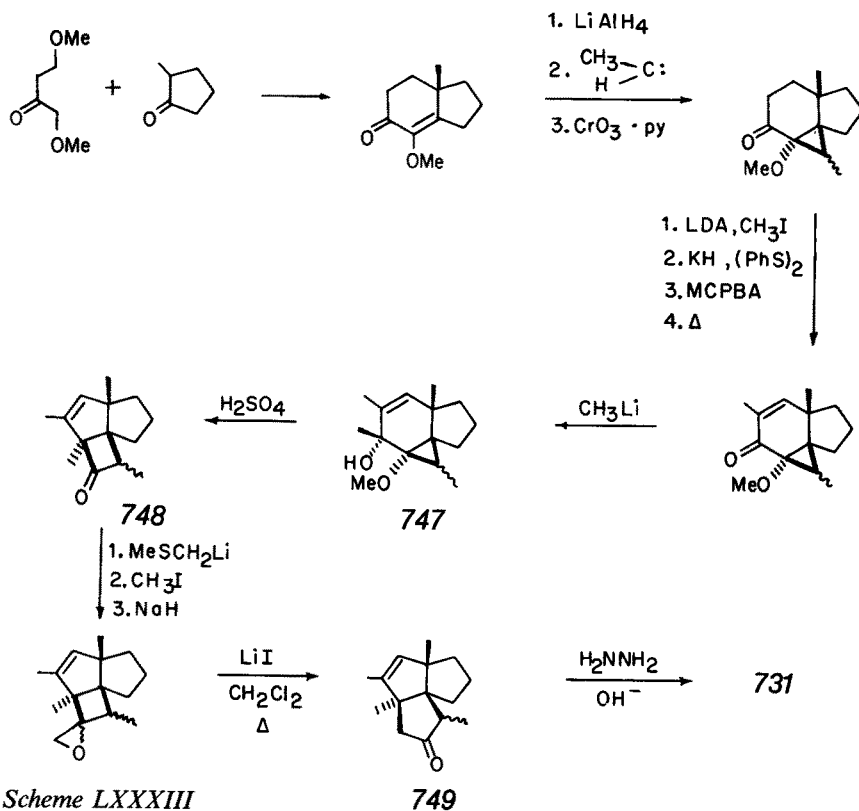
of 739 proved magnificently serviceable⁴⁰⁷⁾. When this aromatic olefin was irradiated, conversion to 740 and 741 ensued in varying ratios dependent upon conditions. Thermolysis of either substance in toluene provided dehydroisocomenene (742), controlled hydrogenation of which led to 731.



The approach to 731 developed by Dauben and Walker, outlined in Scheme LXXXII, begins with the Weiss-Cook condensation of 743 and proceeds after hydrolysis and monoketalization to furnish keto acid 744. Wolff-Kishner reduction, cyclization, and methylation of this intermediate provided diketone 745 which was transformed by standard means to 746, a molecule which had previously been carried on to 731 (Scheme LXXX).



Scheme LXXXII

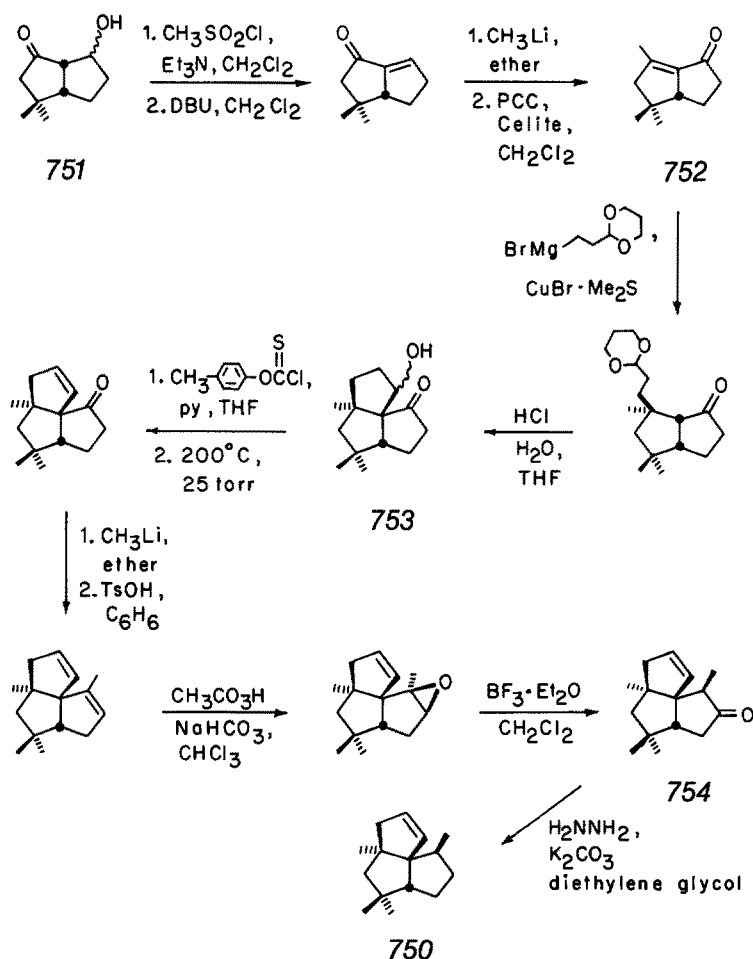


Scheme LXXXIII

In work which remains unpublished, Wenkert has succeeded in cleverly transforming 2-methylcyclopentanone into isocomene⁴⁰⁹⁾. The key elements of his strategy (Scheme LXXXIII) are the acid-catalyzed ring expansion of methoxycyclopropane 747 to 748 and the regiospecific homologation of the cyclobutanone to 749. Unfortunately, the Wolff-Kishner reduction of this penultimate intermediate affords both 731 and its epimer.

2 Silphinene

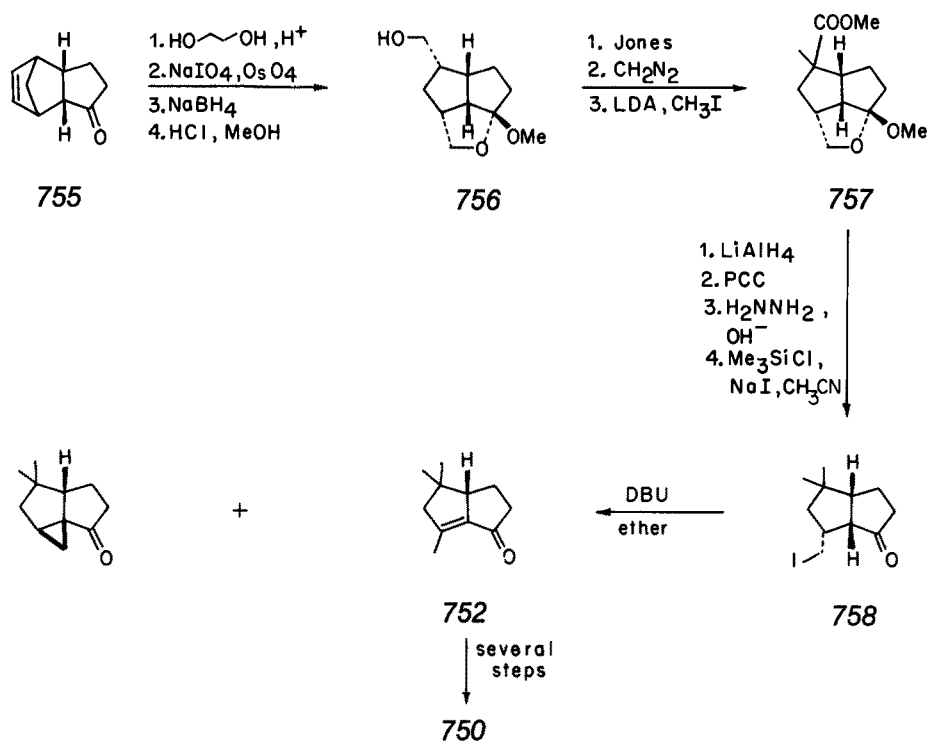
Silphinene (750), an angularly fused triquinane isolated by Bohlmann and Jakupovic from *Silphium perfoliatum* in 1980⁴¹⁰⁾ has a substitution pattern entirely different from that of isocomene and pentalenene. Entirely different synthetic protocols are consequently required. Two successful approaches to 750 have so far been devised. That due to Leone-Bay and Paquette⁴¹¹⁾, makes use of an iterative annulation scheme



Scheme LXXXIV

for fusion of the second and third five-membered rings. Beginning with 751, which was prepared in the manner outlined earlier for 8, sequential dehydration and alkylative carbonyl transposition was effected to provide 752 (Scheme LXXXIV). This intermediate was subjected to the identical annulation procedure used to access 751. Following the isolation of 753, suitable functional group manipulation delivered ketone 754 stereospecifically. No loss of stereochemical integrity was lost in the final conversion to 750.

Itô's regio- and stereoselective total synthesis relied on dicyclopentadiene as starting material ⁴¹². The derived ketone 755 was cleaved to provide 756 which was crafted into 757 (Scheme LXXXV). Following reduction of the carbomethoxy group, conversion to iodo ketone 758 was realized with trimethylsilyl iodide. Reaction of 758 with DBU resulted chiefly in conversion to 752 which was transformed into silphenine essentially as described above.

