Electronic Supplementary Information

Efficient ruthenium(IV)-catalyzed synthesis of [3]dendralenes from 1,3-dienic allylic carbonates

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General:

All reactions were carried out under argon atmosphere. HPLC grade solvent (Acetone and Acetonitrile) were stored under nitrogen and used as received. Dichloromethane (CH₂Cl₂) was distilled under conventional method and stored under a nitrogen atmosphere. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker GPX (200.131 MHz) spectrometer. ¹H NMR assignment abbreviations are the following: singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q), broad singlet (bs), doublet of doublets (dd),doublet of triplets (dt), and multiplet (m). ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at 50 MHz on the same spectrometer and reported in ppm. HRMS were recorded on Waters Q-Tof-2.

Part I : Synthesis and Analysis of the ruthenium complexes

Synthesis of [Ru(C₅Me₅)(η⁴-CH₂=CH-CH=CHEt)(MeCN)][X] (X=PF₆⁻ and BF₄⁻) complexes

To a solution of $[Ru(Cp^*)(CH_3CN)_3][X]$ (1.0 mmol) in acetone or in dichloromethane (20 mL), the appropriate allylic carbonate (1.0 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature and then evaporated under vacuum to leave a pale-yellow solid.

[Ru(C₅Me₅)(η⁴-CH₂=CH-CH=CHEt)(MeCN)][PF₆]



¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 200 MHz): δ 4.83 (dd, ³*J* = 9.7 and 5.7 Hz, 1H, H^d), 4.62–4.50 (m, 1H, H^c), 3.20 (d, ³*J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H, H^a), 2.64 (s, 3H, MeCN), 2.13–1.64 (very broad resonances, 3H, H^e and CH₂CH₃), 1.72 (s, 15H, C₅Me₅), 1.37 (d, ³*J* = 11.7 Hz, 1H, H^b), 1.10 (t, ³*J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H, CH₂CH₃).

[Ru(C₅Me₅)(η⁴-CH₂=CH-CH=CHEt)(MeCN)][BF₄]



¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 200 MHz): δ 4.85 (dd, ³*J* = 10.3 and 5.5 Hz, 1H, H^d), 4.63– 4.51 (m, 1H, H^c), 3.13 (dd, ³*J* = 7.7, ²*J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H, H^a), 2.61 (s, 3H, MeCN), 2.18–1.72 (very broad resonances, 3H, H^e and CH₂CH₃), 1.69 (s, 15H, C₅Me₅), 1.37 (broad d, ³*J* = 10.4 Hz, 1H, H^b), 1.05 (t, ³*J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H, CH₂CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 50 MHz): δ 132.08 (MeCN), 96.40 (C₅Me₅), 94.92 (CH=), 89.97 (CH=), 80.55 (CH=), 51.85 (=CH₂), 25.52 (CH₂CH₃), 15.68 (CH₂CH₃), 9.54 (C₅Me₅), 4.65 (MeCN).

$[Ru(C_5Me_5)(\eta^4-CH_2=CH-CH=CH_2)(MeCN)][PF_6]$



¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 200 MHz): δ 4.86–4.73 (m, 2H, CH=CH₂), 3.41 (d, ³J = 7.4 Hz, 2H, =CH₂, syn), 2.60 (s, 3H, MeCN), 1.73 (s, 15H, C₅Me₅), 1.40 (dd, ³J = 10.2, ⁴J = 1.2 Hz, 2H, =CH₂, anti). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 50 MHz): δ 131.99 (MeCN), 97.42 (C₅Me₅), 94.00 (CH=CH₂), 53.34 (CH=CH₂), 9.44 (C₅Me₅), 4.69 (MeCN).

Detection of the $[Ru(C_5Me_5)(\eta^3-CH_2CHCHPr^n)(\eta^2-O_2COEt)]^+$

intermediate



To a solution of $[Ru(Cp^*)(CH_3CN)_3][PF_6]$ (0.50 g, 1.0 mmol) in acetone or in dichloromethane (20 mL), $Pr^nCH(OCO_2Et)CH=CH_2$ (or $Pr^nCH=CHCH_2(OCO_2Et)$ (0.17 g, 1.0 mmol) was added. The solution was stirred at room temperature for 30 min and then evaporated under vacuum. A sample of the resulting solid was dissolved in CD_2Cl_2 and immediately examined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy.

¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 200 MHz): δ 5.11–4.97 (m, 1H, CH, medium), 4.45 (d, ³*J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H, CH*H*, syn), 4.25 (q, ³*J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H, OCH₂), 3.80–3.71 (m, 1H, Pr^{*n*}C*H*), 3.04 (d, ³*J* = 10.2 Hz, 1H, =CH*H*, anti), 1.65 (s, 15H, C₅Me₅), other resonances overlapped with resonances from the [**Ru**(**C**₅**Me**₅)(η ⁴-**CH**₂=**CH**-**CH**=**CHEt**)(**MeCN**)][**PF**₆]

Synthesis of [Ru(C₅Me₅)(η³-CH₂CHCHPrⁿ)(η²-O₂CMe)][PF₆]



To a stirred solution of $[Ru(Cp^*)(CH_3CN)_3][PF_6]$ (0.50 g, 1.0 mmol) in dichloromethane (15 mL), acetic acid (0.06 g, 1.0 mmol) then $Pr^nCH=CHCH_2(OCO_2Et)$ (0.17 g, 1.0 mmol) were added. The mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature and then evaporated under vacuum to leave a pale-brown solid.

¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 200 MHz): δ 5.35–5.21 (m, 1H, CH, medium), 4.39 (d, ³*J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H, CH*H*, syn), 3.77–3.66 (m, 1H, Pr^{*n*}C*H*), 3.00 (d, ³*J* = 10.3 Hz, 1H, =CH*H*, anti), 1.94 (s, 3H, MeCO₂), 1.80–1.31 (very broad resonances, 4H, 2 CH₂, Pr^{*n*}), 1.65 (s, 15H, C₅Me₅), 1.05 (t, ³*J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H, Me, Pr^{*n*}). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 50 MHz): δ 194.22 (CO₂), 106.95 (*C*₅Me₅), 105.79 (CH, allyl), 92.11 (CH, allyl), 67.13 (CH₂, allyl), 33.18 (CH₂, Pr^{*n*}), 25.52 (*Me*CO₂), 23.46 (CH₂, Pr^{*n*}), 14.03 (Me, Pr^{*n*}), 9.18 (C₅Me₅).

Part II. Synthesis of [3]Dendralenes



A Schlenk containing powdered 4Å molecular sieves (200 mg) was flame-dried under vacuum. After cooling at room temperature, acetonitrile (3 mL) and $[Ru(Cp^*)(4,4'-di-Bu'-2,2'-bipyridine)(CH_3CN)]PF_6$ II (0.020 mmol, 5% mol) were successively added under an argon atmosphere and the resulting mixture was stirred for one minute. The appropriate diene carbonate 1 (0.40 mmol) was added directly via a microsyringe and the system was stirred at 90°C for 12h. Extraction of the acetonitrile layer with pure pentane (4*3mL) followed by direct chromatography using *n*-pentane as solvent affords the expected triene 2 after *careful concentration at room temperature* of the fractions.

[1,2-bis(methylene)but-3-en-1-yl]benzene 2a



Prepared from ethyl 1-methyl-2-methylene-3-phenylbut-3-en-1-yl carbonate **1a** (100 mg, 0.40 mmol). Chromatography afforded compound **2a** as a colourless oil, 48 mg (75%) and spectral data are in accordance with literature¹: ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.44-7.25 (m, 5H), 6.46 (dd, *J*= 10.3 Hz, 17.6 Hz, 1H), 5.55 (d, *J*= 1.5 Hz, 1H), 5.33 (d, *J*= 1.5 Hz, 1H), 5.26 (d, *J*= 1.5 Hz, 1H), 5.20 (s, 1H), 5.11-5.03 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.2, 147.9, 139.9, 137.3, 128.2, 127.5, 126.7, 118.4, 117.5, 114.8.

(1) T. N. Bradford, A. D. Payne, A. C. Willis, M. N. Paddon-Row and M. S. Sherburn, *Org. Lett.* 2007, **9**, 4861.

1-[1,2-bis(methylene)but-3-en-1-yl]-4-methylbenzene 2b



Prepared from ethyl 1-methyl-2-methylene-3-(4-methylphenyl)but-3-en-1-yl carbonate **1b** (100 mg, 0.38 mmol). Chromatography afforded compound **2b** as a colourless oil, 41 mg (63%): ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.32-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.13-7.09 (m, 2H), 6.46 (dd, *J*= 10.0, 17.5 Hz, 1H), 5.50 (d, *J*= 1.0 Hz, 1H), 5.30 (d, J= 1.8 Hz, 1H), 5.20-5.00 (m, 4H), 2.33 (bs, 3H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.4, 147.8, 137.4, 137.3, 137.0, 128.9, 126.6, 118.2, 117.4, 114.0, 21.1.

[(3*E*)-1,2-bis(methylene)pent-3-en-1-yl]benzene 2c



Prepared from ethyl 1-ethyl-2-methylene-3-phenylbut-3-en-1-yl carbonate **1c** (100 mg, 0.38 mmol). Chromatography afforded compound **2c** as a colourless oil, 47 mg (72%): ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.46-7.30 (m, 5H), 6.19 (d, *J*= 15.5 Hz, 1H), 5.66-5.48 (m, 2H), 5.25 (bs, 1H), 5.21 (bs, 1H), 5.07 (bs, 1H), 1.70 (d, *J*= 6.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.7, 148.0, 139.7, 131.8, 129.4, 128.2, 127.5, 126.6, 115.8, 114.4, 18.3.

