

$[M^+ - C_4H_8]$ , 87 (100)  $[M^+ - 2C_4H_8]$ ; IR (gas):  $\tilde{\nu} = 2176\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (P–H). **3b**: b.p.  $55^\circ\text{C}$  (1 mbar), yield 78%;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (121.5 MHz,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta = 71.6$  (d,  $^1J(\text{P,H}) = 219\text{ Hz}$ );  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta = 0.99$  (d,  $^4J(\text{P,H}) = 0.7\text{ Hz}$ , 9H), 1.33 (d,  $^4J(\text{P,H}) = 1.7\text{ Hz}$ , 9H), 6.16 (d,  $^3J(\text{P,H}) = 3.3\text{ Hz}$ , 1H), 6.23 (d,  $^1J(\text{P,H}) = 219\text{ Hz}$ , 1H); IR (Nujol):  $\tilde{\nu} = 2202\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (P–H). **3c**:  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (121.5 MHz,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta = 64.0$  (d,  $^1J(\text{P,H}) = 139\text{ Hz}$ );  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta = 2.44$  (s, 6H), 2.48 (s, 6H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 2.59 (s, 3H), 6.16 (d,  $^3J(\text{P,H}) = 1.8\text{ Hz}$ , 2H), 7.04 (br, 4H), 7.13 (d,  $^1J(\text{P,H}) = 139\text{ Hz}$ , 1H); **3d**: m.p.  $87 - 89^\circ\text{C}$ , yield 72%;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (121.5 MHz,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta = 75.8$  (d,  $^1J(\text{P,H}) = 147\text{ Hz}$ );  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta = 2.09$  (s, 6H), 2.23 (s, 6H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 5.87 (d,  $^3J(\text{P,H}) = 0.9\text{ Hz}$ , 1H), 6.67 (s, 2H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 6.72 (s, 1H), 7.17 (d,  $^1J(\text{P,H}) = 147\text{ Hz}$ , 1H); MS (16 eV):  $m/z$  (%): 358(43)  $[M^+]$ , 357(100)  $[M^+ - \text{H}]$ ; IR (gas):  $\tilde{\nu} = 2120\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (P–H).

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## Stereoselective Synthesis and Palladium-Catalyzed Transformations of 2-Alkylidene-5-vinyltetrahydrofurans\*\*

Peter Langer\* and Edith Holtz

Domino and sequential reactions are of interest in modern organic chemistry since they enable the rapid assembly of complex products.<sup>[1]</sup> In the course of our studies on the development of domino reactions of dianions and dianion equivalents,<sup>[2]</sup> we have recently reported the first cyclizations of dilithiated 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds with oxalic acid dielectrophiles.<sup>[3]</sup> These reactions allow an efficient, regio- and stereoselective synthesis of the pharmacologically relevant substance class of  $\gamma$ -alkylidenebutenolides. Although a variety of simple condensation reactions of dianions with monofunctional alkyl halides are known, only a few domino dialkylation reactions of dianions with difunctional alkyl

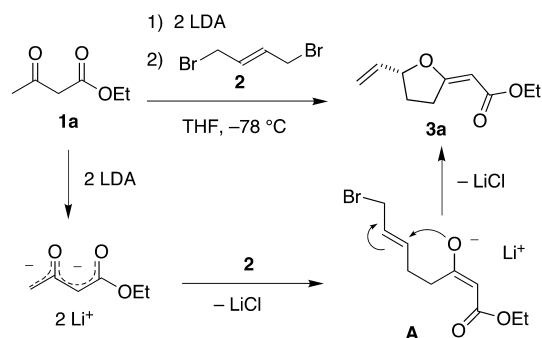
[\*] Dr. P. Langer, E. Holtz  
Institut für Organische Chemie  
Georg-August-Universität Göttingen  
Tammannstrasse 2, 37077 Göttingen (Germany)  
Fax: (+49) 551-399475  
E-mail: planger@uni-goettingen.de

