# **Support Information**

# Reaction of Trisubstituted Alkenes with Iron Porphyrin Carbenes: Facile Synthesis of Tetrasubstituted Dienes and Cyclopentadienes

Peng Wang, Saihu Liao, Sunewang R. Wang, Run-Duo Gao, Yong Tang\*

State Key Laboratory of Organometallic Chemistry, Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 354 Fenglin Lu, Shanghai 200032, China

E-mail: tangy@sioc.ac.cn

1.	General Information	S2
2.	General Procedures for the Substituent Effect	S3
3.	Reaction Conditions for Synthesis of Tetrasubstituted Dienes	S6
4.	General Procedure for Synthesis of Tetrasubstituted Dienes	S7
5.	Reaction Conditions for Synthesis of Cyclopentadienes	S15
6.	General Procedure for Synthesis of Cyclopentadienes	S17
7.	Procedure for Chemical Transformation	S23
8.	Procedure for Deuterium Experiment	S24
9.	NMR Spectra of the Compounds	S27

General Information All reactions were carried out under  $N_2$  unless otherwise noted. All carbonyl compounds and solvents were purified according to standard methods unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded on a VARIAN Mercury 300 MHz or VARIAN Mercury 400 MHz spectrometer in chloroform-d. All signals are reported in ppm with the internal TMS signal at 0.0 ppm or chloroform signal at 7.26 ppm as a standard. The data are reported as (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quadruplet, m = multiplet or unresolved, coupling constant(s) in Hz, integration). <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a VARIAN Mercury 75.5 MHz spectrometer in chloroform-d. All signals are reported in ppm with the internal chloroform signal at 77.0 ppm as a standard. IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin–Elmer 983, Digital FT–IR spectrometer or Bruker–Tensor 27; frequencies are given in reciprocal centimeters (cm<sup>-1</sup>) and only selected absorbance is reported; Mass spectra were determined on an Agilent 5973N MSD (EI) and Shimadzu LCMS-2010EV (ESI) mass spectrometer or Agilent G6100 LC/MSD (ESI) single Quand mass spectrometer. High resolution mass spectra were recorded on Waters Micromass GCT Premier (EI) and Bruker Daltonics, Inc. APEXIII 7.0 TESLA FTMS (ESI) mass spectrometers.

Fe(TCP)Cl was synthesized according to literature procedure.<sup>1</sup>

#### 2. General Procedures for the Substituent Effect

To a stirred suspension of phosphonium salt **1** (0.5 mmol) in dry PhCH<sub>3</sub> (2.0 mL) under N<sub>2</sub> at room temperature was added LiHMDS (0.6 mL, 1.0 M in THF, 0.6 mmol) in one portion. 10 minutes later, Fe(TCP)Cl (1.7 mg, 0.002 mmol) and MDA (50  $\mu$ L, 0.6 mmol) were added to the system respectively (Caution! N<sub>2</sub> Release!), then washed the Schlenk tube with dry PhCH<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mL), and the mixture stirred at room temperature for another 10 minutes. PCBA (56.0 mg, 0.4 mmol) and PhCH<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mL) were added and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature. After the reaction was complete, the resulting mixture was filtered rapidly through a funnel with a thin layer of silica gel and eluted with DCM. The filtrate was concentrated and analyzed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR, and then the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel to afford the desired products.

For 1a and 1b, No desired products were formed.

For 1c, desired product 3a was isolated in 13% yield, 3E, 5E/3E, 5Z = 69/31.



(3E, 5E)-**3a**, white solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  8.03 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.55 (s, 2H), 2.09 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  171.2, 167.9, 145.5, 135.6, 133.9, 132.3, 128.8, 128.6, 128.3, 123.1, 52.1, 51.9, 36.1, 16.2; IR (neat) v 2951 (m), 2847 (m), 1736 (s), 1706 (s), 1489 (m), 1433 (m), 1191 (s), 1166 (m), 965 (m), 812 (s); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 308 (52, M<sup>+</sup>), 293 (2.5), 277 (12), 248 (13), 235 (15), 217 (24), 203 (57), 189 (60), 171 (9.7), 153 (31), 127 (32), 113 (33), 99 (31), 84 (57), 71 (68), 57 (100), 43 (60), 41 (24); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>ClO<sub>4</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 308.0815; Found: 308.0811.

For **1d**, desired product **4a** was isolated in 49% yield,  $3E_{,5}E/3E_{,5}Z = 83/17$ , the direct Wittig reaction of phosphonium salt **1d** was also observed.



(2E, 4E)-9a 19% yield, white solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  8.07 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dt, *J* =2.2, 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (dt, *J* = 2.2, 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 5.16 (s, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  167.7, 166.5, 134.6, 134.5, 133.8, 128.8, 128.7, 120.6, 92.1, 55.4, 50.9; IR (neat) v 2951 (m), 2847 (m), 1703 (s), 1639 (m), 1583 (s), 1566 (m), 1490 (m), 1433 (m), 1145 (s), 970 (s); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 252 (28, M<sup>+</sup>), 221 (17), 192 (100), 178 (20), 158 (61), 149 (14), 127 (22), 115 (36), 101 (17), 89 (5.5), 75 (12), 59 (13); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>13</sub>ClO<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 252.0553; Found: 252.0556.



