# **Tropylium-Promoted Carbonyl-Olefin Metathesis**

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## **General Methods**

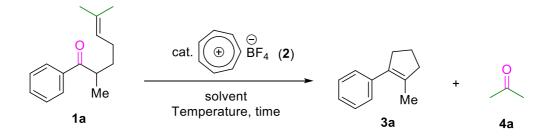
Reactions, unless otherwise stated, were conducted under a positive pressure of argon in oven-dried glassware. Toluene, Dichloromethane (DCM), Dichloroethane (DCE), Phenylchloride, tetrahydrofuran (THF), and acetonitrile were dried with an SPS apparatus. Commercially available reagents were used as purchased unless otherwise noted. Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed using aluminium plates precoated with silica gel 60  $F_{254}$  (0.2 mm). Flash chromatography employed 230-400 mesh silica gel. Solvents used for chromatography are quoted as volume/volume ratios.

NMR spectroscopy was performed at 298 K using an Avance III HD 400 (400.1 MHz, <sup>1</sup>H; 100.6 MHz, <sup>13</sup>C, 376.5 MHz, <sup>19</sup>F) or an Avance III 300 (300 MHz, <sup>1</sup>H; 75 MHz, <sup>13</sup>C; 282.5 MHz, <sup>19</sup>F). Data is expressed in parts per million (ppm) downfield shift from tetramethylsilane with residual solvent as an internal reference ( $\delta$  7.26 ppm for chloroform, 5.27 ppm for dichloromethane) and is reported as position ( $\delta$  in ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), coupling constant (*J* in Hz) and integration (number of protons). <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded at 298 K with complete proton decoupling. Data is expressed in parts per million (ppm) downfield shift relative to the internal reference ( $\delta$  77.2 ppm for the central peak of deuterated chloroform).

Infrared spectra were obtained on a ThermoNicolet Avatar 370 FT-IR spectrometer and are reported in wavenumbers (cm<sup>-1</sup>). HRMS were performed at the Bioanalytical Mass Spectrometry Facility within the Mark Wainwright Analytical Centre at the University of New South Wales on an Orbitrap LTQ XL (Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA, USA) ion trap mass spectrometer.

Microwave reactions were carried out in 10 mL microwave vials on CEM Discover – SP W/ACTIVENT 909155 or 10 mL vials on Anton Paar Monowave 300.

## **Table S1 - Optimization of the Intramolecular COM Reaction**



entry <sup>a</sup>	mol% cat.	solvent	T (°C)	t (h)	yield <sup>b</sup>
1	20	MeCN	rt	48	traces
2	20	MeCN	90	24	86%
3	20	DCM	45	24	59%
4	20	DCE	90	24	60%
5	20	PhCl	90	24	61%
6	20	PhMe	90	24	21%
7	20	neat	90	24	92%
8	15	neat	90	24	92%
9	10	neat	90	24	55%
10	15	neat	70	24	62%
11	15	neat	50	24	13%
12 <sup>c</sup>	15	neat (MW)	120	2	82%
13 <sup>d</sup>	15	MeCN -	120	2	88%
14 <sup>e</sup>	15	neat	90	24	94%
15	0	neat	90	24	n.r.

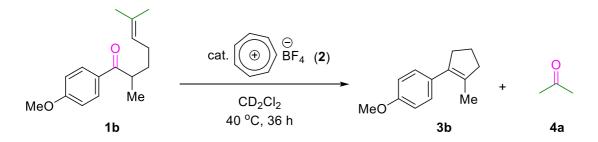
<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: Substrate **1a** (0.5 mmol) and tropylium tetrafluoroborate **2** (mol% cat.) and solvent (0.5 mL) were charged to a closed-cap N<sub>2</sub>-filled reaction vial and heated to indicated temperature for indicated time. <sup>b</sup> Yield of the isolated product. <sup>c</sup> Heated in a microwave reactor. <sup>d</sup> Continuous tubular flow-reactor with 10 mL MeCN as solvent. <sup>e</sup> Before starting the reaction, the inner pressure was adjusted to 8 mbar.

Our initial reactions using 20 mol% tropylium tetrafluoroborate as catalyst met with very encouraging results, although elevated temperature was required for efficient conversion of the substrate (entries 1-2, Table S1). A quick solvent screening study revealed that acetonitrile or neat conditions afforded the best product yields (entries 2-7, Table S1). On the other hand, although the reaction in dichloromethane (entry 3) was sluggish due to the low boiling point of the solvent, it gave very clean conversion of substrate **1a** to product **3a** (also see Figure 1). Some other commonly used organic solvents did not efficiently mediate this intramolecular

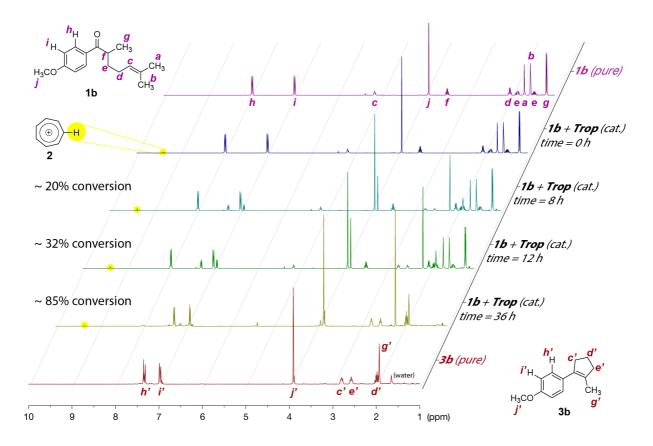
carbonyl-olefin metathesis reaction (entries 4-6, Table 1), which is due in part to the low solubility of the tropylium salt catalyst in these solvents.

Optimization of catalyst loading and reaction temperature showed that 15 mol% of tropylium tetrafluroborate at 90 °C in neat conditions are optimal for this reaction on substrate **1a** (entry 8, Table 1). We also tried microwave-assisted reaction conditions, which gave comparable outcomes with shorter reaction time (entry 12, Table 1). A simple continuous flow setup also facilitated the reaction smoothly with slightly better product yield than the batch reaction (entry 13). Although the microwave-assisted or flow-chemistry settings need to be further explored, these proof-of-concept experiments showed that they could be attractive options for future development of the carbonyl-olefin metathesis reaction process. Interestingly, a reaction at reduced initial pressure, being carried out in a sealed vial, also afforded better yield of product **3a** (entry 14). Presumably, the reduced pressure helps to remove some acetone by-product (**4a**) out of the reaction mixture and drives the reaction to completion. This phenomenon could potentially be exploited in process design of the intramolecular COM reaction for future synthetic applications.



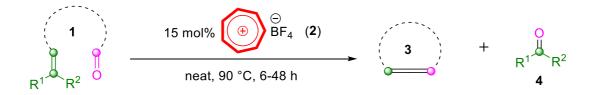


An NMR tube containing Trop.BF<sub>4</sub> (3 mg, 0.017 mmol) was charged with **1b** (26.1 mg, 0.11 mmol) and CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.5 mL). The reaction mixture was then measured in a 400 MHz NMR at regular time points at 45 °C. An abbreviated series of spectra is shown below, including time points at 2, 4, 8, 12, 24 and 36 h. As indicated in the figure, the disappearance of **1b** is accompanied by the emergence of **3b** + acetone (**4a**, singlet for (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>C=O at 2.2 ppm) over time. The reaction was very clean and completed after *ca*. 48 h at 45 °C.



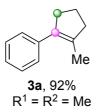
**Figure S1:** *In situ* <sup>1</sup>H-NMR experiments. From top to bottom: 1) <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of substrate **1b**. 2) Reaction mixture of substrate **1b** and 15 mol% Trop.BF<sub>4</sub> in CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at 0h. 3-5) Same reaction mixture after 8, 12 and 36 hours. 6) <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of product **3b**.

# **General Procedures for Intramolecular Carbonyl-Olefin Metathesis**



A dried 4ml vial was charged with tropylium tetraphenylborate and a stirring bar. Starting ketone was added to the vial under Argon condition. Then the vial was sealed tightly and the mixture was stirred for 24 h at 90 °C, unless otherwise specified. Upon completion (as determined by TLC analysis), the crude mixture was directly purified by flash column chromatography, with the indicated eluent to give pure metathesis adducts.

# **Characterization Data of Intramolecular Products**



The cyclization of **1a** was performed on 0.525 mmol scale using the general procedure. Purification by flash column chromatography eluting with hexane provided **3a** (76 mg, 92%) as a colorless liquid.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.38-7.29 (m, 4H), 7.25-7.19 (m, 1H), 2.78-2.72 (m, 2H), 2.53-2.48 (m, 2H), 1.95-1.85 (m, 5H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 138.8, 135.2, 134.8, 128.0, 127.6, 126.0, 40.1, 37.3, 21.9, 15.5.



The cyclization of **1b** was performed on 0.73 mmol scale with a total reaction time of 6 h at 70  $^{\circ}$ C. Purification by flash column chromatography eluting with hexanes/EtOAc (100:1) provided 116 mg of **3b** (85%) as a colorless liquid.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.36-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.73-2.67 (m, 2H), 2.51-2.46 (m, 2H), 1.94-1.83 (m, 5H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 157.8, 134.1, 133.8, 131.3, 128.7, 113.4, 55.2, 40.1, 37.3, 21.8, 15.5.

IR (Neat); 2951, 1735, 1605, 1509, 1241;

**HRMS**: calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O: 188.1201 found: 188.1195.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> A. Soicke, N. Slavov, J. M. Neudörfl, H.G. Schmalz, Synlett, 2011, 17, 2487

The cyclization of **1c** was performed on 0.57 mmol scale with a total reaction time of 6 h at 70 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography eluting with hexane/EtOAc (100:1) provided 74 mg of **3c** (83%) as a colorless liquid.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.36-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.73-2.67 (m, 2H), 2.51-2.46 (m, 2H), 1.94-1.83 (m, 5H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 159.3, 140.2, 135.6, 134.7, 128.9, 120.2, 113.4, 111.4, 55.2, 40.1, 37.3, 21.9, 15.5.

**IR** (Neat); 2950, 1734, 1602, 1510, 1243;

HRMS: calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O: 188.1201, found: 188.1201.



The cyclization of **1d** was performed on 0.504 mmol scale with a total reaction time of 20 h at 110 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography eluting with hexanes/EtOAc (50:1) provided 40 mg (36%) of **3d** as a white solid.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.32-7.09 (m, 8H), 6.47-6.44 (m, 1H), 4.32-4.29 (m, 1H), 2.63-2.52 (m, 3H), 1.94-1.90 (m, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 145.4, 144.6, 136.0, 128.8, 128.5, 128.1, 127.4, 126.7, 126.3, 126.0, 51.8, 35.4, 31.6.

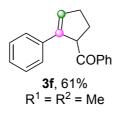


The cyclization of **1e** was performed on 0.344 mmol scale with a total reaction time of 14h at 90 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography eluting with hexanes/EtOAc (50:1) provided 53 mg (82%) of **3e** as a clear oil.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Jacob R. Ludwig, Paul M. Zimmerman, Joseph B. Gianino, Corinna S. Schindler, *Nature*, **2016**, *533*, 374.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.33-7.23 (m, 5H), 5.84-5.70 (m, 2H), 5.05-4.98 (m, 2H), 2.38-2.29 (m, 3H), 2.19 (dd, J = 13.9, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 2.05 (ddd, J = 12.6, 7.9, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 1.72 (ddd, J = 12.5, 8.3, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 1.22 (s, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 150.5, 138.1, 136.0, 128.8, 128.0, 127.7, 126.7, 116.7, 50.2, 44.5, 38.2, 39.8, 26.4.



The cyclization of **1f** was performed on 1.01 mmol scale with a total reaction time of 20 h at 90 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography eluting with hexanes/EtOAc (50:1) provided 152 mg (61%) of **3f** as a white solid.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.09-8.06 (m, 2H), 7.62-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.14 (m, 5H), 6.49-6.48 (m, 1H), 4.98-4.96 (m, 1H), 2.70-2.61 (m, 2H), 2.71-2.49 (m, 1H), 2.15 (ddt, *J* = 11.9, 9.5, 4.8 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 201.3, 141.8, 136.7, 135.8, 133.3, 130.3, 128.89, 128.85, 128.6, 127.3, 126.0, 53.7, 32.6, 30.3.



The cyclization of **1ga** was performed on 1.0 mmol scale with a total reaction time of 20 h at 90 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography eluting with hexanes/EtOAc (50:1) provided 194 mg (90%) of **3g** as a clear oil.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Jacob R. Ludwig, Paul M. Zimmerman, Joseph B. Gianino, Corinna S. Schindler, *Nature*, **2016**, *533*, 374.



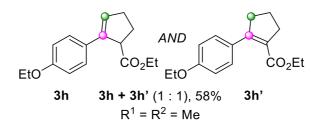
The cyclization of **1gb** was performed on 1.0 mmol scale with a total reaction time of 20 h at 90 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography eluting with hexanes/EtOAc (50:1) provided 84 mg (39%) of **3g**.<sup>2</sup>



The cyclization of **1gc** was performed on 1.0 mmol scale with a total reaction time of 20 h at 90 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography eluting with hexanes/EtOAc (50:1) provided 39 mg (18%) of **3g**.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.46-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.20 (m, 1H), 6.35 (td, *J* = 2.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.16-4.04 (m, 2H), 3.98 (m, 1H), 2.73 (m, 1H), 2.56 (m,1H), 2.37 (ddt, *J* = 13.0, 9.1, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (ddt, *J* = 13.1, 8.7, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 175.2, 141.2, 135.5, 130.1, 128.3, 127.2, 125.9, 60.5, 51.3, 32.5, 29.3, 14.1.



The cyclization of **1h** was performed on 0.818 mmol scale with a total reaction time of 24 h at 120 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography eluting with hexane/EtOAc (50:1) provided 123 mg (58%) of **3h** + **3h**' as a 1:1 mixture of olefin regio-isomers as a colorless oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz; CDCl3) δ 7.36-7.30 (m, 4H), 6.85-6.81 (m, 4H), 6.23 (q, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.14-3.99 (m, 8H), 3.92 (m, 1H), 2.82 (m, 4H), 2.74-2.65 (m, 1H), 2.57-2.48 (m, 1H),

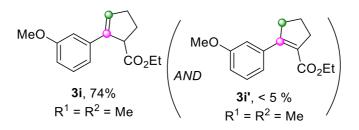
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Jacob R. Ludwig, Paul M. Zimmerman, Joseph B. Gianino, Corinna S. Schindler, *Nature*, **2016**, *533*, 374.

2.35 (dtd, *J* = 13.1, 9.1, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.25 (tt, *J* = 8.7, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 1.96 (quintet, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz; CDCl3) δ 175.4, 166.6, 158.8, 158.2, 152.6, 140.6, 130.3, 129.0, 128.1, 127.9, 127.8, 127.0, 114.3, 113.6, 60.5, 59.9, 51.4, 39.9, 35.3, 32.4, 29.3, 21.9, 14.8, 14.2, 14.1.

IR (Neat); 2976, 1719, 1604, 1509, 1476, 1391;

HRMS: calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: 260.1412 found: 260.1413.



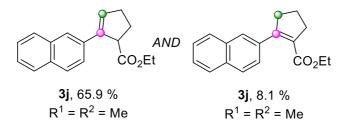
The cyclization of **1i** was performed on 0.71 mmol scale with a total reaction time of 24 h at 110 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography eluting with hexane/EtOAc (50:1) provided 129 mg (74%) of **3i** as a colorless oil. This compound might have isomer **3i'** but their signal is so small that we cannot provide its full spectra.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl3) δ 7.36-7.30 (m, 4H), 6.85-6.81 (m, 4H), 6.23 (q, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.14-3.99 (m, 8H), 3.92 (m, 1H), 2.82 (m, 4H), 2.74-2.65 (m, 1H), 2.57-2.48 (m, 1H), 2.35 (dtd, J = 13.1, 9.1, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.25 (tt, J = 8.7, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 1.96 (quintet, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz; CDCl3) δ 175.4, 166.6, 158.8, 158.2, 152.6, 140.6, 130.3, 129.0, 128.1, 127.9, 127.8, 127.0, 114.3, 113.6, 60.5, 59.9, 51.4, 39.9, 35.3, 32.4, 29.3, 21.9, 14.8, 14.15, 14.10.

IR (Neat): 2936, 2845, 1723, 1597, 1490, 1460, 1436, 1368, 1329, 1288;

HRMS: calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: 246.1256 found: 246.1253.