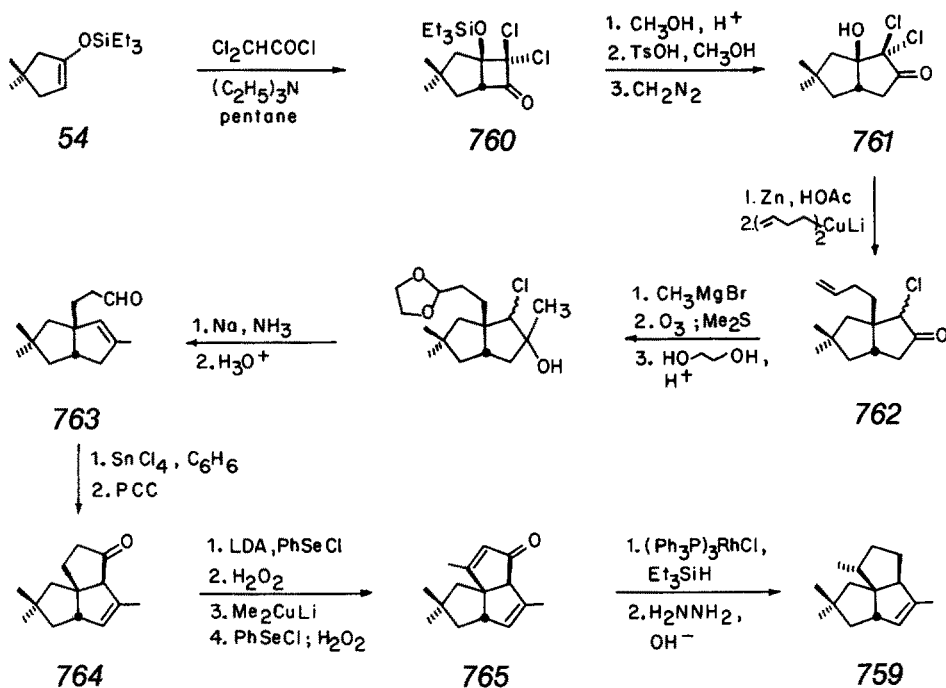


Scheme LXXXV

3 Pentalenene

Recently, the oxygen-free neutral precursor to the pentalenolactone family of metabolites was isolated, identified as 759, and named pentalenene ⁴¹³. Annis and Paquette have since devised a synthesis of 759 which efficiently elaborates its ring junction quaternary center and three angularly fused cyclopentane rings ⁴¹⁴. Condensation

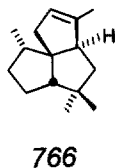
of silyl enol ether **54** with dichloroketene and regiocontrolled ring expansion made **761** available (Scheme LXXXVI). Zinc reduction led to introduction of a double bond and set the stage for conjugate addition of an angular allyl group. Conventional conversion of **762** to **763** made possible Lewis acid-catalyzed ene cyclization to give **764**. At this point, the α,β -unsaturated ketone **765** was prepared and reduced in two steps to **759**.



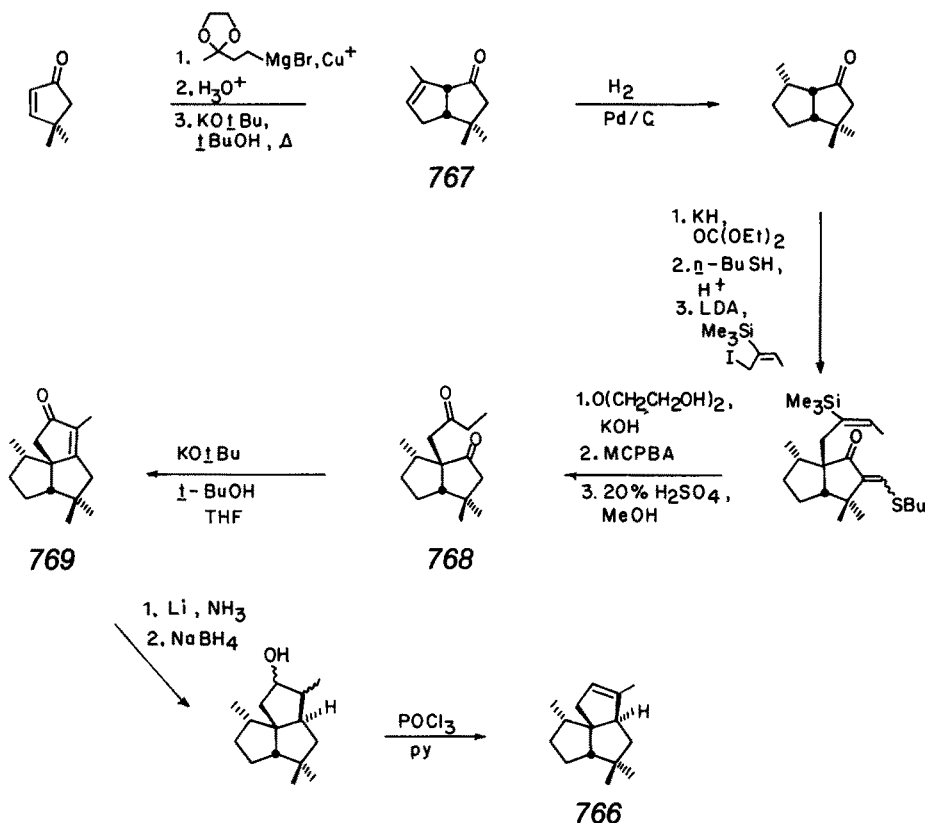
Scheme LXXXVI

4 Senoxydene

In 1979, Bohlmann and Zdero reported the isolation and an unusual sesquiterpene hydrocarbon from *Senecio oxyodontus*⁴¹⁵). This substance was formulated as **766** on the basis of its spectral characteristics and called senoxydene. However, Galemme and Paquette have recently prepared this particular compound and determined that it is not identical to the natural product. Their pathway, which is summarized in Scheme LXXXVII, begins by transforming 4,4-dimethylcyclopentenone into bicyclic



α,β -unsaturated ketone 767 which is hydrogenated to set the stereochemistry of the secondary methyl group ⁴¹⁶). A vinylsilane sidechain is next introduced which, after deblocking, is modified to introduce a second carbonyl group. Cyclization of diketone 768 delivers 769 which is subjected to dissolving metal reduction in order to fix the last chiral center appropriately. Finally, the double bond is generated regiospecifically. The finding that 766 is not senoxydene requires, of course, that structural revision be made and this action is currently pending.

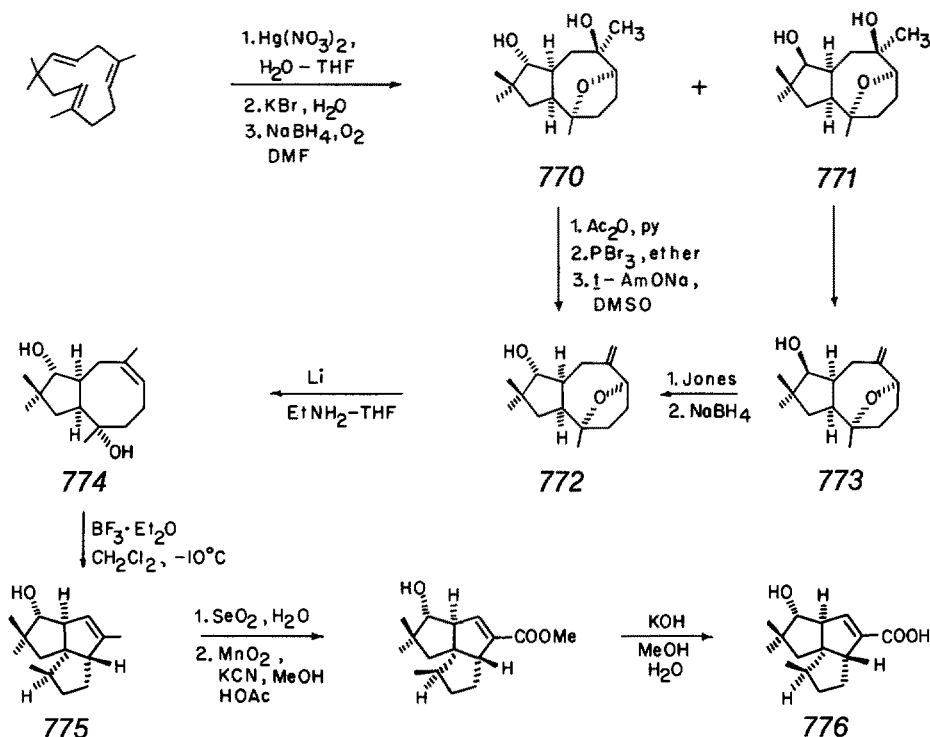


Scheme LXXXVII

5 Pentalenic Acid

The fermentation broth of various *Streptomyces* species can be separated into an acidic fraction shown to contain pentalenic acid (776) ⁴¹⁷). The somewhat less oxidized pentalenolactone precursor has been independently prepared from humulene from which it is probably derived biogenetically ⁴¹⁸). Thus, treatment of humulene with mercuric nitrate followed by aqueous potassium bromide solution gave two bromo-mercury derivatives which were oxygenated in the presence of sodium borohydride. The resulting pair of diols (770 and 771) were separately converted to exo methylene

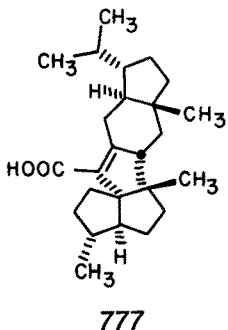
derivatives 772 and 773, respectively, and 773 was transformed under standard conditions to 772 (Scheme LXXXVIII). Reduction of 772 with lithium in ethylamine furnished 774 which was cyclized under Lewis acid conditions. 10 α -Hydroxypentalenene (775), formed (20%) alongside four other compounds, was subjected to conditions which oxidized its allylic methyl group first to the aldehyde level and ultimately to the methyl ester. Hydrolysis of this material delivered pentalenic acid, identical to the natural product.