(2E, 4Z)-**9a** 

4% yield, White solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.25 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 5.19 (s, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.54 (s, 3H).



40% yield, colorless liquid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.78 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.54 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  171.8, 167.5, 164.9, 134.5, 134.4, 128.8, 128.5, 121.1, 113.4, 60.5, 51.9, 51.7, 32.6; IR (neat) v 2954 (m), 1735 (s), 1610 (m), 1589 (m), 1565 (m), 1491 (m), 1436 (m); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 324 (1.2, M<sup>+</sup>), 310 (2.3), 293 (1.8), 279 (2.7), 265 (4.1), 251 (12), 233 (9.6), 219 (36), 205 (14), 165 (100), 137 (20), 102 (24), 75 (8.7), 59 (11); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>ClO<sub>5</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 324.0765; Found: 324.0763.



9% yield, colorless liquid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.40-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.27 (m, 2H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.48 (s, 2H), 3.46 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  172.1, 167.5, 164.1, 134.2, 133.0, 130.1, 128.6, 121.7, 106.2, 56.5, 51.8, 51.4, 31.5; IR (neat) v 2953 (m), 1738 (s), 1587 (m), 1491 (m), 1437 (m); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 324 (0.7, M<sup>+</sup>), 293 (5.1), 265 (10), 251 (31), 233 (26), 219 (100), 205 (38), 165 (9.8), 139 (12), 102 (10), 75 (8.1), 59 (17); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>ClO<sub>5</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 324.0765; Found: 324.0773.

### **3.** Reaction Conditions for Synthesis of Tetrasubstituted Dienes

	MeO	O <sub>2</sub> Me ⊕ 1) Base, Sol ,PHPh <sub>3</sub> 2) [Fe(TCP)( ,⊖ 3) PCBA, RT	CIJ, MDA MeO <sub>2</sub> C CO <sub>2</sub> Me	<sub>6</sub> H₄CI-p
_	1d		4a	
Entry <sup>a</sup>	Base	Solvent	3E, 5E <b>-4a</b> (%) <sup>b</sup>	3E, 5E/3E, 5Z <sup>c</sup>
1	LiHMDS	THF	13	83/17
2	NaHMDS	THF	39	97/3
3	CH <sub>3</sub> ONa	THF	48	98/2
4	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	THF	30	84/16
5	t-BuOK	THF	78	97/3
6	t-BuOK	DME	85	98/2
7	t-BuOK	$CH_2Cl_2$	84	99/1
8	t-BuOK	PhCH <sub>3</sub>	81	95/5
9	t-BuOK	<i>n</i> -Hexane	21	
10	t-BuOK	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	89	99/1
$11^{d}$	t-BuOK	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	85	98/2

Table S1. Base and solvent effect on the reaction.

<sup>*a*</sup> Phosphonium salt **1d** (235.5 mg, 0.5 mmol), base (0.6 mmol), MDA (50 μL, 0.6 mmol), PCBA (56 mg, 0.4 mmol), Fe(TCP)Cl (1.7 mg, 0.002 mmol), solvent (4.0 mL). <sup>*b*</sup> Isolated yield of single isomer. <sup>*c*</sup> Determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR. <sup>*d*</sup> Using 0.1 mol% [Fe(TCP)Cl] as catalyst.

#### 4. General Procedure for Synthesis of Tetrasubstituted Dienes

To a stirred suspension of phosphonium salt **1d** (236 mg, 0.5 mmol) in 2.0 mL dry  $CH_3CN$  under  $N_2$  at room temperature was added *t*-BuOK (67.2 mg, 0.60 mmol) in one portion. After 10 min, Fe(TCP)Cl (1.7 mg, 0.002 mmol) and MDA (50 µL, 0.6 mmol) were added to the system respectively (Caution!  $N_2$  Release!), washed the Schlenk tube with 1.0 mL dry  $CH_3CN$ , and the mixture stirred for another 10 min. Aldehyde (0.4 mmol) and  $CH_3CN$  (1.0 mL) were added and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature. After the reaction was complete, the resulting mixture was filtered rapidly through a funnel with a thin layer of silica gel and eluted with DCM. The filtrate was concentrated and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel to afford the desired products.



86% yield, white solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 7.79 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.53 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 171.8, 167.5, 164.9, 134.9, 134.5, 131.7, 128.8, 122.8, 121.2, 113.4, 60.5, 51.8, 51.7, 32.5; IR (KBr) v 2954 (m), 1734 (s), 1609 (m), 1584 (m), 1487 (m), 1438 (m), 1256 (m), 1205 (m), 1170 (m); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 369 (4, M<sup>+</sup>), 337 (12), 309 (13), 295 (45), 279 (23), 265 (100), 249 (30), 235 (4.6), 211 (5.4), 198 (8.4), 183 (8.7), 171 (8.5), 155 (8.2), 141 (10), 128 (18), 115 (10), 102 (19), 75 (7.3), 59 (32), 45 (5.3); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>BrO<sub>5</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 368.0259; Found: 368.0251.