The cyclization of **1j** was performed on 0.819 mmol scale with a total reaction time of 12h at 130 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography eluting with hexanes/EtOAc (25:1)

provided 161 mg (74%) of mixture of **3j** (148 mg, 66%) and **3j**' (13 mg, 8%) (8.3:1 ratio by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis) as an inseparable mixture as a white solid.<sup>2</sup> We cannot get a full <sup>13</sup>C NMR data of **3j**' when some of their peaks two small to be detected.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.82-7.75 (m, 4.5H), 7.67-7.64 (m, 1.12H), 7.47-7.41 (m, 2.23H), 6.50 (q, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 4.17-4.03 (m, 3.3H), 2.99-2.86 (m, 0.5H), 2.62 (m, 1H), 2.42 (ddt, J = 13.1, 9.1, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (ddt, J = 13.1, 8.6, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.04 (quintet, J = 7.4 Hz, 0.25H), 1.17 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.08 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 0.37H);

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 175.4, 141.1, 133.4, 132.8, 132.7, 130.9, 128.1, 127.9, 127.5, 126.1, 125.8, 124.4, 124.3, 60.6, 51.3, 40.2, 35.3, 32.7, 29.4, 22.0, 14.2.



The cyclization of **1k** was performed on 1.0 mmol scale with a total reaction time of 12 h at 90 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography eluting with hexanes/EtOAc (25:1) provided 149 mg **3k** (65%) as a colorless oil.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.42-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.17 (m, 1H), 6.30 (dt, J = 2.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.95 (sept, J = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 3.94-3.89 (m, 1H), 2.69 (m, 1H), 2.53 (m, 1H), 2.33 (ddt, J = 13.0, 9.1, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.22 (ddt, J = 13.1, 8.8, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 1.10 (dd, J = 6.3, 3.3 Hz, 6H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 174.8, 141.4, 135.6, 130.1, 128.3, 127.2, 125.9, 67.7, 51.5, 32.5, 29.2, 21.6;



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Jacob R. Ludwig, Paul M. Zimmerman, Joseph B. Gianino, Corinna S. Schindler, *Nature*, 2016, 533, 374

The cyclization of **11** was performed on 1.0 mmol scale with a total reaction time of 20 h at 110 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography eluting with hexanes/EtOAc (50:1) provided 150 mg **31** (54%) as a colorless oil.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.43-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.27 (m, 5H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 1H), 7.20-7.17 (m, 2H), 6.35 (q, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 5.08 (q, J = 11.2 Hz, 2H), 4.1 (m, 1H), 2.73 (m, 1H), 2.57 (m, 1H), 2.38 (ddt, J = 13.1, 8.9, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (ddt, J = 13.1, 8.7, 4.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 175.1, 141.0, 136.0, 135.4, 130.3, 128.4, 128.4, 128.0, 127.9, 127.3, 125.9, 66.5, 51.4, 32.7, 29.5.



The cyclization of **1m** was performed on 0.184 mmol scale with a total reaction time of 14h at 110 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography eluting with hexanes/EtOAc (50:1) provided 30 mg of **3m** (72%) as a colorless oil.<sup>3</sup>

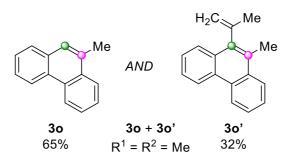
<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.31-7.26 (m, 4 H), 7.23-7.20 (m, 1H), 6.17 (t, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (dtt, J = 10.7, 7.0, 3.6 Hz, 2 H), 2.62 (m, 1H), 2.53 (m, 1H), 2.49-2.43 (m, 1H), 1.97 (ddd, J = 12.6, 8.5, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 1.44 (s, 3 H), 1.16 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (75 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 177.5, 146.5, 135.7, 129.9, 128.2, 127.0,126.3, 60.7, 55.9, 39.8, 30.9, 22.5, 14.1.



The cyclization of **1n** was performed on 0.43 mmol scale with a total reaction time of 14h at 110  $^{\circ}$ C. Purification by flash column chromatography eluting with hexanes/EtOAc (50:1) provided 55 mg of **3n** (51%) as a colorless oil.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Jacob R. Ludwig, Paul M. Zimmerman, Joseph B. Gianino, Corinna S. Schindler, *Nature*, **2016**, *533*, 374.

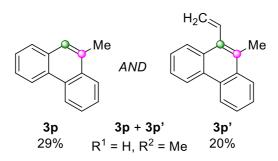
<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.30-7.25 (m, 4H), 7.23-7.20 (m, 1H), 6.18 (t, J = 2.6 Hz), 5. 70-5.56 (m, 1H), 5.0 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.97 (s, 1H), 4.20-4.13 (m, 2H), 2.70-2.55 (m, 3H), 2.43 (m, 1H), 2.33 (m, 1H), 2.12 (ddd, J = 13.1, 9.0, 6.6 Hz, 1H) 1.18 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (75 MHz; CDCl3) δ 177.0, 144.6, 136.1, 134.6, 132.2, 128.4, 127.3, 126.8, 118.1, 60.9, 59.6, 39.4, 35.4, 31.6, 14.3.



The cyclization of **1o** was performed on 0.552 mmol scale with a total reaction time of 6h h at 70 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography eluting with hexanes provided 110 mg of **3o** (69 mg, 65%) and **3o'** (41 mg, 32%) (2.1:1.0 ratio by NMR analysis), as a white solid.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>; as a mixture of **3o** and **3o**' as an inseparable mixture) δ 8.75-8.66 (m, 6.25H), 8.14 – 8.00 (m, 4.01H), 7.84 – 7.80 (m, 2.00H), 7.71-7.54 (m, 13.48H), 5.57 (s, 1H), 5.00 (s, 1H), 2.74 (s, 6.35H), 2.69 (s, 3.1H), 2.14 (s, 3.04H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>; as a mixture of **30** and **30'**) δ 144.46, 138.48, 132.48, 132.09, 132.02, 131.98, 130.46, 130.38, 129.68, 129.61, 129.53, 128.86, 128.68, 128.56, 128.30, 127.82, 127.58, 126.73, 126.63, 126.57, 126.51, 126.21, 125.90, 125.80, 125.60, 124.89, 124.66, 123.00, 122.77, 122.53, 122.45, 116.71, 24.86, 20.06, 16.52.



The cyclization of **1p** was performed on 0.4 mmol scale with a total reaction time of 14 h at 90 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography eluting with hexanes/EtOAc (100:1)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Christopher C. McAtee, Paul S. Riehl, Corinna S. Schindler, JACS, 2017, 139 (8), 2960

provided 37 mg of **3p** (19mg, 29%) and **3p'** (18mg, 20%) as an inseparable mixture (1.1:1.0; ratio by NMR analysis), as a white solid.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl3; as a mixture of **3p** and **3p'**) δ 8.74-8.64 (m, 3.81H), 8.15-8.11 (m, 1.85H), 8.09-8.05 (m, 0.85H), 7.82-7.79 (m, 0.81H), 7.68-7.56 (m, 7.48H), 7.13 (dd, *J* = 17.9, 11.3 Hz, 1H), 5.85 (dd, *J* = 11.4, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 5.42 (dd, *J* = 17.9, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 2.75 (s, 3H), 2.74 (s, 2.66H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3; as a mixture of **3p** and **3p'**) δ 135.75, 133.93, 132.69, 132.30, 132.23, 131.35, 130.59, 129.93, 129.89, 129.55, 129.36, 129.29, 129.22, 128.04, 126.94, 126.88, 126.79, 126.73, 126.62, 126.46, 126.42, 126.26, 126.01, 125.90, 125.32, 124.87, 123.21, 122.98, 122.77, 122.66, 121.79, 20.25, 17.17.

5a	+	Me ca 	at. (E) BF. (2) solvent mperature, tim	$\rightarrow$	7a	Me +	0 4a
entry <sup>a</sup>	mol% cat.	5a:6a ratio	solvent	T (°C)	t (h)	yield <sup>b</sup> (%)	_
1	20	1:1	MeCN	90	24	14	_
2	20	1:1	DCE	90	24	21	
3	20	1:1	DCM	45	24	20	
4	20	1:1	neat	90	24	18	
5	20	1:1	neat	45	72	18	
6	20	1:5	neat	45	72	11	
7	20	2.5:1	neat	45	72	34	
8	20	5:1	neat	45	72	38	
9	20	5:1	DCM	45	24	37	
10	10	5:1	DCM	45	24	41	
11 <sup>c</sup>	10	5:1	DCM	80	0.5	52	
12	10	5:1	DCM	80	1	50	

# Table S2 - Optimization of the Intermolecular COM Reaction

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: Substrate **5a** (1.0 mmol), substrate **6a** (indicated ratio) and tropylium tetrafluoroborate **2** (mol% cat.) and solvent (0.5 mL) were charged to a closed-cap N<sub>2</sub>-filled reaction vial and heated to indicated temperature for indicated time. <sup>b</sup> Yield of the isolated product. <sup>c</sup> Heated in a microwave reactor.

# Kinetic Studies of the Intermolecular COM Reaction

Below is the chart reflecting the kinetic studies of entries 9 and 10 of Table S2 by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy (298K, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 400 MHz):

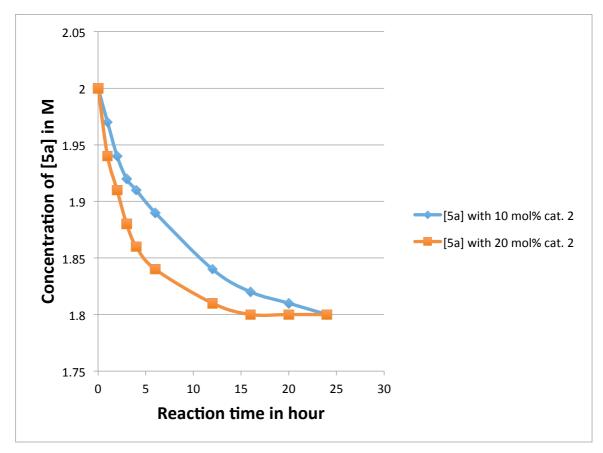


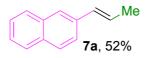
Chart S1. Kinetic studies of the intermolecular COM reactions

It is clear that the initial reaction rate double when the catalyst loading of **2** increase from 10 mol% ( $k_1 = 0.3$  M/h) to 20 mol% ( $k_2 = 0.6$  M/h), which means the reaction rate is first-order with respect to the concentration of tropylium ion.

## **General Procedures for Intermolecular Carbonyl-Olefin Metathesis**



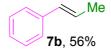
A mixture of aldehyde **5** (5 equiv.) and alkene **6** (1 equiv.) was taken up in dry dichloromethane (2 mL) in a microwave vessel charged with Trop.BF<sub>4</sub> (10.0 mol%) and a stirrer bar. The reaction mixture was heated to 80 °C in a microwave reactor (ramp-up time 2 min, holding time 30 min) then cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, then was purified by silica gel column chromatography to give the product.



The compound 7a was prepared according to the general procedure from 2-naphtaldehyde and 2-methyl-2-butene. Purification by flash column chromatography eluting with n-hexane provide product 7a as a white solid in 52% yield.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.78-7.73 (m, 3H), 7.64 (brs, 1H), 7.55 (dd, J = 8.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.35 (m, 2H), 6.55 (dd, J = 15.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.35 (dq, J = 15.7, 6.5, 1H), 1.92 (dd, J = 6.5, 1.5 Hz, 3H);

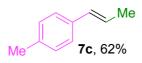
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz; CDCl3) δ 135.4, 133.7, 132.6, 131.2, 128.0, 127.8, 127.6, 126.2, 126.1, 125.4, 125.2, 123.5, 18.6.



The compound **7b** was prepared from benzaldehyde and 2-methyl-2-butene according to the general procedure. The product was obtained in 56% yield by silica gel column chromatography eluting with *n*-hexane as a colorless liquid. Spectral data were in accordance with those previously reported.<sup>4</sup>

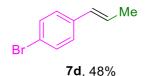
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> V. R. Naidu, J. Bah, J. Franzén, Eur. J. Org. Chem. 2015, 1834.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.33 – 7.26 (m, 4H), 7.20 – 7.16 (m, 1H), 6.40 (dd, J = 15.7, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.20 (dq, J = 15.7, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 1.88 (dd, J = 6.5, 1.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 138.0, 131.0, 128.5, 126.7, 125.8, 125.7, 18.5.



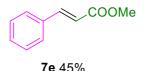
The compound 7c was prepared from p-tolualdehyde and 2-methyl-2-butene according to the general procedure in 62% yield as a colorless liquid after purification by silica gel column chromatography eluting with *n*-hexane. Spectral data were in accordance with those previously reported.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.24 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.10 – 7.08 (m, 2H), 6.36 (dd, J = 15.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.17 (dq, J = 15.7, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 1.85 (dd, J = 6.5, 1.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 136.4, 135.2, 130.9, 129.2, 125.7, 124.6, 21.1, 18.5.



The compound **7d** was prepared from 4'-bromobenzaldehyde and 2-methyl-2-butene according to the general procedure. Purification by flash column chromatography eluting with *n*-hexane provides **7d** as a white solid in 48% yield. Spectral data were in accordance with those previously reported.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.37 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.31 (dd, J = 15.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.20 (dq, J = 15.7, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 1.85 (dd, J = 6.4, 1.4 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 136.9, 131.5, 129.9, 127.4, 126.6, 120.3, 18.5.

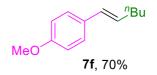


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> V. R. Naidu, J. Bah, J. Franzén, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* 2015, 1834.

The compound 7e was prepared from benzaldehyde and methyl 3-methylbut-2-enoate according to the general procedure in 45% yield. The product was obtained by silica gel column chromatography eluting with *n*-hexane as a colorless liquid. Spectral data were in accordance with those previously reported.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 7.70 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (dd, J = 6.7, 2.9 Hz, 2H), 7.43 – 7.35 (m, 3H), 6.45 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H);

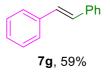
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 167.4, 144.9, 134.4, 130.3, 128.9, 128.1, 117.8, 51.7.



The compound **7f** was prepared from p-tolualdehyde and 2-methylhept-2-ene according to the general procedure in 70% yield. The product was obtained by silica gel column chromatography eluting with *n*-hexane as a colorless liquid. Spectral data were in accordance with those previously reported.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 7.30 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.35 (dt, J = 15.7, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.11 (dt, J = 15.8, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.22 (qd, J = 7.1, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 1.56 – 1.24 (m, 4H), 0.96 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 158.6, 130.8, 129.1, 129.0, 127.0, 113.9, 55.3, 32.7, 31.7, 22.3, 14.0.



The compound 7g was prepared from benzaldehyde and (2-methylprop-1-en-1-yl)benzene according to the general procedure in 59% yield. The product was obtained by silica gel column chromatography eluting with *n*-hexane as a colorless liquid. Spectral data were in accordance with those previously reported.<sup>4</sup>

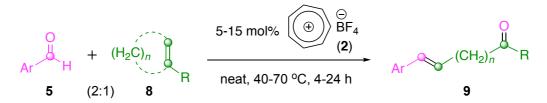
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Tan, E. W.; Chan, B.; Blackman, A. G.; J. Am. Chem. Soc. (2002), 124, 2078-2079.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Guo, X.; Wang, J.; Li, C; J. Am. Chem. Soc. (2009), 131, 15092-15093.

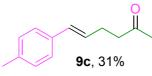
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Bandari, R.; Hoeche, T.; Prager, A.; Dirnberger, K.; Buchmeiser, M.I R.; Chem. Eur. J (2010), 16, 4650-4658,

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 7.55 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.4 Hz, 4H), 7.39 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 7.33 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.15 (s, 2H);
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 137.3, 128.7, 127.6, 126.5.

# General Procedures for Ring-opening Carbonyl-Olefin Metathesis



A dried 4ml vial was charged with tropylium tetraphenylborate and a stirring bar. Starting aldehyde **5** was added to the vial, followed by cyclic alkene **8** under Argon condition. Then the vial was closed tightly and the mixture was stirred for 24 h at 50  $^{\circ}$ C (unless otherwise specified). Upon completion (as determined by TLC analysis), the crude mixture was directly purified by flash column chromatography eluting with hexanes/EtOAc (50:1) to give the target product.



