





# Intramolecular Carbenoid Insertions: The Reactions of α-Diazoketones Derived From Furanyl, Thienyl, Benzofuranyl and Benzothienyl Acetic Acids with Rhodium (II) Acetate

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## **ABSTRACT**

A number of synthetically useful ring systems can be prepared *via* the intramolecular insertion of a metal-stabilized carbenoid into a heteroaromatic systems. The chemical outcome of these reactions are dependent not only on the nature of the heteroatom but also on the length of the aliphatic tether linking the carbenoid moiety with the aromatic fragment. Our work with furanyl and thienyl systems containing a single methylene tether have allowed for some rather atypical chemistry. For example, treatment of 1-diazo-3-(2-thienyl)-2-propanone (6) with catalytic rhodium (II) acetate yields 5,6-dihydro-4*H*-cyclopenta[*b*]thiophen-5-one (3) while, the isomeric 1-diazo-3-(3-thienyl)-2-propanone(15) gives a spiro-disulphide (20).

Novel chemistry was also exhibited in the analogous furanyl systems. While treatment of 1-diazo-3-(3-furanyl)-2-propanone (52) with Rh<sub>2</sub>(OAc)<sub>4</sub> resulted in the expected 2-(4-Oxo-2-cyclopentenyliden)acetaldehyde (54), isomeric 1-diazo-3-(2-furanyl)-2-propanone (8) undergoes vinylogous Wolff rearrangement to give a mixture of 6a-methyl-2,3,3a,6a-tetrahydrofuro[2,3-b]furan-2-one (44) and 2-(2-methyl-3-furyl)acetic acid (43).

Rhodium acetate catalyzed decomposition of 1-diazo-3-(3-benzofuranyl)-2-propanone (84) and 1-diazo-3-(2-benzofuranyl)-2-propanone (69)also allows for vinylogous Wolff rearrangement, a chemistry unseen in benzofuranyl systems with longer tethers. A number of interesting products were isolated from the trapping of intermediate ketenes.

Decomposition of 1-diazo-3-(3-benzothienyl)-2-propanone (100) resulted in the formation of 2,3-dihydro-1H-benzo[b]cyclopenta[d]thiophen-2-one (102). However, in addition to (102), a dimer was also generated from the decomposition of 1-diazo-3-(2-benzothienyl)-2-propanone (109).

The insight into the mechanistic underpinnings of the above reactions are provided by molecular modeling at a PM3 level.

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## INTRODUCTION

#### 1. Carbenes and Carbenoids

Carbenes are neutral divalent species of carbon that usually only exist as shortlived intermediates. The carbene carbon is linked to two adjacent groups (R) by covalent bonds, and it possesses two non-bonding electrons, which can have





**Singlet** 

either antiparallel spin (singlet state) or parallel spin

Figure I

(triplet state) as shown in Figure I. With a few exceptions<sup>2</sup>, carbenes can only be trapped in inert matrices at extremely low temperatures  $(\leq 77 \text{ K})^3$  due to their high reactivity.

There are a number of methods by 
$$CI_2C$$
 which free carbenes can be generated; the two most important methods being the  $\alpha$ -

elimination of halogenated compounds and the disintegration of compounds containing certain types of double bonds. Scheme I illustrates a typical  $\alpha$ -elimination reaction in which chloroform is treated with a strong base. In this two steps process, the base removes a proton to generate the anion (CCl<sub>3</sub>) which subsequently loses a chloride ion to give the dichlorocarbene shown (Scheme I).<sup>4</sup> Another common method used to generate free carbenes involves the disintegration of compounds containing certain types of double bonds, for example, ketenes, diazo compounds and diazirines.<sup>5</sup> These compounds will

Skell, P. S., Woodworth, R. C., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1956, 78, 4496; Skell, P. S., Tetrahedron, 1985, 41, 1427.

Regitz, M., Agnew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl., 1991, 30,674.

Zuev, P. S., Nefedov, O. M., Russ, Chem. Rev., 1989, 58, 636.

Kirmse, W., Agnew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl., 1965, 4, 1; Hoffman, R. W., Acc. Chem. Res., 1985, 18,

Regitz, M, Maas, G., Diazo compounds, (New York: Academic Press, 1986) 170-184.



undergo homolytic cleavage of the double bond under various conditions (see Scheme II) to form a carbene and a neutral species.

$$H_{2}C=N=N \xrightarrow{a, b \text{ or } c} H_{2}C: + N_{2}$$

$$H_{2}C=C=O \xrightarrow{a \text{ or } b} H_{2}C: + CO$$

$$H_{2}C \stackrel{N}{\downarrow} \xrightarrow{a} H_{2}C: + N_{2}$$

The term "carbenoid" is a = photolysis; b = thermolysis; c = metal-ion catalysis Scheme II

used to describe species that react like free carbenes but are at least partially bound to another atom (usually a transition metal). The use of carbenoids in synthesis has recently become quite popular due to the fact that these species are generally less reactive than their free carbene counterparts and hence allow for greater control in synthetic reactions. In addition, these carbenoid species generally require simpler reaction procedures for their preparation and do not involve the use of specialized apparatus. Rather, the use of transition metal catalysts for carbenoid generation allows the reactions to proceed at or near ambient temperature. Furthermore, metal-stabilized carbenoids can be made to offer high degrees chemoselectivity and stereoselectivity in the product formed.

$$+ CH_2I_2 + Zn(Cu) \xrightarrow{Et_2O} + ZnI_2 + Cu$$

### Scheme III

Two of the most commonly used carbenoid generation methods are the Simmons-Smith reaction and catalytic decomposition of diazo compounds using transition metal

Nozaki, H., Mariuti, S., Takaya, H., et al., Tetrahedron Lett., 1966, 5239.

Hubert, A.J., Noels, A.F., Anciauz, A.J., Teyssie, P., Synthesis, 1976, 600; Paulissen, R., Hayez, E., Hubert, A.J., Teyssie, P., Tetrahedron Lett., 1972, 1465; Paulissen, R., Reimlinger, H., Hayez, E., Hubert, A.J., Teyssie, P., Tetrahedron Lett., 1973, 2233.

Doyle, M.P., Griffin, J.H., Bagheri, V., Dorow, R.L., *Organometallics*, 1984, 3, 53; Doyle, M.P., Griffin, J.H., Conceicão, J., J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun., 1985, 328.



complexes. The Simmons-Smith reaction<sup>9</sup> was first reported in 1958 and involves the use of diiodomethane and a copper-zinc couple. The organozinc carbenoid generated adds to an alkene in situ allowing for the formation of a cyclopropane product in good yields and with few side products (Scheme III). The Simmons-Smith reaction has been used successfully in numerous organic syntheses.<sup>10</sup>

The most recent uses of the Simmons-Smith reaction involved modifications Scheme IV that allow for the cyclopropanations to proceed asymmetrically. In 1992, Kobayashi's group 11 reported the first catalytic, enantioselective Simmons-Smith cyclopropanation on various allylic alcohols. The reaction

was carried out on allylic alcohols using diethyl zinc, diiodomethane and catalytic amounts of a chiral C2-symmetric disulfonamide (i) in dichloromethane and

resulted in very good yields of the cyclopropane (80 - 100%) and enantiomeric excesses (e.e.) generally in the 70 - 80% range (Scheme IV). Charette *et al.* <sup>12</sup> also reported a similar reaction using a chiral dioxaborolane (ii) as the chiral ligand (see Figure II) and

Simmons, H.E., Cairns, T. L., Vladuchick, S. A., Hoiness, C. M., Org. React., 1973, 20, 1.

For examples see: Wender, P. A., Keenan, R. M., Lee, H. Y., J. Am. Chem. Soc.., 1987, 109, 4390; Wender, P. A., Howbert, J. J., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1981, 103, 689.

Takahashi, H., Yoshioka, M., Ohno, M., Kobayshi, S., Tetrahedron Lett., 1992, 33, 2575.

Charette, A.B., Lemay, J., Agnew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl., 1997, 36, 1090; Charette, A.B., Juteau. H., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1994, 116, 2651; Charette, A.B., Prescott, S., Brochu, C., J. Org. Chem., 1995, 60, 1081.



reported e.e. values in the 90% range with yields of about 80-100%. These enantioselective cyclopropanations of allylic alcohols may be looked upon as modifications of Sharpless's enantioselective epoxidation of allylic alcohols.

## 2. $\alpha$ -Diazoketones

Much of the recent work in the carbenoid chemistry field has involved the transition metal catalyzed decomposition of  $\alpha$ -diazocarbonyl compounds. The popularity of these  $\alpha$ -diazocarbonyl compounds is based on their ease of preparation (*vide infra*), facile purification (can be chromatographed on silica gel) and stability (can be stored for a prolonged periods of time without significant decomposition). The use of diazo compounds dominates the carbenoid field and there have been a number of excellent reviews published.<sup>13</sup>

the carbenoids derived from α-diazocarbonyl compounds has also been demonstrated. It was OMe iii Figure III

calculations that carbomethoxy carbene (iii) possesses a equilibrium structure wherein the carbene is stabilized by the oxygen's lone pair of electrons (iv) as shown in Figure III.

The ability of carbonyl groups to stabilize

Doyle, M. P., Chem. Rev., 1986, 86, 919; Adams, J., Spero, D.M., Tetrahedron, 1991, 47, 1765;
 Padwa, A., Frumpe, K.E., Tetrahedron, 1992, 48, 5385; Ye, T., McKervey, M.A., Chem. Rev., 1994, 1091; Doyle, M.P., McKervey, M.A., Chem. Commun., 1997, 983.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Noyori, R., Yamanaka, M., Tetrahedron Lett., 1980, 21, 2851.



α-Diazoketone

Although ethyl diazoacetate was first synthesized in 1883 by Curtius, <sup>15</sup> work by Arndt and Eistert in the late 1920s allowed for the general preparation of α-diazoketones from the corresponding carboxylic acid. <sup>16</sup> Acylation of diazomethane remains the single most important route to acyclic terminal α-diazoketones. The successful generation of α-diazoketones by the Arndt and Eistert method lies in the use of an excess (>2 equivalents) of diazomethane. The procedure is illustrated in Scheme V. Treatment of the carboxylic acid with a chlorinating agent such as thionyl chloride will result in the corresponding acyl chloride. With the addition of the acyl chloride to a diazomethane solution, a nucleophilic attack by diazomethane onto the acyl chloride, followed by elimination of a chloride ion, generates a diazonium cation species. Proton abstraction by a base yields the desired diazoketone. When the base is diazomethane, the diazonium cation formed then reacts with the chloride ion to

form chloromethane and nitrogen. (Scheme

V). Arndt and Eistert<sup>16</sup>

used these  $\alpha$ -  $H_3C-CI$  +  $N\equiv N$  CI  $H_3C-N\stackrel{\dagger}{\equiv} N$  + diazoketones as

uiazoketolies as

intermediates in the Scheme V

homologation of carboxylic acids.

15 Curtius, T., Ber., 1883, 16, 2230.

Arndt, F., Eistert, B., *Ber.*, 1935, 68, 200; Regitz, M., Mass, G., <u>Diazo Compounds: Properties & Synthesis</u>, (Orlando, Fl.: Academic Press, 1986), 185.



Scheme VI

carbenes. However, if certain transition

metal complexes are introduced, the generation of carbenoids can be induced.

R'—

Catalyst

R'—

O

O

Photolysis or thermolysis of α-diazoketones can lead to the corresponding free

These in turn can perform a variety of

chemical reactions including OH<sup>17</sup>, NH<sup>18</sup> and CH<sup>19</sup> insertions, Wolff rearrangements<sup>20</sup> and cyclopropanations of double bonds<sup>21</sup>, to name but a few. For the purposes of this thesis, the desired carbenoids reaction is cyclopropane formation (Scheme VI).

# 3. Catalysts Used for Carbenoid Generation

A survey of the current carbenoid literature reveals that although a number of transition metal complexes (based on palladium, 22 iron, 23 cobalt, 24 molybdenum, 25

Giddings, P. J., John, D. I., Thomas, E. J., *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 1978, 995; Ganem, B., Ikota, N.,
 Muralidharan, V. B., Wade, W. S., Young, S. D., Yukimoto, Y., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1982, 104, 6787;
 Teng, C.-Y. P., Ganem, B., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1984, 106, 2463; Marshall, J. R., Walker, J., *J. Chem. Soc.*, 1952, 467.

Salzmann, T. N., Ratcliffe, R. W., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1980, 102, 6161; Melillo, D. G., Shinkai, I., Liu, T., Ryan, K., Sletzinger, M., Tetrahedron Lett., 1980, 21, 2783; Aratani, M., Hirai, H., Sawada, K., Yamada, A., Hashimoto, M., Tetrahedron Lett., 1985, 26, 223; Evans, D. A., Sjogren, E. B., Tetrahedron Lett., 1986, 27, 3119; William, R. M., Lee, B. H., Miller, M. M., Anderson, O. P., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1989, 111, 1073.

Ceccherelli, P., Curini, M., Marcotullio, M. C., Rosati, O. Tetrahedron, 1991, 47, 7403; Hashimoto, S., Watanabe, N., Ikegami, S., Tetrahedron Lett., 1992, 33, 2709.

Wolff, L., Leibigs Ann. Chem., 1912, 394, 23; Plucinska, K., Liberek, B., Tetrahedron, 1987, 43, 3509; Nishi, T., Morisawa, Y., Heterocycles, 1989, 29, 1835.

Burke, S. D., Grieco, P. A., Org. React., (N.Y.), 1979, 26, 361; Hatch, C. E., III, Baum, J. S., J. Org. Chem., 1980, 451, 3281.

Paulissen, R., Hubert, A. J., Teyssie, P. Tetrahedron Lett. 1972, 1465; Vallgarda, J., Appelberg, U., Csoregh, I., Hacksell, U., J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. I, 1994, 461.

Wolf, I. R., Hamaker, C. G., Djukic, J. P., Kododek, T., Woo, L. K., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1995, 117, 1994.

Tatsuno, Y., Konishi, A., Nakamura, A., Otsuka, S., J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun., 1974, 588;
 Nakamura, A., Konishi, A., Tatsuno, Y., Otsuka, S., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1978, 100, 3443;
 Nakamura, A., Konishi, A., Tsujitani, R., Kudo, M., Otsuka, S., ibid. 1978, 100, 3449.

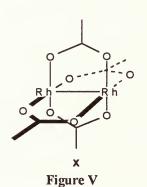
Doyle, M. P., Davidson, J. G., J. Org. Chem., 1980, 45, 1538; Doyle, M. P., Dorow, R. L., Buhro, W. E., Tamblyn, J. H., Trudell, M. L., Organometallics, 1984, 3, 44.



osmium<sup>26</sup> or ruthenium<sup>27</sup>) can be used to generate  $\alpha$ -carbonyl carbenoids from  $\alpha$ -diazoketones, the most popular catalysts are based on either copper or rhodium.

Traditionally, insoluble catalysts such as copper powder, copper bronze, cupric oxide etc. have been used to effect generation.<sup>28</sup> carbenoid With the advent of homogeneous copper catalysts, however, the use catalysts of these decreased significantly.

$$R = Me, R' = Ph$$
 $R = CH_2OH, R' = H$ 
 $R = Et, R' = H$ 
 $R = Et, R' = H$ 
 $R = Recorder$ 
 $R = CHMe_2$ 
 $R = CHMe_3$ 
 $R = CHMe_4$ 
 $R = CHMe_2$ 
 $R = CHMe_3$ 
 $R = CHMe_4$ 
 $R = CHMe_5$ 
 $R = CHMe_5$ 
 $R = CHMe_7$ 
 $R = C$ 



Most recently, a number of chiral copper (II) complexes (some shown in Figure IV) have been investigated extensively for their use in asymmetric cyclopropanations.<sup>29</sup>

Systematic screening of common transition metal complexes has revealed rhodium (II) species to be the mildest and most efficient catalysts for cyclopropanation.<sup>30</sup> Among them,

Demonceau, A., Lemoine, C. A., Noels, A. F., Tetrahedron Lett., 1996, 37, 1025.

Nishiyama, H., Itoh, Y., Sugawara, Y., Matsumoto, H., Aoki, K., Itoh, K., Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn., 1995, 68, 1247; Demonceau, A., Simal, F., Noel, A. F., Vinas, L., Nunez, R., Teixidor, F., Tetrahedron Lett., 1997, 38, 4079.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Maas, G., Top. Curr. Chem., 1987, 137, 75.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Ichiyanagi, T., Shimizu, M., Fujisawa, T., Tetrahedron, 1997, 53, 9599.

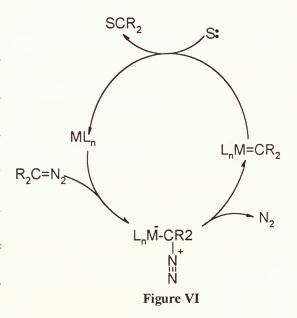
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Anciauz, A.J., Hubert, A.J., Noels, A.F. et. al, J. Org. Chem., 1980, 45, 695.



rhodium (II) carboxylates (see Figure V) are the catalysts of choice. Rhodium carboxylates are binuclear compounds with four bridging carboxylate ligands, possessing one vacant axial coordination site per metal atom. Studies have shown rhodium complexes to effectively catalyze cyclopropanation of a wide variety of double bonds (substituted, terminal, *etc.*) with generally good yields.<sup>31</sup> Furthermore, rhodium (II) carboxylates are thermally and air stable, resistant to carboxylate exchange, not susceptible to redox reactions with diazo compounds, and they generally do not coordinate with the olefin (unlike palladium and some copper catalysts)<sup>32</sup>.

## 4. *Mechanistic Considerations*

The catalytic cycle whereby a metal complex  $(L_nM)$  catalyzes the decomposition of a diazo compound  $(CR_2N_2)$  is illustrated in Figure VI.<sup>32</sup> The sequence begins with electrophilic attack of the catalyst at the diazo carbon with subsequent loss of nitrogen and the formation of a metal stabilized carbene  $(L_nM=CR_2)$ . Transfer of the carbene entity to an electron-rich species (S:) completes the cycle.



Doyle, M. P., Synthesis, 1981, 787.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Doyle, M. P., Chem. Rev., 1986, 86, 919.



Metal stabilized carbenes are widely assumed to participate in the transformations catalyzed by complexes of Cu, Rh, Pd, Fe, Co, Mo, Os and Ru. Unfortunately, these carbenoid intermediates have never been isolated, and all evidence concerning their involvement is indirect. For instance, carbene dimer formation is characteristic of carbenoid intermediates, and although such dimers have been isolated from many reactions, their existence cannot be taken as conclusive evidence of metal-carbene participation. A number of transition-metal complexes mentioned above have been shown to provide a degree of enantioselectivity to some cyclopropane forming reaction. Chirality transfer demands the catalyst be intimately involved in the transformation and would seem to imply that free (achiral) carbenes are unlikely.

Perhaps the most convincing evidence as to the nature of the intermediates in these catalytic diazo compound decompositions comes from a mechanistic study conducted by Doyle. A series of olefins were transformed stoichiometrically using (CO)<sub>5</sub>W=CHPh<sup>33</sup> and catalytically using Rh<sub>2</sub>(OAc)<sub>4</sub>/PhCHN<sub>2</sub> to their corresponding phenylcyclopropane. The tungsten-stabilized phenyl carbene which is stable and has been characterized, is known to generate phenyl cyclopropanes of predominantly *syn* geometry. The ratio of *syn* to *anti* cyclopropane product obtained from each olefin provides a measurement of the stereoselectivity of cyclopropanation by the two methods. For the same set of substituted alkenes, a linear log-log relationship between the *syn/anti* stereoselectivity for the (CO)<sub>5</sub>W=CHPh and Rh<sub>2</sub>(OAc)<sub>4</sub>/PhCHN<sub>2</sub> reactions was found. Furthermore, a linear correlation was also found between the relative reactivities of (CO)<sub>5</sub>W=CHPh and Rh<sub>2</sub>(OAc)<sub>4</sub>/N<sub>2</sub>CHPh. These results lead to the conclusion that the intermediates in the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Casey, C.P., Polichnowski, S.W., Shusterman, J., Jones, C.R., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1979, 101, 7282.



Rh(II)-catalyzed reaction are very similar to stable electrophilic carbenes. Additionally, similar selectivity-reactivity correlation between cyclopropanation reactions catalyzed by Rh<sub>2</sub>(OAc)<sub>4</sub> and other metal complexes provide these catalysts with a mechanistic link to metal carbene intermediates.<sup>25</sup>

Two mechanisms that explain the cyclopropanation of an alkene by a carbenoid have appeared in the chemical literature and are presented in Figure VII. The first mechanism involves nucleophilic attack of the

Figure VII

alkene onto the carbenoid, generating a polar intermediate, followed by 1,3-bond formation to give the cyclopropane as shown in *Path A* (Figure VII). As cyclopropanation usually proceeds stereospecifically, with respect to the alkene, this mechanism would require the polar intermediate to collapse forming the product faster than single bond rotation. The other mechanism involves the formation of a four membered metallocycle intermediate by either a concerted [2+2] cycloaddition or a stepwise mechanism (not shown). Reductive elimination of the metallocycle intermediate gives the desired cyclopropane, as shown in *Path B* (Figure VII).

## 5.0 Carbene and Carbenoid Insertions into Aromatic Systems

$$\begin{array}{c|c} & N_2 \text{CHCOOEt} \\ \hline & \text{hv or } \Delta \\ \hline & \text{xii} \\ \hline & \text{somers} \\ \hline & \text{Scheme VII} \\ \end{array}$$



The first carbene insertion into an aromatic system was reported by Buchner in 1896<sup>34</sup> and has become known as the Buchner method for ring enlargement (Scheme VII). The reaction involves the treatment of benzene (xi) with ethyl diazoacetate under photolytic or thermal conditions to give the corresponding esters of norcaradiene. The reaction has subsequently been modified to include the use of transition metal catalysts to facilitate the initial cyclopropanation. Heating the intermediate (xii) allows for an electrocyclic ring opening to the cycloheptatriene xiii, which can further isomerize to more highly conjugated isomers.

Intramolecular versions of the Buchner reaction have also appeared in the literature. In these systems, benzene is tethered by a methylene chain to a terminal  $\alpha$ diazoketone. Treatment of this α-diazoketone with a copper catalyst allowed Costantino et al.35 to generate the fused cycloheptatriene xvii in roughly xvi (Scheme 50% yield VIII). χiν acid base McKervey<sup>36</sup> has subsequently xvii xviii repeated the reaction using both

rhodium (II) trifluoroacetate as the catalysts and obtained a 95% yield of the initial cycloheptatriene product xvi (Scheme VIII). Treatment of xvi with triethylamine caused

Scheme VIII

(II)

acetate

rhodium

and

Buchner, E., *Ber.*, **1896**, *29*, 106.

Costantino, A., Linstrumella, G., Julis, S., Bull. Soc. Chim. Fr., 1970, 907.

Kennedy, M., McKervey, M.A., Maguire, A.R., Tuladhar, S.M., Twohig, M.F., J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. I, 1990, 1047.



isomerization to the product that was isolated earlier (xvii). Exposure of xvi to acid allowed for rearrangement to the  $\beta$ -tetralone (xviii).

The synthetic utility of the intramolecular Buchner reaction has been demonstrated McKervey's group in synthesis of  $(\pm)$ -confertin (xxii). The key step involves the synthesis of the fused seven-membered ring using the intramolecular Buchner reaction (Scheme IX). After the basic structure is in place, the desired (±)-confertin (xxii) was obtained in a few steps.