(3E, 5E)-**4c** 

78% yield, light yellow solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 8.01-7.99 (m, 1H), 7.80-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.65-7.61 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.43 (m, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H),

3.72 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  171.7, 167.4, 164.3, 148.0, 133.3, 132.0, 130.9, 128.96, 128.90, 125.2, 124,6, 114.2, 60.4, 51.9, 51.8, 32.4; IR (KBr) v 2952 (m), 1741 (s), 1710 (s), 1586 (m), 1524 (m), 1435 (s), 1346 (m); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 335 (19, M<sup>+</sup>), 318 (35), 304 (25), 276 (10), 262 (22), 244 (22), 230 (98), 216 (19), 200 (100), 188 (6.0), 170 (8.2), 156 (17), 141 (45), 128 (35), 120 (46), 102 (12), 92 (12), 77 (14), 59 (37), 45 (9.1); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>7</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 335.1005; Found: 335.1004.



83% yield, light yellow solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 8.32 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.15-8.13 (m, 1H), 7.92-7.86 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.08 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 171.5, 167.2, 164.0, 148.5, 137.8, 133.0, 132.5, 129.6, 123.5, 123.0, 122.0, 114.8, 60.5, 51.9, 51.8, 32.6; IR (KBr) v 2953 (m), 1732 (s), 1737 (s), 1705 (s), 1600 (m), 1519 (s), 1435 (m), 1443 (s); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 335 (6.7, M<sup>+</sup>), 304 (12), 276 (19), 262 (24), 244 (16), 230 (100), 216 (38), 200 (6.2), 184 (3.4), 170 (4.7), 155 (4.3), 141 (5.1), 128 (11), 115 (8.2), 102 (5.9), 89 (1.7), 75 (3.2), 59 (13), 45 (3.2); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>7</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 335.1005; Found: 335.1009.



(3E, 5E)-**4e** 

90% yield, light yellow solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  8.20 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.96 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.57 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  171.5, 167.2, 164.0, 147.3, 142.4, 132.9, 127.8, 124.8, 123.9, 115.4, 60.6, 51.91, 51.87, 32.6; IR (KBr) v 2953 (m), 1732 (s), 1737 (s), 1705 (s), 1600 (m), 1519 (s), 1435 (m), 1443 (s); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 335 (6.7, M<sup>+</sup>), 304 (12), 276 (19), 262

(24), 244 (16), 230 (100), 216 (38), 198 (5.9), 186 (3.0), 170 (5.5), 155 (3.3), 141 (3.7), 128 (10), 102 (6.8), 89 (2.0), 75 (2.8), 59 (15), 45 (3.5); HRMS (EI) calcd for  $C_{16}H_{17}NO_7 (M^+)$ : 335.1005; Found: 335.1009.



90% yield, white solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.78 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.27 (m, 3H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.54 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  172.0, 167.6, 165.2, 136.0, 128.8, 128.6, 127.4, 120.4, 112.9, 60.4, 51.8, 51.7, 32.6; IR (KBr) v 2955(m), 1732 (s), 1689 (m), 1607 (m), 1575 (m), 1437 (m); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 290 (3.8, M<sup>+</sup>), 259 (9.6), 231 (16), 217 (46), 199 (32), 185 (100), 171 (43), 157 (6.5), 141 (13), 128 (21), 115 (15), 103 (12), 91 (4.0), 77 (9.8), 59 (14), 45 (3.2); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 290.1154; Found: 290.1157.



(3E, 5E)-4g

71% yield, colorless liquid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.67-7.63 (m, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.22-7.17 (m, 3H), 3.76 (m, 6H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.54 (s, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  172.0, 167.6, 165.4, 136.4, 134.9, 133.6, 130.4, 128.6, 126.2, 126.0, 121.3, 112.7, 60.4, 51.8, 51.7, 32.6, 19.7; IR (KBr) v 2950 (m), 1741(s), 1710 (s), 1619 (m), 1587 (m), 1435 (m); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 304 (1.2, M<sup>+</sup>), 273 (6.7), 245 (12), 231 (47), 213 (19), 199 (100), 185 (32), 153 (26), 128 (12), 115 (24), 105 (4.2), 84 (43), 59 (18), 45 (4.5); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 304.1311; Found: 304.1310.



(3E, 5E)-4h

77% yield, colorless liquid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.78 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.24 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.02(d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.54 (s, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  172.0, 167.6, 165.4, 138.2, 136.2, 135.8, 129.7, 128.5, 127.9, 124.6, 120.1, 112.6, 60.4, 51.8, 51.6, 32.5, 21.2; IR (KBr) v 2950 (s), 2842 (m), 1743(s), 1712 (s), 1621 (m), 1588 (m), 1435 (m); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 304 (1.9, M<sup>+</sup>), 273 (4.8), 245 (10), 230 (52), 213 (36), 199 (100), 185 (40), 171 (5.2), 155 (7.9), 141 (10.9), 128 (13), 115 (17), 105 (2.2), 84 (10), 59 (14), 51 (5.3), 45 (2.5); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 304.1311; Found: 304.1319.





77% yield, colorless liquid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.75 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.53 (s, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  172.1, 167.7, 165.6, 139.0, 136.0, 133.2, 129.4, 127.4, 119.4, 112.4, 60.5, 51.8, 51.7, 32.6, 21.2; IR (KBr) v 2950 (s), 2842 (m), 1741(s), 1710 (s), 1620 (m), 1585 (m), 1435 (m); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 304 (2.1, M<sup>+</sup>), 273 (4.9), 245 (10), 231 (35), 213 (34), 199 (100), 185 (44), 171 (9.2), 155 (14), 128 (16), 115 (24), 105 (4.7), 84 (91), 71 (9.5), 59 (22), 43 (11); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 304.1311; Found: 304.1304.