Scheme LXXXVIII

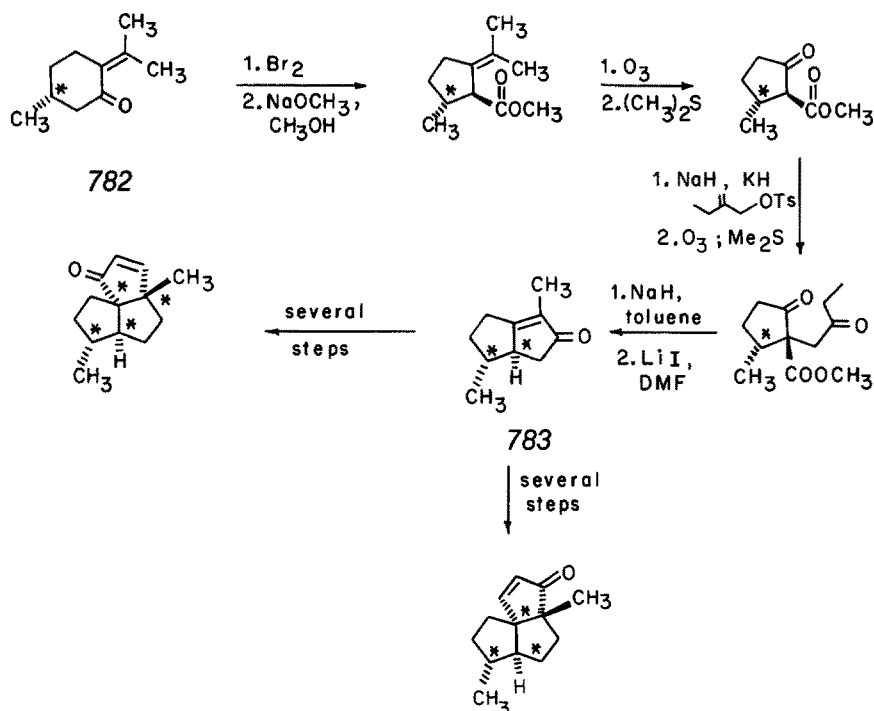
6 Retigeranic Acid

A pentacyclic sesterterpene having eight chiral centers and five quaternary carbon atoms, retigeranic acid (777) is a topologically unique polyquinane system. Although its total synthesis has not yet been achieved, the lower triquinane segment of the molecule has been prepared in racemic and optically active form⁴¹⁹. Enones 780 and 781 were obtained by initial conversion of 2-methylcyclopentanone to 778 followed by cyclopentannulation of this substrate to produce 779 (Scheme LXXXIX). With the indicated tricyclic α , β -unsaturated ketones in hand, the proper fusion of rings D and E should be forthcoming.



Scheme LXXXIX

For the optically active analogues, (+)-pulegone (782) was utilized as the chiral pool source ⁴¹⁹. Since its methyl substituted carbon atom is not perturbed during the conversion to 783 and beyond (Scheme XC), this stereocenter is fixed. Three additional asymmetric centers were then introduced as previously outlined.



Scheme XC

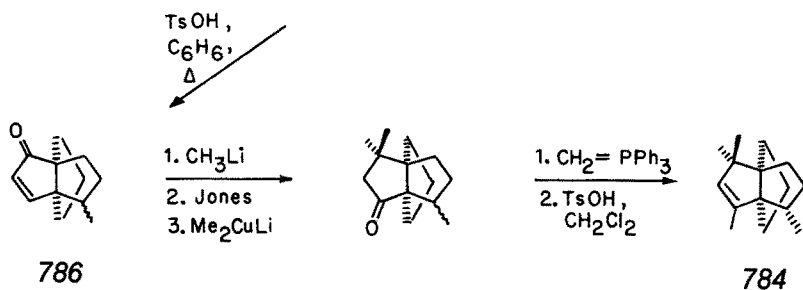
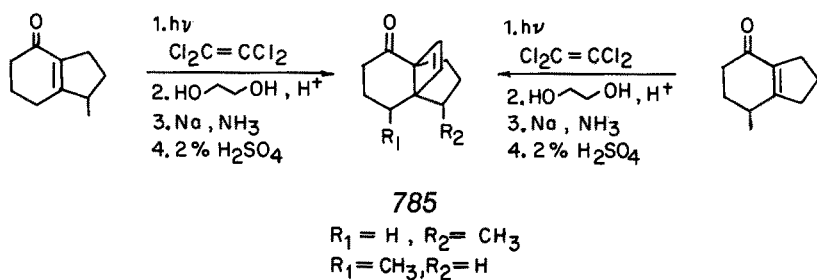
C Propellane Structures

1 Modhephene

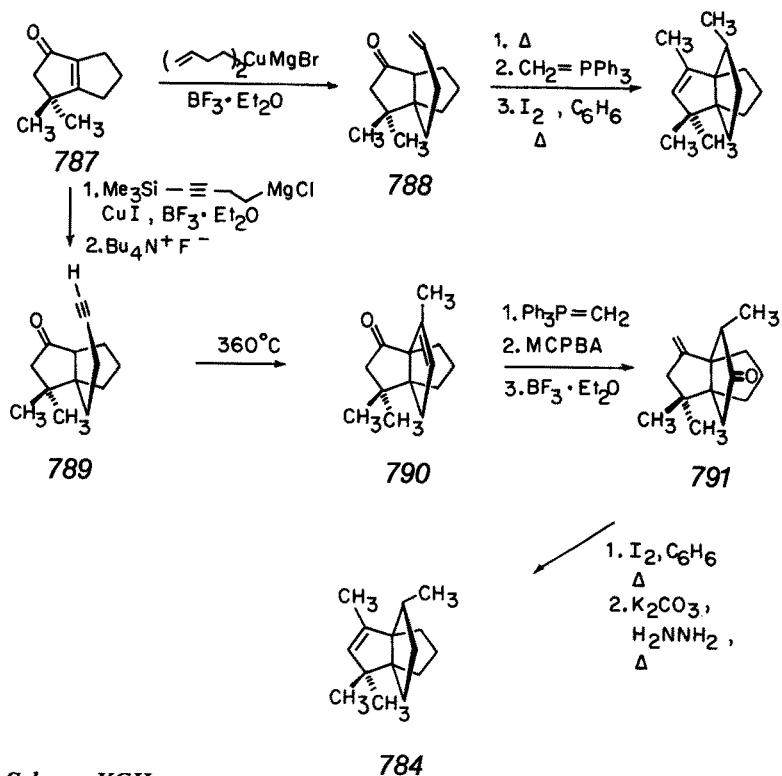
In 1977, Zalkow and associates reported the isolation and characterization of isocomene (784), a novel tricyclo[6.3.0.0^{4,8}]undecane featuring a bridged spirane arrangement of three cyclopentane rings⁴²⁰. At a later date, Bohlmann described the successful efforts of his group in isolating 784⁴²¹. Such a great deal of attention has been paid to the total synthesis of 784 that a detailed analysis of the convergency of the various pathways has been reported⁴²².

The strategy deployed by Smith and Jerris (Scheme XCI) converged upon formation of the [3.3.]propellenone 786 which in turn was derived from acid-catalyzed rearrangement of tricyclic enones 785⁴²³. Following an alkylative 1,3-carbonyl transposition, conjugate addition of lithium dimethylcuprate, Wittig olefination, and double bond isomerization, 784 and its epimer were obtained.

The approach chosen by Schostarez and Paquette (Scheme XCII) was fully regio-controlled and designed to generate modhephene and epimodhephene independently⁴²⁴. Bicyclic enone 787 was transformed by conjugate addition into 788 or 789. When the first substrate was thermolyzed, ene chemistry locked the secondary methyl sub-

