

Methano- and Propanofullerenes by [1+2] and [3+2] Cycloadditions of Vinylcarbene Species

Hidetoshi Tokuyama, Hiroyuki Isobe, and Eiichi Nakamura*

Department of Chemistry, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Meguro, Tokyo 152

(Received September 12, 1994)

Vinylcarbene species generated by thermolysis of cyclopropanone acetal (CPA) reacts with C_{60} in a [1+2] and a [3+2] manner to afford, at 80 °C, methano- and propanofullerene derivatives as a 10:1 mixture. The periselectivity depends on the reaction temperature; the ratio of the [1+2] and [3+2] cycloadducts changed to 2:1 and to 7:93 in the reaction at 100 and 140 °C, respectively. Temperature dependence was also observed in the reaction of phenyl-substituted CPA. The reactions of ethyl- and trimethylsilyl-substituted CPAs, which proceeded only at 150–170 °C, afforded propanofullerenes as a sole product. The reaction of the substituted CPAs proceeded exclusively via a terminally substituted vinylcarbene species.

Organic functionalization of buckminsterfullerenes¹⁾ is vital for the fullerene science and technology, as exemplified by the conspicuous biochemical activity of water-soluble fullerene carboxylic acids²⁾ and fullerene–DNA conjugates.³⁾ Among various candidates of organic reactions to be used for fullerene functionalization, thermal cycloadditions have proved to be particularly useful.⁴⁾ Thus, [1+2],^{5–7)} [2+2],⁸⁾ and [4+2]⁹⁾ cycloaddition reactions have been successfully employed for the synthesis of three, four, and six-membered rings fused to C_{60} . In contrast, [3+2] routes to propanofullerenes (i.e., cyclopentane fused to C_{60}) are still rare¹⁰⁾ because of the general lack of suitable three-carbon cycloaddition reagents.¹¹⁾ We report, in this article, that an efficient synthesis of propanofullerene can be achieved by the reaction of vinylcarbene species (**2** and **3**) generated by thermolysis of cyclopropanone acetals (CPAs, **1**) (Eq. 1).^{12–14)}

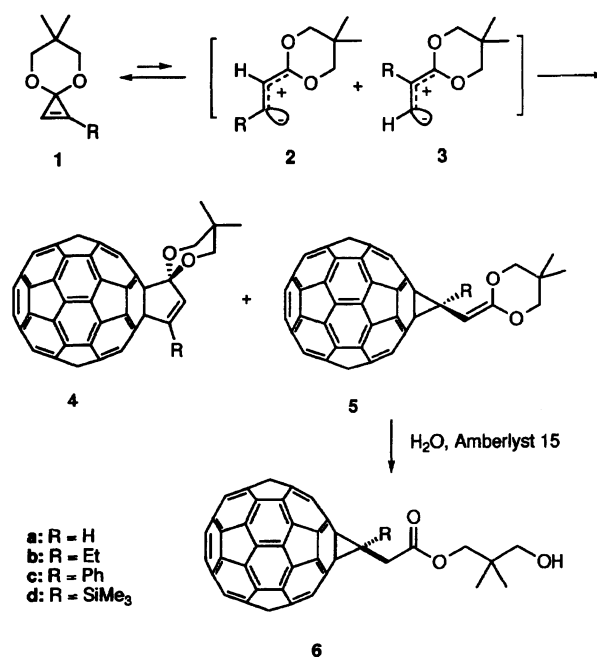


Table 1. Temperature-Dependence of the [3+2] and [1+2] Cycloadditions

Temp (°C)	C ₆₀ (1 equiv)		Yield of main product (%)
	1a	4a + 5a	
80	1.9	9 : 91	44
80 ^{b)}	1.4	8 : 92	— ^{c)}
100	1.4	33 : 67	22
140	1.4	93 : 7	31

a) The ratio was determined by HPLC. b) Toluene was used as a solvent. c) Not determined.

