

Supporting Information

Pd-catalyzed tandem C–C/C–O/C–H single bond cleavage of 3-allyloxybenzocyclobutenols

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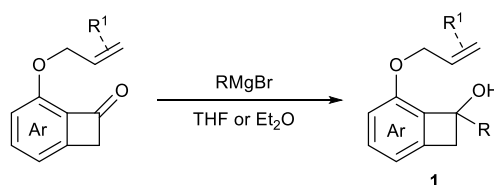
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I. General Information

Unless otherwise mentioned, all reactions were carried out under an inert atmosphere. Unless otherwise noted, all of the reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. THF was dried by filtration through a Solvent Purification System. Et₂O and 1,4-dioxane were dried by distillation from sodium and benzophenone and stored in the glove box.

NMR spectra were obtained on a Varian 400 M or 600 M spectrometer. The ¹H NMR (400 MHz or 600 MHz) chemical shifts were measured relative to the residual CDCl₃ as the internal reference (CDCl₃: δ = 7.26 ppm). The ¹³C NMR (101 MHz or 151 MHz) chemical shifts were given using CDCl₃ as the internal standard (CDCl₃: δ = 77.0 ppm). Coupling constants were reported in Hertz (Hz). Data for ¹H NMR spectra were reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, dd = doublet of doublets, td = triplet of doublets, m = multiplet), coupling constant (Hz), and integration. For characterization of diastereomeric mixtures, *denotes minor diastereoisomer, +denotes overlap of signals from both diastereoisomers. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained with a Waters Q-TOF Premier or Waters UPLC_QToF spectrometer. Elemental analysis data was obtained with Elementar UNICUBE. X-Ray single-crystal diffraction data were collected on a Rigaku XtaLAB Synergy diffractometer. Melting points were determined with SGW® X-4 apparatus.

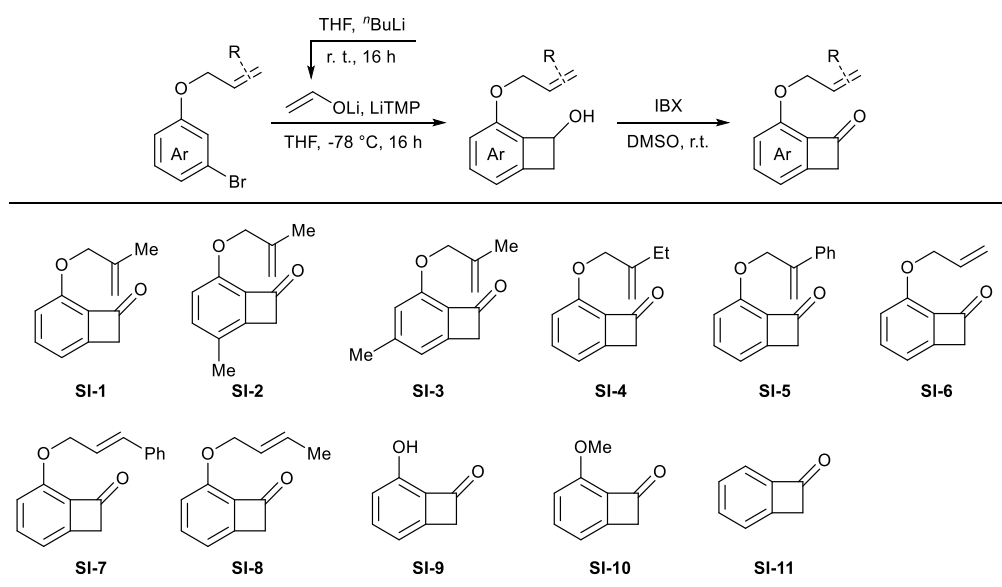
II. Synthesis and characterization of benzocyclobutenols



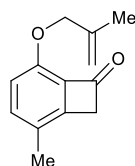
Grignard reagent was added dropwise to a solution of benzocyclobutenone in THF at 0 °C and the resulting solution was stirred at the indicated temperature. After the completion of the reaction as monitored by TLC, the reaction was quenched with water and extracted with EtOAc for three times. The combined organic phases were

washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 . The solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to afford the desired benzocyclobutenols **1**. Benzocyclobutenols **8**¹ and **11**² are known compounds and their characterization data are consistent with those reported in the literature.

Benzocyclobutenones were synthesized through IBX-promoted oxidation of the corresponding secondary benzocyclobutenols,³ which were prepared according to the procedure reported by Dong.⁴ Benzocyclobutenones **SI-1**, and **SI-3** to **SI-11** are known compounds and their characterization data are consistent with those reported in the literature.^{4,5}

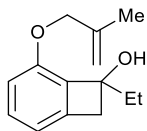


2-Methyl-5-((2-methylallyl)oxy)bicyclo[4.2.0]octa-1,3,5-trien-7-one (SI-2)



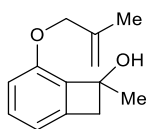
Yellow liquid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.20 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.04 (s, 1H), 4.92 (s, 1H), 4.79 (s, 2H), 3.80 (s, 2H), 2.24 (s, 3H), 1.82 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 184.45, 150.29, 148.51, 140.51, 138.60, 131.55, 124.61, 116.83, 112.33, 75.12, 49.81, 19.20, 16.33.

7-Ethyl-5-((2-methylallyl)oxy)bicyclo[4.2.0]octa-1,3,5-trien-7-ol (1a)



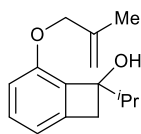
Following the general procedure, benzocyclobutenone **SI-1** (1.88 g, 10.0 mmol), EtMgBr (1.0 M in THF, 15.0 mL, 15.0 mmol) and THF (50.0 mL) were used. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **1a** as a yellow liquid (1.61 g, 74% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.20 (dd, $J = 8.4, 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.09 (s, 1H), 4.96 (s, 1H), 4.53 (d, $J = 12.7$ Hz, 1H), 4.45 (d, $J = 12.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.28 (d, $J = 14.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.03 (d, $J = 14.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.82 (brs, 1H), 2.07 – 1.97 (m, 1H), 1.95 – 1.86 (m, 1H), 1.82 (s, 3H), 1.03 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 152.70, 143.19, 140.84, 134.36, 130.58, 116.14, 112.74, 112.28, 80.97, 72.26, 44.92, 32.09, 19.34, 9.22. HRMS (ESI^+) for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{NaO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}$] $^+$: calcd 241.1199; found 241.1207.

7-Methyl-5-((2-methylallyl)oxy)bicyclo[4.2.0]octa-1,3,5-trien-7-ol (**1b**)



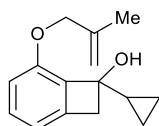
Following the general procedure, benzocyclobutenone **SI-1** (0.19 g, 1.0 mmol), CH_3MgBr (3.0 M in THF, 0.5 mL, 1.5 mmol) and THF (3.0 mL) were used. The reaction was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **1b** as a light yellow liquid (0.09 g, 40% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.19 (dd, $J = 7.1, 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.74-6.70 (m, 2H), 5.09 (s, 1H), 4.96 (s, 1H), 4.61 (d, $J = 12.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.52 (d, $J = 12.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.28 (d, $J = 14.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.16 (d, $J = 14.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.73 (s, 1H), 1.83 (s, 3H), 1.72 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 152.74, 142.72, 141.03, 134.77, 130.84, 116.27, 113.75, 112.33, 77.76, 72.66, 47.98, 26.52, 19.40. HRMS (ESI^+) for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{NaO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}$] $^+$: calcd 227.1043; found 227.1051.

7-Isopropyl-5-((2-methylallyl)oxy)bicyclo[4.2.0]octa-1,3,5-trien-7-ol (**1c**)



Following the general procedure, benzocyclobutenone **SI-1** (0.19 g, 1.0 mmol), *i*PrMgBr (1.0 M in THF, 1.5 mL, 1.5 mmol) and THF (5.0 mL) were used. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 2.5 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 40 : 1) afforded **1c** as a yellow liquid (0.21 g, 90% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.09 (s, 1H), 4.96 (s, 1H), 4.50 (d, *J* = 12.7 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (d, *J* = 12.7 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (s, 1H), 2.19 – 2.09 (m, 1H), 1.82 (s, 3H), 1.14 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.96 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.61, 143.74, 140.83, 134.73, 130.51, 116.20, 112.33, 111.89, 84.16, 72.01, 42.95, 35.55, 19.38, 17.87, 17.66. HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₁₅H₂₀NaO₂ [M + Na]⁺: calcd 255.1356; found 255.1348.

7-Cyclopropyl-5-((2-methylallyl)oxy)bicyclo[4.2.0]octa-1,3,5-trien-7-ol (**1d**)

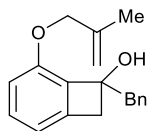


Following the general procedure, benzocyclobutenone **SI-1** (0.19 g, 1.0 mmol), cyclopropylmagnesium bromide (1.0 M in THF, 1.5 mL, 1.5 mmol) and THF (5.0 mL) were used. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **1d** as a yellow liquid (0.11 g, 47% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.18 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.08 (s, 1H), 4.96 (s, 1H), 4.51 (s, 2H), 3.26 (d, *J* = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (d, *J* = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 2.67 (brs, 1H), 1.83 (s, 3H), 1.47 – 1.40 (m, 1H), 0.74 – 0.67 (m, 1H), 0.56 – 0.47 (m, 2H), 0.29 – 0.22 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.60, 143.66, 140.86,

133.11, 130.69, 116.14, 112.34, 112.21, 81.39, 72.17, 45.18, 19.38, 18.95, 2.32, 2.16.