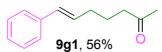
The compound 9c was prepared from 4'-tolualdehdye and 1-methylcyclobutene according to the general procedure at 70 °C for 4 h. Purification by flash column chromatography provided product 9c as a colorless liquid in 31% yield.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 7. 22 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7. 09 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.38 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 6.20 (dt, *J* = 15.8, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.47 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 208.1, 136.8, 134.6, 130.6, 129.2, 127.7, 125.9, 43.3, 30.1, 27.2, 21.1;

IR (neat): 3022, 2921, 1714, 1512, 1425, 1359;

**HRMS** calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>16</sub>ONa<sup>+</sup>: 211.1093, found: 211.1093.

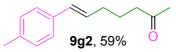


The compound **9g1** was prepared from Benzaldehyde and 1-methylcyclopentene according to the general procedure. Purification by flash column chromatography provided product **9g1** as a white solid in 56% yield.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> A. J. Musacchio, L. Q. Nguyen, G. H. Beard, R. R. Knowles, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2014, 136, 12217.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.33-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.20-7.16 (m, 1H), 6,37 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 6.15 (dt, *J* = 15.8, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.25-2.20 (m, 2H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 1.77-1.70 (m, 2H);

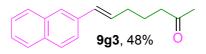
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 208.9, 137.6,130.7, 129.8, 128.5, 127.0, 126.0, 42.8, 32.3, 30.0, 23.2.



The compound **9g2** was prepared from p-tolualdehyde and 1-methylcyclopentene according to the general procedure. Purification by flash column chromatography provided product **9g2** as a white solid in 59% yield.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.2 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6,33 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 6.08 (dt, J = 15.8, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.21-2.17 (m, 2H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 1.77-1.70 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ130.6, 129.5, 128.6, 127.2, 42.9, 32.3, 30.0, 23.1. **IR** (Neat): 3025, 2937, 1714, 1494, 1447, 1363;

**HRMS**: calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>16</sub>ONa<sup>+</sup>: 225.1250, found: 225.1246.



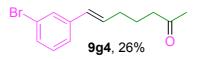
The compound **9g3** was prepared 2-naphtaldehyde and 1-methylcyclopentene according to the general procedure. Purification by flash column chromatography provided product **9g3** as a white solid in 48% yield.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.51-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.11 (m, 2H), 6,29 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 6.15 (dt, *J* = 15.8, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.23-2.18 (m, 2H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 1.78-1.71 (m, 2H);

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz; CDCl3) δ 208.9, 135.1, 133.7, 130.8, 130.3, 128.1, 127.9, 127.7, 126.2, 125.6, 125.5, 123.5, 42.9, 32.5, 30.0, 23.3.

**IR** (Neat): 3052, 2934, 1714, 1435, 1363;

**HRMS**: calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>OH<sup>+</sup>: 239.1426, found: 239.1430.



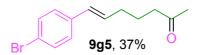
The compound **9g4** was prepared from 3-bromobenzaldehdye and 1-methylcyclopentene according to the general procedure. Purification by flash column chromatography provide product **9g4** as a white solid in 26% yield.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.51-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.11 (m, 2H), 6,29 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 6.15 (dt, *J* = 15.8, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.23-2.18 (m, 2H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 1.78-1.71 (m, 2H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz; CDCl3) δ 208.7, 139.8, 131.6, 130.0, 129.8, 129.3, 128.9, 124.7, 122.7, 42.8, 32.2, 30.0, 23.1.

IR (Neat): 2929, 1710, 1421, 1370;

**HRMS**: calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClOH<sup>+</sup>: 267.0379 found: 267.0379.



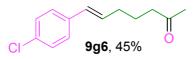
The compound **9g5** was prepared from 4-bromobenzaldehyde and 1-methylcyclopentene according to the general procedure. Purification by flash column chromatography provided product **9g5** as a white solid in 37% yield.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.40-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.17 (m, 2H), 6,30 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 6.14 (dt, *J* = 15.8, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.22-2.16 (m, 2H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 1.78-1.70 (m, 2H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz; CDCl3) δ 208.7, 136.5, 131.6, 130.8, 129.5, 127.5, 120.6, 42.8, 32.3, 30.0, 23.1.

IR (Neat): 2941, 1727, 1486, 1371;

**HRMS**: calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClOH<sup>+</sup>: 267.0379 found: 267.0379.



The compound **9g6** was prepared from 4'-chlorobenzaldehdye and 1-methylcyclopentene according to the general procedure. Purification by flash column chromatography provided product **9g6** as a colorless liquid in 45% yield.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.27 (bs, 4H), 6,30 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 6.14 (dt, *J* = 15.8, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.22-2.16 (m, 2H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 1.78-1.70 (m, 2H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 208.7, 136.5, 131.6, 130.8, 129.5, 127.5, 120.6, 42.8, 32.3, 30.0, 23.1.

**IR** (Neat): 2929, 1710, 1488, 1357;

**HRMS**: calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClOH<sup>+</sup>: 223.0884, found: 223.0884.

# Evidence of the Tropylium-Carbonyl Complexation by <sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectroscopy

We carried out a series of <sup>1</sup>H NMR studies to probe the interaction between tropylium ion and carbonyl functionality. 2-Naphthaldehyde (**5a**, Table S2) was employed as a model substrate for these studies in CD<sub>3</sub>CN. An up-field shift of the tropylium  $C_7H_7^+$  signal was observed when it was in the same solution with 2-naphthaldehyde (Figure S2). The up-field movement increased with the aldehyde : tropylium ratio until it stabilized between ~ 5:1 to 10:1, which corresponded to between ~ 20 to 10 mol% of tropylium per one equivalent of the aldehyde substrate, respectively. Since the magnitude of chemical shift probably reflects the relative population of tropylium in the free and complexed form, it might not be a coincidence that 10-20 mol% is the optimal catalyst loading range for most of the carbonyl-olefin metathesis reaction. The odd chemical shift movements and splittings at 3:1 and 4:1 ratios suggested that there might be more than one binding mode between the tropylium ion and the carbonyl group at these ratios. Such a multiple  $[C_7H_7^+]$  C-H···O=C [carbonyl] bonding interaction had been previously observed in host-guest chemistry of tropylium ions.<sup>5</sup> Nonetheless, the relatively small chemical shift < 0.2 ppm suggests that the interaction between tropylium ion and 2-naphthaldehyde is likely to be weak.

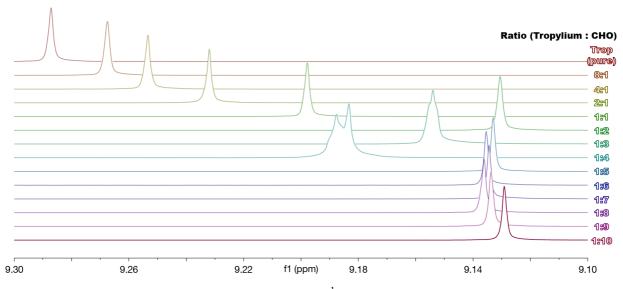


Figure S2. Tropylium-Carbonyl Complexation by <sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectroscopy

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Chen, L.; Peng, Z.; Liu, S.; Li, X.; Chen, R.; Ren, Y.; Feng, W.; Yuan, L. Org. Lett. 2015, 17, 5950.

# **Computational Method**

All electronic structure calculations were carried in the Gaussian16<sup>6</sup> and NWCHEM<sup>7</sup> programs. The geometries and thermal corrections of all molecules were optimized at the M06-2X/6-31G(d) level of theory in conjunction with the SMD<sup>8</sup> implicit solvation model to simulate the solvent (acetonitrile). High level *ab initio* single point calculations, G3(MP2)-RAD,<sup>9</sup> were performed on the DFT optimized geometries in the presence of the solvent reaction field, and combined with thermal corrections to obtain free energies in the solution phase.<sup>10</sup> All reported free energies correspond to a standard state of 1 mol L<sup>-1</sup> and 298 K. All stationary points were verified to be a minima or transition state by frequency calculation. Intrinsic reaction coordinate (IRC) simulations were also carried out to ascertain that the first order saddle point connects the correct reactants and products.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Gaussian 16, Revision A.03, Frisch, M. J.; Trucks, G. W.; Schlegel, H. B.; Scuseria, G. E.; Robb, M. A.; Cheeseman, J. R.; Scalmani, G.; Barone, V.; Petersson, G. A.; Nakatsuji, H.; Li, X.; Caricato, M.; Marenich, A. V.; Bloino, J.; Janesko, B. G.; Gomperts, R.; Mennucci, B.; Hratchian, H. P.; Ortiz, J. V.; Izmaylov, A. F.; Sonnenberg, J. L.; Williams-Young, D.; Ding, F.; Lipparini, F.; Egidi, F.; Goings, J.; Peng, B.; Petrone, A.; Henderson, T.; Ranasinghe, D.; Zakrzewski, V. G.; Gao, J.; Rega, N.; Zheng, G.; Liang, W.; Hada, M.; Ehara, M.; Toyota, K.; Fukuda, R.; Hasegawa, J.; Ishida, M.; Nakajima, T.; Honda, Y.; Kitao, O.; Nakai, H.; Vreven, T.; Throssell, K.; Montgomery, J. A., Jr.; Peralta, J. E.; Ogliaro, F.; Bearpark, M. J.; Heyd, J. J.; Brothers, E. N.; Kudin, K. N.; Staroverov, V. N.; Keith, T. A.; Kobayashi, R.; Normand, J.; Raghavachari, K.; Rendell, A. P.; Burant, J. C.; Iyengar, S. S.; Tomasi, J.; Cossi, M.; Millam, J. M.; Klene, M.; Adamo, C.; Cammi, R.; Ochterski, J. W.; Martin, R. L.; Morokuma, K.; Farkas, O.; Foresman, J. B.; Fox, D. J. Gaussian, Inc., Wallingford CT, **2016**.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Valiev, M.; Bylaska, E. J.; Govind, M.; Kowalski, K.; Straatsma, T. P.; van Dam, H. J. J.; Wang, D.; Nieplocha, J.; Apra, E.; Windus, T. L.; de Jong, W. A. *Comput. Phys. Commun.* **2010**, *181*, 1477.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Marenich, A. V.; Cramer, C. J.; Truhlar, D. G. J. Phys. Chem. B 2009, 113, 6378-6396.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Henry, D. J.; Sullivan, M. B.; Radom, L. J. Chem. Phys. **2003**, 118, 4849-4860.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Ho, J.; Ertem, M. Z. J. Phys. Chem. B 2016, 120, 1319-1329.

# NMR Calculations Support $\pi$ -Stacked Complex as Thermodynamically Most Favourable

To help understand the NMR spectral shifts observed in Figure S2, we have also computed the NMR chemical shifts for the three tropylium:2-Naphthaldehyde complex configurations. These were carried out at the M06-2X/6-311+G(d,p) level of theory in conjunction with the SMD (acetonitrile) model and the GIAO method<sup>11</sup> as implemented in Gaussian16.



 Table S3. Computed proton NMR chemical shifts for free and complexed tropylium ion.

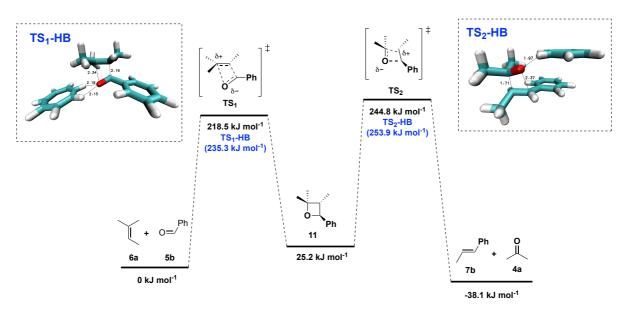
i abie set e emparea pre				u op jii uiii ioiii			
Proton	Tropylium ion	Config A	Config B	Config C			
H1	21.69	21.49	21.62	23.42			
H2	21.79	21.66	20.30	22.62			
H3	21.67	21.23	21.45	22.63			
H4	21.76	21.13	21.65	22.84			
Н5	21.70	21.57	21.59	23.39			
H6	21.69	21.57	19.90	22.95			
H7	21.75	21.37	21.72	22.95			
Average signal	21.721	21.43	21.18	22.97			
$\delta$ (rel to C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>6</sub> ) /ppm <sup>1</sup>	9.10	9.39	9.64	7.85			
Relative $\delta$ / ppm	0.00	0.29	0.55	-1.25			
1 \$							

 $\delta_i = \sigma_{ref} - \sigma_i$ .  $\sigma_{ref}$  (benzene) = 23.45 ppm.

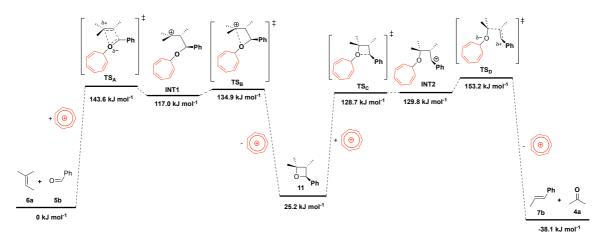
As shown, the  $\pi$ -stacked configuration **C** is the only configuration that results in an upfield shift relative to free tropylium ion. This is consistent with the computed complexation free energies where **C** is the thermodynamically favoured configuration, and NMR titration experiments (Figure S2) which shows a monotonic upfield shift as the tropylium:aldehyde ratio increases from 8:1 to 1:2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Cheeseman, J. R.; Trucks, G. W.; Keith, T. A.; Frisch, M. J. J. Chem. Phys. **1996**, 104, 5497-5509.

**Tropylium mediated COM is likely to occur via a stepwise mechanism:** To better understand the catalytic role of tropylium, we have carried out high-level *ab initio* calculations to compare the energetics of three COM pathways: (1) in the absence of tropylium ion, (2) aldehyde hydrogen bonded to tropylium ion, and (3) coordination of aldehye to tropylium ion. For pathways (1) and (2), the reactants and products are connected by two concerted cycloaddition transition states and a cycloaddition intermediate (Figure S3), whilst pathway (3) involves four stepwise transition states and additionally two zwitterionic intermediates (Figure S4). Consistent with orbital symmetry rules, both pathways (1) and (2) are accompanied by very high barriers (TS<sub>1</sub> and TS<sub>2</sub>) exceeding 200 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, and are unlikely to occur under thermal activation. As shown in Figure S3, it is also interesting to note that hydrogen bonding to tropylium ion does not provide any stabilization of the transition states. Presumably, the concerted nature of these transition states (no charged intermediates) also means that any electrostatic stabilization from tropylium is likely to be minimal.



**Figure S3.** G3(MP2)-RAD+SMD(DCM) free energies for reactions in the absence of tropylium, and with hydrogen bonding to tropylium. The barriers for the latter are shown in parenthesis.



**Figure S4.** G3(MP2)-RAD+SMD(DCM) free energies (at 298 K) for reactions catalyzed by coordination of CO oxygen to tropylium.

Figure S4 shows the free energy profile for the stepwise pathway and it is evident that coordination of the anionic oxygen to tropylium ion lowers the barriers significantly. Specifically, the rate-limiting step for this pathway is about 90 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> lower compared to the reaction in the absence of tropylium ion (153 c.f. 245 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>). This result is somewhat surprising because coordination to oxygen to form the heptatriene adduct inevitably disrupts the aromaticity of the tropylium ring. Presumably, this enthalpic cost is more than compensated when the anionic oxygen is neutralized through coordination to tropylium.

The structures of the stepwise transition states hint at a termolecular mechanism, although intrinsic reaction coordinate (IRC) simulations of these transition states show that they relax to reactants and products where the tropylium ion remains coordinated. On the other hand, potential energy scans indicate that addition of CO oxygen to tropylium (while the remaining atoms are constrained to positions at the transition state geometry) is approximately barrier-less. A plausible mechanistic picture is that tropylium exists as a p-stacked complex with aldehyde **5b** (c.f. Table S3 configuration C), which spontaneously coordinates to the C-O oxygen as the anionic charge develops upon nucleophilic addition. Indeed, our kinetic experiments (c.f. page S17) show that the rate of metathesis is first-order with respect to the concentration of tropylium ion. It is also worth pointing out that the computed barriers in Figure S4 are likely to represent upper bound estimates of the actual values. This is because these reactions involve the consumption of an aromatic cation (tropylium) and the generation of a localized carbocation, so the solvation contribution is likely to be under-estimated by quantum chemical implicit solvation models. Regardless, it is clear from the calculations that

the reaction is significantly enhanced only when tropylium acts as a Lewis acid to stabilize the zwitterionic intermediate formed in the stepwise pathway.