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halides have been reported so far.<sup>[4]</sup> This can be explained by the high reactivity of the dianions and by the lability of the dielectrophiles which can give rise to polymerization, formation of open-chain 2:1 products, or single-electron transfer (SET) processes rather than cyclization: for example, reaction of the dianion of methyl acetoacetate with 1,*n*-dibromoalkanes was reported to give mixtures of open-chain monoalkylated products and of 2:1 condensation products.<sup>[5]</sup> The reaction of dianions of 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds with 1,4-dichloro-2-butene was equally disappointing and resulted in formation of mixtures of open-chain products in low yields.<sup>[5]</sup>

Herein, we report that reaction of dianions of 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds **1** with 1,4-dibromo-2-butene (**2**) results in regioselective formation of a wide range of 2-alkylidene-5-vinyltetrahydrofurans **3** and selective generation of up to three stereocenters (see Scheme 1). From a methodology viewpoint, these reactions represent the, to the best of our knowledge, first C,O-cyclodialkylations of 1,3-dicarbonyl dianions with **2**.<sup>[6]</sup> 2-Alkylidene-tetrahydrofurans are not only of pharmacological relevance but also represent interesting building blocks for the synthesis of terpenes<sup>[7a,b]</sup> and medium-sized lactones.<sup>[7c]</sup> To demonstrate the usefulness of our cyclization products containing a unique functionality, we have developed a new palladium(0)-catalyzed rearrangement reaction which allows the direct transformation of bicyclic 2-alkylidene-5-vinyltetrahydrofurans into functionalized bicyclo[3.2.1]octan-8-ones. This rearrangement has, to the best of our knowledge, not been previously noted. It is noteworthy that the bicyclo[3.2.1]octane skeleton is present in a large number of pharmacologically important natural products including aphidicolan,<sup>[8]</sup> kaurane,<sup>[9]</sup> and stemodane diterpenes,<sup>[10]</sup> hydroazulene,<sup>[11]</sup> himachalene,<sup>[11]</sup>  $\alpha$ -cedrane,<sup>[11]</sup> and grayanotoxin sesquiterpenes,<sup>[11, 12]</sup> bridged steroids,<sup>[13]</sup> and aconitine-type alkaloids.<sup>[14]</sup> The combination of our new cyclodialkylation reaction and the new palladium-catalyzed rearrangement constitutes a significant expansion of the methods known today for the synthesis of functionalized bicyclo[3.2.1]octanes<sup>[8f]</sup> which are of pharmacological significance and of importance for natural product syntheses.

Our first attempts to induce a cyclization reaction of the dianion of ethyl acetoacetate **1a** with 1,4-dibromo-2-butene (**2**) were unsuccessful. Addition of a solution of **2** in THF to a solution of the dianion at 0 °C gave a complex reaction mixture. Much to our satisfaction, addition of dibromide **2** to a solution of the dianion in THF at –78 °C resulted in formation of the cyclization product **3a** in 41 % yield (Scheme 1).

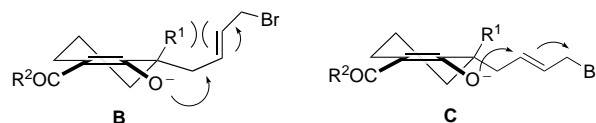


Scheme 1. LDA = lithium diisopropylamide.