[(3*E*)-1,2-bis(methylene)hex-3-en-1-yl]benzene 2d



Prepared from ethyl 2-methylene-3-phenyl-1-propylbut-3-en-1-yl carbonate **1d** (100 mg, 0.36 mmol). Chromatography afforded compound **2d** as a colourless oil, 44 mg (66%): ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 7.43-7.23 (m, 5H), 6.12 (d, *J*= 15.7 Hz, 1H), 5.56 (dt, *J*= 15.7, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 5.49 (d, *J*= 1.4 Hz, 1H), 5.22 (d, *J*= 1.5 Hz, 1H), 5.20 (d, *J*= 2.2 Hz, 1H), 5.03 (d, *J*= 2.2 Hz, 1H), 2.08 (qu, *J*= 6.5 Hz, 2H), 0.90 (t, *J*= 7.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.7, 148.0, 140.0, 136.2, 129.4, 128.1, 127.4, 126.7, 115.9, 114.3, 25.7, 13.2.

3,4-bis(methylene)dec-1-ene 2e



Prepared from ethyl 1-methyl-2,3-bis(methylene)nonyl carbonate **1e** (100 mg, 0.39 mmol). Chromatography afforded compound **2e** as a colourless oil, 42 mg (65%): ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl3) δ 6.41 (dd, *J*= 9.8, 17.5 Hz, 1H), 5.29 (dd, *J*= 1.8, 17.5 Hz, 1H), 5.14-4.96 (m, 5H), 2.21 (t, *J*= 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.49-1.23 (m, 8H), 0.88 (t, *J*= 6.9 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.9, 148.3, 137.9, 116.4, 114.5, 113.6, 35.7, 32.3, 29.4, 28.5, 23.0, 14.5

(2*E*)-4,5-bis(methylene)undec-2-ene **2f**



Prepared from ethyl 1-ethyl-2,3-bis(methylene)nonyl carbonate **1f** (100 mg, 0.37 mmol). Chromatography afforded compound **2f** as a colourless oil, 50 mg (75%): ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.09 (d, *J*= 15.4 Hz, 1H), 5.75 (dt, *J*= 6.6, 15.4 Hz, 1H), 4.97-4.94 (m, 3H), 4.88 (d, *J*= 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.19 (t, *J*= 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.76 (dd, *J*= 1.4, 6.6 Hz, 3H), 1.44-1.20 (m, 8H), 0.87 (t, *J*= 6.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.8, 148.3, 131.6, 127.7, 112.7, 112.0, 35.4, 31.7, 29.0, 28.1, 22.6, 18.2, 14.0.

3,4-bis(methylene)oct-1-ene 2g



Prepared from ethyl 1-methyl-2,3-bis(methylene)heptyl carbonate **1g** (100 mg, 0.44 mmol). Chromatography afforded compound **2g** as a colourless oil, 47 mg (78%): ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 6.40 (dd, *J*= 10.0, 17.0 Hz, 1H), 5.29 (d, *J*= 17.0 Hz, 1H), 5.14-4.97 (m, 5H), 2.22 (t, *J*= 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.46-1.25 (m, 4H), 0.89 (t, *J*= 6.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 150.9, 150.4, 137.9, 116.4, 114.5, 113.6, 35.5, 30.9, 22.9, 14.2.

(2E)-4,5-bis(methylene)non-2-ene 2h



Prepared from ethyl 1-ethyl-2,3-bis(methylene)heptyl carbonate **1h** (100 mg, 0.41 mmol). Chromatography afforded compound **2h** as a colourless oil, 46 mg (73%): ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.06 (d, *J*= 15.7 Hz, 1H), 5.74 (dqu, *J*= 6.9, 15.7 Hz, 1H), 4.97-4.89 (m, 4H), 2.20 (t, *J*= 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.76 (d, *J*= 6.5 Hz, 3H), 1.47-1.22 (m, 4H), 0.89 (t, *J*= 6.9 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.8, 148.3, 131.6, 127.7, 112.7, 112.0, 35.0, 30.4, 22.4, 18.2, 13.9.

[1,2-bis(methylene)but-3-en-1-yl]cyclohexane 2i



Prepared from 3-cyclohexyl-1-methyl-2-methylenebut-3-en-1-yl ethyl carbonate **1i** (100 mg, 0.39 mmol). Chromatography afforded compound **2i** as a colourless oil, 53 mg (82%): ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.39 (dd, *J*= 10.2, 17.2 Hz, 1H), 5.21 (dd, *J*= 1.5, 17.2 Hz, 1H), 5.12-5.06 (m, 2H), 4.98-4.94 (m, 2H), 4.87 (d, *J*= 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.12-2.00 (m, 1H), 1.85-1.64 (m, 4H), 1.37-1.00 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.4, 149.5, 138.2, 116.0, 114.8, 111.0, 42.4, 32.3, 26.7, 26.4.