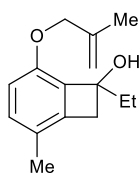
HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₁₅H₁₈NaO₂ [M + Na]⁺: calcd 253.1199; found 253.1206.

7-Benzyl-5-((2-methylallyl)oxy)bicyclo[4.2.0]octa-1,3,5-trien-7-ol (**1e**)



Following the general procedure, benzocyclobutenone **SI-1** (0.38 g, 2.0 mmol), benzylmagnesium bromide (1.0 M in THF, 3.0 mL, 3.0 mmol) and THF (7.0 mL) were used. The reaction was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 40 : 1) afforded **1e** as a yellow liquid (0.28 g, 50% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.31-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.24 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 5.12 (s, 1H), 5.01 (s, 1H), 4.58 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 3.44 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (d, *J* = 13.7 Hz, 1H), 3.24 (d, *J* = 13.7 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (s, 1H), 1.86 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.88, 142.66, 140.92, 137.31, 134.26, 130.85, 130.04, 128.06, 126.47, 116.15, 113.15, 112.21, 79.79, 72.51, 45.30, 44.92, 19.33. HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₁₉H₂₀NaO₂ [M + Na]⁺: calcd 303.1356; found 303.1355.

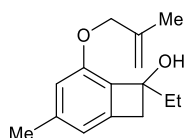
7-Ethyl-2-methyl-5-((2-methylallyl)oxy)bicyclo[4.2.0]octa-1,3,5-trien-7-ol (**1f**)



Following the general procedure, benzocyclobutenone **SI-2** (0.61 g, 3.0 mmol), EtMgBr (2.0 M in THF, 2.3 mL, 4.5 mmol) and THF (9.0 mL) were used. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 40 : 1) afforded **1f** as a colorless liquid (0.31 g, 44% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.07 (s, 1H), 4.95 (s, 1H), 4.51 (d, *J* = 12.7 Hz, 1H),

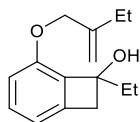
4.45 (d, $J = 12.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.23 (d, $J = 13.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.96 (d, $J = 13.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.51 (brs, 1H), 2.13 (s, 3H), 2.07 – 1.97 (m, 1H), 1.95 – 1.86 (m, 1H), 1.81 (s, 3H), 1.04 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 150.64, 141.34, 140.94, 133.80, 130.81, 125.48, 113.33, 112.01, 80.09, 72.30, 43.60, 32.09, 19.23, 15.68, 9.16. HRMS (ESI⁺) for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{NaO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}$]⁺: calcd 255.1356; found 255.1347.

7-Ethyl-3-methyl-5-((2-methylallyl)oxy)bicyclo[4.2.0]octa-1,3,5-trien-7-ol (**1g**)



Following the general procedure, benzocyclobutenone **SI-3** (0.22 g, 1.1 mmol), EtMgBr (2.0 M in THF, 0.9 mL, 1.8 mmol) and THF (3.6 mL) were used. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 40 : 1) afforded **1g** as a colorless liquid (0.21 g, 82% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.60 (s, 1H), 6.56 (s, 1H), 5.10 (s, 1H), 4.96 (s, 1H), 4.55 (d, $J = 12.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.46 (d, $J = 12.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.26 (d, $J = 14.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.00 (d, $J = 14.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.77 (brs, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.06 – 1.97 (m, 1H), 1.95 – 1.86 (m, 1H), 1.83 (s, 3H), 1.03 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 152.69, 143.05, 141.03, 140.99, 131.19, 116.86, 113.84, 112.13, 80.64, 72.43, 44.71, 32.22, 21.97, 19.35, 9.26. HRMS (ESI⁺) for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{NaO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}$]⁺: calcd 255.1356; found 255.1349.

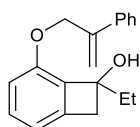
7-Ethyl-5-(2-methylenebutoxy)bicyclo[4.2.0]octa-1,3,5-trien-7-ol (**1h**)



Following the general procedure, benzocyclobutenone **SI-4** (2.02 g, 10.0 mmol), EtMgBr (2.0 M in THF, 7.5 mL, 15 mmol) and THF (30.0 mL) were used. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 1.5 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 10 : 1) afforded **1h** as a light yellow liquid (1.71 g, 73% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.20 (dd, $J =$

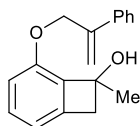
7.8 Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.78 – 6.68 (m, 2H), 5.12 (s, 1H), 4.97 (s, 1H), 4.59 (d, $J = 12.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.51 (d, $J = 12.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.29 (d, $J = 14.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.04 (d, $J = 14.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.73 (brs, 1H), 2.16 (q, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.10 – 1.84 (m, 2H), 1.11 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H), 1.03 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 152.86, 146.46, 143.21, 134.41, 130.64, 116.13, 112.82, 110.40, 81.05, 71.62, 45.00, 32.15, 25.77, 11.92, 9.23. HRMS (ESI^+) for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{NaO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}$] $^+$: calcd 255.1356; found 255.1358.

7-Ethyl-5-((2-phenylallyl)oxy)bicyclo[4.2.0]octa-1,3,5-trien-7-ol (**1i**)



Following the general procedure, benzocyclobutenone **SI-5** (0.83 g, 3.3 mmol), EtMgBr (1.0 M in THF, 5.0 mL, 5.0 mmol) and THF (10.0 mL) were used. The reaction was stirred at -20 °C for 12 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **1i** as a yellow liquid (0.80 g, 86% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.48 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.40 – 7.28 (m, 3H), 7.22 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.78 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 5.59 (s, 1H), 5.48 (s, 1H), 5.07 (d, $J = 12.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.96 (d, $J = 12.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.32 (d, $J = 14.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.06 (d, $J = 14.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.35 (brs, 1H), 2.06 – 1.97 (m, 1H), 1.94 – 1.85 (m, 1H), 0.98 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 152.70, 143.26, 143.21, 138.32, 134.49, 130.76, 128.43, 127.93, 126.01, 116.43, 114.33, 113.30, 81.17, 70.60, 45.08, 32.23, 9.20. HRMS (ESI^+) for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{NaO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}$] $^+$: calcd 303.1356; found 303.1360.

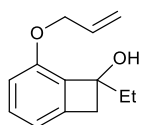
7-Methyl-5-((2-phenylallyl)oxy)bicyclo[4.2.0]octa-1,3,5-trien-7-ol (**1j**)



Following the general procedure, benzocyclobutenone **SI-5** (0.50 g, 2.0 mmol), MeMgBr (3.0 M in 2-MeTHF, 1.0 mL, 3.0 mmol) and THF (6.0 mL) were used. The reaction was stirred at 0 °C for 2 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica

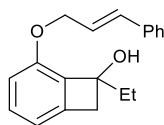
gel (petroleum ether : dichloromethane = 2 : 3) afforded **1j** as a yellow liquid (0.22 g, 41% yield). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.25 – 7.21 (m, 1H), 6.81 – 6.75 (m, 2H), 5.61 (s, 1H), 5.49 (s, 1H), 5.14 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 5.01 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (d, *J* = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (d, *J* = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (brs, 1H), 1.73 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.58, 143.21, 142.75, 138.28, 134.86, 130.89, 128.46, 127.95, 125.98, 116.49, 114.32, 114.14, 77.85, 70.86, 48.04, 26.72. HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₁₈H₁₈NaO₂ [M + Na]⁺: calcd 289.1199; found 289.1202.

5-(Allyloxy)-7-ethylbicyclo[4.2.0]octa-1,3,5-trien-7-ol (**1k**)



Following the general procedure, benzocyclobutenone **SI-6** (0.10 g, 0.6 mmol), EtMgBr (2.0 M in THF, 0.5 mL, 1.0 mmol) and THF (2.5 mL) were used. The reaction was stirred at 0 °C for 2 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **1k** as a yellow liquid (0.10 g, 82% yield). δ 7.20 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.08 – 5.99 (m, 1H), 5.43 – 5.38 (m, 1H), 5.27 – 5.24 (m, 1H), 4.68 – 4.56 (m, 2H), 3.30 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (brs, 1H), 2.08 – 1.99 (m, 1H), 1.95 – 1.86 (m, 1H), 1.02 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.72, 143.23, 134.39, 133.37, 130.72, 117.19, 116.26, 113.09, 81.11, 69.65, 45.08, 32.20, 9.23. HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₁₃H₁₆NaO₂ [M + Na]⁺: calcd 227.1043; found 227.1050.