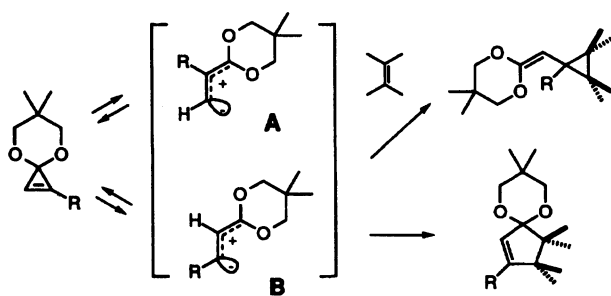
Results and Discussion

Cycloaddition and Temperature Effects. Upon heating around 80 °C, the parent CPA **1a** undergoes cleavage of the C–C σ bond to generate reversibly the vinylcarbene species **2a**. The nature of this carbene species has been examined by its cycloaddition behavior¹²⁾ and by kinetic and thermodynamic trapping with water.¹³⁾ The carbene species has been shown to be a polarized singlet species and undergoes cycloaddition to electron-deficient olefins either in a [1+2] or a [3+2] manner. The periselectivity was strictly dependent on the nature of the acceptor; the [1+2] reaction

Table 2. Summary of the Regiochemistry of the VC Formation and Cycloadditions of CPA 1 (Approximate Reaction Temperature, °C)^{a)}

Reactant	R=Ethyl (1b)	Phenyl (1c)	Me ₃ Si (1d)
Water	b)	58 : 42—33 : 67 (70)	17 : 83 (70)
[1+2] with olefin ^{c)}	9 : 91—2 : 98 (130)	7 : >93—0 : 100 (80)	0 : 100 (170)
[3+2] with olefin ^{c)}	71 : 29 (150)	0 : 100 (75)	0 : 100 (100)
[3+2] with C ₆₀ ^{d)}	0 : 100 (150)	0 : 100 (80)	0 : 100 (170)

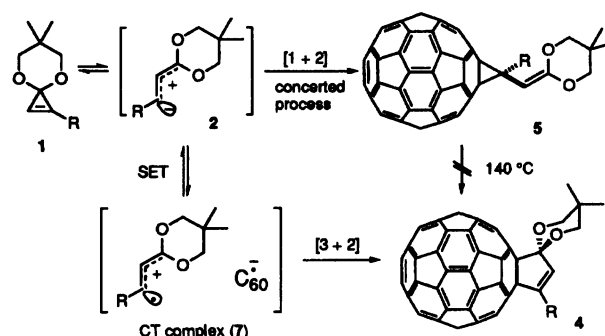
a) The ratios refer to the product ratios correlated to those of internally substituted (**A**) vs. terminally substituted VC isomers (**B**). b) Not determined. c) Taken from Ref. 11. d) This work.



Scheme 1.

than water, the carbene isomers **A** and **B** have time to interconvert via the starting CPA (especially at a low reactant concentration such as the one employed for the C₆₀ reaction, 0.2 mM, 1 M=1 mol dm⁻³). Hence, the regioselectivity of the cycloaddition reflects the kinetic reactivity of the carbene isomers rather than the kinetic ratio of their formation. The regioselectivity observed in the present studies (fourth row in Table 2) fully conforms to this generalization. The terminally substituted isomer **B** is more reactive toward C₆₀ regardless of the R substituent. It is yet to be clarified, however, why the terminally substituted isomer is more reactive than the internal one.

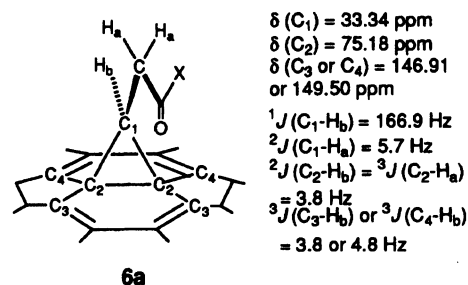
The temperature dependence of the periselectivity is also notable. It has been shown by Boger¹²⁾ for the parent CPA that the [3+2] cycloaddition, which takes place with highly electron-deficient olefins, is due to a single electron transfer (SET) mechanism, while the [1+2] cycloaddition may be a straightforward concerted cycloaddition. In view of the high electron affinity of C₆₀,¹⁷⁾ it is reasonable that the [3+2] cycloaddition to C₆₀ proceeds via a SET process. It may be noted that neither the mixed periselectivity for a single olefinic substrate nor the temperature dependent change of periselectivity has been observed for usual olefinic substrates. A proposed mechanism of the cycloaddition reaction with C₆₀ is depicted in Scheme 2. The dividing point between the concerted [1+2] and the SET [3+2] paths may depend on the steric effects of C₆₀ and the R substituent. The latter process more likely tolerates steric encumbrance than the former whose transition state must be more rigid (thus with larger negative entropy of activation).