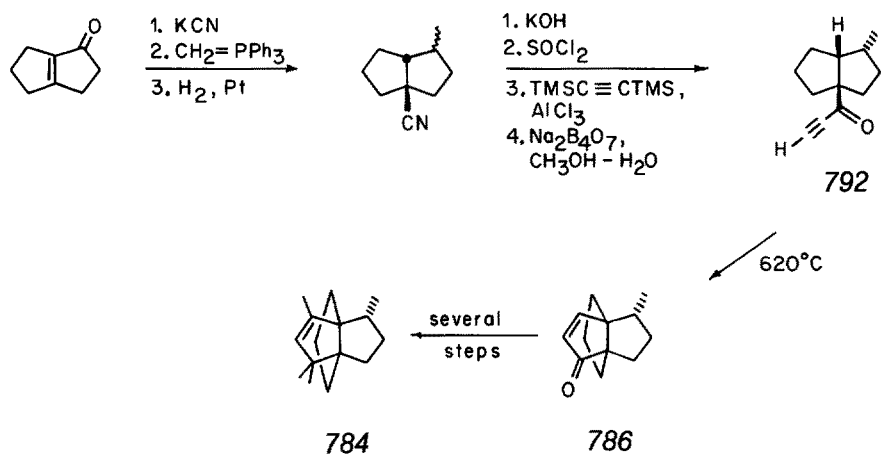


Scheme XCI

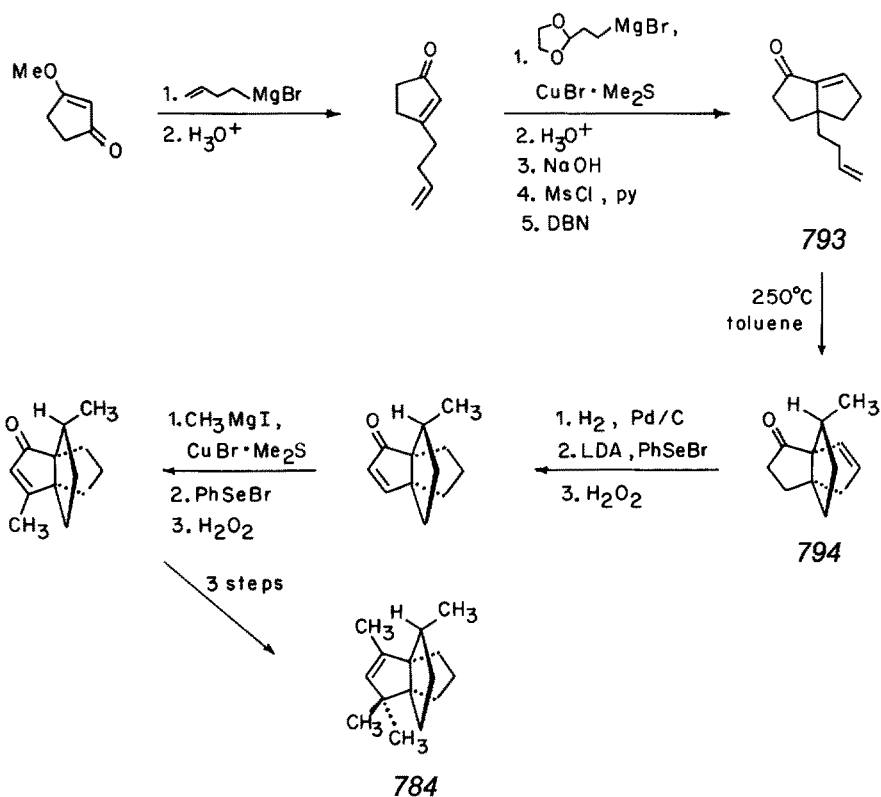


Scheme XCII

stituent into a syn relationship to the carbonyl group. Comparable pyrolysis of 789 led to the formation of 790 which was epoxidized and isomerized with full stereocontrol to give 791. Double bond isomerization and Wolff-Kishner reduction completed the synthesis.



Scheme XCIII

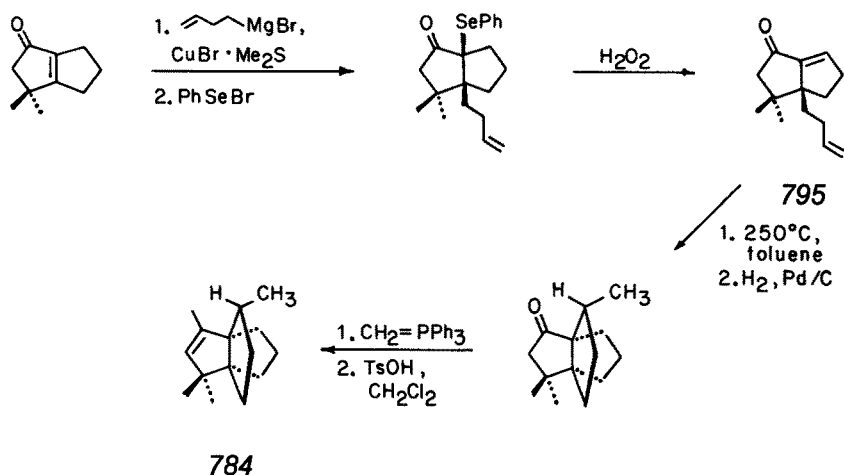


Scheme XCIV

Karpf and Dreiding arrived at modhephene by thermal α -alkynone cyclization (Scheme XCIII)⁴²⁵. The synthesis of key intermediate 792 was unfortunately plagued by isomer problems. Also, the pyrolysis of 792 did not afford 786 cleanly. With the availability of this last intermediate, arrival at modhephene followed earlier precedent.

Oppolzer has designed two approaches to modhephene, both of which are based on the high level of stereochemical control attainable in intramolecular thermal ene reactions. In the first (Scheme XCIV), α, β -unsaturated ketone 793 is obtained by aldol methodology and heated at 250 °C in toluene to produce 794⁴²⁶. A methyl group and double bond are next introduced in standard fashion prior to arrival at the final sesquiterpene stage.

The far more expedient pathway involves gaining direct access to 795 by cuprate addition-selenation and subsequent elimination (Scheme XCV). In this way, modhephene can be produced in only six steps.

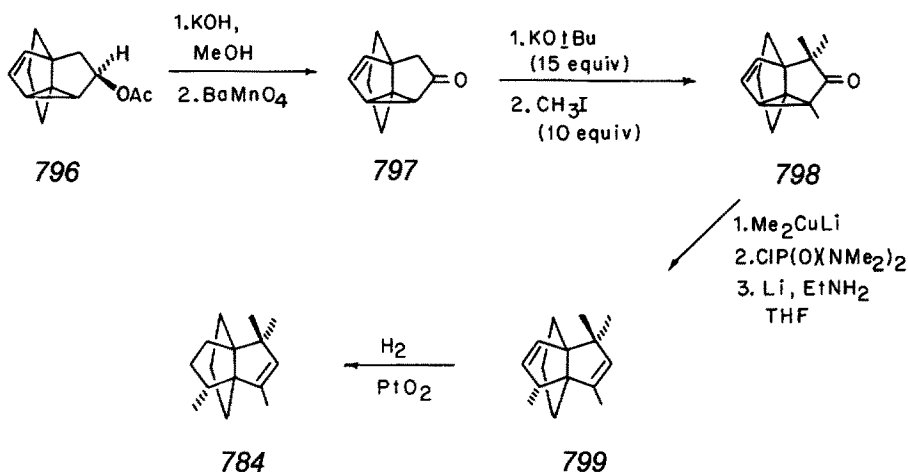


Scheme XCV

Wender and Dreyer have demonstrated that meta-arene photocycloaddition chemistry can lead expediently to modhephene⁴²⁸. Acetate 796, a photoproduct derived from indane and vinyl acetate was converted to tetracyclic ketone 797 (Scheme XCVI). Because the enolate of 797 partakes of the dynamic behavior of semibullvalenes, it proved possible to trimethylate the substance to produce 798. A fourth methyl group was introduced by conjugate addition and the carbonyl was simultaneously converted to an olefinic center. Selective hydrogenation of 799 provided modhephene in seven steps.

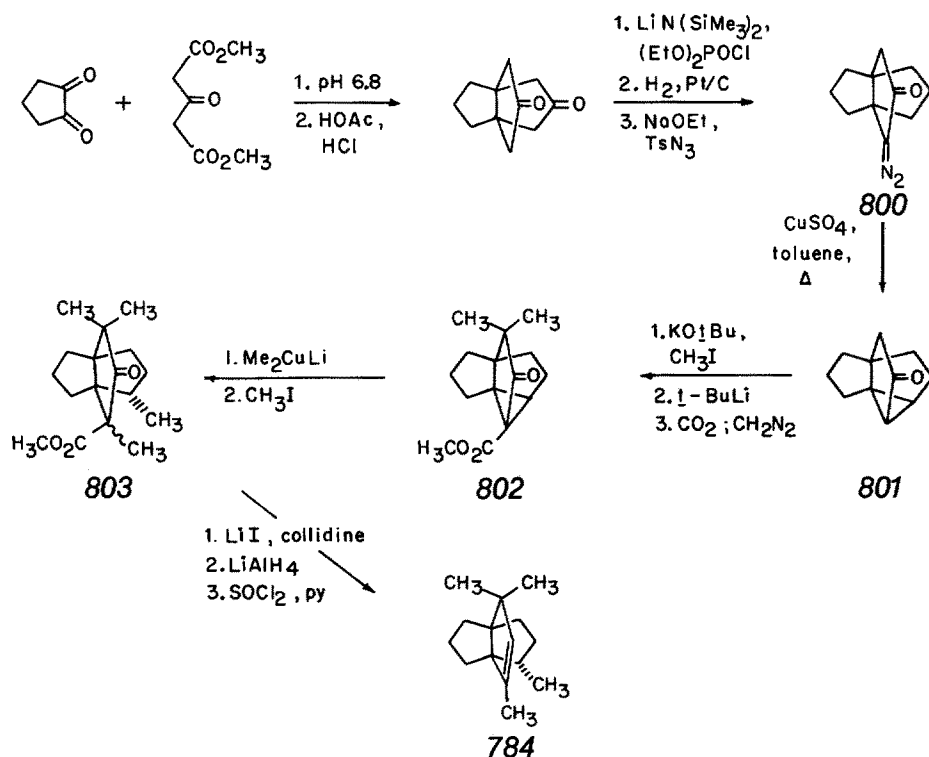
A regio- and stereospecific synthesis of modhephene has also been achieved beginning with the Weiss-Cook reaction⁴²⁹. As illustrated in Scheme XCVII, cyclopentane-1,2-dione can be readily crafted into α -diazo ketone 800, copper-catalyzed decomposition of which delivers tricyclic ketone 801. Following the dimethylation of this intermediate, carbomethoxylation was accomplished to give 802 and provide

VIII Synthesis of Triquinane Natural Products



Scheme XCVI

the opportunity for controlled ring opening with lithium dimethyl cuprate. Once this final stereocenter had been introduced, conventional methodology was utilized to convert 803 to 784.



