

Master Course  
in Organic Chemistry

2018-19

methods and design  
in organic synthesis



UNIVERSITAT DE  
BARCELONA

Pere Romea



**BAND OF BROTHERS**

## 7. Cascade Reactions

*Band of Brothers*  
HBO

*From this day to the ending of the world,*

*But we in it shall be remembered—*

*We few, we happy few, we band of brothers*

Henry V

William Shakespeare

# Pot Economy



## Guidelines Chapter 5

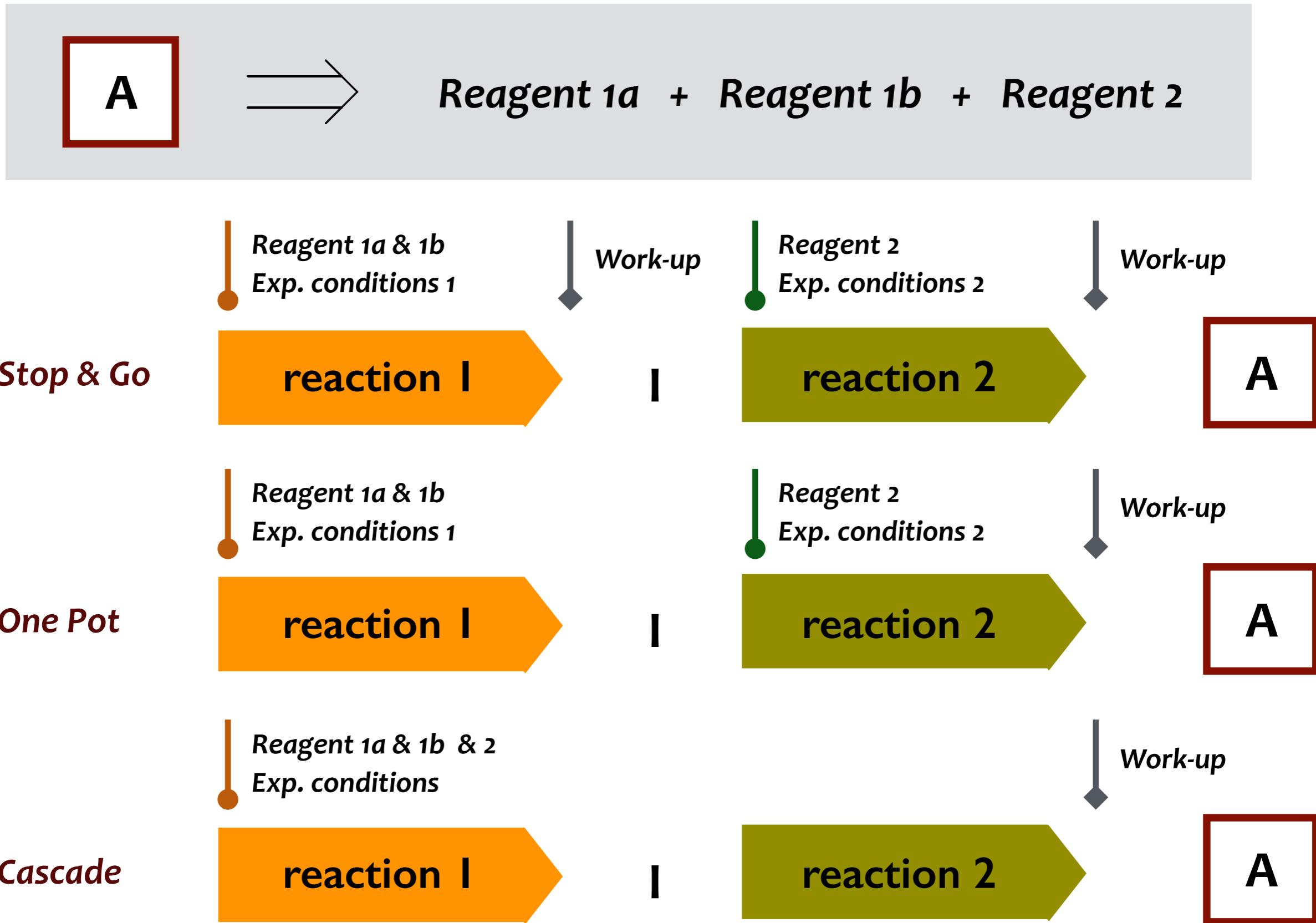
### POT ECONOMY

aim to complete an entire multi-step synthesis in a single pot  
(see Chapter 5)

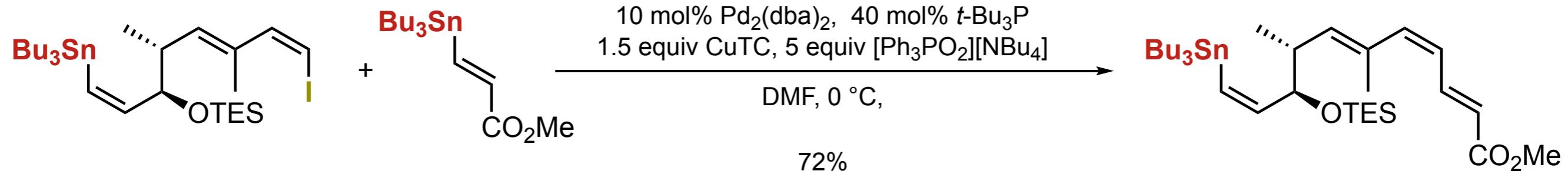
**Pot Economy** strives to save time and resources by avoiding purifications between individual steps within a multistep synthesis, thus minimizing the transfer of material between vessels, which increases the overall efficiency.

A procedure under **Pot Economy** premises can minimize chemical waste, save time, simplify practical aspects and increase the overall yield

# Pot Economy

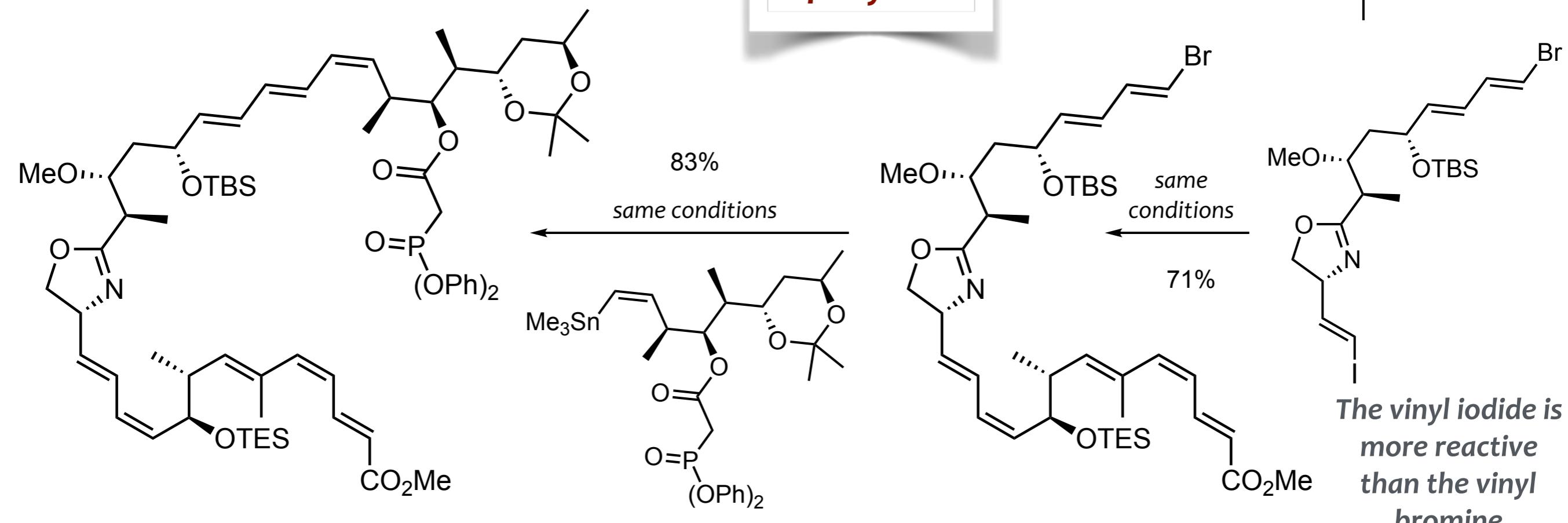


# Stop&Go and One-Pot Procedures

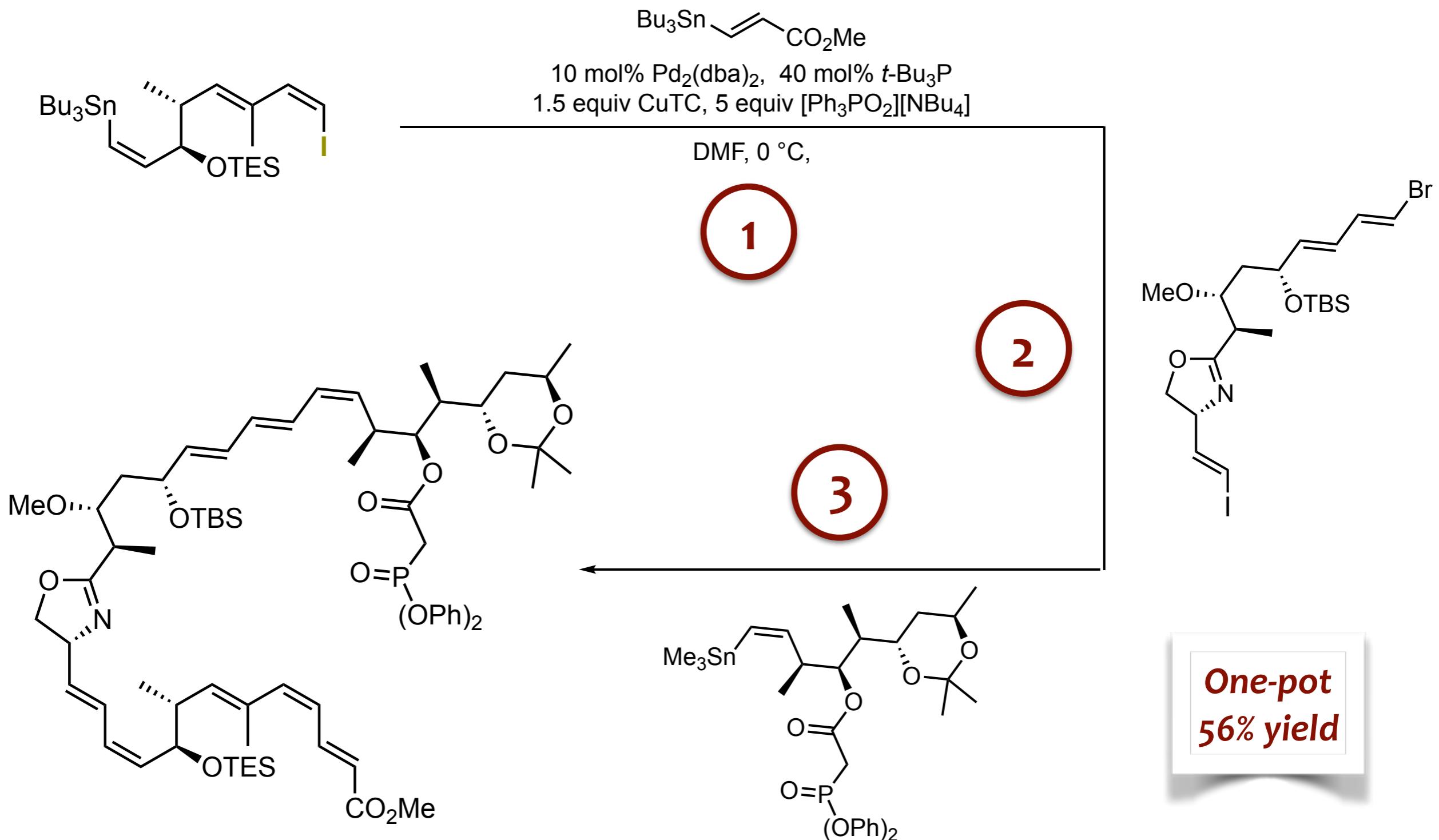


**The E vinyl stannane is more reactive  
than the Z vinyl stannane  
for steric reasons**

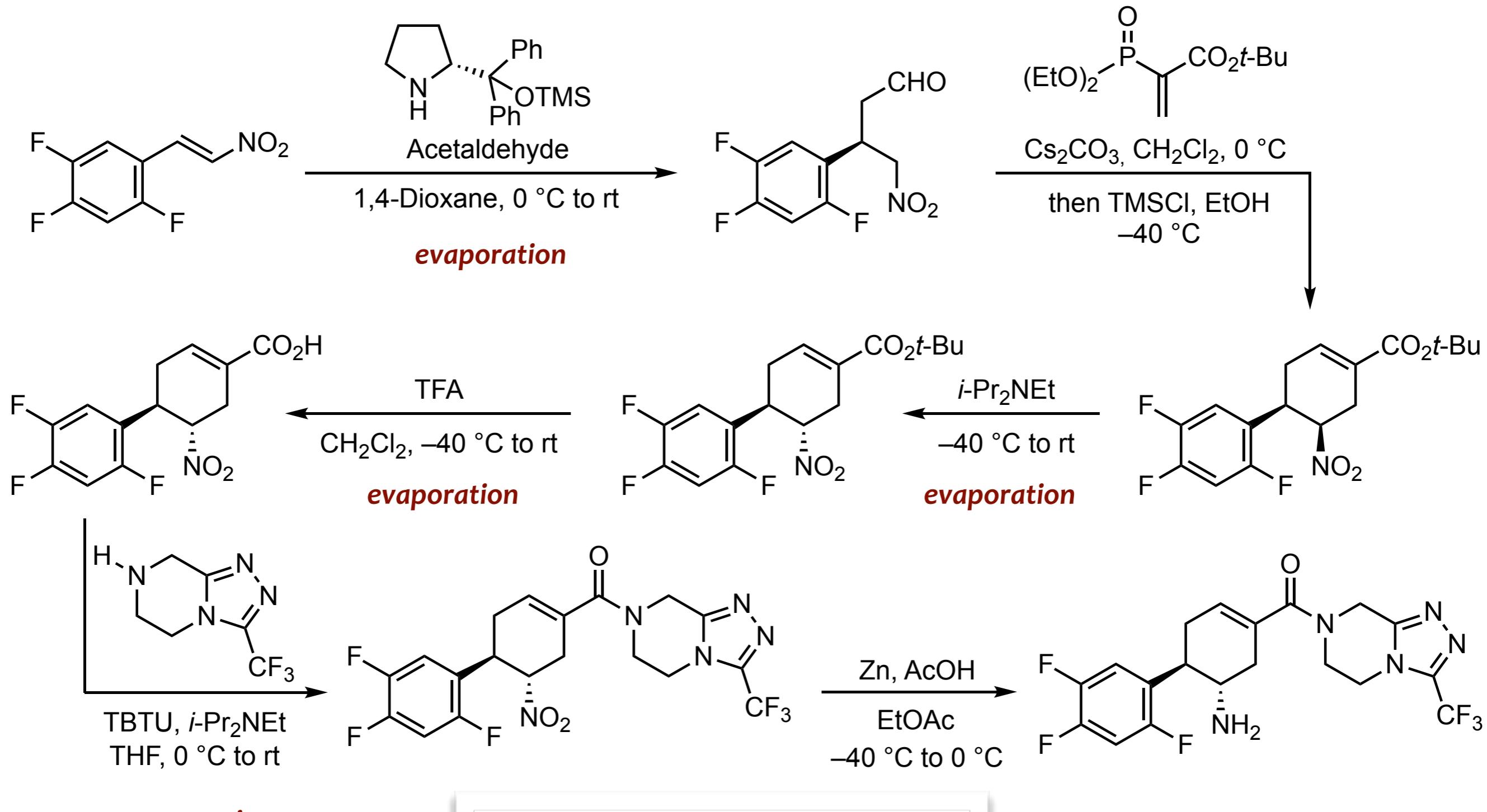
# **Three steps 40% yield**



# Stop&Go and One-Pot Procedures



# Stop&Go and One-Pot Procedures



# Concepts and Terminology

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*Today it is not only a question of what we can synthesize,  
but **how we do it...***

*The usual procedure for the synthesis of organic compounds  
is the stepwise formation of the individual bonds in the target molecule.*

*However, it would be much more efficient if  
one could form several bonds in one sequence without isolating the intermediates,  
changing the reaction conditions, or adding reagents*

*Thus, these reactions would allow an ecologically and economically favorable production*

We call this type of transformation a **DOMINO REACTION**

For this also the expression **CASCADE** has been used

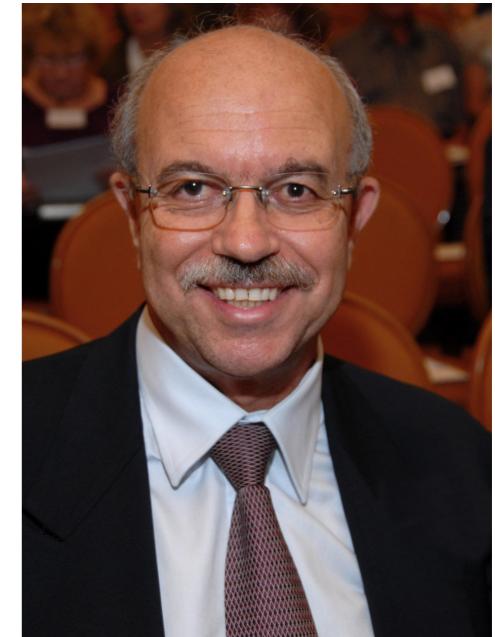
# Concepts and Terminology

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Different authors use varying definitions as to what constitutes a cascade process.

A variety of terms, including **cascade**, **domino**, **tandem**, and **sequential**, are used in the literature, often seemingly interchangeably and with liberal abandon ...

For our subjective purposes, we shall employ the term **CASCADE** to encompass all of the above descriptors



If further reagents are added at various points **ONE POT TRANSFORMATION**

Although often composed solely of intramolecular transformations, cascade reactions can also occur intermolecularly, in which case they also fall under the category of **MULTICOMPONENT REACTIONS**, where three or more compounds react to form a single product that retain majority of the atoms of the starting materials

# Concepts and Terminology

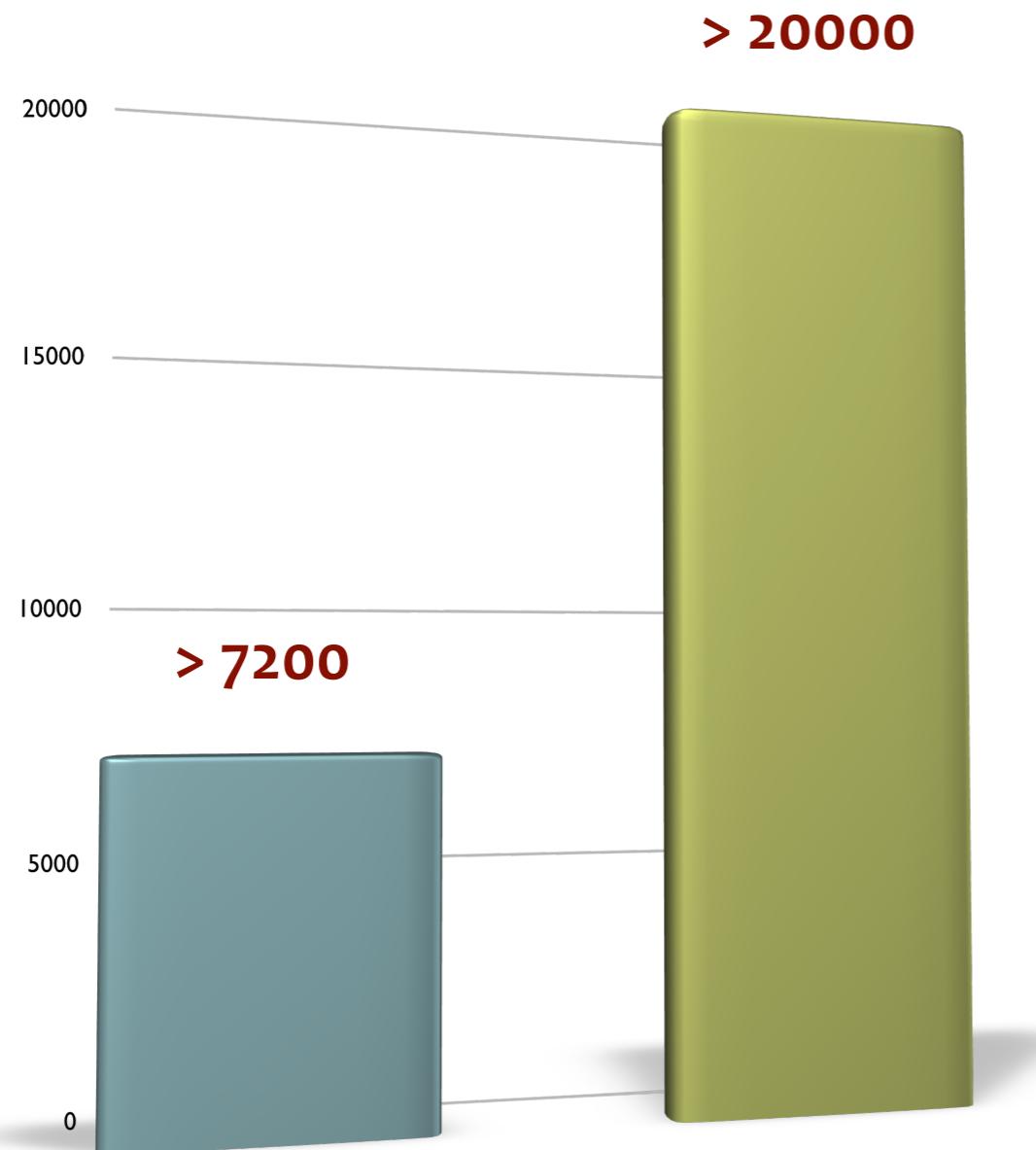
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**DOMINO**

Tietze, L. F. CR 1996, 96, 115

**CASCADE**

Nicolaou, K. C. ACIE 2006, 45, 7134



Number of Articles Containing Term in the Title

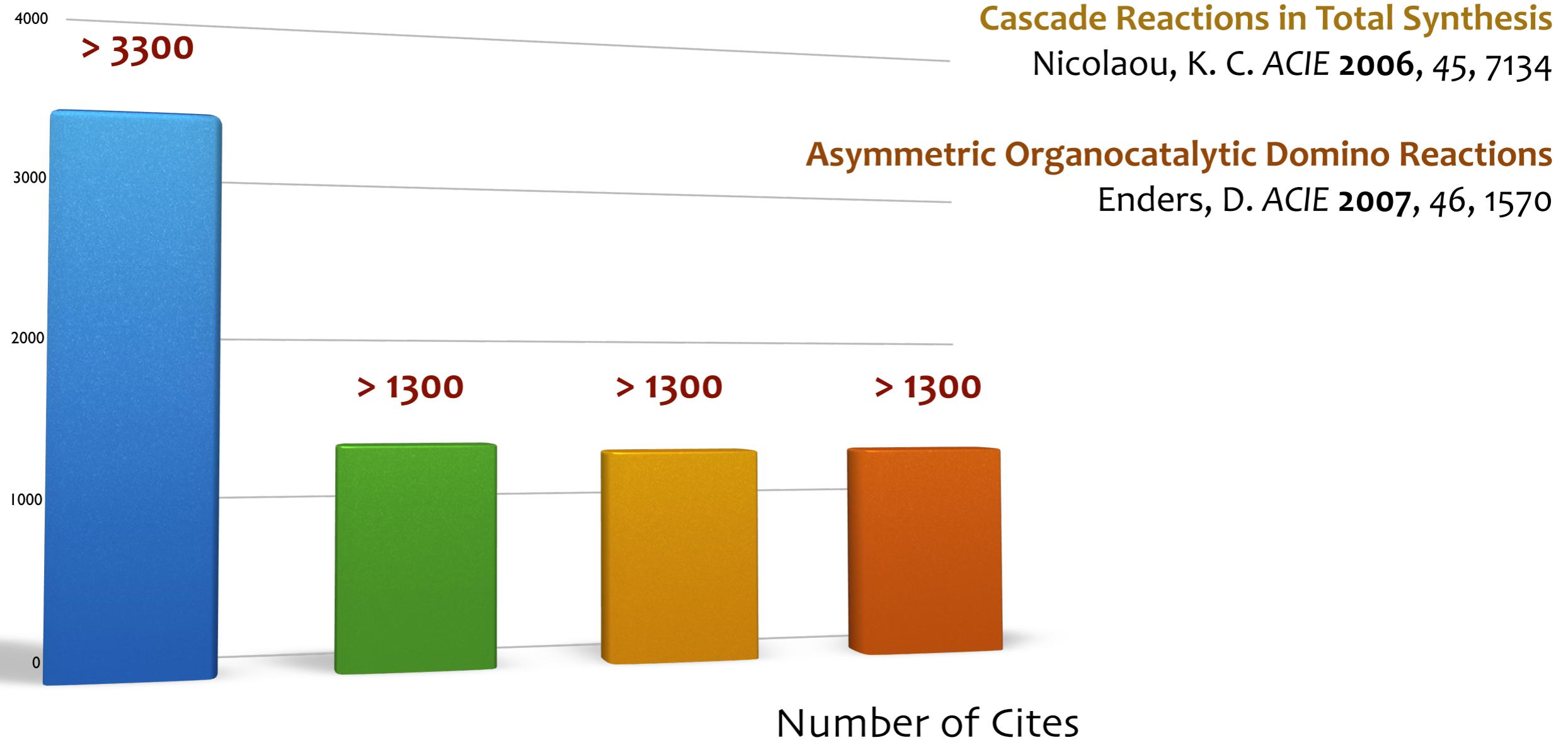
# Concepts and Terminology

**Domino Reactions in Organic Synthesis**

Tietze, L. F. *CR* 1996, 96, 115

**Asymmetric Multicomponent Reactions (AMCRs): The New Frontier**

Yus, M. *ACIE* 2005, 44, 1602



# Concepts and Terminology

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**Domino (or Cascade)** reaction is a process involving two or more bond forming transformations (usually C–C bonds), which take place under the same reaction conditions without adding additional reagents and catalysts and in which the subsequent reactions result as a consequence of the functionality formed in the previous step

# Concepts and Terminology

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***The rapid generation of molecular complexity from simple starting materials is of paramount importance in synthetic chemistry***

*The design of cascades to provide specific targeted molecules of considerable structural and stereochemical complexity poses a significant intellectual challenge and can be one of the most impressive activities in natural product synthesis.*

**Cascade reactions** contribute immeasurably to both the **science and art** of total synthesis, bringing not only improved **practical efficiency** but also enhanced aesthetic appeal to synthetic planning

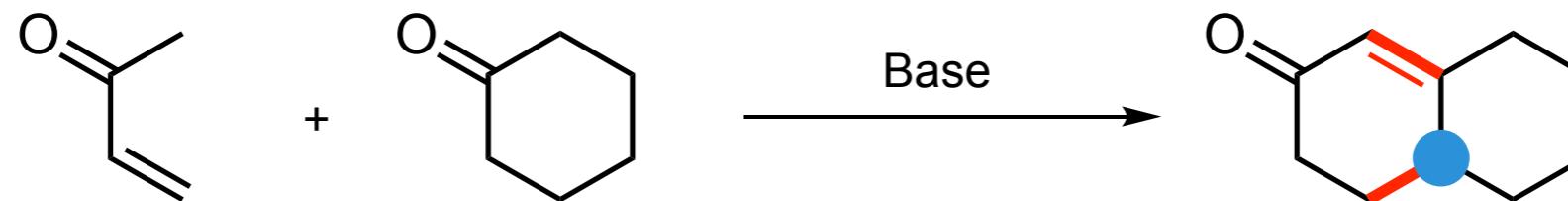
*Although often composed solely of **intramolecular transformations**, cascade reactions can also occur **intermolecularly***

According to the mechanism of the first step, one can distinguish between a **nucleophilic, electrophilic, radical, pericyclic, transition-metal, or organocatalytic** cascades, which can be combined with reactions of the described type in a second, third, or fourth step

# Nucleophilic Cascades



## Robinson Annullation

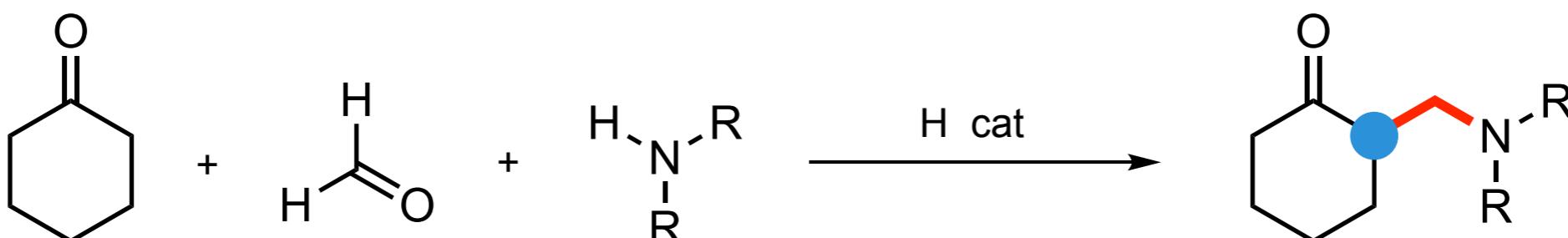


Remember!