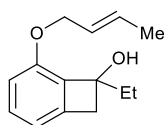
5-(Cinnamyloxy)-7-ethylbicyclo[4.2.0]octa-1,3,5-trien-7-ol (**1l**)



Then following the general procedure, compound **SI-7** (0.13 g, 0.5 mmol), EtMgBr (2.0 M in THF, 0.4 mL, 0.8 mmol) and THF (3.0 mL) were used. The reaction was

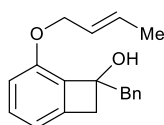
stirred at -20 °C for 2 h. Purification by column chromatography on neutral aluminum oxide (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **1l** as a light yellow liquid (0.10 g, 72% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.41 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (dd, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.28 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 6.79 – 6.71 (m, 3H), 6.44 – 6.37 (m, 1H), 4.86 – 4.75 (m, 2H), 3.33 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 2.49 (brs, 1H), 2.12 – 2.03 (m, 1H), 1.99 – 1.90 (m, 1H), 1.05 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.79, 143.26, 136.43, 134.37, 132.61, 130.81, 128.54, 127.81, 126.52, 124.62, 116.32, 113.28, 81.18, 69.62, 45.14, 32.25, 9.29.

(E)-5-(But-2-en-1-yloxy)-7-ethylbicyclo[4.2.0]octa-1,3,5-trien-7-ol (1m)



Following the general procedure, benzocyclobutenone **SI-8** (0.56 g, 3.0 mmol), EtMgBr (1.0 M in THF, 4.5 mL, 4.5 mmol) and THF (15.0 mL) were used. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 1.5 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **1m** as a yellow liquid (0.40 g, 61% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.19 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.89 – 5.79 (m, 1H), 5.73 – 5.66 (m, 1H), 4.60 – 4.56 (m, 1H), 4.54 – 4.49 (m, 1H), 3.30 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 2.49 (brs, 1H), 2.08 – 1.99 (m, 1H), 1.95 – 1.86 (m, 1H), 1.75 (dd, *J* = 6.4, 1.2 Hz, 3H), 1.02 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.90, 143.19, 134.32, 130.71, 130.12, 126.22, 116.07, 113.23, 81.15, 69.75, 45.05, 32.24, 17.83, 9.24. HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₁₄H₁₈NaO₂ [M + Na]⁺: calcd 241.1199; found 241.1205.

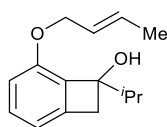
(E)-7-Benzyl-5-(but-2-en-1-yloxy)bicyclo[4.2.0]octa-1,3,5-trien-7-ol (1n)



Following the general procedure, benzocyclobutenone **SI-8** (0.38 g, 2.0 mmol),

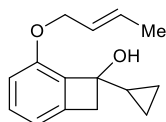
benzylmagnesium bromide (1.0 M in THF, 3.0 mL, 3.0 mmol) and THF (10.0 mL) were used. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **1n** as a yellow liquid (0.67 g, >99% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33 – 7.22 (m, 6H), 6.78 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 5.91 – 5.82 (m, 1H), 5.76 – 5.69 (m, 1H), 4.60 (dd, *J* = 11.6, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 4.52 (dd, *J* = 11.7, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 3.36 (d, *J* = 13.7 Hz, 1H), 3.24 (d, *J* = 13.7 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (brs, 1H), 1.81 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.77, 142.64, 137.35, 134.26, 130.77, 130.05, 130.02, 127.97, 126.36, 126.18, 115.98, 113.08, 79.81, 69.70, 45.36, 44.79, 17.74. HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₁₉H₂₀NaO₂ [M + Na]⁺: calcd 303.1356; found 303.1360.

(E)-5-(But-2-en-1-yloxy)-7-isopropylbicyclo[4.2.0]octa-1,3,5-trien-7-ol (1o)



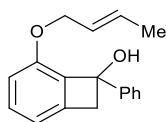
Following the general procedure, benzocyclobutenone **SI-8** (0.38 g, 2.0 mmol), ⁱPrMgBr (1.0 M in THF, 3.0 mL, 3.0 mmol) and THF (10.0 mL) were used. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **1o** as a yellow liquid (0.34 g, 72% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.19 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.87 – 5.78 (m, 1H), 5.72 – 5.64 (m, 1H), 4.55 – 4.46 (m, 2H), 3.30 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 2.92 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (s, 1H), 2.19 – 2.09 (m, 1H), 1.74 (dd, *J* = 6.4, 1.3 Hz, 3H), 1.12 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.92 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.70, 143.69, 134.63, 130.53, 129.93, 126.17, 116.06, 112.33, 84.18, 69.33, 42.78, 35.55, 17.93, 17.83, 17.64. HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₁₅H₂₀NaO₂ [M + Na]⁺: calcd 255.1356; found 255.1354.

(E)-5-(But-2-en-1-yloxy)-7-cyclopropylbicyclo[4.2.0]octa-1,3,5-trien-7-ol (1p)



Following the general procedure, benzocyclobutenone **SI-8** (0.38 g, 2.0 mmol), cyclopropylmagnesium bromide (1.0 M in THF, 3.0 mL, 3.0 mmol) and THF (10.0 mL) were used. The reaction was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 8 : 1) afforded **1p** as a yellow liquid (0.39 g, 84% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.88 – 5.79 (m, 1H), 5.73 – 5.66 (m, 1H), 4.55 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 3.24 (d, *J* = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (d, *J* = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 2.66 (brs, 1H), 1.74 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 1.46 – 1.40 (m, 1H), 0.70 – 0.64 (m, 1H), 0.55 – 0.46 (m, 2H), 0.25 – 0.20 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.67, 143.61, 133.11, 130.69, 130.03, 126.20, 116.01, 112.53, 81.42, 69.50, 45.06, 19.02, 17.80, 2.34, 2.23. HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₁₅H₁₈NaO₂ [M + Na]⁺: calcd 253.1199; found 253.1194.

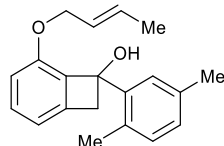
(E)-5-(But-2-en-1-yloxy)-7-phenylbicyclo[4.2.0]octa-1,3,5-trien-7-ol (1q)



Following the general procedure, benzocyclobutenone **SI-8** (0.56 g, 3.0 mmol), PhMgBr (1.0 M in THF, 4.5 mL, 4.5 mmol) and THF (15.0 mL) were used. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 1.5 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 40 : 1) afforded **1q** as a yellow liquid (0.55 g, 69% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.51 – 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.38 – 7.21 (m, 4H), 6.84 – 6.81 (m, 2H), 5.71 – 5.63 (m, 1H), 5.58 – 5.51 (m, 1H), 4.54 – 4.50 (m, 1H), 4.29 – 4.17 (m, 1H), 3.57 – 3.45 (m, 2H), 3.19 (brs, 1H), 1.68 (dd, *J* = 6.3, 1.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.66, 144.20, 143.72, 133.18, 131.33, 130.16, 128.25, 127.25, 126.08, 125.30, 116.12, 114.51, 81.14, 70.06, 50.44, 17.73. HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₁₈H₁₈NaO₂ [M + Na]⁺: calcd 289.1199; found 289.1198.

(E)-5-(But-2-en-1-yloxy)-7-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)bicyclo[4.2.0]octa-1,3,5-trien-7-ol

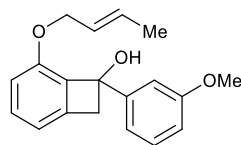
(1r)



Following the general procedure, benzocyclobutenone **SI-8** (0.38 g, 2.0 mmol), 2,5-dimethylphenylmagnesium bromide (1.0 M in THF, 3.0 mL, 3.0 mmol) and Et₂O (6.0 mL) were used. The reaction was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 40 : 1) afforded **1r** as a yellow liquid (0.39 g, 53% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 5.90 – 5.81 (m, 1H), 5.76 – 5.69 (m, 1H), 4.64 – 4.63 (m, 2H), 3.62 (d, *J* = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (d, *J* = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (s, 1H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 1.74 (dd, *J* = 6.3, 1.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.93, 143.43, 140.37, 134.59, 133.85, 133.67, 131.35, 131.18, 130.21, 128.51, 128.48, 126.08, 116.44, 112.58, 83.10, 69.55, 48.35, 20.94, 19.69, 17.84. HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₂₀H₂₂NaO₂ [M + Na]⁺: calcd 317.1512; found 317.1506.

(E)-5-(But-2-en-1-yloxy)-7-(3-methoxyphenyl)bicyclo[4.2.0]octa-1,3,5-trien-7-ol

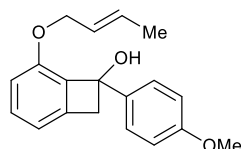
(1s)



Following the general procedure, benzocyclobutenone **SI-8** (0.56 g, 3.0 mmol), 3-methoxyphenylmagnesium bromide (1.0 M in THF, 4.5 mL, 4.5 mmol) and THF (15.0 mL) were used. The reaction was stirred at 0 °C for 3 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 40 : 1) afforded **1s** as a yellow liquid (0.59 g, 67% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.29 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 7.11 – 7.10 (m, 1H), 7.01 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.82 – 6.78 (m, 3H), 5.72 – 5.64

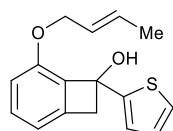
(m, 1H), 5.61 – 5.52 (m, 1H), 4.54 – 4.49 (m, 1H), 4.30 – 4.25 (m, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.50 (q, $J = 14.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.05 (brs, 1H), 1.67 (dd, $J = 6.4, 1.1$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.56, 152.57, 145.91, 143.69, 133.05, 131.33, 130.20, 129.29, 126.08, 117.75, 116.11, 114.34, 112.85, 111.03, 81.07, 69.96, 55.15, 50.31, 17.74.