Scheme 2.

Structure Determination. Since the structure of carbene transfer reactions aroused considerable debate at the time when the present studies were initiated,^{5,6)} we paid special attention in the structural examination of **6**, and assigned the [6.6]-methanofullerene structure⁷⁾ in the light of spectral (vide infra) and theoretical analysis.^{14,18)} Concomitant with the present studies, the 6,6-methanofullerene structures have been assigned to the products of related carbene transfer reactions.^{5,6)} The (alkoxycarbonyl)methyl structural moiety in **6a** was readily identified by the ¹H NMR spectrum. The signal (H_a, δ=3.64) due to the two equivalent protons at the α position of the alkoxy carbonyl group is coupled (doublet, *J*=7.3 Hz) to the adjacent cyclopropyl methine proton (H_b, δ=4.44, triplet, *J*=7.3 Hz). The unusual downfield-shift of the cyclopropyl methine proton is due to the magnetic deshielding effect induced by local ring currents in C₆₀.¹⁹⁾

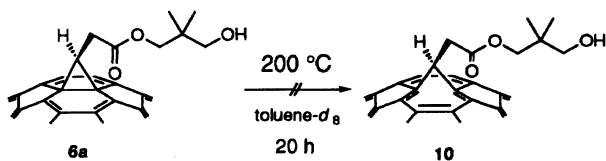
The ¹³C NMR spectra were vital for the assignment of the methanofullerene structure (Fig. 1). The pro-

Fig. 1. ¹³C NMR data for the cyclopropane structure in **6a**.

ton-decoupled ^{13}C NMR spectra showed only 39 signals, indicating C_s symmetry of the molecule. Of the 32 carbon signals assigned to the C_{60} skeleton, 27 signals of relative intensity of 2 and 4 signals of intensity of 1 are due to sp^2 carbons; a 2-carbon intensity signal at $\delta=75.18$ is due to the sp^3 C_2 carbon and suggestive of the cyclopropane structure. The C–H coupling in the proton-non-decoupled ^{13}C NMR spectra was the most crucial for the identification of the cyclopropane structure in **4a**. The C_1 atom ($\delta=33.34$), which is directly connected to H_b , was found to exhibit a very large $^1J_{\text{C-H}}$ coupling of 166.9 Hz. This J value is incompatible with the fulleroid structure, as compared with values recorded for 4a,8a-methanonaphthalene **8** and the 1,6-methano[10]annulene **9** (Chart 1).²⁰⁾ The signal at $\delta=75.18$ with relative intensity of two carbons appears as quartet ($J=3.8$ Hz) with two- and three-bond coupling to H_b and H_a , and can thus be assigned to the C_2 atom at the cyclopropane/ C_{60} juncture. We could also assign two signals appearing in the "aromatic region" at $\delta=146.91$ ($J=3.8$ Hz) and 149.05 ($J=4.8$ Hz) to C_3 and C_4 ,²¹⁾ since they exhibit three-bond coupling with H_b . The ^{13}C NMR spectra does not conclusively identify the location of the cyclopropane ring, but the [6.6]-ring junction was tentatively assigned by the known reactivity pattern of the C_{60} , as well as by the fact that only a single diastereomer of **6a** formed by the reaction.

The UV-visible spectrum of **6a** (Fig. 2) ($\lambda=259$, 326, 428, 490, and 688 nm) was found to be virtually identical with those previously assigned to the sugar-connected methanofullerene⁵⁾ ($\lambda=433$ and 499 nm) and fullerene epoxide²²⁾ ($\lambda=256$, 328, 424, 496, and 680 nm).