## Mannich Reaction

See also  
Chapter 4 & 6



See also  
Multicomponent Reactions

2 new bonds & 1 stereocenter

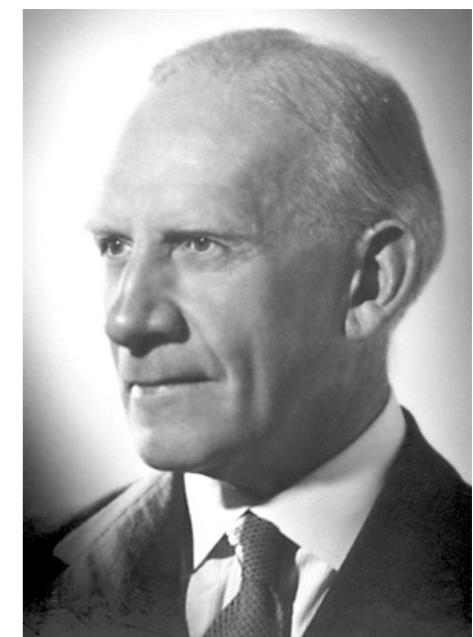
# Nucleophilic Cascades



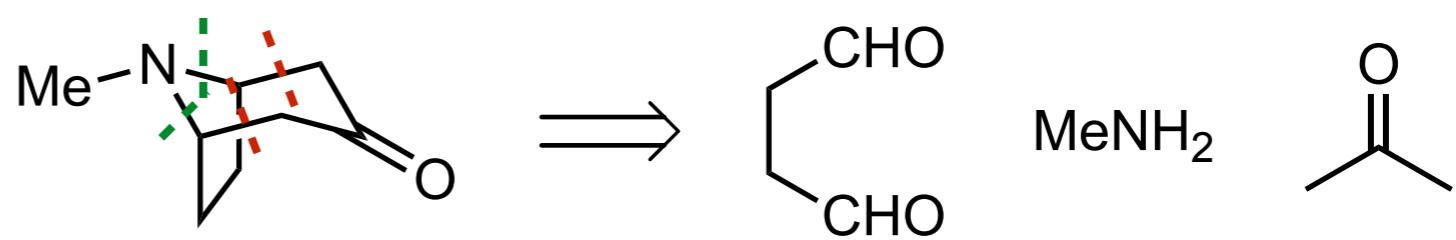
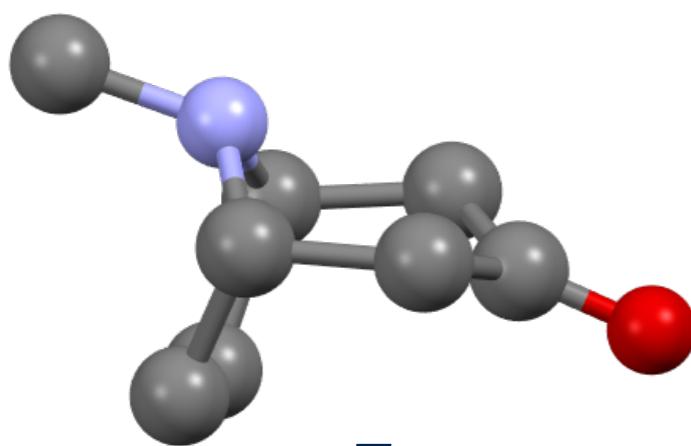
## Robinson's landmark synthesis of tropinone

By imaging hydrolysis at the points indicated by the dotted lines, the substance may be resolved into succinaldehyde, methyl amine, and acetone, and this observation suggested a line of attack of the problem which has resulted in a **direct synthesis**

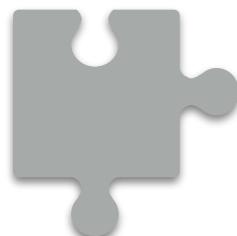
Sir Robert Robinson  
(1886-1975)



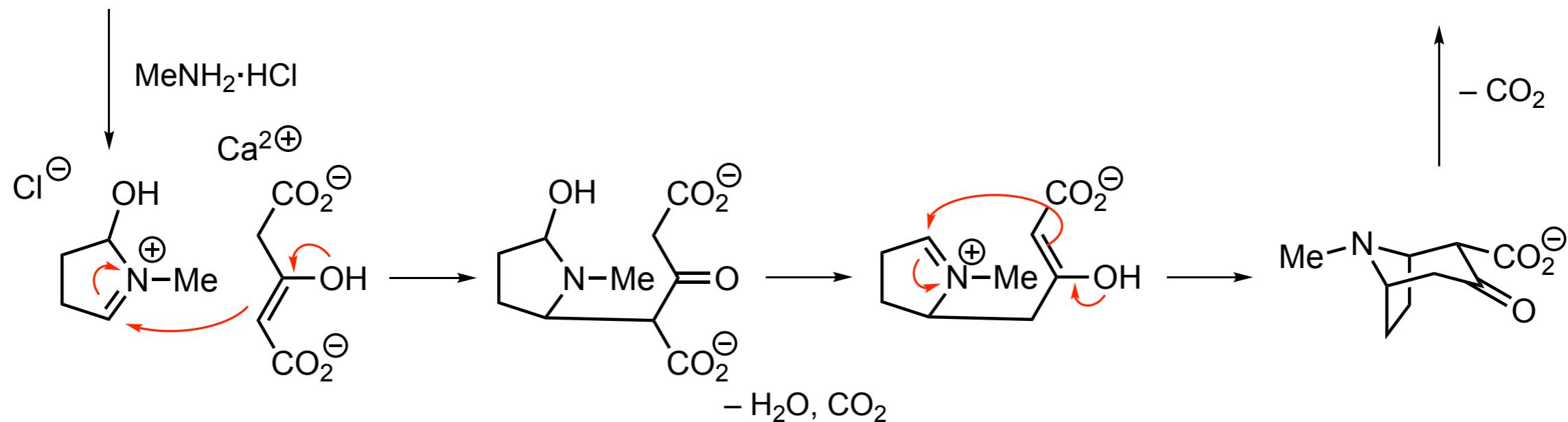
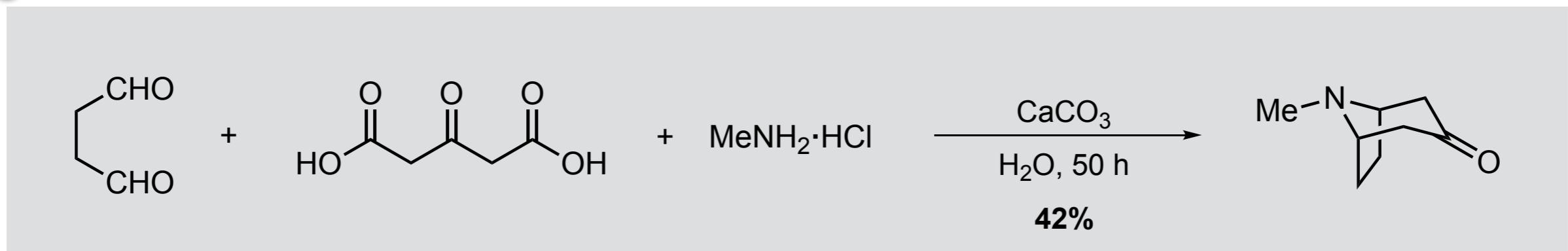
NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY 1947



# Nucleophilic Cascades

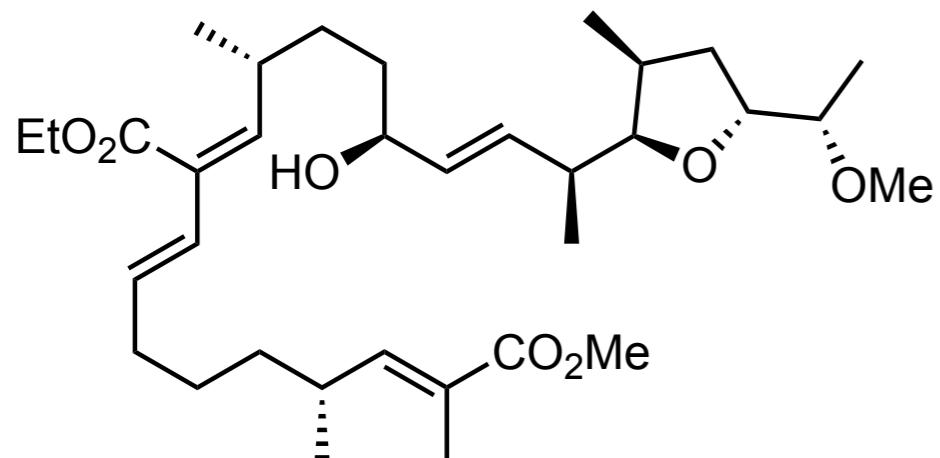


## *Robinson's landmark synthesis of tropinone*

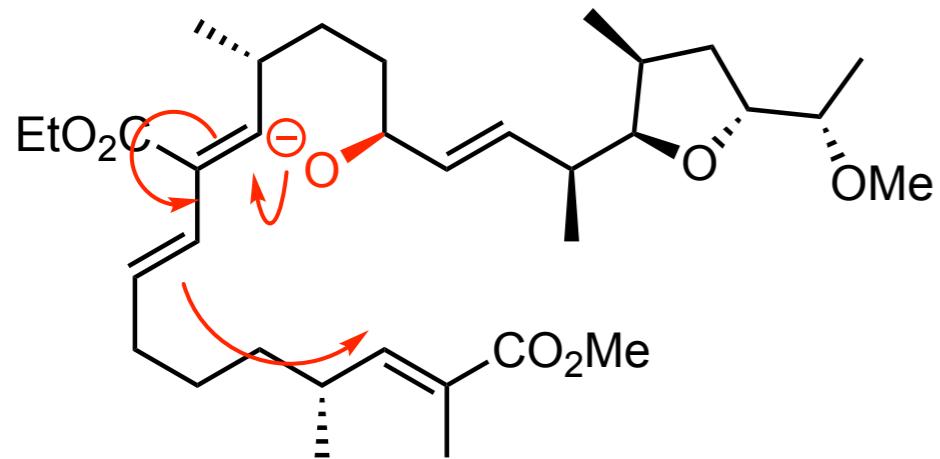


4 new bonds in a single step

# Nucleophilic Cascades

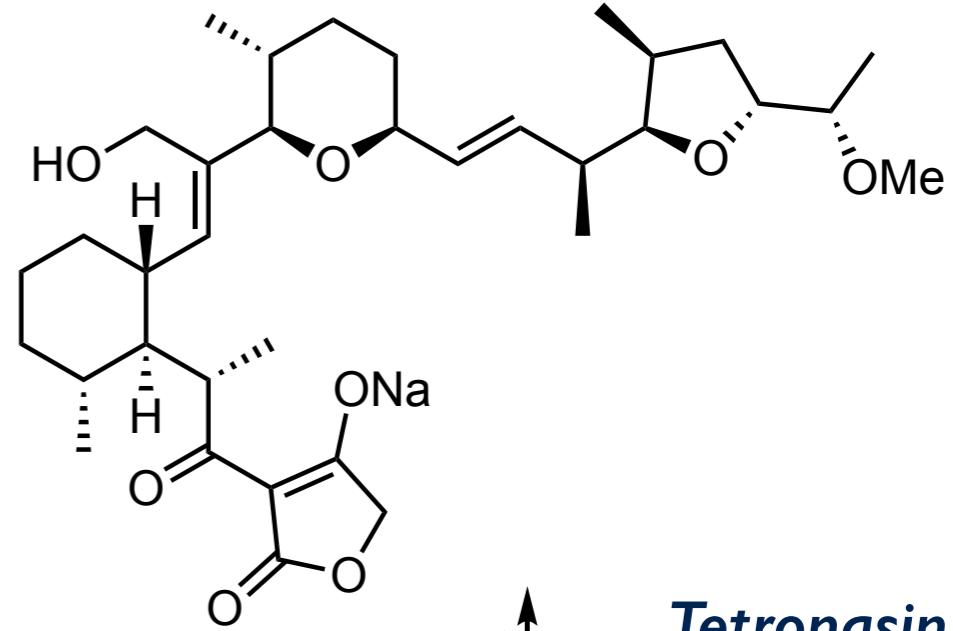


KHMDS, toluene, 0 °C

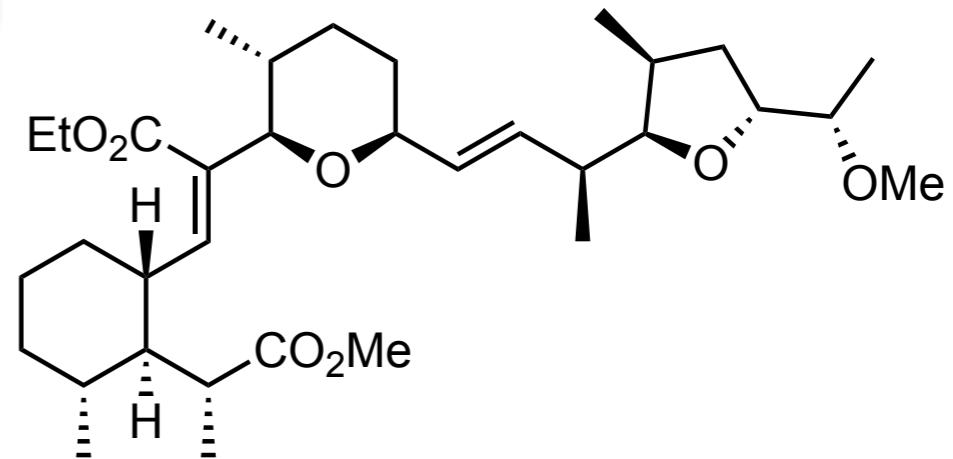


2 new bonds &  
4 stereocenters

67%



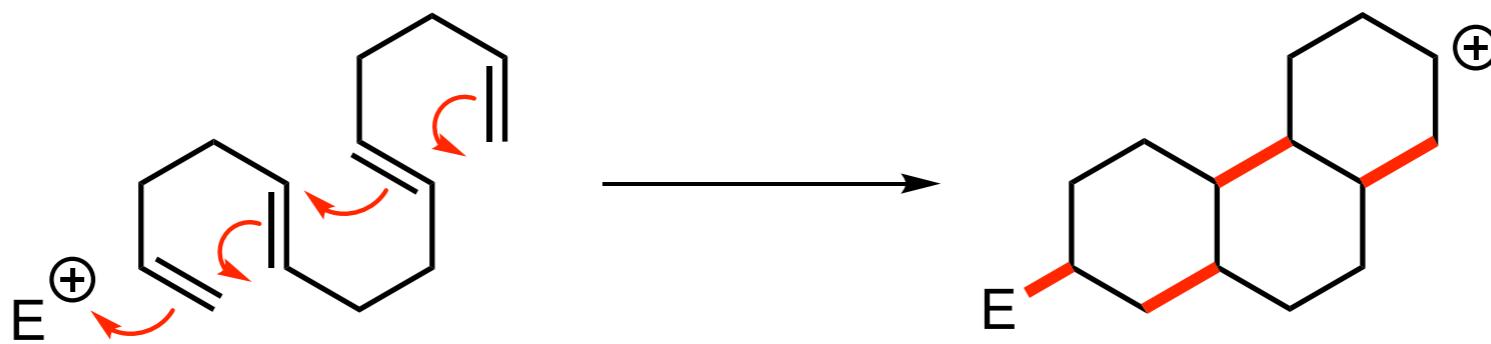
Tetronasin



# Electrophilic Cascades

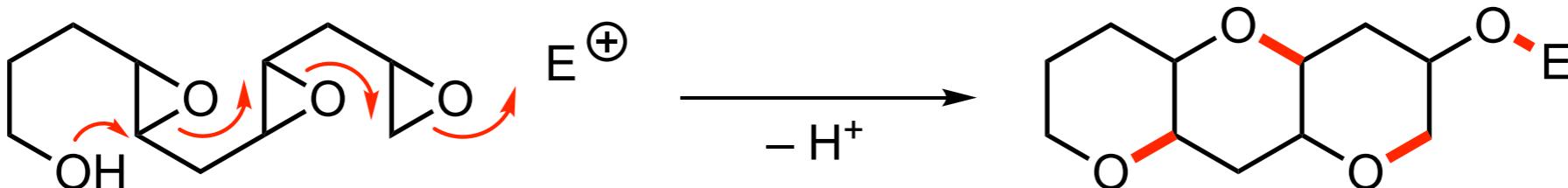
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## ► Polyene Cyclizations



Tietze, L. F. CR **1996**, *96*, 115. Nicolaou, K. C. ACIE **2006**, *45*, 7134.  
Johnston, J. N. CR **2005**, *105*, 4730. Barrett, A. G. M. Synthesis **2019**, *51*, 67

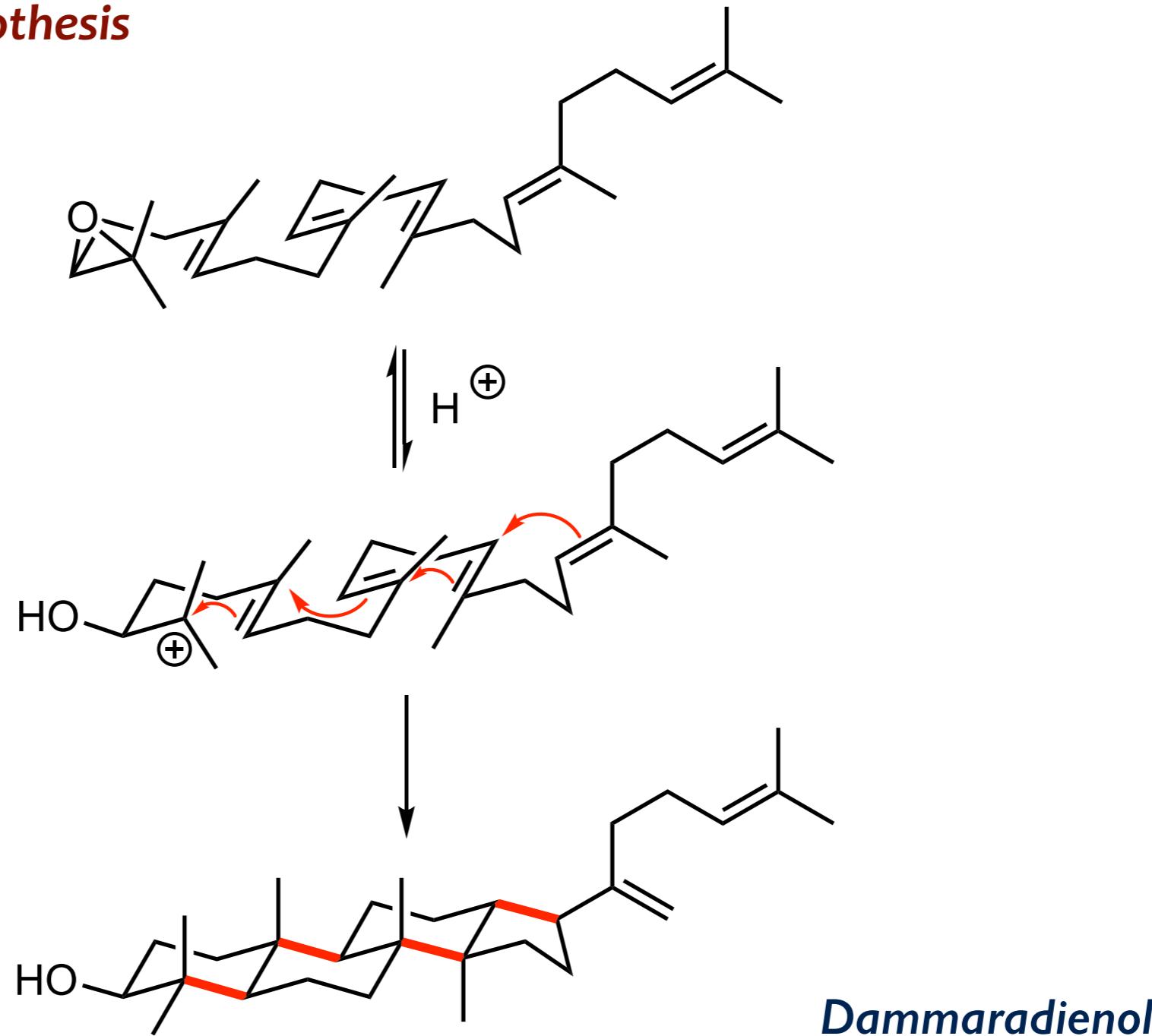
## ► Epoxide-Opening Cascades



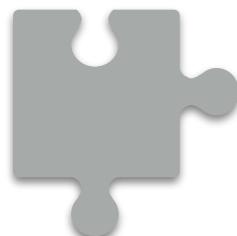
Jamison, T. F. CSR **2009**, *38*, 3175; ACIE **2009**, *48*, 5250; Mar. Drugs **2010**, *8*, 763