Inspection of the crude product mixture showed that significant amounts of the 2:1 condensation product<sup>[15]</sup> had been formed. Therefore, an inverse–addition protocol was employed: slow addition of a solution of the dianion in THF to a solution of **2** afforded the 2-alkylidene-5-vinyltetrahydrofuran **3a** in 61 % yield with very good regio- and stereoselectivity. Formation of **3a** can be explained by a domino-S<sub>N</sub>-S<sub>N</sub>' displacement reaction involving regioselective attack of the terminal carbon atom of the dianion on the dielectrophile and subsequent regioselective cyclization through the oxygen atom.<sup>[16]</sup> The stereoselectivity in favor of the *E*-configured exocyclic double bond can be explained by the W-shaped configuration of intermediate **A** which allows a minimization of the dipole–dipole repulsion of the oxygen atoms.<sup>[17]</sup>

To investigate the preparative scope of the new cyclization reaction, the substituents of the 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds were systematically varied (Table 1). Reaction of dibromide **2** with the dianions of *tert*-butyl acetoacetate, acetylacetone, 5,5-dimethylhexane-2,4-dione, and *N,N*-diethylacetylacetamide afforded the *E*-configured 2-alkylidene-5-vinyltetrahydrofurans **3b–e** in good yields and with very good stereoselectivities. Reaction of 1,4-dibromo-2-butene with the dianions of the ethyl acetoacetates **1f–h**, containing a substituent at their central carbon atom, resulted in formation of the tetrahydrofurans **3f–h**. Reaction of **2** with the dianion of 2-acetyl- $\gamma$ -butyrolactone (**1i**) afforded the interesting 2-alkylidene-5-vinyltetrahydrofuran **3i**. Despite the fact that the products **3f–i** contain additional substituents at their exocyclic double bonds, very good *E*-selectivities were observed in all cases. The reaction of 1,4-dibromo-2-butene with the dianions of methyl 3-oxopentanoate and ethyl 3-oxohexanoate afforded the 2-alkylidene-5-vinyltetrahydrofurans **3j–k** in good yields and with very good *Z*-selectivities. The change from *E*- to *Z*-configuration can be explained by the steric influence of the substituents R<sup>1</sup>.

Reaction of the dianion of ethyl cyclohexanone-2-carboxylate (**1l**) with dibromide **2** afforded the 5,6-bicyclic product **3l** in good yield and with very good 1,3-diastereoselectivity. Similarly, reaction of the dianions of isopropyl and methoxyethyl cyclohexanone-2-carboxylate (**1m** and **1n**) afforded the bicyclic 2-alkylidene-5-vinyltetrahydrofurans **3m** and **3n** in good yields and with very good stereoselectivities. Treatment of dibromide **2** with the dianion of aldehyde **1o** afforded the bicyclic tetrahydrofuran **3o** with very good stereoselectivity. Reaction of **2** with the dilithiated ester **1p**, containing a benzyl group at the 6-position of the cyclohexane ring, resulted in stereoselective formation of the 2-alkylidene-5-vinyltetrahydrofuran **3p**. The 1,3-diastereoselectivity can be explained by destabilization of transition state **B** (relative to **C**) due to a 1,3-interaction between the substituent R<sup>1</sup> (H, Bn) and the allyl group.



Reaction of **2** with the dianions of ethyl 5-methylcyclohexanone-2-carboxylate **1q** and methyl 5-ethylcyclohexanone-2-

Table 1. Synthesis of 2-alkylidene-5-vinyltetrahydrofurans **3**.

	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	Yield [%] <sup>[a]</sup>	E:Z	d.r. <sup>[b]</sup>
<b>a</b>			H	OEt	61	> 98:2	–
<b>b</b>			H	O <i>t</i> Bu	64	> 98:2	–
<b>c</b>			H	Me	48	> 98:2	–
<b>d</b>			H	<i>t</i> Bu	46	> 98:2	–
<b>e</b>			H	NEt <sub>2</sub>	58	> 98:2	–
<b>f</b>			Me	OEt	66	> 98:2	–
<b>g</b>			Et	OEt	63	> 98:2	–
<b>h</b>			Bu	OEt	36	> 98:2	–
<b>i</b>			–	–	37	> 98:2	–
<b>j</b>			Me	OMe	65	< 2:98	45:55
<b>k</b>			Et	OEt	60	< 2:98	65:35
<b>l</b>			H	OEt	81	–	> 98:2
<b>m</b>			H	O <i>t</i> Pr	77	–	> 98:2
<b>n</b>			H	O(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> OMe	78	–	> 98:2
<b>o</b>			H	H	37	–	> 98:2
<b>p</b>			Bn	OEt	48	–	> 98:2
<b>q</b>			Me	OEt	74	–	> 98:2
<b>r</b>			Et	OMe	72	–	> 98:2
<b>s</b>			<i>t</i> Bu	–	53	–	> 98:2
<b>t</b>			Ph	–	65	–	> 98:2
<b>u</b>			H	–	42	–	> 98:2
<b>v</b>			Me	–	37	–	> 98:2
<b>w</b>			H	OEt	66	–	70:30
<b>x</b>			H	<i>t</i> Bu	51	–	90:10