The methanofullerene **6a** is thermally stable and does not isomerize to **10** upon heating in toluene- d_8 at 200 °C for 20 h, as monitored by ^1H NMR (Eq. 5).²³⁾



(5)

Structure of the [3+2] adduct **4** was assigned by NMR spectra. For instance, the ^{13}C NMR spectrum (1:1 $\text{CS}_2/\text{CDCl}_3$) of the cycloadduct **4b** showing only

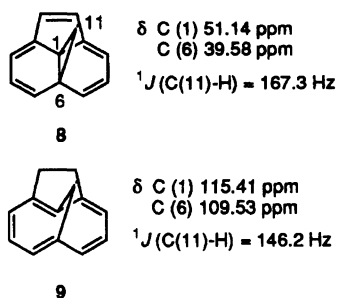
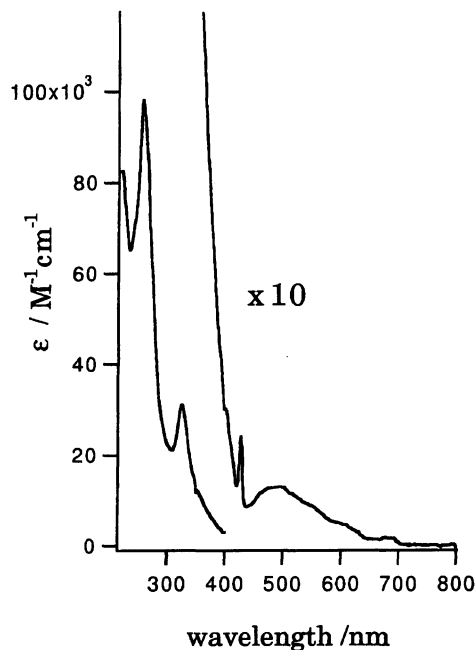


Chart 1.

Fig. 2. UV-visible spectra of **6a** in cyclohexane.

38 signals (31 at $\delta=110$ –155 region), as well as the ^1H NMR spectrum showing a symmetrical acetal structure, indicated the C_s symmetry of the molecule and therefore the ring fusion at the [6.6]-ring juncture. Irradiation of the axial acetal protons caused 18% nuclear Overhauser enhancement of the olefinic proton signal, clearly indicating the 3-ethylcyclopent-2-en-1-one structure, as shown below (Fig. 3).

Conclusion

The thermal cycloaddition reactions of vinylcarbenes have been found to produce novel fullerene derivatives, methano- and propanofullerenes. These derivatives are not only intriguing from the structural point of view, but also synthetically useful for further derivatization using the functional groups introduced.²⁴⁾ The starting CPAs being readily available, the present reactions provide access to a variety of fullerene derivatives. It is worthwhile noting that CPAs are stable non-explosive carbene precursors that can be used widely for functionalization of fullerenes.

Experimental

General. All reactions dealing with air- and moisture-sensitive compounds were undertaken in a dry reaction vessel under nitrogen stream. Infrared spectra were

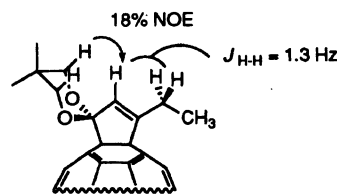


Fig. 3.

recorded on a JASCO IR-800; absorptions are reported in cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR spectra was taken at 200, 270, 400, or 500 MHz and ^{13}C NMR spectra were taken at 50, 67.5, 100, 125 MHz using JEOL FX-200, GSX-270, EX-400, or GSX-500 instrument, and are reported in parts per million from internal tetramethylsilane for ^1H NMR and CDCl_3 for ^{13}C NMR. Routine flash chromatography on silica gel was performed on Kieselgel 60 (Merck). Analytical thin layer chromatography was carried out using Merk precoated, glassbacked Kiesel 60 F₂₅₄ plates. Gel permeation chromatography was performed on a Japan Analytical Industry LC-908 machine equipped with JAIGEL-1H (20×600 mm) and -2H (20×600 mm) GPC columns.²⁵ High pressure liquid chromatography was performed on a Shimadzu LC10A machine equipped with YMC-Pack ODS-A (250×10 mm i. d.).