(*E*)-5-(But-2-en-1-yloxy)-7-(4-methoxyphenyl)bicyclo[4.2.0]octa-1,3,5-trien-7-ol (1t)



Following the general procedure, benzocyclobutenone **SI-8** (0.56 g, 3.0 mmol), 4-methoxyphenylmagnesium bromide (1.0 M in THF, 4.5 mL, 4.5 mmol) and THF (15.0 mL) were used. The reaction was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 25 : 1) afforded **1t** as a yellow liquid (0.49 g, 56% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.40 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.25 (m, 1H), 6.86 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.82 – 6.78 (m, 2H), 5.74 – 5.63 (m, 1H), 5.62 – 5.53 (m, 1H), 4.55 – 4.51 (m, 1H), 4.31 – 4.27 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.51 (s, 2H), 2.75 (s, 1H), 1.68 (dd, $J = 6.3, 1.0$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.78, 152.70, 143.66, 136.52, 133.37, 131.28, 130.16, 126.66, 126.16, 116.16, 114.41, 113.57, 81.01, 70.10, 55.25, 50.41, 17.77. HRMS (ESI⁺) for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{NaO}_3$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}$]⁺: calcd 319.1305; found 319.1307.

(*E*)-5-(But-2-en-1-yloxy)-7-(thiophen-2-yl)bicyclo[4.2.0]octa-1,3,5-trien-7-ol (1u)⁶



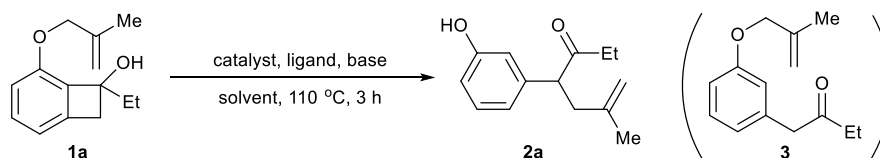
$^n\text{BuLi}$ (2.5 M in THF, 1.2 mL, 3.0 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of *o*-bromothiophene (0.29 mL, 3.0 mmol) in Et_2O (6.0 mL) at -78 °C. The solution was warmed to and stirred at room temperature for 1h. The mixture was re-cooled to -78 °C after the appearance of white solid. A solution of benzocyclobutenone **SI-8** (0.38 g, 2.0 mmol) in Et_2O (6.0 mL) was then added dropwise. After stirring at -78 °C for another 1 h, the reaction was warmed to room temperature and quenched with

saturated aqueous NH_4Cl solution. The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc for three times. The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 , filtered, and evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) to afford benzocyclobutenol **1u** as an orange liquid (0.38 g, 70% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.29 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 6.95 – 6.91 (m, 2H), 6.82 – 6.78 (m, 2H), 5.77 – 5.69 (m, 1H), 5.64 – 5.57 (m, 1H), 4.56 (dd, J = 11.7, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (dd, J = 11.6, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.62 (d, J = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (d, J = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 3.15 (s, 1H), 1.70 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 152.54, 148.85, 143.17, 133.15, 131.65, 130.26, 126.63, 126.08, 124.72, 123.81, 116.21, 114.40, 78.75, 70.13, 51.12, 17.77. HRMS (ESI⁺) for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{NaO}_2\text{S}$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}$]⁺: calcd 295.0763; found 295.0761.

III. Optimization of the reaction of benzocyclobutenol **1a**

To an oven-dried Schlenk tube with a stirring bar was successively added catalyst, ligand, base, and benzocyclobutenol **1a** (43.7 mg, 0.2 mmol). The tube was evacuated and backfilled with inert gas for three times and solvent (1.0 mL) was then added. The tube was directly placed in an oil bath at 110 °C and stirred for 3 h. The reaction mixture was then quenched with saturated aqueous NH_4Cl solution and extracted with EtOAc for three times. The combined organic phases were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 . The solvent was evaporated and the crude product was analyzed by ^1H NMR spectrometer.

Table S1. Optimization of the reaction of benzocyclobutenol **1a**.



Entry	Catalyst	Ligand	Base	Solvent	Yield (%) ^a
1	4 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂	8 mol% PPh ₃	1.5 equiv Cs ₂ CO ₃	1,4-dioxane	63
2	4 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂	8 mol% (<i>p</i> -MeOC ₆ H ₄) ₃ P	1.5 equiv Cs ₂ CO ₃	1,4-dioxane	57
3	4 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂	8 mol% dppm	1.5 equiv Cs ₂ CO ₃	1,4-dioxane	0 (62) ^b
4	4 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂	8 mol% dppe	1.5 equiv Cs ₂ CO ₃	1,4-dioxane	79
5	4 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂	8 mol% dppp	1.5 equiv Cs ₂ CO ₃	1,4-dioxane	69
6	4 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂	8 mol% dppb	1.5 equiv Cs ₂ CO ₃	1,4-dioxane	60
7	4 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂	8 mol% dppf	1.5 equiv Cs ₂ CO ₃	1,4-dioxane	62
8	4 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂	8 mol% dppe	1.5 equiv Cs ₂ CO ₃	DMF	64
9	4 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂	8 mol% dppe	1.5 equiv Cs ₂ CO ₃	CH ₃ CN	74
10	4 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂	8 mol% dppe	1.5 equiv Cs ₂ CO ₃	THF	57
11	4 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂	8 mol% dppe	1.5 equiv Na ₂ CO ₃	1,4-dioxane	0 (85) ^c
12	4 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂	8 mol% dppe	1.5 equiv K ₂ CO ₃	1,4-dioxane	73
13	4 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂	8 mol% dppe	1.5 equiv KHCO ₃	1,4-dioxane	48 (14) ^b
14	4 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂	8 mol% dppe	1.5 equiv NaHCO ₃	1,4-dioxane	41(18) ^b
15	4 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂	8 mol% dppe	1.5 equiv CsF	1,4-dioxane	38 (16) ^b
16	4 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂	8 mol% dppe	1.5 equiv K ₃ PO ₄	1,4-dioxane	81
17 ^d	4 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂	8 mol% dppe	1.5 equiv K ₃ PO ₄	1,4-dioxane	12 (41) ^b
18	4 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂	8 mol% dppe	3.0 equiv K ₃ PO ₄	1,4-dioxane	74
19	4 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂	8 mol% dppe	0.5 equiv K ₃ PO ₄	1,4-dioxane	85
20	4 mol% Pd(acac) ₂	8 mol% dppe	0.5 equiv K ₃ PO ₄	1,4-dioxane	79
21	4 mol% PdCl ₂	8 mol% dppe	0.5 equiv K ₃ PO ₄	1,4-dioxane	0 (78) ^b
22	4 mol% Pd(PPh ₃) ₄	8 mol% dppe	0.5 equiv K ₃ PO ₄	1,4-dioxane	84
23	4 mol% Pd ₂ (dba) ₃	8 mol% dppe	0.5 equiv K ₃ PO ₄	1,4-dioxane	83
24	4 mol% Pd(OCOCF ₃) ₂	8 mol% dppe	0.5 equiv K ₃ PO ₄	1,4-dioxane	4 (66) ^b
25	2 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂	4 mol% dppe	0.5 equiv K ₃ PO ₄	1,4-dioxane	85 (86) ^e
26	1 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂	2 mol% dppe	0.5 equiv K ₃ PO ₄	1,4-dioxane	49
27	2 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂	2 mol% dppe	0.5 equiv K ₃ PO ₄	1,4-dioxane	30 (16) ^b
28	2 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂	4 mol% dppe	none	1,4-dioxane	unrepeatable
29	2 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂	none	0.5 equiv K ₃ PO ₄	1,4-dioxane	0 (74) ^b
30	none	none	0.5 equiv K ₃ PO ₄	1,4-dioxane	0 (78) ^b
31	none	none	none	1,4-dioxane	0