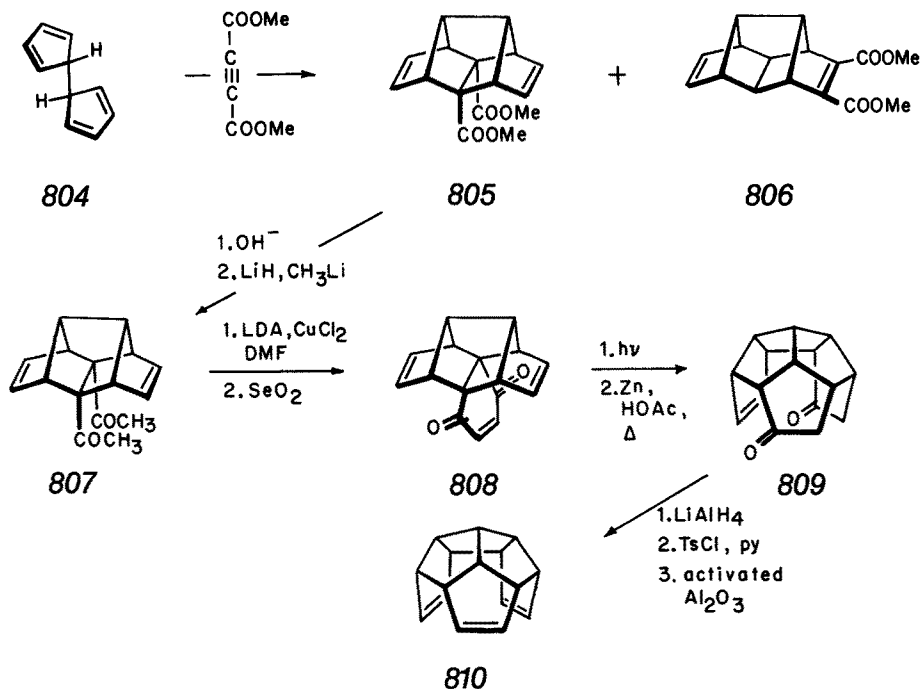
Scheme XCVII

IX The Quest for Dodecahedrane

A C₁₆-Hexaquinacene

1 Synthesis and Properties

When unstable 9,10-dihydrofulvalene (**804**) is allowed to react with dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate, a separable mixture of the adducts **805** and **806** is produced⁴³⁰. The diacid derived from **805** can be readily transformed into diketone **807** and subsequently into triene dione **808** (Scheme XCVIII)^{431, 432}. Once the intramolecular photocyclization of this intermediate has been carried out, two sigma bonds can be ruptured by reduction with zinc. X-ray analysis of **809** showed its three unsubstituted cyclopentane rings to be essentially planar and the other three to have half-chair conformations⁴³³.

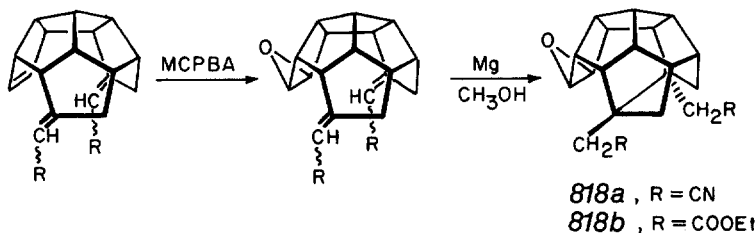
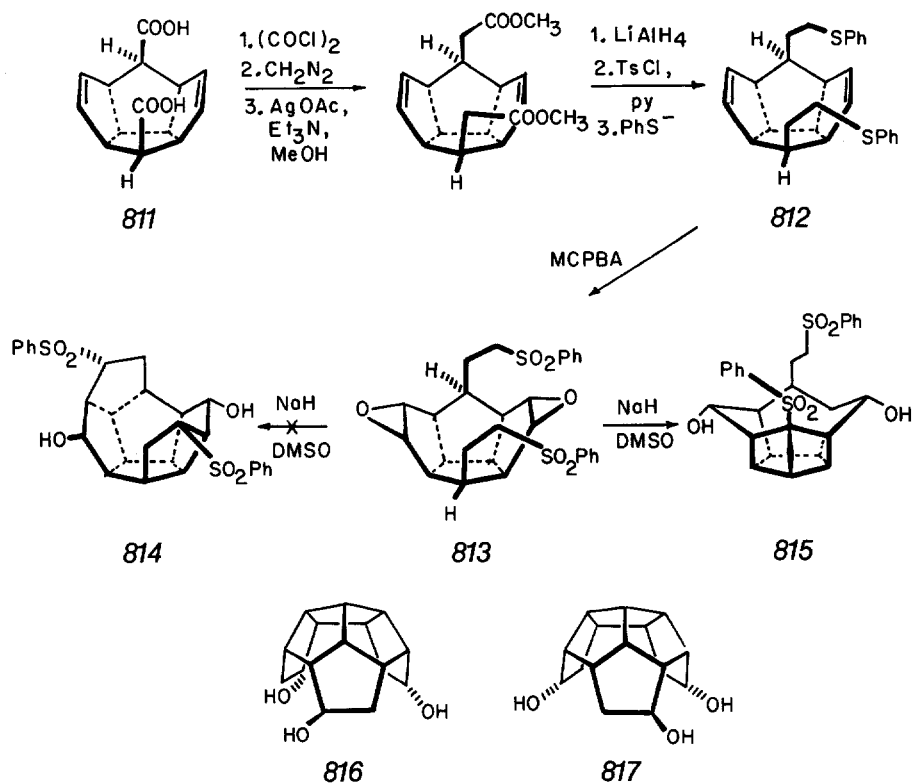


Scheme XCVIII

When the remaining two double bonds are introduced to give **810**, a high level of sphericity is achieved. However, the three sites of unsaturation do not engage in homoconjugative overlap^{431, 432, 434}.

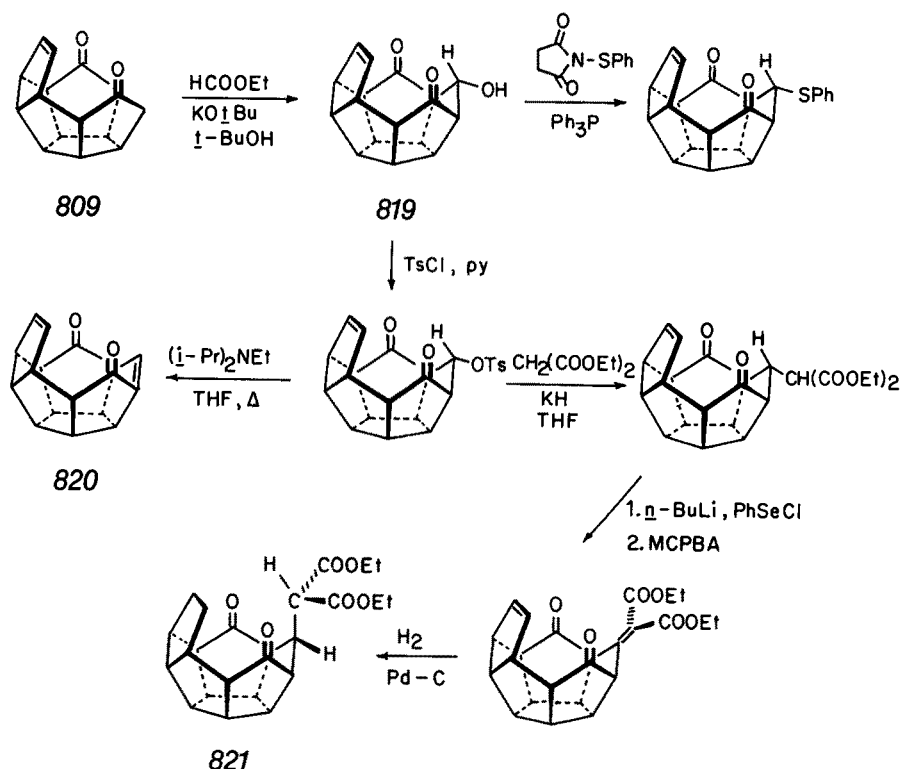
2 Functionalization Reactions

Hales and Paquette have observed that sequential reduction and hydrolysis of **805** can lead efficiently to *endo,endo* diacid **811**⁴³⁵. Arndt-Eistert homologation, conventional elaboration of bis(thioether) **813**, and exhaustive oxidation was utilized to arrive at **813**. The plan was to deploy the dianion of **813** in a manner which would lead to **814**. However, the principal product proved to be the unwanted **815**.



The exhaustive hydroboration of C_{16} -hexaquinacene (**810**) has been investigated and the isomeric *exo*³-triols **816** and **817** isolated⁴³⁶⁾. Also, diketone **809** has been functionalized as in **818a** and **818b**, but these epoxides resisted intramolecular cyclization^{436, 437)}.

The same hexacyclic enedione has been converted to a series of C_{17} -heptaquinane derivatives via the alcohol **819** which is produced by condensation with ethyl formate in base⁴³⁸⁾. The hydroxyl group in **819** can be readily functionalized, although loss of water to arrive at **820** occurs remarkably readily, despite the inherent strain of this system (Scheme XCIX). The conjugated double bond in **820** is understandably a good Michael acceptor, a property which was utilized to prepare **821**.