# Electrophilic Cascades. Polyene Cyclizations

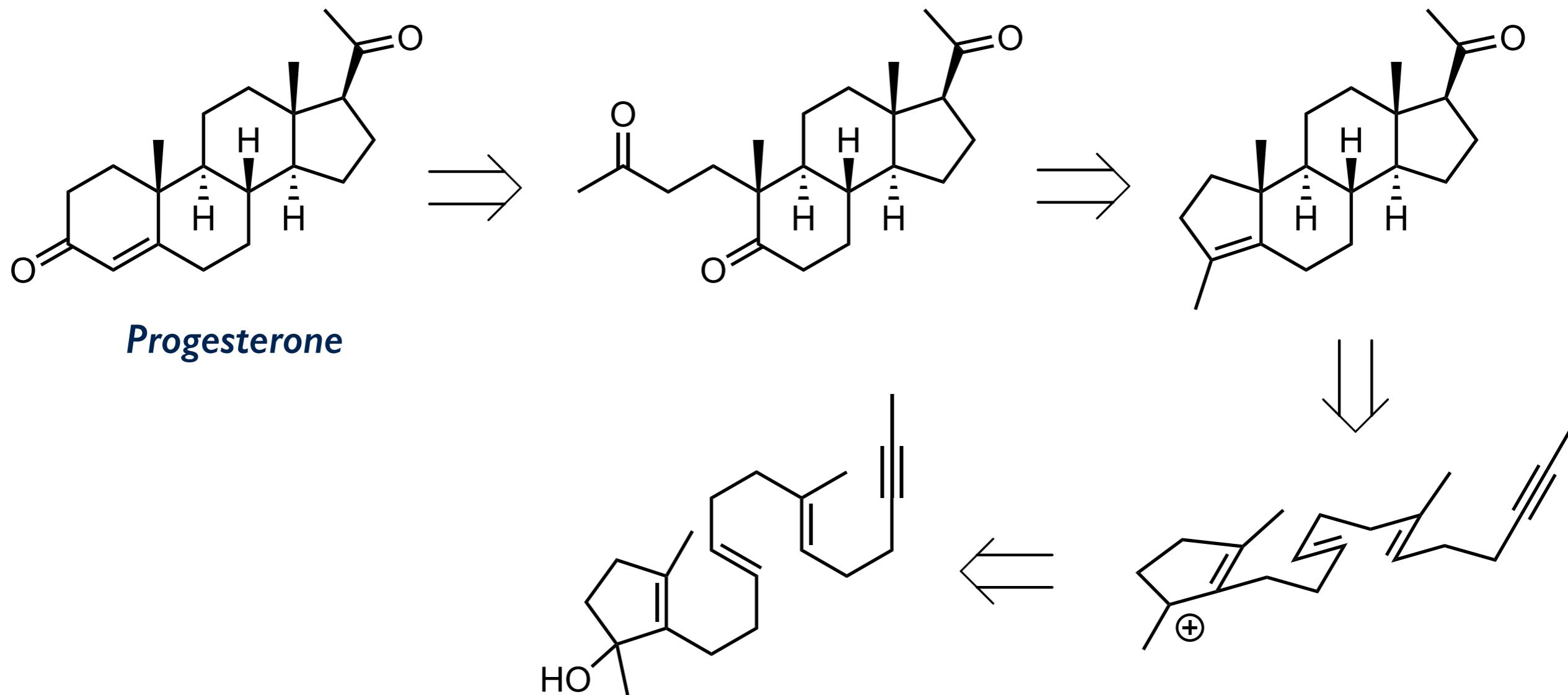
*Stork-Eschenmoser hypothesis*



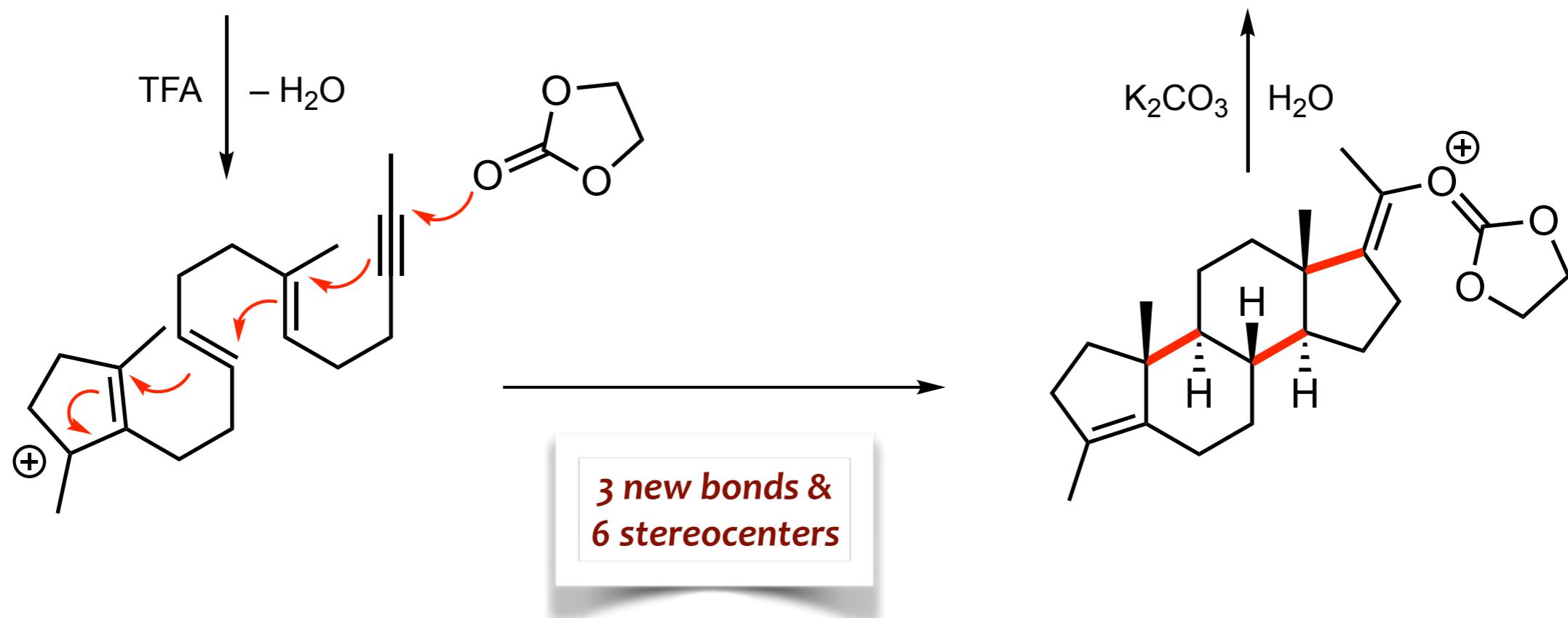
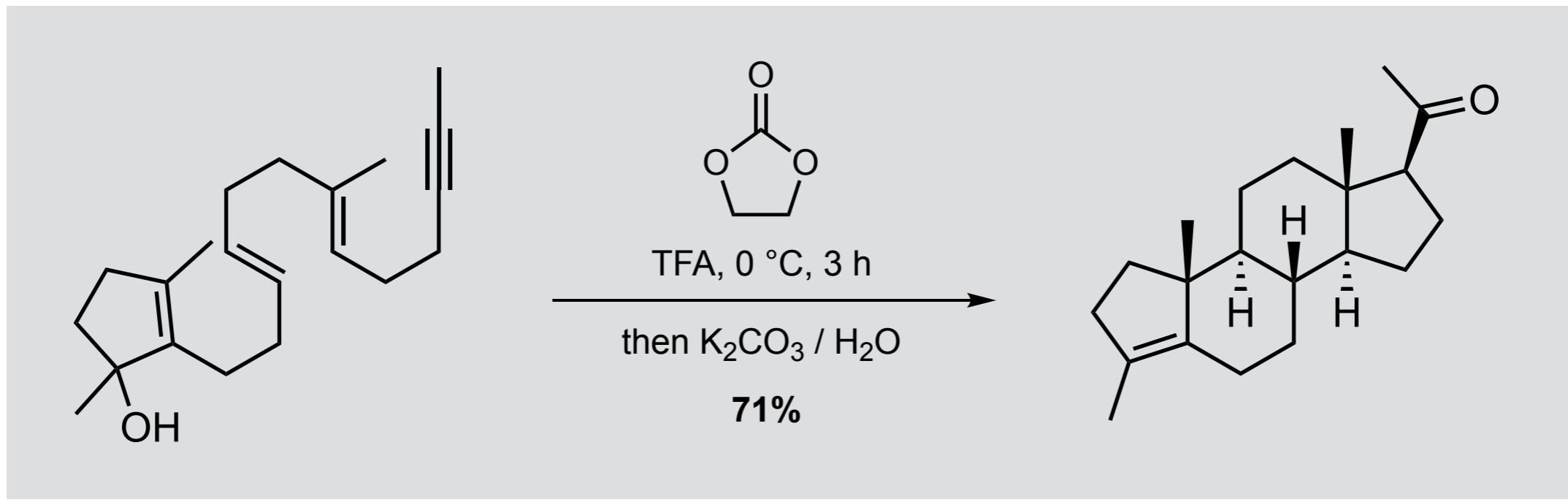
# Electrophilic Cascades. Polyene Cyclizations



*Johnson's landmark synthesis of progesterone*

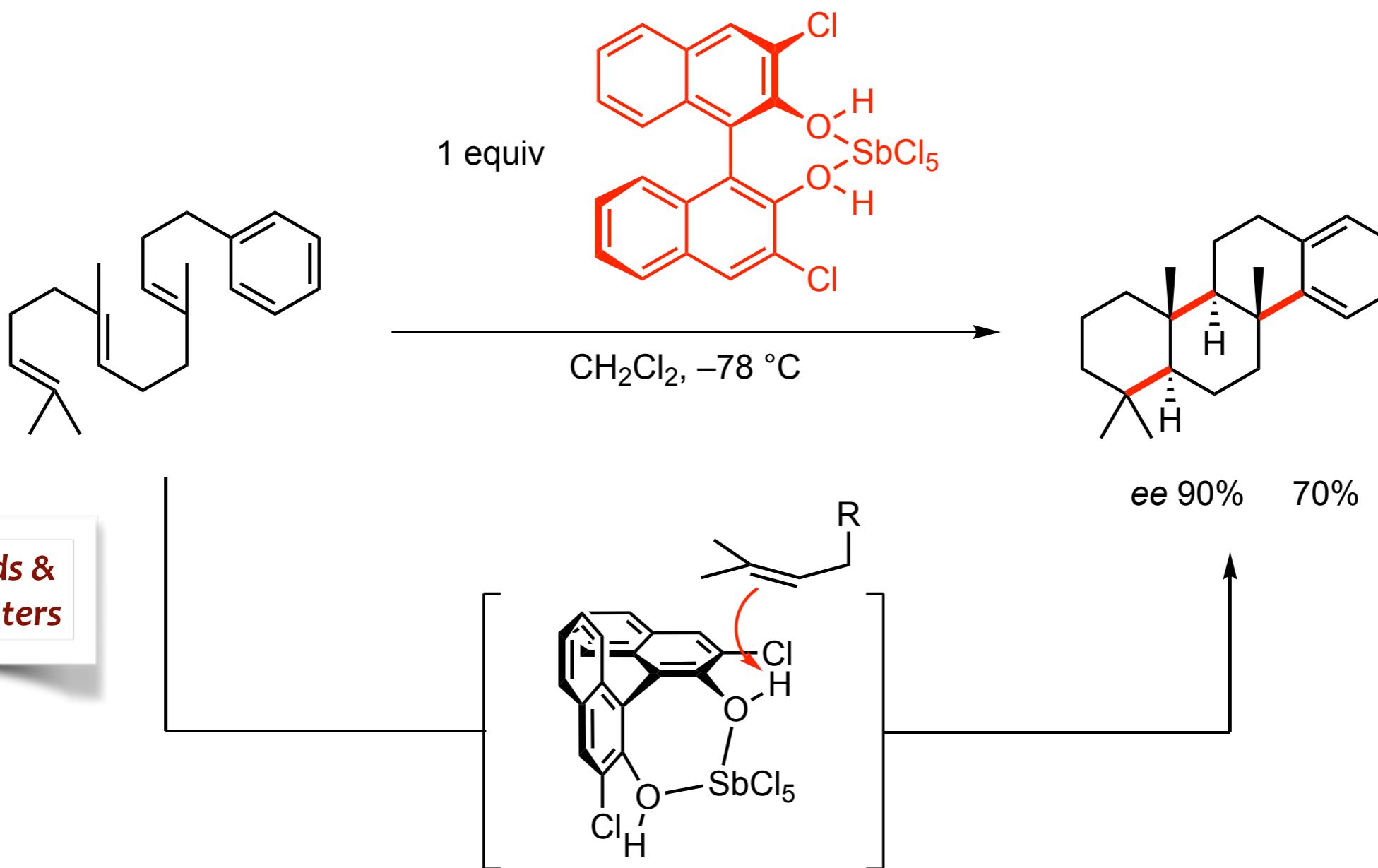


# Electrophilic Cascades. Polyene Cyclizations



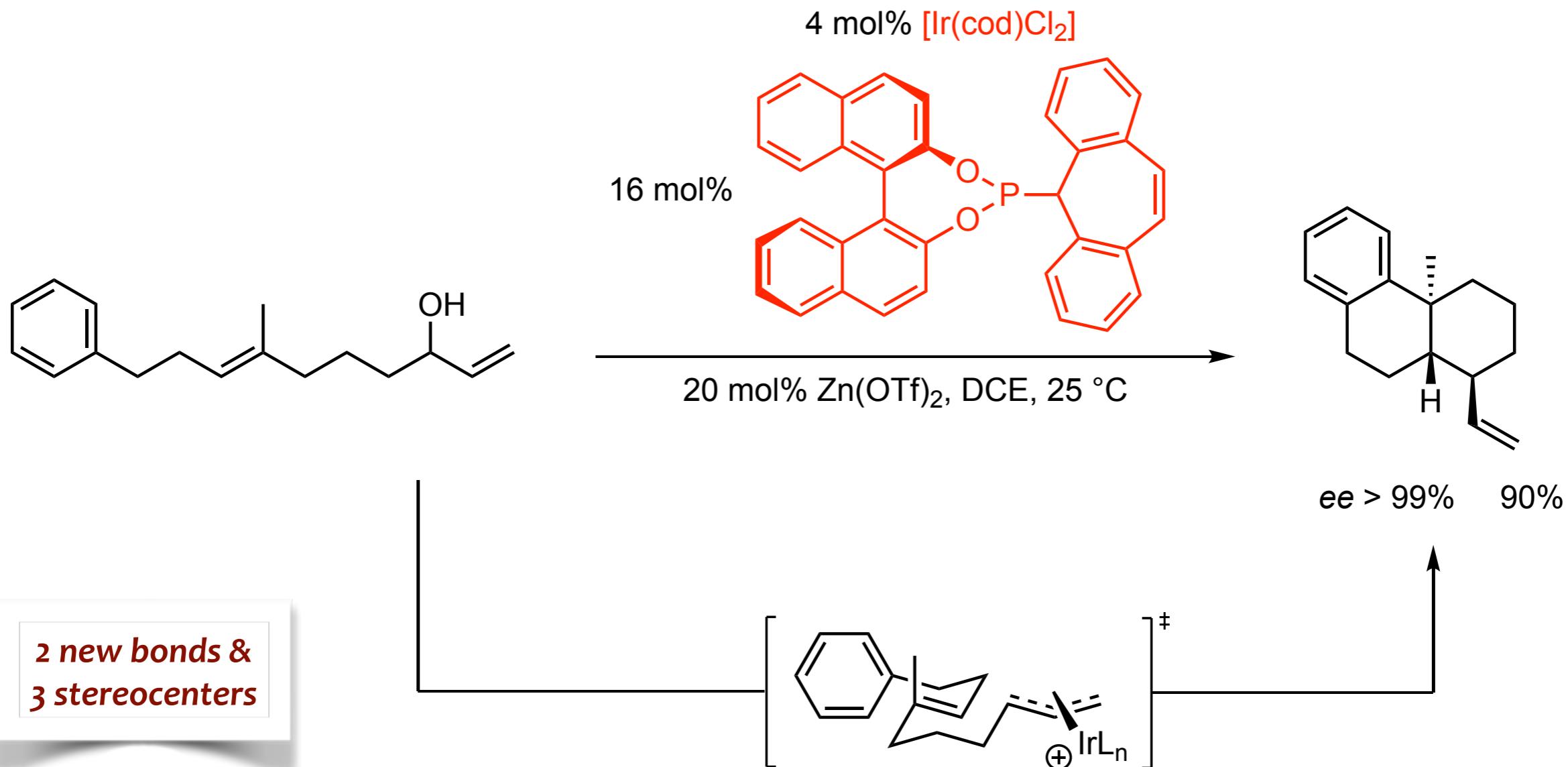
# Electrophilic Cascades. Polyene Cyclizations

Polyene cyclizations controlled by chiral Lewis acid can be **enantioselective**



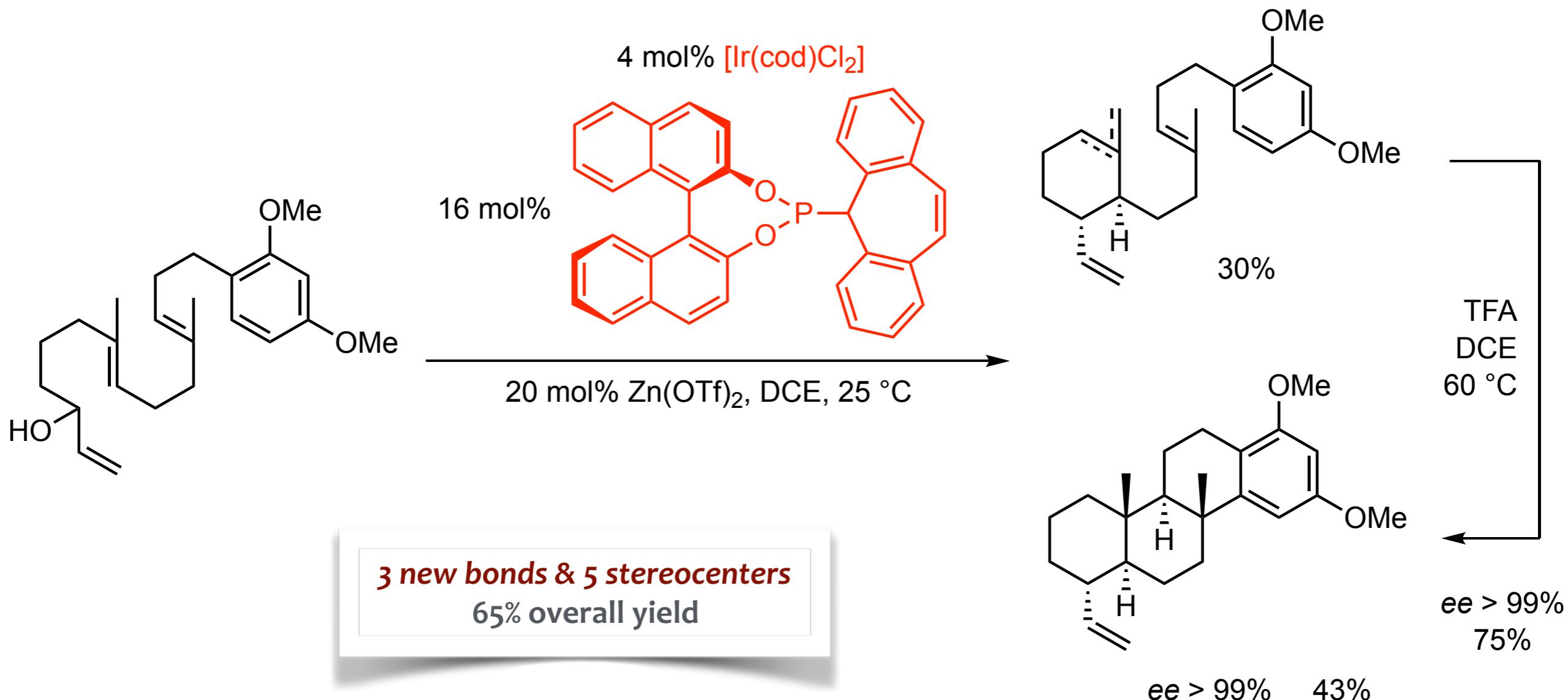
# Electrophilic Cascades. Polyene Cyclizations

Polyene cyclizations controlled by chiral Lewis acid can be **enantioselective** and **catalytic**



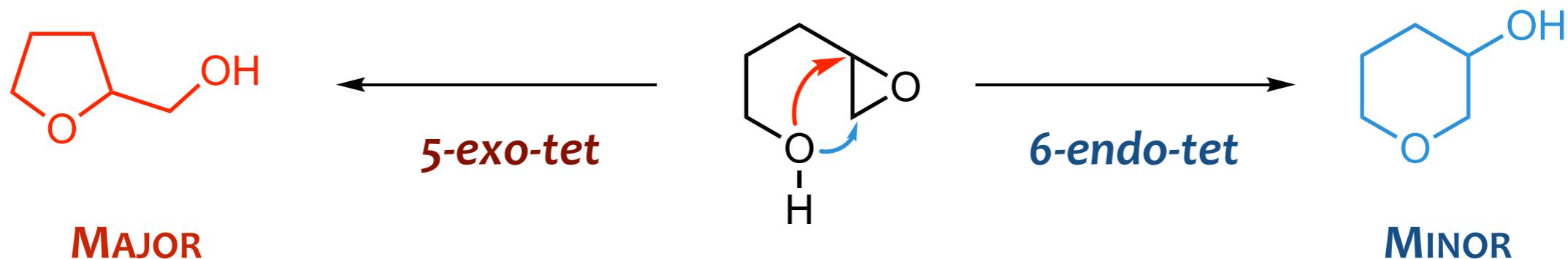
# Electrophilic Cascades. Polyene Cyclizations

Polyene cyclizations controlled by chiral Lewis acid can be **enantioselective** and **catalytic**

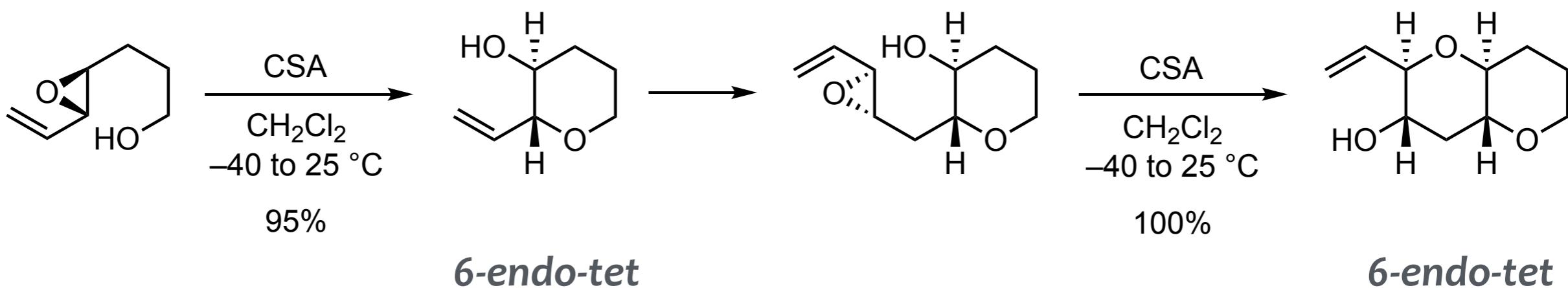


# Electrophilic Cascades. Epoxide Opening

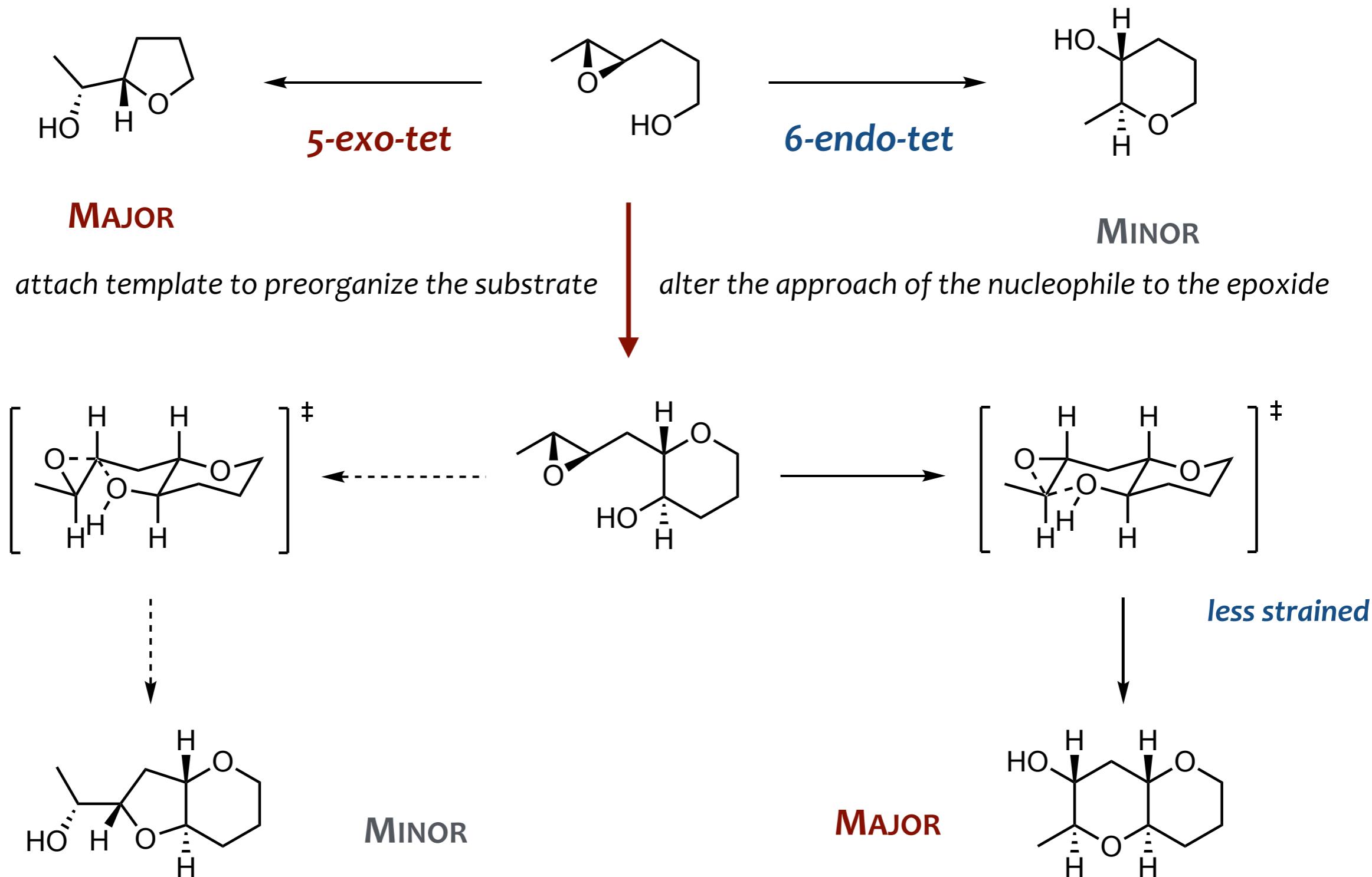
The cyclization of hydroxy epoxides often favors the **exo-tet** opening



Methods for **endo-cyclizations** rely on substituents that stabilize the partial positive charge or directing groups that deactivate the exo pathway



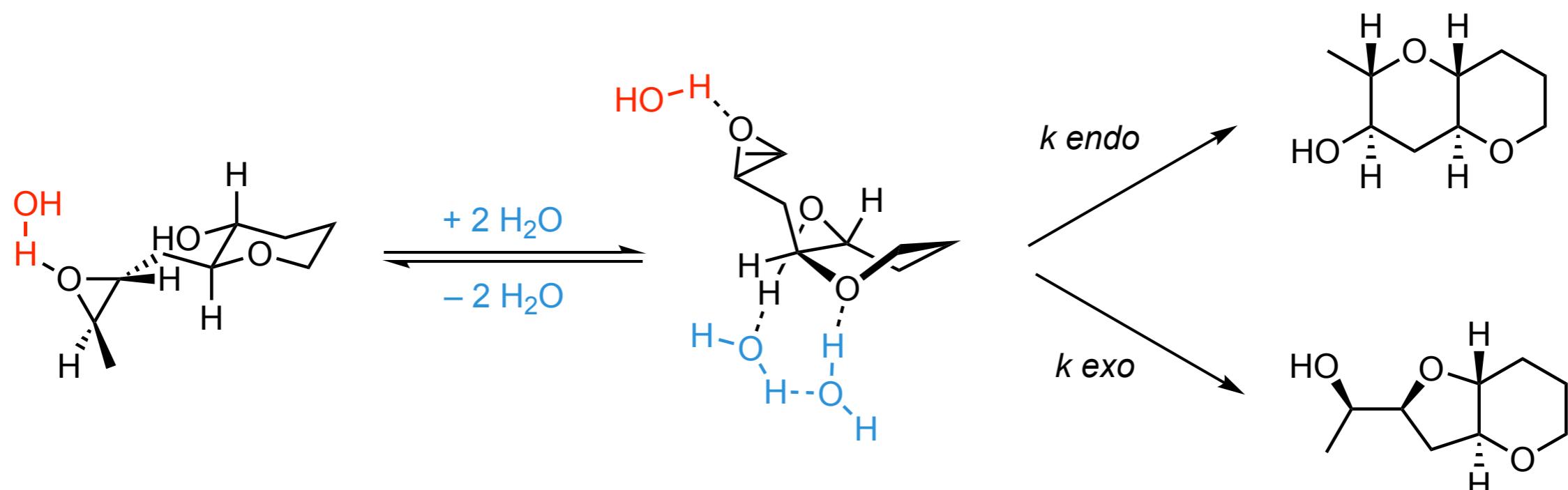
# Electrophilic Cascades. Epoxide Opening



# Electrophilic Cascades. Epoxide Opening

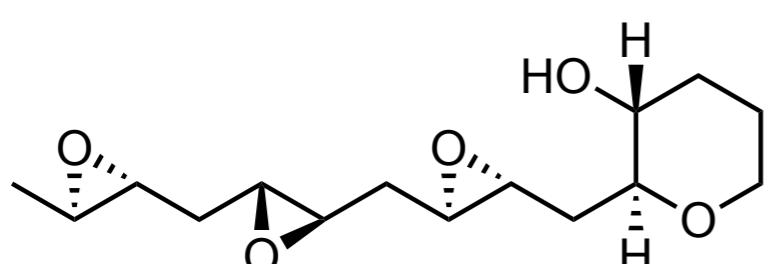
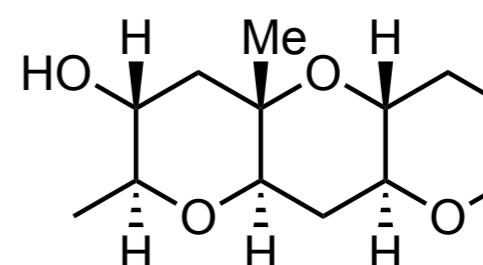
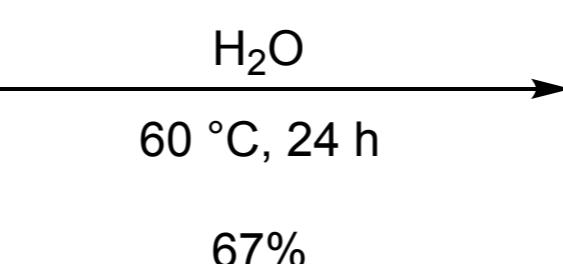
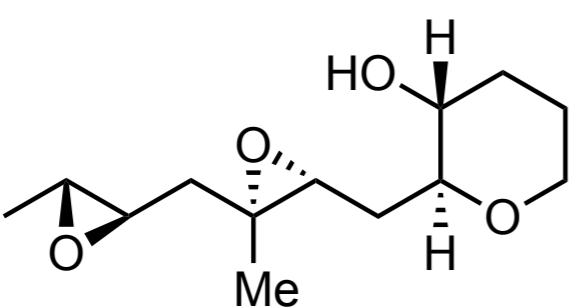
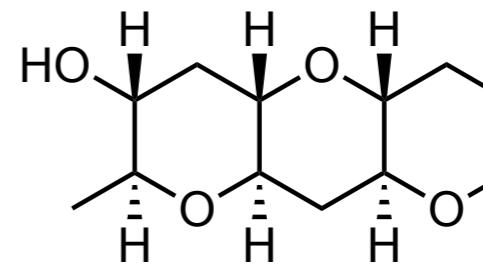
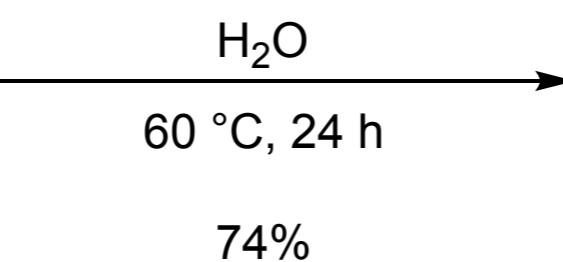
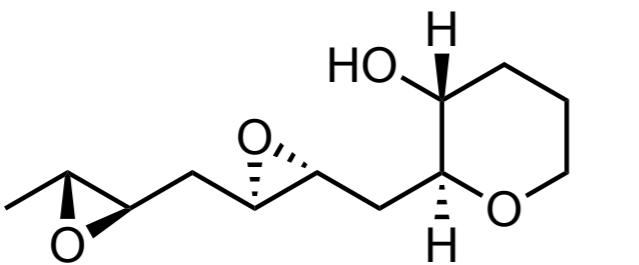
Water plays a crucial role both in the conversion and the selectivity