Since the Buchner reaction, carbenes and carbenoids have been inserted into a wide variety of substituted benzene systems including phenolic<sup>38</sup> and biphenyl<sup>39</sup> systems. For the purposes of this thesis, we will now focus on the inter- and intramolecular insertions of carbenes and carbenoids into 5-membered heteroaromatic systems such as furan, thiophene and pyrrole.

Kennedy, M., McKervey, M.A., J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun., 1988, 1028, Kennedy, M., McKervey, M.A., J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. I, 1991, 2565.

Iwata, C., Yamada, M., Shinoo, Y., Kobayashi, K., Okada, M., Chem. Pharm. Bull., 1980, 28, 1932; Iwata, C., Morie, T., ibid, 1985, 33, 944.

Chattergee, J. N., Sinba, A. K., Bhakta, C., Indian J. Chem., Sect. B, 1979, 17, 329; Duddeck, H., Kennedy, M., McKervey, M. A., Twohig, M. F., J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun., 1988, 1586.



## 5.1 Carbene and Carbenoid Insertions into Furan.

In an early study, Novac and Sorm<sup>40</sup> observed that cyclopropanation of furan (**xxiii**) by ethyl diazoacetate (**xxiv**) under copper catalyzed conditions resulted in an unstable intermediate (**xxv**) that upon ring opening yielded the *Z,E*-diene **xxvi** (see Scheme X). Unraveling of the intermediate cyclopropane is thought to proceed *via* a [4+2]-cycloreversion to yield the conjugated ester-aldehyde **xxvi**. The *Z,E*-diene can be isomerized to the *E,E*-diene **xxvii** by the addition of a catalytic amount of iodine, making this reaction even more synthetically useful.<sup>41</sup> As will be seen later, this retro-cycloaddition is common in cyclopropanated furan systems.

In a more recent study of this system by Wenkert<sup>42</sup>, intermolecular carbenoid insertion of ethyl diazoacetate into furan in the presence of rhodium (II) acetate resulted in

Novac, J., Sorm, F. L., Collection of Czechoslovak Chem. Commun., 1958, 23, 1126.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Lurien, T., Guenther, V., Ger. Offen. 2,652,356, 18 May, 1978; Chem. Abst., 1978, 89, 110052.

Wenkert, E., Guo, M., Lavilla, R., Peter, B., Ramachandran, K., Shue, J-H., J. Org. Chem., 1990, 55, 6203.



4 products, **xxx**, **xxvi**, **xxxi** and **xxxii**, in a 17:15:10:1 ratio, respectively (Scheme XI). It was proposed that the observed products were derived from the decomposition of the metallocycle intermediates (**xxviii** and **xxix**). Wenkert also showed that the addition of iodine to the reaction mixture allows for a one pot reaction to the *E,E*-isomer **xxvii** in 68% yield.

This approach has been applied to the total synthesis of ostopanic acid (xxxvi), a plant cytotoxin (see Scheme XII)<sup>43</sup> in 3 steps. Treatment of the furan xxxiii with diazoketone xxxiv in the presence of rhodium catalyst, followed by iodine treatment gave the ethyl ostopanate (xxxv). Deprotection of the ester gave the desired ostopanic acid (xxxvi).

Wenkert's

group used ethyl (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> O + N<sub>2</sub>HC OEt Rh<sub>2</sub>(OAc)<sub>4</sub> EtO (XXXVIII)

diazoacetate (XXIV) and diffurylethane (XXXVII)

to undergo double corticrocin XXXIX

cyclopropanation/[4+2] Scheme XIII

<sup>43</sup> Sheu, J.H., Yen, C.F., Huang. H.C., Hong, Y-L.V., J. Org. Chem., 1989, 54, 5126.

-cycloreversion unraveling to form the tetraene (xxxviii) which can be converted to corticrocin (xxxix) by reduction of the two ketone groups followed by dehydration (Scheme XIII). 42

Workers at Montreal's Merck Frosst<sup>44</sup> have also made use of this insertion into furan in the synthesis of a series of hydroxy-6,8,11,14-eicosatetraenoic (HETEs), monohydroxylated metabolites of arachidonic acid (Scheme XIV).

# 5.2 Carbene and Carbenoid Insertions into Thiophenes

Reactions between thiophenes and diazocarbonyls have been known for several years. 45 Unlike furanyl systems, however, thiophene (x1) reacts with ethyl diazoacetate to give the stable cyclopropanated product (x1i) which does not undergo [4+2] cycloreversion (see Scheme XV) 46 and was stable to distillation and chromatography. When treated with ethanolic HCl, x1i rearomatizes to give ethyl 3-thiophene acetate (x1ii) in good yield. The chemical outcome of the reaction, however, is dependent upon the

Rokach, J., Adams, J., Perry, R., Tetrahedron Lett., 1983, 24, 5185; Adams, J., Rokach, J., Tetrahedron Lett., 1984, 25, 35; Adams, J., Leblanc, Y., Rokach, J., Tetrahedron Lett., 1984, 24, 1227.

<sup>45</sup> Schenck, G.O., Steinmetz, R., Ann., 1963, 668, 19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> Gillespie, R.J., Porter, A.E., J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. I, 1979, 2624.



diazocarbonyl employed. When ethyl diazoacetoacetate (xliii) was used, a mixture of the cyclopropanated (xliv) and rearomatized product (xlv) was obtained in a 1 : 3 ratio, respectively, in 80% total yield.

In addition to cyclopropanation, thiophenes can react with carbenoids to form sulfur ylids. Skramstad has used these intermediates in order to carry out ring contraction/enlargement reactions (Scheme XVI). Treatment of diazoketone xlvi with rhodium acetate allows for intramolecular attack of the sulfur by the carbenoid to result in the formation of ylid xlvii which subsequently undergoes Stevens Rearrangement to the neutral tricyclic product xlviii.

Stoflor, H., Skramstad, J., Nordenson, S., J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun., 1984, 208.

Stevens, T. S., Creighton, E.M., Gordon, A.B., MacNicol, M., J. Chem. Soc., 1928, 3193; Stevens, T.
 S., J. Chem. Soc., 1930, 2107; Stevens, T. S., Thomson, T., J. Chem. Soc., 1932, 1932.

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# 5.3 Carbene and Carbenoid Insertions into Pyrrole

Pyrrole and its derivatives exhibit a range of reactivity toward carbenoids derived from diazocarbonyls. These reactions usually result in the isolation of the alkylated pyrrole products rather than cyclopropanated materials. For example, copper-catalyzed reaction of ethyl diazoacetate with pyrrole has long been recognized as one of the most reliable routes to pyrrole-2-acetic acid. The reaction is generally carried out by addition of ethyl diazoacetate (xxiv) to a heated mixture of pyrrole (xlix) and copper catalyst at such a rate that a low concentration of the diazoacetate is maintained throughout the reaction. Substitution at the 2-position of unsubstituted pyrrole (xlix R=H) is most prevalent, but a

preference for substitution at the 3-position can be promoted by attaching a bulky substituent (R) on the nitrogen. For example, treatment of pyrrole (**xlix** R=H) with ethyl diazoacetate gives >90% 2-substituted product (I R=H), while reaction with *N-tert*-butyl pyrrole gives >95% 3-substituted product (Ii R=t-butyl) (Scheme XVII). The reversal in selectivity of the reaction, when a bulky substituent is introduced, was explained by a C-H insertion which is sensitive to the steric factor of the pyrrole.

Pyrroles possessing an electron withdrawing carboxylate group on the nitrogen have been shown to undergo a tandem cyclopropanation-Cope rearrangement, providing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Nenitzescu, C.D., Solomonica, E., *Ber.*, **1931**, *64*, 1924.

Maryanoff, B.E., J. Heterocycl. Chem., 1977, 14, 177; Maryanoff, B. E., J. Org. Chem., 1979, 44, 4410; Maryanoff, B. E., ibid, 1982, 47, 3000.

	•			

direct access to the tropane skeleton ( $\mathbf{lv}$ ).<sup>51</sup> The reaction proceeds *via* an intermolecular carbenoid insertion into the  $\pi$ -bond of the pyrrole to form a cyclopropanated intermediate ( $\mathbf{liv}$ ). This intermediate then undergoes a sigmatropic rearrangement (shown in Scheme XVIII) to form the tropane product  $\mathbf{lv}$ ; overall, a net [4+3] reaction.

Davies<sup>51</sup> has demonstrated the usefulness of this reaction in a short synthesis of (±)-furuginine (**Ivi**). The key step of the synthesis used a tandem cyclopropanation-Cope rearrangement to install the base tropane structure (**Iv**). (±)-Furuginine (**Ivi**) was then prepared by reduction of the *N*-formate group to a *N*-methyl group. Note that the use of rhodium octanoate allowed for the reaction to be carried out in hexanes and a higher overall yield was obtained.

The intramolecular version of carbenoid insertion into the pyrrole ring system was first used by Jefford and Johncook<sup>52</sup> for the synthesis of another important family of alkaloids, the indolizidines. The example given below illustrates the synthesis of optically active indolizidines by using *N*-alkyl pyrroles derived from chiral amino acids.<sup>53</sup> Decomposition of the diazoketone **lvii** results in the formation of the desired 2-substituted

Davies, H. M. L., Saikali, E., Young, W. B., J. Org. Chem., 1991, 56, 5696.

Jefford, C.W., Johncock, W. Helv. Chim. Acta, 1983, 66, 2666; Jefford, C.W., Zaslona, A., Tetrahedron Lett., 1985, 26, 6035; Jefford, C.W.; Kubota, T., Zaslona, A., Helv. Chim. Acta 1986, 69, 2048.

Jefford, C. W., Tang, Q., Zoslona, A., Helv. Chim. Acta, 1989, 72, 1749; Jefford, C. W., Tang. Q., Zoslona, A., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1991, 113, 3513; Jefford, C. W., Wang, J. B., Tetrahedron Lett.., 1993, 34, 3119.



CHN<sub>2</sub>

$$R = (CH2)2CH3 => (-)-indolizidine 1678 lix$$

$$R = (CH2)2CH3 => (-)-indolizidine 209D lx$$

$$R = (CH2)5CH3 => (-)-indolizidine 209D lx$$

$$R = (CH2)5CH3 => (-)-indolizidine 209D lx$$

product **Iviii** which is thought to be the result of an aromatic substitution. Compound **Iviii** can then be converted to (-)-indolizidine 167B (R = n-propyl, **Iix**) and (-)-indolizidine 209D (R = n-hexyl, **Ix**) by reduction of the carbonyl and pyrrole ring.

# 5.4 Carbene and Carbenoid Insertions into Indoles, Benzofurans and Benzothiophenes

Reaction of ethyl diazoacetate with benzothiophenes, benzofurans and indoles have been studied by Wenkert.<sup>54</sup> When the reaction of ethyl diazoacetate and benzothiophene (lxi) was carried out in the presence of copper catalyst, the only isolable

product was 1,2,3-cyclopropanetricarboxylate (**Ixiii**) in 30% yield. Compound **Ixiii** was generated from the cyclopropanation of the initially formed alkene dimer. However, thermal decomposition of ethyl diazoacetate in the presence of benzothiophene allowed for the isolation of not only **Ixiii**, but also products that resulted from carbene insertion into benzothiophene (in 8% yield). These minor insertion products were the cyclopropanated product (**Ixii**) together with a small amount of the 2- and 3-

Wenkert, E., Alonso, M.E., Gottlieb, H.E., Sanchez, E.L., Pellicciari, R., Cogolli, P., J. Org. Chem., 1977, 42, 3945.

benzothiophene acetate that probably arose from the cyclopropane ring opening and rearomatization of the benzothiophene (Scheme XX).

Unlike the benzothiophene system, addition of ethyl diazoacetate to benzofuran (lxiv) in the presence of a copper catalyst allows for the isolation of the cyclopropanated product lxv in 62% yield. Subsequent acid catalyzed re-arrangement yields both 3-substituted (lxvi) and 2-substituted (lxvii) ethyl benzofuran acetate in a 4:1 ratio, in a combined 97% yield (Scheme XXI).

#### Scheme XXI

Substitution at the nitrogen of indoles allows for some control of the reactivity of the cyclopropanes generated by intermolecular carbenoid insertion of ethyl diazoacetate. In the presence of a copper catalyst, ethyl diazoacetate reacts with unsubstituted indole to give ethyl 3-indole acetate in 74% yield. The intermediate cyclopropane (lxix) undergoes spontaneous ring opening facilitated by the electron rich nitrogen. However, with an

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> Nametkin, S. S., Mel'nikov, N. N., Bokerev, K. S., Zh. Prikl. Khim., **1956**, 29, 459.

electron withdrawing group attached to the nitrogen (e.g. N-acetyl indole), intermolecular carbenoid insertion into lxxi allows for the isolation of the cyclopropanated product lxxii.

The intramolecular version of a carbenoid insertion into an indole system was used by Pellicciari *et al.*<sup>56</sup> in their preparation of a conformationally restricted analogue of tryptophan (lxxv). The indole-based diazoketone lxxiii was treated with boron trifluoride etherate to allow for the conversion to lxxiv. The desired amino acid lxxv can then be synthesized from lxxiv by standard procedures in two chemical steps.

## 6. Previous Intramolecular Carbenoid Insertion Studies

Much of the work in this thesis augments and carries on from the studies conducted by Albert Padwa at Emory University and subsequent studies by Tony Durst at the University of Ottawa. In his seminal paper published in 1989,<sup>57</sup> Padwa investigated the chemistry carried out by a series of  $\alpha$ -diazoketones tethered to furanyl, thienyl and benzofuranyl systems.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> Franceschetti, L., Garzon-Aburbeh, A., Mahmoud, R. M., Natalini, B., Pellicciari, R., *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 1993, 34, 3185.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> Padwa, A., Wisnieff, T. J., Walsh, E. J., *J. Org. Chem.*, **1989**, *54*, 299.

$$(CH_2)_n CHN_2$$

$$| xxvi ; n = 2 | xxvii; n = 3 | xxxi; n = 2 | xxxi; n = 3 | xxxi; n$$

Padwa showed that when 1-diazo-4-(2-furanyl)-2-butanone (lxxvi) was exposed to rhodium (II) acetate, the *cis*-keto-aldehyde lxxx was isolated in 86% yield. This is in contrast to the work by Nwaji and Onyiriuka who cyclized the same substrate using copper (II) sulfate, as the catalyst in refluxing cyclohexane. In this case, the more thermodynamically stable *trans*-cyclopentenone was isolated in 60% yield. So In both cases the reaction proceeds *via* addition of the keto-carbene to the furanyl  $\pi$ -bond followed by a retro-[4+2] ring opening of the intermediate cyclopropane to give the keto-aldehyde. Padwa's higher yield and ability to isolate the initially formed cisoid product demonstrates the superiority of the rhodium catalyst (Scheme XXIV).

Similar chemistry was exhibited by the isomeric 3-substituted furan, 1-diazo-4-(3-furanyl)-2-butanone (lxxxii, see Scheme XXV). Formation of the phenolic product isolated (lxxxv) could be rationalized as arising from intramolecular cyclopropanation to form the intermediate (lxxxiii) followed by [4+2] cycloreversion to give the keto-aldehyde (lxxxiv), which then undergoes acid catalyzed rearomatization to form lxxxv.

Nwaji, M. N., Onyiriuka, O. O., Tetrahedron Lett., 1974, 2255.



The addition of another methylene to the aliphatic tether linking the  $\alpha$ -diazoketone to the furan (for example, lxxvii) results in the same type of chemistry. However, when a substrate containing a single methylene tether was treated with rhodium acetate, the results were different. In fact, Padwa's attempt to cyclize 1-diazo-3-(2-furanyl)-2propanone (lxxxvi) resulted in the formation of a "complex mixture of products." This is in contrast, however, to Durst's work. 59 As part of his studies dealing with the rhodium rhodium trifluoroacetate catalyzed decomposition of α-diazo-βacetate and arylmethanesulfonyl esters, Durst was able to cyclize lxxxvii (as shown in Scheme XXVI) to the sulfonylcyclobutenone lxxxix. Note that lxxxvii differs from lxxxvi in that it contains the additional ester functionality and in that the C=O has been replaced with SO<sub>2</sub>. This reaction presumably proceeds via the intermediate cyclopropane lxxxviii which undergoes a [4+2]-cycloreversion. The longer C-S bonds in thiele-S,S-dioxide lxxxix allow for considerably less strain than would be expected in the carbocyclic analogue derived from lxxxvi. Durst's work has also shown that the isomeric system xc carries out

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> Babu, S. D., Hrytsak, M. D., Durst, T., Can. J. Chem., 1989, 67, 1071.



the standard cyclopropanation/cycloreversion chemistry seen in the other furanyl systems to give xcii.

The behavior of the analogous thienyl systems was shown to be quite different to that exhibited by the furans. For example, Padwa's treatment of 1-diazo-4-(2-thienyl)-2-butanone (xcii) with rhodium acetate resulted in 4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[b]thiophen-5-

one (xciv). The reaction proceeds through a cyclopropane xciii which undergoes an acid catalyzed ring opening to form an enol, and then tautomerizes to form the product xciv. It is not clear whether or not there is heteroatom participation in this cyclopropane/unraveling (c.f. lxix) although such participation is mechanistically feasible.

Under similar conditions, the isomeric 1-diazo-4-(3-thienyl)-2-butanone (xcv) undergoes cyclopropanation, to give a mixture of 2-isomeric cyclopropane intermediates

dihydrobenzo[b]thioph

en-6(7H)-one (xcvi) as

the major product and 6,7-dihydrobenzo[c]-thiophen-5(4H)-one (xcvii) as the minor

25

product. Durst showed that similar chemistry takes place when **xcviii** is exposed to rhodium acetate to give **c**.

It is worth reiterating that the cyclopropane intermediates in the furanyl systems (see lxxvi and lxxxii) undergo [4+2]-cycloreversion while the acid-catalyzed ring opening route prevails in the thienyl series (see xcii and xcv). The different chemistry seen may be attributed, in part to the greater bond strength of the aldehyde C=O bond in comparison to the thioaldehyde C=S bond which would be formed if [4+2]-cycloreversion took place in the thienyl series.

# 7. Aims and Objectives

This thesis explores the scope and mechanistic details of the above mentioned intramolecular carbenoid insertions to understand the determining factors by which a particular cyclopropane system unravels, and whether this ring opening can be directed or controlled for synthetic utility. Work has focused on the rhodium (II) acetate decomposition chemistry of systems wherein a terminal  $\alpha$ -diazoketone is tethered to a

Figure VIII

heteroaromatic moiety by a methylene tether. The  $\alpha$ -diazoketones studied (derived from 2- and 3-substituted furanyl, thienyl, benzofuranyl and benzothienyl acetic acids) are shown in Figure VIII. As will be seen, the strain imparted to cyclopropane intermediates



by a single methylene tether has allowed for some rather atypical chemistry to a number of novel ring systems. The experimental work will be correlated to calculations carried out at an PM3 level in an effort to help rationalize the disparate chemistry seen.

### **RESULTS & DISCUSSION**

(i) Rhodium Acetate Catalyzed Decomposition of 1-Diazo-3-(2-Thienyl)-2-Propanone (6)

Antiviral agents based on the 5,6-dihydro-4*H*-cyclopenta[*b*]thiophene-6-one (1) and 5,6-dihydro-4*H*-cyclopenta[*b*]thiophene-4-one (2) ring systems have previously been described in the literature. As part of a research effort to prepare isomeric systems, Dr. Alex Alanine of Hoffmann-La Roche (Basel) has

1 2 3

Figure 1

synthesis to 5,6-dihydro-4*H*-cyclopenta[*b*]thiophene-5-one (3) would be highly desirable since the existing preparative protocol described by Skramstad<sup>61</sup> is rather costly. Skramstad's route involves the use of relatively expensive 2,3-thiophenedicarboxaldehyde

#### Scheme 1

Dallemange, P., Alsaidi, A., Boulouard, M., Roult, S., Rabba, M., Heterocycles, 1993, 36, 287; Dallemange, P., Boulouard, M., Roult, S., Rabba, M., J. Heterocycl. Chem., 1993, 30, 799.

<sup>61</sup> Skramstad, J., Acta Chem. Scand., 1971, 25, 1287.

•		

as the starting material (\$37/g Aldrich). Treatment of a solution of the dialdehyde in methanolic potassium hydroxide with one equivalent of nitromethane resulted in two consecutive Claisen-Schmidt type reactions to yield potassium-5,6-dihydro-4,6-dihydroxy-4H-cyclopenta[b]thiophene-5-nitronate (5). Exposure of 5 to tin chloride in hydrochloric acid gave the desired product 3 in 50% yield.

A more direct and economical route to the desired 5,6-dihydro-4H-cyclopenta[b]thiophene-5-one (3) system would involve the use of an intramolecular cyclization of the  $\alpha$ -diazoketone (6, shown in Scheme 2) derived from 2-thiophene acetic acid ( $\sim$ \$0.93/g from Aldrich). Given the chemistry developed by Padwa<sup>57</sup> involving other systems containing an  $\alpha$ -diazoketone tethered to a thienyl moiety, we believed that 6 would allow access to the ring system 3.

Preparation of 6 from commercially available 2-thiophene acetic acid involves the standard protocol for synthesis of  $\alpha$ -diazoketones wherein the appropriate acid is treated with oxalyl chloride or thionyl chloride in the presence of catalytic amounts of N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF). The resultant acid chloride was subsequently added to 4-5 equivalents of ethereal diazomethane to give the desired  $\alpha$ -diazoketone. In the case of 6, this transformation was achieved in 73% yield.

A few practical points regarding the preparation of  $\alpha$ -diazoketones using this methodology are worth noting. It is important to ensure that only 1.1 equivalents of the corresponding chlorinating agent is used and that most of the excess chlorinating agent is removed before adding the acid chloride to the diazomethane solution, since the chlorinating agent will compete with the acid chloride for the diazomethane (See Scheme



V in the introduction). Additionally, the preparation of diazomethane from Diazald <sup>™62</sup> involves the use of carbitol (di(ethyleneglycol) ethyl ether) instead of the more commonly used ethanol. The high boiling carbitol will ensure that an alcohol free diazomethane solution is prepared, as the presence of any alcohol will result in ester formation.

Exposure of 1-diazo-3-(2-thienyl)-2-propanone (6) to rhodium (II) acetate in

$$\begin{bmatrix}
\mathsf{CHN}_2 \\ \mathsf{S} \\
\mathsf{G}
\end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
\mathsf{Rh}_2(\mathsf{OAc}) \\ \mathsf{S}
\end{bmatrix}$$

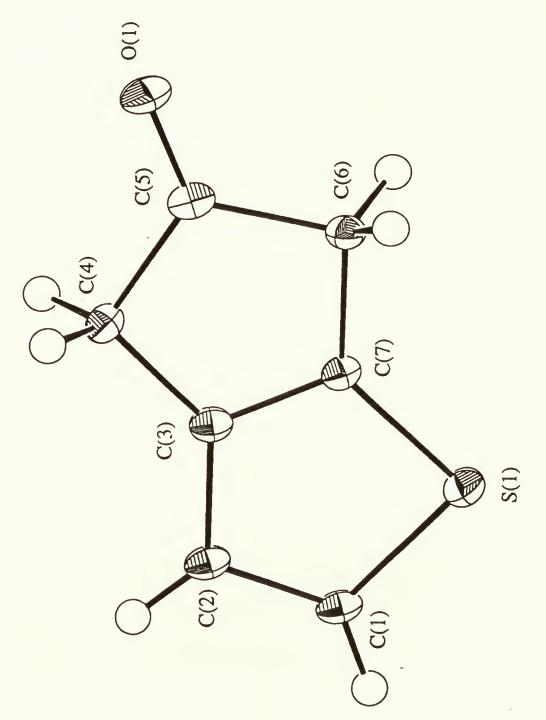
Scheme 2

dichloromethane at 25°C for 3h afforded the desired 3 in 70% yield. Compound 3 has been characterized completely using NMR and MS. Additionally, crystals of the cyclopentanone-thiophene 3 were grown from benzene, allowing its structure to be determined *via* x-ray diffraction (see Figure 2).