55% yield, colorless liquid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.67 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.53 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  172.2, 167.8, 165.8, 160.3, 135.8, 128.9, 128.8, 118.3, 114.1, 112.0, 60.6,

55.3, 51.9, 51.7, 32.7; IR (KBr) v 2951(m), 2840 (m), 1741 (s), 1709 (s), 1602 (m), 1512 (m), 1435 (m); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 320 (7.2,  $M^+$ ), 289 (3.9), 261 (11), 246 (57), 229 (51), 215 (100), 201 (30), 187 (5.6), 171 (6.4), 161 (6.5), 145 (4.9), 128 (9.2), 115 (8.8), 103 (2.2), 89 (3.1), 77 (3.7), 59 (11), 45 (2.9); HRMS (EI) calcd for  $C_{17}H_{20}O_6(M^+)$ : 320.1260; Found: 320.1262.



95% yield, white solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.73 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.24 (m, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.55 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  171.7, 167.4, 164.6, 134.7, 134.5, 132.8, 130.5, 129.4, 127.9, 127.3, 123.2, 114.1, 60.5, 51.9, 51.7, 32.5; IR (KBr) v 2954(m), 1734 (s), 1696 (m), 1608 (m), 1581 (m), 1437 (m), 1368 (m); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 358 (4.3, M<sup>+</sup>), 327 (7.2), 299 (24), 285 (34), 267 (22), 253 (100), 239 (52), 225 (6.4), 211 (4.9), 199 (7.2), 173 (8.8), 162 (11), 139 (11), 113 (7.7), 99 (10), 86 (5.8), 75 (8.8), 59 (44), 49 (10); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 358.0375; Found: 358.0381.



86% yield, colorless liquid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  8.15 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.90-7.82 (m, 5H), 7.58-7.46 (m, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.58 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  172.0, 167.6, 165.2, 133.6, 133.3, 132.8, 131.2, 129.1, 128.6, 126.3, 125.8, 125.5, 124.4, 123.2, 123.0, 113.0, 60.5, 51.9, 51.7, 32.6; IR (KBr) v 2950(m), 2841 (m), 1742 (s), 1613 (m), 1582 (m), 1508 (m), 1435 (m), 797 (m), 775 (m); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 341 (2.3, M<sup>+</sup>), 309 (5.6), 267 (40), 249 (14). 235 (100), 221 (24), 206 (5.1), 189 (16), 178 (7.8), 165 (4.6), 152 (10), 127 (2.0), 113 (1.8), 101 (0.5), 89 (1.1), 76 (1.6), 59 (11), 45 (1.8); HRMS (EI) calcd for  $C_{20}H_{20}O_5(M^+)$ : 340.1311; Found: 340.1314.



64%, yield, white solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.44 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.24 (m, 4H), 7.01-6.95 (m, 1H), 6.90-6.83 (m, 1H), 6.75 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.52 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$ 172.0, 167.6, 165.2, 136.7, 136.63, 136.60, 128.6, 128.27, 128.23, 126.7, 124.3, 112.8, 60.6, 51.9, 51.7, 32.6; IR (KBr) v 2950(m), 2850 (m), 1738 (s), 1707 (s), 1605 (m), 1256 (m), 1054 (s), 998 (s), 788 (m), 751 (m), 738 (m), 693 (m); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 316 (23, M<sup>+</sup>), 285 (4.5), 270 (5.5), 256 (5.6), 242 (27), 225 (20), 211 (100), 197 (62), 181 (19), 157 (88), 153 (33), 128 (89), 115 (51), 105 (84), 91 (91), 84 (78). 59 (100), 43 (78); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 316.1311; Found: 316.1305.



72% yield, colorless liquid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.31-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.19 (m, 3H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.29-6.20 (m, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 3.45 (s, 2H), 2.82-2.77 (m, 2H), 2.60-2.53 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  172.1, 167.8, 165.1, 141.2, 138.9, 128.32, 128.31, 125.9, 122.7, 110.8, 59.9, 51.8, 51.6, 35.0, 34.5, 32.4; IR (KBr) v 2949 (m), 2850 (m), 1739 (s), 1712 (s), 1589 (m), 1435 (m), 1193 (s), 1053 (s), 1015 (s), 801 (s), 736 (s), 700 (s); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 318 (17, M<sup>+</sup>), 286 (5.6), 254 (8.4), 227 (22), 213 (100), 195 (5.9), 173 (9.8), 167 (12), 139 (8.3), 117 (10), 109 (12), 91 (68), 77 (4.8), 65 (10.2), 59 (9.4), 41 (2.9); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 318.1467; Found: 318.1469.