[a] Yield of isolated product. [b] Diastereomeric ratio in favor of the drawn isomer.

carboxylate **1r** afforded the bicyclic 2-alkylidene-5-vinyltetrahydrofurans **3q** and **3r** in good yields. In these reactions, three stereocenters are formed with complete selectivity. The initial attack of the dianion onto the dielectrophile proceeded with very good 1,2-diastereocontrol giving rise to a *cis* configuration between the substituents R<sup>1</sup> and the bridgehead hydrogen atom. The subsequent cyclization proceeded with very good 1,3-diastereoselectivity. The stereochemical effect of the presence of a substituent at the 4-position of the cyclohexane moiety was studied next: reaction of dibromide **2** with the dilithiated ethyl cyclohexanone-2-carboxylates **1s** and **1t** afforded the tetrahydrofurans **3s** and **3t**, respectively, containing three stereocenters, in good yields. Both the initial attack of the dianion onto the dielectrophile and the subsequent cyclization proceeded with very good 1,3-diastereoselectivities. Owing to steric reasons, the *tert*-butyl and the phenyl group are located *trans* to the bridgehead hydrogen

atom. The reaction of 1,4-dibromo-2-butene with the dilithiated cyclohexane-1,3-dione derivatives **1u** and **1v** afforded the bicyclic products **3u** and **3v**, respectively, with very good 1,3-stereoselectivities.

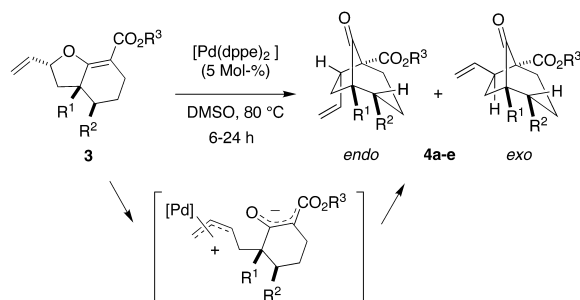
Reaction of 1,4-dibromo-2-butene with the dianions of the cycloheptanones **1w** and **1x** afforded the 5,7-bicyclic products **3w** and **3x**, respectively, in good yields with moderate to good stereoselectivities. For entropic reasons, the destabilization of intermediate **B** is less important in more flexible fused seven-membered rings than in more rigid six-membered homologues. In open-chain substrates, the conformational flexibility is even higher. Therefore, the best 1,3-diastereoselectivities were obtained for the formation of 5,6-bicyclic 2-alkylidene-5-vinyltetrahydrofurans **3l–v**.

