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SYNTHESIS AND STEREOCHEMISTRY OF MEDIUM SIZE (8-10)
THIACYCLOALKENES FORMED BY 2,3-SIGMATROPIC SHIFT OF NONSTABILIZED SULFONIUM YLIDES. BARRIERS TO CHIRAL INVERSION
IN TRANS-THIACYCLOALK-4-ENES

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SYNTHESIS AND STEREOCHEMISTRY OF MEDIUM SIZE (8-10) THIACYCLOALKENES FORMED BY 2,3-SIGMATROPIC SHIFT OF NON-STABILIZED SULFONIUM YLIDES. BARRIERS TO CHIRAL INVERSION IN trans-THIACYCLOALK-4-ENES.

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The experimental conditions will be discussed under which unstabilized sulfonium ylides generated in situ from 2-vinyl substituted cyclic sulfonium salts may undergo 3-carbons ring expansion to give thiacycloalk-4-enes:

n = 1-3 R = H, Me, Ph

For n=1, the cis olefin normally predominates (40 to 95%), while for $n \ge 2$ the trans olefin is the nearly exclusive product. The relation between the stereochemistry of the starting sulfonium salt and that of the product olefin will be discussed.

When R \neq H, two diastereomeric trans-2-R-cycloalk-4-enes are formed, indicating restricted conformational inversion around the chiral plane arising from the trans double bond. For n = 1 (8-membered ring) the two diastereoisomers are capable of separate existence and their interconversion has been followed by conventional kinetics. For the larger rings the barriers to chiral inversion can be obtained by dynamic 1 H and/or 13 C. NMR. These inversion barriers will be discussed and compared with those of the corresponding carbocyclics.