As with the homologous members of this series, carbenoid insertion into the adjacent  $\pi$ -bond of the thienyl fragment allows for cyclopropanation to yield intermediate 7a which was never isolated. The highly strained cyclopropane intermediate 7a then undergoes an acid catalyzed ring opening to form the enol (7b) which can tautomerize to give the desired product 5,6-dihydro-4H-cyclopenta[b]thiophene-5-one (3) (Scheme 2). This route to 3 is a marked improvement over that described by Skramstad, 61 in that we can arrive at the desired target, 3, in 51% yield (compared to 48%) using a starting material that is ten times cheaper.

Vogel's Textbook of Practical Organic Chemistry, Fifth edition, Edited by: Furniss, B. S., Hannaford,
 A. J., Smith, P. W. G., Tatchell. A. R., (Harlow: Longman Scientific & Technical, 1989) 432.







The transformation of  $6 \rightarrow 3$  is even more satisfying in light of the fact that Padwa's attempt to cyclize the analogous furanyl system, 1-diazo-3-(2-furanyl)-2-propanone (8 Scheme 3 or lxxxvi Scheme XXVI), gave a "complex mixture of products". 57 When Padwa carried out the reaction using benzene as the solvent, a Buchner

reaction was observed. The carbenoid inserts into a  $\pi$ -bond of the benzene to form a norcaradiene intermediate (9), which then undergoes an electrocyclic ring opening reaction to form the observed cycloheptatriene (10) in 68% yield. Padwa reasoned a single methylene spacer between the furan and the diazoketone (8) precluded intramolecular carbenoid insertion and only allowed for the intermolecular insertion into the solvent. While, at first glance, it could be reasoned that Durst's similar system (lxxxvii, Scheme XXVI) undergoes intramolecular insertion since the inclusion of a sulfur into the tether allows for a greater reach, it will be shown below that this is in fact not the case.

Carrying out the rhodium acetate catalyzed chemistry of 6 in benzene allowed for an examination of the competition between

Rxn Condition	Prod	uct Ratio
Cold room (4 °C)	75%	25%
Room temperature	66%	33%
Reflux (80°C)	33%	66%

Table 1

inter- and intramolecular carbenoid insertion. As expected, the reaction resulted in a mixture of both 3 and the cycloheptatriene 13. More importantly, it was found that the ratio of the two products varied according to the reaction temperature (Table 1). When the reaction was carried out at 4 °C, the ratio of the cycloheptatriene 13 and the cyclic ketone 3 was determined to be 3:1, respectively. However, when the reaction was repeated at room temperature, the ratio of 13 and 3 decreased to 2:1. The ratio was completely reversed when the reaction was repeated in refluxing benzene (80 °C), yielding a 1:2 ratio of 13 and 3.

The results of the competition experiment may be explained as arising from the conformational requirements of the attacking carbenoid.

Treatment of 6 with

rhodium acetate gives rise to a carbenoid which can adopt either geometry 11 or 14. Previous studies on the stability of conformational isomers of ketones by Romer<sup>63</sup> would assign 11 as the lower energy isomer since the more extended conformation effectively minimizes the steric interactions. However, in order for intramolecular cyclopropanation

<sup>63</sup> Romer, C., Creutzberg, J. E. G., Rec. Trav. Chim., 1956, 75, 331.

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to take place, the carbenoid must adopt conformation 14. At low temperatures (4°C), the interconversion between 11 and 14 is slow with the equilibrium favoring the more stable conformer 11. In other words, a smaller percentage of the population of 11 will have enough energy to overcome the energy barrier for interconversion to 14. Assuming both intramolecular and intermolecular reactions occurs at the same rate, at lower temperatures, therefore, the predominance of conformer 11 results in a greater amount of intermolecular insertion product 13. At higher temperatures (80°C), however, there will be enough energy to overcome the energy barrier for rotation from 11 to 14 and in this conformation (*i.e.* 14) the carbenoid can insert intramolecularly. This conformational argument must be superimposed on the fact that, for the tether of this size, the intramolecular reaction is likely more favorable than the competing intermolecular one.

(ii) Rhodium Acetate Catalyzed Decomposition of 1-Diazo-3-(3-Thienyl)-2-Propanone (15)

In an attempt to

explain the disparate behavior of the solution analogous furanyl (8)

CHN<sub>2</sub>

C-H insertion

S 3

S 16

and thienyl (6) systems, we investigated the rhodium acetate catalyzed chemistry of the isomeric thienyl system, 1-diazo-3-(3-thienyl)-2-propanone (15). While 3 is likely the result of ring opening of the intermediate cyclopropane 7, another possible mechanism would involve an insertion by the carbenoid generated from 6 into the C-H bond at the 3-



position of the thiophene. If a C-H insertion were operating, then treatment of 15 with rhodium acetate should allow for the production of both 3 and the isomeric 5,6-dihydro-4*H*-cyclopenta[*c*]thiophen-5-one (16). Much to our surprise, however, catalytic decomposition of 15 allowed for isolation of a single product in 85% yield, with none of the expected products detected. MS of this product showed a molecular ion at m/z = 276 and revealed that a dimer had been produced. The distinctive <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra, in conjunction with COSY and NOE experiments, led us to assign the structure of the product as the complex spiro-disulfide (20) shown in Scheme 6. This structure has been confirmed *via* x-ray crystallography (see Figure 3).

One possible mechanism that would explain the production of the spiro-disulfide is illustrated in Scheme 6 below. In the presence of rhodium (II) acetate,  $\alpha$ -diazoketone (15) undergoes the expected cyclopropanation reaction to 17. But then, unlike the other thienyl systems, opening of this cyclopropane intermediate (17) gives a thioaldehyde (18) via a [4+2]-cycloreversion seen previously only in the furanyl systems. This marks the first example of the retro-cycloaddition mechanism in the thienyl system. Isomerization

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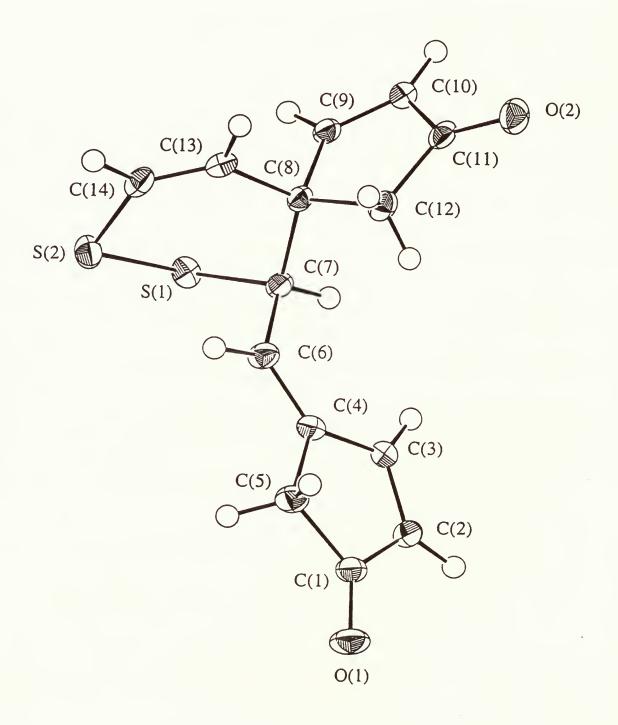


Figure 3. ORTEP view of 20

(to 19) is then followed by a Diels-Alder dimerization to give 20.

A few key features of this mechanism deserve further comment. The isomerization of 18 to 19 must take place since dimerization of the initial [4+2]-cycloreversion product 18 does not lead to 20. This interconversion of 18 to 19 likely involves the tautomerism

of thioaldehyde 18 to the conjugated thiol 21. Tautomerization of these strongly polarized C-S bonds have been reported by McKenzie. Semi-empirical modeling using the PM3 Hamiltonian in the Spartan program (the calculated heats of formation ( $\Delta H_f$ ) appear in Figure 4) show that the enethiol tautomers are energetically more-stable that the thio-keto forms by about 3 kcal/mol. Rotation about the bond indicated in Figure 4 would lead to 22 which tautomerizes to 19 and is trapped in the Diels-Alder reaction driving the equilibrium forward.

The head-to-head

regiochemistry of dimerization to give 20 is unusual in that head-to
tail addition would be expected

The head-to-head

The head-to-head head-to-head

The head-to-head head-to-head

The head-to-head head-to-head head-to-head

The head-to-head head-t

based on Frontier Molecular Orbital (FMO) considerations. This may indicate that the dimerization proceeds in an ionic and stepwise fashion rather than *via* a concerted Diels-

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<sup>64</sup> McKenzie, S., Reid, D. H., J. Chem. Soc., 1970, 1, 145.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>65</sup> Spartan, v. 4.0 (Irvine, California: Wavefunction, 1995).

Alder reaction. It is worthwhile to point out, however, that the head-to-head addition of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated thioaldehyde is not uncommon as thioacrolein (23) is known to dimerize very quickly to a 9:1 mixture of the head-to-tail (24) and head-to-head (25) dimers (Scheme 7). In addition, the exclusive production of the head-to-head dimer 20, in the decomposition of 15 may be attributed to the added stability offered by greater overlap of the conjugated  $\pi$  systems in the transition state going from 19 to 20. This secondary molecular orbital overlap could account, at least in part, for the observed regiochemistry.

Finally, one would expect monomeric species such as 18 or 19 to be rather unstable given their highly reactive thiocarbonyl moieties, which frequently participate in polymerization. The absence of any side product seems to imply that the rhodium either aids in the stabilization of these thioacyl species and/or participates in the dimerization reaction. Other methods for carbene generation were also investigated. Decomposition of 15 in the presence of Cu metal gives a complex mixture of products while photolysis of 15 results in Arndt-Eistert type chemistry<sup>67</sup> to give the homologous acid, 3-(3-thienyl)propanoic acid. These results indicate that the rhodium catalyst is essential for the transformation of 15  $\rightarrow$ 20 although its exact role (aside from carbenoid generation) has yet to be determined.

The reaction of 1-diazo-3-(3-thienyl)-2-propanone (15) is in marked contrast to the result obtained by Durst with system **xlvii**, (Scheme XXVIII) which undergoes the typical unraveling of the cyclopropane *via* the enol mechanism preferred by the

Bock, H., Mohmand, S., Hirabayashi, T., Semkow, A., Chem. Ber., 1982, 115, 1339.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>67</sup> Agosta, W.C., Smith, A. B., III, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1973, 95, 1961; Smith, A. B., III, Toder, B., Branca, S.J., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1984, 106, 3995; Hudlicky, T., Sheth, J. P., Tetrahedron Lett., 1979, 29, 2667.



thiophenes. This can be rationalized if one considers the intermediate cyclopropanes 17 and xlix. Inspection of the molecular models reveals that with a sulfur atom as part of the cyclobutenone system, xlix is considerably less strained than the corresponding cyclopropane 17 due to the longer C-S bonds. It is reasonable to assume, therefore, that xlix has a longer lifetime than 17 and, as a result, the enol mechanism can operate.

In an effort to induce acid catalyzed ring opening of the cyclopropane 17 to 3, the reaction was repeated in the presence of catalytic amounts of trifluoroacetic acid. However, the spiro-disulfide (20) was once again the only product isolated.

## (iii) Molecular Modeling Studies

The conversion of  $15 \rightarrow 20$  prompts a number of interesting questions. Why does the intermediate cyclopropane of the 2-substituted thienyl system (7) undergo the "normal" acid-catalyzed ring opening via an enol pathway, while the isomeric cyclopropane of the 3-substituted system (17) undergoes the [4+2] cycloreversion? Semi-empirical modeling studies have revealed some interesting trends.

Figure 5 shows a series of furanyl- and thienyl-based  $\alpha$ -diazoketones, the intermediate cyclopropanes derived from intramolecular carbenoid insertion and their respective [4+2]-cycloreversion products. Geometry optimizations were carried out on the intermediate cyclopropanes and the [4+2]-cycloreversion using the PM3 Hamiltonian in the Spartan program. The heats of formation for these optimized structures compounds were then calculated and appear in Table 2. The thermodynamics of the reaction were then calculated by subtracting the heat of formation of the [4+2]-cycloreversion product



from the heat of formation of the starting cyclopropane to give the  $\Delta$  heat of formation  $(\Delta H_f)$  for the [4+2] cycloreversion (Shown in Figure 5).

Table 2: Calculated Heats o	f Formation.	Values in kcal/mol.
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Cyc	lopropan	е	Tran	sition Sta	ite	Cyclorev	ersion Pr	oduct
	X = 0	X = S		X = 0	X = S		X = 0	X = S
26	-24.68	11.06	$26 \rightarrow 30$	40.96	43.71	30	-46.19	23.06
27	-23.76	12.39	$27 \rightarrow 31$	40.42	45.92	31	-42.54	25.91
28	11.25	44.77	$28 \rightarrow 32$	36.35	42.99	32	-6.62	66.11
29	9.72	44.09	$29 \rightarrow 33$	18.49	21.47	33	-37.22	33.55

Let us first consider the thienyl series (Figure 5, X=S). The thermodynamics of the reactions revealed that cycloreversion of 26, 27 and 28 are endothermic by 12.0, 13.5 and 21.3 kcal/mol respectively, while cycloreversion of 29 is exothermic by 10.5 kcal/mol. The relief of substantial strain energy associated with the fused tricyclic system, makes the cycloreversion of 29 thermodynamically favorable. On the other hand, similarly strained isomer 28 would be unaided by retro-[4+2] ring opening since cycloreversion leads to a highly strained cyclobutenone system 32. [4+2] Cycloreversion of the four analogous furan-based systems followed the same trend but were all found to be exothermic (-21.5, -18.8, -17.9, and -21.5 kcal/mol for the oxy analogous of 26, 27, 28 and 29 respectively). This observation is in keeping with the greater bond strength of the aldehyde C=O bond compared to the thioaldehyde C=S bond.



The transition state structures for the cycloreversion of 26, 27, 28 and 29 were also explored computationally. Each transition structure gave only one imaginary harmonic vibrational frequency corresponding in motion to the desired reaction coordinate (*i.e.* stretching of bonds a and b, as in 17, Scheme 6). As seen in Figure 6, the transition state associated with the conversion  $29 \rightarrow 33$  was calculated to lie 21.5 kcal/mol above the ground state energy of 29 while the energy of the transition states associated with the cycloreversions of 26, 27, and 28 were found to be 43.7, 45.9 and 43.0 kcal/mol above 30, 31, and 32 respectively. Clearly, the relief of strain in intermediate 29 facilitates cycloreversion despite the generation of a reactive C=S bond.

Turning our attention to the furanyl series, the modeling studies show that the transition state associated with the conversion of  $29 \rightarrow 33$  (X=O) was calculated to lie 18.5 kcal/mol above the ground state energy of 29 corresponding to half the value calculated for the other homologous members of the series. Given both the  $\Delta H_f$  and the transition state energy associated with the conversion of  $29 \rightarrow 33$  (X=O), the modeling would seem to favor a [4+2]-cycloreversion for the cyclopropane derived from the rhodium acetate decomposition of 1-diazo-3-(3-furanyl)-2-propanone (vide infra).

Looking at the overall results from the molecular modeling at the PM3 level, one cannot make consistent comparisons between thienyl and furanyl systems. In an effort to reproduce computationally the differences between the heterocyclic series, the calculations should be repeated at an *ab initio* level.

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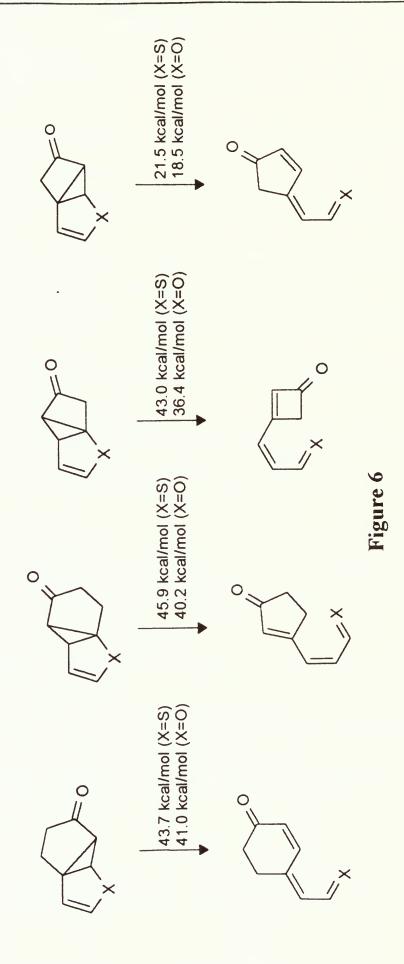
 $\Delta H_t = 21.3 \text{ kcal/mol (X=S)}$  $\Delta H_t = -17.9 \text{ kcal/mol (X=O)}$ 

 $\Delta H_r = -10.5 \text{ kcal/mol (X=S)}$  $\Delta H_r = -46.9 \text{ kcal/mol (X=O)}$ 

Figure 5

 $\Delta H_{\rm f} = 13.5 \text{ kcal/mol (X=S)}$  $\Delta H_{\rm f} = -18.8 \text{ kcal/mol (X=O)}$ 

 $\Delta H_t = 12.0 \text{ kcal/mol (X=S)}$  $\Delta H_t = -21.5 \text{ kcal/mol (X=O)}$ 



(iv) Rhodium Acetate Catalyzed Decomposition of 1-Diazo-3-(2-Furanyl)-2-Propanone (8)

While it is clear that the cyclopropane derived from the rhodium acetate catalyzed decomposition of 1-diazo-3-(2-furanyl)-2-propanone (8) avoids a [4+2]-cylcoreversion to a cyclobutenone product (32, X=O), we became intrigued with the possibility that we could affect some transformation of this intermediate cyclopropane by altering the reaction conditions. Recall that this was the α-diazoketone system which gave Padwa a "complex mixture of products" while the comparable system lxxxvii gave Durst the sulfonylcyclobutenone lxxxix. <sup>59</sup> Given the success we had with the analogous thienyl system (6), we decided to revisit this system.

The requisite carboxylic acid precursor to the 1-diazo-3-(2-furanyl)-2-propanone (8) can be prepared according to the procedure outlined by Janda *et al.*<sup>68</sup> from 2-furfuryl alcohol.

As seen in Scheme 8, chlorination of the alcohol 34 allowed for formation of the unstable  $\alpha$ -furfuryl chloride (35)<sup>69</sup>, which was then immediately treated with potassium cyanide to generate 2-furfurylacetonitrile (36). Subsequent hydrolysis of the nitrile (36) under basic condition gave the required 2-furan acetic acid in an overall yield of 25%.

69 Kirner, W.R., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1928, 50, 1955.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>68</sup> Janda, W., Srogl, J., Körblová, E, Stibor I., Coll. Czech. Chem. Commun., 1980, 45, 1361.

Conversion of 2-furan acetic acid to 1-diazo-3-(2-furanyl)-2-propanone (8) was achieved using the protocol developed previously wherein the acid was converted to the acid chloride, then reacted with ethereal diazomethane. Initial experiments with this  $\alpha$ -diazoketone and rhodium (II) acetate in dry dichloromethane under an argon atmosphere at room temperature gave the mixture of products reported by Padwa. However, when a few drops of water were added to the reaction mixture before the introduction of the rhodium catalyst, the reaction proceeded so as to allow for the production of only two products. Isolation *via* silica gel chromatography and characterization *via* MS and NMR identified the products to be 2-methyl-3-furan acetic acid (43)<sup>70</sup> and the bicyclic lactone (44) as shown in Scheme 9.

Scheme 9

It would appear that neither the [4+2]-cycloreversion nor the enol mechanism are operating in this system, but rather the cyclopropane generated (39) opens *via* a Vinylogous Wolff rearrangement (VWR).<sup>71</sup> Although such rearrangement on a furanyl

Nemoto, H., Shitara, E., Fukumoto, K., Heterocycles, 1985, 23, 549.

Smith, A.B., III, Toder, B.H., Richmond, R.E., Branca, S.J., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1984, 106, 4001;Smith, A.B., III, Dieter, R.K., Tetrahedron, 1981, 37, 2407.

system has not been observed before, Amos B. Smith III has demonstrated the operation of VWR mechanism on a number of  $\beta$ , $\gamma$ -unsaturated- $\alpha$ -diazoketones. As illustrated in Scheme 9, treatment of 1-diazo-3-(2-furanyl)-2-propanone (8) with rhodium acetate allows for cyclopropanation. The highly strained cyclopropane intermediate (39) then undergoes the VWR either by a concerted [2+2]-cycloreversion or via a stepwise process to give the vinyl ketene intermediate (40). In the absence of water or other nucleophiles, a complex mixture of products arises due to the high reactivity of the intermediate ketene (40). However, in the presence of water the ketene (40) was trapped to yield compound 41. Protonation of the exocyclic double bond then gives the oxonium ion (42) which can either lose a proton to rearomatize to give 43 in 60% yield or cyclize to 44 in 15% yield.

Further evidence for the intermediary of ketene (40) was obtained by carrying out the rhodium acetate catalyzed decomposition of 1-diazo-3-(2-furanyl)-2-propanone (8) in the presence of methanol. As shown in Scheme 9, trapping of the ketene with methanol results in the formation of the methyl ester 45 which can then rearomatize to methyl-(2-methyl-3-furanyl)acetate (46) in 80% overall yield.

(v) Rhodium Acetate Catalyzed Decomposition of 1-Diazo-3-(3-Furanyl)-2-Propanone (52)

As discussed above, the modeling would seem to indicate that this cycloreversion of  $29 \rightarrow 33$  (X=O, Figure 5) is a favorable transformation. This is further supported by Durst's ability to cyclize the comparable diazo compound xc to xcii (Scheme XXVI). Special Preparation and rhodium acetate catalyzed reaction of 1-diazo-3-(3-furanyl)-2-propanone

provided not only a test for our modeling predictions but also access to a novel ring system 54.