Our first attempts to induce a palladium-catalyzed rearrangement of the 2-alkylidene-5-vinyltetrahydrofuran **3l** were unsuccessful. No conversion was observed when the reaction was carried out at 20 °C using Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>/PPh<sub>3</sub> or [Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>]. At elevated temperatures, complex mixtures were formed. Fortunately, employment of [Pd(dppe)<sub>2</sub>] (dppe = 1,2-bis(diphenylphosphanyl)ethane) resulted in a clean rearrangement reaction which afforded the functionalized bicyclo[3.2.1]octan-8-one **4a** in 95 % yield (*endo:exo* = 1.2:1). The diastereomers could be readily separated to give *endo*-**4a** and *exo*-**4a** in 45 and 36 % yields, respectively. The formation of **4a** can be explained by initial ring-opening, formation of a  $\pi$ -allyl palladium complex,<sup>[18a]</sup> and recyclization by nucleophilic attack of the carbon atom of the enolate onto the  $\pi$ -allylpalladium complex (Table 2). This palladium-catalyzed rearrangement leading to bicyclo[3.2.1]octan-8-ones has, to the best of our knowledge, not

been previously noted.<sup>[18b]</sup> The reaction proceeded with complete regioselectivity; no formation of any seven-membered ring product was observed. The low stereoselectivity can be explained by a  $\pi$ - $\sigma$ - $\pi$ -isomerization of the  $\pi$ -allylpalladium complex. Rearrangement of the esters **3m** and **3n** afforded the bicyclo[3.2.1]octan-8-ones **4b** and **4c** in high yields. The Pd-catalyzed rearrangement of the independently prepared 2-alkylidenetetrahydrofuran **3y**, containing an ester group at the bridgehead position,<sup>[6b]</sup> gave the bicyclo[3.2.1]octan-8-one **4d** in 95 % yield. The 2-alkylidenetetrahydrofuran **3q**, containing a methyl group at the 5-position of the cyclohexane moiety, was efficiently transformed into the bicyclo[3.2.1]octan-8-one **4e** in 94 % yield.

The combination of our new cyclodialkylation reaction and the new palladium-catalyzed rearrangement constitutes a significant expansion of the methods known today for the synthesis of functionalized bicyclo[3.2.1]octanes which are of

Table 2. Synthesis of bicyclo[3.2.1]octan-8-ones **4**.



4	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>3</sup>	Catalyst	Solvent	T [°C]	t [h]	Yield <sup>[a]</sup> [%]
<b>a</b>	H	H	OEt	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub> /PPh <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	80	24	0
<b>a</b>	H	H	OEt	[Pd(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> ]	DME or THF	60	24	0
<b>a</b>	H	H	OEt	[Pd(dppe) <sub>2</sub> ]	DMSO	20	24	0
<b>a</b>	H	H	OEt	[Pd(dppe) <sub>2</sub> ]	DMSO	80	6	95
<b>b</b>	H	H	O <i>i</i> Pr	[Pd(dppe) <sub>2</sub> ]	DMSO	80	6	92
<b>c</b>	H	H	O(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> OMe	[Pd(dppe) <sub>2</sub> ]	DMSO	80	6	91
<b>d</b>	CO <sub>2</sub> Et	H	OEt	[Pd(dppe) <sub>2</sub> ]	DMSO	80	6	95
<b>e</b>	H	Me	OEt	[Pd(dppe) <sub>2</sub> ]	DMSO	80	6	93

[a] Yield of isolated product. In all reactions the *endo:exo* selectivities were in the

pharmacological significance and of importance for natural product syntheses.<sup>[8–14]</sup>

## Experimental Section

**31:** A solution of lithium diisopropylamide (LDA) (4.7 mmol) in THF was prepared by addition of *n*BuLi (2 mL, 2.35 M) to a solution of diisopropylamine (0.65 mL) in THF (30 mL) at 0 °C. After the mixture had been stirred for 20 min, ethyl cyclohexanone-2-carboxylate (340 mg, 2 mmol) was added at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred for 60 min, and then this solution was slowly added to a solution of **2** in THF (15 mL) at –78 °C. The temperature was allowed to rise to 20 °C over 4 h and the solution was stirred at this temperature for 2 h. The reaction mixture was poured into an aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid (0.1 M) and extracted with diethyl ether. The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and the solvent of the filtrate was removed in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, ether:petroleum ether 1:10 → 1:3) to give **31** as a colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 250 MHz): δ = 1.10–1.55 (m, 3 H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.25 (t, 3 H, *J* = 7 Hz; CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.80–2.40 (m, 5 H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.68 (m, 1 H; CH), 4.15 (m, 2 H; OCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.77 (m, 1 H; CH=CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.19–5.42 (2 × dd, 2 × 1 H; CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.91 (ddd, 1 H; CH=CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 62.5 MHz): δ<sub>c</sub> = 13.91, 21.73, 23.49, 26.98, 36.78, 41.25, 58.80, 82.93, 96.25, 116.60, 135.80, 166.36, 166.99; MS (70 eV): 222 (37, [M<sup>+</sup>]), 177 (34), 168 (100), 122 (73); elemental analysis calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (%): C 70.24, H 8.16; found: C 70.42, H 8.02.