Material. Toluene and *o*-dichlorobenzene were distilled from calcium hydride under nitrogen and stored over molecular sieves. The synthesis of fullerene arc soot was carried out as reported in the literature.²⁶ Purification of the crude fullerene extracted from carbon arc soot containing 70–85% C_{60} and 10–15% C_{70} was carried out on a column of decolorizing carbon Norit-A/silica gel.²⁷ Purity of the C_{60} was checked by HPLC analysis (ODS, 30% *i*-PrOH/hexane, flow rate 1 ml min^{-1} , retention time 35 min).

[1+2] Cycloaddition of CPA (1a) to C_{60} . Methanofullerene 6a. To a solution of C_{60} (100 mg, 138 μmol) in *o*-dichlorobenzene (90 ml) was added **1a** (29 μl , 208 μmol). The mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 24 h. The solvent was removed by distillation (ca. 2 mmHg, 50 °C) and the black residue was redissolved in a mixture of toluene and CHCl_3 . Amberlyst 15 (ca. 100 mg) and 100 μl of water were added to the mixture and the suspension was stirred at room temperature for 0.5 h. Amberlyst 15 was removed by filtration and the filtrate was concentrated to give a crude product. Purification was achieved by silica gel column chromatography. The initial elution with hexane afforded unreacted C_{60} (31.4 mg, 31% recovery). The [3+2] adduct was obtained by elution with 30% toluene in hexane. The [1+2] cycloadduct **6a** was obtained by elution with 10% EtOAc in toluene (50.1 mg, 44% yield, 58% based on recovered C_{60} ; R_f =0.20, 10% EtOAc in toluene). The ratio of the [1+2] and the [3+2] adduct was determined by analytical HPLC (ODS, 30% *i*-PrOH/hexane, flow rate 1 ml min^{-1} , retention times of [1+2] and [3+2] cycloadduct are 15.1 and 20.8 min, respectively). Further purification was carried out on a recycling preparative GPC (CHCl_3): UV-vis [cyclohexane, λ_{max} (log ϵ)] 326 (4.57), 402 (3.49), 428 (3.40), 490 (3.13), 688 (2.59); IR (CHCl_3) 3625, 2925, 2870, 1730, 1430, 1380, 1190, 1040, 580, 530; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ =1.03 (s, 6 H, two CH_3), 1.98 (br s, 1 H, OH), 3.45 (s, 2 H, CH_2OH), 3.64 (d, J =7.3 Hz, 2 H, CH_2CO_2), 4.21 (s, 2 H, CO_2CH_2), 4.44 (t, J =7.3 Hz, 1 H, CHCH_2); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ =21.61 (two CH_3), 31.84 (CH_2), 33.34 (CH), 36.54 (C), 68.37 (CH_2), 70.33 (CH_2), 75.18 (C_{60} , 2 C, cyclopropyl carbon), 136.34 (C_{60} , 2 C), 137.97 (C_{60} , 2 C), 141.11 (C_{60} , 2 C), 141.12 (C_{60} , 2 C), 142.15 (C_{60} , 2 C), 142.17 (C_{60} , 2 C), 142.37 (C_{60} , 2 C), 142.65 (C_{60} , 2 C), 413.02 (C_{60} , 3 C), 143.05 (C_{60} , 2 C), 143.10 (C_{60} , 3 C), 143.65 (C_{60} , 2 C), 143.73 (C_{60} , 2 C), 144.30 (C_{60} , 2 C), 144.40 (C_{60} , 2 C), 144.42 (C_{60} , 2 C), 144.57 (C_{60} , 1 C), 144.71 (C_{60} , 2 C), 144.79 (C_{60} , 1 C), 144.81 (C_{60} , 2 C), 145.10 (C_{60} , 2 C), 145.19 (C_{60} , 4 C), 145.20 (C_{60} , 2 C), 145.25 (C_{60} , 2

C), 145.72 (C_{60} , 2 C), 146.91 (C_{60} , 2 C), 149.50 (C_{60} , 2 C), 171.26 (C=O). Found: C, 85.29; H, 1.31%. Calcd for $\text{C}_{68}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_3 \cdot 3/4 \text{CHCl}_3$: C, 85.27; H, 1.54%.