Jamison suggested that epoxy alcohol cyclizations in water occur for hydrated conformations with the appropriate geometry for the reaction

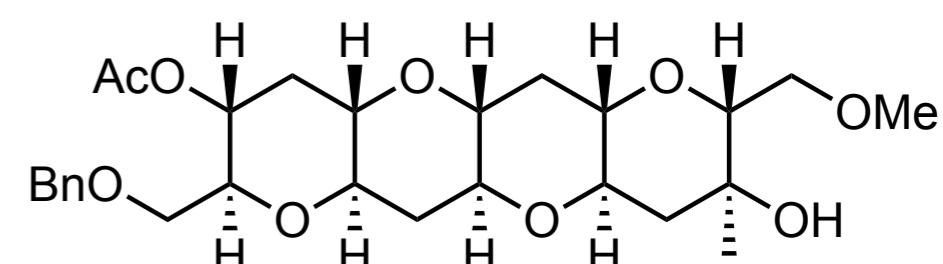
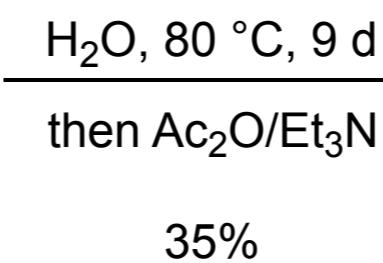
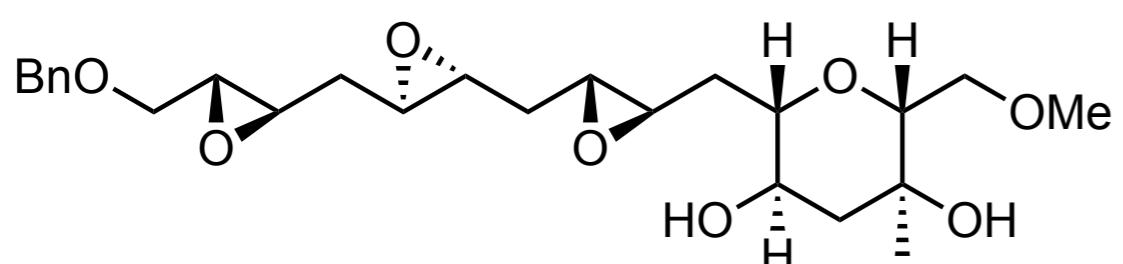
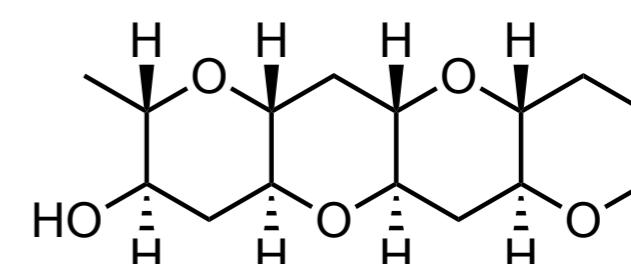
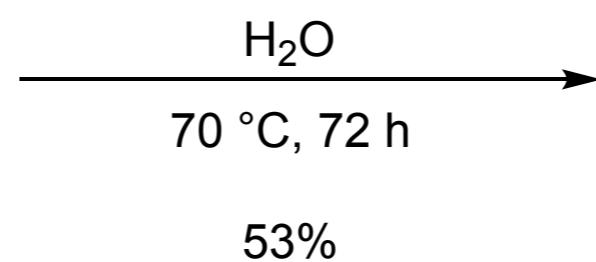


***k<sub>endo</sub> >> k<sub>exo</sub>***

# Electrophilic Cascades. Epoxide Opening

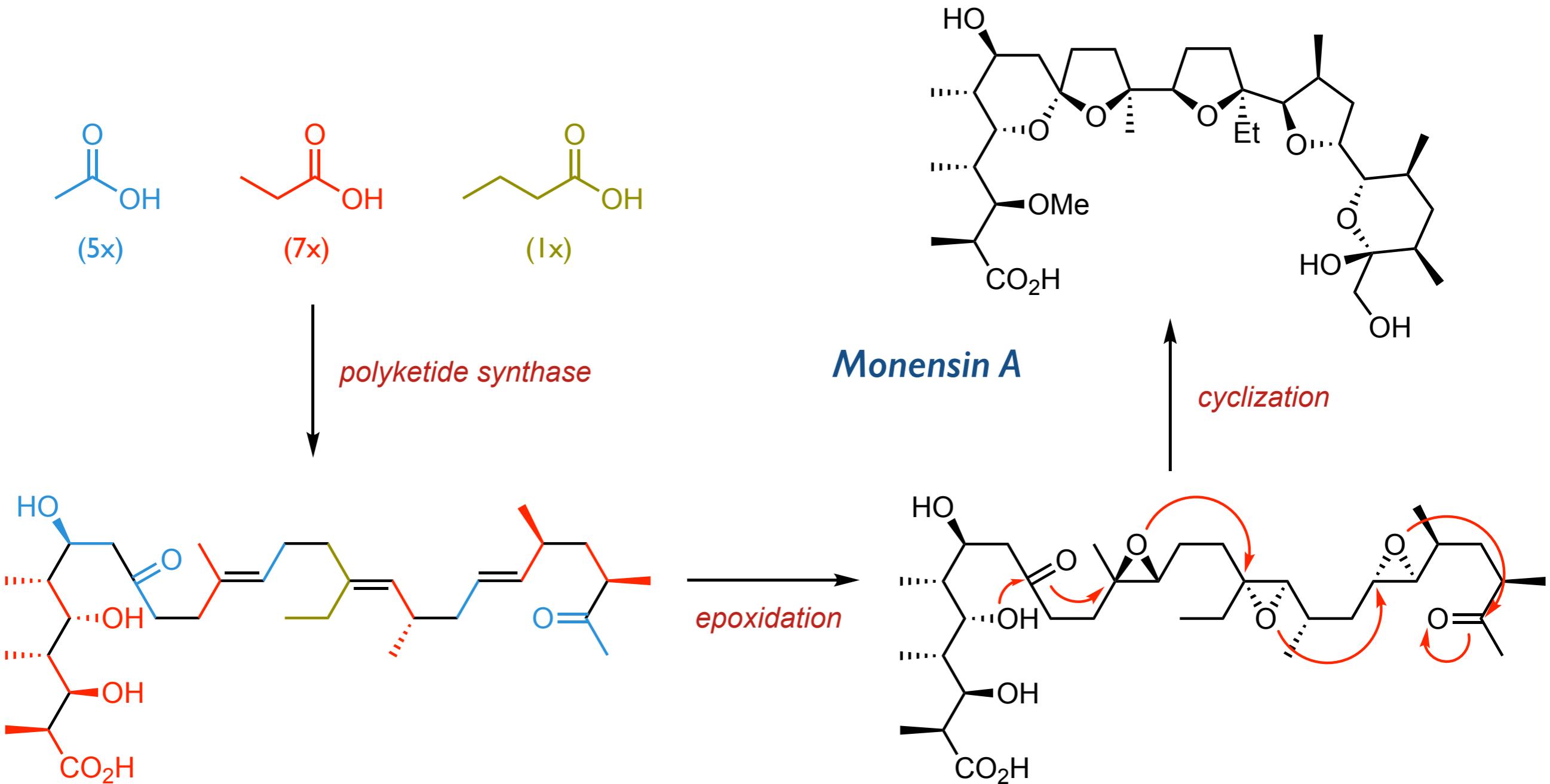


dr 3:1

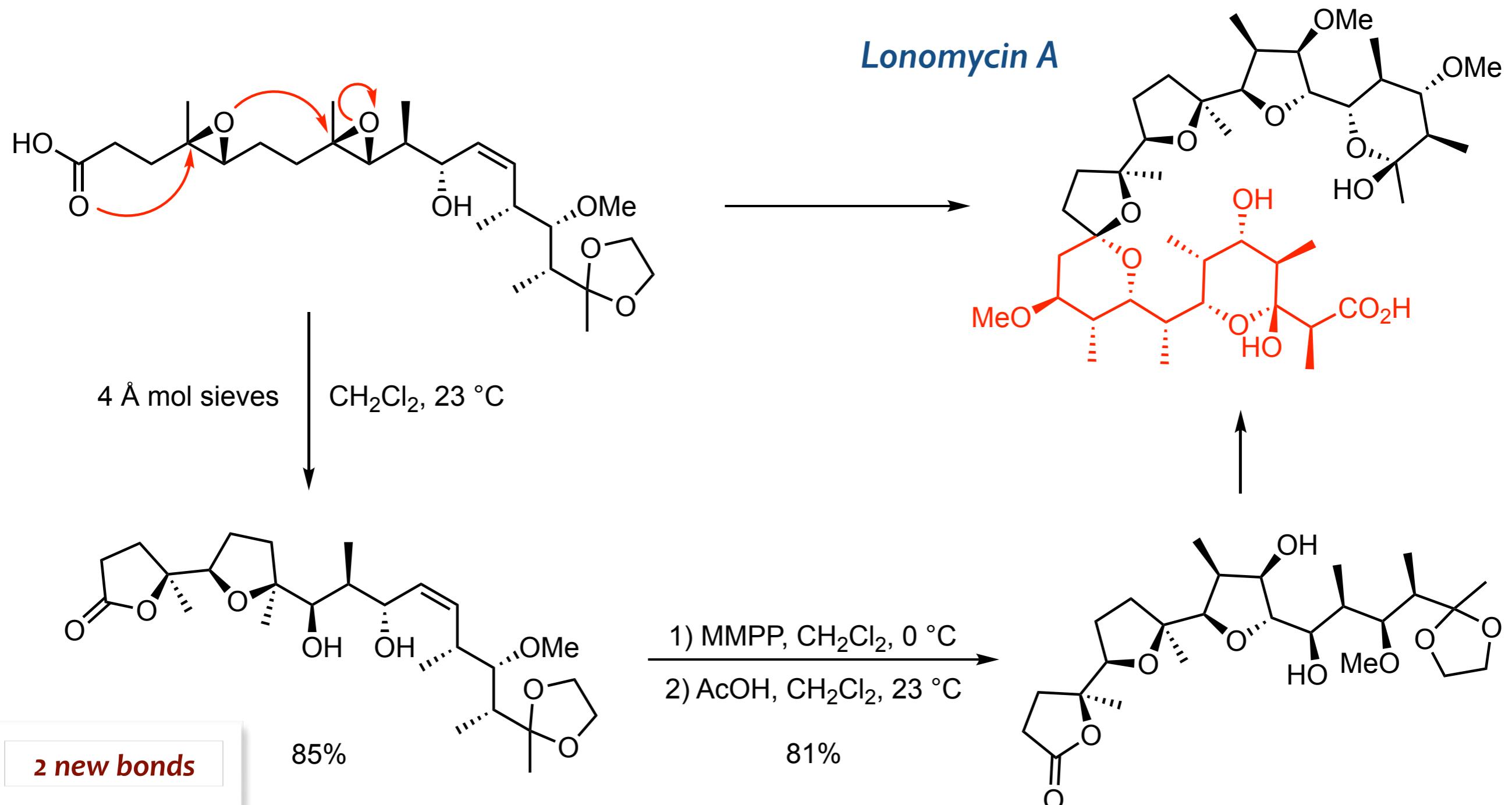


# Electrophilic Cascades. Epoxide Opening

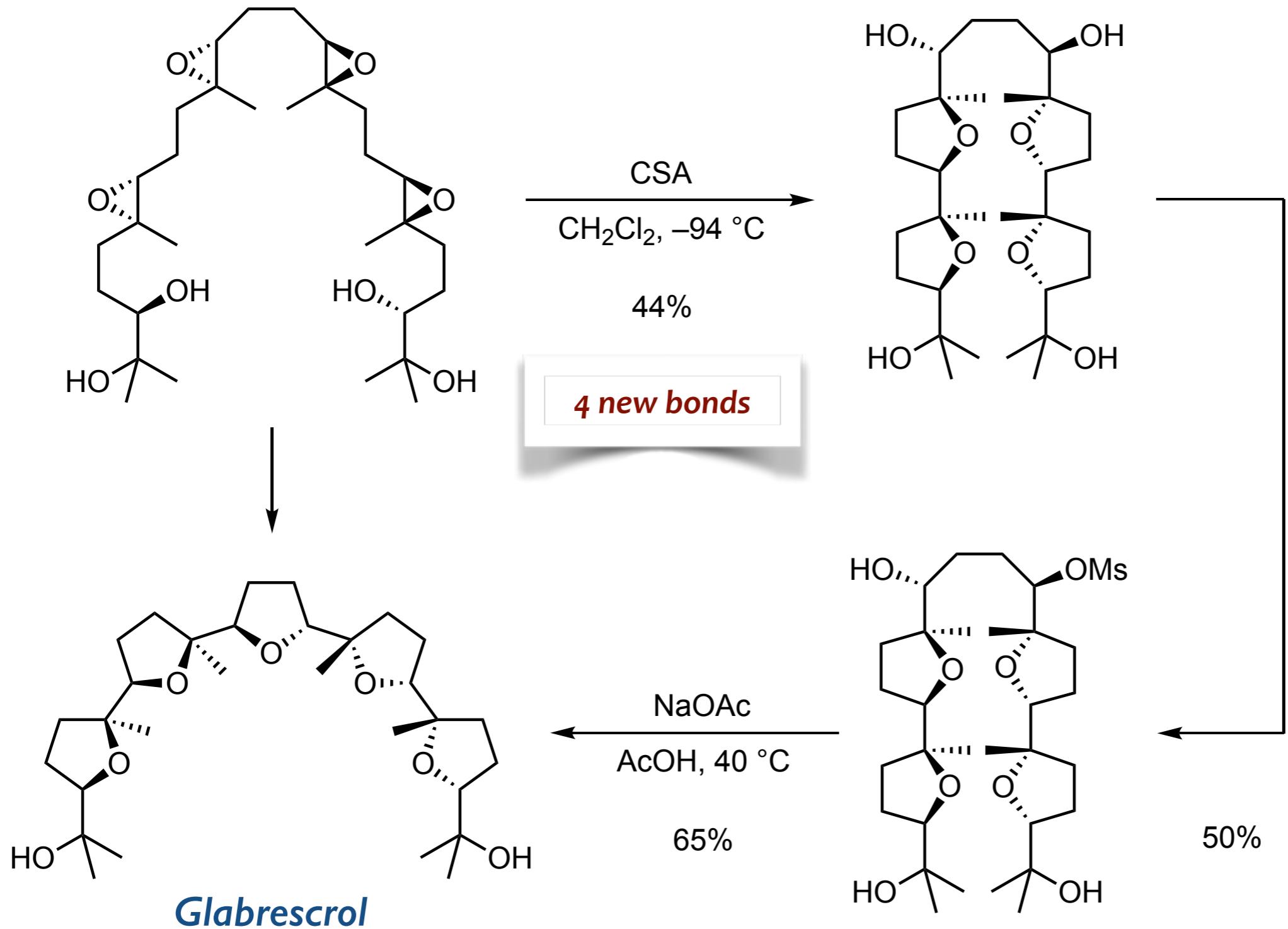
**Cane-Celmer-Westley hypothesis on the polyether biogenesis**



# Electrophilic Cascades. Epoxide Opening



# Electrophilic Cascades. Epoxide Opening



Remember!



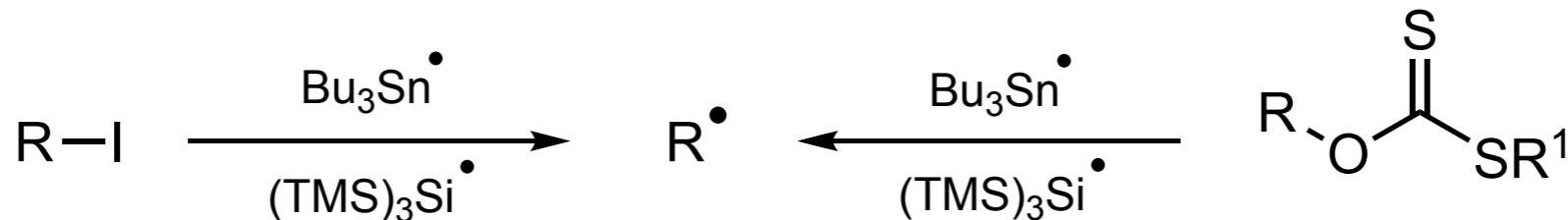
Symmetry  
Chapter 3

MsCl, DMAP  
pyr  
 $0^\circ\text{C}$  to rt

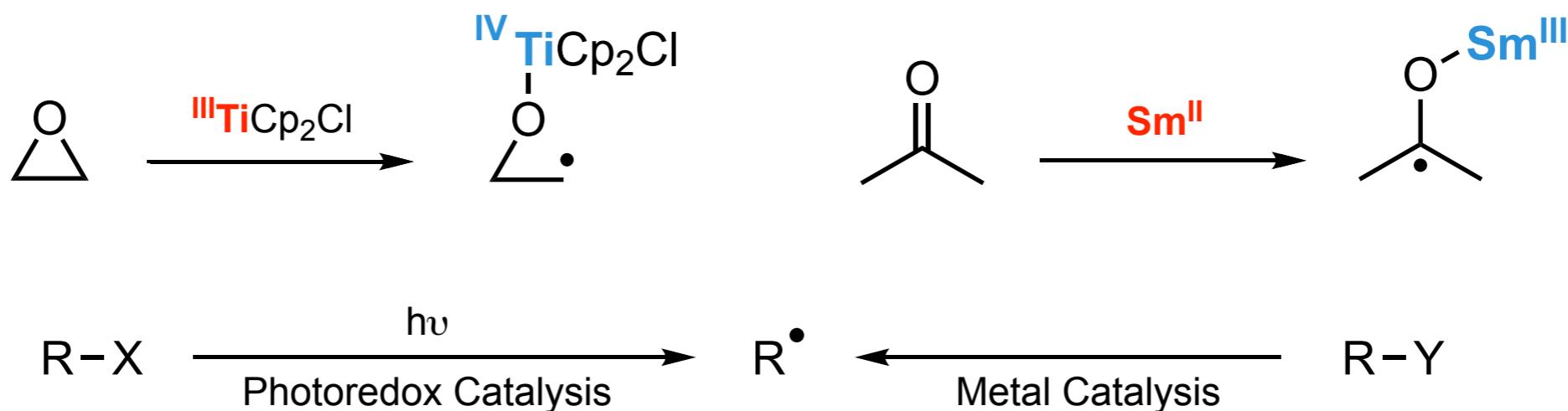
# Radical Cascades



## Tin & Silicon-mediated Cascades

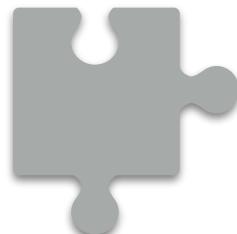


## Transition metal-mediated Cascades (SET)

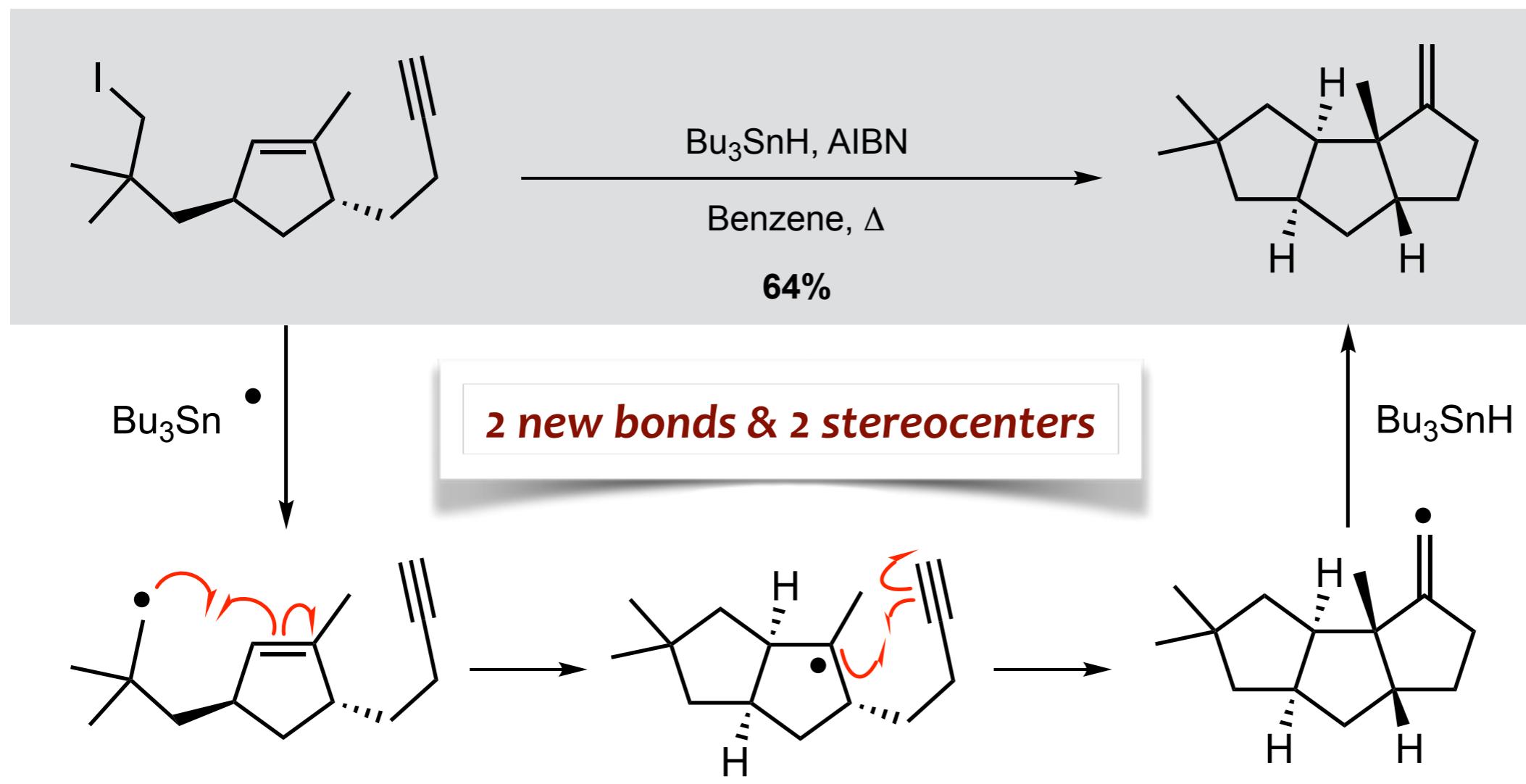


Nicolaou, K. C. *ACIE* **2006**, *45*, 7134; Stephenson, C. R. *J. ACS Catal* **2014**, *4*, 703;  
Studer, A. & Curran, D. P. *Nat. Chem.* **2014**, *6*, 765; Procter, D. J. *Nat. Chem. Rev.* **2017**, *1*, 0077;  
Barrett, A. G. M. *Synthesis* **2019**, *51*, 67

# Radical Cascades. Tin Mediated



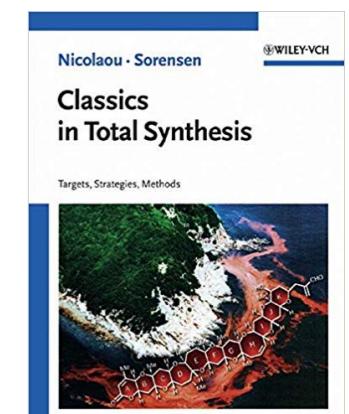
*Curran's landmark synthesis of hirsutene*



Remember!