49% yield, colorless liquid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  6.92 (d, J = 16.0 Hz,

1H), 6.28-6.20 (m, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.46 (s, 2H), 2.26-2.20 (m, 2H), 1.48-1.45 (m, 2H), 1.30-1.28 (m, 8H), 0.88-0.87 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  172.2, 167.8, 165.4, 140.3, 122.0, 110.4, 60.0, 51.8, 51.5, 32.8, 32.4, 31.7, 29.1, 29.0, 28.7, 22.5, 14.0; IR (KBr) v 2926(m), 2855 (m), 1742 (s), 1715 (s), 1640 (m), 1590 (m), 1435 (m), 1194 (m), 1117 (m), 1059 (m), 978 (m), 800 (m); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 312 (8.4, M<sup>+</sup>), 281 (5.8), 253 (5.0), 213 (100), 196 (5.7), 177 (4.8), 164 (16), 149 (3.1), 137 (4.0), 123 (8.1), 109 (9.3), 95 (9.1), 79 (6.1), 59 (7.7), 41 (13); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 312.1937; Found: 312.1941.

# X-Ray Structure of (3E, 5E)-4e (CCDC 932306)

î.	, <sup>01</sup>					
			•	OMe		
× • • •			=			
	0	2 C14	$O_2 N$			
07			(3	E, 5E <i>)-</i> 4e		
Bond precision:	C-C = 0	0.0026 A		Wavelength=0.71073		
Cell: a=7.57	752(9)	b=9.2925(12)	c=11.91	191(15)		
alpha=	=90.060(2)	beta=98.984(2)	gamma	=95.356(2)		
Temperature: 293 K						
	Calculated		-	Reported		
Volume	825.00(18)			825.00(18)		
Space group	P -1			P-1		
Hall group	-P 1			?		
Moiety formula	C16 H17 N O7			?		
Sum formula	C16 H17 N	O7		C16 H17 N O7		
Mr	335.31			335.31		
Dx,g cm-3	1.350			1.350		
Ζ	2			2		
Mu (mm-1)	0.107			0.107		
F000	352.0			352.0		
F000'	352.22					
h,k,lmax	9,11,14			9,11,14		
Nref	3260			3205		
Tmin,Tmax	0.958,0.974			0.786,1.000		
Tmin'	0.958					
Correction method=	EMPIRICA	L				
Data completeness= 0.983 Theta(max)= 26.000						
R(reflections) = 0.05	71(2472)	wR2(re	eflections)=	= 0.1731( 3205)		
S = 1.032	Npar=	221				

# 5. Reaction Conditions for Synthesis of Cyclopentadienes

	Ph <sub>3</sub> P 2c	PhCOCHI CO <sub>2</sub> Et Fe(TCP)	N <sub>2</sub> , Solvent, RT CI (0.5 mol%) 24 h	Ph CO <sub>2</sub> Et	
Entry <sup>a</sup>	Solvent	Yield (%) $^{b}$	Entry	Solvent	Yield $(\%)^b$
1	THF	44	7	PhCH <sub>3</sub>	47
2	DME	54	8	PhCl	48
3	MTBE	23	9	EtOAc	46
4	1,4-Dioxane	44	10	<i>i</i> -PrOAc	47
5	DCM	45	11	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	33
6	DCE	60	12	DMF	trace

#### **Table S2**Solvent effects

<sup>*a*</sup> Condition: ylide **2c** (167.4 mg, 0.4 mmol), PhCOCHN<sub>2</sub> (116.8 mg, 0.8 mmol), Fe(TCP)Cl (1.7 mg, 0.002 mmol), solvent (4.0 mL), RT; <sup>*b*</sup> Isolated yield.

## Table S3 Reaction time

	Ph <sub>3</sub> P	DEt PhCOCI CO <sub>2</sub> Et Fe(TCP)	HN <sub>2</sub> , DCE, RT )CI (0.5 mol%) <i>t</i> h	Ph <b>5c</b> OEt	
Entry <sup>a</sup>	t (h)	Yield (%) $^{b}$	Entry	t (h)	Yield $(\%)^b$
1	6	69	4	36	47
2	15	60	5	48	52
3	24	60			

<sup>*a*</sup> Condition: ylide **2c** (167.4 mg, 0.4 mmol), PhCOCHN<sub>2</sub> (116.8 mg, 0.8 mmol), Fe(TCP)Cl (1.7 mg, 0.002 mmol), DCE (4.0 mL); <sup>*b*</sup> Isolated yield.

	Ph <sub>3</sub> P 2c	PhCOC CO2Et Fe(TCP	HN <sub>2</sub> , DCE, RT P)CI (0.5 mol%) 6 h	Ph CO <sub>2</sub> Et	
Entry <sup>a</sup>	Ylide/Diazo	Yield (%) $^{b}$	Entry	Ylide/Diazo	$\text{Yield}\left(\%\right)^{b}$
1	1.0/1.0	45	4	1.0/1.5	67
2	1.0/1.2	55	5	1.0/2.0	69
3	1.0/1.4	67	6	1.0/2.5	54

# Table S4 Loading of diazo phenylethanone

<sup>*a*</sup> Condition: ylide **2c** (167.4 mg, 0.4 mmol), PhCOCHN<sub>2</sub>, Fe(TCP)Cl (1.7 mg, 0.002 mmol), DCE (4.0 mL), 6 h; <sup>*b*</sup> Isolated yield.