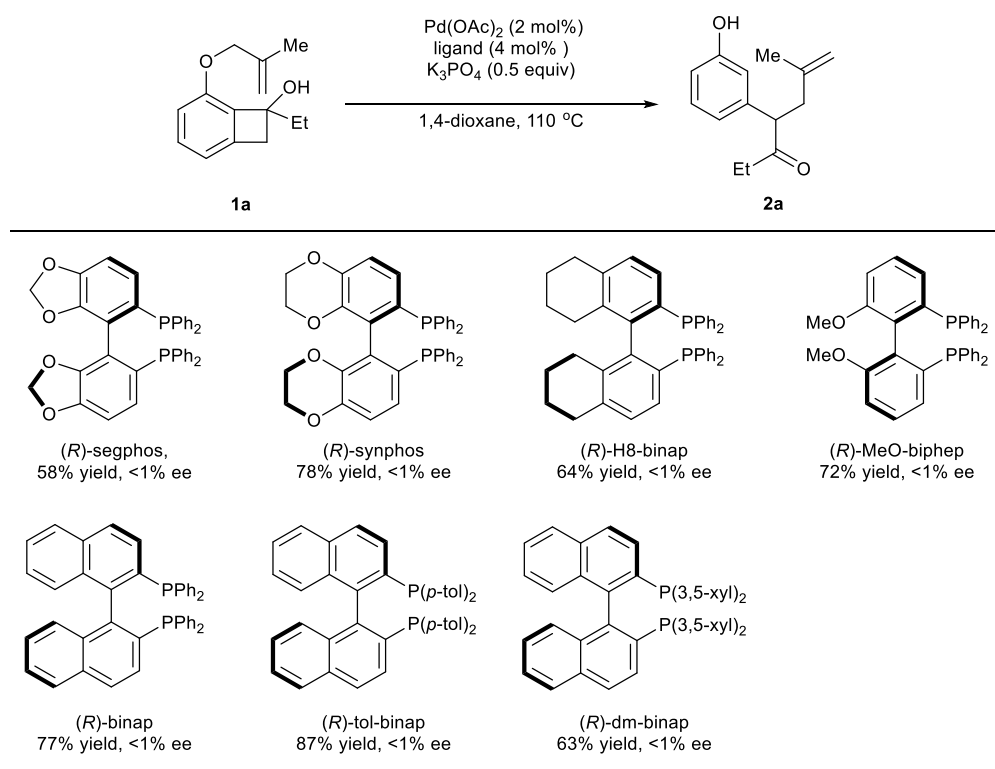
^a Yields were determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy using 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as the internal standard. ^b NMR yield of **3** was given in the parenthesis. ^c 85% of **1a** was unreacted as determined by crude ¹H NMR spectroscopy. ^d At 80 °C. ^e Isolated yield was given in the parenthesis. dppm = bis(diphenylphosphino)methane, dppe = 1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)ethane, dppp = 1,3-bis(diphenylphosphino)propane, dppb = 1,4-bis(diphenylphosphino)butane, dppf = 1,1'-Bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene.

IV. Optimization of the asymmetric synthesis of **2a**

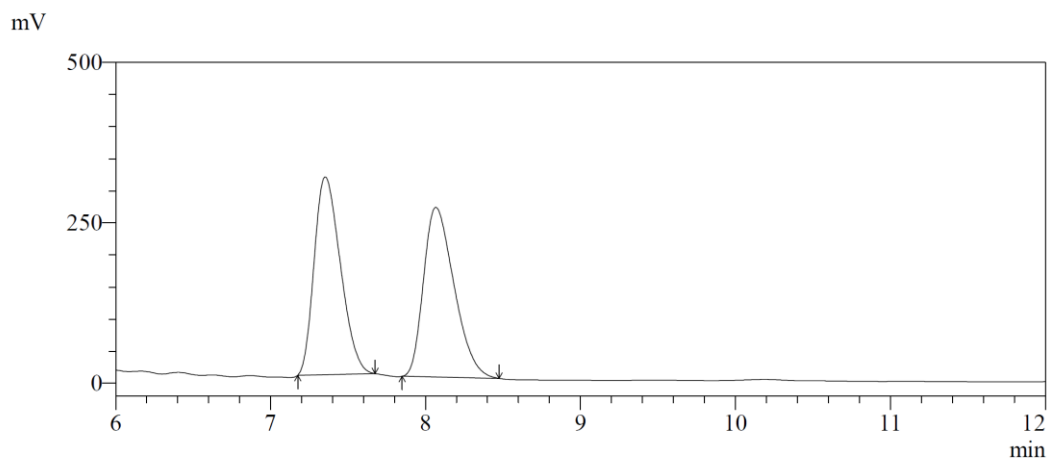
A solution of Pd(OAc)₂ in 1,4-dioxane (4.0 mM) was prepared, stored in the glove box and used for the catalytic reaction. To an oven-dried Schlenk tube with a stirring

bar was successively added ligand (8.0 μmol), K_3PO_4 (21.2 mg, 0.1 mmol), and benzocyclobutenol **1a** (43.7 mg, 0.2 mmol). The tube was evacuated and backfilled with inert gas for three times. After the addition of $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (1.0 mL, 4.0 μmol), the tube was directly placed in an oil bath at 110 $^\circ\text{C}$ and stirred for 3 h. The mixture was then quenched with saturated aqueous NH_4Cl solution and extracted with EtOAc for three times. The combined organic phases were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 . The solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) to afford **2a**. Pure **2a** was then analyzed by chiral HPLC to determine the enantiopurity.

Table S2. Optimization of the asymmetric synthesis of **2a^a**



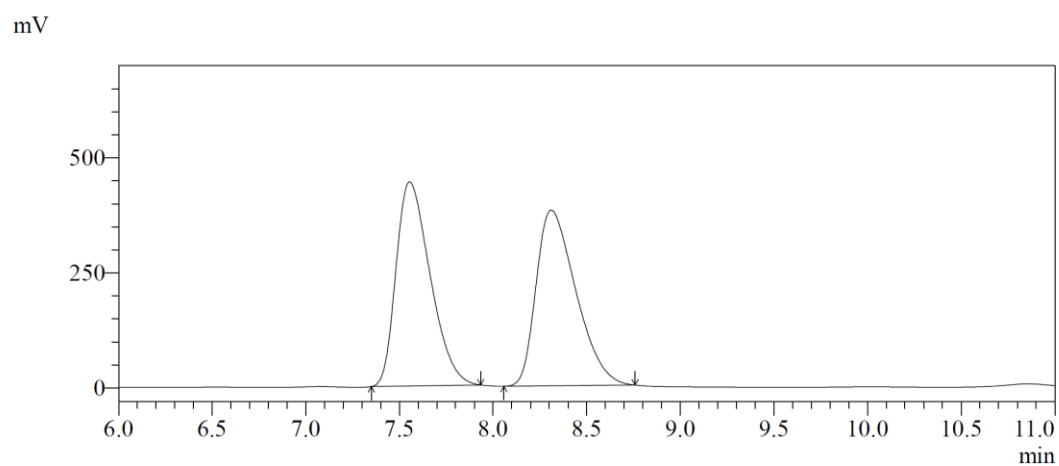
^a HPLC analysis: Chiralcel OD, eluent hexane:*i*-propanol 95%:5%, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, 25 $^\circ\text{C}$, 254 nm, $t_{\text{R}1}$ = 7.4 min and $t_{\text{R}2}$ = 8.1 min.



Peak Table

Detector A 254nm						
Peak#	Ret. Time	S/N	Noise	Area	Height	Area%
1	7.353	4.31	71427.41	3633758	308081	50.048
2	8.067	3.71	71427.41	3626815	264672	49.952
Total				7260572	572752	100.000

Figure S1 HPLC trace of racemic **2a**

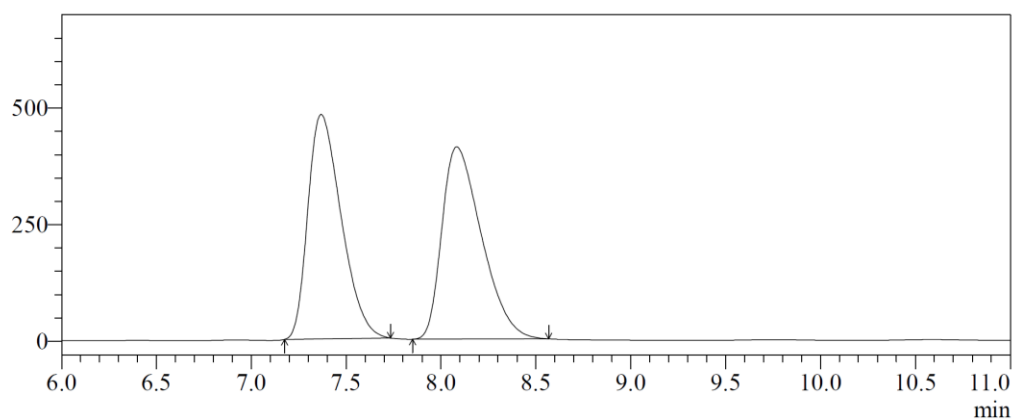


Peak Table

Detector A 254nm						
Peak#	Ret. Time	S/N	Noise	Area	Height	Area%
1	7.554	202.04	2193.26	5626605	443131	49.931
2	8.311	174.23	2193.26	5642197	382124	50.069
Total				11268801	825255	100.000

Figure S2 HPLC trace of **2a** obtained by using (*R*)-seghos as the ligand

mV



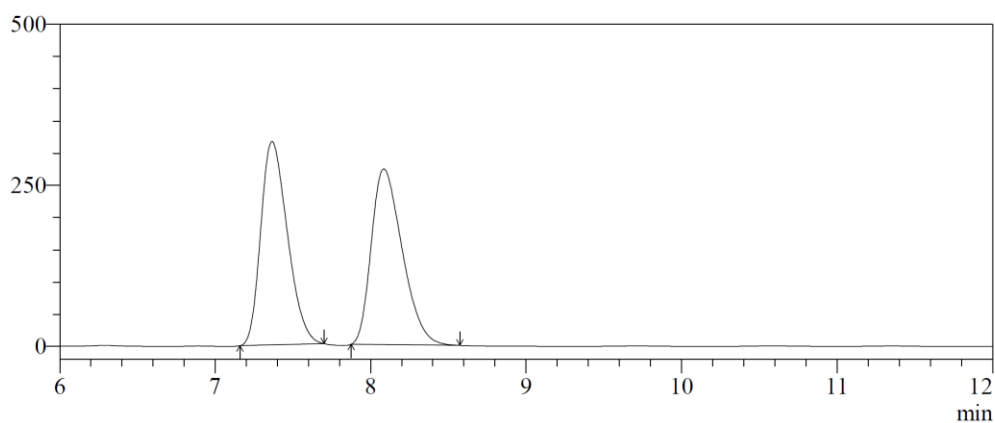
Peak Table

Detector A 254nm

Peak#	Ret. Time	S/N	Noise	Area	Height	Area%
1	7.368	325.70	1479.81	5887006	481977	49.560
2	8.083	278.78	1479.81	5991439	412542	50.440
Total				11878445	894519	100.000