## CO Addition to Tropylium Ion Is Spontaneous upon C-C Bond Formation

We have also carried out constrained potential energy surface (PES) scans to investigate the energy profile for CO addition to tropylium. Figure S5 depicts the PES scan for transition state  $TS_C$  (in Figure S4) where the O-C(tropylium) bond is incremented at 0.1 Å. All atoms shown in black are constrained to their coordinates at the transition state geometry. As shown, the CO addition to tropylium cation is approximately barrier-less (about 5 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>) and downhill, which supports our mechanistic hypothesis that the p-stacked tropylium ion spontaneously coordinates with the anionic C-O oxygen, thereby providing a significant stabilization to the transitions state.

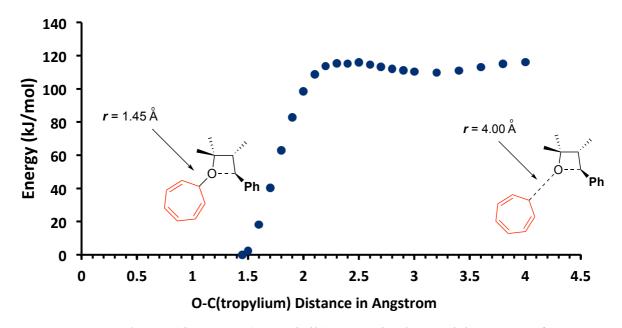


Figure S5. M06-2X/6-31G(d) + SMD (acetonitrile) constrained potential energy surface scan.

### **Gaussian Archives**

#### 2

1\1\GINC-R1889\F0pt\RM062X\Gen\C7H7(1+)\ROOT\29-May-2017\0\\#m062X/gen 6D OPT freq=noraman INT(grid=ultrafine) SCRF=(SMD,Solvent=acetonitril e)\\trop-cation.smd\\1,1\C,-2.7561463594,2.1245705969,0.0090285667\C,-2.8375035842,0.7329058219,0.003381013\C,-1.8012410926,-0.1995991327,-0 .0016412156\C,-0.4264023427,0.0300390444,-0.00174841\C,0.2509886594,1. 2482913905,0.0033161024\C,-0.2787492571,2.5376396814,0.0091396553\C,-1 .6169481019,2.9277670765,0.0115627904\H,-3.7055569624,2.6526335108,0.0 120176405\H,-3.8423580931,0.3200593851,0.0026764866\H,-2.1052033872,-1 .2425903833,-0.0060226387\H,0.1999723013,-0.8574385744,-0.0062962933\H ,1.3353415808,1.1846277995,0.0024129723\H,0.4476298294,3.3452474376,0. 0121192755\H,-1.7954531903,3.9992663458,0.016174055\\Version=ES64L-G09 RevE.01\State=1-A\HF=-270.6291304\RMSD=3.939e-09\RMSF=7.055e-05\Dipole =0.0009817,0.0001119,0.0000121\Quadrupole=4.8430919,4.8588649,-9.70195 69,-0.0082409,-0.0110316,0.0627403\PG=C01 [X(C7H7)]\\@

#### 5a

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#### HB Config A

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#### HB Config B

1\1\GINC-R3929\FOpt\RM062X\Gen\C18H1501(1+)\ROOT\01-Oct-2017\0\\#m062X /gen 6D OPT freq=noraman INT(grid=ultrafine) SCRF=(SMD,Solvent=acetoni trile)\\trop-Naphform.a2.smd\\1,1\C,-3.8603539167,1.408932889,-0.03101 22243\C,-2.5412908305,0.9570601417,-0.0240918576\C,-2.0715168046,-0.35 57115256,-0.0021839864\C,-2.8052120453,-1.5410035084,0.0182825043\C,-4 .1895172645,-1.7058974713,0.0217554661\C,-5.1822193466,-0.7269590423,0 .0056176976\C,-5.0358649567,0.6592737006,-0.0178561454\H,-3.9900647618 ,2.4873792863,-0.0490848523\H,-1.7701642331,1.7225850757,-0.0373654139 \H,-2.2215998436,-2.4571822455,0.0334972311\H,-4.5416427919,-2.7333745 701,0.0393720453\H,-6.2050416456,-1.0928376691,0.0122688186\H,-0.98968 94609,-0.4575685616,-0.0010337369\0,0.5607568064,1.3108383349,-0.03140 04445\C,1.7197813409,1.6801404581,-0.0378611992\C,2.8774746027,0.76802 452,-0.0228455326\C,4.1448595434,1.3046569737,-0.0323350361\C,5.285734 396,0.4621870518,-0.0185370998\C,5.095278644,-0.9497944931,0.005313865 8\C,3.7700709737,-1.4753960913,0.0146151116\C,2.6869776251,-0.64156433 13,0.0009400302\H,1.9670912789,2.7574800742,-0.0560573491\H,4.28076394 86,2.3845320644,-0.0505590427\C,6.6057758063,0.9867608196,-0.027836424 6\C,6.2345543346,-1.7951700918,0.0191532796\H,3.6402827514,-2.55422726 75,0.0328368222\H,1.6751078535,-1.0353533384,0.0079138736\H,-5.9598028 686,1.2304937665,-0.0270731089\C,7.4998009672,-1.2605967741,0.00971435 47\C,7.6885903466,0.14366023,-0.0140104024\H,6.7388484413,2.0652025752 ,-0.0460438723\H,6.0861023524,-2.8715549856,0.03734112\H,8.3659911035,  $-1.9153117827, 0.0204512942 \\ \text{H}, 8.6959376539, 0.548265788, -0.0211757859 \\ \text{V}$ ersion=ES64L-G09RevE.01\State=1-A\HF=-769.6527155\RMSD=8.007e-09\RMSF= 3.914e-06\Dipole=-7.4455835,-0.2575738,0.0074751\Quadrupole=73.5270156 ,-22.891906,-50.6351096,5.396939,-0.1406055,-0.4698347\PG=C01 [X(C18H1 501)]\\@

#### HB Config C

1\1\GINC-R3929\F0pt\RM062X\Gen\C18H1501(1+)\ROOT\01-Oct-2017\0\\#m062X /gen 6D OPT freg=noraman INT(grid=ultrafine) SCRF=(SMD,Solvent=acetoni trile)\\trop-Naphform.a3.smd\\1,1\C,-1.8734171321,-0.2078246469,2.7775 827115\C,-1.4853835725,-1.5213768431,2.5271196128\C,0.9777175728,-1.79 40142345,-1.1474112994\C,-0.3763419791,-1.9662670887,-1.0063893428\C,-1.2213057134,-0.8552262137,-0.7389506546\C,-0.6479374789,0.4479077164, -0.6296447921\C,0.7508345633,0.5955120071,-0.7780806398\C,1.5481881758 ,-0.5018573125,-1.0269822071\C,3.0180080964,-0.3460229908,-1.123318237 4\0,3.6004375902,0.7069209674,-0.9667949676\C,-1.0796240554,0.93982282 02,2.8165136285\C,0.2961309009,1.0512991488,2.6202596752\C,1.218979059 8,0.0469769355,2.3313668121\C,0.996349512,-1.3228650994,2.1811764069\C ,-0.2065249778,-2.0190705212,2.2643132341\C,-2.6203389396,-1.007347353 7,-0.5471083608\H,-0.822406149,-2.9539605651,-1.0885264212\H,1.6279617 592,-2.6432723673,-1.3437115676\H,1.2038368662,1.5797446343,-0.6808598 871\C,-1.4910922285,1.5559750564,-0.3427640198\H,3.5765601573,-1.27556 98955,-1.3452511681\H,-2.9333344572,-0.054898299,2.9616093228\H,-1.602 8075779, 1.8677856906, 3.0305795024\H, 0.7022565606, 2.056625588, 2.6935043 765\H,2.2487059135,0.373355792,2.2089555216\H,1.8758473192,-1.92264556 93,1.962402843\H,-0.1428311848,-3.0917904819,2.1027813521\H,-2.2831127 031,-2.2590975719,2.5404993641\C,-2.8404208499,1.3767794849,-0.1644281 544\C,-3.408740107,0.0822161362,-0.2651977413\H,-3.0532676146,-2.00130 2356,-0.6253396461\H,-1.0440234676,2.5436751771,-0.2618752858\H,-3.479 2231112,2.2261171979,0.0577149623\H,-4.4770807473,-0.0443849422,-0.117 8149328\\Version=ES64L-G09RevE.01\State=1-A\HF=-769.6592984\RMSD=8.880 e-09\RMSF=3.771e-06\Dipole=-1.5429569,-1.2259493,3.3633293\Quadrupole= -2.4292957,5.8462444,-3.4169487,-6.8787314,-1.3721733,5.0024539\PG=C01 [X(C18H15O1)]\\@

#### 6a

1\1\GINC-R4185\Fopt\RM062X\Gen\C5H10\ROOT\12-Aug-2017\0\\#m062X/gen 6D OPT freq=noraman INT(grid=ultrafine) SCRF=(SMD,Solvent=acetonitrile)\ \olefin-reactant.smd\\0,1\C,0.3225400176,2.3725042422,0.7944715532\C,1 .6466114705,2.2572964949,0.9542225839\C,-0.633358865,1.7796783294,1.79 76226873\C,-0.3513165448,3.0759183385,-0.3537353031\H,1.9958424802,1.7 189936856,1.8366835269\C,2.7360233465,2.7799677629,0.0639615165\H,-0.1 077749642,1.2778835856,2.6151723815\H,-1.2997268234,1.0518761967,1.317 2138708\H,-1.2781685208,2.5569950382,2.2271938531\H,0.3489980765,3.502 3467748,-1.0741597733\H,-0.9904372661,3.8856634868,0.0202864569\H,-1.0 104885319,2.3813067942,-0.8895201809\H,2.35602831,3.3135800447,-0.8099 016142\H,3.3704894223,1.9595544162,-0.2928441384\H,3.3920083926,3.4636 248094,0.6164125798\\Version=ES64L-G09RevE.01\State=1-A\HF=-196.433123 5\RMSD=4.257e-09\RMSF=1.184e-05\Dipole=-0.0877385,0.0404943,-0.0650838 \Quadrupole=1.0073119,-0.8697696,-0.1375424,-0.0423323,0.0164769,-0.69 80345\PG=C01 [X(C5H10)]\\@

#### 5b

1\1\GINC-R131\FOpt\RM062X\Gen\C7H6O1\ROOT\29-May-2017\0\\#m062X/gen 6D OPT freq=noraman INT(grid=ultrafine) SCRF=(SMD,Solvent=acetonitrile)\ \Phform.smd\\0,1\C,1.6700451931,-0.3431251519,-0.3446\0,1.8236490965,0 .8605662079,-0.3446\C,2.7800028916,-1.3221294917,-0.3446\C,2.486494752 4,-2.6871502275,-0.3446\C,3.5214937188,-3.6189694651,-0.3446\C,4.84500 23295,-3.1810876695,-0.3446\C,5.1400432929,-1.8147272036,-0.3446\C,4.1 090283379,-0.8842996949,-0.3446\H,0.6549916801,-0.7850897816,-0.3446\H ,1.4486167439,-3.012415018,-0.3446\H,3.2990044224,-4.6813455406,-0.3446 \H,5.653179874,-3.9065767404,-0.3446\H,6.1737592014,-1.4828964766,-0. 3446\H,4.3138684655,0.1823162535,-0.3446\Version=ES64L-G09RevE.01\Sta te=1-A'\HF=-345.4319036\RMSD=3.268e-09\RMSF=5.986e-05\Dipole=0.3376599 ,-1.5446274,0.\Quadrupole=5.3382842,-3.100396,-2.2378882,3.2993297,0., 0.\PG=CS [SG(C7H601)]\\@

#### TS1

1\1\GINC-R3713\FTS\RM062X\Gen\C12H1601\ROOT\12-Aug-2017\0\\#m062X/gen 6D OPT=(CalcFC,TS,Noeigen) freq=noraman INT(grid=ultrafine) SCRF=(SMD, Solvent=acetonitrile)\\trans-concerted-TS1.smd\\0,1\0,0.2439754778,-0. 1111856543,-0.1437890075\C,0.2315889012,2.0471846424,0.6358731637\C,1. 6428297479,1.7726283937,0.6564250145\C,1.4106789124,0.4467355964,-0.40 96297255\C,-0.6167921389,1.6047997315,1.7557728499\C,-0.3494798003,2.8 871751337,-0.431721348\H,1.9571089899,1.3490775096,1.6134695845\C,2.61 52538446,2.7964228234,0.1039611741\C,2.6280000575,-0.4563197172,-0.310 1295687\H,1.4875318018,1.0239568907,-1.3637038775\H,-0.2216950711,0.67 93736193,2.1785136207\H,-1.662166524,1.489174875,1.4653608378\H,-0.546 8122036,2.3908907197,2.5249949614\H,0.1552955382,2.7266251501,-1.38988 16399\H,-0.1619212138,3.9354269947,-0.1519527511\H,-1.4259815612,2.740 5506273,-0.5293473465\H,2.3594911548,3.0905727988,-0.9188942989\H,3.62 35217644,2.3711986502,0.0896093853\H,2.6415480095,3.7001433627,0.72223 10937\C,3.8033063558,-0.2105732333,-1.0255595489\C,4.9007483898,-1.061 1326778,-0.8961818429\C,4.8290198549,-2.1677120957,-0.0502260585\C,3.6 55261707,-2.4232056376,0.6611581375\C,2.5629791974,-1.5698265269,0.530 3995963\H,3.8521055918,0.643652582,-1.6983377936\H,5.8086034586,-0.865 8136032,-1.4600045634\H,5.6823705844,-2.832293072,0.0497989991\H,3.595 5918661,-3.289193083,1.3148060757\H,1.632307307,-1.7501448001,1.061374 8766\\Version=ES64L-G09RevE.01\State=1-A\HF=-541.7960329\RMSD=4.013e-0 9\RMSF=4.051e-06\Dipole=0.0013016,2.6861182,0.8120944\Quadrupole=-0.85 88734,3.5251064,-2.666233,-10.6516922,-4.8638061,-1.8069165\PG=C01 [X( C12H16O1)]\\@

#### 11

1\1\GINC-R4489\F0pt\RM062X\Gen\C12H1601\ROOT\21-Aug-2017\0\\#m062X/gen 6D OPT freq=noraman INT(grid=ultrafine) SCRF=(SMD,Solvent=acetonitril e)\\trans-cycloprod.smd\\0,1\C,0.532901727,1.3897066297,2.8354137135\C ,1.7432859125,2.2923453984,3.1578523704\C,2.2847656776,1.7853954556,1. 7981785424\0,0.9847937491,1.2054746057,1.483386934\C,-0.840116215,1.98 98236777,2.9445932514\H,0.5742795336,0.4434633918,3.3961324368\C,2.506 1784896,2.0523940417,4.4440624706\H,1.4565607044,3.3462648571,3.070260 7699\C,3.3320126887,0.6880291804,1.8810970742\C,2.658568527,2.85207342 19,0.7901596293\H,2.7763615067,0.9985296657,4.5631807578\H,1.893388143 3,2.3404828955,5.3055125412\H,3.4250160025,2.6478004358,4.4747454897\H ,3.0120240326,-0.1130044238,2.5546486031\H,4.28581989,1.0867129664,2.2 432468313\H,3.4932951421,0.2568029374,0.8872978587\H,1.8672675797,3.60 46947198,0.7177476605\H,2.8134100239,2.4086656332,-0.1997386954\H,3.58 66227377,3.3491764984,1.0936103299\C,-1.3645894317,2.7647529133,1.9078 56503\C,-2.6138062782,3.3672873411,2.0430747241\C,-3.3457723362,3.2079 563017,3.2192172838\C,-2.8256811069,2.4363274549,4.2579445561\C,-1.581 5634023,1.8253681732,4.1176748097\H,-0.7896053165,2.8795978541,0.99353 5282\H,-3.0170354709,3.9624239183,1.2286447604\H,-4.318861932,3.678544

8183,3.3242258322\H,-3.3930613495,2.3031801267,5.1745442311\H,-1.18045 72288,1.2132801099,4.9227274483\\Version=ES64L-G09RevE.01\State=1-A\HF =-541.8851895\RMSD=4.959e-09\RMSF=3.577e-06\Dipole=0.5939367,0.3758635 ,0.7071591\Quadrupole=3.9187921,-3.2252061,-0.693586,-1.9758473,-1.395 3499,-3.7320575\PG=C01 [X(C12H1601)]\\@