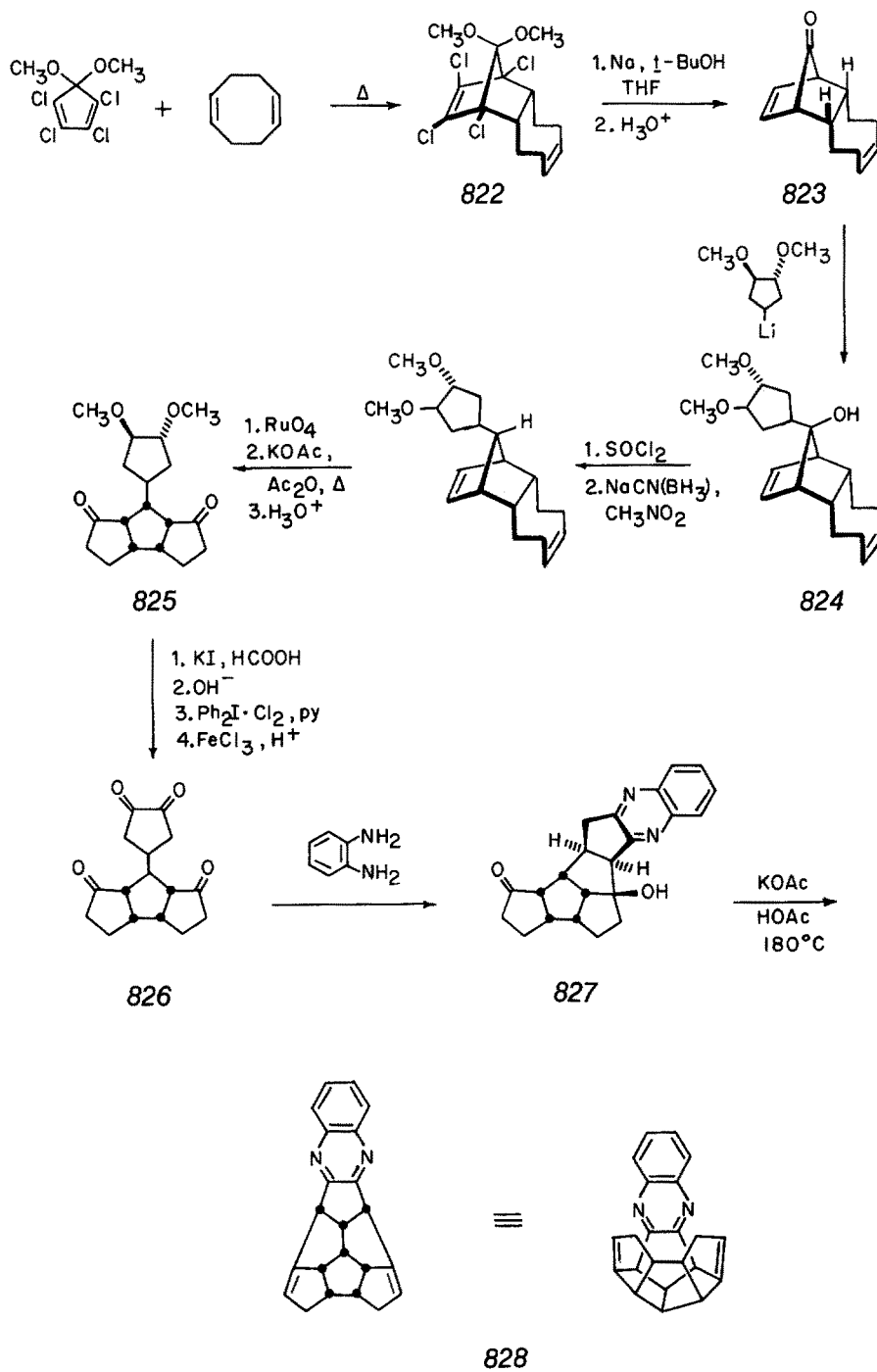


Scheme XCIX

B Alternative Approach to Hexaquinanes

In a vastly different approach to C_{16} -hexaquinanes, Eaton and coworkers prepared the Diels-Alder adduct **822** and transformed it into ketone **823** in preparation for reaction with *trans*-3,4-dimethoxycyclopentyllithium (Scheme C)⁴³⁹⁾. Reductive removal of the tertiary hydroxyl group in **824**, followed by oxidative cleavage of the double bonds, cyclization and decarboxylation afforded **825**. The methoxyl groups in **825** were cleaved and the resulting diol oxidized stepwise to produce

IX The Quest for Dodecahedrane

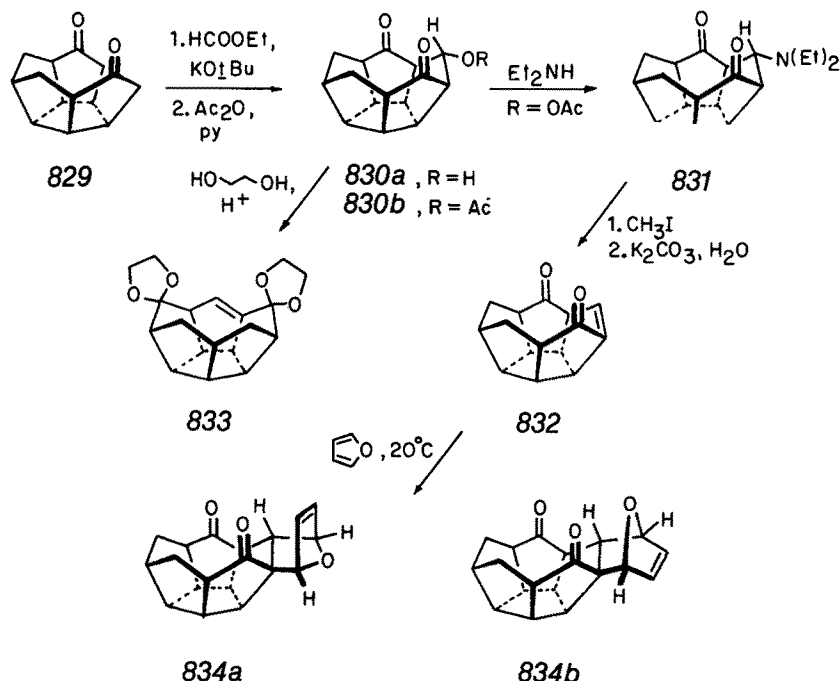


Scheme C

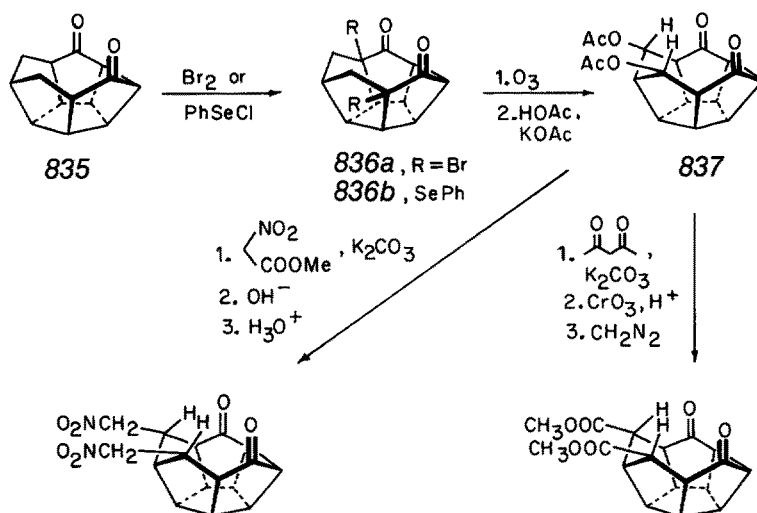
tetraketone **826**, which was trapped by reaction with *o*-phenylenediamine. During the latter reaction, an additional C—C bond was unexpectedly formed and the unsymmetrical quinoxaline **827** was obtained. However, when **827** was heated with potassium acetate and acetic acid at 180 °C in a sealed tube, ring opening preceded twofold dehydration and delivered the attractive hexaquinane heterocycle **828**.

C Peristylenones and Norperistylenones

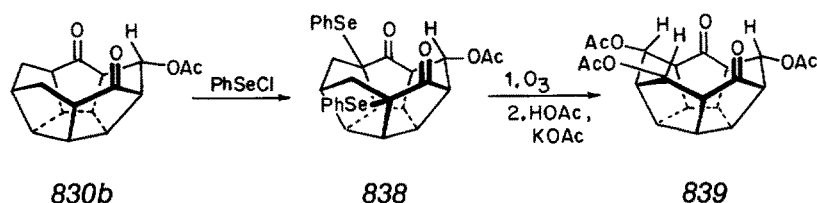
Diketone **829** closely parallels **820** in its chemical reactivity. Introduction of a functionalized bridging carbon can be achieved with ethyl formate and base⁴⁴⁰. The acetate group in **830b** is remarkably easily replaced with retention by simple nucleophiles, e.g. the conversion to **831**. The implicated peristyl-3-ene-2,6-dione (**832**) can in fact be obtained as a colorless crystalline compound. Also, **830a** spontaneously dehydrates during ketalization to produce **833**. The strained double bond in **832** enters readily into Diels-Alder reaction with furan to furnish a 3:1 mixture of **834a** and **834b**.



Bromination of norperistylane-5,11-dione (**835**) gives rapidly and quantitatively the C_{2v} -symmetric dibromide **836a**. Similarly, reaction with phenylselenenyl chloride delivers **836b**⁴²⁰. Decomposition of the bis(selenoxide) in glacial acetic acid led to diketo diacetate **837**. This product enters into twofold exchange reactions with representative nucleophiles.