Figure S3 HPLC trace of **2a** obtained by using (*R*)-synphos as the ligand

mV



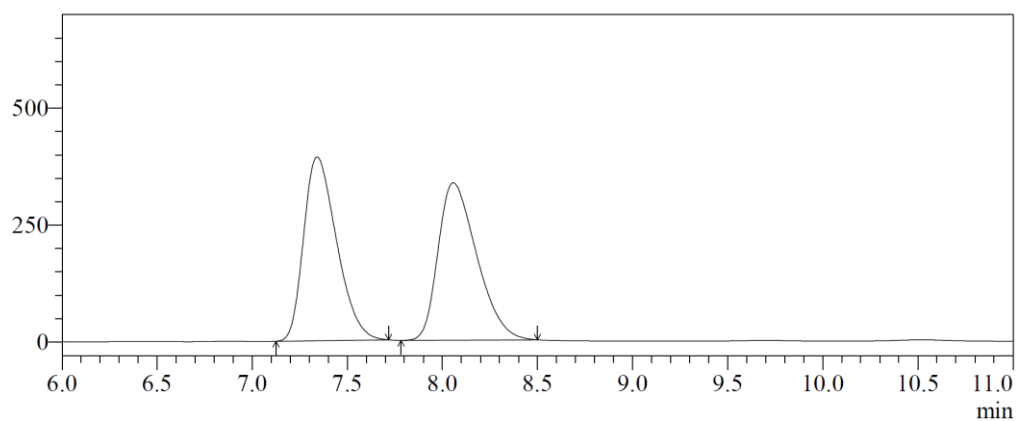
Peak Table

Detector A 254nm

Peak#	Ret. Time	S/N	Noise	Area	Height	Area%
1	7.366	237.42	1331.44	3773918	316111	49.998
2	8.085	204.90	1331.44	3774204	272808	50.002
Total				7548122	588919	100.000

Figure S4 HPLC trace of **2a** obtained by using (*R*)-H8-binap as the ligand

mV

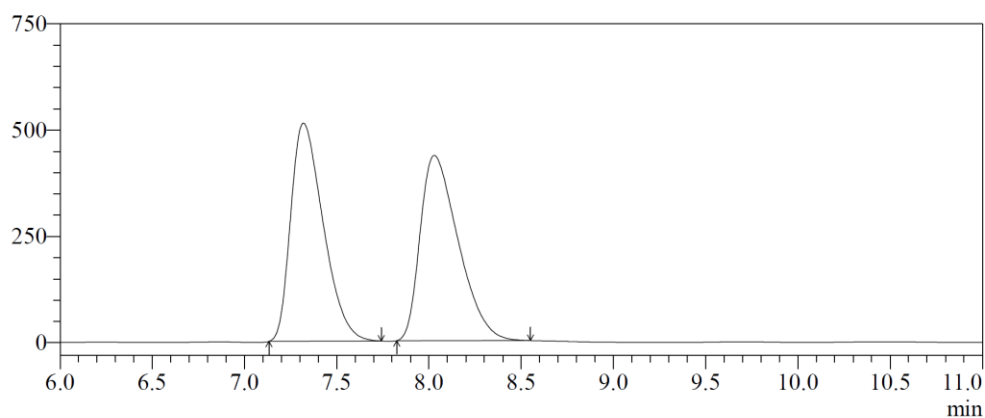


Peak Table

Detector A 254nm						
Peak#	Ret. Time	S/N	Noise	Area	Height	Area%
1	7.341	349.88	1124.29	4750522	393371	49.946
2	8.057	299.58	1124.29	4760860	336819	50.054
Total				9511382	730190	100.000

Figure S5 HPLC trace of **2a** obtained by using (*R*)-MeO-biphep as the ligand

mV



Peak Table

Detector A 254nm						
Peak#	Ret. Time	S/N	Noise	Area	Height	Area%
1	7.319	162.18	3164.17	6293285	513176	50.134
2	8.029	137.61	3164.17	6259583	435424	49.866
Total				12552868	948601	100.000

Figure S6 HPLC trace of **2a** obtained by using (*R*)-binap as the ligand

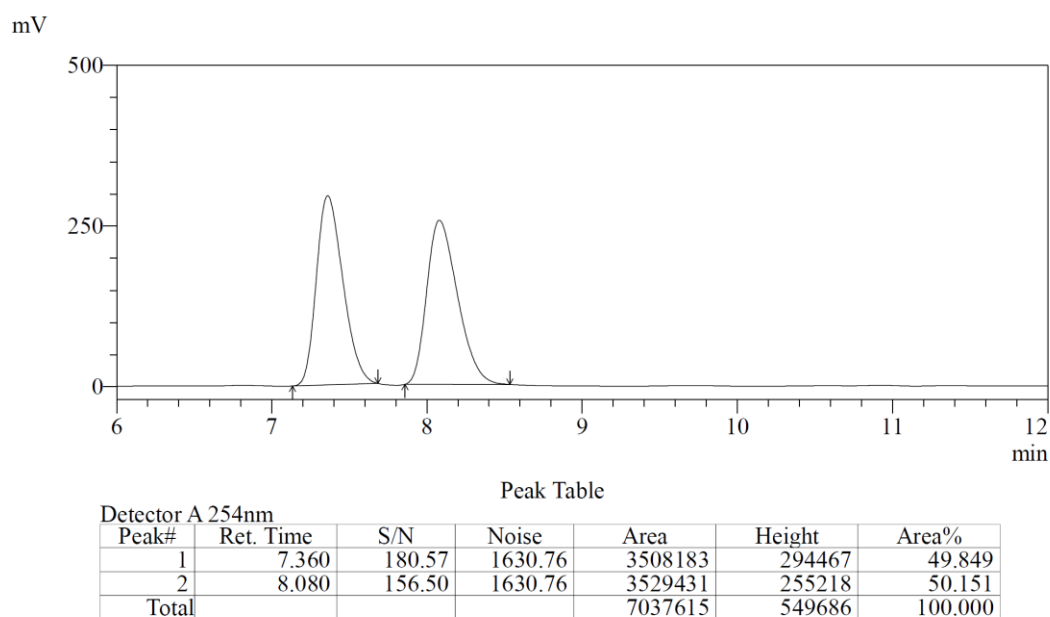


Figure S7 HPLC trace of **2a** obtained by using (*R*)-tol-binap as the ligand

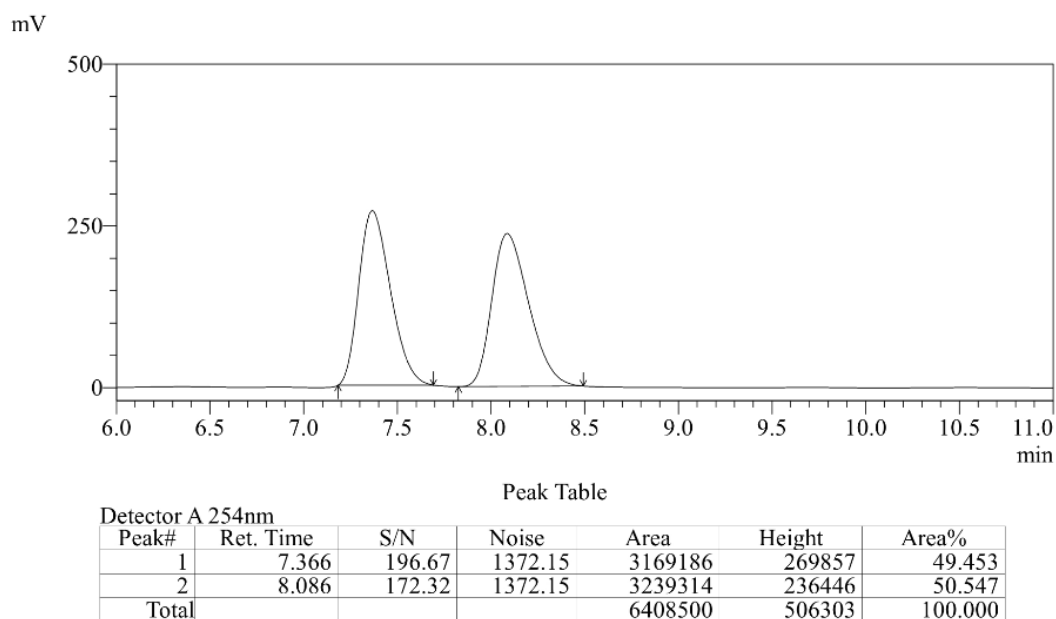


Figure S8 HPLC trace of **2a** by using (*R*)-dm-binap as the ligand

V. General procedure for the reactions of benzocyclobutenols

General procedure A: synthesis of *meta*- β -keto phenols

A solution of Pd(OAc)₂ in 1,4-dioxane (4.0 mM) was prepared, stored in the glove box and used for the catalytic reaction. To an oven-dried Schlenk tube with a stirring bar was successively added dppe (3.2 mg, 8.0 μ mol), K₃PO₄ (21.2 mg, 0.1 mmol), and

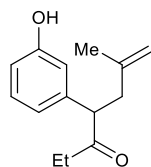
benzocyclobutenol **1** (0.2 mmol). The tube was evacuated and backfilled with inert gas for three times. After the addition of Pd(OAc)₂ (1.0 mL, 4.0 μmol), the tube was directly placed in an oil bath at 110 °C and stirred for 3 h. The mixture was then quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl solution and extracted with EtOAc for three times. The combined organic phases were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to afford the desired product **2** or **5**.