#### TS2

1\1\GINC-R3817\FTS\RM062X\Gen\C12H1601\ROOT\12-Aug-2017\0\\#m062X/gen 6D OPT=(CalcFC,TS,Noeigen) freq=noraman INT(grid=ultrafine) SCRF=(SMD, Solvent=acetonitrile)\\trans-concerted-TS2.smd\\0,1\0,2.0113292433,-1. 6450425714,0.5427103145\C,1.7238853949,0.6486879535,0.8959249434\C,2.9 848259097,0.5750113689,0.2054311367\C,2.7231182138,-1.005955627,-0.385 611045\H,1.6885736252,0.1881319271,1.8769731415\C,0.527718879,1.315420 0536,0.485026285\C,4.1726059665,0.6047429478,1.1631146356\H,3.09263452 31,1.2706404332,-0.6280683283\C,4.0809902807,-1.6605576282,-0.68284355 93\C,1.9835781575,-0.8060835444,-1.7232863371\C,-0.6113267518,1.199714 1074,1.3106873038\C,-1.7935262871,1.837327324,0.9691715787\C,-1.850744 519,2.5998633348,-0.199234874\C,-0.729740624,2.7308869426,-1.025555263 2\C,0.4543928099,2.0962846814,-0.6896676777\H,-0.5465842544,0.60047526 21,2.2147113774\H,-2.6681273864,1.7457098656,1.6044217755\H,-2.7754084 768,3.1017159798,-0.4681312161\H,-0.7874806432,3.3331019384,-1.9260829 451\H,1.3270508386,2.2043749186,-1.3256440153\H,5.1119074554,0.4955929 829,0.6146629672\H,4.2160472106,1.5445873911,1.7232017091\H,4.08875667 13,-0.2194878689,1.8793194037\H,2.5531887178,-0.2164742649,-2.45128854 37\H,1.805560981,-1.8020904144,-2.1470980057\H,1.0052844662,-0.3405033 413,-1.5733965049\H,4.7031710327,-1.0787845285,-1.3746211575\H,4.63885 28493,-1.8304475043,0.2422662675\H,3.8840657165,-2.6393821196,-1.13809 3367\\Version=ES64L-G09RevE.01\State=1-A\HF=-541.781006\RMSD=7.335e-09 \RMSF=2.741e-06\Dipole=-1.3554421,3.2568646,-0.0840505\Quadrupole=8.11 71254,-10.3686781,2.2515527,-2.4254093,-1.8385064,-0.5302064\PG=C01 [X (C12H16O1)]\\@

#### TS1-HB

1\1\GINC-R122\FTS\RM062X\Gen\C19H2301(1+)\ROOT\01-Jun-2017\0\\#m062X/g en 6D INT(grid=ultrafine) OPT=(TS,calcfc,noeigentest) Freq=noraman SCR F=(SMD,Solvent=Acetonitrile)\\cis-concerted-ts.a2.freq\\1,1\0,0.243470 7963,-0.1433281055,-0.1616839329\C,0.2102696587,2.0566109572,0.6309525 894\C,1.6167611649,1.7305154123,0.6492996821\C,1.4147166976,0.43971762 08,-0.4126631402\C,-0.6514917632,1.6275911505,1.7417714446\C,-0.343344 3659,2.9086186306,-0.437692485\H,1.9066033357,1.3002214759,1.611688615 5\C,2.6124205582,2.7559456897,0.1360042244\C,2.635355517,-0.4574443008 ,-0.310354799\H,1.4819339044,1.0001238493,-1.3742259632\H,-0.301921698 5,0.6695537595,2.1330137792\H,-1.7075434611,1.5891966058,1.4681435969\ H,-0.5201799682,2.3831293153,2.5342370159\H,0.1621809723,2.7400750302, -1.3942167831\H,-0.1253764333,3.9499437181,-0.1501893569\H,-1.42445457 22,2.7978896091,-0.5363600744\H,2.3821444068,3.0701750378,-0.886820240  $\verb+2++, 3.6153026853, \verb+2.3185087273, 0.1369150597++, \verb+2.6327835913, 3.6464252675+, a.6464252675+, a.6466425+, a.6466425+, a.6466425+, a.6466425+, a.6466425+, a.6466425+, a.6466425+, a.6466+, a.666+, a.666+,$ ,0.7725674805\H,-1.6968238436,0.3175609311,-1.0771490217\C,-2.63742810 65,-0.1148266309,-0.7403934449\C,-3.821217613,0.4068688718,-1.25857484 22\C,-5.1334230095,0.0306696027,-0.9728410846\C,-5.5829043877,-0.96314 85358,-0.104392584\C,-4.8333526991,-1.8263222746,0.693688399\C,-3.4472 709064,-1.9059506388,0.8261952985\C,-2.4700460384,-1.1414944915,0.1915 536027\H,-3.7092033346,1.2134803067,-1.9783691422\H,-5.9086326352,0.58 29537016,-1.4968192695\H,-5.4062221993,-2.5289401417,1.2925482508\H,-3 .0837787315,-2.6625778107,1.5162087326\H,-1.4294089427,-1.3468682181,0 .4338488193\H,-6.6609395187,-1.0822667564,-0.0422143444\C,3.7937931634 ,-0.2216895338,-1.0557218632\C,4.8980719277,-1.0642289537,-0.932733344 1\C,4.8511427602,-2.1514495923,-0.0607663344\C,3.6953775307,-2.3953537 625,0.6833596471\C,2.5955151469,-1.5512022629,0.5576909782\H,3.8231371 147,0.6183841947,-1.747104734\H,5.7917879692,-0.8769561054,-1.52121750 5\H,5.7095676916,-2.8101048272,0.0345082687\H,3.6554447321,-3.24547783 23,1.3588624155\H,1.6808009035,-1.7272186908,1.1171233884\\Version=ES6 4L-G09RevE.01\State=1-A\HF=-812.437502\RMSD=7.584e-09\RMSF=2.340e-06\D ipole=-6.9346444,1.5852822,0.5799413\Quadrupole=37.007286,-11.3247486, -25.6825374,10.62629,1.049676,-6.7256308\PG=C01 [X(C19H2301)]\\@

1\1\GINC-R4148\FTS\RM062X\Gen\C19H23O1(1+)\ROOT\12-Aug-2017\0\\#m062X/ gen 6D OPT=(CalcFC,TS,Noeigen) freq=noraman INT(grid=ultrafine) SCRF=( SMD,Solvent=acetonitrile)\\trans-concerted-TS2.smd\\1,1\0,0.6980991751 ,-0.5532267319,0.3415737056\C,0.5160283186,1.7676446656,0.7641379541\C ,1.8615976913,1.6337149371,0.2727645834\C,1.6412170743,0.0687125861,-0 .381374124\H,0.319840318,1.2999798853,1.7241760421\C,-0.5924768259,2.4 482772057,0.1835768339\C,2.8861838294,1.6372033788,1.4051757887\H,2.12 17170082,2.3236267888,-0.5316698073\C,2.9903793989,-0.6608731997,-0.36 47883151\C,1.2469640774,0.323079047,-1.8470912304\H,-1.0287275965,-0.5 730138269,-0.6071065977\C,-2.0979244854,-0.3514639811,-0.7384701271\C, -2.4922676166,0.2636879955,-1.9274567757\C,-3.7561985949,0.7184903664, -2.2994299611\C,-4.9532467311,0.6495612975,-1.584748936\C,-5.182876418 5,0.0956011647,-0.3280030856\C,-4.2674284598,-0.5077956817,0.535742687 7\C,-2.8991582334,-0.6922875299,0.3550853792\H,-1.7050485002,0.4244040 879, -2.660468148\H, -3.8190826131, 1.1926575391, -3.2755713576\H, -6.20779 51459,0.1438084568,0.029081211\H,-4.6746781989,-0.8687407666,1.4762887 447\H,-2.3742578225,-1.1640091355,1.182712715\H,-5.8212062872,1.078602 103258,-0.8739032034,0.6607979059\H,2.8477196141,-1.6207571723,-0.8768 35195\H,2.0339380981,0.8238214487,-2.4227338261\H,1.0438593522,-0.6533 656285,-2.3050924198\H,0.3312282471,0.9166961287,-1.9198483718\H,3.891 7887909,1.4686915171,1.0120419091\H,2.8874757182,2.5933752335,1.938340 8865\H,2.65705578,0.8442454664,2.1248725891\C,-1.828479707,2.391964231 ,0.8684562367\C,-2.9525756083,3.0076811845,0.3424148879\C,-2.856047459 4,3.681561628,-0.8775635901\C,-1.6388273959,3.7575718435,-1.5647870527 \C,-0.5088020545,3.1557818048,-1.0373875428\H,-1.8835010337,1.85213827 35,1.8103949765\H,-3.9003280266,2.9623917979,0.8687864538\H,-3.7369898 648,4.1586852325,-1.2975283024\H,-1.5803287544,4.2958507289,-2.5047661 057\H,0.439628457,3.2291059693,-1.5596732935\\Version=ES64L-G09RevE.01 \State=1-A\HF=-812.426795\RMSD=2.164e-09\RMSF=1.057e-05\Dipole=-5.5199 578,1.607404,-0.9076725\Quadrupole=20.9640426,-16.243614,-4.7204286,10 .3631603,1.6728328,-3.4179884\PG=C01 [X(C19H23O1)]\\@

#### 7a

1\1\GINC-R2448\FOpt\RM062X\Gen\C9H10\ROOT\02-Jun-2017\0\\#m062X/gen 6D OPT freq=noraman INT(grid=ultrafine) SCRF=(SMD,Solvent=acetonitrile)\ \trans-olefin-prod.smd\\0,1\C,-0.7740335069,0.3912268637,-0.2213313222 \C,0.4797540724,0.1546739638,0.1794164382\C,-1.7283185662,-0.676406003 3,-0.6590285177\C,1.471048014,1.1526769324,0.6222801082\C,1.2043610045 ,2.5300287216,0.6781578334\C,2.1783610571,3.4260836256,1.1043057939\C, 3.4418083164,2.9703988589,1.4850312138\C,3.7208123644,1.6067379143,1.4 347937331\C,2.7442959275,0.7103068485,1.0077508421\H,-1.1560463197,1.4 116794584,-0.2425829528\H,0.8331694297,-0.8773650965,0.1897212589\H,-1 .2683907336,-1.6676620886,-0.6082045842\H,-2.0646774387,-0.5023674379, -1.6881054221\H,-2.6274618915,-0.6785460551,-0.0313640804\H,0.22829485 ,2.9072027912,0.3867047253\H,1.950764477,4.4875967944,1.1398754937\H,4 .199496811,3.6736736667,1.8171993411\H,4.6995448542,1.2381596144,1.728 0667775\H,2.9666372784,-0.3534893726,0.9701533202\\Version=ES64L-G09Re vE.01\State=1-A\HF=-348.8094222\RMSD=5.893e-09\RMSF=2.926e-05\Dipole=-0.2287187,-0.0451958,-0.0825005\Quadrupole=2.9433721,2.2950167,-5.2383 888,0.1776268,3.2035364,0.9883484\PG=C01 [X(C9H10)]\\@

#### 4a

1\1\GINC-R2599\FOpt\RM062X\Gen\C3H601\ROOT\02-Jun-2017\0\\#m062X/gen 6
D OPT freq=noraman INT(grid=ultrafine) SCRF=(SMD,Solvent=acetonitrile)
\\acetone.smd\\0,1\0,-1.1523749503,0.5717234715,0.\C,-1.1769438263,-0.
6431461524,0.\C,-2.4745703902,-1.4147197575,0.\C,0.0884268505,-1.46655
22594,0.\H,-3.3231545999,-0.7287836404,0.\H,-2.5208044476,-2.064236247
5,0.8810326955\H,-2.5208044476,-2.0642362475,-0.8810326955\H,0.9640497
859,-0.8154854079,0.\H,0.1083630127,-2.1174068794,-0.8810327203\H,0.10
83630127,-2.1174068794,0.8810327203\\Version=ES64L-G09RevE.01\State=1A'\HF=-193.0656894\RMSD=2.418e-09\RMSF=4.231e-05\Dipole=-0.028904,-1.4
292287,0.\Quadrupole=1.3013328,-2.3725254,1.0711926,-0.0743282,0.,0.\P
G=CS [SG(C3H201),X(H4)]\\@

#### TS,

1\1\GINC-R462\FTS\RM062X\Gen\C19H23O1(1+)\ROOT\06-Jul-2017\0\\#m062X/g
en 6D OPT=(CalcFC,TS,Noeigen) freq=noraman INT(grid=ultrafine) SCRF=(S

MD, Solvent=acetonitrile) \\trans-cycloprod-tropadduct.concbwd.s5.TS.smd \\1,1\C,-0.0138204566,0.2280098958,-0.2361395451\0,-0.660812893,0.4040 522937,0.9105719006\C,1.9379726151,0.4631087411,-0.0880128716\C,2.0306 772738,-0.5097568038,0.8999144765\C,1.8163474708,-0.2209586448,2.33623 55709\C,-0.9310681697,1.7512139634,1.4260223409\C,-2.0716343182,1.6066 776586,2.3810061469\C,-3.2645571041,1.0932365872,2.0124806167\C,-3.691 9888507,0.794085238,0.6671041295\C,-3.2689671767,1.4227185678,-0.46312 71209\C,-2.3146381104,2.5036757972,-0.5164718372\C,-1.3064505985,2.726 2031558,0.3554926255\C,2.2424669713,-1.9354201698,0.5403535983\C,2.177 4377473,1.9373096305,0.1280495216\C,-0.3095104845,-1.0672181815,-0.894 8234492\C,0.0545911334,-1.2497089874,-2.2330213293\C,-0.2217416717,-2. 4543179974,-2.8700369028\C,-0.8665366503,-3.4781552665,-2.1748376215\C ,-1.2414498402,-3.2925408744,-0.8450334316\C,-0.965236542,-2.089368413 9,-0.2016317011\H,2.1833491458,0.1196530134,-1.093315605\H,0.001716852 6,1.0875391554,-0.9097742644\H,2.1889761046,-2.115689749,-0.5346803635 \H,1.5371013662,-2.5818192118,1.0755602492\H,3.2483293623,-2.205905105 6,0.8916376037\H,0.752930029,-0.4313385907,2.5426041484\H,2.0191336616 ,0.812671013,2.6173267752\H,2.4016385337,-0.90485402,2.9569267813\H,1. 9668985815,2.2734827637,1.1437944032\H,1.5826998281,2.5352500072,-0.56 92465083\H,3.23186957,2.1446323674,-0.0826263622\H,-0.7036510827,3.625 8421076,0.2679433699\H,-2.4339831089,3.2062298863,-1.3390783492\H,-3.7 857444877,1.1892311198,-1.3909435203\H,-3.9919479981,0.8944830928,2.79 72531174\H,-1.8956269015,1.8847833128,3.4159516963\H,-0.0350676213,2.0 802405392,1.9546887515\H,-4.5194401198,0.0950245942,0.5699204228\H,0.5 53329215,-0.446293458,-2.7700687187\H,0.0601398689,-2.5931658278,-3.90 8916911\H,-1.0829830443,-4.4182335927,-2.6730004144\H,-1.7521735418,-4 .0853854376,-0.3075803765\H,-1.2649535584,-1.9343131688,0.8302819572\\ Version=Es64L-G09RevE.01\State=1-A\HF=-812.4837058\RMSD=4.928e-09\RMSF =4.074e-06\Dipole=2.2954373,0.3821983,0.3862891\Quadrupole=1.5179075,-0.6153054,-0.9026021,1.3741818,1.6924351,2.2979588\PG=C01 [X(C19H2301) 1//@