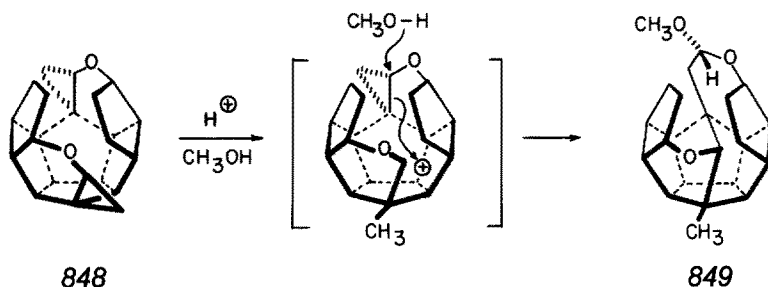
Peristylane derivative *839b* behaves in a totally analogous manner, as seen by its conversion via *838* to *839* ⁴⁴⁰).



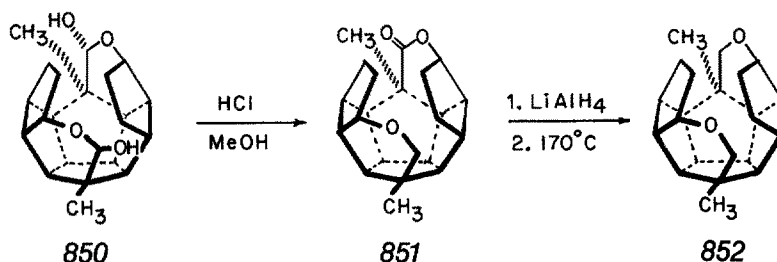
D C_2 -Dioxa- C_{20} -octaquinane

Cross-corner oxygenation of the diacid derived from *805* can be realized by sequential iodoloactonization, methoxide-promoted ring opening of the dilactone at room temperature, oxidation, and reductive deiodination (Scheme CI) ⁴⁴¹). Cyclopentenone annulation of *840* and catalytic hydrogenation delivered *841* whose hydride reduction gave *842*. This intermediate was readily converted to the highly reactive bis(chloroether) *843* which was transformed into *844* by reduction with sodium in liquid ammonia ⁴⁴²). At this stage, extrusion of the trigonal carbon atoms α to the oxygen atoms in *844* was accomplished by epoxidation and acid-catalyzed rearrangement. Photodecarbonylation of dialdehyde *846* led to *847*, a heterocyclic trisecododecahedrane.

The isomerization of *845* contrasts in a striking way with the response of bis-cyclopropyl ether *848* to electrophilic ring cleavage. In acidic methanol, cleavage of the cyclopropane ring toward oxygen results to give *849* ⁴⁴²).



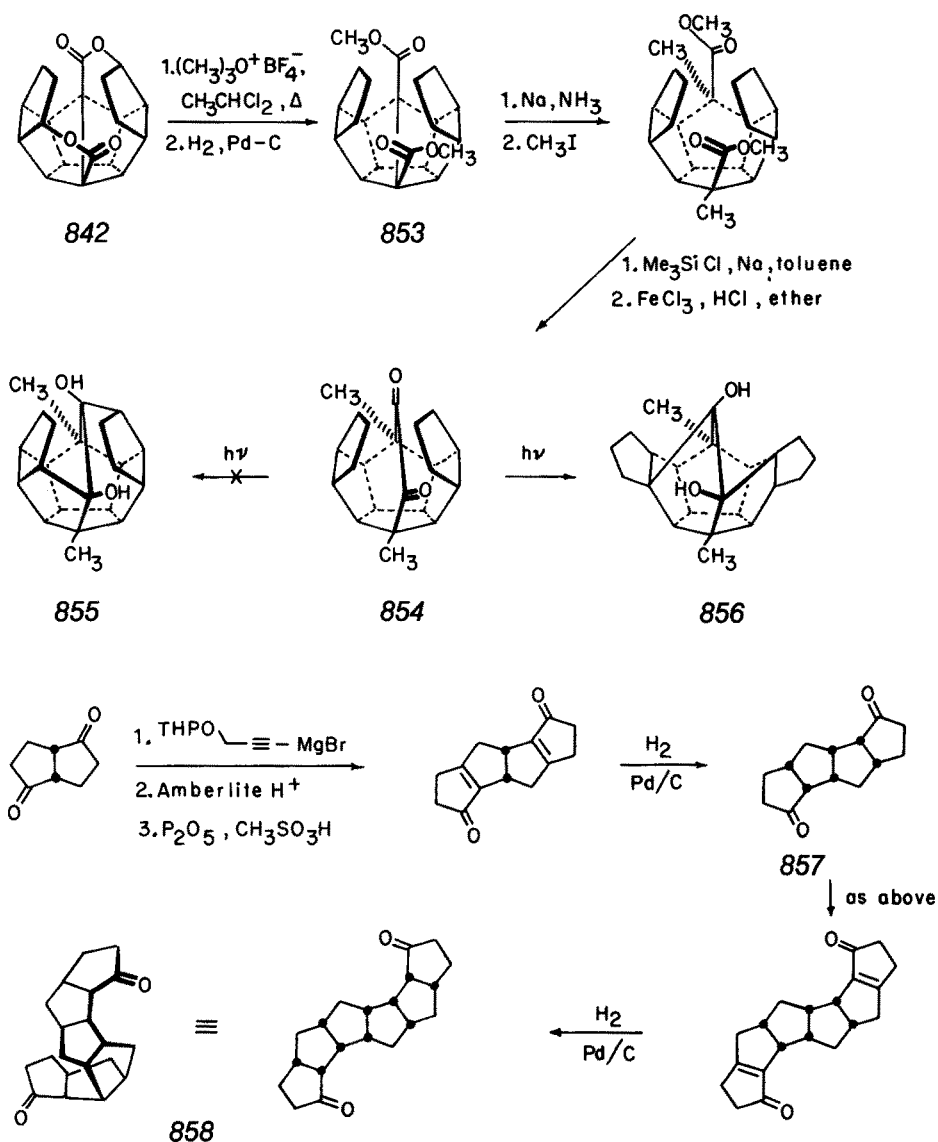
made apparent in the case of 850 which, in acidic methanol, suffers internal oxidation-reduction (851)⁴⁴⁴. Deuterium-labeling studies substantiated that transannular hydride migration was operative. If 851 is subsequently reduced and dehydrated at 170 °C, the bishomologue of 847 is arrived at in the form of 852.



E Approaches to Higher Polyquinanes

When heated with trimethyloxonium fluoroborate in 1,1-dichloroethane, dilactone 842 experiences cleavage of both lactone rings to give a mixture of diene diesters, catalytic reduction of which produced 853⁴⁴⁵. Reductive methylation of 853 proceeded with installation of the methyl groups on the exterior face for obvious steric reasons. Acyloin condensation followed by ferric chloride oxidation furnished α -diketone 854 which proved to be highly responsive to photoexcitation. However, irradiation of 854 did not provide 855 as expected. Rather, a most unusual reaction pathway was followed to deliver diol 856.

McKervery and coworkers have developed an elegantly simple pathway for the conversion of *cis*-bicyclo[3.3.0]octane-2,6-dione to (C_2)- C_{20} -hexaquinane diketone 858 (Scheme CII)⁴⁴⁶. Twofold cyclopentenone annulation and hydrogenation rapidly led to the tetraquinane 857. Repetition of the same steps then afforded 858, the x-ray analysis of which showed the molecule to have an "opened out" conformation as the direct result of severe intramolecular overcrowding.



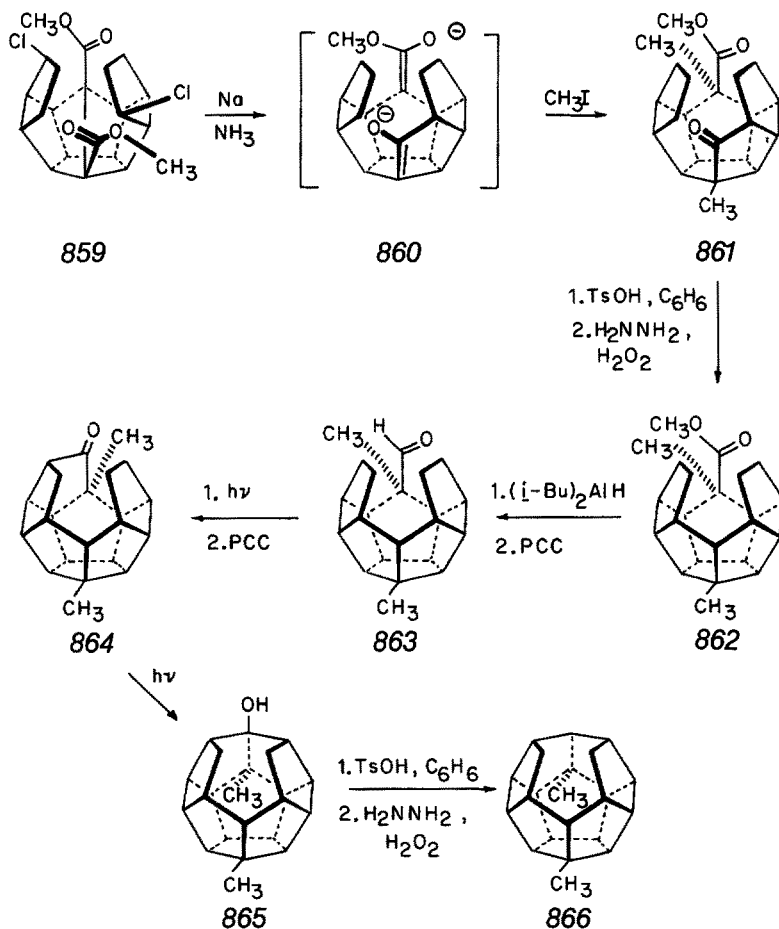
Scheme CII

F Pentagonal Dodecahedranes

1 The 1,16-Dimethyl Derivative

In an amazing reaction, dissolving metal reduction of dichloro diester **859** generates dianion **860** which can be conventionally methylated (Scheme CIII) ⁴⁷. Irradiation of keto ester **861** introduces yet another framework bond. Dehydration of the newly

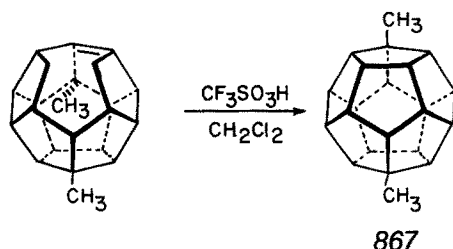
formed tertiary alcohol and diimide reduction made **862** available. After functional group manipulation, aldehyde **863** was photolyzed to induce “homo-Norrish” cyclization and generation of the first disecododecahedrane derivative^{447, 448}). With PCC oxidation, ketone **864** was produced and again photocyclized. Subsequent removal of the tertiary hydroxyl group in **865** proved to be a simple feat. The resulting C_{2v} -symmetric hydrocarbon **866** proved to have pronounced internal stresses as revealed by x-ray analysis⁴⁴⁹).