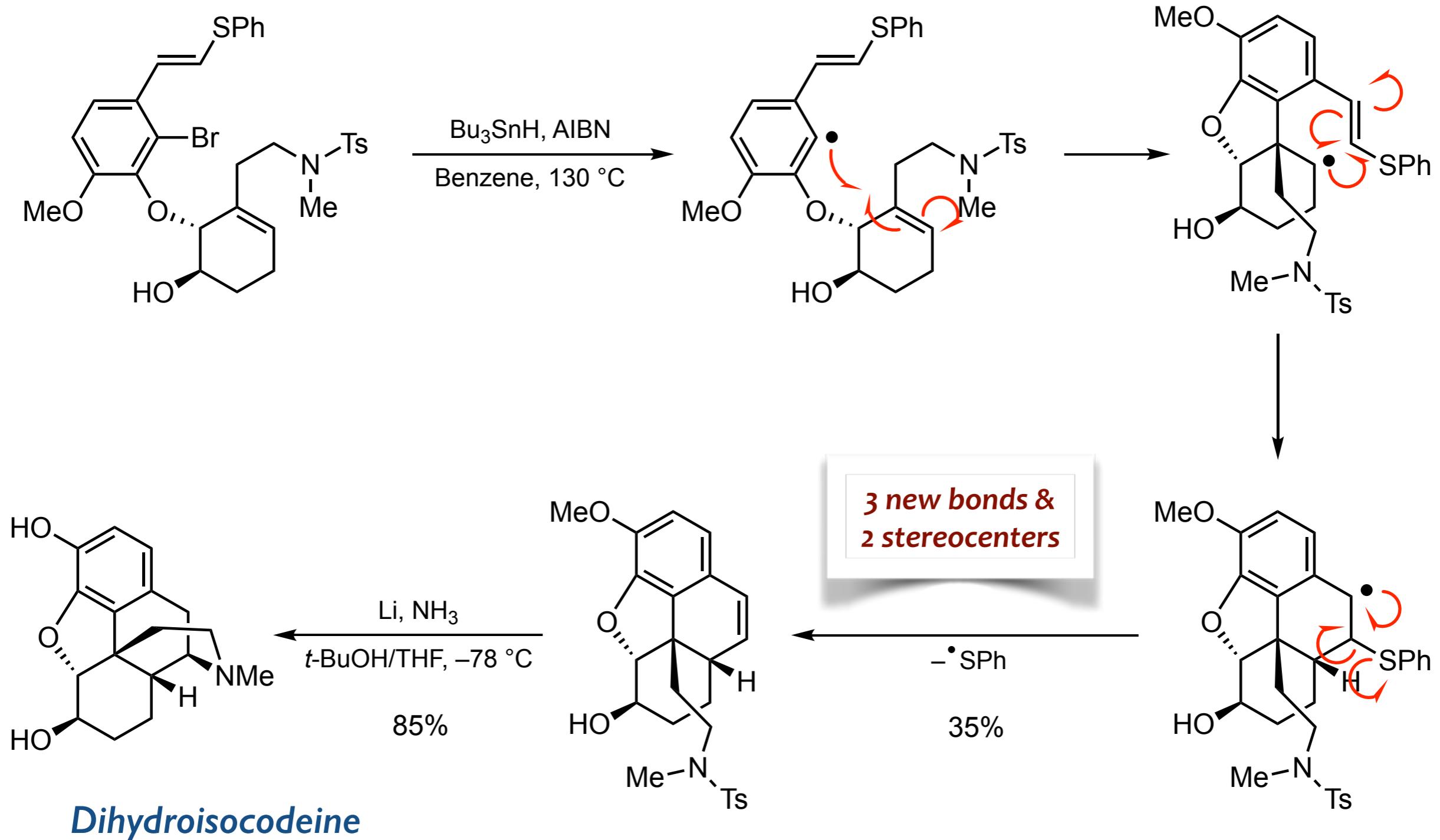


Cyclizations  
Chapter 6



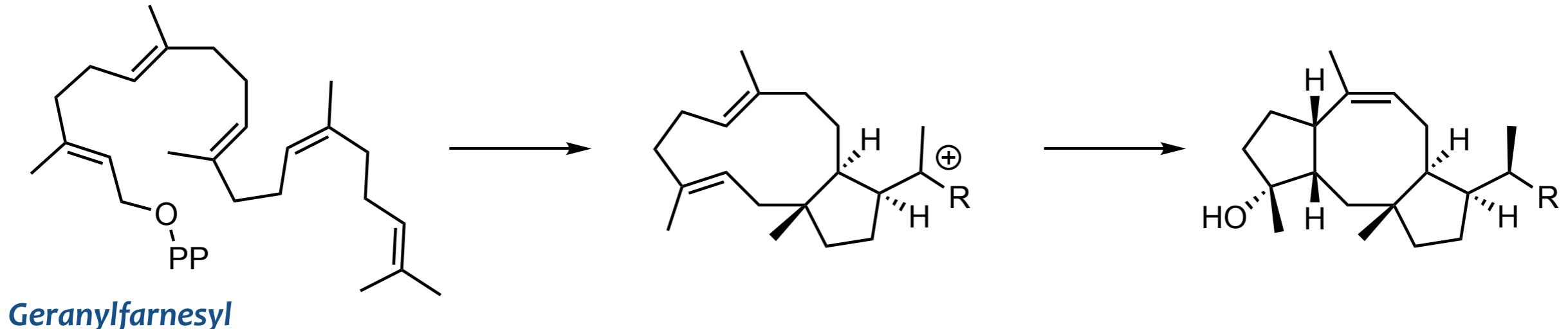
For an account, see p 381

# Radical Cascades. Tin Mediated

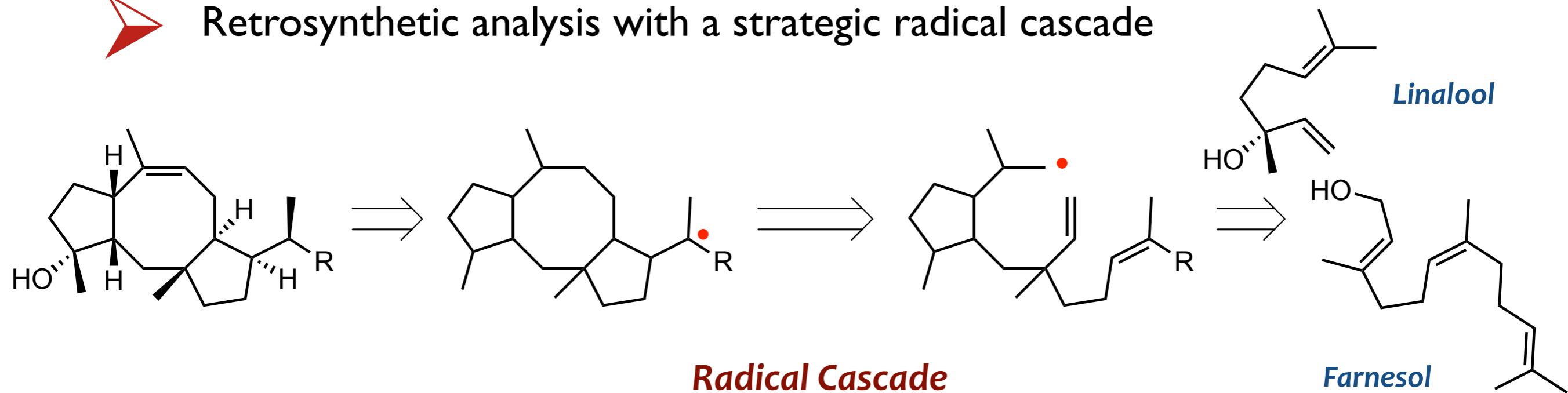


# Radical Cascades. Silicon Mediated

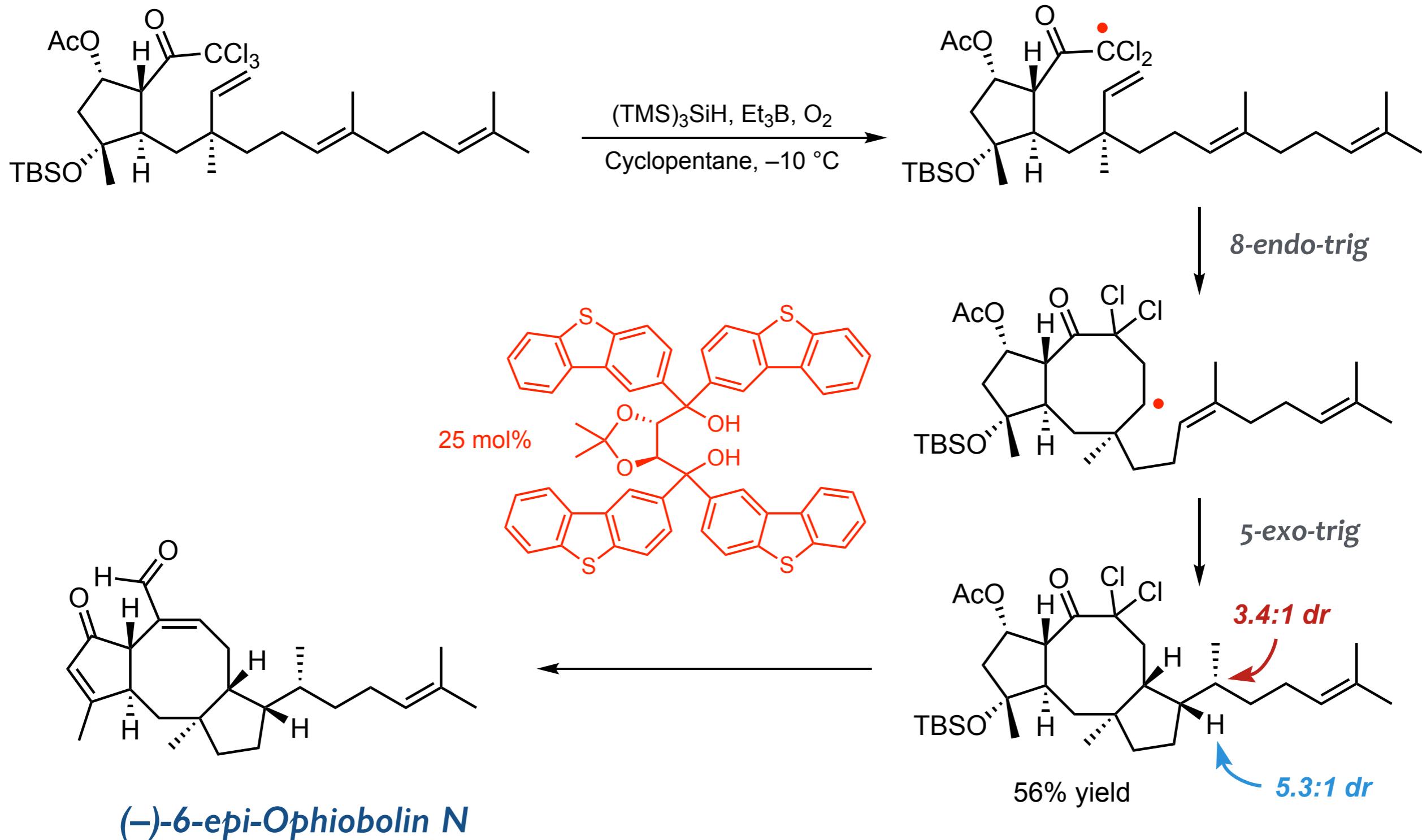
► Proposed biosynthesis of ophiobiolin sesterterpenes



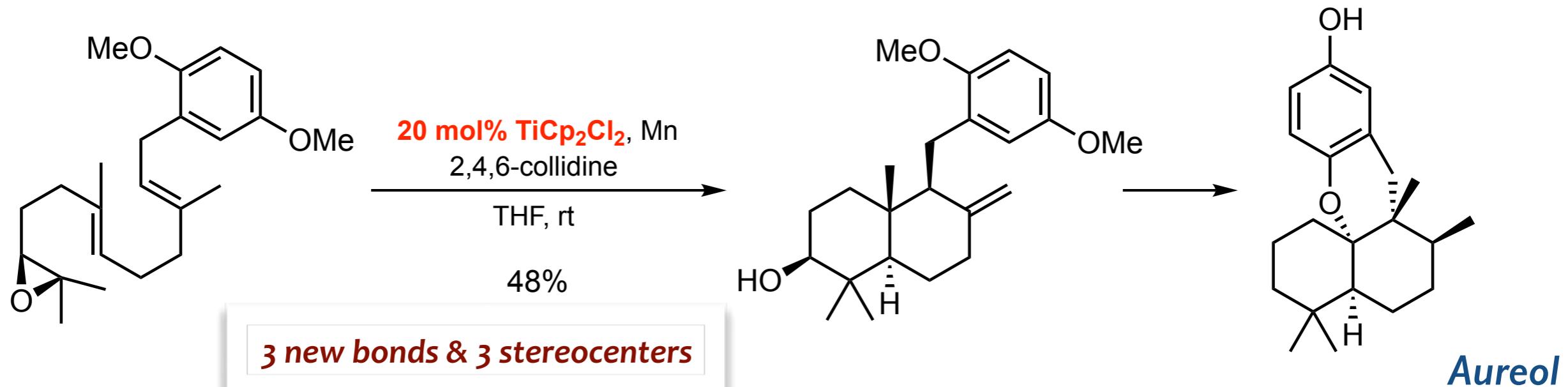
► Retrosynthetic analysis with a strategic radical cascade



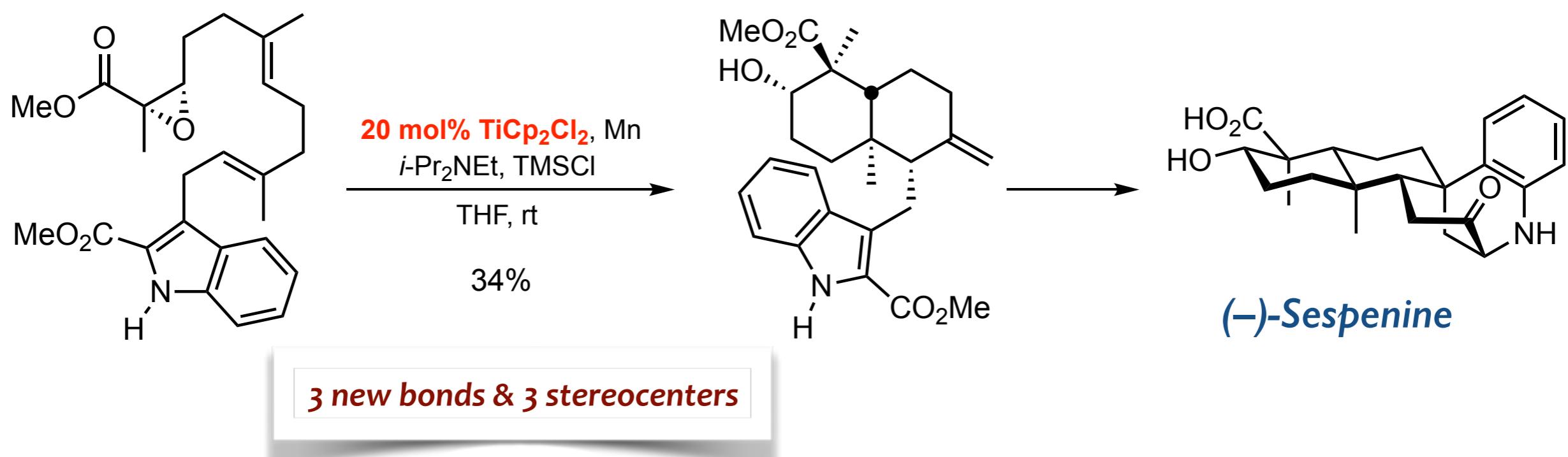
# Radical Cascades. Silicon Mediated



# Radical Cascades. Epoxide Opening

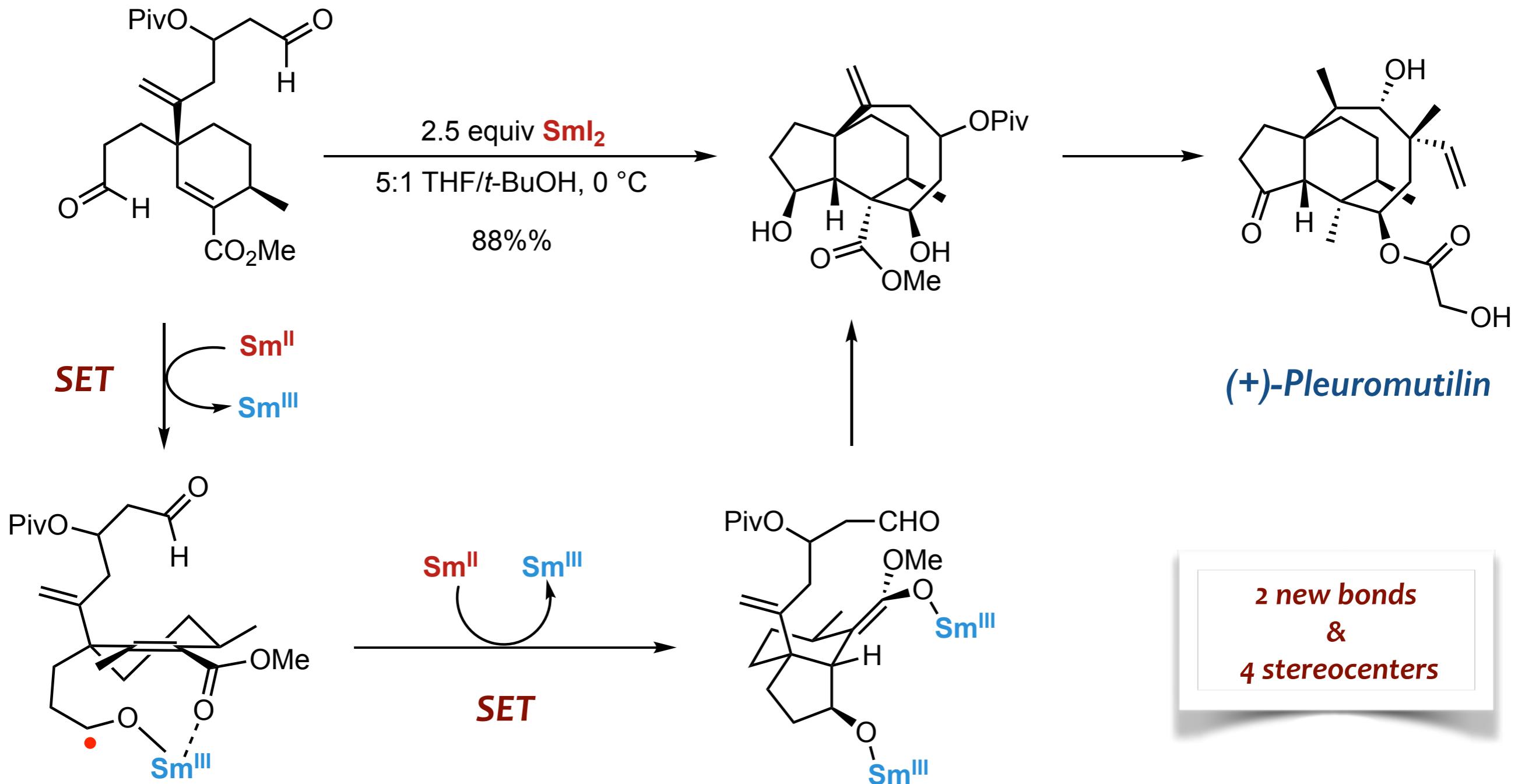


Rosales, A.; Oltra, J. E. *JOC* **2015**, *80*, 1866

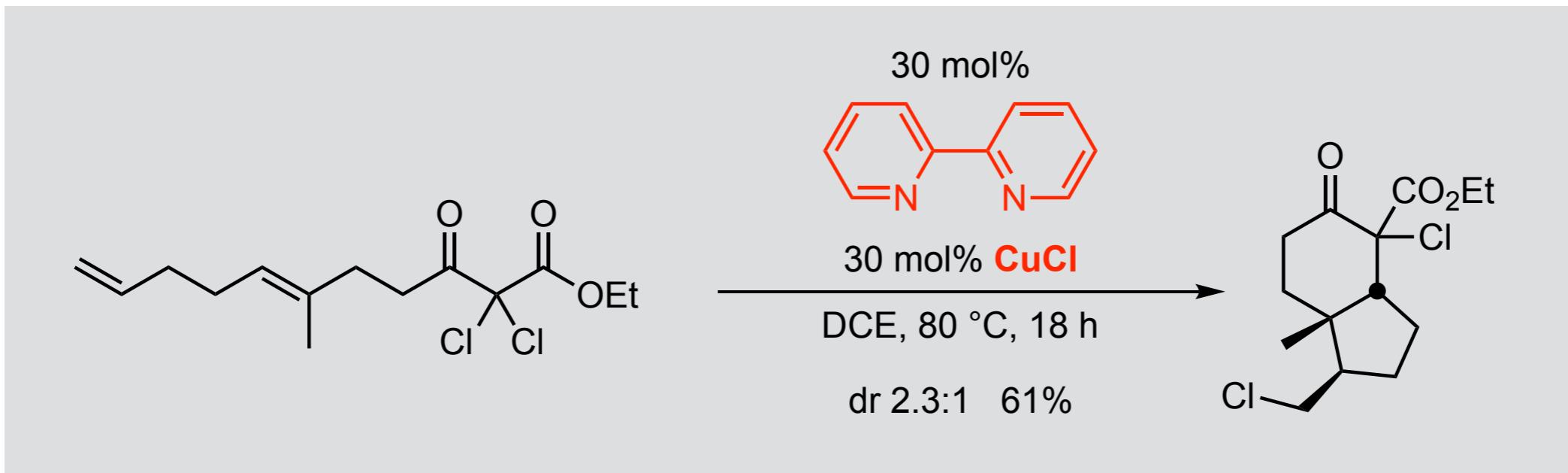


Li, A. *OCF* **2016**, *3*, 368

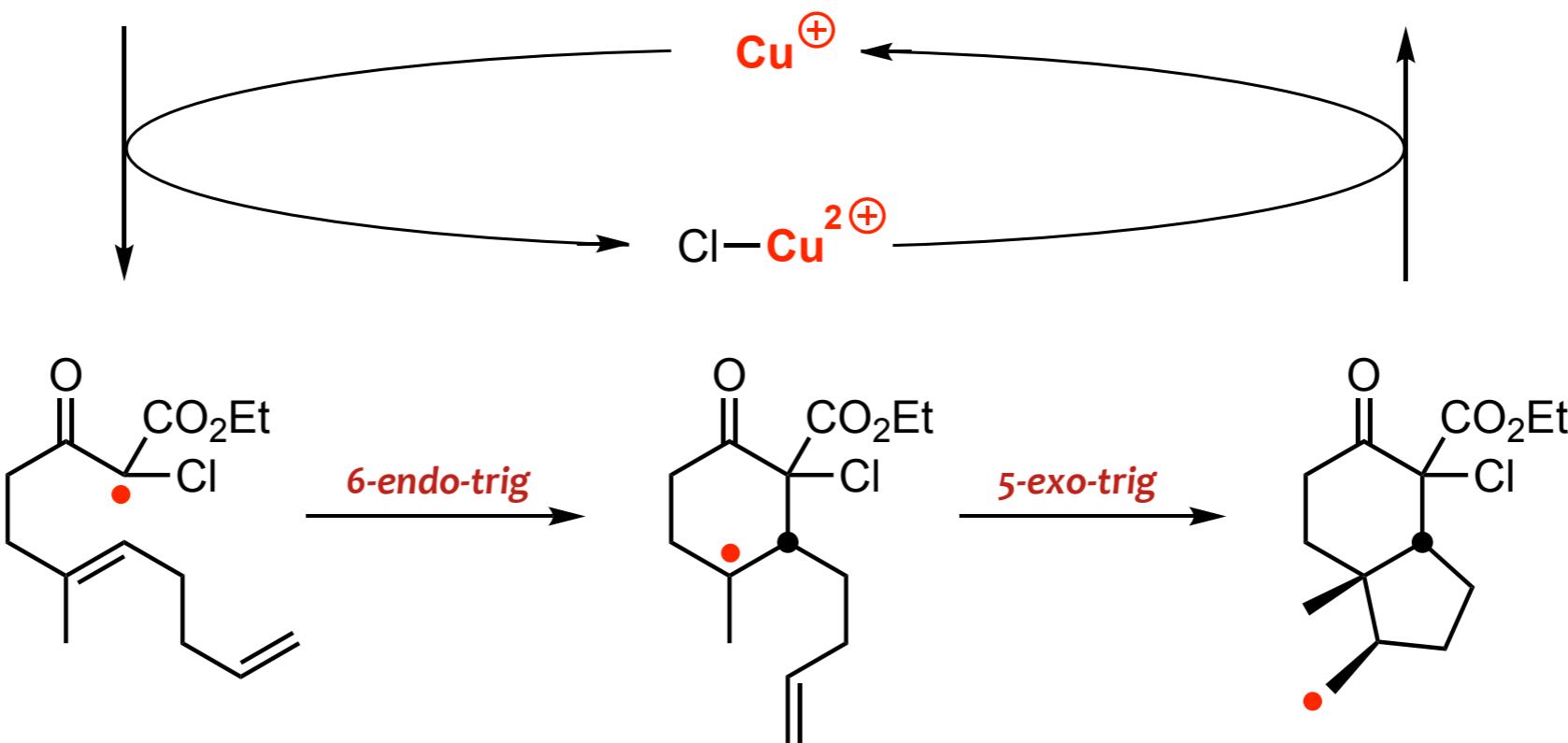
# Radical Cascades. Samarium Mediated



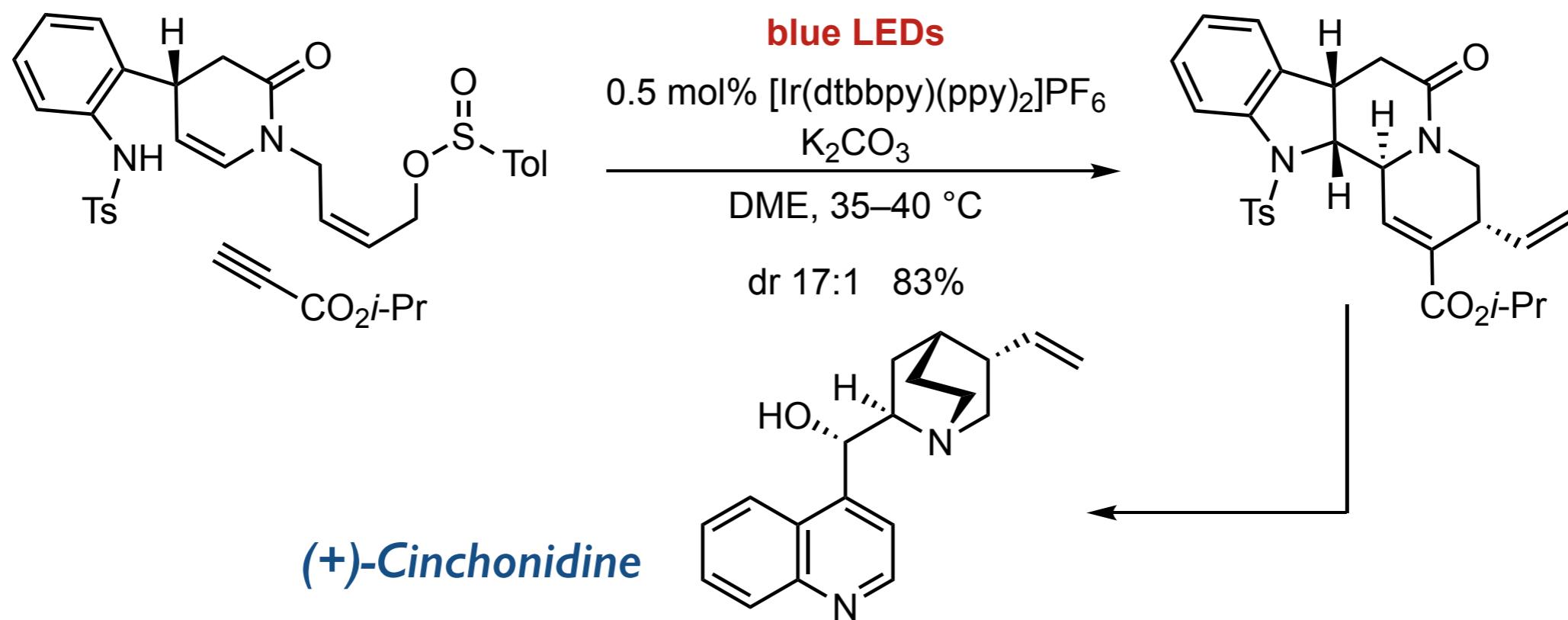
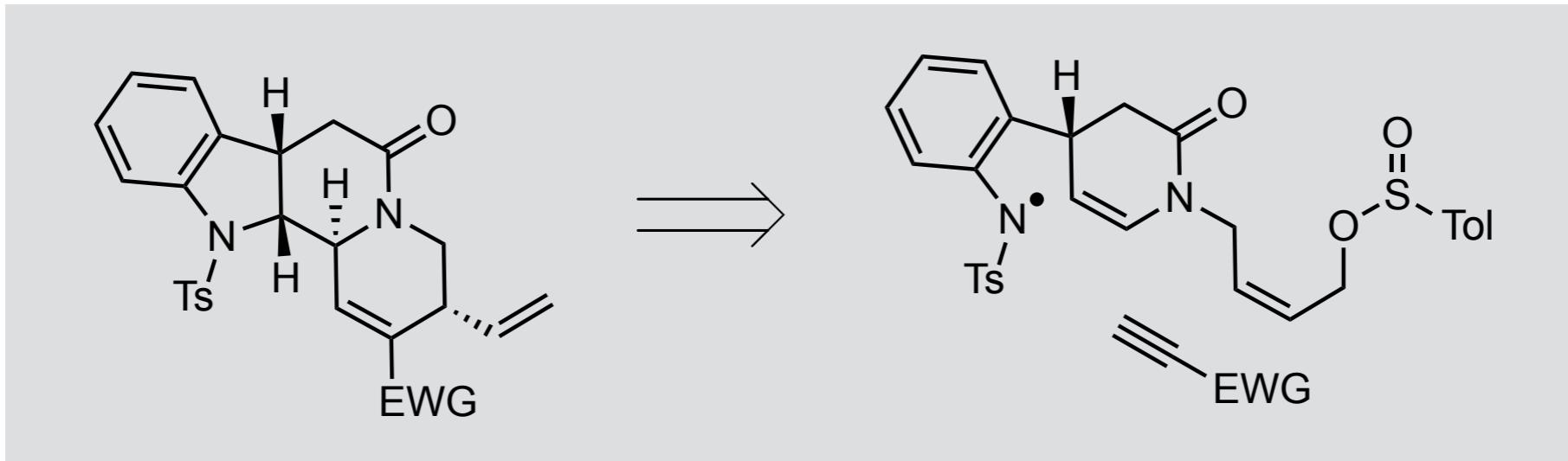
# Radical Cascades. Copper Mediated