Although a preparative route to the precursor of 51, 2-(3-furan)acetic acid, has been described by Janda *et al.*, <sup>72</sup> the rather lengthy procedure results in a low overall yield (<30%). Our initial investigation into the 3-substituted furanyl system, therefore, took advantage of the some of the chemistry developed above. The 2-methyl-3-furan acetic acid prepared from 1-diazo-3-(2-furanyl)-2-propanone (see Scheme 9) differs from the

desired 51 in that a methyl group is present at the 2-position of 43. Conversion of 43 to the corresponding acid chloride followed by treatment with ethereal diazomethane allowed for the production of 47. As expected, treatment of this  $\alpha$ -diazoketone with rhodium acetate allowed for a virtually quantitative conversion to 49 as evidenced by NMR. (Scheme 10)

Motivated by this result, we set about preparing the 1-diazo-3-(3-furanyl)-2-propanone systems *via* a route involving a modified Arndt-Eistert type reaction. Despite Janda's previously published synthesis, we envisioned preparing the requisite 3-furan acetic acid by homologating 3-furoic acid. As reported by Smith,<sup>71</sup> the complications incurred when using the standard Arndt-Eistert reagents and conditions (silver (I) oxide in methanol under reflux) can be avoided using a photochemical protocol. Thus,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>72</sup> Janda, M., Srogl, J., Korblova, E., Stibor, I., Coll. Czech. Chem. Commun., 1980, 45, 1361.

homologation of 3-furoic acid was achieved by conversion to the acid chloride, treatment with ethereal diazomethane and photolysis of the resultant diazoketone in the presence of water. The 3-furan acetic acid (51) could then be converted to the desired  $\alpha$ -diazoketone by the standard protocol.

Treatment of 1-diazo-3-(3-furanyl)-2-propanone (52) with rhodium (II) acetate resulted in the formation of the expected keto-aldehyde (54) in >90% yield as determined by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectroscopy of the crude product. Attempts to purify the product by column chromatography on silica gel resulted in decomposition.

2-(4-Oxo-2-cyclopentenyliden)acetaldehyde (54) was completely characterized by  $^{1}$ H- and  $^{13}$ C-NMR, MS[EI] and HRMS. Structurally, the keto-aldehyde product itself is interesting, being highly conjugated, including 2 α-β unsaturated carbonyl systems in a 7 carbon backbone. Yet, the functional groups may be distinguished from each other either by being chemically different (aldehyde vs ketone), or sterically different (mono- vs disubstituted) at the β-position of the α-β-unsaturated carbonyl. The Z-configuration of the α-β-unsaturated aldehyde also offers an opportunity for hetero-Diels-Alder reactions. All

of the above properties makes the keto-aldehyde (54) a promising synthon for organic synthesis.

# (vi) Rhodium Acetate Catalyzed Decomposition of 1-Diazo-3-(2-Benzofuranyl)-2-Propanone (69)

Padwa has reported an extension of this intramolecular carbenoid insertion work involving benzofuran as the aromatic fragment. In contrast to the analogous furanyl systems, carbenoid insertion allows for an isolable cyclopropane intermediate. For example, when 1-diazo-4-(2-benzofuran)-2-butanone (58, Scheme 12) was exposed to a solution containing rhodium acetate, the cyclopropane 59 was isolated. Treatment with 1% sulfuric acid solution converted the cyclopropane to compound 60 *via* the enol pathway discussed previously. [4+2]-Cycloreversion can be induced at 180°C to give the ortho-quinoidal system 61. The forcing conditions are required since the cycloreversion effectively destroys the aromaticity of the system. 61 Rapidly undergoes electrocyclic ring

Figure 12

closure to **62** which, in turn, isomerizes to the more conjugated **63**. Benzofuranyl systems with longer tethers (for example, 1-diazo-5-(2-benzofuran)-2-pentanone, **64**) or with 3-substituted tethers (for example, 1-diazo-4-(3-benzofuran)-2-butanone, **65**) exhibit the same type of chemistry.

As we have demonstrated above, the high degree of strain imparted to intermediate cyclopropanes by short methylene tethers has allowed for some rather novel chemistry in the furanyl and thienyl series. Hence, we became interested in determining the effect of these short tethers on the  $\alpha$ -diazoketones containing benzofuranyl moieties. The first target for this series was 1-diazo-3-(2-benzofuran)-2-propanone (69) which was prepared from the corresponding carboxylic acid, 2-benzofuran acetic acid (68).

#### Scheme 13

A number of the syntheses of 2-benzofuran acetic acid have been reported previously.<sup>73</sup> In addition to being rather lengthy, the procedure yields of ~20% (in the best cases) made them less than desirable. Instead, the synthesis of 2-benzofuran acetic acid was carried out as illustrated in Scheme 13. Using commercially available 2-coumaranone (66), a Wittig reaction was carried out using carbethoxymethylene triphenylphosphorane

Degenhartdt, C.R., Synth. Commun., 1982, 12, 415; Kasahara, A., Izumi, T., Suzuki, A., Takeda, T., Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn., 1976, 49, 5711.

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in xylenes to give 67 in over 80% yield. A Base hydrolysis of the ester affords the 2-benzofuran acetic acid (68) in 60% yield. (Scheme 13)

With 2-benzofuran acetic acid in hand, conversion to the acid chloride followed by treatment with ethereal diazomethane allowed for the preparation of the desired 1-diazo-3-(2-benzofuranyl)-2-propanone (69). Exploratory experiments involving the treatment of the  $\alpha$ -diazoketone (69) with rhodium acetate in dichloromethane resulted in a mixture of products and an inability to isolate any carbenoid insertion product. This led us to believe that, unlike the other homologous members of the benzofuranyl series, 1-diazo-3-(2-

benzofuranyl)-2-propanone (69) behaved very much like 1-diazo-3-(2-furanyl)-2-propanone (8) in that the intermediate cyclopropane unraveled *via* a vinylogous Wolff rearrangement. This was confirmed when the rhodium acetate decomposition of 69 was repeated in the presence of 2 equivalents of methanol. The reaction was monitored *via* <sup>1</sup>H-NMR and clearly showed the formation of 1 major product which we assigned as 72. When a preparative scale reaction was carried out and the product purified by silica gel

Chan, J. H.-T., Elix, J. A., Ferguson, B. A., Aust. J. Chem., 1975, 28, 1097; Chan, J. H.-T., Elix, J. A., Ferguson, B. A., Synth. Commun., 1972, 2, 409.

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chromatography, <sup>1</sup>H-NMR revealed that the product had isomerized to methyl-(2-methyl-3-benzofuranyl) acetate (74). Isomeriztion of 72 to 74 likely takes place *via* protonation of the exo-cyclic double bond to yield oxonium ion 73 which can then rearomatize to 74 by losing a proton.

Clearly the VWR is the lower energy pathway given that [4+2]-cycloreversion of 70 would not only lead to disruption of aromaticity in the benzo moiety but also produce a high-strained cyclobutenone.

(vii) Rhodium Acetate Catalyzed Decomposition of 1-Diazo-3-(3-Benzofuranyl)-2-Propanone (84)

In an effort to examine the effect of the location of substitution on the insertion chemistry, we developed a synthesis for the isomeric, 3-substituted benzofuran system, 1-diazo-3-(3-benzofuranyl)-2-propanone (84). Once again, the desired  $\alpha$ -diazoketone was to be derived from the corresponding carboxylic acid precursor, 3-benzofuran acetic acid (83), which, in turn could be prepared using a Wittig approach on 3-coumaranone (77), a method developed by Chan.<sup>74</sup>

3-Coumaranone was prepared using variations of two literature preparations. The first protocol is a modification of that reported by Ghosh<sup>75</sup> and involves the conversion of salicylic acid (78, Scheme 15) to its acid chloride and subsequent treatment with ethereal diazomethane. The resultant α-diazoketone 79 is not isolated but rather is converted rapidly to the desired 3-coumaranone (77) in 80% overall yield. This last transformation likely takes place as illustrated in Scheme 15, wherein the carbon  $\alpha$  to the diazo fragment is protonated by the phenolic moiety, and then undergoes cyclization when the phenolate displaces the nitrogen. Whilst the yields were good, this approach to 3-coumaranone was not ammenable to scale-up to due the large quantities of diazomethane required. Preparative scale synthesis of 77 used a modification of the method reported by Paradkar<sup>76</sup> involving the cyclization of 2-bromo-2'-hydroxyacetophenone. The modified cyclization using sodium acetate and DMF as the authors suggested was less effective then the initial cyclization reported by Fries<sup>77</sup> using ethanol. Yields of 90% for the cyclization were common. Despite the differences in the precursor for the cyclization, the reaction mechanisms are actually very similar, a base, (sodium acetate for 76 and the diazoketone itself in 79) abstracting the phenolic proton to form a phenolate ion, which then attacks the  $\alpha$ -carbonyl carbon which has a good leaving group to form 3-coumaranone (77).

In a similar fashion to the preparation of 2-benzofuran acetic acid, a Wittig reaction involving 3-coumaranone (81) and carbethoxymethylene triphenylphosphorane

Fries, K., Pfaffendorf, W., Ber., 1910, 43, 212.

Ghosh, S., Datta, I., Chakraborty, R., Kumar Das, T., Sengupta, J., Sarkar, D. C., Tetrahedron, 1989, 45, 1441.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>76</sup> Deshpande, A.R., Paradkar, M.V., Synth. Commun., 1990, 20, 809.

gave 82 with subsequent base hydrolysis yielding the desired acid 83.<sup>76</sup> Synthesis of the target  $\alpha$ -diazoketone 84 was achieved using the standard protocol described above.

Exploratory reactions involving the treatment of 1-diazo-3-(3-benzofuranyl)-2-propanone with rhodium acetate quickly revealed that, once again, the vinylogous Wolff

rearrangement was at work. Cyclopropanation of **84** takes place to give **85**, but unlike the [4+2]-cycloreversion of the cyclopropane intermediate **53** in the 1-diazo-3-(3-furanyl)-2-propanone system, **85** undergoes a VWR in order to avoid disruption of the aromaticity. When the reaction is carried out in the presence of trifluoroacetic acid and water, the intermediate ketene is trapped to yield only one major product, which has been identified as 3-methyl-2-benzofuran acetic acid (**88**).

However, when methanol was used as the nucleophilic trap, we obtained an unexpected product. Using MS, <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR and the 2D-COSY experiment, we assigned the structure to be that of the poly-unsaturated ester 91 shown in Scheme 18.

The product can be shown to have arisen from nucleophilic attack of methanol onto the ketene to result in the enol shown. Rather than tautomerize to the ester (92), the enol collapses to give the ring opened product 90 and then to 91. The preference for the formation of 91 over 92 may lie in part with the additional conjugation of 91 which imparts greater thermodynamic stability than 92.

An intramolecular Michael addition was induced by refluxing a sample of the unsaturated ester 91 in toluene for 24 hours. Under these conditions, 92 was produced in 18% isolated yield after silica gel chromatography. It is worthwhile to point out that rearomatization of 92 to a benzofuranyl system does not take place *via* protonation of the exocyclic double bond, presumably since the oxonium cation resonance contributor effectively removes the aromaticity of the benzo fragment as illustrated in OMe

Scheme 19. The contribution of the Scheme 19. Scheme 19.



The diene moiety of 91 makes it an attractive candidate for Diels-Alder chemistry. Attempts to trap the Z-diene using dienophiles such as maleic anhydride and dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (DMAD) were carried out under various conditions but no Diels-Alder product was isolated. It may be that more vigorous conditions (higher temperatures and/or pressure) or the use of catalysts may be required to affect this transformation and such studies should be undertaken.

Treatment of 1-diazo-3-(3-benzofuranyl)-2-propanone with rhodium acetate in the presence of allyl alcohol generated 94 in 77% yield. It is believed this compound would be an ideal candidate for an intramolecular Diels-Alder reaction and towards this end, the allylic ester (94) was refluxed in toluene for 2 days. No Diels-Alder product was obtained but rather the reaction mixture was shown to consist only of minor amounts of the intramolecular Michael product 95, with the majority being the starting alkene 94.

(viii) Rhodium Acetate Catalyzed Decomposition of 1-Diazo-3-(3-Benzothienyl)-2-Propanone (100)

To date, there have not been any attempts to extend this intramolecular carbenoid insertion strategy to benzothiophene substrates. Therefore we first turned our attention to the chemistry carried out by the benzothienyl  $\alpha$ -diazoketones containing a single



methylene tether. Once again the diazoketones were derived from the corresponding carboxylic acids.

3-Benzothiophene acetic acid was prepared by a procedure outlined by Blicke<sup>78</sup> and is shown in Scheme 21. Benzothiophene is treated with formalin saturated with hydrogen chloride to allow chloromethylation C3. The resultant 96 chloromethylene compound 97 is then treated with sodium cyanide in DMF to 99 100 Scheme 21 give 98 which then

hydrolyzed under basic conditions to give the desired 3-benzothiophene acetic acid (99). The standard chlorination-diazomethane protocol was applied once again to give  $\alpha$ -diazoketone 100.

1-Diazo-3-(3-benzothienyl)-2-propanone (100) was then decomposed in the presence of rhodium acetate to give 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-benzo[*b*]cyclopenta[*d*] thiophen-2-one 102 in 77% yield. It would appear that the intermediate cyclopropane 101 was unraveling *via* the enol mechanism seen previously in the thiophene series (for example, see the section on 1-diazo-3-(2-thienyl)-2-propanone 6). Contrasting this behaviour to that exhibited by the analogous 1-diazo-3-(3-thienyl)-2-propanone 15, one can rationalize

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>78</sup> Blicke, F. F., Sheets, D. G., J. Am. Chem. Soc., **1948**, 70, 3768.

that the [4+2]-cycloreversion seen for 15 is avoided since a similar unraveling for 101 would lead to the destruction of the aromaticity.

(ix) Rhodium Acetate Catalyzed Decomposition of 1-Diazo-3-(3-Benzothienyl)-2-Propanone (109)

The 2-benzothiophene acetic acid required for the preparation of 1-diazo-3-(2-benzothienyl)-2-propanone was prepared according to the protocol described by Degenhartdt<sup>79</sup> as shown in Scheme 23.

$$Me_{2}N = \begin{array}{c} CI \\ H \\ 103 \end{array}$$

$$104 \qquad 104 \qquad 105 \qquad 105 \qquad 105 \qquad 105 \qquad 107 \qquad 107 \qquad 107 \qquad 107 \qquad 108 \qquad 10$$

Janda, M., Srogl, J., Korblova, E., Stibor, I., Coll. Czech. Chem. Commun., 1980, 45, 1361; Degenhartdt, C.R., Synth. Commun., 1982, 12, 415.

Knowing that metallation of benzothiophene occurs exclusively at the 2-position, benzothiophene treated with *n*-butyllithium and trapped with DMF to allow for the formation of 2-thianaphthaldehyde (106). The one carbon chain extension of 106 was achieved using the modified Wittig reagent, dimethyl aminomethylene diphosphonate, to generate the phosphonate 107, which was then hydrolyzed to give the desired 2-benzofuran acetic acid (108). 1-Diazo-3-(2-benzothienyl)-2-propanone (109) was prepared using standard procedure from its corresponding acid.

From the previous experience with the 2-thiophene system, we were expecting the intermediate cyclopropane to unravel via the enol pathway to give the cyclic ketone product 102. However, catalytic decomposition of 1-diazo-3-(2-benzothiophene)-2-propanone gave not only the expected cyclic ketone 102 but also another crystalline product. Mass spectroscopy has shown this product to be a dimer with a molecular ion at m/z = 376.

Crystals grown from ethyl acetate were sent for x-ray crystallography to determine the structure. Unfortunately, the exact structure of this dimer has not been determined at this time. While the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR clearly shows two different benzothienyl moieties, preliminary x-ray crystallography work with crystals grown from ethyl acetate shows a symmetric structure with equivalent benzothiophene fragments (see Appendix III for a preliminary structure). At present, the structure refinement sits at about 15%. Clearly, either the x-ray structure is completely wrong or the crystals sent for analysis are of a minor reaction product. Work on this structure continues.

Knowing that metallation of benzothiophene occurs exclusively at the 2-position, benzothiophene treated with *n*-butyllithium and trapped with DMF to allow for the formation of 2-thianaphthaldehyde (106). The one carbon chain extension of 106 was achieved using the modified Wittig reagent, dimethyl aminomethylene diphosphonate, to generate the phosphonate 107, which was then hydrolyzed to give the desired 2-benzofuran acetic acid (108). 1-Diazo-3-(2-benzothienyl)-2-propanone (109) was prepared using standard procedure from its corresponding acid.

From the previous experience with the 2-thiophene system, we were expecting the intermediate cyclopropane to unravel via the enol pathway to give the cyclic ketone product 102. However, catalytic decomposition of 1-diazo-3-(2-benzothiophene)-2-propanone gave not only the expected cyclic ketone 102 but also another crystalline product. Mass spectroscopy has shown this product to be a dimer with a molecular ion at m/z = 376.

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# CONCLUSION

The results from our study of intramolecular carbenoid insertion into 5-membered heteroaromatic systems shows that the resultant chemistry is dependent on the nature of the heteroatom, position of substitution, the length of the aliphatic tether and the substitution on the aromatic moiety. While others have shown that the rhodium acetate catalyzed chemistry of furan, thiophene and benzofuran tethered to an  $\alpha$ -diazoketone by 2 or more methylenes is relatively consistent, the reactions of  $\alpha$ -diazoketones derived from furanyl, thienyl, benzofuranyl and benzothienyl acetic acids varies from system to system.

Clearly the high degree of strain imparted to intermediate cyclopropanes by short methylene tethers allows for some rather atypical chemistry and access to a number of novel ring systems. We have shown that unraveling of these intermediate cyclopropanes can proceed *via* one of three distinct pathways: the [4+2]-cycloreversion, the "enol" mechanism or the vinylogous Wolff rearrangement.

### **Future Work:**

The intramolecular attack of  $\alpha$ -keto carbenoids into pyrrole systems has been reported previously by Galeazzi<sup>80</sup> and by Jefford. In these cases, however, the tethered diazoketone is connected to the pyrrole through the nitrogen. Treatment with copper catalysts has generally promoted C-H insertion at the  $\alpha$ -position of the pyrrole. Introduction of a tethered diazoketone at either the 2- or 3-position of pyrrole and use of a rhodium catalyst should allow for cyclopropanation and, hence, access to different ring

Galeazzi, E., Guzman, A., Pinedo, A., Saldana, A., Torre, D., Muchowski, J.M., Can. J. Chem., 1983, 61, 454.



systems. Work with these systems and analogous indole systems are currently being conducted in the Capretta lab.

A natural extension of the intramolecular carbenoid insertion work involves the use of such carbocycles as cyclopentadiene and dimethylfulvene in place of the heteroaromatic moiety. Work by Smith<sup>71</sup> on analogous cyclopentenyl diazoketones has shown these systems to undergo cyclopropanation followed by vinylogous Wolff rearrangements. Introduction of conjugated double bonds may alter the electronics of the intermediate cyclopropane and allow for access to different ring systems *via* Hudlicky-type chemistry.<sup>81</sup>

Preliminary calculations performed have revealed some interesting trends and have, for the most part, been able to mirror what is observed experimentally. Unfortunately, comparisons between thienyl and furanyl systems have been inconsistent. In an effort to reproduce computationally the differences between the heterocyclic series, the calculations should be repeated at an *ab initio* level.

Hudlicky, T., Sheth, J. P., Gee, V., Barnvos, D., *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 1979, 4889; Hudlicky, T., Kwart, L. D., Tiedje, M. H., Ranu, B. C., Short, R. P., Frazier, J. O., Rigby, H. L., *Synthesis*, 1986, 716.

#### **EXPERIMENTAL**

## APPARATUS AND MATERIALS

Proton magnetic resonance (<sup>1</sup>H-NMR) spectra were recorded on either a Bruker AC-200 FT spectrometer (at 200.13 MHz) or a Bruker Avance DPX-300 Digital FT spectrometer (at 300.13 MHz) with chloroform-d as the solvent unless otherwise noted. Unless specified, the usual internal references were tetramethylsilane (TMS) or chloroform. The abbreviations (s)=singlet, (d)=doublet, (t)=triplet, (q)=quartet, (m)=multiplet and (br)=broad are used in the description of the spin-spin splitting pattern present in the spectra.

The natural abundance carbon-13 magnetic resonances (<sup>13</sup>C-NMR) were recorded on a Bruker Avance DPX-300 Digital FT spectrometer (at 75.03 MHz) using chloroform-d as the solvent and internal reference unless otherwise noted. All <sup>13</sup>C spectra were broad band decoupled.

Low resolution mass spectra (MS) and high resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained on Carlo Erba/Kratos HRGS/MS Concept 1S double focusing mass spectrometer interfaced to a Kratos DART acquisition system and a SUN SPARC workstation. Samples were introduced through a direct inlet system. Ions were generated using electron impact (EI).

Crystallographic structure determinations were carried out on a Rigaku AFC7R diffractometer with graphite-monochromated Mo-K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda$  = 0.71069 Å). The crystals were cooled with an Oxford Cryosystem Cooler.<sup>82</sup> The structures were solved

<sup>82</sup> Cosier, J, Glazer A.M. J. Appl. Crystallogr. 1986, 19, 105.



with direct methods, SHELXS-90<sup>83</sup> and refined with full-matrix least-squares refinement on  $F^2$  with SHELXL-93.<sup>84</sup> R-values;  $R1 = \Sigma ||F_o| - |F_c||/\Sigma ||F_o||$ , and  $wR2 = [\Sigma w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^{2/2} \Sigma w(F_o^2)^2]^{1/2}$ . Further details of the crystal structure investigation can be obtained from the Director of the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, University Chemical Laboratory, Cambridge CB2 1EW, U.K.

Energy-minimized structures were generated using MMX force field calculations derived from MM2. The calculations were carried out using the program Hyperchem.<sup>85</sup> Restricted Hartree-Fock (RHF) calculations were carried out with the PM3 Hamiltonian of the general purpose molecular orbital computational package Spartan.<sup>65</sup> Optimizations were carried out with the PM3 default parameters.

Melting points were recorded on a Kofler Hot Stage melting point apparatus and are uncorrected.

Starting materials were purchased from Aldrich Chemical Co. and used without further purification.

Tetrahydrofuran (THF) was dried by refluxing and distilling from sodium and benzophenone under dry nitrogen. THF was collected from the distillation apparatus as required. *N,N*-Dimethylformamide (DMF) was refluxed and subsequently distilled from BaO. All other solvents employed were reagent grade, purchased from Caledon Laboratory Ltd.

<sup>83</sup> Shledrick, G.M. Acta Crystallogr. Sect. A 1990, 46, 467.

Shledrick, G.M. SHELXL-93; Program for crystal structure refinement, Gottingen, 1993.

HyperChem, v. 3.0, Hypercube Inc., 1993.



NMR solvents chloroform-d, methylene chloride-d<sub>2</sub>, dimethylsulfoxide-d<sub>6</sub> and benzene-d<sub>6</sub> were purchased from Isotec Inc. and stored over molecular sieves (4Å) prior to use.

Column chromatography was performed by the "flash" method of Still, Kahn, and Mitra. The silica gel used for column chromatography (5.0% of 100 mesh up; 47.6% of 100-200 mesh and 47.4% of 200 mesh down) was purchased from Aldrich Chemical Co.. Silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub> (E. Merck Co.) plates of 0.2 mm thickness were used for analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC). Visualization was achieved using a UV lamp at 254 nm or *via* treatment of the TLC with either a molybdic acid spray (20 g of molybdic acid and 15 g of ceric sulphate dissolved in 1 litre of 10% sulphuric acid); a vanillin spray (5 g of vanillin dissolved in 200 ml of 95% ethanol followed by addition of 5 ml of sulfuric acid slowly); a potassium permanganate dip (12.5 g of potassium permanganate and 62.5 g of sodium carbonate added to 1.25 litre of water) or a ninhydrin spray (0.2% ninhydrin in ethanol) followed by heating.

#### SYNTHETIC PROTOCOLS

# Preparation of alcohol free diazomethane solution<sup>62</sup>

An ethereal solution of diazomethane free from ethanol is essential for the preparation of diazoketones. The following procedure was carried out in glassware with clear glass joints.