Propanofullerene 4a. R_f =0.55 (50% toluene in hexane); IR (CS_2) 2950, 2850, 1180, 1140, 1110, 1020, 830, 760, 530; ^1H NMR ($\text{CDCl}_3/\text{CS}_2$ 1/1) δ =1.00 (s, 3 H, CH_3), 1.39 (s, 3 H, CH_3), 3.98 (d, J =11.5 Hz, 2 H, CH_2O), 4.20 (d, 2 H, J =11.5 Hz, CH_2O), 7.32 (d, J =6.2 Hz, CH=CH), 7.55 (d, J =6.2 Hz, CH=CH); ^{13}C NMR ($\text{CDCl}_3/\text{CS}_2$ 2/1) δ =21.90, 22.83, 29.87, 73.51, 74.22, 77.86, 114.98, 126.93, 134.86, 136.69, 139.25, 139.56, 140.09, 141.43, 141.59, 141.70, 141.90, 142.09, 142.23, 142.29, 142.43, 142.87, 144.17, 144.50, 144.90, 145.00, 145.18, 145.34, 145.75, 145.82, 145.89, 146.17, 146.75, 147.19, 153.55, 154, 78. Found: C, 92.55; H, 1.35%. Calcd for $\text{C}_{68}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_3 \cdot 1/5 \text{CHCl}_3$: C, 92.59; H, 1.39%.

[3+2] Cycloaddition of Ethyl CPA (1b) to C_{60} .

Propanofullerene 4b. To a solution of C_{60} (100 mg, 0.14 mmol) in *o*-dichlorobenzene (90 ml) was added **1b** (30 μl , 0.17 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 150 °C for 2 d. The solvent was removed by distillation (50 °C, ca. 2 mmHg). Silica gel column chromatograph was performed to isolate the product. Unreacted C_{60} was recovered (42 mg, 42%) by elution with hexane, and elution with 30% toluene in hexane gave **4a** (50 mg, 40%; 69% based on recovery): R_f =0.41 (50% hexane in toluene); IR (CS_2) 2950, 2925, 2850, 1180, 1100, 1020, 760, 520; ^1H NMR ($\text{CS}_2/\text{CDCl}_3$ 1/1) δ =0.99 (s, 3 H, CH_3), 1.35 (s, 3 H, CH_3), 1.57 (t, J =7.2 Hz, 3 H, CH_2CH_3), 3.08 (dq, J =1.4, 7.2 Hz, 2 H, CH_2CH_3), 3.84 (d, J =11.5 Hz, 2 H, acetal methylene), 4.18 (d, J =11.5 Hz, 2 H, acetal methylene), 7.13 (t, J =1.3 Hz, 1 H, vinyl H); ^{13}C NMR ($\text{CS}_2/\text{CDCl}_3$ 1/1) δ =12.70, 21.94, 22.87, 22.96, 29.92, 73.42, 79.17, 114.30, 119.34, 134.64, 136.64, 139.64, 139.66, 141.44, 141.54, 141.77, 141.79, 142.11, 142.32, 142.34, 142.49, 142.90, 144.15, 144.53, 144.90, 145.16, 145.28, 145.41, 145.72, 145.82, 145.86, 146.18, 146.48, 146.83, 147.20, 153.87, 154.15, 154.94. Found: C, 89.35; H, 1.55%. Calcd for $\text{C}_{70}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2 \cdot 1/2 \text{CHCl}_3$: C, 89.26; H, 1.75%.

[3+2] Cycloaddition of Trimethylsilyl CPA (1d) to C_{60} .