3 new bonds  
&  
3 stereocenters



# Radical Cascades. Photoredox Catalysis



# Pericyclic Cascades

# Toward a Symphony of Reactivity: Cascades Involving Catalysis and Sigmatropic Rearrangements

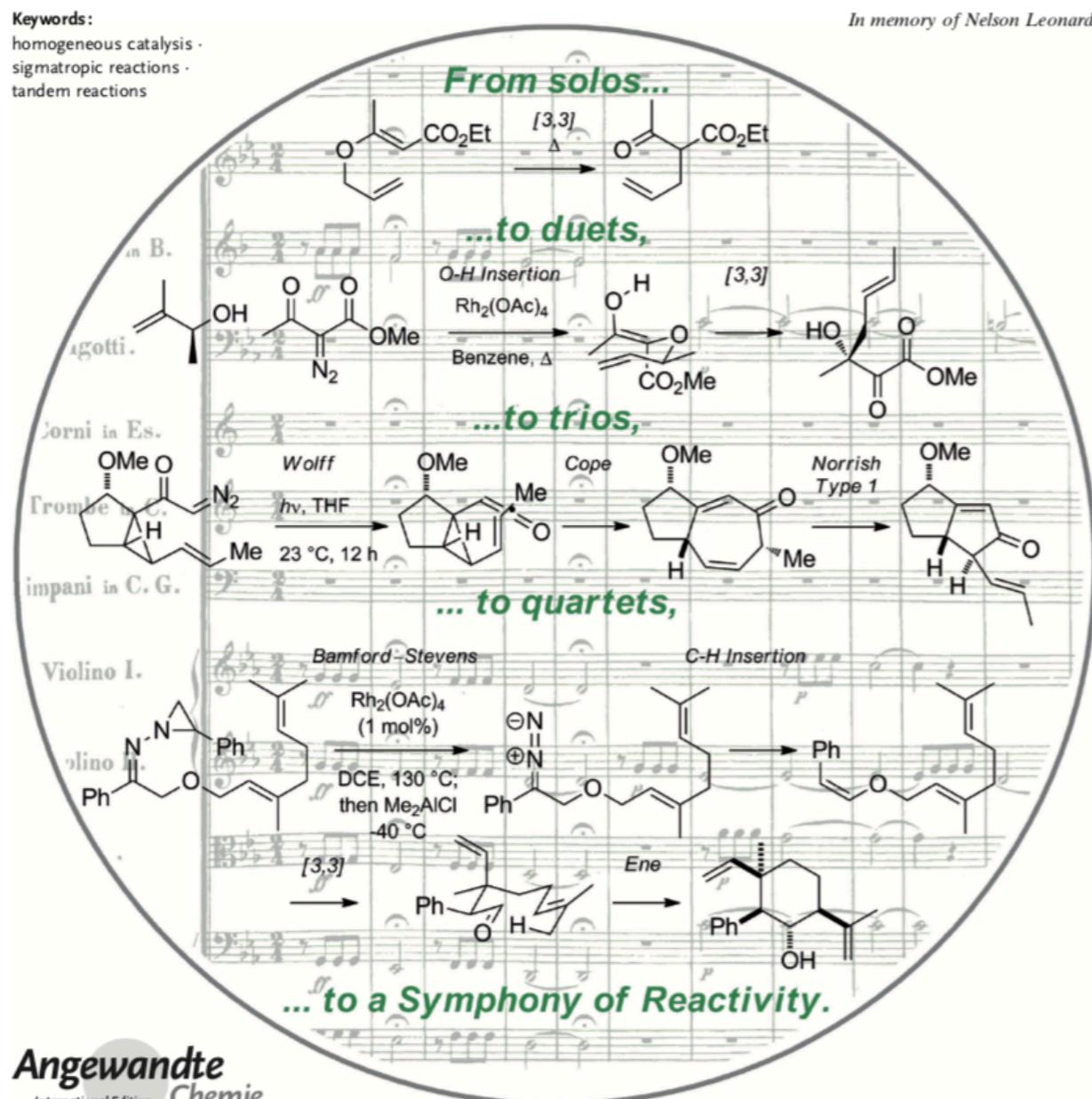
*Amanda C. Jones,\* Jeremy A. May, Richmond Sarpong, and Brian M. Stoltz\**

**In** many regards,

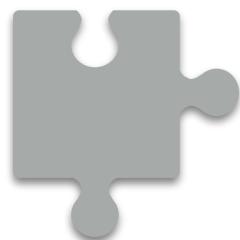
*the inherent beauty associated with a synthetic sequence can be linked to a certain combination of the creativity with which a sequence is designed and the overall efficiency with which the ultimate process is performed. In synthesis, as in other endeavors, beauty is very much in the eyes of the beholder*

Jones, A. C. ; Stoltz, B. M.

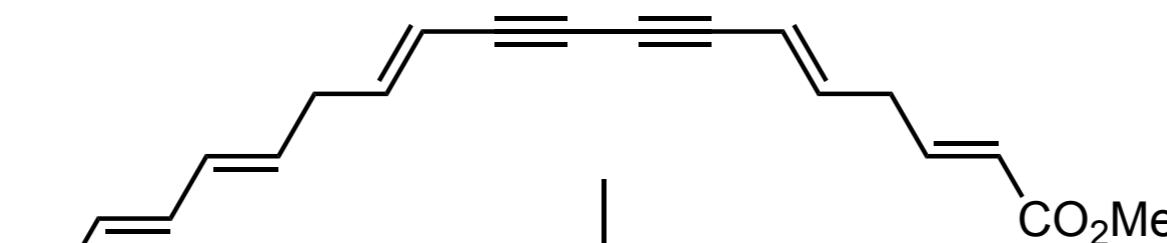
ACIE 2014, 53, 2556



# Electrocyclic Cascades

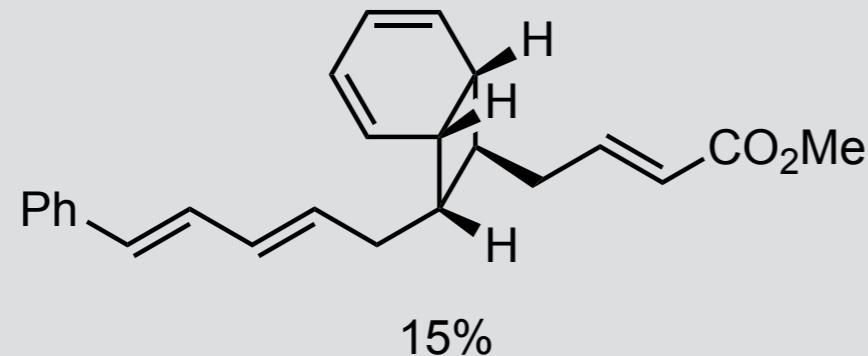


Nicolaou's landmark biomimetic synthesis of Endiandric Acid B, C, F, and G

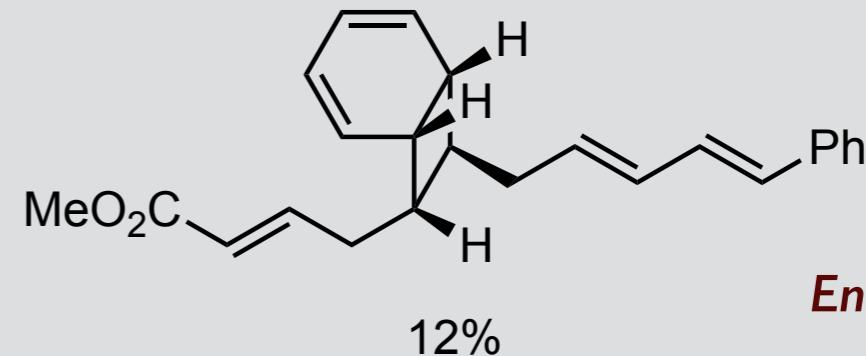


1)  $\text{H}_2$ , Lindlar,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 25 °C. 2) Toluene, from rt to 100 °C

**BEFORE HEATING**

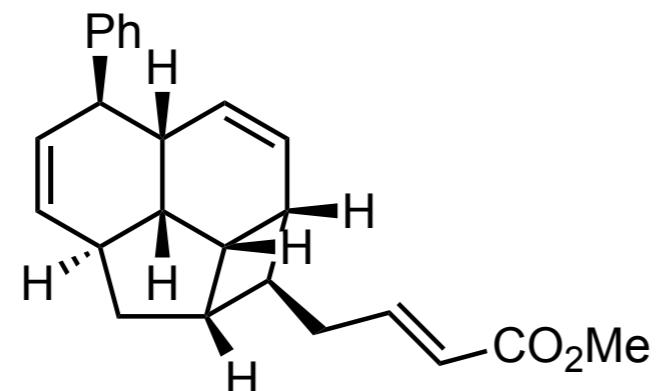


Endiandric Acid F  
Methyl Ester

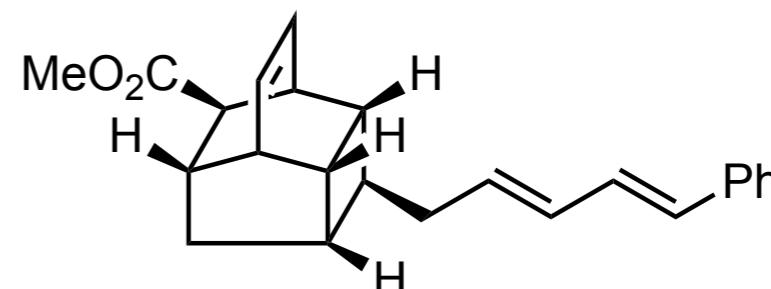


Endiandric Acid G  
Methyl Ester

**AFTER HEATING**



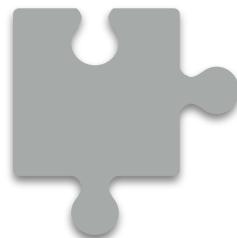
Endiandric Acid B  
Methyl Ester



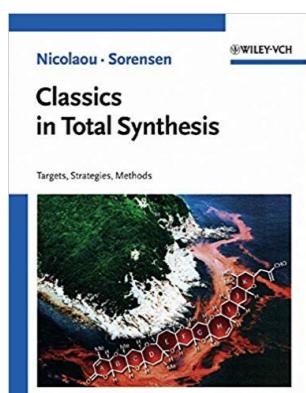
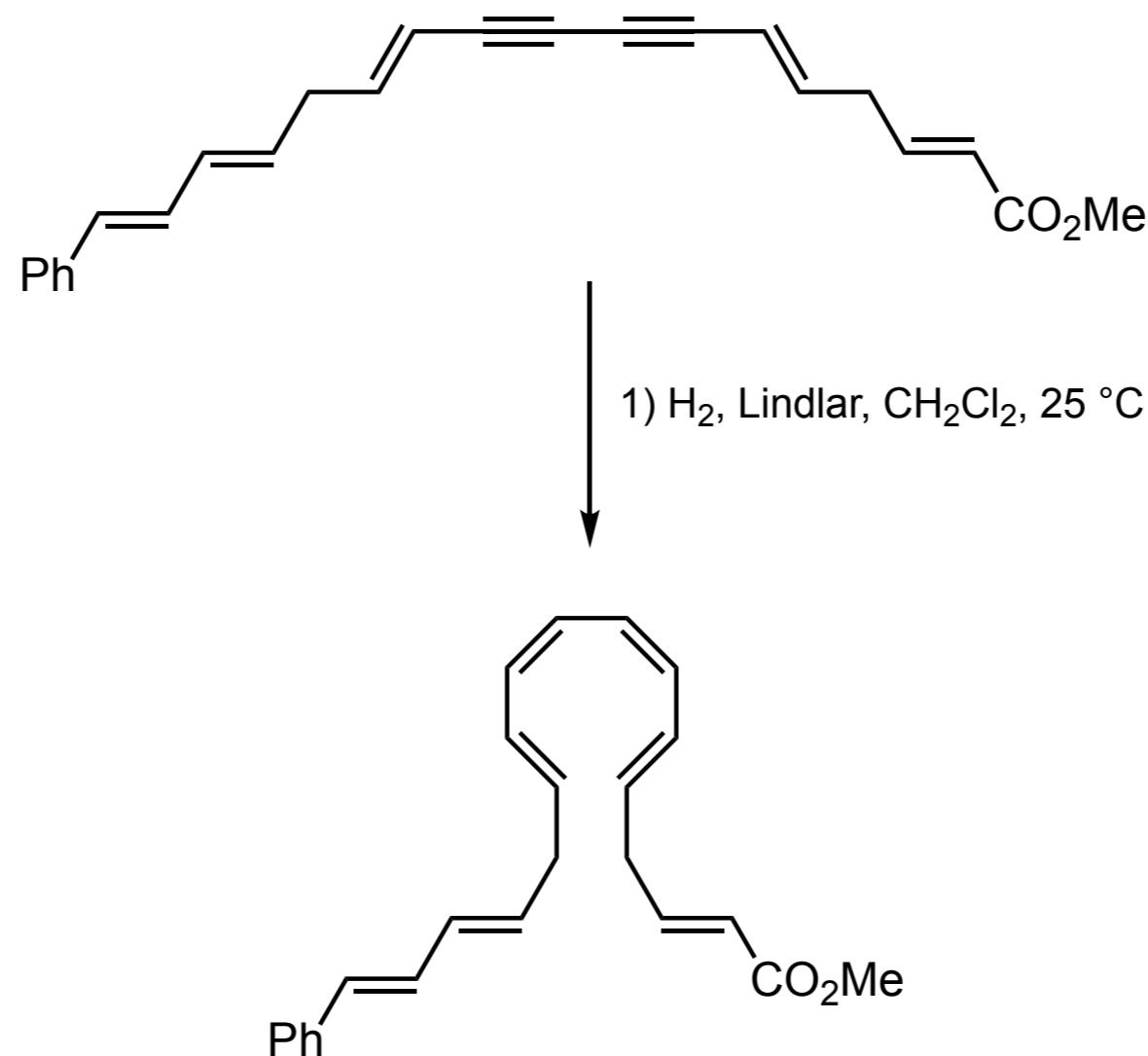
Endiandric Acid C  
Methyl Ester

4.5:1      Overall yield 28%

# Electrocyclic Cascades



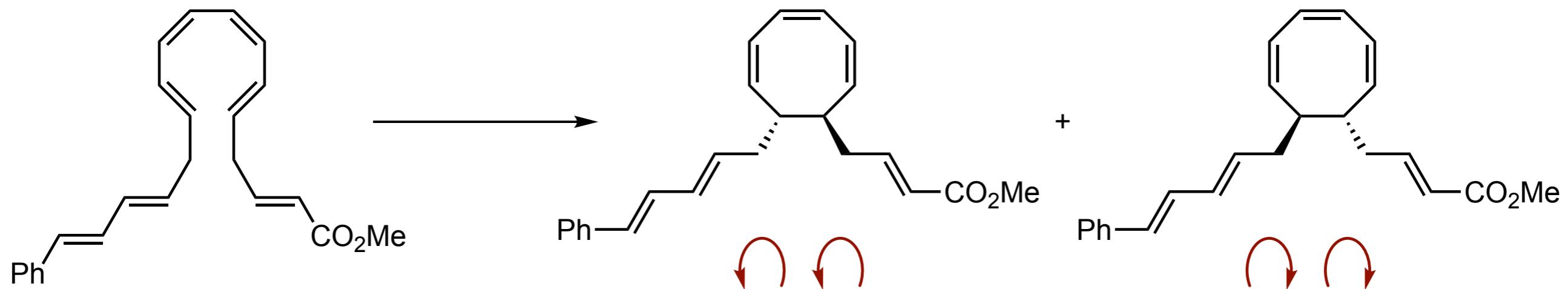
**Nicolaou's landmark biomimetic synthesis of Endiandric Acid B, C, F, and G**