Potassium hydroxide (6g) was dissolved in 10 ml of water and 35 ml of carbitol (di(ethyleneglycol) ethyl ether) in a 250 ml round bottom flask. The basic solution was

<sup>86</sup> Still, W. C., Kahn, M., Mitra, A. J., J. Org. Chem., 1978, 43, 2923.

stirred and heated to 70°C in an oil bath, with distillation apparatus connected to a 500 ml round bottom flask in an ice-salt bath. An ethereal solution (125 ml) of Diazald (*N*-methyl-*N*-nitrosotoluene-*p*-sulfonamide) was added slowly, over 20 minutes. Rinse the dropping with 2 x 20 ml portion of ether and added to the reaction flask. Ether was added to the reaction flask until the distillate was colourless. The bright yellow diazomethane solution is stored under potassium hydroxide pellets for one day to remove water. The anhydrous solution is decanted and stored in the freezer.

#### Synthesis of 1-Diazo-3-(2-Thienyl)-2-Propanone (6)

2-Thiophene acetic acid (600 mg, 4.22 mmol) was

dissolved in 50 ml of dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, and stirred in an ice-salt bath

under an argon atmosphere. Oxalyl chloride (1.1 ml, 12.6 mmol) added followed by two drops was dimethylformamide (DMF). The reaction mixture was stirred for a further 30 minutes, then warmed up to room temperature slowly. The reaction mixture was evaporated under reduced pressure to give a brown residue. Residual oxalyl chloride was removed by redissolving the residue in 3 x 15 ml of dry benzene followed by evaporation under reduced pressure. The crude acid chloride was dissolved in 25 ml of benzene and added dropwise over 10 minutes to 25 ml of a dry ethereal diazomethane solution (about 38 mmol) cooled to 0°C. The reaction mixture was stirred under argon atmosphere and allowed to warm up to room temperature over a 2 hour period. The reaction mixture was then evaporated under a reduced pressure to give a brown oil. The diazoketone (6) was

purified by column chromatography on silica gel using 50% dichloromethane in hexanes as eluent. The product was isolated as a yellow oil. TLC with dichloromethane as the eluent showed the product with an  $R_{\rm f}$  = 0.46. The yield was 72.8% (511 mg, 3.08 mmol). The compound showed:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz);  $\delta$  3.78 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.23 (s, 1H, CHN<sub>2</sub>), 6.89 (d, 1H, J=3.2 Hz, C3H), 6.95 (dd, 1H, J=5.0 and 3.7 Hz, C4H), 7.20 (d, 1H, J=5.3 Hz, C5H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz);  $\delta$  41.53 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 54.62 (CHN<sub>2</sub>), 125.38 (C<sub>Ar</sub>), 127.11 (C<sub>Ar</sub>), 127.16 (C<sub>Ar</sub>), 135.63 (C<sub>Ar</sub>), 191.37 (CO).

#### Synthesis of 5,6-Dihydro-4*H*-Cyclopenta[*b*]Thiophen-5-one (3)

1-Diazo-3-(2-thienyl)-2-propanone (6) (250 mg, 1.5 Mg) mmol) was dissolved in 50 ml of dry dichloromethane and

stirred under an argon atmosphere at room temperature. A catalytic amount (approximately 1 mg) of rhodium (II) acetate was added and the resultant solution stirred for 4 hours. The solvent was then evaporated under reduced pressure to yield a brown oil which was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using 30% dichloromethane in hexanes. The product was isolated as a pale yellow crystalline solid which could be further purified by sublimation or recrystallized from benzene. TLC with 50% dichloromethane in hexanes as the eluent showed the product with an  $R_{\rm f}$  = 0.42. The yield was 70% (145 mg, 1.1 mmol). The compound numbering appears in Figure 2. The compound showed:



<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 3.40 (2H, s, C4H<sub>2</sub>), 3.53 (2H, s, C6H<sub>2</sub>), 6.96 (1H, d, J=4.9 Hz, C2H), 7.24 (1H, d, J=5.2 Hz, C1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 41.74 (C4), 41.80 (C6), 122.77 (C1), 126.60 (C2), 135.77 (C7), 139.54 (C3), 214.61 (C5).

MS [EI+]: m/z (RI%); 138 [M]<sup>+</sup>(29), 110 [M-CO]<sup>+</sup>(100).

HRMS: for  $C_7H_6OS$ : calculated 138.0139; observed 138.0142.

3-Thiophene acetic acid (600 mg, 4.22 mmol) was

dissolved in 50 ml of dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and stirred in an ice-salt bath

### Synthesis of 1-Diazo-3-(3-thienyl)-2-propanone (15)

under an argon atmosphere. Oxalyl chloride (0.42 ml, 0.61 g, 4.8 mmol) was added followed by two drops of dimethylformamide (DMF). The reaction mixture was evaporated under reduced pressure to give a brown residue. Residual oxalyl chloride was removed by redissolving the residue in 3 x 15 ml of dry benzene followed by evaporation under reduced pressure. The crude acid chloride was dissolved in 25 ml of benzene and added dropwise over 10 minutes to 25 ml of a dry ethereal diazomethane solution (about 38 mmol) cooled to 0°C. The reaction mixture was stirred under argon atmosphere and allowed to warm up to room temperature over a 2 hour period. The reaction mixture was then evaporated under a reduced pressure to give a brown oil. The diazoketone (15) was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using 50% dichloromethane in hexanes as eluent and yielded a yellow oil. TLC of the product with dichloromethane gave an R<sub>f</sub>=0.36. The yield was 78.3% (549 mg, 3.30 mmol). The compound showed:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz); δ3.60 (2H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.15 (1H, s, CHN<sub>2</sub>), 6.95 (1H, d, J=4.9 Hz, C4H), 7.1 (1H, d, J=2.1 Hz, C2H), 7.27 (1H, d, J=7.0 Hz, C5H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz);  $\delta$  41.13 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 54.56 (CHN<sub>2</sub>), 123.07 (C<sub>Ar</sub>), 126.18 (C<sub>Ar</sub>), 128.30 (C<sub>Ar</sub>), 134.17(C<sub>Ar</sub>), 191.43 (CO).

Synthesis of Spiro-Disulphide (20) via the Rhodium (II) Acetate

Catalyzed Decomposition of 1-Diazo-3-(3-Thienyl)-2-Propanone

(15)

1-Diazo-3-(3-thienyl)-2-propanone (15) (250 mg, 1.5

mmol) was dissolved in 50 ml of dry dichloromethane and stirred under an argon atmosphere at room temperature. A catalytic amount (approximately 1 mg) of rhodium (II) acetate was added to the reaction and the resultant solution was stirred for 4 hours. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure to yield a brown oil. The reaction mixture was then purified by column chromatography on silica gel using 30% dichloromethane in hexanes as eluent yielding (20) as a pale yellow crystalline solid. The product was recrystallized from benzene. TLC with 50% ethyl acetate in hexanes as the eluent showed the product with an  $R_f = 0.41$ . The yield was 85% (352 mg, 1.3 mmol). The compound numbering appears in Figure 3. The compound showed:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  2.35 and 2.46 (each 1H, d, J=19.2 Hz, C12H<sub>2</sub>), 2.96 and 3.05 (each 1H, d, J= 21.1 Hz, C5H<sub>2</sub>), 3.90 (1H, d, J= 9.8 Hz, C7H), 5.66 (1H, d, J=10.4 Hz, C13H). 5.76 (1H, d, J=9.9 Hz, C6H), 6.18 (1H,

d, *J*=5.4 Hz, C10H), 6.41 (1H, d, *J*=6.0 Hz, C2H), 6.50 (1H, d, *J*=10.4 Hz, C14H), 7.59 (1H, d, *J*=5.4 Hz, C9H). 8.00 (d, 1H, *J*=5.7 Hz, C3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 39.82 (C5), 43.88 (C7), 47.00 (C12), 47.63 (C8), 121.95 (C14), 122.46 (C6), 128.38 (C13), 133.13 (C10), 137.01 (C2), 140.08 (C4), 152.41 (C9), 167.51 (C3), 204.75 (C11 or C1), 206.81 (C1 or C11).

MS [EI+]: m/z (RI%); 276 [M] + (24), 244 [M-S] + (24), 138 [monomer] + (100), 110 [monomer - CO] + (53), 84 (84).

HRMS: for  $C_{14}H_{12}O_2S_2$ ; calculated 276.0279; observed 276.0266.

# Photochemical decomposition of 1-Diazo-3-(3-thienyl)-2propagone (15) to 3-(3-thienyl)Propagoic acid

propanone (15) to 3-(3-thienyl)Propanoic acid

1-Diazo-3-(3-thienyl)-2-propanone (15) (102 mg, 0.63 5 s)

mmol) was dissolved in 100 ml of dry dichloromethane. The

stirred solution was then photolyzed at room temperature using a low pressure mercury lamp for 3 hours. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using 20% ethyl acetate in hexanes as eluent. The product was isolated as a pale yellow solid. TLC with 50% ethyl acetate in hexanes as the eluent showed the product with an  $R_f = 0.50$ . The yield was 30% (32.6 mg, 0.19 mmol). The compound showed:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz); δ2.66 (2H, t, *J*=7.5 Hz, C7H), 2.95 (2H, t, *J*=7.6 Hz, C6H), 6.93 (1H, d, *J*=4.6 Hz, C5H), 6.97 (1H, broad s, C2H), 7.22 (1H, dd, *J*=1.8, 2.8 Hz, C4H).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz); δ25.09 (C6), 34.81 (C7), 120.72 (C2), 125.73 (C5), 127.88 (C4), 140.40 (C3), 178.86 (COOH).

MS [EI+]: m/z (RI%); 156 [M]<sup>+</sup> (63), 111 [M-COOH]<sup>+</sup> (58), 97 [M-CH<sub>2</sub>COOH]<sup>+</sup> (100).

HRMS: for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S; calculated 156.0245; observed 156.0246

# Synthesis of α-Furfuryl Chloride (35)<sup>69</sup>

Freshly distilled furfuryl alcohol (23 ml, 26 g, 270 mmol)

and pyridine (30 ml, 29.4 g, 300 mmol, 1.1 eq.) in 25 ml of dry

ether was stirred in a salt-ice bath under argon atmosphere. To this solution was added thionyl chloride (20 ml, 32.6 g, 0.27 mole) in 20 ml of dry ether over 1.5 hours. The reaction mixture was stirred for an additional 0.5 hour after the complete addition of the thionyl chloride. The top ether layer was decanted and the greenish-black residue was extracted with 4 x 50 ml portions of cold ether while breaking up the solid with a glass rod. The ether extracts were combined and washed thoroughly with 50 ml of a cold 50% KOH solution. Note that ice was added periodically to maintain the temperature. The ether layer was then dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under reduced pressure to about 50 ml. The remainder of the ether is removed by fractional distillation under reduced

pressure. The product (35) distilled about 43-44°C @ 21 mm Hg as a colourless oil. (lit. 69 49.1°C @ 26 mm Hg) which decomposes rapidly on exposure to air and water. The yield was 51% (16.1 g, 139 mmol) and was used immediately in the next reaction.

# Synthesis of 2-Furfurylacetonitrile (36)<sup>68</sup>

To a stirred solution of potassium cyanide (9.3 g, 190 CN mmol) in 50 ml of (DMF) heated to 50°C was added furfuryl chloride (35)(14 g, 120 mmol). The temperature was raised to 90°C slowly and stirred for 2 hours at which time the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and water added to dissolve inorganic salts. The aqueous layer was extracted with 4 x 40 ml ether and the combined ether extracts were washed with 3 x 30 ml of brine. The ether layer was dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated under a reduced pressure to yield a brown oil. The crude product was purified by vacuum distillation 43-45°C (~0.1 mm Hg) to give 36 as a colourless pungent oil and used immediately in the next step. The yield was 77% (10 g, 90 mmol).

# Synthesis of 2-Furan acetic acid (37)

an aqueous solution of NaOH (4M, 75 ml). Sufficient ethanol was

then added in order to give a homogenous solution. The reaction mixture was refluxed gently for 6 hours then cooled and the ethanol evaporated under a reduced pressure. The residue was acidified (hydrochloric acid) and extracted with ethyl acetate with 3 x 50 ml

2-Furfurylacetonitrile (36)(9.6 g, 90 mmol) was added to

portions. The combined ethyl acetate extracts were dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated under a reduced pressure to give the crude acid. The acid was then purified by recrystallization from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/hexanes. The yield was 64.4% (7.3 g, 58 mmol). compound showed:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz); δ3.72 (2H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.24 (1H, d, *J*=3.2 Hz, C3H), 6.33 (1H, dd, J=1.9, 3.2 Hz, C4H), 7.36 (1H, d, J=1.9 Hz, C5H), 11.67 (1H, broad, COOH).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz); 833.72 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 108.48, 110.58 (C3 and C4), 142.33 (C5), 146.76 (C2), 175.66 (COOH).

MS [EI+]: m/z (RI%); 126 [M]<sup>+</sup>(19), 81 [M-COOH]<sup>+</sup>(100).

HRMS: for C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: calculated 126.0317; observed 126.0320

# Synthesis of 1-Diazo-3-(2-Furanyl)-2-Propanone (8)

2-Furan acetic acid (37)(540 mg, 4 mmol) was dissolved in 50 ml of dry dichloromethane and stirred in an ice bath under

argon atmosphere. Oxalyl chloride (0.40 ml, 4.5 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture followed by a catalytic amount of DMF (2 drops). The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 minutes, then removed from the ice bath and stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was then evaporated under reduced pressure to give a brown residue. Residual oxalyl chloride was removed by redissolving the residue in 3 x 25 ml of dry benzene and evaporating under reduced pressure. The crude acid chloride was then redissolved in 25 ml of dichloromethane then added over 10 minutes to 50 ml of an ice-

cold solution of dry ethereal diazomethane (approximately 20 mmol) and stirred under an argon atmosphere for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was evaporated under reduced pressure to give crude diazoketone as a brown oil. The diazoketone was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using 20% ethyl acetate-hexanes as eluent yielding 8 as a yellow oil. TLC of the product with 33% ethyl acetate-hexanes mixture gave an  $R_f$ =0.36. The yield was 82% (493 mg, 3.29 mmol). The compound showed:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz);  $\delta$  3.63 (2H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.19 (1H, s, CHN<sub>2</sub>), 6.20 (1H, d, J=3.1 Hz, C3H), 6.33 (1H, dd, J=1.6 Hz, 3.1 Hz, C4H), 7.36 (1H, d, J=1.8 Hz, C5H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz); δ 40.31 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 54.55 (CHN<sub>2</sub>), 108.56 (C3), 110.74 (C4), 142.35 (C5), 148.27(C2), 190.24 (C=O)

MS [EI+]: m/z (RI%); 150 [M]<sup>+</sup>(30), 81 [M-COOH]<sup>+</sup>(100)

HRMS [EI+]: for  $C_7H_6N_2O_2$ : calculated 150.0429, observed 150.0446

#### Rhodium(II) Acetate Catalyzed Decomposition of 1-Diazo-3-(2-Furanyl)-2-Propanone (8)

To a stirred solution containing 1-diazo-3-(2-furanyl)-2-propanone (8)(100 mg, 0.67 mmol) in 100 ml of dichloromethane and 0.5 ml of water is added rhodium(II) acetate (approximately 1 mg) and the reaction was stirred for 1 hour. The reaction solution was then concentrated to ~10 ml and filtered through a small plug of silica gel. The silica gel plug is then washed several times with ethyl acetate. The eluent was combined and evaporated under reduced pressure to give the crude products which were separated by gradient column chromatography using ethyl acetate-hexanes as eluent

yielding 6a-methyl-2,3,3a,6a-tetrahydrofuro[2,3-b]furan-2-one (44) in 15% (14.2 mg, 0.10 mmol) and 2-(2-methyl-3-furanyl)acetic acid (43) in 60% (56.3 mg, 0.40 mmol).

(44) showed:

TLC:

R<sub>f</sub>=0.24 (dichloromethane as the eluent)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR:

(CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz): δ1.74 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.58 (1H, dd,

J=1.6 Hz, 18.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.86 (1H, dd, J=9.1 Hz,

18.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.40 (1H, dq, J=1.6 Hz, 9.1 Hz, C3H), 4.99 (1H, t, J=2.4

Hz, C4H), 6.33 (1H, t, *J*=2.4 Hz, C5H)

<sup>13</sup>C NMR:

(CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz):  $\delta$ 23.55 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 34.79 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 46.52 (CH-CH<sub>2</sub>-CO),

104.67 (CH=CH-O), 116.43 (C-CH<sub>3</sub>), 144.99 (CH=CH-O), 173.87 (C=O)

MS[EI+]:

m/z (RI%); 140 [M]<sup>+</sup> (100), 98 [M-CH<sub>2</sub>C=O]<sup>+</sup> (90), 97 [M+1-CO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (66),

81 [M-CH<sub>3</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub>] (69).

HRMS:

for C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: calculated 140.0473; observed 140.0475

(**43**) showed:

TLC:

R<sub>f</sub>=0.28 (ethyl acetate as the eluent)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR:

(CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz): δ2.22 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.38 (2H, s,

 $CH_2$ ), 6.28 (1H, s, CH=CH-O), 7.24 (1H, s,  $CH=\underline{C}H-O$ )

<sup>13</sup>C NMR:

(CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz): 811.82 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 31.05 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 111.02, 111.92, 140.30,

149.24(C<sub>Ar</sub>), 176.85 (C=0)

MS[EI+]:

m/z (RI%); 140 [M]<sup>+</sup> (55), 95 [M-COOH]<sup>+</sup> (100).

A stirred solution of 3-furoic acid (452 mg, 4 mmol) in 30 ml

#### Synthesis of 1-(3-Furyl)-2-Diazo-1-Ethanone

the treated with oxalyl chloride (0.42 ml, 0.61 g, 4.8 mmol) and a catalytic amount of dimethylformamide (2 drops). The resultant acid chloride was added to an ethereal diazomethane solution(25 ml, ~38 mmol) The reaction mixture was then warmed to room temperature and stirred for an additional 2 hours at which time the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure to give a yellow residue. The residue is redissolved in ether (50 ml). The solution is then filtered and the ether evaporated to give 500 mg of crude diazoketone. While the crude diazoketone can be purified *via* column chromatography on silica gel using 50% ether-hexanes mixture as eluent, the crude diazoketone may be used in the subsequent reaction. TLC of the product with 50% ether-

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz):  $\delta$ 5.63 (1H, s, CHN<sub>2</sub>), 6.61 (1H, d, J=2.2 Hz, C4H), 7.37 (1H, d, J=1.9 Hz, C5H), 7.87 (1H, s, C2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz): δ54.58 (CHN<sub>2</sub>), 108.05 (C4), 126.12 (C3), 144.08 (C5), 144.70 (C2), 180.38 (C=O)

# Synthesis of 1-Diazo-3-(3-Furanyl)-2-Propanone (52)

hexanes mixture gave an  $R_f=0.29$ . The compound showed:

A stirred solution of 1-(3-furyl)-2-diazo-1-ethanone 5 0 2 0 (150 mg, 1.10 mmol) in 200 ml dichloromethane, 0.5 ml of water and 2.0 ml of triethyl amine was irradiated at room temperature with a low pressure

		6	

mercury lamp for 3 hours. Water (30 ml) was then added to the reaction solution. The aqueous layer is then collected and the organic layer extracted with 3 x 50 ml of water. The combined aqueous extracts were acidified with concentrated hydrochloric acid (congo red indicator). The product was then extracted with 4 x 50 ml ethyl acetate. The combined organic extracts were dried with magnesium sulfate and evaporated under reduced pressure to give 48 mg (0.38 mmol) of crude 3-furan acetic acid.

Crude 3-furan acetic acid (48 mg,  $\sim$ 0.4 mmol) was dissolved in 10 ml dichloromethane under argon atmosphere and 0.1 ml of thionyl chloride was added. The reaction was then refluxed for 0.5 hour at which time the solution is cooled to room temperature and added to 10 ml of an ethereal diazomethane solution (2 mmol). The mixture was stirred for 2 hours at which time the solvent was evaporated under a reduced pressure. The resultant diazoketone was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using 33% hexanes in dichloromethane as eluent yielding a yellow oil. TLC of 52 with 33% hexanes in dichloromethane gave an  $R_f$ =0.26. The yield was 14.5% (24 mg, 0.16 mmol). The compound showed:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz):δ 3.42 (2H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.22 (1H, s, CHN<sub>2</sub>), 6.31 (1H, d, *J*=3.1 Hz, C4H), 7.34 (1H, d, *J*=3.1 Hz, C5H), 7.38 (1H, s, C2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz): δ37.12 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 54.49 (CHN<sub>2</sub>), 111.25 (C4H), 117.85 (C3), 140.60 (C5), 143.43 (C2), 192.34 (C=O).

MS[EI+]: m/z (RI%); 150 [M]<sup>+</sup> (4),136 [M-N<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (80), 94 [M-C(O)N<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (100), 81 [M+1-C(O)CHN<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (99)

#### Synthesis of 2-(4-Oxo-2-cyclopentenyliden)acetaldehyde (54)

Rhodium (II) acetate (approximately 1 mg) is added to a stirred solution of 1-diazo-3-(3-furanyl)-2-propanone (52)(100 mg, 7 0.66 mmol) in 50 ml of dichloromethane under argon atmosphere.

The reaction is stirred for 1 hour at which time the solvent is evaporated under reduced pressure to give >90% yield of keto-aldehyde (54) as the only product (as evidenced by NMR). Attempts to purify 54 using silica gel were unsuccessful due to decomposition. The product showed:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz):  $\delta 3.14$  (2H, s, C5H<sub>2</sub>), 6.14 (1H, d, J=7.0 Hz, C6H), 6.70 (1H, d, J=5.7 Hz, C2H), 8.55 (1H, d, J=5.7 Hz, C3H), 10.14 (1H, d, J=7.2 Hz, C7H)

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz): δ39.66 (C5), 124.49 (C2), 141.47 (C6), 151.68 (C3), 154.74 (C4), 188.51 (C7), 202.15 (C1).

MS[EI+]: m/z (RI%); 122 [M]<sup>+</sup>(100), 94 [M-CO]<sup>+</sup>(37), 66 [M-2CO]<sup>+</sup>(37)

HRMS: for  $C_7H_6O_2$ : calculated 122.0368, observed 122.0372.

# Synthesis of Carbethoxymethylene triphenylphosphorane<sup>87</sup>

Ph<sub>3</sub>P=CHCO<sub>2</sub>Et

Triphenylphosphorane (13.6 g, 52 mmol) was suspended in 20 ml of benzene in a 250 ml Erlenmeyer flask and heated to solution. The solution was then cooled to ~5°C using an ice bath, treated with bromo ethyl acetate (7.75 ml, 70 mmol, 11.625 g) and allowed to stir over 18 hours gradually warming to room

Isler, O., Gutmann, H., Montavon, M., Rüegg, R., Ryser, G., Zeller, P., Helv. Chim. Acta, 1957, 40, 1242.



temperature. The white precipitate formed was then filtered, washed with 3 x 30 ml ether, and dried under vacuum. The salt formed was dissolved in 100 ml water, treated with 3 drops of phenophthalein and titrated with 3M sodium hydroxide solution until a pale pink colour persisted. The white precipitate collected by filtration and was washed with water until the filtrate was colourless. The crude product was dried under vacuum. Recrystallization from ethyl acetate/hexanes gave white crystals of carbethoxymethylene triphenylphosphine. The overall yield was 76% (13.8 g, 39.6 mmol).