Scheme CIII

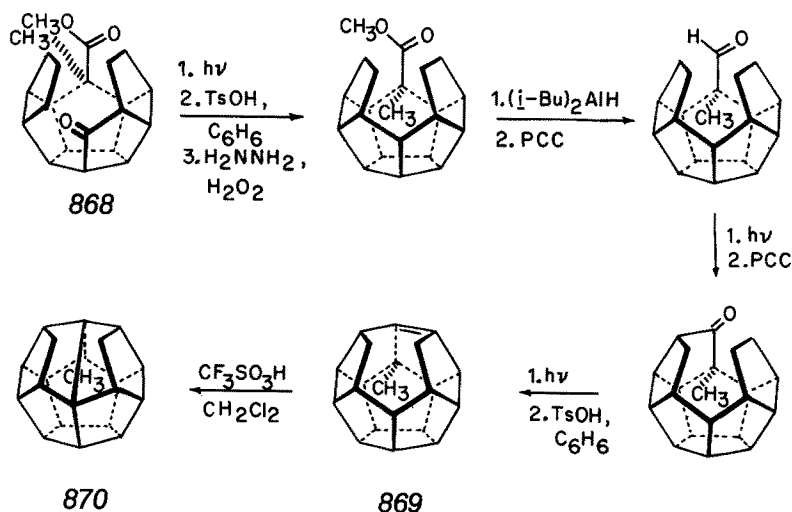
When the olefinic precursor to **866** was treated briefly with trifluoromethanesulfonic acid in dichloromethane solution, cyclization occurs with installation of the final dodecahedrane framework bond. The predominant product proved to be **867** in which methyl group migration has also taken place^{448, 450}). The D_{3d} symmetry of this first dodecahedrane was apparent from its spectral properties and nicely detailed

in its x-ray structure. In particular, the two alkyl groups are seen to cause only small distortions from pure dodecahedral symmetry.



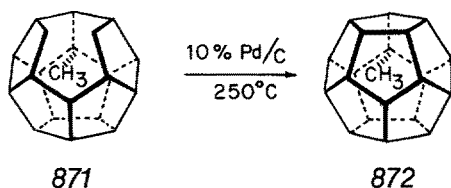
2 Monomethyl Dodecahedrane

Paquette and coworkers have demonstrated that monoalkylation of dianion **860** proceeds with a kinetic preference for electrophilic capture at the ester enolate site. Thus, addition of limited amounts of methyl iodide to **860** affords **868** in 46% isolated yield^{451–453}. With this keto ester in hand, it proved an easy matter to elaborate secododecahedrene **869** in a manner paralleling that detailed above (Scheme CIV). When this olefin was exposed to strongly acidic conditions, however, a myriad of products resulted. Curiously, the “isododecahedrane” **870** proved to be the most prevalent of these. It will be noted that a new sigma bond has indeed been introduced, but at right angles to the desired direction! The total polyquinane nature of **870** was confirmed by x-ray analysis⁴⁵⁴. By this technique, the twinned norbornyl character of its methano bridges was noted to project the associated internal hydrogens well beyond intramolecular contact range. Evidently, the release of very serious nonbonded interactions provides the necessary driving force for its unusual process.



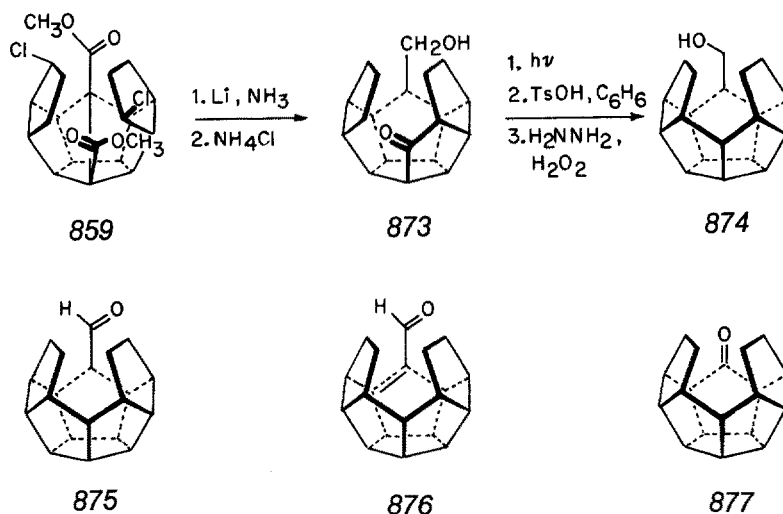
Scheme CIV

This complication was nicely bypassed by subjecting secododecahedrane **871** to dehydrogenation. Heating an intimate mixture of **871** with 50 times its weight of 10% Pd—C (previously saturated with hydrogen) at 250 °C produces the desired **872** in 35–40% yield^{451, 454}.

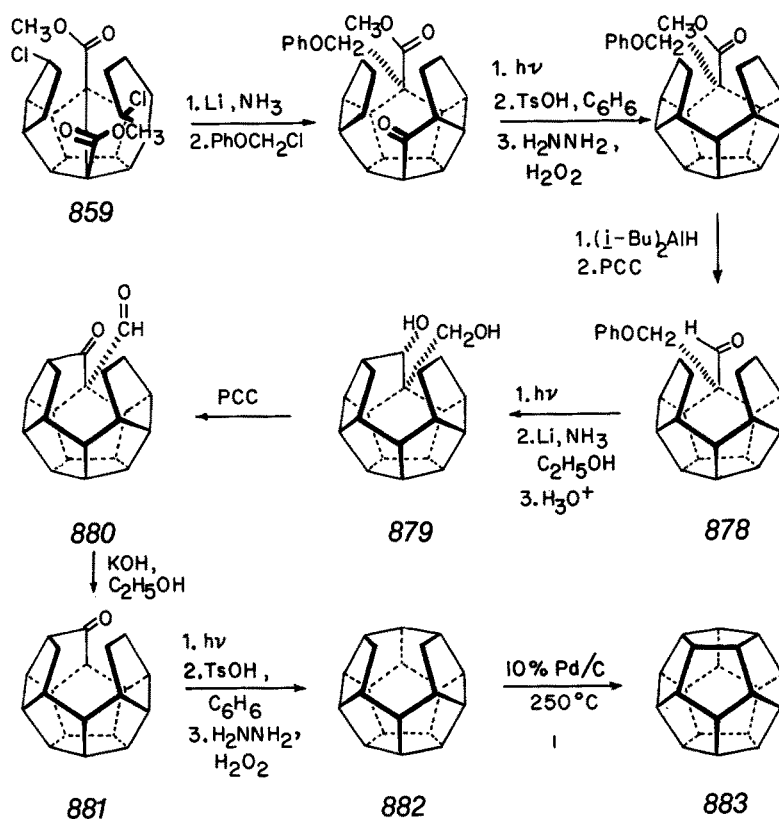


3 The Parent C₂₀H₂₀ Hydrocarbon

By suitable modification of reaction conditions, it was found possible to reduce **859** to keto alcohol **873**⁴⁵⁵. The subsequent conversion of this intermediate to **874** proceeded without event. However, **874** could not be oxidized to aldehyde **875**. Overoxidation to produce **876** or **877** (Jones conditions) invariably was observed due to the extreme sensitivity of **874**. This potentially expedient route to dodecahedrane therefore had to be abandoned and recourse made to blocking group methodology.



The phenoxyethyl group was selected as the pendant sidechain because it could be introduced via S_N2 methodology, should survive those chemical transformations required to construct framework bonds, and not encourage photodecarbonylation of the tertiary triseco aldehyde. These expectations were fulfilled as outlined in Scheme CV⁴⁵⁵. Furthermore, reduction of **878** under Birch conditions and subsequent acid hydrolysis gave diol **879** whose oxidation led to keto aldehyde **880**. Retroaldol cleavage within **880** afforded **881** which was transformed via **882** into the highly symmetric target **883**.



Scheme CV

In line with expectation, the ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of dodecahedrane (in CDCl_3) are characterized by singlets (δ 3.38; 66.93 ppm). Only 3 infrared and 8 Raman bands are observed. The crystal dynamics of this substance which are witnessed upon heating to $> 400^\circ\text{C}$ are fascinating⁴⁵⁵.

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