## $\mathbf{TS}_{B}$

1\1\GINC-R559\FTS\RM062X\Gen\C19H23O1(1+)\ROOT\07-Jul-2017\0\\#m062X/g en 6D OPT=(CalcFC,TS,Noeigen) freq=noraman INT(grid=ultrafine) SCRF=(S MD,Solvent=acetonitrile)\\trans-stepwise-TS1.smd\\1,1\0,0.9506173261,-0.334361622,-0.8542779324\C,2.103941218,-1.9053262488,0.2754592007\C,0  $.7358468241, -1.8531030468, 0.8693135547 \backslash \texttt{C}, 0.2668627702, -0.4486954847, 0.$ 4005399853\C,3.2068461584,-1.1756729957,0.9021431073\C,2.3810619189,-2 .8505413927,-0.8037144354\C,0.6893193636,-2.0196724433,2.3868510344\H, 0.1160879192,-2.6116620877,0.3818611348\H,0.6489317305,0.2984157707,1. 1071809224\C,-1.2337733257,-0.3652945228,0.2992897301\H,2.8861312772,-0.3202308278,1.4981957108\H,3.9874389199,-0.9151903032,0.1851697206\H, 3.6395690924,-1.9210836145,1.5965646155\H,1.510865013,-2.9976926361,-1 .4462913889\H,2.5457739348,-3.8068890932,-0.2719968258\H,3.2844013919, -2.6105157536, -1.3652062431\H, -0.2910736692, 1.5806011925, -2.7959943163 \C,0.0411072635,1.7608049929,-1.775704464\C,-0.706141587,2.5916472181, -1.0236817605\C,-0.4877705889,3.0328486309,0.3375214868\C,0.6768790557 ,3.0121518601,1.027581263\C,1.9603487333,2.5423165279,0.5496768176\C,2 .2300441036,1.7325668722,-0.4945595299\C,1.266142914,0.9907833249,-1.3  $746956302 \ h, -1.6089827206, 2.9835257995, -1.4894102739 \ h, -1.3451852884, 335257995, -1.4894102739 \ h, -1.4894102739 \ h$ .4962018567,0.8203770088\H,2.8186971088,2.9092486941,1.1104113309\H,3.  $2789539118, 1.5484911022, -0.7177819157 \\ \text{H}, 1.7976593414, 0.7233513115, -2.233512, -2.233512, -2.233512, -2.233512, -2.233512, -2.233512, -2.233512, -2.23555, -2.23552, -2.2355, -2.25555, -2.25555, -2.2555, -2.25555, -2.2555, -2.2555, -2.2555, -2.2555, -2.2555,$ 907785749\H,0.6801148503,3.4614462987,2.0178307931\C,-1.9729593361,0.2 038883012,1.3365611023\C,-3.3648216182,0.2539976808,1.2605519186\C,-4. 0202579974,-0.2632153552,0.1454857915\C,-3.2828312887,-0.8404217744,-0 .8901103681\C,-1.895088609,-0.8968664429,-0.8111578923\H,-1.4549283399 ,0.6225601536,2.1964188751\H,-3.9342646672,0.7043662936,2.0680023069\H ,-5.1032992662,-0.2177080709,0.0812606505\H,-3.7917544407,-1.244679530 6,-1.7600687463\H,-1.3144273863,-1.3348370238,-1.6189698783\H,-0.35137 75941,-1.9319342569,2.7126654414\H,1.0594877846,-3.0047067133,2.682148 8317\H,1.2764567984,-1.2494756412,2.8943688413\\Version=ES64L-G09RevE. 01\State=1-A\HF=-812.4886488\RMSD=7.043e-09\RMSF=5.132e-06\Dipole=3.28 74664,-2.5774009,0.6817044\Quadrupole=9.0453513,-0.5215503,-8.523801,-14.3673942,2.4410736,2.4823235\PG=C01 [X(C19H23O1)]\\@

## $\mathbf{TS}_{c}$

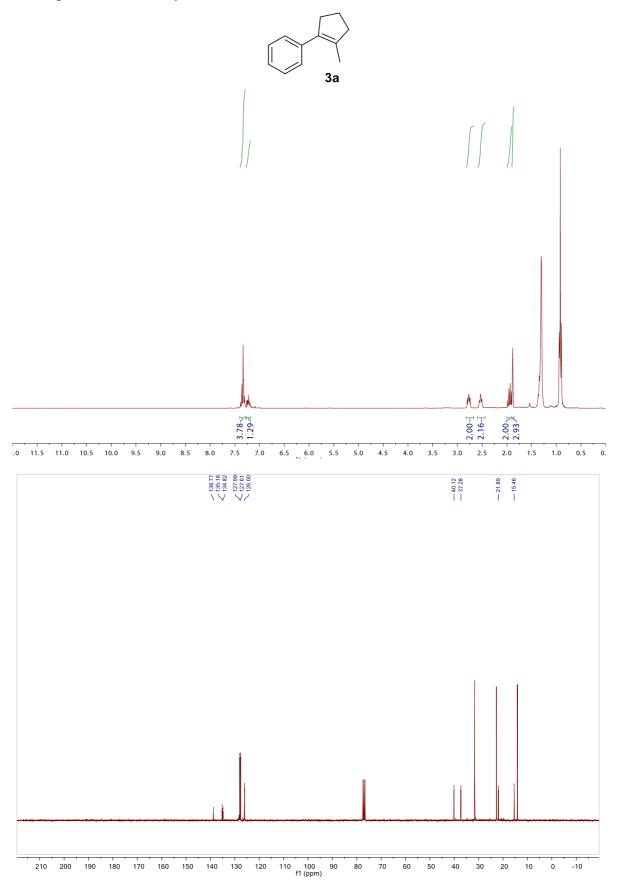
1\1\GINC-R116\FTS\RM062X\Gen\C19H2301(1+)\ROOT\07-Jul-2017\0\\#m062X/g
en 6D OPT=(CalcFC,TS,Noeigen) freq=noraman INT(grid=ultrafine) SCRF=(S
MD,Solvent=acetonitrile)\\trans-stepwise-TS1.smd\\1,1\0,1.1787871828,0
.2385027701,0.382119293\C,2.1921540385,-0.8043465558,0.2414614808\C,1.

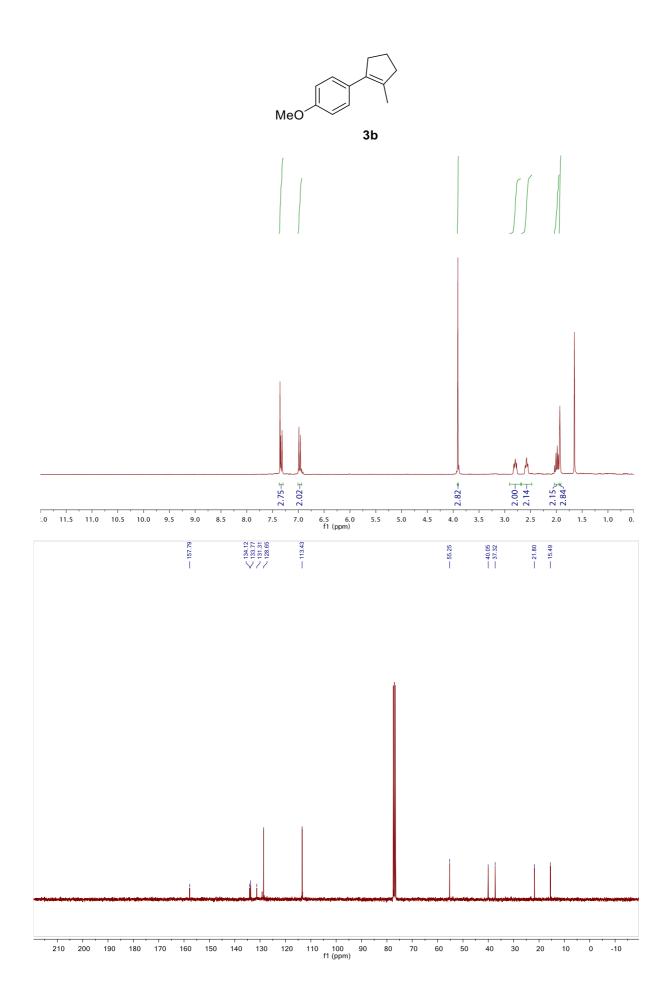
1864414342,-1.9620123431,0.0601951598\C,0.0794729685,-1.2335818515,-0. 6302466881\C,3.0094202033,-0.9341865104,1.5134444943\C,3.0793194149,-0 .5753329413,-0.9758568545\H,0.8617791121,-2.2931836597,1.0496372375\C, 1.6551488024, -3.1703191161, -0.7517053079\C, -1.2798149522, -1.161157728, -0.2454955108\H,0.3045851474,-0.8884358414,-1.640177306\H,2.3483415325 ,-0.9939883113,2.3827011745\H,3.6885646083,-0.084677242,1.6371972058\H -1.8997489612\H,3.7640739689,-1.4211451795,-1.0884552384\H,3.687283339 1,0.3243913633,-0.8424709715\H,1.9042335962,-2.8947385011,-1.780019405 6\H,0.8744957895,-3.9350974099,-0.7755457529\H,2.5426218527,-3.6013659 959,-0.2784442714\H,2.2987589372,2.4765781838,-1.5883408994\C,1.401772 7882,2.2162769905,-1.0308952528\C,0.1994122532,2.3900409742,-1.6196607 745\C,-1.1023596058,2.2047508549,-1.0224805682\C,-1.405286321,2.274698 3727,0.3001375438\C,-0.4870148826,2.5773143126,1.3723173492\C,0.847648 9067,2.384938104,1.3818008865\C,1.6010287598,1.6256518485,0.3329902346 \H,0.1959681017,2.717313496,-2.6579175118\H,-1.9331662652,2.1013245406 ,-1.7171660225\H,-0.9336487416,3.0233179266,2.2593822256\H,1.423041435 6,2.7410075671,2.2326417525\H,2.6647136215,1.6484435128,0.5812098613\H ,-2.4567865215,2.2120609241,0.5737971493\C,-2.2212651799,-0.7602491993 ,-1.221891465\C,-3.5654965176,-0.6734691072,-0.8988449532\C,-3.9718121 299,-0.9430639282,0.4093741455\C,-3.0479813957,-1.315446288,1.39533783 56\C,-1.7093612613,-1.4380045491,1.0739527623\H,-1.8763293749,-0.54046 51773,-2.2283605276\H,-4.2928534513,-0.3839613585,-1.6492980762\H,-5.0 226228823,-0.8590501998,0.6705062758\H,-3.3857982826,-1.5089951307,2.4 07558303\H,-0.9910740174,-1.717474475,1.8373108386\\Version=ES64L-G09R evE.01\State=1-A\HF=-812.488074\RMSD=8.635e-09\RMSF=1.342e-06\Dipole=- $0.270684, -1.5098438, -0.4478402 \\ Quadrupole = 13.785434, -9.3160131, -4.4694$ 209,0.3806696,-0.2712679,-0.7203518\PG=C01 [X(C19H23O1)]\\@

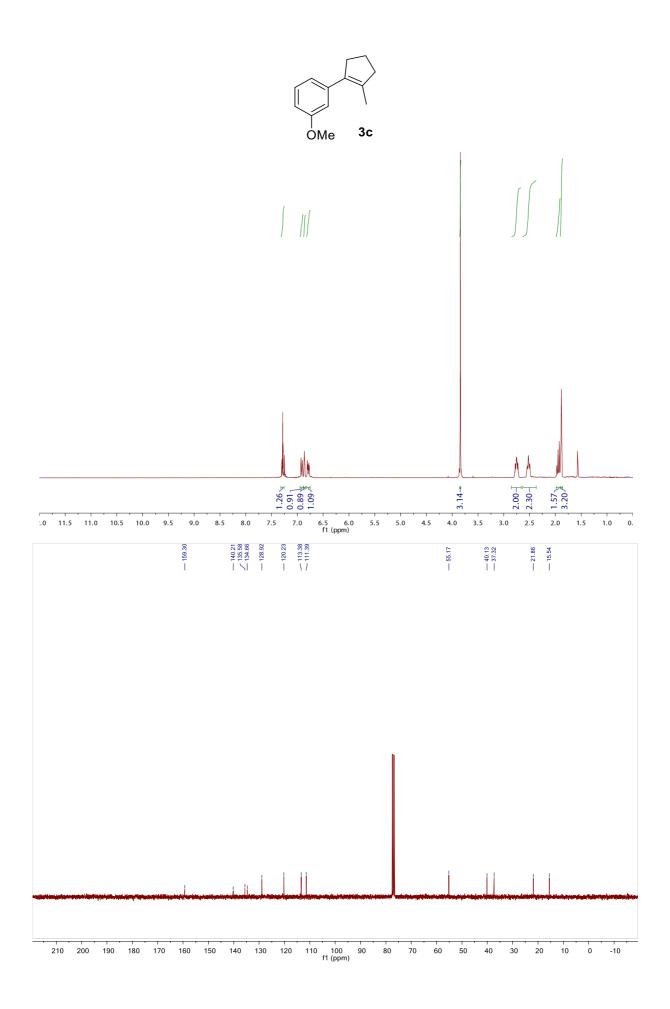
TS<sub>D</sub>

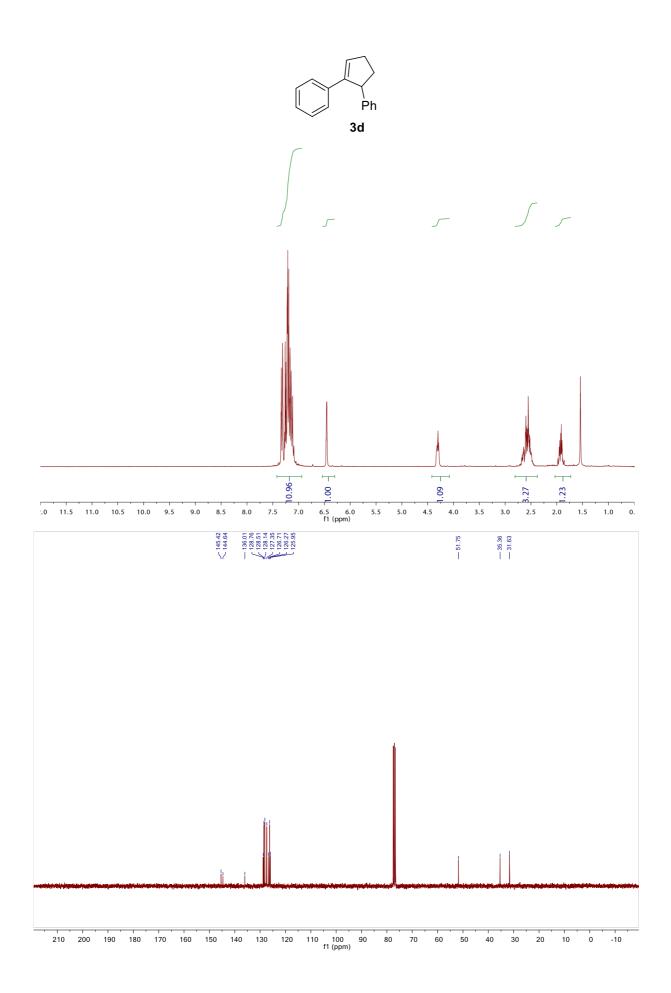
1\1\GINC-R174\FTS\RM062X\Gen\C19H23O1(1+)\ROOT\10-Jul-2017\0\\#m062X/g en 6D OPT=(CalcFC,TS,Noeigen) freq=noraman INT(grid=ultrafine) SCRF=(S MD,Solvent=acetonitrile)\\trans-stepwise-TS4.a3.smd\\1,1\0,-0.95184644 89,-0.2039800459,-0.0979371062\C,-1.2284441395,-1.4435703101,-0.540458 7058\C,0.030024659,-2.6981012854,0.26101891\C,-0.0046964989,-2.2901066 803,1.5928492113\C,-0.7774091636,-1.536620605,-1.9814100738\C,-2.59324 28536, -2.030037435, -0.2681788976\H, 0.8902212225, -2.3603481824, -0.31442 11404\C,-0.4265896261,-4.1093809527,-0.0486493756\C,0.749713574,-1.224 9660943,2.1818054165\H,-0.7028936253,-2.8025245125,2.2580240873\H,0.21 08070024,-1.088829754,-2.1048639254\H,-1.4999921563,-0.9542494479,-2.5 66523379\H,-0.7769091953,-2.561091262,-2.3529973118\H,-2.8501236197,-2 .0581082008,0.7925392338\H,-2.6549904525,-3.0371940282,-0.6808099376\H ,-3.3261812189,-1.4080878242,-0.7943216118\H,-1.2631233495,-4.40527364 6,0.5900890968\H,0.4048152685,-4.7956155714,0.1420156881\H,-0.71877990 33,-4.2319640925,-1.0939004684\H,-0.627610277,1.4873850008,2.561541642 4\C,-0.9436170209,1.5348797119,1.5222857294\C,-0.5773812323,2.58517060 61,0.7582210435\C,-1.0090292007,2.8668294131,-0.5901200667\C,-2.190022 8622,2.4855620422,-1.1449830886\C,-3.2265180054,1.7301971936,-0.483121 2282\C,-3.063970276,0.8509285478,0.5285331807\C,-1.7199131289,0.371009 201,0.9931299872\H,0.1024390479,3.3119414404,1.2000771489\H,-0.3849580 932,3.5505221903,-1.1611370664\H,-4.2422428322,1.9149323964,-0.8284300 921\H,-3.9378485014,0.4242492301,1.014274491\H,-1.8389776843,-0.386039 0195,1.7741495309\H,-2.4382382658,2.8888428257,-2.1240429302\C,0.54742 46131,-0.9456502388,3.5520290109\C,1.2669920598,0.0594125953,4.1768459 163\C,2.1880704709,0.8094304375,3.4386112336\C,2.3895368236,0.55576218 9,2.0801355239\C,1.6806361934,-0.4563097222,1.4501338949\H,-0.17629522 77,-1.5357557291,4.1079966629\H,1.1161256587,0.2652883169,5.2312718211 \H,2.7537392278,1.5972065588,3.9271739988\H,3.104675856,1.146800666,1. 5177231002\H,1.8519381815,-0.6567299227,0.3978188456\\Version=ES64L-G0 9RevE.01\State=1-A\HF=-812.4834491\RMSD=4.544e-09\RMSF=1.655e-06\Dipol e=0.017324,-1.9819386,0.4129565\Quadrupole=-2.9679429,0.6069759,2.3609 67,6.2217048,5.6742446,2.3442789\PG=C01 [X(C19H23O1)]\\@