# Synthesis of ω-Bromo-2-hydroxyacetophenone (76)<sup>88</sup>

To a stirred solution of *o*-hydroxyacetophenone (29 ml, 32.8 g, 240 mmol) in 100 ml glacial acetic acid, a solution of

bromine (12 ml, 37.2 g, 230 mmol) in 30 ml glacial acetic acid was added slowly over 3 hours. The reaction solution was stirred for an hour after addition is completed. The reaction solution is then poured into 150 ml of water and extracted with 4 x 80 ml chloroform. The combined organic extracts are dried with sodium sulfate and evaporated under a reduced pressure. The crude product is then purified *via* vacuum distillation (b.p. 102°C @ approximately 0.4 mm Hg) and collected as a yellow solid. The product (76) can be purified further by dissolving in hexanes (10 ml per gram) and recrystallizing to obtain pale yellow crystals. The compound showed:

mp: 46°C

<sup>88</sup> Buu-Hoï, N.P., Lavit, D., J. Chem. Soc., 1955, 18.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz): δ4.43 (2H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>Br), 6.92 (1H, t, *J*=7.6 Hz, ArH), 7.00 (1H, d, *J*=8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.15 (1H, t, *J*=7.8 Hz, ArH), 7.73 (1H, d, *J*=8.2 Hz, ArH), 11.71 (1H, s, ArOH)

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz): δ29.93 (CH<sub>2</sub>Br), 117.02, 118.94, 119.27, 130.32, 137.43 (5 C<sub>Ar</sub>), 163.19 (C<sub>Ar</sub>OH), 196.98 (C=O).

MS[EI+]: m/z (RI%); 214 [M]<sup>+</sup>(11), 121 [M-CH<sub>2</sub>Br]<sup>+</sup>(100)

# Synthesis of 3-coumaranone (77)<sup>77</sup>

ω-Bromo-2-hydroxyacetophenone (10 g, 46.5 mmol) and anhydrous sodium acetate (15 g, 183 mmol) are dissolved in 100 ml of dry ethanol and refluxed for 1 hour. The reaction mixture is then poured into 100 ml of 50% sodium chloride solution to give a fine precipitate of 3-coumaranone. The precipitate is filtered, washed with 2 x 20 ml of cold water and dried under vacuum to give 3-coumaranone (77) in 98% yield (6.20 g, 45 mmol). TLC of the product with dichloromethane gave R<sub>f</sub>=0.32. The compound showed:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz): δ4.59 (2H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.06 (1H, t, *J*=7.5 Hz, C5H), 7.11 (1H, d, *J*=8.5 Hz, C4H), 7.58 (1H, t, *J*=7.5 Hz, C6H), 7.64 (1H, d, *J*=7.7 Hz, C7H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz): δ74.64 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 113.62 (C4), 121.14 (C9), 121.94 (C5), 124.03 (C6), 137.81 (C7), 173.95 (C8), 199.81 (C=O)

MS[EI+]: m/z (RI%); 134 [M] $^{+}$  (100), 105 [M+1-CH<sub>2</sub>O] $^{+}$  (83), 76 [M-C(O)-CH2)] $^{+}$  (63).

HRMS: for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: calculated 134.0368; observed 134.0371

# Synthesis of Ethyl-3-Benzofuran acetate (82)<sup>76</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz): δ1.29 (3H, t, J=7.1 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.72 (2H, s, Ar-CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.22 (2H, q, J=7.1 Hz, , CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.27-7.33 (2H, m, 2ArH), 7.49-7.65 (3H, m, 3ArH).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz):  $\delta$ 14.59 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 30.24 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 61.48 (ArCH<sub>2</sub>), 111.90 (C<sub>Ar</sub>), 113.57 (C<sub>Ar</sub>), 120.09 (C<sub>Ar</sub>), 122.99 (C<sub>Ar</sub>), 124.83 (C<sub>Ar</sub>), 128.04 (C<sub>Ar</sub>), 143.22 (C<sub>Ar</sub>), 155.60 (C<sub>Ar</sub>), 171.05 (C=O)

MS[EI+]: m/z (RI%); 204 [M] (41), 131 [M-COOEt] (100).

HRMS: for  $C_{12}H_{12}O_3$ : calculated 204.0786, observed 204.0790

#### Synthesis of 3-benzofuran acetic acid (83)

The crude ethyl-3-benzofuran acetate (82) (2.20 mg, 5 10.7 mmol) was suspended in 25 ml of 3M sodium hydroxide 6 7 1 solution. A minimum amount of ethanol was added to allow for

dissolution and the resultant solution stirred at room temperature overnight. The reaction mixture was then extracted with ether (2 x 25 ml). The aqueous layer was acidified with concentrated hydrochloric acid (congo red) and extracted with ethyl acetate (6 x 25 ml). The combined ethyl acetate extracts were then washed with brine (2 x 25 ml), dried with magnesium sulfate and evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure to give a pale yellow solid. The yield of 3-benzofuran acetic acid (83) is 58% (1.13 g, 6.4 mmol) and showed:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz): δ3.74 (2H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.27 (2H, m, C5 and C6), 7.47 (1H, d, *J*=7.8 Hz, C4H), 7.56 (1H, d, *J*=7.9 Hz, C7H), 7.62 (1H, s, C2H), 11.81 (1H, broad, COOH).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz): 8 29.49 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 111.56 (Ar-H), 112.34 (C9),119.59 (ArH), 27.71 (ArH), 124.58 (ArH), 127.39 (C3), 143.04 (C2), 155.18 (C8), 177.13 (COOH).

MS[EI+]: m/z (RI%); 176 [M]<sup>+</sup> (49), 131 [M-COOH]<sup>+</sup> (100).

HRMS: for  $C_{10}H_8O_3$ : calculated 176.0473, observed 176.0478.

# Synthesis of 1-diazo-3-(3-benzofuran)-2-propanone (84)

3-Benzofuran acetic acid (83) (470 mg, 2.7 mmol) was dissolved in 50 ml of dry dichloromethane and stirred in an ice

bath under argon atmosphere. Oxalyl chloride (0.30 ml, 3.4 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture followed by a catalytic amount of N, N-dimethyl formamide (2 drops). The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 minutes, then removed from the ice bath and stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was then evaporated under reduced pressure to give a brown residue. Residual oxalyl chloride was removed by redissolving the residue in 3 x 25 ml of dry benzene and evaporating under reduced pressure. The crude acid chloride was then redissolved in 25 ml of dichloromethane and then added over 10 minutes to 50 ml of an ice-cold solution of dry ethereal diazomethane (approximately 20 mmol) and stirred under an argon atmosphere for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was evaporated under reduced pressure to give crude diazoketone as a brown oil which was purified by column chromatography using silica gel and 20% ethyl acetate-hexanes as eluent. TLC with 50% ethyl acetate showed the product (84) with an  $R_{\rm f}$ =0.48. The yield was 74% (400 mg, 2.0 mmol). The compound showed:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz): δ3.65 (2H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.23 (1H, s, CHN<sub>2</sub>), 7.21-7.32 (2H, m, ArH), 7.46-7.54 (2H, m, ArH), 7.56 (1H, s, C2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz): δ35.68 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 54.57 (CHN<sub>2</sub>), 111.55 (C<sub>Ar</sub>), 113.62 (C9 or C3), 119.55 (C<sub>Ar</sub>), 122.81 (C<sub>Ar</sub>), 124.67 (C<sub>Ar</sub>), 127.32 (C3 or C9), 142.95 (C2), 155.24 (C8), 191.54 (C=O).

MS[EI+]: m/z (RI%); 200 [M]<sup>+</sup> (7), 172 [M-N<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (100), 144 [M-CO-N<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (31), 131 [M-C(O)CHN<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (69), 115 [M-O-C(O)CHN<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (50).

HRMS: for  $C_{11}H_8O_2N_2$ : calculated 200.0588, observed 200.0575.



# Rhodium (II) Acetate Catalyzed Decomposition of 1-Diazo-3-(3-Benzofuran)-2-Propanone (84).

### In presence of TFA:

To a solution of diazoketone (84) (100 mg, 580 mmol) in dichloromethane (50 ml) rhodium(II) acetate (~1 mg) was added followed by 1 drop of trifloroacetic acid.

After 1 hour, the reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure to about 10 ml and flushed through a small silica gel column eluted with 200 ml of ethyl acetate. Evaporation of the eluent gave 3-methyl-2-benzofuran acetic acid (88) in 62% yield (68 mg, 0.36 mmol). TLC with 33% ethyl acetate in hexanes the eluent showed the product (88) with an  $R_f = 0.1$ . The compound showed:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR:

(CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz): 82.20 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.80 (2H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.2-7.3 (2H,

m, ArH), 7.41 (1H, d, J= 7.8 Hz, ArH), 7.45 (1H, d, J=7.2 Hz, ArH).

MS[EI+]:

m/z (RI%); 190 [M]<sup>+</sup> (44), 145 [M-COOH]<sup>+</sup> (100).

To a stirred solution of the diazoketone (84) (100

## In presence of methanol:

mg, 0.50 mmol), 0.1 ml methanol and 50 ml of

dichloromethane under argon atmosphere at room temperature was added 1 mg of
rhodium (II) acetate. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 1 hour. Upon
consumption of the diazoketone (as evidenced by TLC), the reaction mixture was
concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column

chromatography using silica gel with dichloromethane as eluent. The yield was 71% (72 mg, 0.35 mmol) of the phenolic diene (91). TLC with 33% ethyl acetate in hexanes the eluent showed the product (91) with an  $R_f = 0.17$ . The compound showed:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz): δ3.71 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.91 (1H, s, ArOH), 5.59 and 5.88 (each 1H, d, *J*=1.5 Hz, C7H<sub>2</sub>), 5.66 (1H, d, *J*=15.7 Hz, C10H), 6.90-6.94 (2H, m, 2ArH), 7.04 and 7.23 (each 1H, dd, *J*=1.8, 7.8 Hz, ArH), 7.53 (1H, d, *J*=15.6 Hz, C9H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz): δ 51.71 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 115.87, 120.64, 122.15, 124.19, 127.53, 129.78, 130.01, 142.11, 145.03, 152.39(C<sub>Ar</sub>-OH), 167.15(C=O)

MS[EI+]: m/z (RI%); 204 [M]<sup>+</sup> (73), 189 [M-CH<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (11), 172 [M-CH<sub>3</sub>-OH]<sup>+</sup> (45), 145 [M-COOCH<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (100), 115 [M-OH-CH-COOCH<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (50)

HRMS: for  $C_{12}H_{12}O_3$ : calculated 204.0786, observed 204.0788

## In the presence of allyl alcohol:

To a stirred solution of the diazoketone (84) (60 mg, 0.3 mmol) and allyl alcohol (0.5 ml, 7.4

mmol) in 30 ml of dichloromethane was added  $\sim$ 1 mg of rhodium (II) acetate. The resultant solution was stirred under an argon atmosphere for 1 day at room temperature. The solvent was subsequently evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue purified by column chromatography using silica gel and dichloromethane as eluent. TLC in ethyl acetate showed the product (94) with an  $R_f$ = 0.28. The yield was 77% (532 mg, 0.23 mmol). The compound showed:



<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz): δ 4.62 (2H, dt, *J*=1.2 and 5.8 Hz, C13H<sub>2</sub>), 5.08 (1H, s, OH), 5.22 (1H, dd, *J*=10.4 Hz and 1.2 Hz, C15H), 5.30 (1H, dd, *J*=1.5 and 17.2 Hz, C15H), 5.60 (1H, d, *J*=1.4 Hz, C7H), 5.67 (1H, d, *J*=15.7 Hz, C10H), 5.89 (1H, br, C7H), 5.85-5.96 (1H, m, C14H), 6.90-6.94 (2H, m, Ar-H), 7.04 (1H, dd, *J*=1.7 and 7.8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.23-7.25 (1H, m, ArH), 7.55 (1H, d, *J*=15.7 Hz, C9H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz): δ 65.32 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 115.88, 118.53, 120.64, 122.16, 124.21, 127.64, 129.78, 130.05, 132.03, 142.15, 145.27, 152.42, 166.39 (C=O).

MS[EI+]: m/z (RI%); 230 [M]<sup>+</sup> (100), 189 [M-C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>5</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (79), 145 [M-CO<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>5</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (71), 115 [M-OH-CO<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (63)

HRMS: for  $C_{14}H_{14}O_3$ : calculated 230.0943, observed 230.0958

Synthesis of Allyl 2-(3-methylene-2,3-dihydrobenzo[b]furan-2-yl) acetate (95) via the

Intramolecular Michael Addition of Allyl (2Z)-4-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-2,4-pentadienoate (94)

Reflux a solution of 94 (50 mg, 220 mmol) in

5 ml toluene for 2 days. The solvent was then evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue purified by column chromatography using silica gel and 10% to 25% ethyl acetate in hexanes as eluent. TLC with 20% ethyl acetate in hexanes as the eluent showed the product with an  $R_f = 0.61$ . The conversion to (95) was 18% (9.1 mg, 0.04 mmol) with 64% (32.5 mg, 014 mmol) being the recovered starting material (94).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR:

(CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz): δ2.78 (1H, dd, *J*=4.6, 14.7 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>COO), 2.84 (1H, dd, *J*=7.8, 14.7 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>COO), 4.69 (2H, dd, *J*=1.2 Hz, 5.7 Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH=CH), 4.97 (1H, d, *J*=2.4 Hz, ArC=CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.24 (1H, dt, *J*=1.2 Hz, 10.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.53 (1H,dt, *J*=1.4 Hz, 17.2 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.43 (1H, d, *J*=2.9 Hz, ArC=CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.55-5.59 (1H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.74-5.97 (1H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.83-6.92 (2H, m, ArH), 7.20 (1H, t, *J*=7.7 Hz, ArH), 7.37 (1H, d, *J*=7.7 Hz, ArH).

MS[EI+]:

 $m/z(RI\%);230 [M]^+(67), 145 [M-COO-C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>5</sub>]^+(100)$ 

HRMS:

for C<sub>14</sub>O<sub>14</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: calculated 230.09429, observed 230.09358

### Synthesis of Ethyl-2-benzofuran acetate (67)

Ethyl-2-benzofuran was prepared by a Wittig 6 7 reaction of 2-coumaranone and carbethoxymethylene triphenyl phosphorane following the similar procedure as for the prepara

triphenyl phosphorane following the similar procedure as for the preparation of ethyl-3-benzofuran acetate (84). The ethyl ester (67) can be purified by column chromatography using silica gel and 30% ether-hexanes as the eluent. TLC with 33% ethyl acetate in hexanes as the eluent showed that 67 has an  $R_f = 0.50$ . The yield was 73%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz): δ1.28 (3H, t, J=7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.82 (2H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>-Ar), 4.21 (2H, q, J=7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>), 6.62 (1H, s, C3H), 7.17-7.27 (2H, m, Ar-H), 7.44 (1H, d, J=8.0 Hz, Ar-H), 7.51 (1H, d, J=7.1 Hz, Ar-H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz): δ14.09 (CH<sub>2</sub>-<u>C</u>H<sub>3</sub>), 34.64 (Ar-<u>C</u>H<sub>2</sub>), 61.33 (<u>C</u>H<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>), 104.98 , 110.98, 120.66, 122.64, 123.83 , 128.67, 150.73, 154.85 (Ar), 168.79 (CO).

 $MS[EI+]: m/z(RI\%): 204 [M]^{+} (45), 131 [M-COOEt]^{+} (100)$ 

HRMS: for  $C_{12}H_{12}O_3$ : calculated 204.0786, observed 204.0792

2-Benzofuran acetic acid was prepared by the

### Synthesis of 2-benzofuran acetic acid (68)

hydrolysis of its corresponding ester with 5% sodium

7 1

hydroxide using the same procedure as that employed in the hydrolysis of ethyl-3-

benzofuran acetate. The crude yield was 60% and was used for the preparation of diazoketone (69) without further purification.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz): δ3.78 (2H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.65(1H, s, C3H), 7.17-7.28 (2H, m, C5H and C6H), 7.44 (1H, d, *J*=7.8 Hz, C4H), 7.52 (1H, d, *J*=7.8 Hz, C7H), 9.43 (1H, broad, COOH).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz): δ34.29 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 105.54, 111.08, 120.83, 122.81, 124.14 (5C<sub>Ar</sub>), 128.31 (C8), 149.66, 154.93 (2O-C<sub>Ar</sub>), 175.13 (CO).

MS[EI+]: m/z (RI%): 176  $[M]^+$  (39), 131  $[M-COOH]^+$  (100).

HRMS: for  $C_{10}H_8O_3$ : calculated 176.0473, observed 176.0474.

## Synthesis of 1-Diazo-3-(2-Benzofuran)-2-Propanone (69)

5 4 9 3 0 CHN<sub>2</sub>

The diazoketone was prepared following the procedure employed for the synthesis of 1-diazo-3-(3-

benzofuran)-2-propanone (84). The reaction mixture can be purified by column chromatography using silica gel with 50% dichloromethane-hexanes as eluent. TLC with dichloromethane as the eluent showed the product (69) with an  $R_{\rm f}$  = 0.28. The yield was 66%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz): δ 3.77 (2H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.31 (1H, s, CHN<sub>2</sub>), 6.60 (1H, s, C3H), 7.15-7.28 (2H, m, ArH), 7.43 (1H, d, *J*=8.1 Hz, ArH), 7.52 (1H, d, *J*=8.0 Hz, ArH).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 Hz): δ 40.76 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 55.04 (CHN<sub>2</sub>), 105.62, 111.06, 120.79, 122.92, 124.18, 128.40, 151.18, 155.01 (8 Ar-C), δ184.55 (C=O).

MS[EI+]: m/z (RI%): 200 [M]<sup>+</sup> (34), 172 [M-N<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (82), 144 [M-CO-N<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (62), 131 [M-CO-N<sub>2</sub>-CH]<sup>+</sup> (100), 115 (56).

HRMS: for  $C_{11}H_8N_2O_2$ : calculated 200.0586, observed 200.0574.

# Rhodium(II) Acetate Catalyzed Decomposition of 1-Diazo-

To a stirred solution of diazoketone 69 (100 mg, 0.5

# 3-(2-Benzofuran)-2-Propanone (69)

5 4 9 3 OMe

mmol) in 50 ml of dichloromethane and 3 drops of methanol under argon atmosphere was added about 1 mg of rhodium(II) acetate. The reaction solution was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. Then the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the

residue was purified by column chromatography using silica gel and 30% dichloromethane-hexanes as eluent to yield methyl 2-(2-methylbenzo[b]furan-3-yl)acetate (74) as the only isolable product. TLC with dichloromethane as the eluent showed the product with an  $R_f = 0.20$ . The yield was 58% (42 mg, 0.29mmol).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz): δ 2.42 (3H, s, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.60 (2H, s, Ar-CH<sub>2</sub>-C=O), 3.67 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.13-7.26 (2H, m, ArH), 7.32-7.4 (1H, m, ArH), 7.41-7.47 (1H, m, ArH).

MS[EI+]: m/z (RI%): 204 [M]<sup>+</sup>(52), 145 [M-COOMe]<sup>+</sup>(100).

## Synthesis of 2-thianaphthaldehyde (106)89

5 9 3 2 O 6 8 S H

To a stirred solution of benzothiophene (10.0g, 75 mmol) in 60 ml of anhydrous ether under argon atmosphere at -78°C,

was added n-butyllithium in hexanes solution (7.3 M, 11.0 ml, 80 mmol). The reaction solution was stirred and allowed to warm up to 0°C slowly. The lithiated benzothiophene was then added to a stirred solution of DMF (5.5 g, 5.8 ml, 75 mmol) in 50 ml of anhydrous ether *via* a cannular and the resultant mixture stirred overnight under argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was then poured into 30 ml of 3M hydrochloric acid and extracted with 3 x 50 ml of ether. The organic extracts were combined, washed with 3 x 50 ml of 1M hydrochloric acid followed by 50 ml of saturated sodium bicarbonate solution. The ether layer was then dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate and evaporated under a reduced pressure. The crude aldehyde (106) was then purified by

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>89</sup> Shirley, D. A., Danzig, M. J., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1952, 74, 2935.

dissolving the residue in a small amount of ethanol and treating with 50 ml of saturated sodium bisulfite solution. The resultant mixture was mixed thoroughly and then allowed to stand for 20 minutes. The crystalline bisulfite compound was filtered off, washed with ether and dried under a vacuum. The aldehyde can be regenerated taking a cooled aqueous solution of the bisulfite addition compound and treating with excess saturated sodium carbonate solution. The precipitated aldehyde can then be filtered off and dried. TLC with 20% ethyl acetate in hexanes as the eluent showed the product (106) with an  $R_{\rm f}$  = 0.63. The overall yield was 60% (7.1g, 0.44 mmol). The product showed:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz): δ 7.39-7.51 (2H, m, Ar-H), 7.88 (1H, d, *J*=7.8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.92 (1H, d, *J*=8.3 Hz, Ar-H), 8.00 (1H, s, Ar-H), 10.09 (1H, s, CHO).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz): δ 123.27, 125.22, 126.24, 128.13, 134.43, 138.51, 142.64, 143.32 (Ar), 184.63(CO).

MS [EI+]: m/z (RI%): 162 [M]<sup>+</sup> (100), 133 [M-CHO]<sup>+</sup> (18.3), 89 [M-SCCHO]<sup>+</sup> (32).

HRMS: for  $C_9H_6OS$ : calculated 162.0139, observed 162.0146.

# Synthesis of Tetraethyldimethylaminomethylenediphosphonate (105)<sup>79</sup>

To a stirred solution of DMF (7.6 ml, 7.16 g, 97.9 mmol) in 150 ml of anhydrous ether in ice bath under an argon atmosphere, a solution of oxalyl chloride (8.6 ml, 12.51 g, 98.5 mmol) in 20 ml of

$$\begin{bmatrix} O \\ (EtO)_2 - P \end{bmatrix}_2 N -$$

anhydrous ether was added. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for an additional hour. Triethyl phosphite (37 ml, 35.85 g, 216



mmol) was then added dropwise and the reaction mixture stirred for another hour. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure then vacuum distilled (135°C @ 0.15 mmHg) to give 88% yield (28.4 g, 85.8 mmol) of 105 as pale yellow oil. The compound showed:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz):  $\delta$  1.22 (12H, t, J=6.9, CH<sub>2</sub>C $\underline{\text{H}}_3$ ), 2.50 and 2.51 (each 3H, s, N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 3.21 (1H, broad t, J~24.9 Hz, CH-P), 4.06 (8H, q, J=6.8 Hz, C $\underline{\text{H}}_2$ CH<sub>3</sub>).

MS[EI+]: m/z (RI%): 331 [M]<sup>+</sup> (5.2), 133 [M-PO(OEt)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (100).

HRMS: for  $C_{11}H_{27}NO_6P_2$ : calculated 331.0746, observed 331.1300.