#### Table S5 Reaction temperature

	O Ph <sub>3</sub> P	Et PhCOCHN CO <sub>2</sub> Et Fe(TCP)C	N <sub>2</sub> , DCE, T °C ► Cl (0.5 mol%) 6 h	Ph CO <sub>2</sub> Et 5c	
Entry <sup>a</sup>	T(°C)	Yield (%) $^{b}$	Entry <sup>a</sup>	T (°C)	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	0	70	5	45	62
2	10	74	6	55	59
3	20	76	7 <sup>c</sup>	20	65
4	35	68			

<sup>*a*</sup> Condition: ylide **2c** (167.4 mg, 0.4 mmol), PhCOCHN<sub>2</sub> (81.8 mg, 0.56 mmol), Fe(TCP)Cl (1.7 mg, 0.002 mmol), DCE (4.0 mL), 6 h; <sup>*b*</sup> Isolated yield; <sup>*c*</sup> Under the same condition, t = 12 h.

#### 6. General Procedure for Synthesis of Cyclopentadienes

General procedure: To a stirred suspension of ylide **2** (0.4 mmol) in dry DCE (2.0 mL) under  $N_2$  at room temperature was added Fe(TCP)Cl (1.7 mg, 0.002 mmol) and RCOCHN<sub>2</sub> (0.56 mmol) sequentially at 20 °C. (Caution!  $N_2$  Release!) The resulting mixture was stirred at 20 °C for 6 hours. After the reaction was complete, the resulting mixture was concentrated and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel to afford the desired products.



65% yield, light yellow solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 7.58 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.39-7.29 (m, 3H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 4.04 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 168.2, 164.3, 152.9, 134.3, 128.80, 128.79, 125.5, 119.0, 104.6, 58.6, 50.8, 38.3; IR (KBr) v 2946 (m), 1697 (s), 1673 (s), 1610 (m), 1456 (m), 1392 (m), 1209 (s), 1079 (s); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 230 (81, M<sup>+</sup>), 199 (21), 171 (100), 155 (13), 142 (10), 128 (48), 115 (17), 105 (17), 91 (5.5), 77 (16), 57 (4); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 230.0943; Found: 230.0947.



74% yield, light yellow solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.58 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.29 (m, 3H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 4.32 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 2H), 1.47 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  167.7, 164.4, 152.7, 134.4, 128.8, 128.76, 125.5, 119.7, 104.8, 67.1, 50.7, 38.1, 15.2; IR (KBr) v 2983 (m), 2945 (m), 1697 (s), 1674 (s), 1609 (m), 1448 (m), 1386 (m), 1208 (s), 1074 (s); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 244 (83, M<sup>+</sup>), 213 (17), 185 (38), 157 (77), 128 (100), 115 (18), 108 (12), 102 (21), 91 (5.5), 77 (16); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 244.1099; Found: 244.1100.



76% yield, light yellow solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.57 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.30 (m, 3H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 4.35-4.20 (m, 4H), 3.69 (s, 2H), 1.47 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.33 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H).

50% yield, light yellow solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.56 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.38-7.26 (m, 3H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 4.29 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.62 (s, 2H), 1.54 (s, 9H), 1.46 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  170.0, 163.8, 151.8, 134.7, 128.8, 128.5, 125.5, 119.8, 106.9, 79.0, 66.8, 38.2, 28.5, 15.2; IR (KBr) v 2976 (m), 2928 (m), 1693 (s), 1670 (s), 1610 (m), 1413 (m), 1389 (m), 1168 (s), 1063 (m); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 286 (30, M<sup>+</sup>), 244 (26), 230 (48), 213 (24), 184 (55), 157 (74), 128 (100), 115 (17), 108 (26), 91 (9), 77 (20), 57 (36); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 286.1569; Found: 286.1565.



40% yield, light yellow liquid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.57 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.28 (m, 3H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 5.96-5.82 (m, 1H), 5.13 (m, 2H), 4.34-4.22 (m, 4H), 3.68 (s, 2H), 2.47 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.47 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  167.8, 164.0, 152.6, 134.7, 134.4, 128.8, 128.7, 125.5, 119.7, 116.8, 104.9, 67.0, 62.5, 37.9, 33.4, 15.2; IR (KBr) v 2979 (m), 2927 (m), 1698 (s), 1672 (s), 1609 (m), 1205 (s), 1071 (s); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 284 (30, M<sup>+</sup>), 255 (5.6), 230 (10), 213 (30), 199 (15), 186 (50), 157 (100), 128 (85), 115 (20), 108 (63), 102 (21), 91 (11), 77 (23), 55 (46); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 284.1412; Found: 284.1413.



45% yield, light yellow solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 7.49 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 4.33-4.21 (m, 4H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.64 (s, 2H), 1.46 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.32 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 168.2, 164.1, 160.1, 152.5, 127.4, 127.0, 117.7, 114.1, 104.0, 67.0, 59.2, 55.3, 38.0, 15.2, 14.6; IR (neat) v 2926 (m), 2853 (m), 1667 (s), 1605 (s), 1506 (m), 1425 (m), 1254 (s), 1207 (s), 1074 (s), 1025 9s), 811 (m), 738 (m); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 288 (43, M<sup>+</sup>), 259 (4.8), 243 (11), 231 (4.3), 215 (36), 203 (5.0), 187 (70), 172 (11), 158 (14), 144 (21), 128 (27), 115 (100), 102 (13), 89 (42), 77 (29), 63 (26), 55 (17), 43 (19); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 288.1362; Found: 288.1366.