Propanofullerene 4d. To a solution of C_{60} (250 mg, 0.346 mmol) in *o*-dichlorobenzene was added **1d** (150 μl , 0.658 mmol). The purple reaction mixture was stirred at 170 °C for 3 d. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give a brown solid (398 mg). Purification was carried out by silica gel column chromatography (silica gel 210 g). Initial elution with hexane gave unreacted C_{60} (82.1 mg, 33%) and subsequent elution with 30% toluene in hexane gave **4d** (167.8 mg, 52%): R_f =0.54 (30% toluene in hexane); IR (CS_2) 2950, 2925, 2850, 1400, 1125, 840, 530; ^1H NMR ($\text{CDCl}_3/\text{CS}_2$ 1/1) δ =0.04 (s, 9 H, $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 0.97 (s, 3 H, CH_3), 1.32 (s, 3 H, CH_3), 3.83 (d, J =11.2 Hz, CHHO), 4.18 (d, J =11.2 Hz, CHHO), 7.61 (s, olefinic CH); ^{13}C NMR ($\text{CDCl}_3/\text{CS}_2$ 1/1) δ =0.71 ($\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 21.96 (CH_3), 22.86 (CH_3), 30.05 (C), 73.56 (OCH_2 , 2 C), 78.76 (C_{60} , C), 79.14 (C_{60} , C), 115.41 (C=CHC), 134.68, 136.30, 136.47, 139.42, 138.68, 141.49, 141.59, 141.89, 141.99, 142.14, 142.32, 142.43, 142.52, 142.93, 144.22, 144.57, 144.92, 144.97, 145.24, 145.48, 145.79, 145.89, 145.92, 146.24, 146.26, 146.81, 147.17, 147.25, 154.39, 154.83, 155.64.

The regiochemistry of trimethylsilyl group was determined based on the strong NOE between the acetal meth-

ylene group and vinylic proton.

[1+2] Cycloaddition of Phenyl CPA (1c) to C₆₀ Methanofullerene 6c. The reaction was carried out in a similar manner to that described for 4a. $R_f=0.26$ (10% EtOAc in toluene); IR (CCl₄) 3650, 3550, 2950, 2930, 2870, 1740, 1430, 1380, 1340, 1170, 700, 530; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) $\delta=0.90$ (s, 6 H, two CH₃), 1.90 (br s, 1 H, OH), 3.25 (s, 2 H, CH₂OH), 3.99, 4.04 (s, 4 H, CH₂CO₂, CO₂CH₂C), 7.47 (t, $J=7.3$ Hz, 1 H, phenyl CH), 7.54 (t, $J=7.3$ Hz, 2 H, phenyl CH), 8.03 (d, $J=7.3$ Hz, phenyl CH); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, phenyl carbons were tentatively assigned) $\delta=21.52$ (2 C, two CH₃), 36.34 (C), 39.82 (CH₂), 47.11 (C), 68.14 (CH₂), 70.14 (CH₂), 79.19 (C₆₀, 2 C, cyclopropyl carbon), 128.56 (C₆₀, 2 C, phenyl), 128.66 (1 C, phenyl), 132.06 (2 C, phenyl), 136.21 (1 C, phenyl), 137.63 (C₆₀, 2 C), 137.88 (C₆₀, 2 C), 140.86 (C₆₀, 2 C), 141.13 (C₆₀, 2 C), 142.14 (C₆₀, 2 C), 142.16 (C₆₀, 2 C), 142.18 (C₆₀, 2 C), 142.34 (C₆₀, 2 C), 142.93 (C₆₀, 2 C), 142.97 (C₆₀, 2 C), 143.00 (C₆₀, 1 C), 143.05 (C₆₀, 2 C), 143.14 (C₆₀, 3 C), 143.78 (C₆₀, 2 C), 143.82 (C₆₀, 2 C), 144.17 (C₆₀, 2 C), 144.56 (C₆₀, 2 C), 144.65 (C₆₀, 3 C), 144.70 (C₆₀, 1 C), 144.72 (C₆₀, 2 C), 144.84 (C₆₀, 2 C), 145.12 (C₆₀, 2 C), 145.25 (C₆₀, 2 C), 145.27 (C₆₀, 4 C), 145.68 (C₆₀, 2 C), 147.86 (C₆₀, 2 C), 148.37 (C₆₀, 2 C), 170.70 (C=O). Found: C, 83.67; H, 1.89%. Calcd for C₇₄H₁₈O₃·CHCl₃: C, 83.85; H, 1.78%.

This work was financially supported by Ministry of Education, Science and Culture (No. 06240217). H. T. thanks JSPS for predoctoral fellowships.

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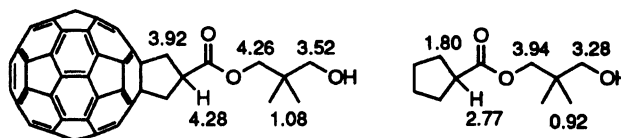


Fig. 4.

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