# Synthesis of the 2-Benzothiophene Phosphonate (107)<sup>79</sup>

40% Sodium hydride dispersed in mineral oil (550 mg, 23 mmol) was washed 3 times with hexanes, then

suspended in 20 ml of tetrahydrofuran (THF). A solution of tetraethyldimethylamino methylenediphosphonate (105) (5.52 g, 16.7 mmol) in 200 ml of THF was then added slowly while stirring. One hour after the addition, a solution of 2-thianaphthaldehyde (106) (2.7 g, 16.7 mmol) in 20 ml of THF was added, and the resultant mixture refluxed gently for one hour. The solvent was then evaporated and the residue was partitioned between ether and water. The aqueous layer was extracted with 3 x 50 ml of ether. The combined extracts were dried with magnesium sulfate and evaporated to dryness. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using silica gel with 20% ethyl acetate in hexanes as eluent to yield the desired phosphonate (3.53 g, 10.4 mmol, 61.5%

yield) together with a small amount of starting material and reduced product (2-thianaphthol). TLC of the product with 50% ethyl acetate in hexanes gave an  $R_{\rm f}$  = 0.29. The compound showed:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz):  $\delta$  1.34 (6H, t, J=6.9 Hz,  $CH_2C\underline{H}_3$ ), 2.65 and 2.66 (each 3H, s,  $N(CH_3)_2$ ), 4.12 (4H, q, J=6.6 Hz,  $C\underline{H}_2CH_3$ ), 7.24-7.36 (4H, m, ArH), 7.67-7.74 (2H, m, Ar-H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz): δ 16.19, 43.91, 61.56, 121.98, 123.66, 125.14, 127.24, 131.49, 131.99, 137.35, 137.92, 142.38 (Ar).

MS[EI+]: m/z (RI%): 339 [M]<sup>+</sup> (100), 295 [M-NMe<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (20), 202 [M-PO(OEt)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (84), 187 [M-PO(OEt)<sub>2</sub>-Me]<sup>+</sup> (48), 172 [M-PO(OEt)<sub>2</sub>-Me<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (70).

HRMS: for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>PS: calculated 339.0774359, observed 339.1044

## Synthesis of 2-Benzothiophene acetic acid (108)<sup>79</sup>

5 8 S O OH

A solution of the phosphonate (107) (1.0 g, 2.95 mmol) in 50 ml of 12N hydrochloric acid was refluxed

for 30 minutes. The mixture was then cooled, poured into 300 ml of ice-water, and extracted 4 times with 100 ml of ether. The combined organic layer was then dried with magnesium sulfate and treated with activated charcoal to give a pale yellow solution of 108. Evaporation of the ether gave 500 mg of 108 as yellowish crystalline solid (2.60 mmol, 88% yield). The compound showed:

M.P.: 140-142°C.

1		

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz): δ 3.98(2H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.18 (1H, s, C3H), 7.25-7.36 (2H, m, Ar-H), 7.73 (1H, d, *J*=6.8 Hz, ArH), 7.81 (1H, d, *J*=7.5 Hz, ArH), 9.40 (1H, broad, COOH).

MS[EI+]: m/z(RI%): 192[M]<sup>+</sup>(39), 147[M-COOH]<sup>+</sup>(100).

HRMS: for  $C_{10}H_8O_2S$ : calculated 192.0245, observed 192.0243.

### Synthesis of 1-Diazo-3-(2-Benzothienyl)-2-Propanone (109)

The diazoketone was prepared following the procedure employed for the synthesis of 1-diazo-3-(3-

benzofuran)-2-propanone (84). The reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography using silica gel with 33% hexanes in dichloromethane as eluent. TLC of the product (109) with 50% ethyl acetate in hexanes gave an  $R_{\rm f}$  = 0.64. The yield was 76%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz): δ 3.85 (2H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.31 (1H, s, CHN<sub>2</sub>), 7.14 (1H, s, C3H), 7.26-7.35 (2H, m, Ar-H), 7.70 (1H, d, *J*=6.8 Hz, Ar-H), 7.77 (1H, d, *J*=7.1 Hz, Ar-H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 Hz): δ 42.44 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 54.97 (CHN<sub>2</sub>), 122.15, 123.23, 123.87, 124.27, 124.43, 136.69, 139.74, 140.05 (8 C<sub>Ar</sub>), 190.71 (C=O)

MS[EI+]: m/z (RI%): 216 [M]<sup>+</sup> (13), 188 [M-N<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (69), 160 [M-CO-N<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (100), 147 [M-CO-N<sub>2</sub>-CH<sup>+</sup> (90), 115 (57).

HRMS: for  $C_{11}H_8N_2OS$ : calculated 216.0357, observed 216.0368.



# Rhodium(II) Acetate Catalyzed Decomposition of 1-Diazo-3-(2-Benzothienyl)-2Propanone (109)

To a stirred solution of diazoketone (109) (140 mg, 0.66 mmol) in 50 ml dichloromethane under an argon atmosphere, 1 mg of rhodium (II) acetate was added. The reaction was stirred for 1 hour at which time the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the products separated by column chromatography on silica gel using 50% dichloromethane in hexanes as the eluent. Two major products were obtained. 2,3-Dihydro-1*H*-benzo[*b*]cyclopenta[*d*]thiophen-2-one (102) (26.1 mg, 0.14 mmol, 21% yield) showed:

TLC:  $R_f = 0.20$  (using 50% dichloromethane in hexanes as the eluent)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz): δ 3.53 (2H, s, C5H), 3.64 (2H, s, C3H), 7.30-7.41 (2H, m, C9H and C10H), 7.60 (1H, d, *J*=7.4 Hz, C8H), 7.85 (1H, d, *J*=7.8 Hz, C11H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 Hz): δ40.78 (C5), 42.44(C3), 121.84, 123.25, 124.45, 124.72, 134.75, 135.19, 136.89, 141.95 (8 C<sub>Ar</sub>), 213.16(CO).

MS [EI+]: m/z (RI%): 188 [M]<sup>+</sup>(38), 160 [M-CO]<sup>+</sup>(100), 115 (29).

HRMS: for  $C_{10}H_8O_2S$ : calculated 188.0296, observed 188.0292.

Dimeric product (71.0 mg, 0.19 mmol, 28% yield(from 56% of S.M.)) showed:

TLC:  $R_f = 0.76$  (using 50% ethyl acetate in hexanes as the eluent)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz):  $\delta 3.32$ , 3.41 (1H each, dd, J= 5.0, 15.1 Hz), 4.87, 4.93 (1H each, t, J= 2.0 Hz), 4.97 (1H, br), 5.25 (1H, t(br), J=5.2 Hz), 6.85

(2H, m), 6.97, 7.04 (1H each, s), 7.12 (2H, d, *J*=3.3 Hz), 7.30 (2H, m), 7.67, 7.74 (1H each, dd, *J*=2.2, 6.8 Hz)

MS[EI+]:

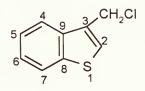
m/z (RI%): 376 [M]<sup>+</sup> (18), 147 (100).

HRMS:

for  $C_{22}H_{16}O_2S_2$ : calculated 376.0592, observed 376.0570.

## Synthesis of 3-Chloromethyl Benzothiophene (97) 78

A rapid stream of hydrogen chloride gas was bubbled for one hour through a stirred solution of benzothiophene (6.55 g, 53.5 mmol) and 37% aqueous formaldehyde (5.0 ml, 60 mmol) in



12N hydrochloric acid (5 ml). The rate of the hydrogen gas bubbling was then decreased and the mixture stirred for another 6 hours. The reaction mixture was poured into 20 ml of ice water, and the organic layer separated. The aqueous layer was then extracted with 3 x 50 ml portions of ether. The combined organic layers were then washed successively with water, sodium bicarbonate, and water respectively. The ether layer was then dried with magnesium sulfate and evaporated under a reduced pressure. The crude product was then purified by vacuum distillation (0.15 mm Hg) to obtain benzothiophene (1.2 g) and the desired 3-chloromethyl benzothiophene (97) (5.2 g, 28.5 mmol, 65% yield). The product showed:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz); δ 4.90 (2H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.49 (1H, s, Ar-H), 7.51-7.60 (2H, m, 2 x Ar-H), 8.00 (t, 2H, J=8.9 Hz, 2 x Ar-H)

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz); δ 39.35 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 121.67, 122.69, 124.20, 124.57, 126.09, 131.62, 136.96, 140.24 (Ar).

MS[EI+]: m/z (RI%); 182 [M]<sup>+</sup> (26), 147 [M-Cl]<sup>+</sup> (100).

HRMS: for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub>ClS: Calculated 181.9957, observed 181.9953.

## Synthesis of 3-Cyanomethylthianaphthene (98)<sup>68</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz);  $\delta$  3.87 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.37-7.46 (m, 3H, 3 x ArH),

7.68 (dd, 1H, J=6.5, 2.3 Hz, ArH), 7.87 (dd, 1H, J=6.5, 2.2 Hz, ArH)

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz); δ 17.66 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 116.92 (CN), 120.76, 123.09, 123.81,

124.60, 124.89, 124.99, 136.91, 140.38 (Ar).

MS[EI+]: m/z (RI%); 173  $[M]^+(100)$ , 147  $[M-CN]^+(21)$ .

HRMS: for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>7</sub>NS: Calculated 173.0299, observed 173.0295.

### Synthesis of 3-Benzothiophene acetic acid (99)

A mixture of 3-cyanomethyl benzothiophene (98) (5.04 g, 29.1 mmol) in 5 ml of 20% sodium hydroxide solution was stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction mixture was

then diluted to 25 ml with water and extracted with 2 x 10 ml portions of ether. The aqueous solution was then acidified with 12N hydrochloric acid (congo red) and extracted with 3 x 50 ml portions of ethyl acetate. The ethyl acetate extracts were then combined, dried with magnesium sulfate and treated with activated charcoal. The solvent was then removed under a reduced pressure to obtain a white crystalline product. The yield was 51% (2.86 g, 14.9 mmol). The product showed:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz); δ 3.89 (2H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.33-7.42 (3H, m, 3ArH), 7.75 (1H, dd, *J*=6.8, 1.9 Hz, ArH), 7.86 (1H, dd, *J*=6.8, 2.1 Hz, ArH), ~11 (1H, broad, COOH).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz); δ 34.11 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 121.63, 122.86, 124.25, 124.47, 125.04, 127.31, 128.33, 140.12 (Ar), 177.15 (COOH).

MS[EI+]: m/z (RI%); 173  $[M]^+$  (100), 147  $[M-COOH]^+$  (21).

HRMS: for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>7</sub>NS: Calculated 173.0299, observed 173.0295.

## Synthesis of 1-Diazo-3-(3-Benzothienyl)-2-Propanone (100)

The diazoketone (100) was prepared following the procedure employed for the synthesis of 1-diazo-3-(3-

benzofuran)-2-propanone (84). The reaction mixture was purified by column



chromatography using silica gel and 33% hexanes in dichloromethane as the eluent. TLC of the product (100) with 50% ethyl acetate in hexanes gave an  $R_f = 0.61$ . The yield was 77%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz); δ 3.82 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.11 (s, 1H, CHN<sub>2</sub>), 7.27 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 7.33-7.39 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.72 (dd, 1H, *J*=6.7, 2.2 Hz, Ar-H), 7.85 (dd, 1H, *J*=6.7, 2.2 Hz, Ar-H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz); δ40.93 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 54.59 (CHN<sub>2</sub>), 121.68, 122.82, 124.33, 124.56, 124.90, 128.96, 138.28, 140.21 (C<sub>Ar</sub>), 191.78(CO).

MS[EI+]: m/z (RI%); 216 [M] $^{+}$ (13), 187 [M-N<sub>2</sub>-H] $^{+}$ (28), 160 [M-CO-N<sub>2</sub>] $^{+}$ (40), 147 [M-COCHN<sub>2</sub>] $^{+}$ (100), 115 (52).

HRMS: for  $C_{11}H_8N_2OS$ : calculated 216.0357, observed 216.0364.

To a stirred solution of rhodium acetate (~1 mg) in

# Rhodium(II) Acetate Catalyzed Decomposition of 1-Diazo-3-(3-Benzothienyl)-2-Propanone (100)

5 6 7 8 8 1

dichloromethane (100 ml) under argon atmosphere, was added a solution of the diazoketone (100) (100 mg, 0.5 mmol) in dichloromethane (1 ml) over 10 hours using a syringe pump. The reaction mixture was stirred for an additional five hours after the addition is complete. The solvent was evaporated under a reduced pressure and the residue purified by column chromatography using silica gel and 67% dichloromethane in hexanes as eluent, yielding 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-benzo[*b*]cyclopenta[*d*] thiophen-2-one (102)as



the only isolable product in 73%. The compound shows identical spectroscopic properties (MS and NMR) as the minor product isolated in the previous system.

#### X-RAY CRYSTALLOGRAPHY

All crystallographic determinations were made by Dr. Christopher S. Frampton (Roche Products Ltd., 40 Broadwater Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts., AL7 3AY, U.K.)

Crystal data for (3): C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>6</sub>OS, M = 138.18, monoclinic, space group  $P2_1/c$ ,  $\alpha = 6.414(2)$ , b = 13.309(2), c = 7.542(1) Å,  $\beta = 106.90(2)^{\circ}$ , V = 616.0(2) Å<sup>3</sup>, Z = 4,  $D_c = 1.490$ g cm<sup>-3</sup>, F(000) = 288,  $\mu$ (Mo-Kα) = 0.421 mm<sup>-1</sup>, T = 123 K. Intensities ( $h k \pm l$ ) of a colourless prism (dimensions 0.10 x 0.20 x 0.25 mm) were collected by the  $\omega$ -2θ scan method to  $2\theta_{\text{max}} = 54^{\circ}$ . A total of 1463 reflections were collected of which 1348 were unique ( $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0176$ ). Data collected for Lorentz polarization and decay (0.64%) but not for absorption. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atoms located by difference synthesis were included in the model but not refined. Full-matrix least-squares refinement of 82 parameters gave R1 = 0.0349 and wR2 = 0.1030 for  $I \ge 2\sigma(I)$  and R1 = 0.0433, wR2 = 0.1099, S = 1.055 for all data. The largest difference peak and hole = 0.455 and -0.434 eÅ<sup>-3</sup> respectively.

Crystal data for (20):  $C_{14}H_{12}O_2S_2$ , M = 276.36, monoclinic, space group  $P2_1/n$ , a = 9.837(2), b = 5.890(2), c = 21.6728(14) Å,  $\beta = 94.219(9)^\circ$ , V = 1252.4(4) Å  $^3$ , Z = 4,  $D_c = 1.466$ g cm<sup>-3</sup>, F(000) = 576,  $\mu(\text{Mo-K}\alpha) = 0.414$  mm<sup>-1</sup>, T = 123 K. Intensities (h k # I) of a cream coloured prism (dimensions  $0.10 \times 0.22 \times 0.45$  mm) were collected by the  $\omega$ -20

scan method to  $2\theta_{max} = 54^{\circ}$ . A total of 2905 reflections were collected of which 2746 were unique (R<sub>int</sub> = 0.0386). Data collected for Lorentz polarization and decay (0.71%) but not for absorption. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atoms located by difference synthesis were included in the model but not refined. Full-matrix least-squares refinement of 163 parameters gave R1 = 0.0356 and wR2 = 0.0899 for  $I \ge 2\sigma(I)$  and R1 = 0.0569, wR2 = 0.0980, S = 1.036 for all data. The largest difference peak and hole = 0.364 and -0.299 e Å<sup>-3</sup> respectively.

Tables of crystallographic information for 3 and 20 appear in Appendices I and II, respectively.



Identification code	rwx0226
Empirical formula	C(7) H(6) O S
Formula weight	138.18
Temperature	123(1) K
Wavelength	0.71069 A
Crystal system	Monoclinic
Space group	P 21/c
Unit cell dimensions	a = 6.414(2) A alpha = 90 deg. b = 13.309(2) A beta = 106.90(2) deg. c = 7.5423(12) A gamma = 90 deg.
Volume	616.0(2) A^3
z	4
Density (calculated)	1.490 Mg/m^3
Absorption coefficient	0.421 mm^-1
F(000)	288
Crystal size	$0.25 \times 0.20 \times 0.10 \text{ mm}$
Theta range for data collection	3.06 to 27.00 deg.
Index ranges	0<=h<=8, 0<=k<=16, -9<=1<=9
Reflections collected	1463
Independent reflections	1348 [R(int) = 0.0176]
Absorption correction	None
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F^2
Data / restraints / parameters	1348 / 0 / 82
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.055
<pre>Final R indices [I&gt;2sigma(I)]</pre>	R1 = 0.0349, $wR2 = 0.1030$
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0433, $wR2 = 0.1099$
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.455 and -0.434 e.A^-3

Table 2. Atomic coordinates (  $\times$  10^4) and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters (A^2  $\times$  10^3) for rwx0226. U(eq) is defined as one third of the trace of the orthogonalized Uij tensor.

	×	У	z	U(eq)
S(1)	4594(1)	3799(1)	1278(1)	18(1)
0(1)	-1903(2)	3766(1)	-4785(2)	26(1)
C(1)	3150(3)	3723(1)	2874(2)	18(1)
C(2)	929(3)	3685(1)	2080(2)	14(1)
C(3)	431(3)	3718(1)	88(2)	14(1)
C(4)	-1623(3)	3686(1)	-1493(2)	16(1)
C(5)	-770(3)	3772(1)	-3188(2)	17(1)
C(6)	1730(3)	3865(1)	-2584(2)	16(1)
C(7)	2237(3)	3791(1)	-519(2)	15(1)

Table 3. Selected bond lengths [A] and angles [deg] for rwx0226.

0/11 0/21		
S(1)-C(7)	1.712(2)	
S(1)-C(1)	1.722(2)	
0(1)-C(5)	1.213(2)	
C(1)-C(2)	1.376(3)	
C(2)-C(3)	1.443(2)	
C(3)-C(7)	1.367(2)	
C(3) - C(4)	1.498(2)	
C(4) - C(5)	1.534(2)	
C(5) - C(6)	1.539(3)	
C(6)-C(7)	1.499(2)	
C(7)-S(1)-C(1)	91.27(9)	
C(2) - C(1) - S(1)	113.42(13)	
C(1) - C(2) - C(3)	109.8(2)	
C(7) - C(3) - C(2)	113.5(2)	
C(7) - C(3) - C(4)	111.7(2)	
C(2) - C(3) - C(4)	134.8(2)	
C(3) - C(4) - C(5)	102.53(14)	
O(1) - C(5) - C(4)	124.9(2)	
O(1) - C(5) - C(6)	124.5(2)	
C(4) - C(5) - C(6)	110.64(14)	
C(7)-C(6)-C(5)	101.23(14)	
C(3) - C(7) - C(6)	113.8(2)	
C(3) - C(7) - S(1)	112.02(14)	
C(6) - C(7) - S(1)	134.17(13)	

Table 2. Atomic coordinates (  $\times$  10^4) and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters (A^2  $\times$  10^3) for rwx0226. U(eq) is defined as one third of the trace of the orthogonalized Uij tensor.

	×	У	z	U(eq)
S(1)	4594(1)	3799(1)	1278(1)	18(1)
0(1)	-1903(2)	3766(1)	-4785(2)	26(1)
C(1)	3150(3)	3723(1)	2874(2)	18(1)
C(2)	929(3)	3685(1)	2080(2)	14(1)
C(3)	431(3)	3718(1)	88(2)	14(1)
C(4)	-1623(3)	3686(1)	-1493(2)	16(1)
C(5)	-770(3)	3772(1)	-3188(2)	17(1)
C(6)	1730(3)	3865(1)	-2584(2)	16(1)
C(7)	2237(3)	3791(1)	-519(2)	15(1)

Table 3. Selected bond lengths [A] and angles [deg] for rwx0226.

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1.499(2)	
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112.02(14)	
134.17(13)	
	1.712(2) 1.722(2) 1.213(2) 1.376(3) 1.443(2) 1.367(2) 1.498(2) 1.534(2) 1.539(3) 1.499(2) 91.27(9) 113.42(13) 109.8(2) 113.5(2) 111.7(2) 134.8(2) 102.53(14) 124.9(2) 124.5(2) 110.64(14) 101.23(14) 113.8(2) 112.02(14)

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Table 4. Bond lengths [A] and angles [deg] for rwx0226.

Table 4.	вопа	rengths	[A]	and angles	[deg]	LOI	IWXUZZO.	
S(1)-C(7) S(1)-C(1) O(1)-C(5) C(1)-C(2) C(2)-C(3) C(3)-C(7) C(3)-C(4) C(4)-C(5) C(5)-C(6) C(6)-C(7) C(1)-H(1) C(2)-H(2) C(4)-H(3) C(4)-H(4) C(6)-H(5) C(6)-H(6)				1.712(2) 1.722(2) 1.213(2) 1.376(3) 1.443(2) 1.367(2) 1.498(2) 1.534(2) 1.539(3) 1.499(2) 0.919(2) 0.897(2) 0.971(2) 0.994(2) 0.979(2) 1.021(2)				-
C(7) -S(1) -C(2) -C(1) -C(2) -C(3) -C(3) -C(4) -C(5) -C(6) -C(7) -C(6) -C(7) -C(6) -C(1) -C(2) -C(1) -C(2) -C(1) -C(2) -C(1) -C(2) -C(1) -C(2) -C(4) -C(5) -C(4) -C(5) -C(4) -C(5) -C(4) -C(5) -C(4) -C(5) -C(4) -C(5) -C(6) -C(7) -C(6) -	-S(1) -C(3) -C(3) -C(2) -C(4) -C(5) -C(6) -C(6) -C(6) -S(1) -S(1) -H(1) -H(2) -H(3) -H(4) -H(4) -H(4) -H(5) -H(6)			91.27(9) 113.42(13) 109.8(2) 113.5(2) 111.7(2) 134.8(2) 102.53(14) 124.5(2) 110.64(14) 101.23(14) 113.8(2) 112.02(14) 134.17(13) 130.5(2) 116.1(2) 121.8(2) 128.3(2) 116.7(2) 107.1(2) 116.1(2) 107.1(2) 116.1(2) 107.1(2) 116.5(2) 111.6(2) 110.5(2) 112.8(2) 112.8(2) 112.8(2) 112.8(2)				

Table 5. Anisotropic displacement parameters (A^2 x 10^3) for rwx0226. The anisotropic displacement factor exponent takes the form: -2 pi^2 [ h^2 a\*^2 U11 + ... + 2 h k a\* b\* U12 ]

	U11	U22	U33	U23	U13	U12
S(1)	16(1)	22(1)	15(1)	1(1)	2(1)	0(1)
0(1)	24(1)	37(1)	13(1)	-2(1)	-1(1)	1(1)
C(1)	21(1)	20(1)	10(1)	1(1)	1(1)	0(1)
C(2)	18(1)	12(1)	11(1)	1(1)	2(1)	0(1)
C(3)	17(1)	13(1)	12(1)	0(1)	3(1)	0(1)
C(4)	15(1)	17(1)	15(1)	1(1)	2(1)	-1(1)
C(5)	20(1)	15(1)	14(1)	-1(1)	2(1)	0(1)
C(6)	18(1)	19(1)	11(1)	0(1)	4(1)	-1(1)
c(7)	16(1)	15(1)	12(1)	0(1)	2(1)	-1(1)

Table 6. Hydrogen coordinates (  $\times$  10^4) and isotropic displacement parameters (A^2  $\times$  10^3) for rwx0226.