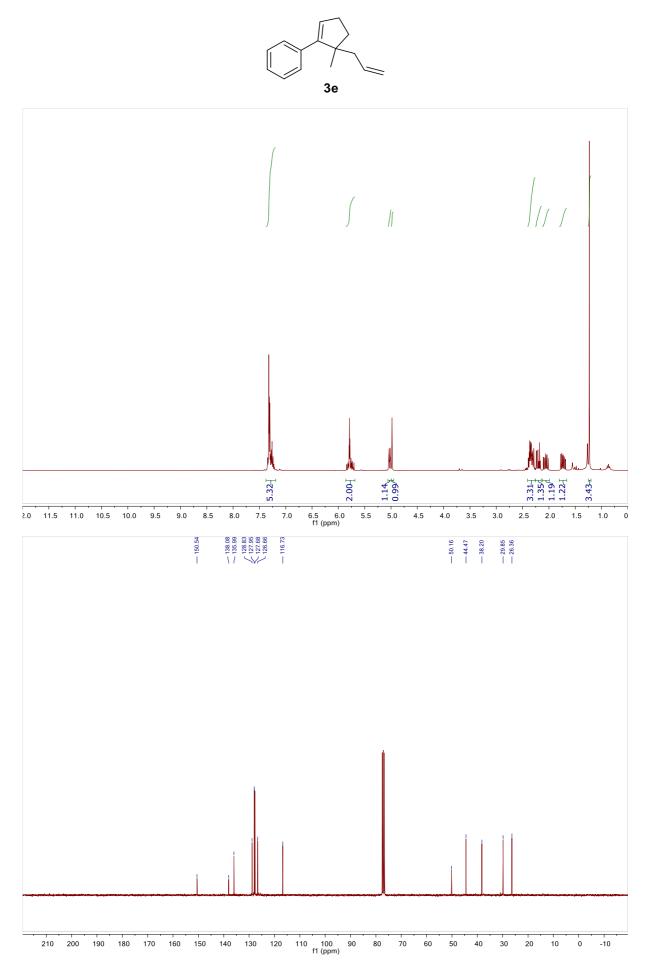
NMR Spectra of Carbonyl-Olefin Metathesis Product