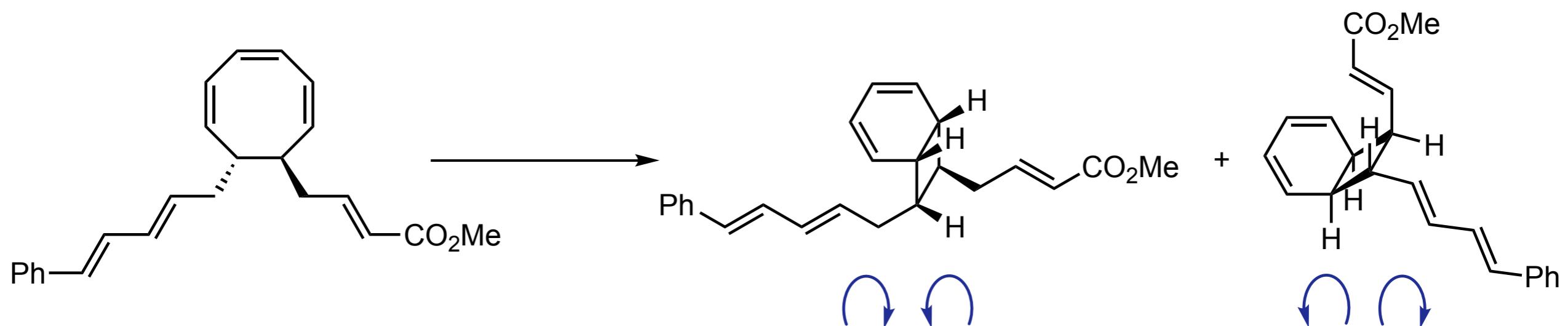
For an account, see p 265

# Electrocyclic Cascades

➤ Conrotatory  $8\pi$  electron electrocyclic

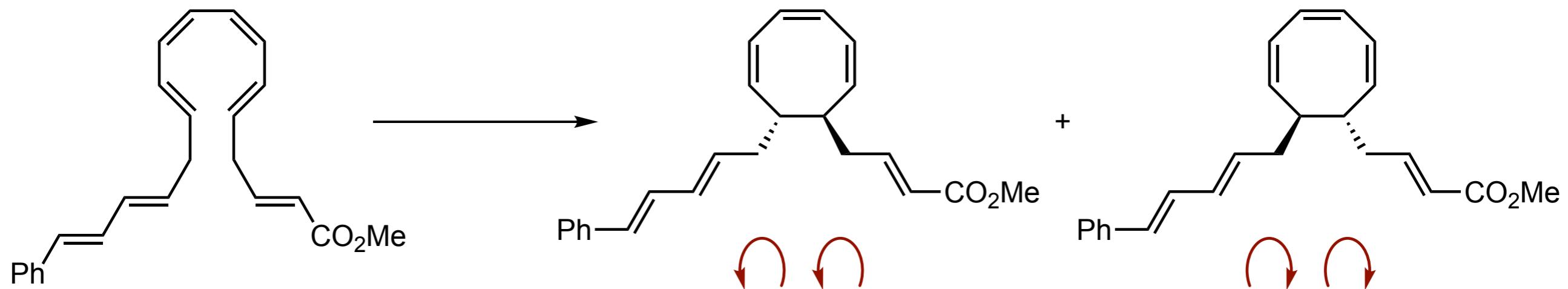


➤ Disrotatory  $6\pi$  electron electrocyclic

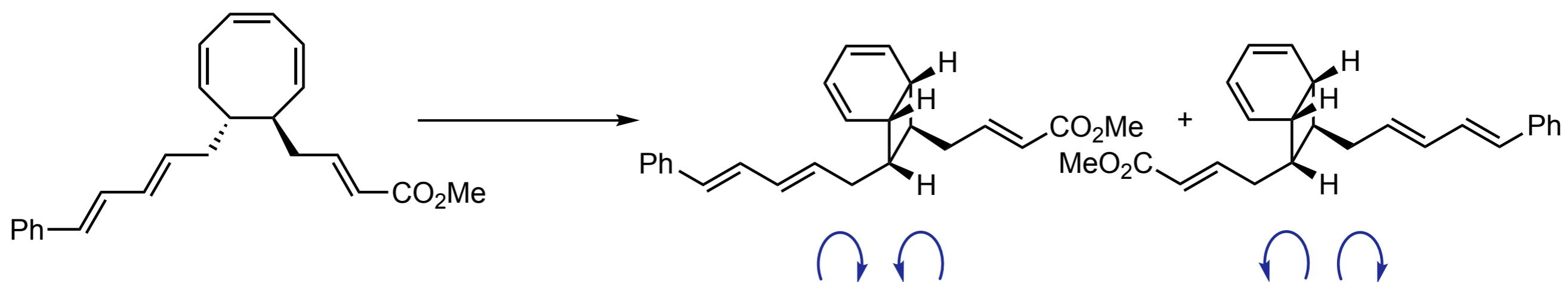


# Electrocyclic Cascades

➤ Conrotatory  $8\pi$  electron electrocyclic

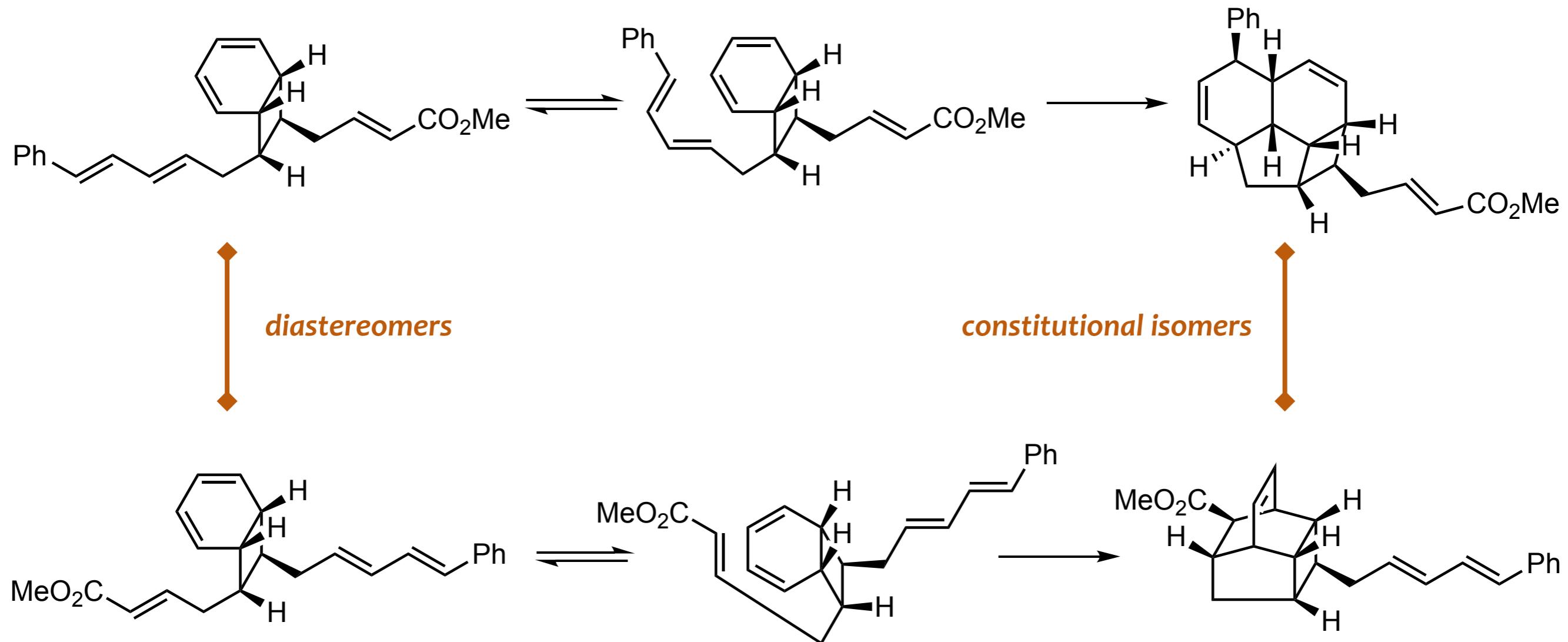


➤ Disrotatory  $6\pi$  electron electrocyclic



# Electrocyclic Cascades

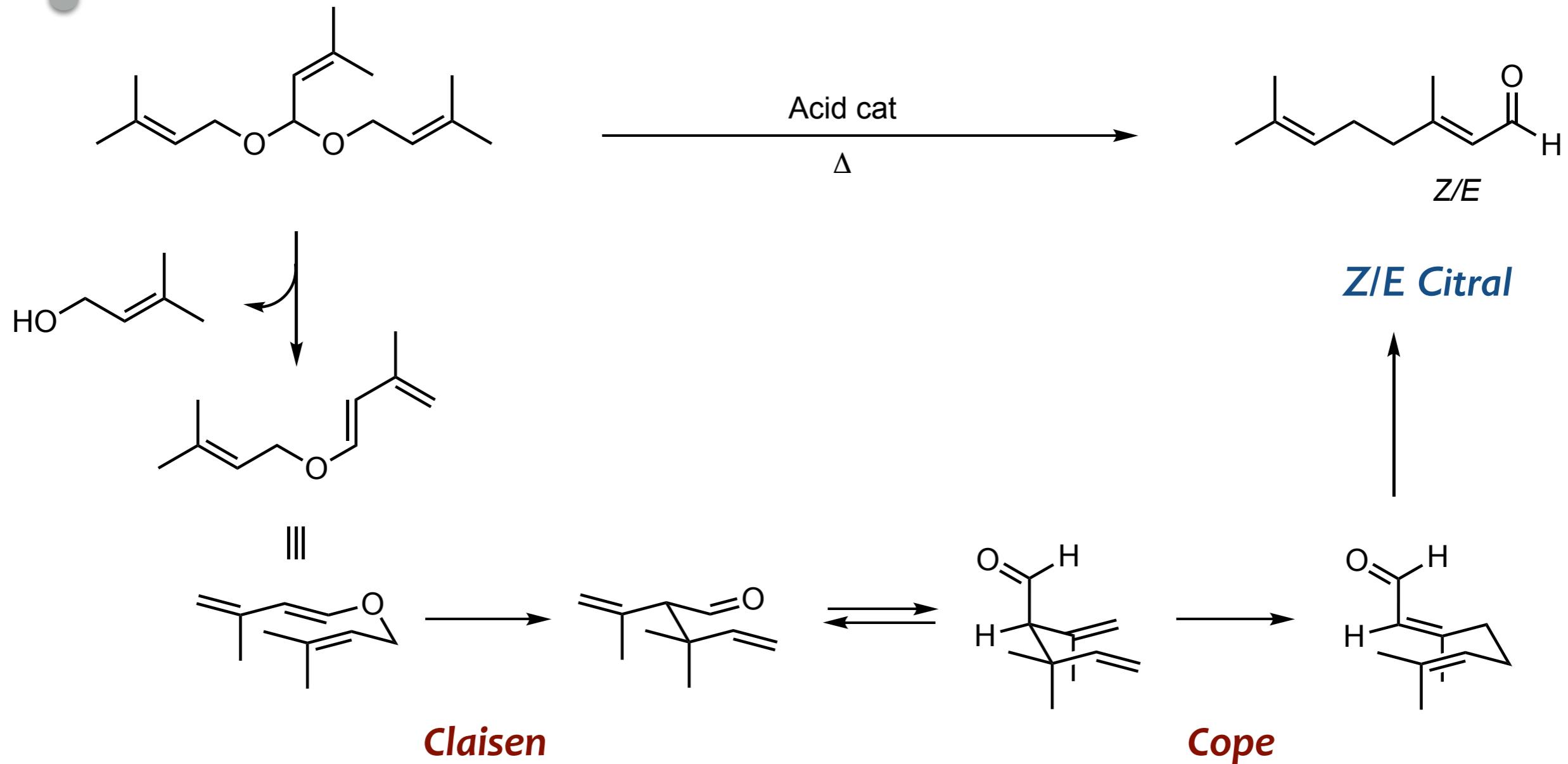
## ► Intramolecular Diels Alder



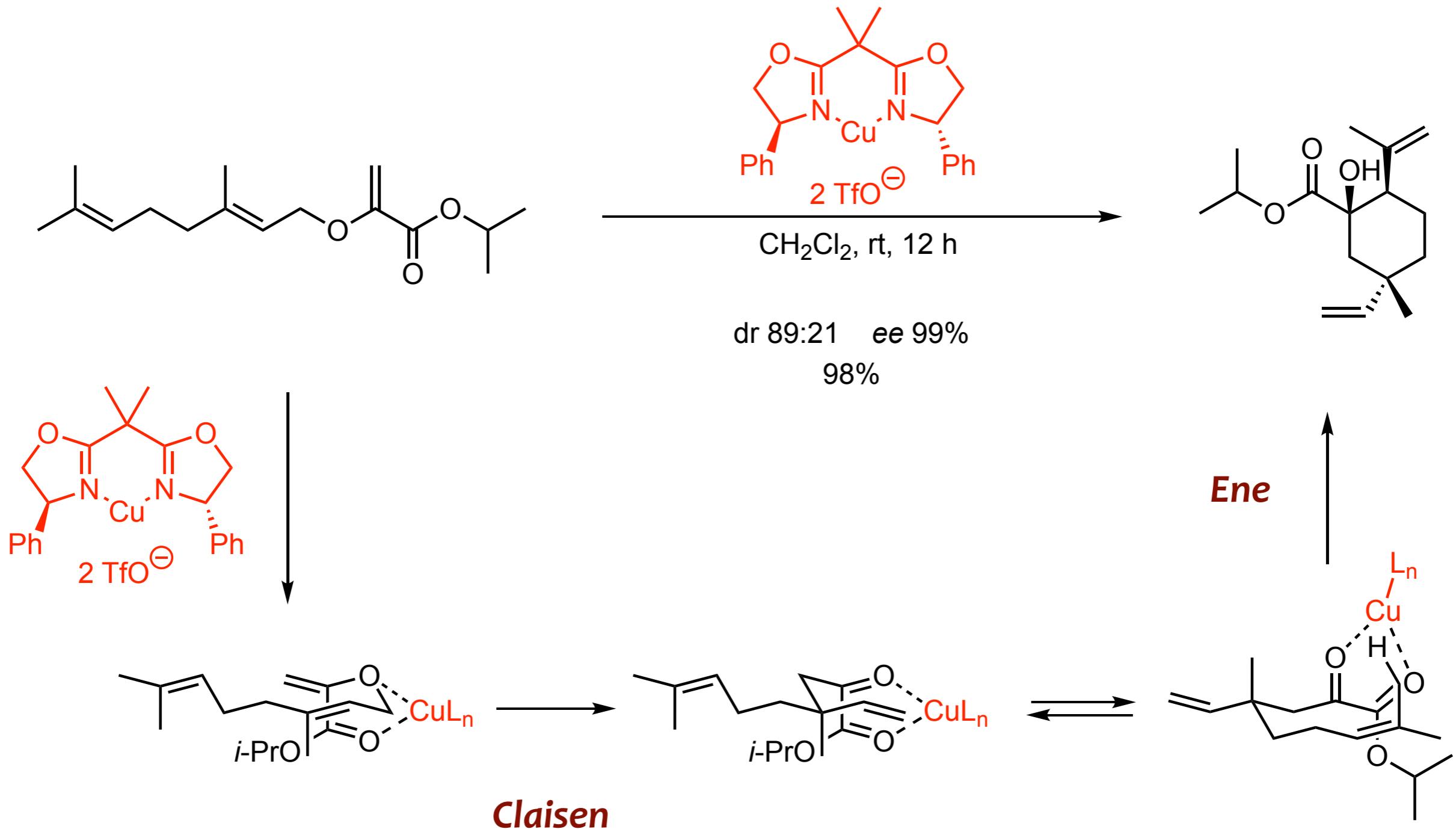
# Sigmatropic Cascades



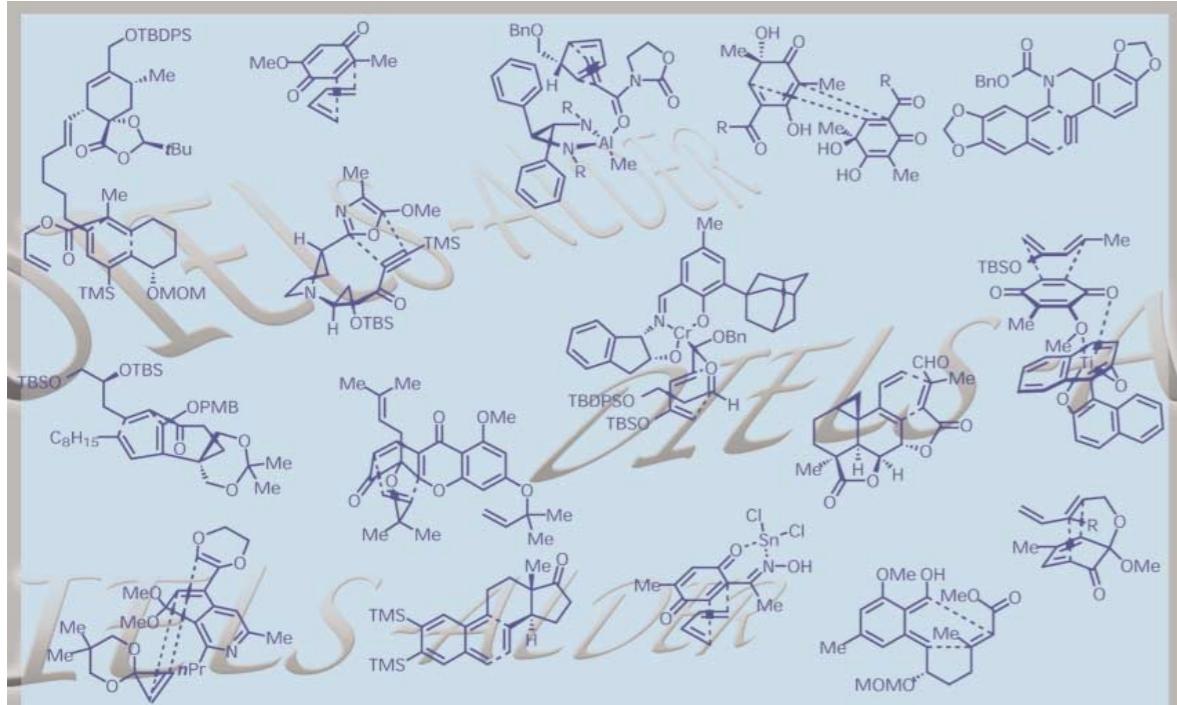
## BASF Continuous Citral Process



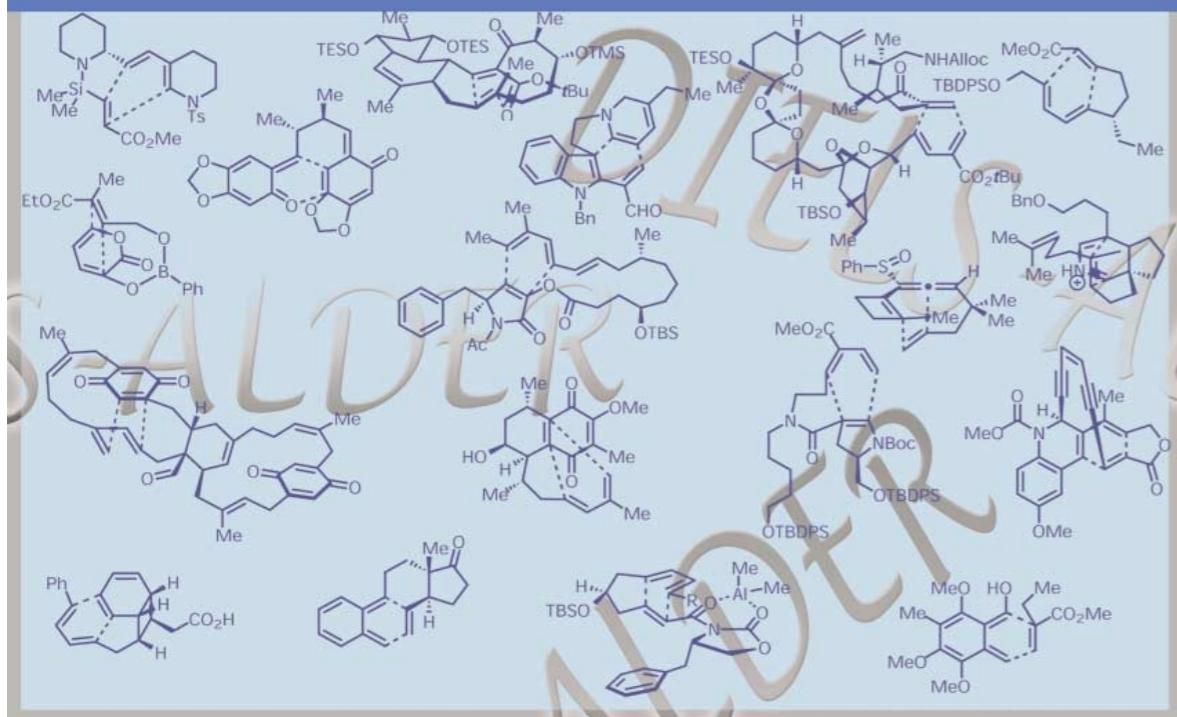
# Sigmatropic Cascades



# Diels Alder Cascades



## The *Diels-Alder* Reaction in Action



### The Diels-Alder reaction

has both enabled and shaped the art and science of total synthesis over the last few decades to an extent which, arguably, has yet to be eclipsed by any other transformation in the current synthetic repertoire.

With myriad applications of this magnificent pericyclic reaction, often as a crucial element in elegant and programmed cascade sequences facilitating complex molecule construction, the Diels-Alder cycloaddition has afforded numerous and unparalleled solutions to a diverse range of synthetic puzzles provided by nature in the form of natural products.

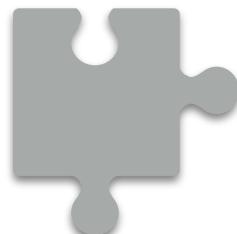
Nicolaou, K. C. ACIE 2002, 41, 1668



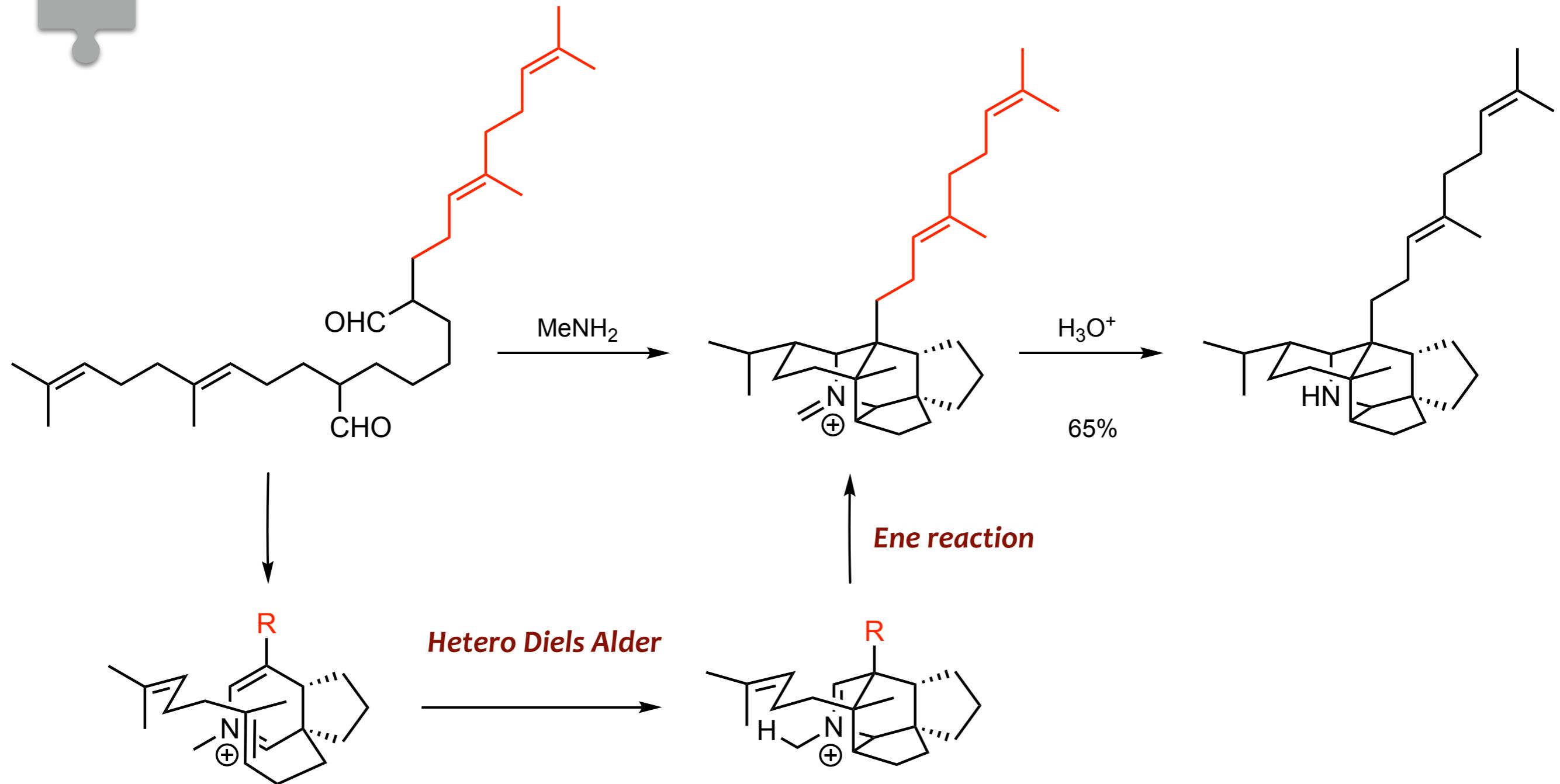
Cyclizations  
Chapter 6

Remember!

# Diels Alder Cascades



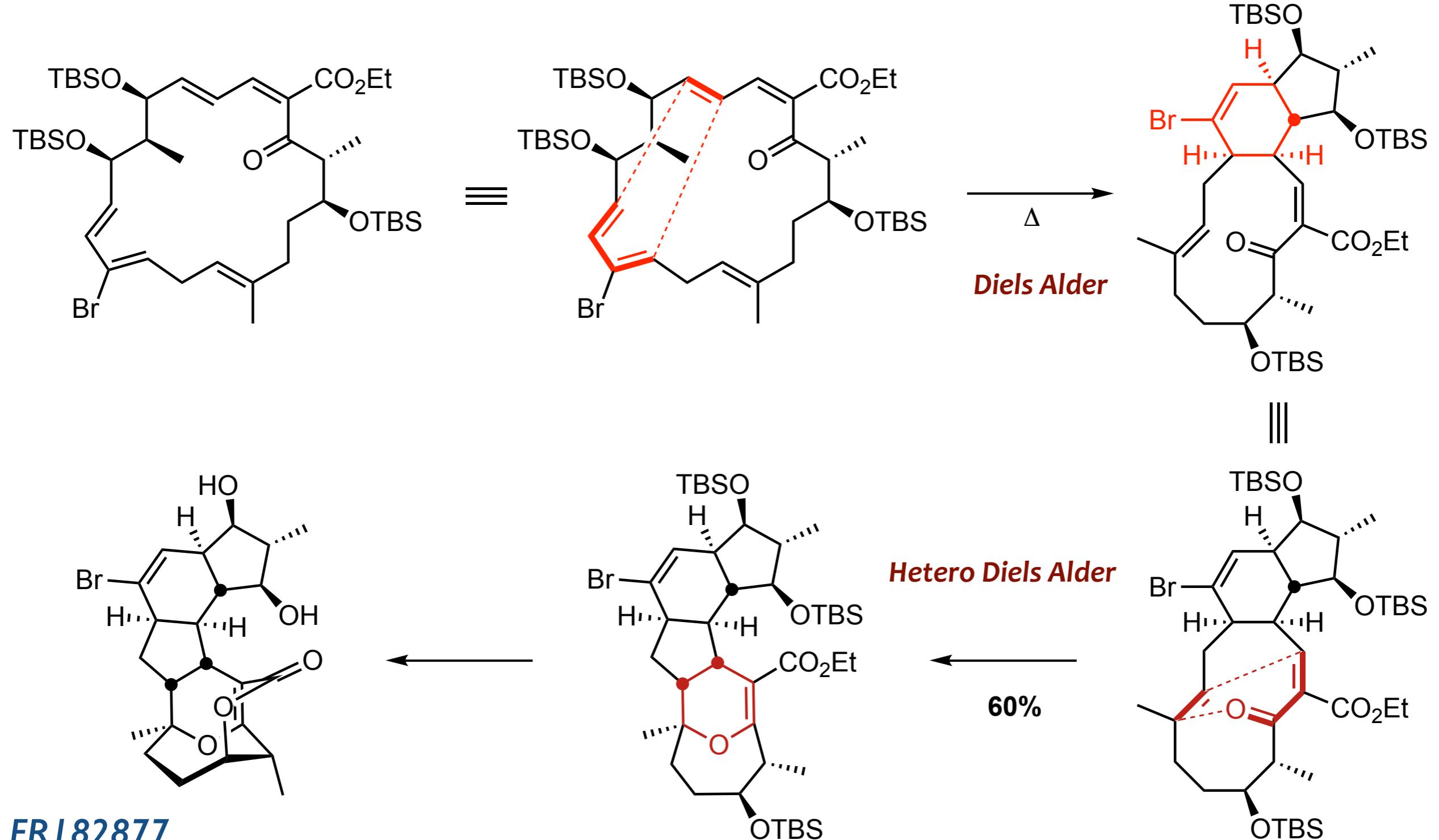
**Heathcock's landmark biomimetic synthesis of Daphniphyllum alkaloids**



Heathcock, C. H. *Science* **1990**, *248*, 1532; *PNAS* **1996**, *93*, 14323; Tantillo, D. J. *OL* **2016**, *18*, 4482

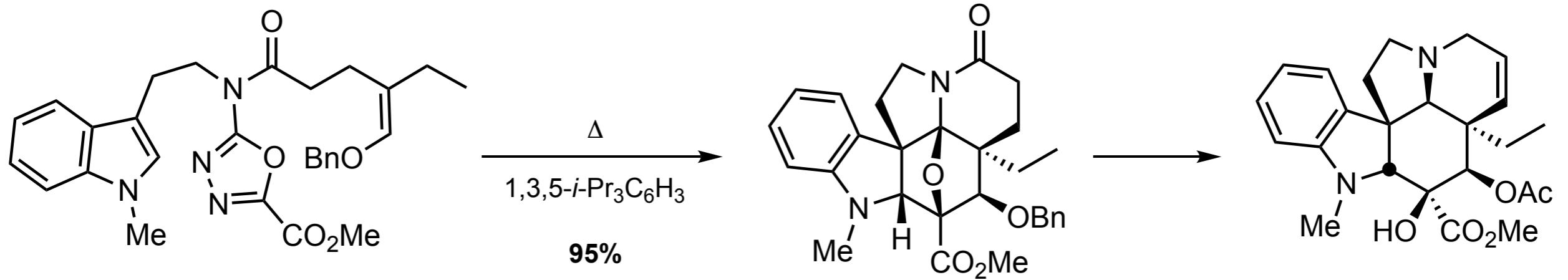
Hanessian, S. *CR* **2017**, *117*, 4104

# Diels Alder Cascades



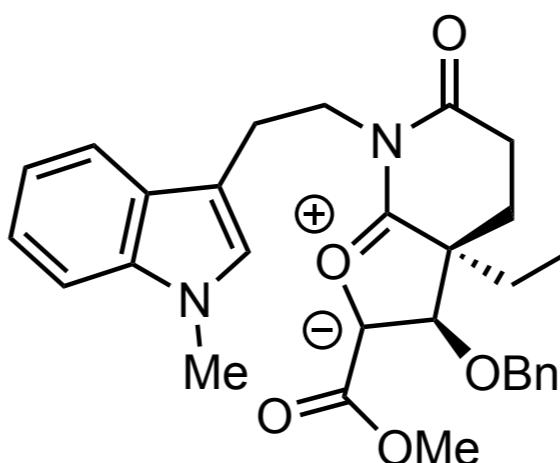
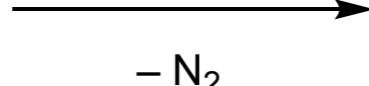
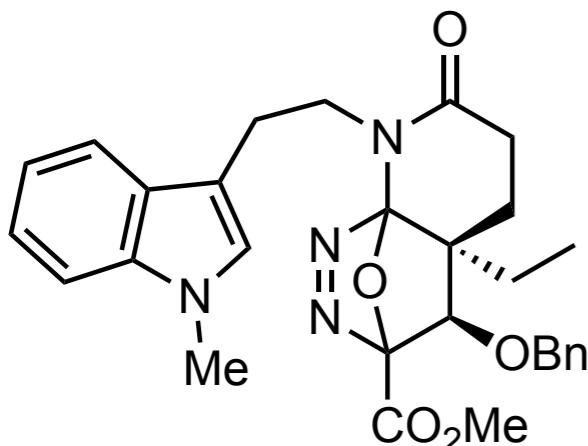
**FR182877**