General procedure B: the distal C–C bond cleavage/deallylation cascade

A solution of Pd(OAc)₂ in 1,4-dioxane (5.0 mM) was prepared, stored in the glove box and used for the catalytic reaction. To an oven-dried Schlenk tube with a stirring bar was added K₃PO₄ (21.2 mg, 0.1 mmol), benzocyclobutenol **1** (0.2 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (0.5 mL). After stirring at 110 °C for 1h, the tube was cooled to room temperature. Pd(OAc)₂ (0.8 mL, 4.0 μmol) and dppe (3.2 mg, 8.0 μmol) were successively added. The resulting solution was stirred at 110 °C for additional 3 h. Saturated aqueous NH₄Cl solution was added and the mixture was extracted with EtOAc for three times. The combined organic phases were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to afford the desired product **6**.

VI. Characterizations of products **2**, **5** and **6**

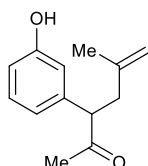
4-(3-Hydroxyphenyl)-6-methylhept-6-en-3-one (**2a**)



Following the general procedure A, benzocyclobutenol **1a** (43.7 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **2a** as a yellow liquid (37.6 mg, 86% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.30 (brs, 1H), 7.17 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 6.80 – 6.77 (m, 3H), 4.69 (s, 1H), 4.58 (s, 1H), 3.89 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (dd, *J* = 14.8, 8.0 Hz, 1H),

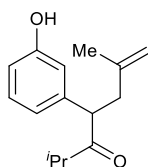
2.57 – 2.34 (m, 3H), 1.66 (s, 3H), 0.97 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 212.10, 156.45, 142.90, 140.20, 129.99, 120.65, 114.56, 114.54, 111.96, 56.73, 39.91, 35.27, 22.79, 7.79. HRMS (ESI^+) for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{NaO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}$] $^+$: calcd 241.1199; found 241.1208.

3-(3-Hydroxyphenyl)-5-methylhex-5-en-2-one (2b)



Following the general procedure A, benzocyclobutenol **1b** (40.9 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **2b** as a yellow liquid (37.8 mg, 93% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.19 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.90 – 6.50 (m, 4H), 4.71 (s, 1H), 4.60 (s, 1H), 3.87 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.79 (dd, $J = 14.9, 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.37 (dd, $J = 14.9, 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 1.67 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 209.73, 156.51, 142.74, 139.72, 130.06, 120.53, 114.67, 114.61, 111.97, 57.63, 39.45, 29.08, 22.75. HRMS (ESI^+) for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$] $^+$: calcd 205.1223; found 205.1215.

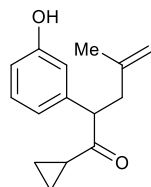
4-(3-Hydroxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethylhept-6-en-3-one (2c)



Following the general procedure A, benzocyclobutenol **1c** (46.5 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **2c** as a yellow liquid (28.5 mg, 61% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.17 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.79 – 6.76 (m, 3H), 6.56 (brs, 1H), 4.70 (s, 1H), 4.60 (s, 1H), 4.02 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.80 – 2.68 (m, 2H), 2.33 (dd, $J = 14.5, 6.7$ Hz, 1H), 1.67 (s, 3H), 1.08 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H), 0.92 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 215.12, 156.41, 142.90, 140.16, 129.97, 120.90, 114.54, 114.48,

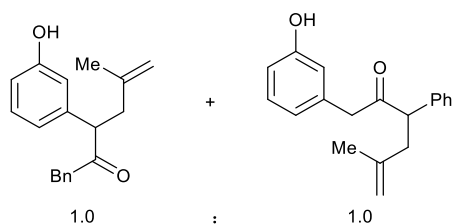
112.14, 55.48, 40.51, 40.16, 22.82, 18.79, 18.24. HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₁₅H₂₁O₂ [M + H]⁺: calcd 233.1536; found 233.1535.

1-Cyclopropyl-2-(3-hydroxyphenyl)-4-methylpent-4-en-1-one (2d)



Following the general procedure A, benzocyclobutenol **1d** (46.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **2d** as a yellow liquid (26.2 mg, 57% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.79 – 6.72 (m, 2H), 6.63 (s, 1H), 4.70 (s, 1H), 4.60 (s, 1H), 4.02 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.82 (dd, *J* = 14.9, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (dd, *J* = 14.9, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.01 – 1.93 (m, 1H), 1.67 (s, 3H), 1.03 – 0.98 (m, 2H), 0.90 – 0.84 (m, 1H), 0.80 – 0.74 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 211.50, 156.48, 142.91, 140.09, 129.95, 120.88, 114.68, 114.49, 111.87, 57.76, 39.81, 22.82, 20.62, 12.01, 11.72. HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₁₅H₁₈NaO₂ [M + Na]⁺: calcd 253.1199; found 253.1207.

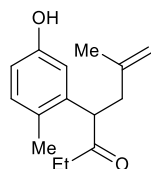
3-(3-Hydroxyphenyl)-5-methyl-1-phenylhex-5-en-2-one (2e) and 1-(3-hydroxyphenyl)-5-methyl-3-phenylhex-5-en-2-one (2e')



Following the general procedure B, benzocyclobutenol **1e** (56.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 10 : 1) afforded **2e** and **2e'** as an inseparable mixture in 1:1 ratio (27.3 mg, 49% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35 – 7.17 (m, 9H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 6.78 – 6.75 (m, 2H), 6.73 – 6.69 (m, 2H), 6.61 (d, *J* =

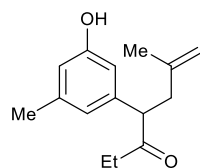
7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 5.94 (brs, 1H), 5.72 (brs, 1H), 4.65 (s, 2H), 4.51 (s, 2H), 4.02 – 3.94 (m, 2H), 3.67 (s, 2H), 3.60 (s, 2H), 2.83 – 2.74 (m, 2H), 2.37 – 2.29 (m, 2H), 1.58 (s, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 207.81, 207.66, 156.29, 155.90, 142.69, 142.67, 139.84, 138.19, 135.34, 133.77, 130.10, 129.77, 129.58, 128.91, 128.56, 128.42, 127.40, 126.97, 121.80, 120.89, 116.48, 114.90, 114.58, 114.13, 112.07, 112.02, 56.00, 55.85, 48.87, 48.69, 39.97, 39.91, 22.66, 22.62. HRMS (ESI^+) for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$: calcd 281.1536; found 281.1535.

4-(5-Hydroxy-2-methylphenyl)-6-methylhept-6-en-3-one (2f)



Following the general procedure A, benzocyclobutenol **1f** (46.5 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **2f** as a colorless solid (29.0 mg, 62% yield). M.p.: 67.5 – 68.3 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.06 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.80 – 6.60 (m, 3H), 4.70 (s, 1H), 4.59 (s, 1H), 4.14 (dd, $J = 8.1, 6.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.81 (dd, $J = 14.7, 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.47 – 2.36 (m, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.24 (dd, $J = 14.7, 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.67 (s, 3H), 0.98 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 212.49, 154.80, 143.22, 138.15, 131.89, 127.22, 114.30, 113.67, 111.77, 52.34, 39.79, 35.58, 22.98, 19.05, 7.87. Elemental Anal. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_2$: calcd C 77.55%, H 8.68%, found C 77.42%, H 8.45%.

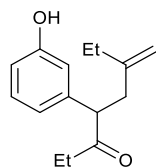
4-(3-Hydroxy-5-methylphenyl)-6-methylhept-6-en-3-one (2g)



Following the general procedure A, benzocyclobutenol **1g** (46.5 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used and the reaction time was 8 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica

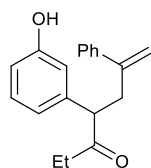
gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **2g** as a yellow solid (34.3 mg, 74% yield). M.p.: 75.4 – 76.1 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.60 – 6.57 (m, 3H), 6.47 (brs, 1H), 4.70 (s, 1H), 4.59 (s, 1H), 3.83 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (dd, *J* = 14.8, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 2.54 – 2.30 (m, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 1.67 (s, 3H), 0.97 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 212.02, 156.30, 143.04, 140.12, 140.01, 121.45, 115.19, 111.78, 111.68, 56.70, 39.85, 35.22, 22.84, 21.32, 7.79. HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₁₅H₂₁O₂ [M + H]⁺: calcd 233.1536; found 233.1532.