49% yield, light yellow solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.46 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (s, 1H), 4.33-4.20 (m, 4H), 3.66 (s, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.46 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  167.9, 164.1, 152.7, 138.8, 131.8, 129.4, 125.4, 118.8, 104.5, 67.0, 59.2, 38.0, 21.3, 15.2, 14.5; IR (KBr) v 2984 (m), 2892 (m), 1674 (s), 1610 (s), 1425 (m), 1281 (m), 1200 (s), 1074 (m), 801 (m); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 272 (61, M<sup>+</sup>), 227 (23), 199 (31), 191 (100), 171 (84), 141 (40), 128 (22), 115 (48), 91 (14); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 272.1412; Found: 272.1413.



57% yield, light yellow solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.57-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.08-7.03 (m, 2H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 4.34-4.20 (m, 4H), 3.65 (s, 2H), 1.46 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  167.6, 164.0 (d, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1C), 161.6, 151.2, 130.8 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1C), 127.3 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1C), 119.6,

115.8 (d, J = 22.6 Hz, 1C), 105.0, 67.0, 59.2, 38.2, 15.1, 14.5; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz)  $\delta$  -112.2 – -112.3 (m, 1F); IR (neat) v 2982 (m), 2926 (m), 1691 (s), 1610 (s), 1503 (s), 1207 (s), 1097 (s), 823 (s), 736 (s); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 337 (22, M<sup>+</sup>), 308 (8.0), 276 (48), 248 (4.7), 231 (17), 203 (41), 175 (100), 146 (84), 133 (19), 120 (24), 101 (8.2), 83 (13), 57 (7.6), 43 (13); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>FO<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 276.1162; Found: 276.1163.



48% yield, light yellow solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.49 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 4.33-4.21 (m, 4H), 3.64 (s, 2H), 1.46 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  167.4, 163.9, 150.9, 134.4, 133.0, 129.0, 126.7, 120.3, 105.4, 67.1, 59.3, 38.1, 15.2, 15.0; IR (KBr) v 2979 (m), 2929 (m), 1662 (s), 1610 (m), 1434 (m), 1206 (s), 1103 (m), 813 (m); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 292 (90, M<sup>+</sup>), 264 (8.1), 247 (25), 220 (60), 191 (100), 155 (25), 127 (46), 115 (13), 101 (12), 75 (10), 43 (10); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>ClO<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 292.0866; Found: 292.0867.



48% yield, light yellow solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.49 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 4.33-4.21 (m, 4H), 3.64 (s, 2H), 1.46 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  167.4, 163.9, 150.9, 133.3, 131.9, 126.9, 122.6, 120.4, 105.5, 67.1, 59.3, 38.0, 15.1, 14.5; IR (neat) v 2982 (m), 2854 (m), 1689 (s), 1664 (s), 1610 (s), 1206 (s), 1069 (s), 810 (s), 736 (s); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 337 (22, M<sup>+</sup>), 308 (8.0), 291 (21), 264 (92), 235 (100), 155 (42), 128 (79), 115 (27), 101 (22), 75 (20), 43 (15); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>BrO<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 336.0361; Found: 336.0358.



70% yield, light yellow solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.70 (s, 1H), 7.49-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.20 (m, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 4.34-4.20 (m, 4H), 3.64 (s, 2H), 1.46 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.33 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  167.2, 163.8, 150.5, 136.5, 131.4, 130.3, 128.4, 124.0, 123.0, 121.1, 105.8, 67.1, 59.3, 38.0, 15.1, 14.5; IR (KBr) v 2982 (m), 2929 (m), 1693 (s), 1610 (s), 1561 (m), 1209 (s), 1070 (s), 737 (s); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 338 (19, M<sup>+</sup>), 293 (9.1), 264(34), 235 (33), 153 (92), 127 (31), 110 (52), 97 (95), 81 (61), 57 (100), 43 (97); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>BrO<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 336.0361; Found: 336.0366.



46% yield, light yellow solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.46 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.29-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (s, 1H), 4.28-4.20 (m, 4H), 3.54 (s, 2H), 1.44 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.32 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  167.7, 164.0, 151.8, 136.5, 131.7, 128.8, 128.2, 126.6, 123.8, 123.3, 104.5, 67.0, 59.2, 36.5, 15.1, 14.6; IR (KBr) v 2986 (m), 2939 (m), 1669(s), 1693 (s), 1595 (s), 1524 (m), 1210 (s), 1147 (m), 1069 (s); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 284 (93, M<sup>+</sup>), 239 (30), 210 (52), 183 (80), 165 (100), 153 (78), 141 (37), 128 (35), 115 (26), 102 (9.0), 91 (12), 77 (16), 55(19); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 284.1412; Found: 284.1415.