**4a:** A solution of **31** (200 mg, 0.9 mmol) in dimethyl sulfoxide (2.4 mL) was degassed and [Pd(dppe)<sub>2</sub>] (40 mg, 5.0 mol %) was added. The red solution was stirred at 80 °C for 6 h. To the mixture was added diethyl ether (20 mL), the suspension was filtered through a pad of Celite and the Celite was washed with diethyl ether (200 mL). The solvent of the filtrate was removed in vacuo and the residue was purified by filtration through a short pad of silica gel to give pure **4a** as a mixture of two diastereomers (190 mg, 95%, *endo:exo* = 1.2:1). The diastereomers were separated by column chromatography (silica gel, ether:petroleum ether 1:20 → 1:3) to give *endo*-**4a** (90 mg, 45%) and *exo*-**4a** (72 mg, 36%) as colorless oils. The assignment of the diastereomers is based on analogy to the chemical shifts of 6-*endo*- and 6-*exo*-vinyl-bicyclo[3.2.1]octan-8-one: *endo*-**4a**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 250 MHz): δ = 1.20 (t, 3 H, *J* = 7 Hz; CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.42–1.90 (m, 3 H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.95 (m, 2 H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.10–2.30 (m, 3 H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.43 (m, 1 H; CHCH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.48 (m, 1 H; CHCO), 4.18 (m, 2 H; OCH<sub>2</sub>), 5.10–5.20 (2 × dd, 2 × 1 H; CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.92 (ddd, 1 H; CH=CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 62.5 MHz): δ<sub>c</sub> = 14.11, 17.15, 27.34, 33.82, 36.60, 41.47, 46.01, 60.99, 61.61, 117.53, 135.40,

170.63, 214.90. MS (70 eV): 222 (52, [M<sup>+</sup>]); elemental analysis calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (%): C 70.24, H 8.16; found: C 70.36, H 8.10; *exo*-**4a**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 250 MHz): δ = 1.22 (t, 3 H, *J* = 7 Hz; CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.60–2.10 (m, 7 H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.42 (m, 2 H; CHCH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.90 (m, 1 H; CHCO), 4.10 (m, 2 H; OCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.80–5.00 (2 × dd, 2 × 1 H; CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.70 (ddd, 1 H; CH=CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 62.5 MHz): δ<sub>c</sub> = 14.01, 17.42, 30.44, 36.85, 39.99, 46.57, 60.41, 60.63, 114.23, 139.98, 169.69, 215.01; MS (70 eV): 222 (46, [M<sup>+</sup>]); elemental analysis calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (%): C 70.24, H 8.16; found: C 70.40, H 8.06. All compounds were characterized by spectroscopic methods and gave correct elemental analyses and/or high-resolution mass spectra.

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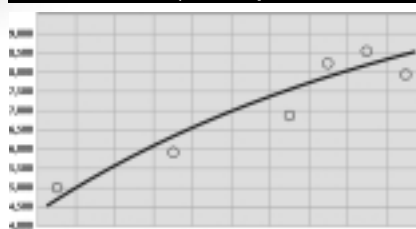
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