	×	У	z	U(eq)
H(1)	3962	3708	4097	27
H(2)	0	3670	2768	27
H(3)	-2647	4233	-1568	27
H(4)	-2481	3054	-1634	27
H(5)	2173	4515	-2962	27
H(6)	2471	3287	-3055	27

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Page Table 10Fc 10Fc 1 10Fo 10Fc 10s h k 1 10Fo 10s h 1 10Fo 10s h k h k 1 10Fo 10Fc 10s 0000000 22.511 55.45535827054180351070660315406404009327170652118054533160315406404009327170652211180545803400922880338097806914766914766914750939771706521118054803400922880338097809147669 5012341230128765432101234567765432101234567765432101234567765432101234567765432101234567765432 34432101234321012321012876543210123456787654321012345678765432101234567876543210123456787654321 181877340339909992746281203166767678147984839765570754433017795111091178483976357 123121181401676767814798483976557075443301795111091178483976357 123121111434 227211798483976557075443301795111091178483976357 101234567765432101234567654321012345665432100123456654321012345665432101234566543210123455432101234554321012 1111111222222223333333444444445555555566666666677777777888888999999990000011111112222223333

10Fc 10s

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Page

10Fc

lable 10Fo 10Fo 10Fc 10s 1 10s 1 h 10Fo 10Fc h 1 0123456765432101234567654321012345676543210123456765432101234566543210123456554321012345655432101234565543210 8176581210298822102981237188224882713349341688992881222813349368699999950744936702144766301116167775881222813386974443657022148827133493666992889788097889999950746139859774443667021112883 221113121291223122141121512131810121122234121212111122216322212111122112223312221112322211253221 1012345676543210123456765432101234567654321012345765432101234565432101234565432101234565432101 111222331222218112121121211211731011311222211221238232122739222112712712221112111211121121014211202211 123455432101234543210123443210123456765432101234568765432101234568765432101234568765432

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## Appendix II

Table 1. Crystal data and structure refinement for csf43.

Identification code	csf43
Empirical formula	C14 H12 O2 S2
Formula weight	276.36
Temperature	123(1) K
Wavelength	0.71069 A
Crystal system	Monoclinic
Space group	P 21/n
Unit cell dimensions	a = 9.837(2) A alpha = 90 deg. b = 5.890(2) A beta = 94.219(9) deg. c = 21.6728(14) A gamma = 90 deg.
Volume	1252.4(4) A^3
z	4
Density (calculated)	1.466 Mg/m^3
Absorption coefficient	0.414 mm^-1
F(000)	576
Crystal size	$0.450 \times 0.220 \times 0.100 \text{ mm}$
Theta range for data collection	3.38 to 26.99 deg.
Index ranges	0<=h<=12, 0<=k<=7, -27<=1<=27
Reflections collected	2905
Independent reflections	2746 [R(int) = 0.0386]
Absorption correction	None
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F^2
Data / restraints / parameters	2746 / 0 / 163
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.036
<pre>Final R indices [I&gt;2sigma(I)]</pre>	R1 = 0.0356, $wR2 = 0.0899$
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0569, $wR2 = 0.0980$
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.364 and -0.299 e.A^-3

Table 2. Atomic coordinates (  $\times$  10^4) and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters (A^2  $\times$  10^3) for csf43. U(eq) is defined as one third of the trace of the orthogonalized Uij tensor.

	×	У	z	U(eq)
S(1)	1814(1)	1678(1)	9617(1)	23(1)
S(2)	2489(1)	-518(1)	10310(1)	26(1)
0(1)	-3760(2)	-5083(3)	8486(1)	35(1)
0(2)	4267(2)	-2236(3)	7284(1)	30(1)
C(1)	-2676(2)	-4099(4)	8472(1)	24(1)
C(2)	-2355(2)	-2207(4)	8063(1)	24(1)
C(3)	-1104(2)	-1390(3)	8230(1)	21(1)
C(4)	-448(2)	-2655(3)	8749(1)	19(1)
C(5)	-1392(2)	-4576(4)	8885(1)	24(1)
C(6)	739(2)	-2215(3)	9069(1)	21(1)
C(7)	1671(2)	-280(3)	8956(1)	18(1)
C(8)	3117(2)	-1070(3)	8806(1)	17(1)
C(9)	3978(2)	911(3)	8616(1)	19(1)
C(10)	4472(2)	658(3)	8064(1)	21(1)
C(11)	3983(2)	-1473(4)	7783(1)	21(1)
C(12)	3031(2)	-2571(3)	8214(1)	24(1)
C(13)	3884(2)	-2267(3)	9345(1)	20(1)
C(14)	3703(2)	-2099(3)	9945(1)	23(1)

Table 3. Selected bond lengths [A] and angles [deg] for csf43.

		-
S(1)-C(7) S(1)-S(2) S(2)-C(14) O(1)-C(1) O(2)-C(11) C(1)-C(2) C(1)-C(5) C(2)-C(3) C(3)-C(4) C(4)-C(6) C(4)-C(5) C(6)-C(7) C(7)-C(8) C(8)-C(13) C(8)-C(13) C(8)-C(12) C(9)-C(10) C(10)-C(11) C(11)-C(12) C(13)-C(14)	1.836(2) 2.0549(8) 1.749(2) 1.216(2) 1.222(2) 1.472(3) 1.519(3) 1.346(3) 1.459(3) 1.339(3) 1.507(3) 1.494(3) 1.553(3) 1.517(2) 1.516(3) 1.555(3) 1.333(3) 1.461(3) 1.516(3) 1.516(3) 1.516(3)	
C(7)-S(1)-S(2) C(14)-S(2)-S(1) O(1)-C(1)-C(2) O(1)-C(1)-C(5) C(2)-C(1)-C(5) C(3)-C(2)-C(1) C(2)-C(3)-C(4) C(6)-C(4)-C(3) C(6)-C(4)-C(5) C(3)-C(4)-C(5) C(3)-C(4)-C(5) C(4)-C(5)-C(1) C(4)-C(6)-C(7) C(6)-C(7)-S(1) C(8)-C(7)-S(1) C(13)-C(8)-C(7) C(13)-C(8)-C(7) C(13)-C(8)-C(7) C(13)-C(8)-C(7) C(13)-C(8)-C(12) C(9)-C(8)-C(12) C(9)-C(8)-C(12) C(9)-C(8)-C(12) C(10)-C(9)-C(8) C(9)-C(10)-C(11) O(2)-C(11)-C(12) C(11)-C(12) C(11)-C(12)-C(8) C(14)-C(13)-C(8) C(13)-C(14)-S(2)	100.16(7) 101.51(7) 127.1(2) 126.1(2) 106.8(2) 109.9(2) 111.6(2) 128.3(2) 124.8(2) 106.9(2) 104.1(2) 125.9(2) 112.9(2) 111.38(13) 109.43(12) 108.08(14) 112.93(14) 111.4(2) 111.3(2) 102.2(2) 110.3(2) 113.9(2) 109.8(2) 126.5(2) 128.5(2) 128.6(2) 128.6(2)	

Table 4. Bond lengths [A] and angles [deg] for csf43.

S(1)-C(7) S(1)-S(2) S(2)-C(14) O(1)-C(1) O(2)-C(11) C(1)-C(2) C(1)-C(5) C(2)-C(3) C(3)-C(4) C(4)-C(6) C(4)-C(5) C(6)-C(7) C(7)-C(8) C(8)-C(13) C(8)-C(12) C(9)-C(10) C(10)-C(11) C(11)-C(12) C(11)-C(12) C(13)-C(14) C(2)-H(1) C(3)-H(2) C(5)-H(3) C(6)-H(5) C(7)-H(6) C(9)-H(7) C(10)-H(8) C(12)-H(10) C(13)-H(11) C(13)-H(11) C(13)-H(11) C(13)-H(11)	1.836(2) 2.0549(8) 1.749(2) 1.216(2) 1.222(2) 1.472(3) 1.519(3) 1.346(3) 1.459(3) 1.339(3) 1.507(3) 1.494(3) 1.553(3) 1.517(2) 1.516(3) 1.555(3) 1.333(3) 1.461(3) 1.516(3) 1.329(3) 0.997(2) 0.901(2) 0.968(2) 1.000(2) 1.007(2) 0.995(2) 0.994(2) 0.995(2) 0.994(2) 1.019(2) 0.948(2) 1.012(2)
C(7)-S(1)-S(2) C(14)-S(2)-S(1) O(1)-C(1)-C(2) O(1)-C(1)-C(5) C(2)-C(1)-C(5) C(3)-C(2)-C(1) C(2)-C(3)-C(4) C(6)-C(4)-C(3) C(6)-C(4)-C(5) C(3)-C(4)-C(5) C(3)-C(4)-C(5) C(4)-C(5)-C(1) C(4)-C(6)-C(7) C(6)-C(7)-S(1) C(3)-C(7)-S(1) C(3)-C(7)-S(1) C(3)-C(7)-S(1) C(13)-C(8)-C(7) C(13)-C(8)-C(7) C(13)-C(8)-C(12) C(9)-C(8)-C(12) C(7)-C(8)-C(12) C(10)-C(9)-C(8) C(10)-C(11)-C(12) C(10)-C(11)-C(12) C(11)-C(12)-C(8) C(11)-C(12)-C(8) C(11)-C(12)-C(8) C(11)-C(12)-C(8)	100.16(7) 101.51(7) 127.1(2) 126.1(2) 106.8(2) 109.9(2) 111.6(2) 128.3(2) 124.8(2) 106.9(2) 104.1(2) 125.9(2) 111.33(13) 109.43(12) 103.03(14) 112.93(14) 111.4(2) 111.3(2) 102.2(2) 110.3(2) 113.9(2) 109.8(2) 126.5(2) 126.5(2) 128.6(2) 128.6(2) 128.9(2)

```
C(3)-C(2)-H(1)
                              126.7(2)
C(1)-C(2)-H(1)
                              123.1(2)
C(2)-C(3)-H(2)
                              125.6(2)
C(4)-C(3)-H(2)
                              122.7(2)
C(4)-C(5)-H(3)
                              111.6(2)
C(1)-C(5)-H(3)
                              106.8(2)
C(4)-C(5)-H(4)
                              111.9(2)
C(1)-C(5)-H(4)
                              112.0(2)
H(3)-C(5)-H(4)
                              110.2(2)
C(4)-C(6)-H(5)
                              117.0(2)
C(7)-C(6)-H(5)
                              117.1(2)
C(6)-C(7)-H(6)
                              110.6(2)
C(8)-C(7)-H(6)
                              107.2(2)
S(1)-C(7)-H(6)
                              104.94(14)
C(10)-C(9)-H(7)
                              122.4(2)
C(8)-C(9)-H(7)
                              123.5(2)
C(9)-C(10)-H(8)
                              130.5(2)
C(11) - C(10) - H(8)
                              119.6(2)
C(11)-C(12)-H(9)
                              110.1(2)
C(8)-C(12)-H(9)
                              111.8(2)
C(11)-C(12)-H(10)
                              109.0(2)
C(8)-C(12)-H(10)
                              111.2(2)
H(9)-C(12)-H(10)
                              109.2(2)
C(14) - C(13) - H(11)
                              119.9(2)
C(8)-C(13)-H(11)
                              111.6(2)
C(13)-C(14)-H(12)
                              121.5(2)
                              109.1(2)
S(2)-C(14)-H(12)
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Table 5. Anisotropic displacement parameters (A^2  $\times$  10^3) for csf43. The anisotropic displacement factor exponent takes the form: -2 pi^2 [ h^2 a\*^2 U11 + ... + 2 h k a\* b\* U12 ]

	U11	U22	U33	U23	U13	U12
S(1)	26(1)	20(1)	23 (1)	-1(1)	4(1)	0(1)
s(2)	30(1)	31(1)	18(1)	2(1)	2(1)	-4(1)
0(1)	21(1)	41(1)	43(1)	-6(1)	4(1)	-12(1)
0(2)	31(1)	39(1)	21(1)	-8(1)	0(1)	7(1)
2(1)	18(1)	28(1)	25(1)	-9(1)	4(1)	-4(1)
2(2)	19(1)	32(1)	22(1)	-3(1)	0(1)	0(1)
(3)	19(1)	26(1)	19(1)	0(1)	3(1)	-2(1)
(4)	17(1)	20(1)	21(1)	0(1)	4(1)	-2(1)
(5)	21(1)	23(1)	27(1)	-1(1)	2(1)	-6(1)
(6)	18(1)	21(1)	23(1)	5(1)	-1(1)	-2(1)
(7)	16(1)	20(1)	17(1)	1(1)	-2(1)	-1(1)
(8)	18(1)	18(1)	16(1)	-1(1)	-1(1)	-3(1)
(9)	16(1)	20(1)	19(1)	1(1)	-2(1)	-4(1)
(10)	18(1)	26(1)	20(1)	1(1)	0(1)	-1(1)
(11)	17(1)	27(1)	19(1)	-2(1)	-5(1)	6(1)
(12)	24(1)	24(1)	22(1)	-6(1)	-2(1)	-4(1)
(13)	15(1)	19(1)	25(1)	0(1)	-2(1)	-1(1)
(14)	23(1)	23(1)	22(1)	4(1)	-6(1)	-2(1)

Table 6. Hydrogen coordinates (  $\times$  10^4) and isotropic displacement parameters (A^2  $\times$  10^3) for csf43.

	x	У	z	U(eq)
H(1)	-3029	-1558	7745	37
H(2)	-682	-263	8033	37
H(3)	-1043	-6023	8755	37
H(4)	-1577	-4632	9332	37
H(5)	1038	-3303	9410	37
H(6)	1313	616	8616	37
H(7)	4207	2240	8887	37
H(8)	5038	1698	7827	37
H(9)	2146	-2625	8026	37
H(10)	<b>3</b> 357	-4182	8312	37
H(11)	4584	-3213	9210	37
H(12)	4207	-3118	10260	37

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Page 2 1 10Fo 10Fc 1 10Fo 10Fc 10s 10Fc 10s k 1 10Fo 10Fc 10s 10s k h 10Fo h h 574553277663302773488277979988639994802111225776660041300103170734688230074040405021724113 21511 27102131202258614 38012403620433001037404540611020413770732688230074040405021724113 21511 27 2332 211222 3 75 42 3116 11 4175 6488230074040405021724113 21332 11 21 411 417 24433  $\frac{43355475744732}{2}$ 7890987654321012345678976543210123456743210123456743210123456789012210987654 54656801545580337564411558356764455451858619022635141654333333356534234444444455133  $\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}$ 545152364585555466641335533676345451446816335543733245671556908614665452446644514177775441256557196 3210123419753113579121098765432101234567890112210987654321012345678901-109876545678901-109876545678901-109876545678901-1098765478901-1098765478901-1098765478901-1098765478901-1098765478901-1098765478901-1098765478901-10987665478901-10987665478901-109876678901-10987678901-10987678901-10987678901-10987678901-10987678901-10987678901-10987678901-10987678901-10987678901-10987678901-10987678901-10987678901-10987678901-10987678901-10987678901-109876789 560254085877409358764158444077533161616599098863345897882345894158444077533161616599098863313157793254 688933358 7740193358978803330111887931050411181110 869306665546544531646644474553455345534553444455554533350553355588167554656934133361374548666557 105 498 105 342 223 46 76 51 114 52 6.1 101 10-1

Page 3 10Fc 1 10Fo 10Fc 10s 1 10Fo 10Fc h k 1 10Fo 10s 1 10Fo 10Fc 10s k h 10s 0098765432101234567899876543210123456787654321012345632101232086420246802109876543210123456785 8765432101234567890987654321012345678765432101234567432101234567432101232086420246802210987654321012345678 44653445143735454566128644644644641054814574105425484266050111155554475553543553654655447525953164356 90111098765432101234567890111098765432101234567890098765432101234567890987654321 8442314999 01418 740323147655633952781231162316333466551317 0838693137227401499993777063301587996757937770433 5534445413384546746437675566657443553661663435150665155545443643552427965746641424554455455636161 0123456321012319753113579121098765432101234567890110987654321012345678901109876543210123456789 2655555866755844763255674564441436433233553434545418944413665656643444445225846584658414444461793441  $\frac{1737}{2} \frac{4225152593743514133690}{2} \frac{4437143314133690}{2} \frac{2408833329930}{2} \frac{2833314133690}{2} \frac{2408833329930}{2} \frac{2833314133690}{2} \frac{2408833329930}{2} \frac{2833314133690}{2} \frac{2408833329930}{2} \frac{24088333393249930}{2} \frac{2408833339930}{2} \frac{24088333390}{2} \frac{2408833339930}{2} \frac{24088333390}{2} \frac{2408833390}{2} \frac{24088333390}{2} \frac{24088333390}{2} \frac{24088333390}{2} \frac{24088333390}{2} \frac{24088333390}{2} \frac{24088333390}{2} \frac{2408833390}{2} \frac{24088333390}{2} \frac{24088333390}{2} \frac{2408833390}{2} \frac{24088333390}{2} \frac{24088333390}{2} \frac{2408833390}{2} \frac$ 551424445363344656140114745146350146915752441434554175925515156461332563411414145334355405464544544 

Observed and calculated structure factors for csf43 Page 4 7 Table 10Fo 10Fo 10Fc 10Fo 10Fc 10s h 1 10Fc 10s h k 1 10Fo 10Fc 10s h k 10s 1 h 911756575655635547351104743364381253674346587564644333666666445466446551655495433245453664405655 6543210123456789876543210123456786543210123456210120864202468010987654321012345678901109876545 1268262441156624437406633 1268282765122371387741266755633 12682765122371387741266755633 12682765122371387741266755633 12682765122371387741266755633 12682765122371387741266755633 4443577536416551506594143555549300585555354751411155225433164354854444773364833617349455615645756 6426334344548555664444547173444451555111765614424541467575755452440514151415566964945175659493364766  $x_{0}$ 38373392428677738000433826717002105567120464833826777380004338242828213120446483382671720055671204648338267773800043382428213120456712046483382671720474264338242821312044648338267172046666999770056665129999216698035 4567210121975311357912109876543210123456789011109876543210123456789011109876543210123456789001109876543210123456789000987 4 21359489886117031335640272656668471274288930170845673127422889301708456731274 149 87 51 246 678 362 32 80 261 2

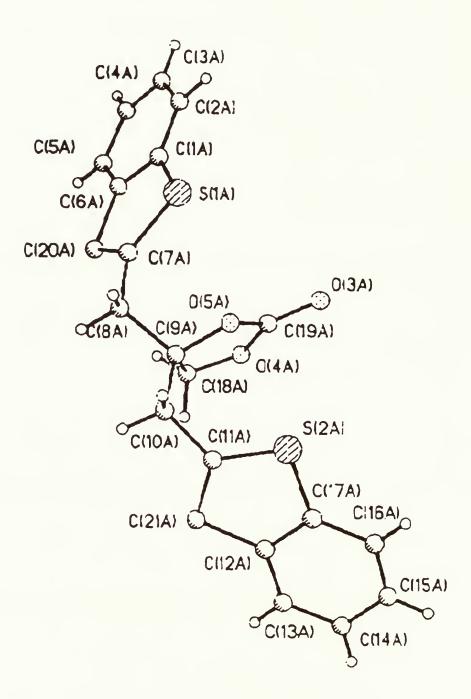
1475855452244505557545558865581454344444247081111485745412470515565594457447484653414467432244344

10Fo 10Fc 10s h k 1 10Fo 10Fc 10s 1 10Fo 10Fc 1 h k 10Fo 10Fc 10s h k h k 7454743326162361494614173592543573463343144554984164443523444445585474424153547514856266975555 9876543210123456788765432101234567543210123419753113579109876543210123456789009876543210123456 549444476354448599061758564514456414668541546788886367344651244543443373496421051664573537355475 7890098765432101234567899876543210123456787654321012345654321012345654321012345654321012345642024680110987654321012345 856886936482133006674771006234470506444063146446311631644631163164646311646316 54656518915643576954494693534624418494346243345464758564444643328811325456458534585345734464587 123456765432101234508642024680110987654321012345678901098765432101234567890009876543210123456789 27673714900155024530513149883000444532924406977545384899688054338479664062767972 2124329254406977545388899688054338479664062767972 212533112641062767972 212533112641062767972 221310214655638774451077263449333866426877874 221310212146556197445891673458241891573231314121291291616666387746110772634493338666278778774 111098765432101234567890111098765432101234567890087654321012345678998876543210 103

Table Observed and calculated structure factors for csf43 Page 6 10Fo 10Fc 10Fo 10Fc 10s 1 10Fo 10Fc 10s h 1 h 1 10Fo 10Fc 10s 10s 2277429982274002323231373803333297222127 2077721212740023232313732066627227429988922127 10985888893222127 2077726126276126276166525400776788477011667170 110548047647011667170 110548047647011667170 110548047647011667170 110548047647011667170 1105480476470 1105480470 11054 9098765432101234567890987654321012345678998765432101234567888765432101234567654321012345676543210123 66708333785099011138660200076567477355288869479909006243339225100330501092077696907047 678900987654321012345678909876543210123456789876543210123456787654321012345643210123197531 4712554545643632464451457155545454542414444941115555484836447760887057565714555666653457056485377441430055219214188459069277766 211741884591114561923608612110457397888222477754921336291522197766 177669277766 554645447713334484471765447384410537416105445548445456454553599485422444447666454454555315514156  $\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{3} \frac{1}{3} \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{5} \frac{1}{3} \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{5} \frac{1}{5} \frac{1}{3} \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{5} \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}$ 84,

10Fo 10Fc 10s 10Fo 10Fc 10s 1 10Fo 10Fc 10s 1 1 k h k k h 10Fo 10Fc 10s h h 107264146464643433302261996820211966202119682211968 353333331200398787093712001274770001248877000124887700124 0123455,432,101234864,2024687,65432,101234567,65432,1012345665432,1012345432,101234545 6658854440610544355883564566656544755542246545861471256885841951515966474974051610465656544454 7987654721012345678987654721012345678765472101234566547210123454521012386420246987654721012345 3556195451441655556115884154345447374151531815806885575544579454545944464156157444453544756666556455 444557817851671661543461855554564344514677744115354456616546564515251763735426646577471815747181574161 2563340777638802216147738480221616494478491177202293196494125973818185091783509917850991 454544444564441444687195444154441186655543454545565656565888515764745544161444544745644313655445445 67.87.6543.21.012345677.6543.21.01234566543.21.012345.21.017.53.11357.87.6543.21.012345.67.87.6543.21 36,

lable	1.	UDS	served	and	calcu	lated	struc	cture	facto	rs	for	csf4	13						Page	8
h k 1	10Fo	10Fc	10s	h	k 1	10Fo	10Fc	10s	h	k	1	10Fo	10Fc	10s	h	k	1	0Fo	10Fc	10s
23333333333333333333333333333333333333	28 118 2574 1872 2187 2187 2187 2187 2187 2187 2187	257 1157 1257 1207 1509 1509 1509 1509 1509 1509 1509 1509	28555543755483361573546165545171 2221	2465,432,101234565,432,1012344521	24444444444444444444444444444444444444	164 1163 1705 1705 107 107 107 107 107 107 107 107 108 108 108 108 108 108 108 108 108 108	167 103 101 103 101 103 101 103 103 103 103	56645451352555576181447595555 42	01253113543210123454321012321	33300000111111111122222222233	222222222222222222222222222222222222222	12 17 26 147 1318 20 426 30 20 20 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21	243 1458 1586 1528 1528 1528 1528 1528 1528 1528 1528	11616545666185015655545443718666 23156555545443718666	0142024321012333210131132101	222222222222222222222222222222222222222	666666666666667777777	9827 40867 115644 12087 115644 11754 1086666 1112	93 174 53 210 2293 147 153 108 599 179 43 2 149 57 105 68 72 9 112 16	659435565667650111185677631



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