70% yield, light yellow solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.42 (s, 2H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 6.55 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.46-6.44 (m, 1H), 4.32-4.19 (m, 4H), 3.60 (s, 2H), 1.45 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.32 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  167.8, 164.0, 150.9, 142.9, 141.5, 118.1, 111.9, 108.7, 103.7, 67.0, 59.2, 36.9, 15.1, 14.5; IR

(KBr) v 2980 (m), 2934 (m), 1697(s), 1620 (m), 1577 (s), 1523 (m), 1217 (s), 1199 (m), 1068 (s); MS (EI, m/z, rel. intensity) 248 (48,  $M^+$ ), 175 (47), 147 (100), 118 (16), 91 (19), 77 (5.4), 65 (11), 55(3.7); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>4</sub> ( $M^+$ ): 248.1049; Found: 248.1052.

# 7. Procedure for Chemical Transformation<sup>2</sup>



To a solution of **5c** (103.3 mg, 0.4 mmol) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (8.0 mL) was added aq. HCl (8.0 mL, 2.0 M in H<sub>2</sub>O) at room temperature. After stirred at the same temperature for 24 hours, the aqueous layer was extracted with CHCl<sub>3</sub> ( $3 \times 10$  mL). The combined organic layer was dried over Mg<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel to afford the desired product **6** (85.6 mg, 94% yield).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 7.69-7.67 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.45 (m, 3H), 6.53 (t, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.63 (dd, *J* = 2.2, 10.5Hz, 1H), 3.55 (ddd, *J* = 1.9, 2.9, 18.0 1H), 3.25 (ddd, *J* = 1.7, 3.3, 18.2 Hz, 1H), 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H).

#### 8. General Procedure for Deuterium Experiment

Synthesis of  $d_3$ -MDA<sup>3,4</sup>

$$CD_3OD + O \xrightarrow{MsN_3, NaOAc} O \xrightarrow{O} O \xrightarrow{KOH} N_2 \xrightarrow{O} OCD_3 \xrightarrow{KOH} OCD_3 \xrightarrow{d_3 MDA} OCD_3$$

To a mixture of MsN<sub>3</sub> (9.1 g, 75 mmol), NaOAc (492 mg, 6 mmol) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (60 mL) was added CD<sub>3</sub>OD (2.7 mL, 60 mmol) under N<sub>2</sub>. The resulting mixture was heated to 60 °C, and then diketene (9.2 mL, 120 mmol) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (10 mL) was added dropwise in 7 hours. After refluxed for 20 hours, the reaction system was cooled to room temperature and diluted with brine (50 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O ( $3 \times 50$  mL), and the combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was subjected to the next step without further purification.

To a solution of upper products in Et<sub>2</sub>O (200 mL) was added KOH (150 mL, 7 wt% in water, 210 mmol) at 0 °C, and then he reaction was warmed up to room temperature. After the reaction was complete, the organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 50 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by distillation under vacuum to afford  $d_3$ -MDA as a light yellow liquid (2.2 g, 43% for two steps).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 4.76 (brs, 1H).

#### **Deuterium Experiment**



To a stirred suspension of phosphorus ylide 2a (195 mg, 0.5 mmol) in dry CH<sub>3</sub>CN (2.0 mL) under N<sub>2</sub> at room temperature was added Fe(TCP)Cl (1.7 mg, 0.002 mmol),  $d_3$ -MDA (50  $\mu$ L, 0.6 mmol) and CH<sub>3</sub>CN (1.0 mL) were added to the system

sequentially (Caution! N<sub>2</sub> Release!). Ten minutes later, o-NO<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CHO (60.4 mg, 0.4 mmol) and CH<sub>3</sub>CN (1.0 mL) were added and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 hours. After the reaction was complete, the resulting mixture was filtered rapidly through a funnel with a thin layer of silica gel and eluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The filtrate was concentrated and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel to afford the desired products (**3E, 5E)-4c** as a light yellow solid (123.8 mg, 92% yield).

OMe CO<sub>2</sub>C(H/D)<sub>3</sub> (80%) NO<sub>2</sub> CO<sub>2</sub>C(H/D)<sub>3</sub> (20%) 4c

92% yield, light yellow solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.81-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.63 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.43 (m, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 2.4 H), 3.72 (s, 0.6 H), 3.56 (s, 2H).

#### **References:**

- 1. V. V. Borovkov, J. M. Lintuluoto, Y. Inove, Synlett. 1999, 61.
- 2. M. Hatanaka, Y. Himeda, R. Imashiro, Y. Tanaka, I. Ueda, J. Org. Chem. 1994, 59, 111.
- 3. a) H. M. L. Davies, J. H. Houser, G. Thornley, J. Org. Chem. **1995**, 60, 7529. b) K. Ohtaka, M. Kajiwara, J. Label. Compd. Radiopharm. **2003**, 46, 1177.
- 4. L. McElwee-White, D. A. Dougherty, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1984, 106, 3466.

9. NMR Spectra of the Compounds







Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications This journal is C The Royal Society of Chemistry 2013









QМе CO<sub>2</sub>Me ĊO₂Me Cl





.CO<sub>2</sub>Me CI ́МеО










## <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 M Hz in CDCl<sub>3</sub>)











QМе  $O_2N$ CO<sub>2</sub>Me ĊO<sub>2</sub>Me







ŅМе CO<sub>2</sub>Me ĊO₂Me  $O_2 N'$ 













































ŌМе CI °CO<sub>2</sub>Me ĊO₂Me Cl





































## Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications This journal is The Royal Society of Chemistry 2013




































<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 M Hz in CDCl<sub>3</sub>)