# Diels Alder Cascades



**Diels Alder**

**[ $4\pi_s + 2\pi_s$ ]**



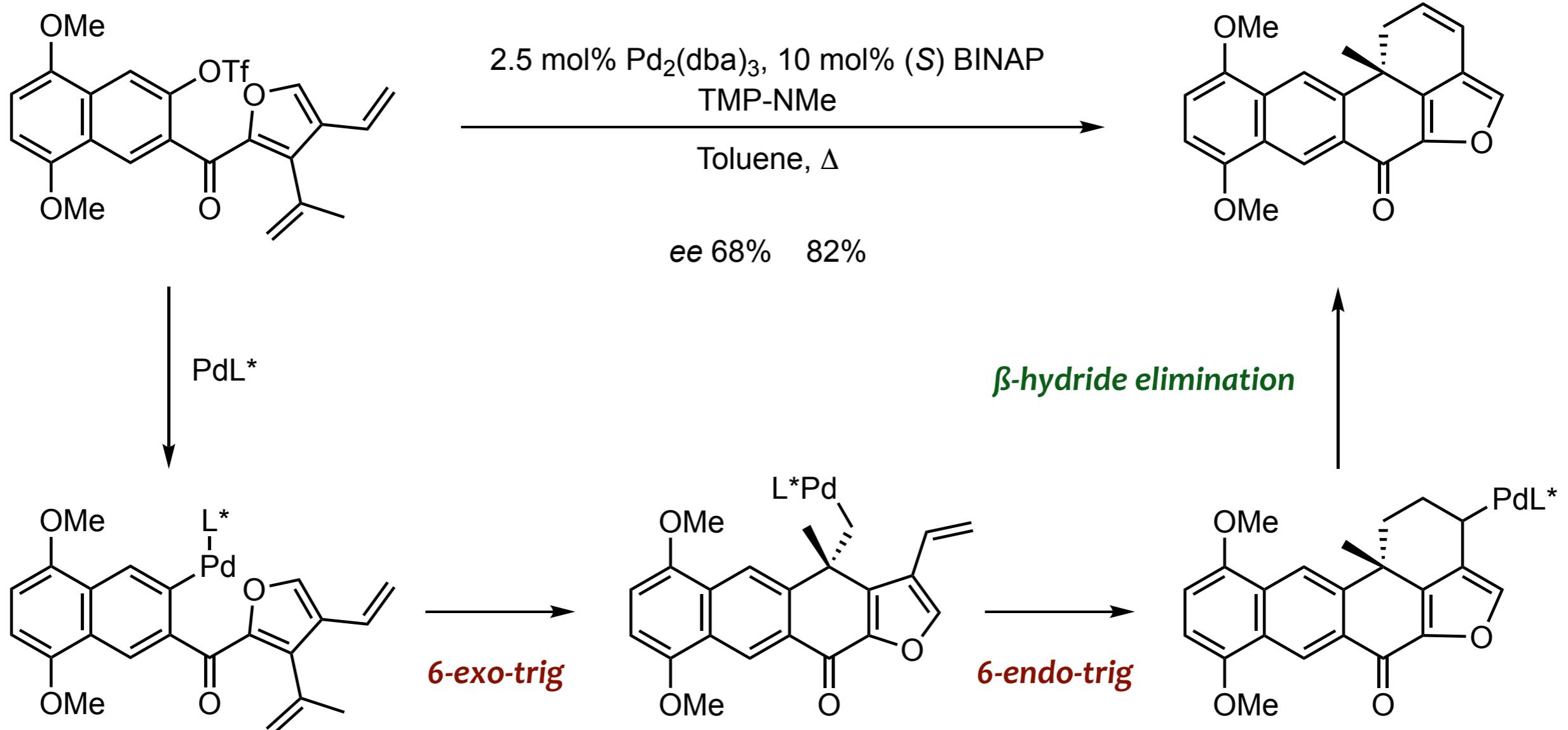
**[ $4\pi_s + 2\pi_s$ ]**

**1,3-Dipolar cycloaddition**

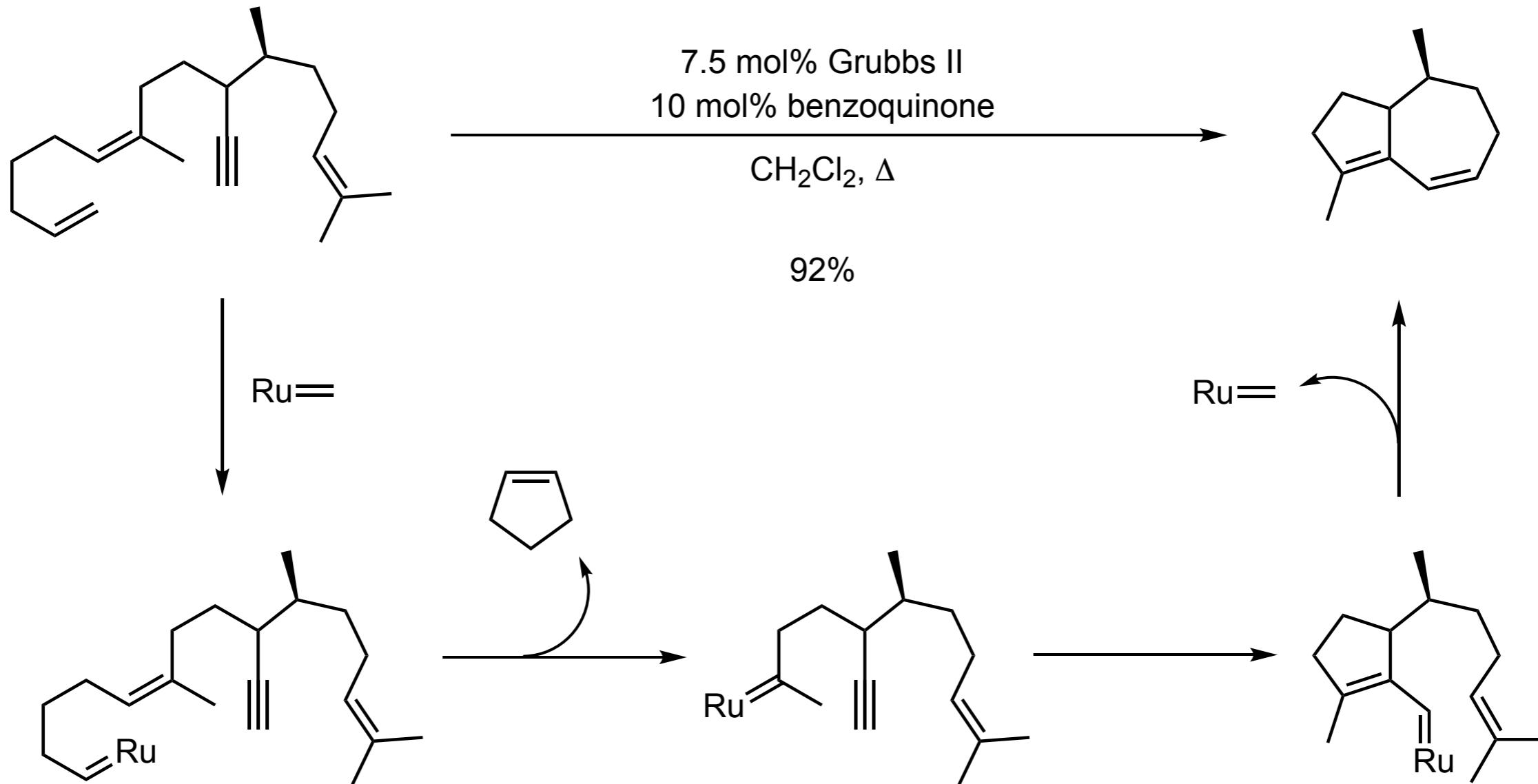


**Cyclizations**  
**Chapter 6**

# Transition Metal Cascades. Heck



# Transition Metal Cascades. Metathesis



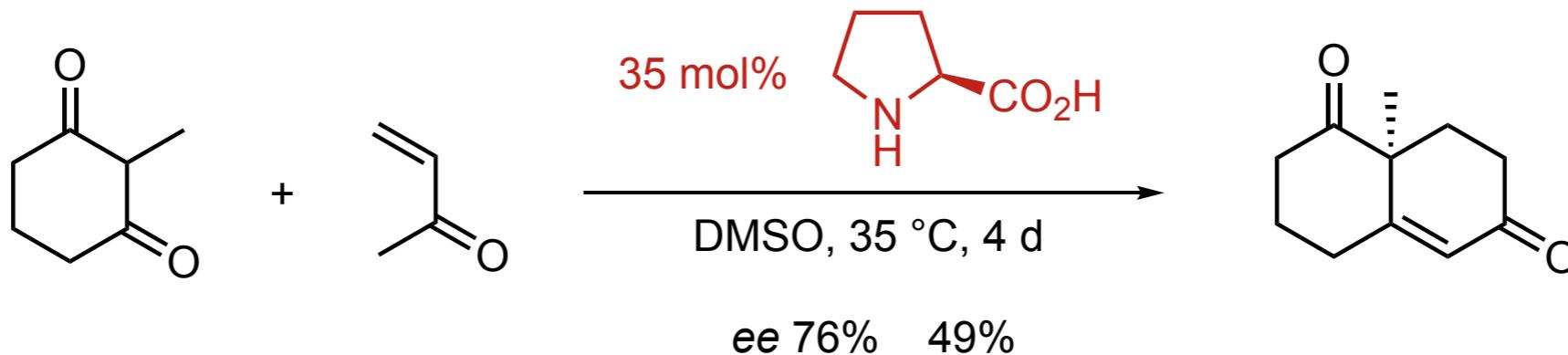
# Organocatalytic Cascades

Catalyst	Activation mode	Typical reaction steps	Combination	
	Enamine activation of carbonyl compounds <b>(HOMO raising)</b>	Aldol reaction Michael reaction Mannich reaction		
	Iminium activation of unsaturated aldehydes <b>(LUMO lowering)</b>	Michael reaction Diels-Alder reaction Friedel-Crafts reaction		
	Hydrogen bonding <b>(LUMO lowering)</b>	Michael reaction Henry reaction Mannich reaction		
	Protonation <b>(LUMO lowering)</b>	Michael reaction Mannich reaction Friedel-Crafts reaction Reduction		
	Umpolung	Nucleophilic acylation Benzoin reaction Stetter reaction		

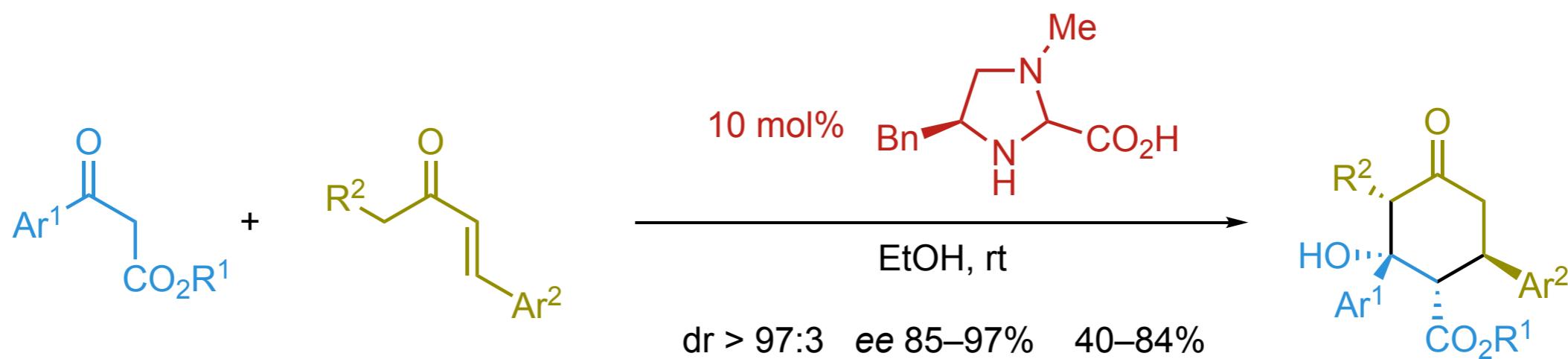
# Organocatalytic Cascades



**Inspirational organocatalytic cascades: Michael/Aldol reactions**

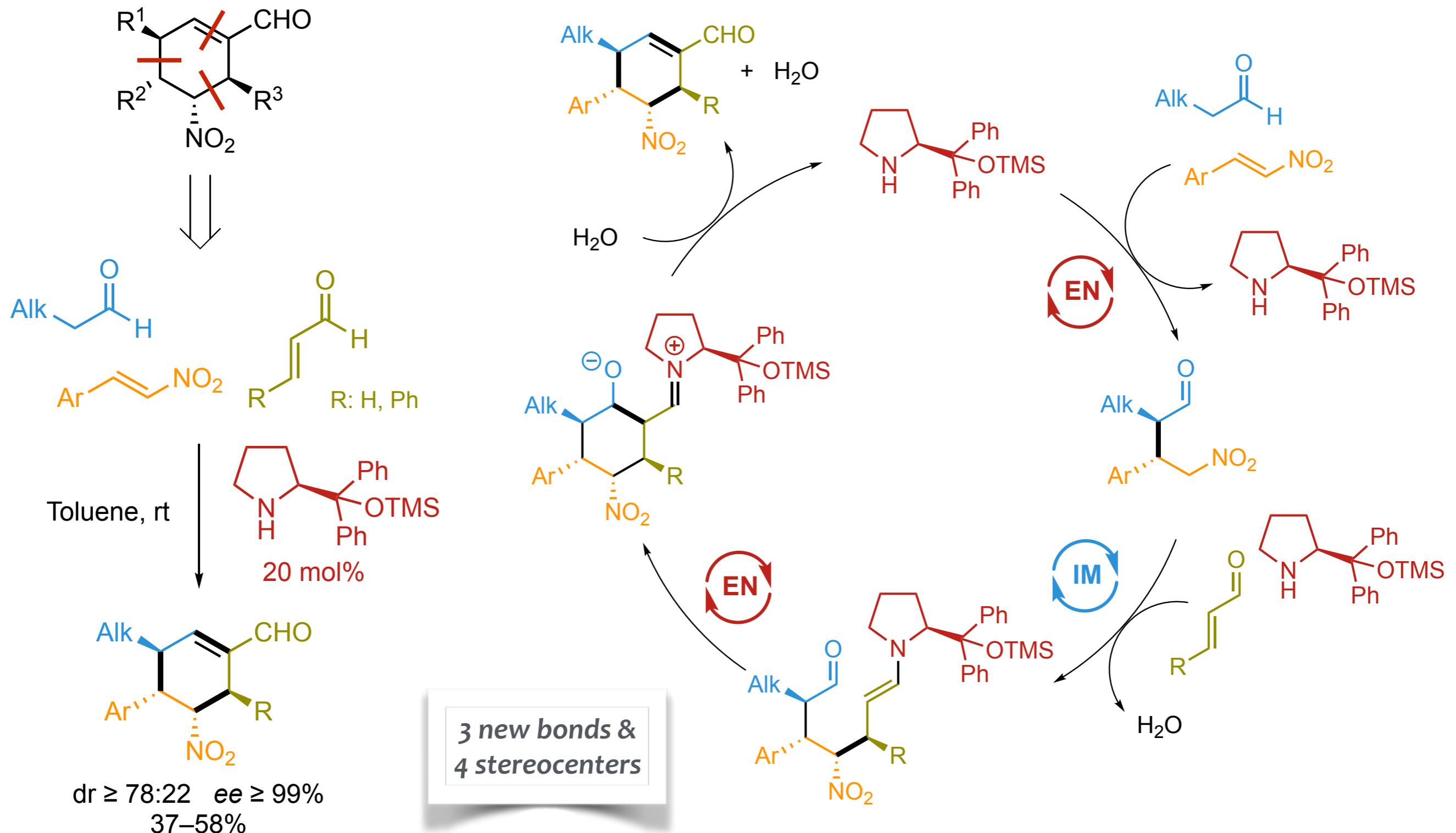


Barbas, C. *TL* **2000**, *41*, 6951



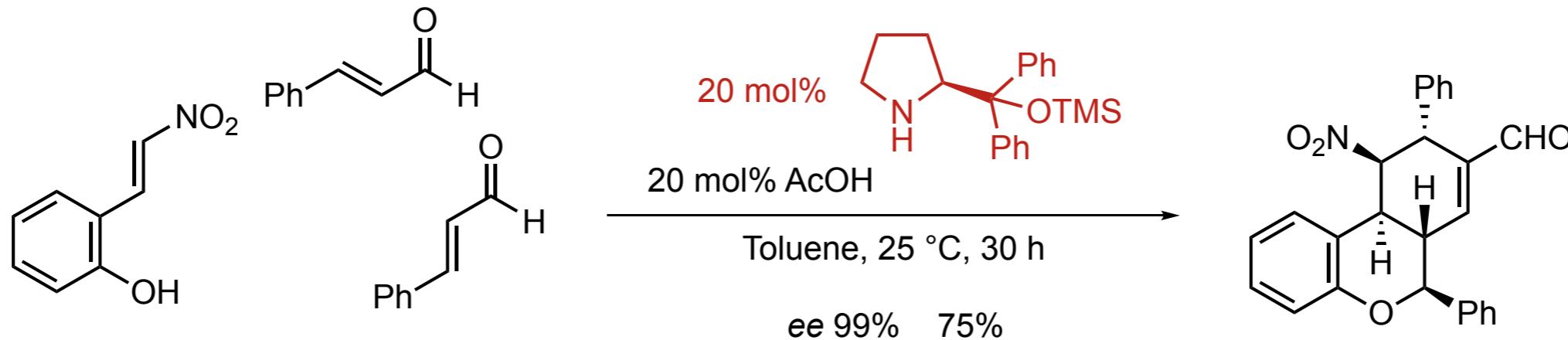
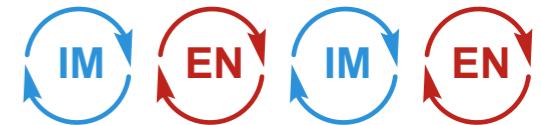
Jørgensen, K. A. *ACIE* **2004**, *43*, 1272

# Organocatalytic Cascades



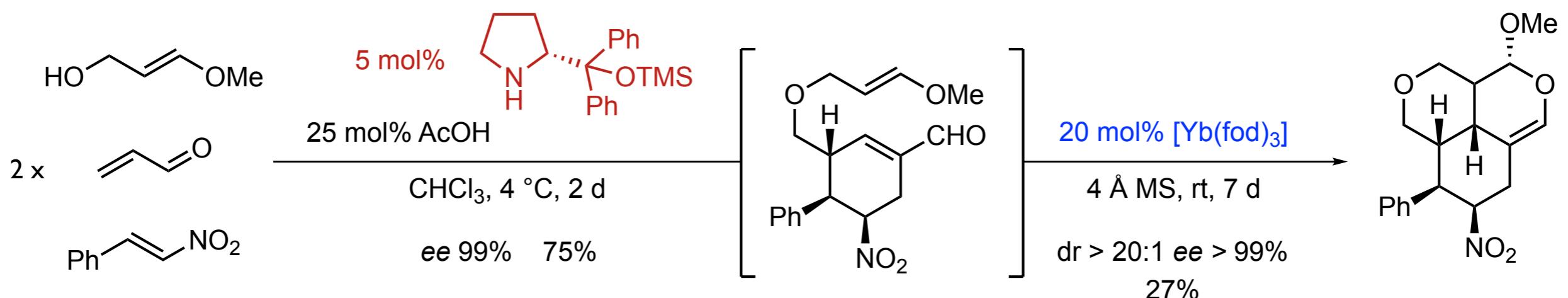
# Organocatalytic Cascades

## ► Oxa-Michael/Michael/Michael/Aldol condensation



Hong, J. E. *TL* 2009, 80, 1866

## ► One pot Oxa-Michael/Michael/Michael/Aldol cond/Hetero Diels Alder



Enders, D. *ACIE* 2016, 55, 16153

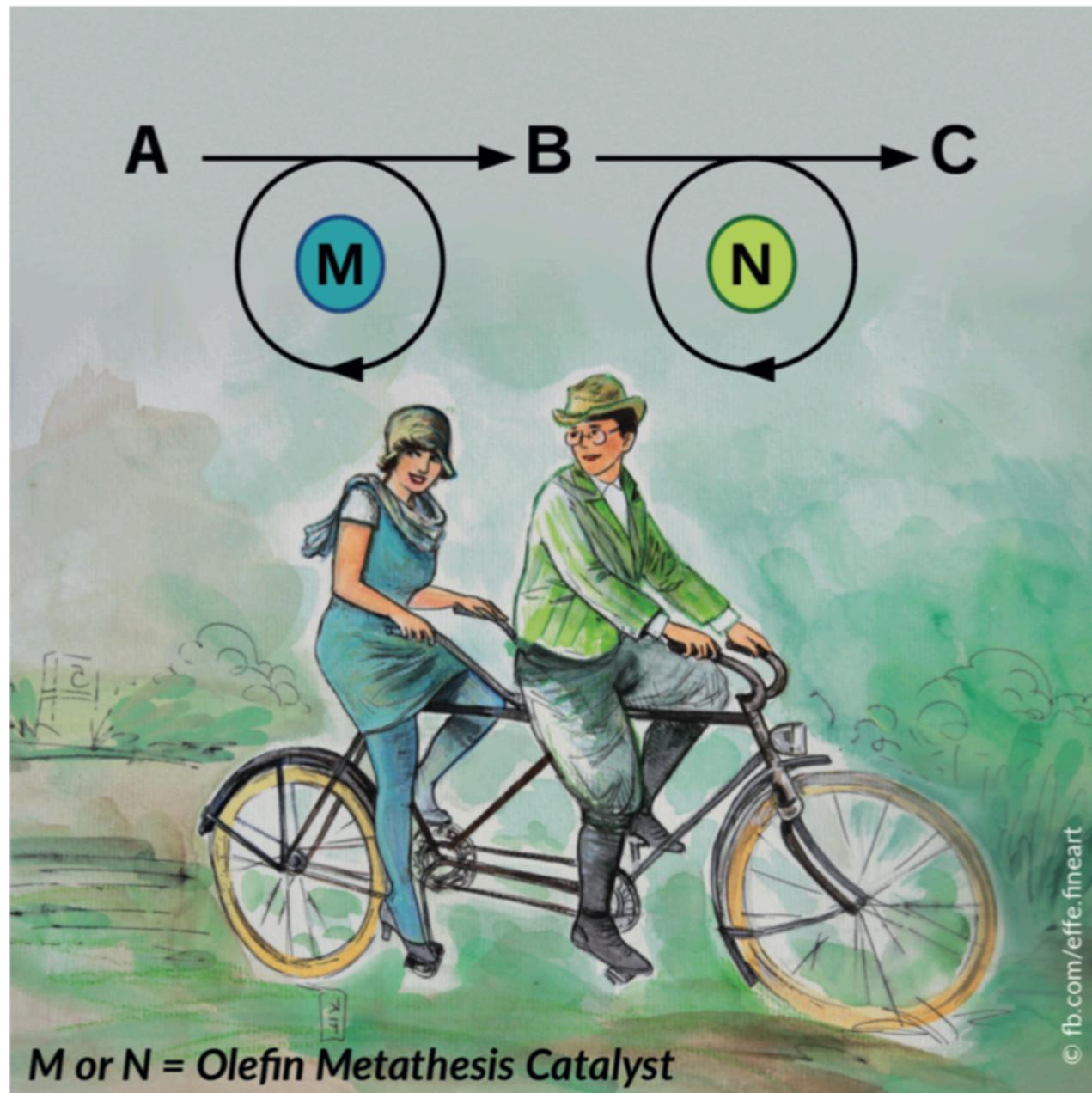
# Merging Catalysts

Olefin Metathesis

## Tandem Catalysis Utilizing Olefin Metathesis Reactions

Grzegorz K. Zielinski<sup>\*[a]</sup> and Karol Grela<sup>\*[a, b]</sup>

Dedicated to Professor Janusz Jurczak on the occasion of 75th birthday



Combination of catalysts  
in a well orchestrated manner  
produces highly efficient sequences

Fogg, D. E.; dos Santos, E. N.  
Coord. Chem. Rev. 2004, 248, 2365

Menche, D. Nat. Prod. Rep. 2014, 31, 456

Marks, T. J. Nature Chem. 2015, 7, 477

Zielinski, G. K.; Grela, K. CEJ 2016, 22, 9440

# Enzymatic Cascade Reaction in Biosynthesis

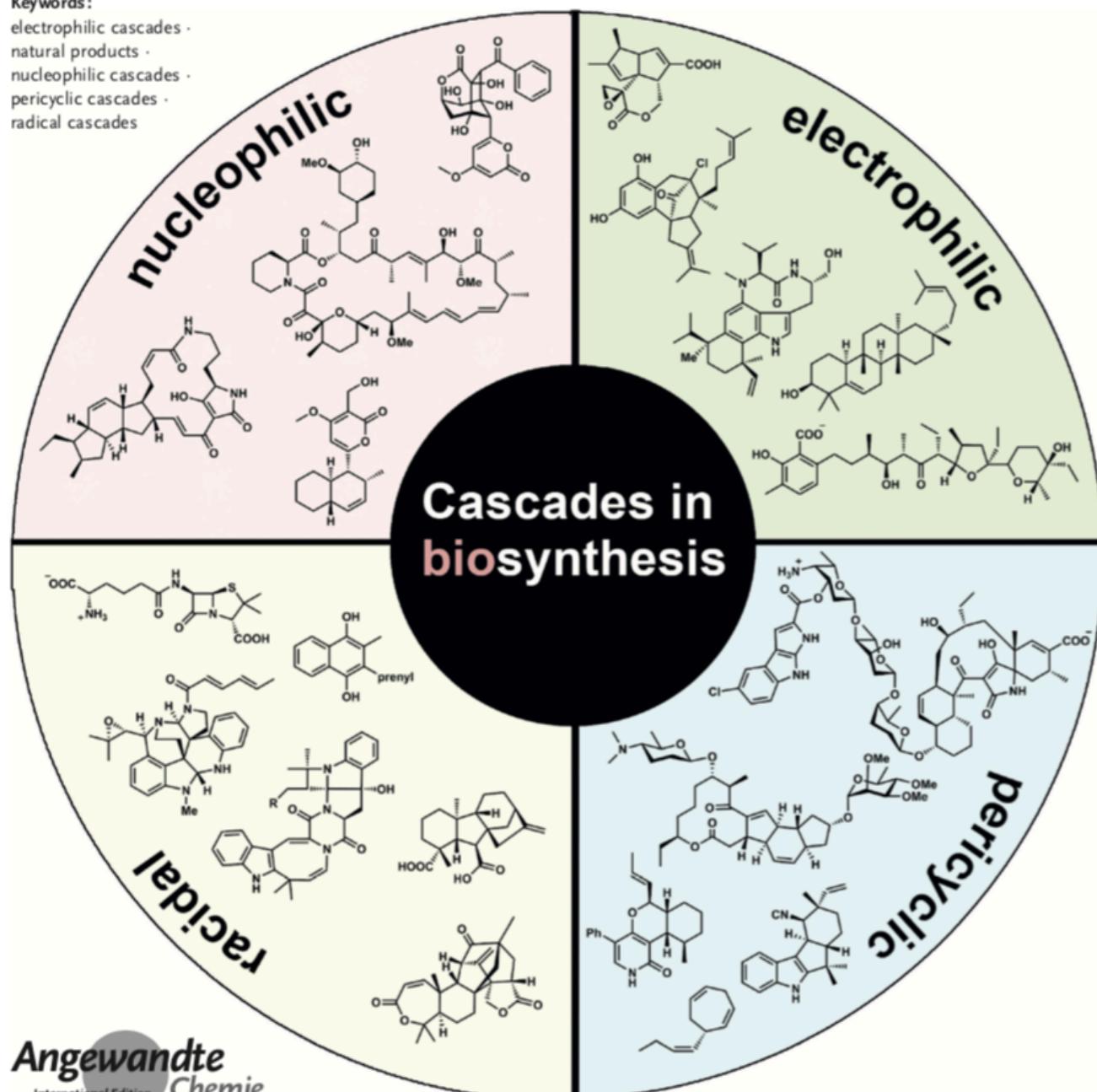
Biosynthesis

International Edition: DOI: 10.1002/anie.201807844  
German Edition: DOI: 10.1002/ange.201807844

## Enzymatic Cascade Reactions in Biosynthesis

Christopher T. Walsh and Bradley S. Moore\*

Keywords:  
electrophilic cascades ·  
natural products ·  
nucleophilic cascades ·  
pericyclic cascades ·  
radical cascades



The use of enzymes  
may be an option to generate  
complex molecular architectures

Moore, B. S. ACIE 2019, 58, 6846

Angewandte  
Chemie  
International Edition

# Multicomponent Reactions

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**Multicomponent Reactions (MCRs) are one-pot reactions employing three or more reactants, where most of the atoms the starting materials are incorporated in the final product generating almost no by-products**

**Mannich & Pauson-Khand reactions are illustrative examples studied in former Chapters**

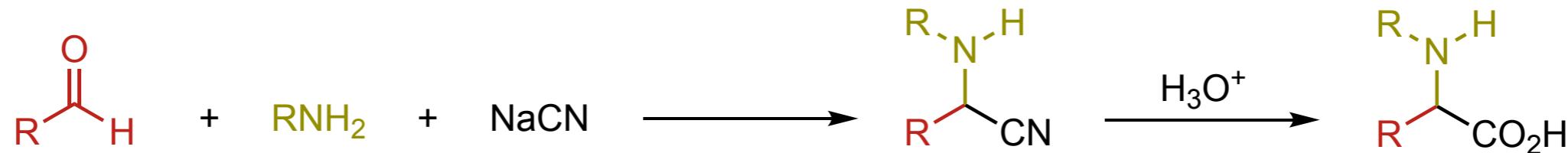


**See FG Strategies (Chap 4)  
and Cyclizations (Chap 6)**

# Multicomponent Reactions



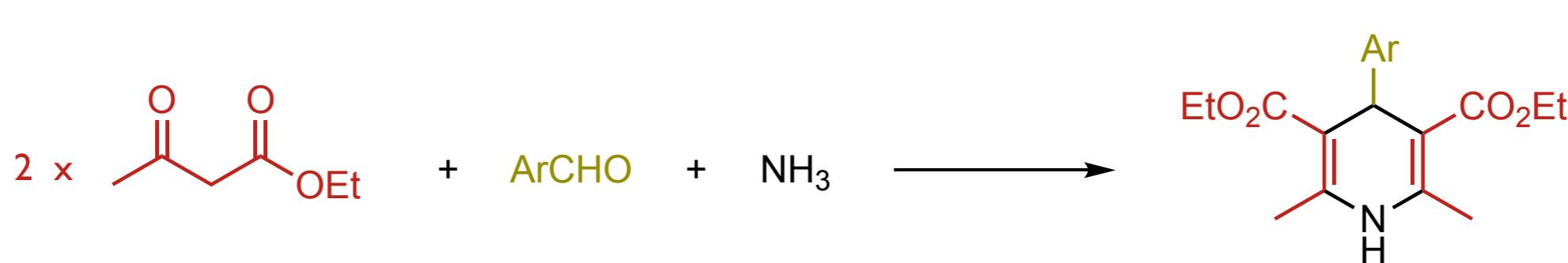
## Strecker



Strecker, A. Liebigs Ann. Chem. 1850, 75, 27



## Hantzsch



Hantzsch, A. Justus Liebigs Ann. Chem. 1882, 215, 1

# Multicomponent Reactions

Ugi