[(3*E*)-1,2-bis(methylene)pent-3-en-1-yl]cyclopropane 2j



Prepared from 3-cyclopropyl-1-ethyl-2-methylenebut-3-en-1-yl ethyl carbonate **1j** (100 mg, 0.44 mmol). Chromatography afforded compound **2j** as a colourless oil, 41 mg (68%) which dimerized rapidly. Spectral analysis were performed on diluted sample in n-pentane: ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 6.17 (d, *J*= 15.3 Hz, 1H), 5.84 (dqu, *J*= 6.5, 15.3 Hz, 1H), 5.05 (bs, 2H), 4.92-4.89 (m, 2H), 1.80 (d, *J*= 6.5 Hz, 3H), 1.56-1.46 (m, 1H), 0.76-0.67 (m, 2H), 0.52-0.44 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 152.15, 150.3, 134.0, 130.3, 114.6, 112.0, 20.3, 17.6, 8.9.

Concurrent Catalysis: Allylation/Elimination sequence

Compounds 2k



A Schlenk containing powdered 4Å molecular sieves (200 mg) and potassium carbonate (62 mg, 0,44 mmol) was flame-dried under vacuum. After cooling at room temperature, acetonitrile (4 mL), dimethyl malonate (39 mg, 0,29 mmol) and diene dicarbonate **1k** (100 mg, 0,38 mmol) were successively added under an argon atmosphere and the resulting mixture was stirred for two minutes. Then, $[Ru(Cp^*)(4,4'-di-Bu'-2,2'-bipyridine)(CH_3CN)]PF_6$ **II** (15 mg, 0.02 mmol, 7.5 mol%) was added and the system

was stirred at 100°C for 24h. Chromatography (silica gel, n-pentane/diethyl ether : 90/10) of the crude (silica cake) affords 39 mg of the expected triene **2k** (55 %) in a 83:17 Branched:Linear ratio (*only the branched compound is described*): ¹H NMR (200 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 6.30 (ddd, J= 0.7, 10.7, 17.4 Hz, 1H), 5.36 (dd, J= 1.5, 17.4 Hz, 1H), 5.03-4.97 (m, 4H), 3.75 (d, J= 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.55-3.40 (m, 1H), 3.26 (s, 3H), 3.24 (s, 3H), 1.19 (d, J= 6.9 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 168.7, 168.6, 149.8, 148.7, 137.9, 116.8, 116.2, 113.8, 56.5, 51.9, 51.7, 38.3, 17.4; HRMS calculated for [$C_{13}H_{18}NaO_4$]⁺, [M+Na]⁺ : 261.1097 found 261.1103.

Compounds 21



Compounds **21** were obtained in 75:25 Branched:Linear ratio using the above protocol (*only the branched compound is described*): ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.37 (dd, *J*= 10.3, 17.6 Hz, 1H), 5.30 (ddd, *J*= 1.0, 1.6, 17.6 Hz, 1H), 5.16-5.01 (m, 5H), 4.24-4.10 (m, 4H), 3.55 (d, *J*= 9.01 Hz, 1H), 3.27-3.12 (m, 1H), 1.30-1.19 (m, 6H), 1.12 (d, *J*= 6.9 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.5, 168.4, 149.1, 148.0, 137.6, 116.6, 115.9, 113.7, 61.3, 61.2, 56.3, 37.8, 17.2, 14.1, 14.0.

 $[Ru(C_5Me_5)(\eta^4\text{-}CH_2\text{=}CH\text{-}CH\text{=}CHEt)(MeCN)][PF_6]$





 $[Ru(C_5Me_5)(\eta^4\text{-}CH_2\text{=}CH\text{-}CH\text{=}CHEt)(MeCN)][BF_4]$





 $[Ru(C_5Me_5)(\eta^3\text{-}CH_2CHCHPr^n)(\eta^2\text{-}O_2CMe)][PF_6]$



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9.0	8.5	8.0	7.5	7.0	6.5	6.0	5.5	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0

















9.0	8.5	8.0	7.5	7.0	6.5	6.0	5.5	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0





2.5 1.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 2.0 1.0 0.5 3.0







5.5 3.5 2.5 1.0 6.0 6.5 4.5 1.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 4.0 3.0 2.0 0.5





8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0









9.0	8.5	8.0	7.5	7.0	6.5	6.0	5.5	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0





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8.0	1.5	7.0	0.5	0.0	5.5	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.5	5.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.0