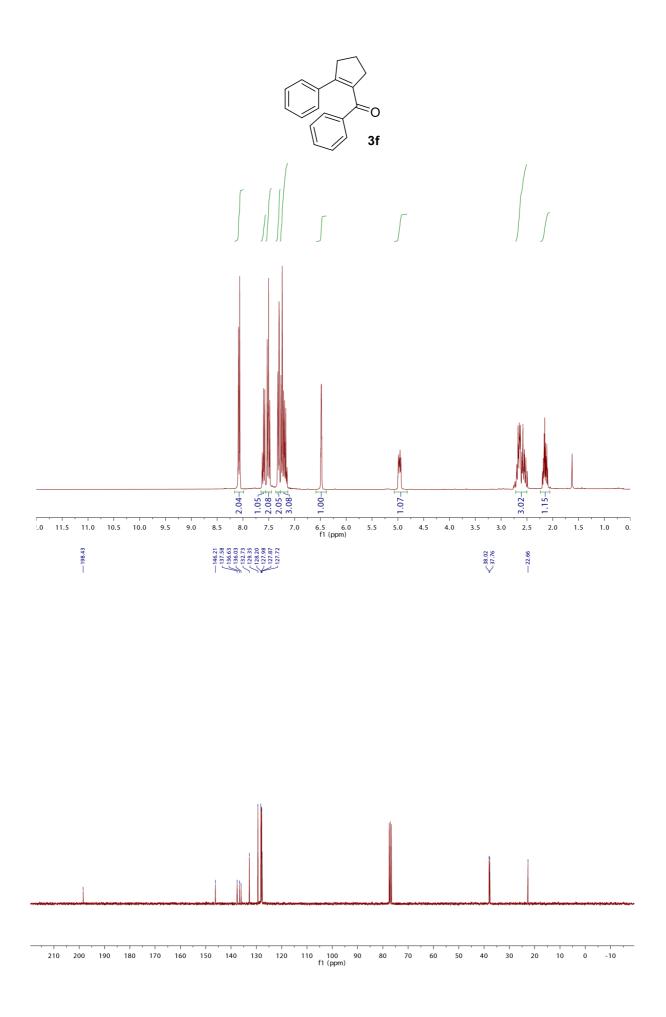


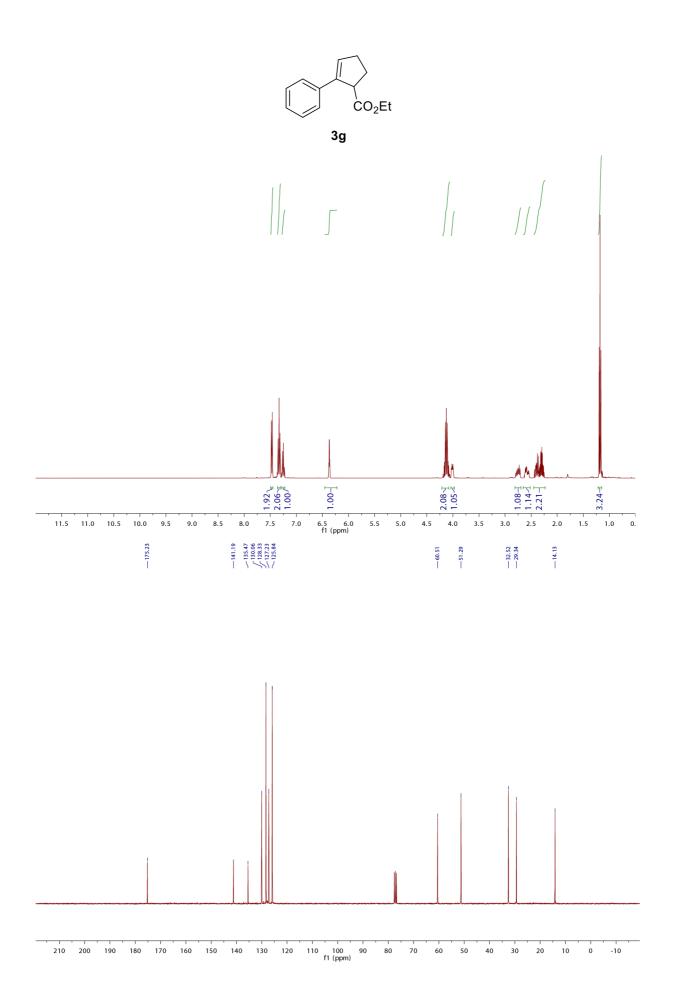


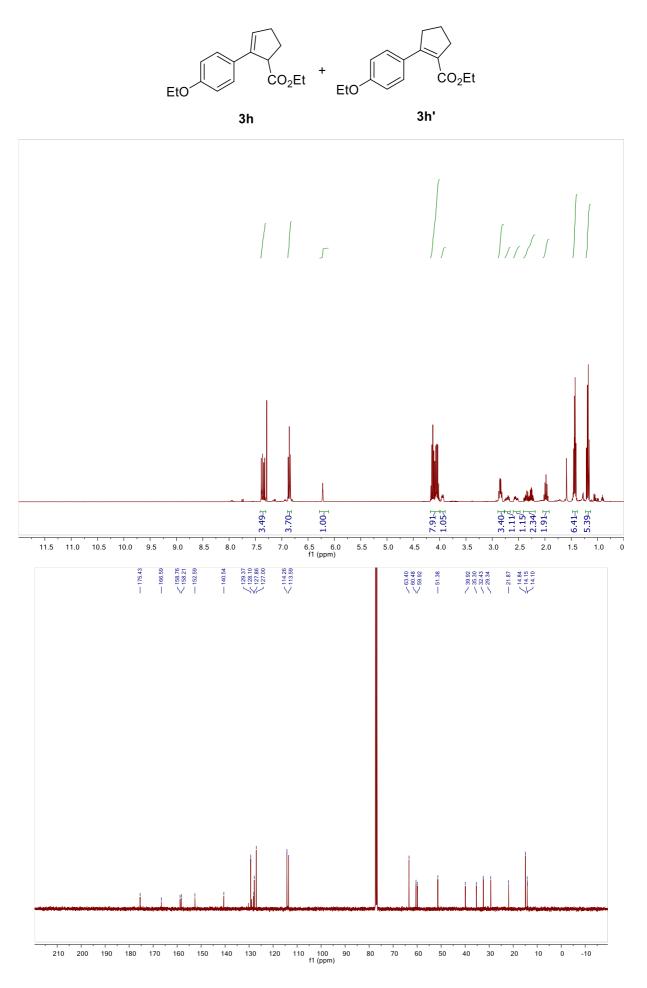


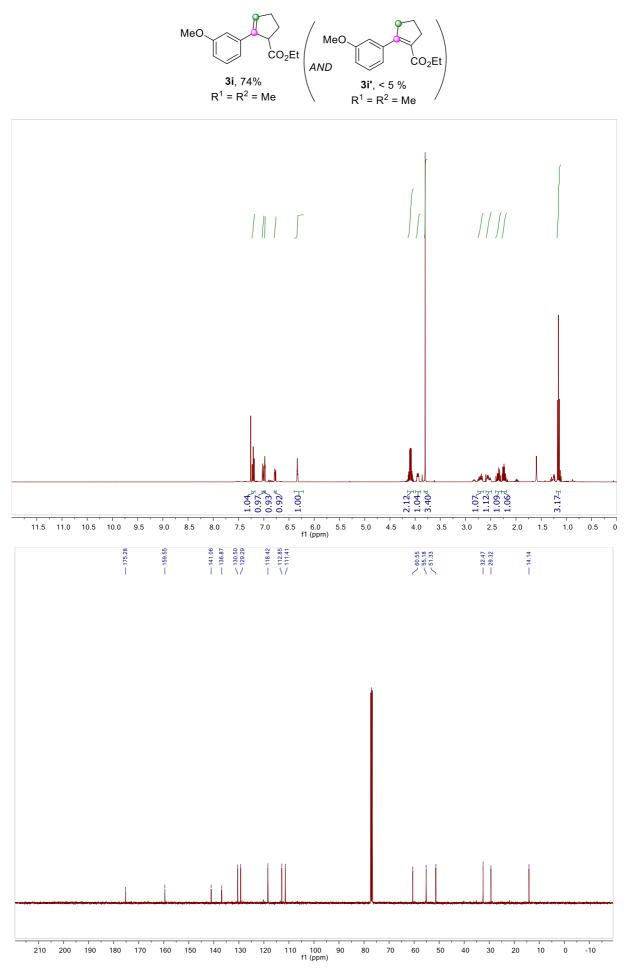


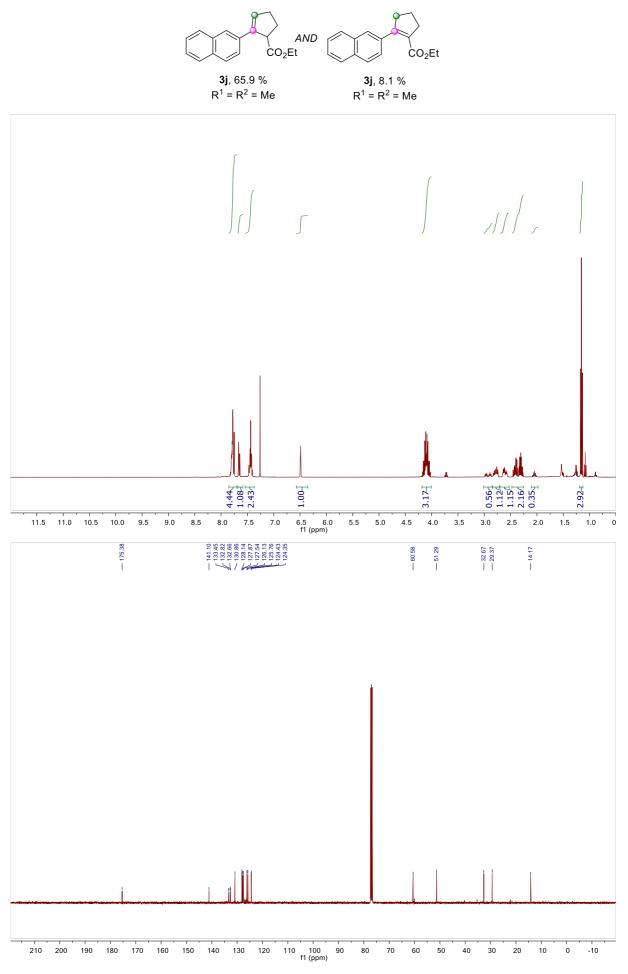


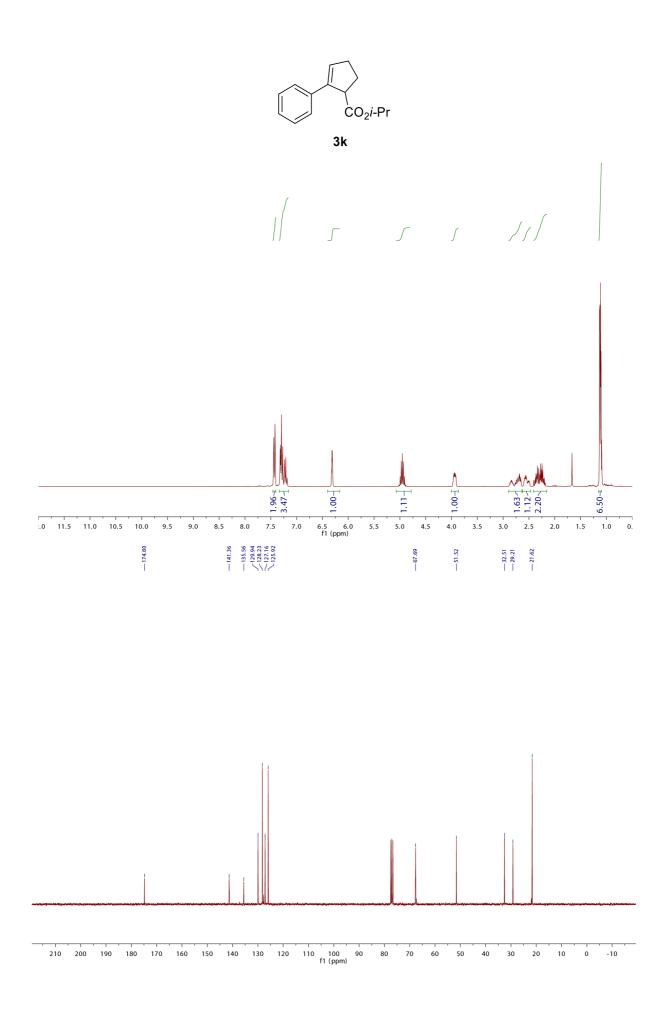




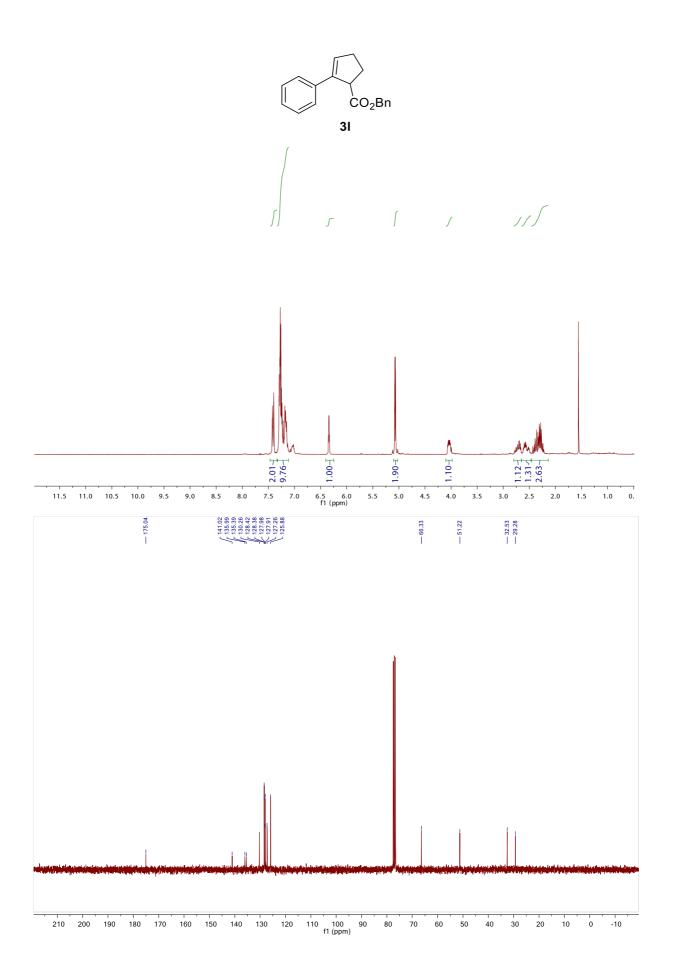


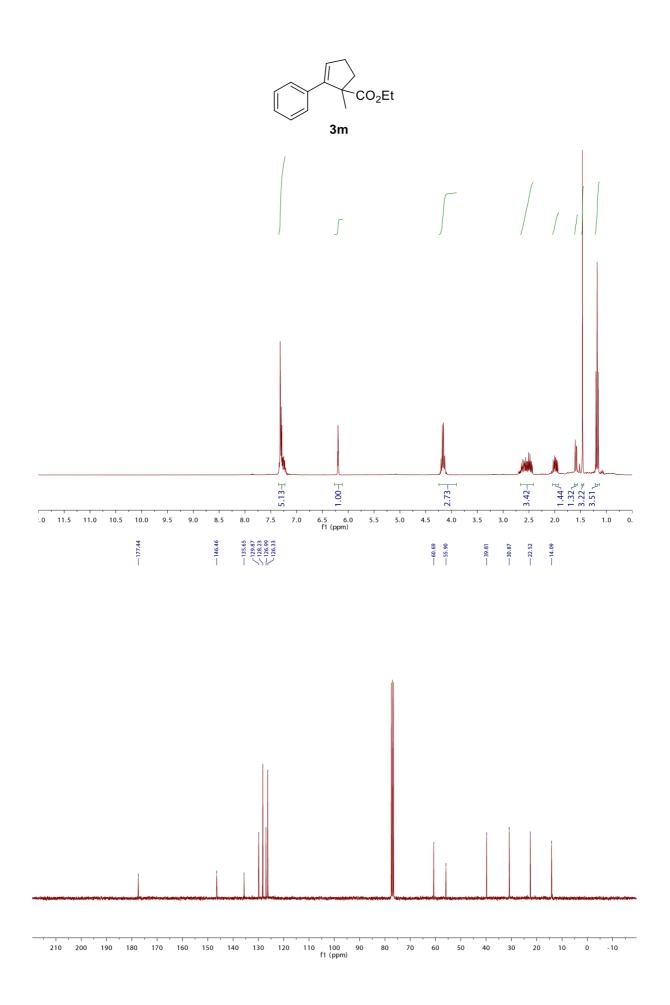


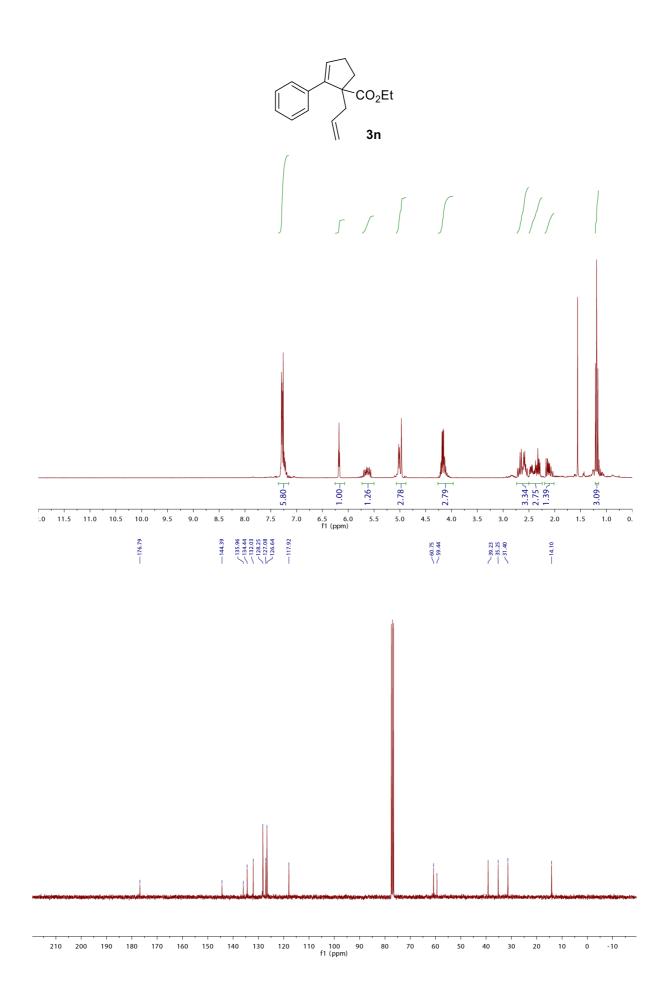


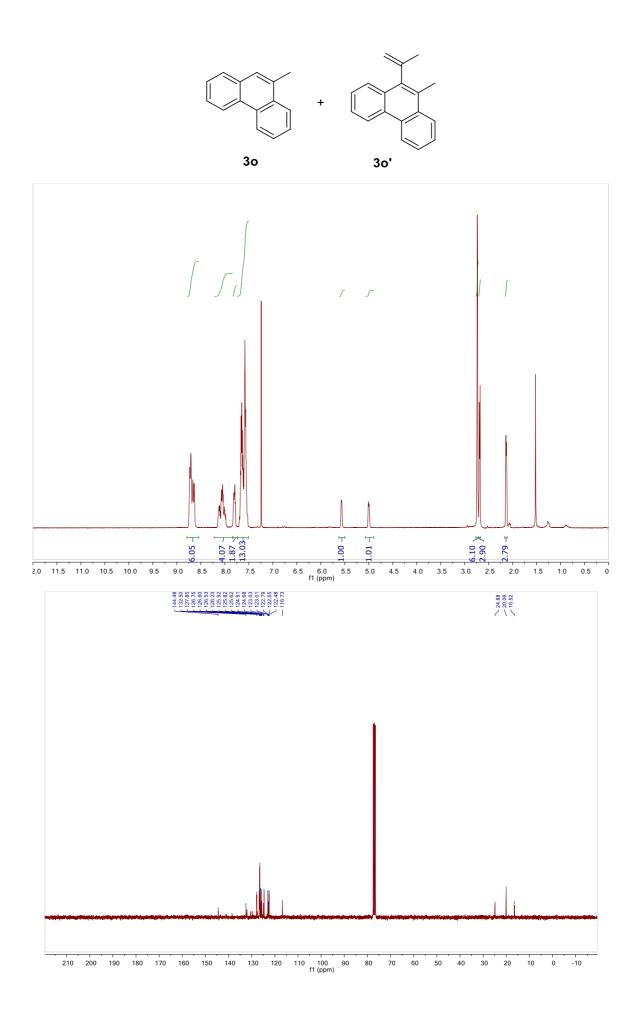


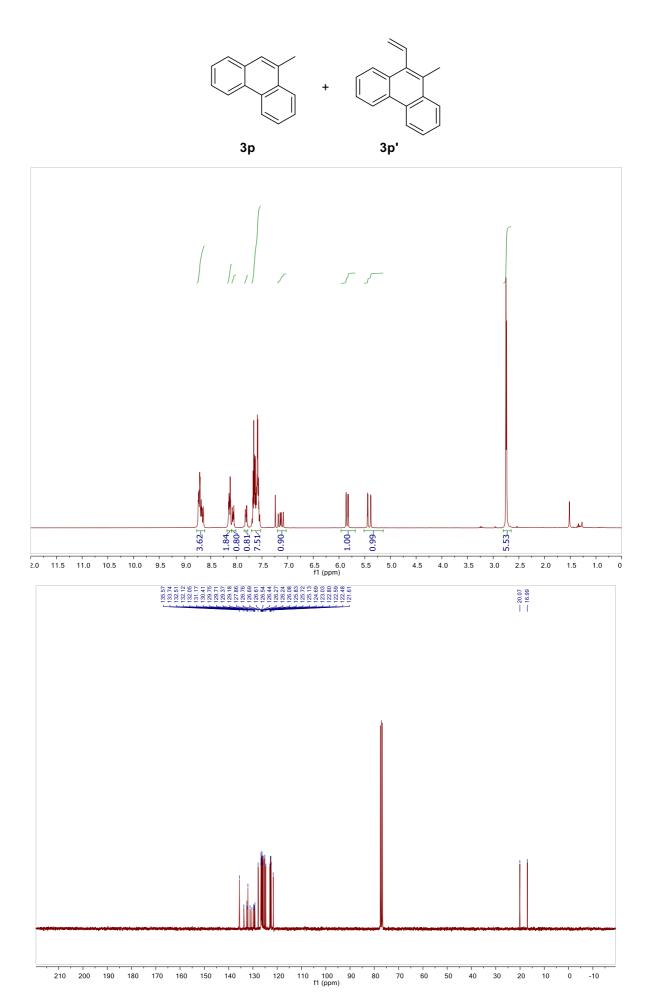
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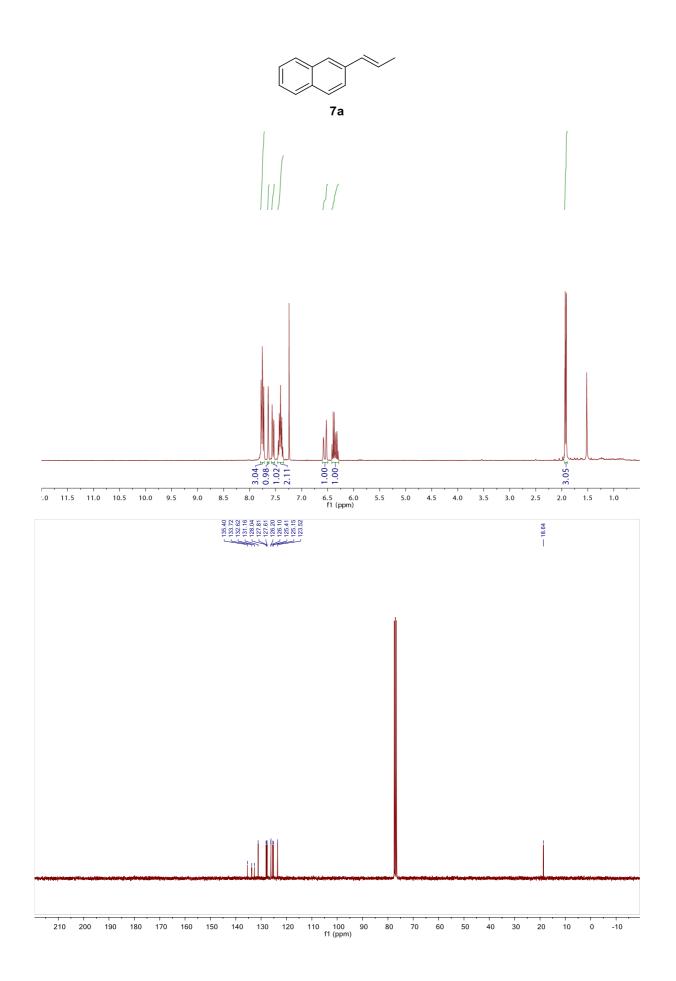


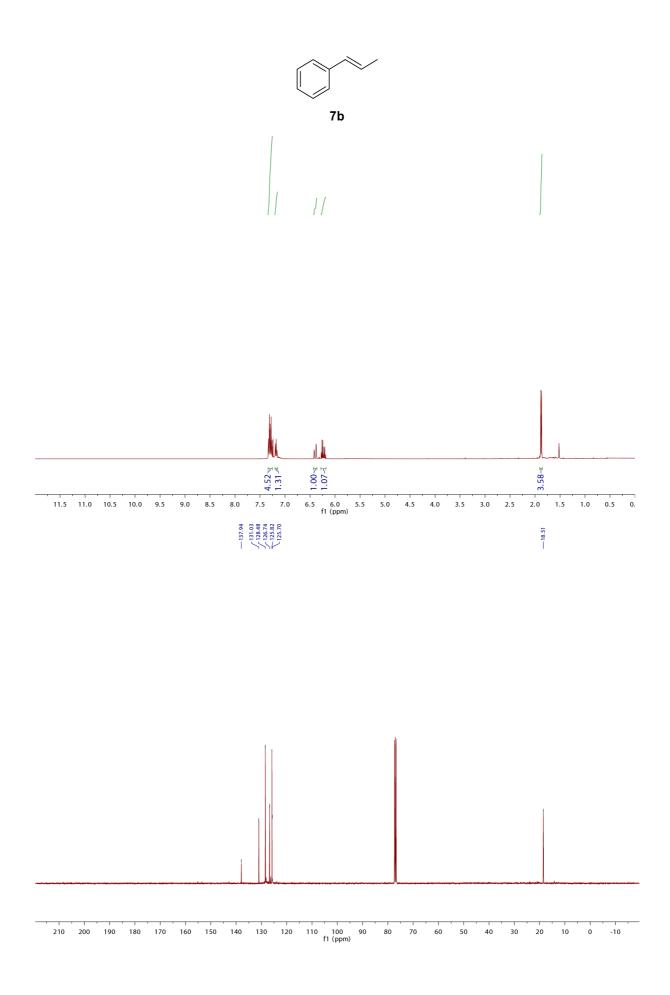




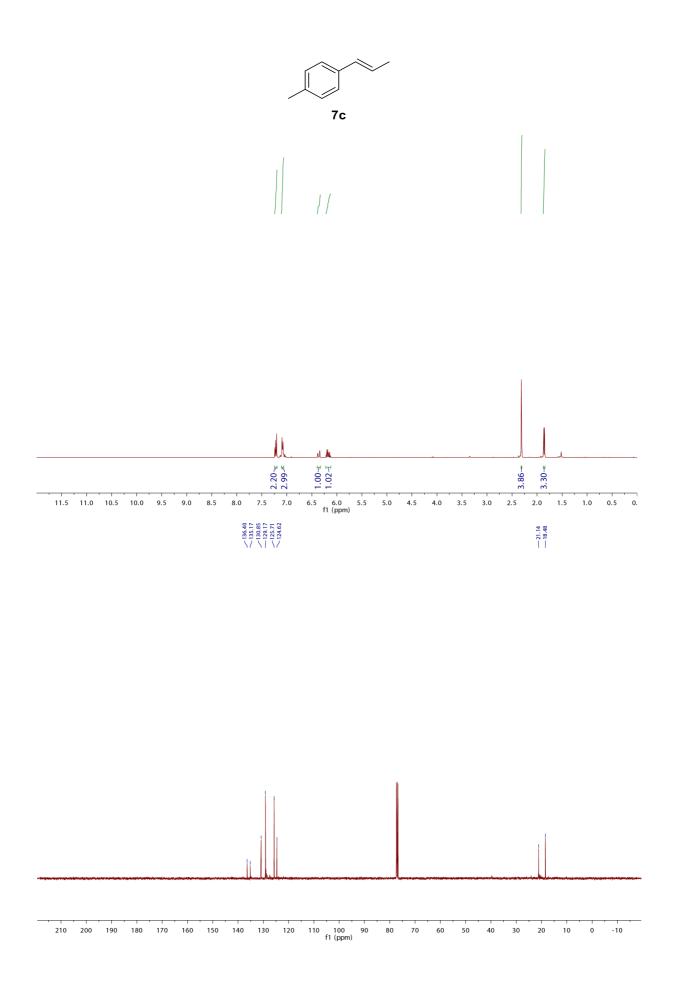








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