4-(3-Hydroxyphenyl)-6-methyleneoctan-3-one (**2h**)



Following the general procedure A, benzocyclobutenol **1h** (46.5 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used and the reaction was placed directly in an oil bath at 110 °C for 5 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **2h** as a yellow liquid (30.5 mg, 66% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.17 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.79 – 6.75 (m, 3H), 4.71 (s, 1H), 4.61 (s, 1H), 3.89 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.83 (dd, *J* = 14.9, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 2.56 – 2.33 (m, 3H), 1.96 (q, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 0.98 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 0.97 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 212.19, 156.45, 148.53, 140.32, 129.98, 120.65, 114.55, 114.51, 109.49, 56.85, 38.43, 35.37, 29.11, 12.17, 7.79. HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₁₅H₂₁O₂ [M + H]⁺: calcd 233.1536; found 233.1538.

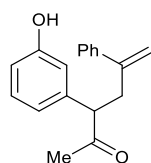
4-(3-Hydroxyphenyl)-6-phenylhept-6-en-3-one (**2i**)



Following the general procedure A, benzocyclobutenol **1i** (56.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl

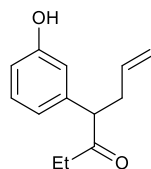
acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **2i** as a colorless liquid (41.8 mg, 75% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34 – 7.29 (m, 5H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (brs, 1H), 6.81-6.78 (m, 2H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 5.19 (s, 1H), 4.94 (s, 1H), 3.80 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.36 (dd, *J* = 14.5, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.84 (dd, *J* = 14.5, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.48 – 2.38 (m, 1H), 2.33 – 2.23 (m, 1H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 212.30, 156.49, 145.54, 140.51, 140.02, 129.97, 128.39, 127.54, 126.27, 120.74, 114.82, 114.57, 114.51, 56.63, 38.14, 35.63, 7.73. HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₁₉H₂₀NaO₂ [M + Na]⁺: calcd 303.1356; found 303.1356.

3-(3-Hydroxyphenyl)-5-phenylhex-5-en-2-one (2j)



Following the general procedure A, benzocyclobutenol **1j** (53.3 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **2j** as a yellow liquid (38.1 mg, 71% yield). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35 – 7.31 (m, 4H), 7.31 – 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.68 – 6.66 (m, 2H), 6.10 (brs, 1H), 5.18 (s, 1H), 4.92 (s, 1H), 3.74 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (dd, *J* = 14.7, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (dd, *J* = 14.7, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.02 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 209.17, 156.36, 145.47, 140.56, 139.80, 130.06, 128.41, 127.57, 126.30, 120.85, 114.86, 114.66, 114.60, 57.56, 37.73, 29.48. HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₁₈H₁₈NaO₂ [M + Na]⁺: calcd 289.1199; found 289.1202.

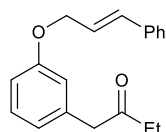
4-(3-Hydroxyphenyl)hept-6-en-3-one (2k)



Following the general procedure A, benzocyclobutenol **1k** (40.9 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **2k** as a light brown liquid (26.5 mg, 65% yield). ¹H NMR

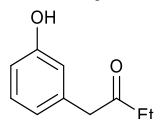
(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.19 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.79 – 6.76 (m, 3H), 5.70 – 5.60 (m, 1H), 5.03 – 4.93 (m, 2H), 3.71 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.80 – 2.73 (m, 1H), 2.54 – 2.34 (m, 3H), 0.97 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 211.99, 156.46, 139.94, 135.57, 130.07, 120.76, 116.71, 114.59, 114.50, 58.25, 36.38, 35.29, 7.80. HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₁₃H₁₆NaO₂ [M + Na]⁺: calcd 227.1043; found 227.1046.

1-(3-(Cinnamyloxy)phenyl)butan-2-one (2l)



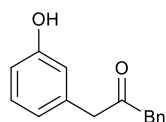
Following the general procedure A, benzocyclobutenol **1l** (56.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used and the reaction time was 4 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 40 : 1) afforded **2l** as a colorless liquid (14.0 mg, 25% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.42 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.26 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 6.87 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.81 – 6.80 (m, 2H), 6.73 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.41 (dt, J = 15.9, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 3.66 (s, 2H), 2.48 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.01 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 208.95, 158.81, 136.36, 135.94, 133.05, 129.72, 128.57, 127.89, 126.54, 124.26, 121.94, 115.85, 113.21, 68.54, 49.89, 35.12, 7.73.

1-(3-Hydroxyphenyl)butan-2-one (5a)



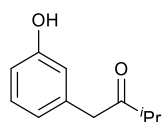
Following the general procedure A, benzocyclobutenol **1m** (43.7 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **5a** as a colorless liquid (29.8 mg, 91% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.17 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.76 – 6.71 (m, 3H), 6.56 (brs, 1H), 3.64 (s, 2H), 2.50 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.03 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 210.89, 156.24, 135.54, 129.89, 121.38, 116.18, 114.26, 49.65, 35.23, 7.71. HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₁₀H₁₂NaO₂ [M + Na]⁺: calcd 187.0730; found 187.0731.

1-(3-Hydroxyphenyl)-3-phenylpropan-2-one (5b)



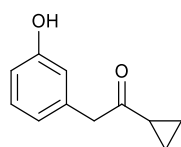
Following the general procedure A, benzocyclobutenol **1n** (56.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **5b** as a yellow liquid (24.0 mg, 53% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.34 – 7.24 (m, 3H), 7.19 – 7.14 (m, 3H), 6.74 – 6.69 (m, 2H), 6.63 – 6.62 (m, 1H), 3.73 (s, 2H), 3.67 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 206.89, 156.11, 135.23, 133.72, 129.93, 129.48, 128.72, 127.11, 121.65, 116.35, 114.33, 49.00, 48.92. HRMS (ESI $^+$) for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{NaO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}$] $^+$: calcd 249.0886; found 249.0885.

1-(3-Hydroxyphenyl)-3-methylbutan-2-one (5c)



Following the general procedure A, benzocyclobutenol **1o** (46.5 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **5c** as a yellow liquid (26.9 mg, 76% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.16 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.74 – 6.69 (m, 3H), 6.36 (brs, 1H), 3.70 (s, 2H), 2.80 – 2.70 (m, 1H), 1.10 (s, 3H), 1.09 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 213.59, 156.17, 135.59, 129.80, 121.50, 116.32, 114.19, 47.60, 40.10, 18.29. HRMS (ESI $^+$) for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{14}\text{NaO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}$] $^+$: calcd 201.0886; found 201.0885.

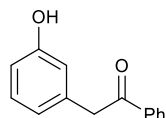
1-Cyclopropyl-2-(3-hydroxyphenyl)ethan-1-one (5d)



Following the general procedure A, benzocyclobutenol **1p** (46.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **5d** as a yellow liquid (20.6 mg, 59% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.17 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.79 – 6.66 (m, 3H), 3.77 (s, 2H), 2.03 – 1.97

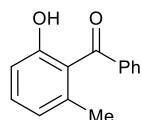
(m, 1H), 1.09 – 1.03 (m, 2H), 0.91 – 0.86 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 210.20, 156.32, 135.54, 129.86, 121.53, 116.34, 114.26, 50.49, 20.30, 11.84. HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₁₁H₁₃O₂ [M + H]⁺: calcd 177.0910; found 177.0910.

2-(3-Hydroxyphenyl)-1-phenylethan-1-one (5e)



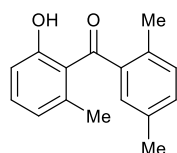
Following the general procedure A, benzocyclobutenol **1q** (53.3 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **5e** as a yellow liquid (11.6 mg, 27% yield) and **6a** (26.5 mg, 62%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.76 – 6.72 (m, 2H), 5.51 (brs, 1H), 4.23 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.09, 155.94, 136.35, 135.98, 133.35, 129.90, 128.68, 128.67, 121.73, 116.35, 114.09, 45.35.

(2-Hydroxy-6-methylphenyl)(phenyl)methanone (6a)



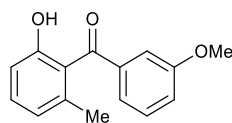
Following the general procedure B, benzocyclobutenol **1q** (53.3 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : dichloromethane = 1 : 1) afforded **6a** as a light yellow liquid (38.5 mg, 91% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.62 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.00 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.01, 158.08, 139.67, 138.53, 133.01, 128.98, 128.69, 123.32, 122.77, 114.88, 22.23. HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₁₄H₁₃O₂ [M + H]⁺: calcd 213.0910; found 213.0910.

(2,5-Dimethylphenyl)(2-hydroxy-6-methylphenyl)methanone (6b)



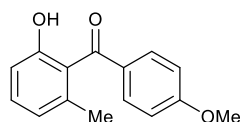
Following the general procedure B, benzocyclobutenol **1r** (58.9 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **6b** as a yellow solid (35.1 mg, 73% yield). M.p.: 96.7 – 97.1 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.08 (s, 1H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.20 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.31 (s, 6H), 1.84 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 204.54, 161.61, 141.21, 140.15, 135.65, 134.66, 132.39, 131.45, 131.22, 127.97, 122.89, 122.05, 115.83, 22.62, 20.77, 19.19. Elemental Anal. for C₁₆H₁₆O₂: calcd C 79.97%, H 6.71%, found C 79.59%, H 6.87%.

(2-Hydroxy-6-methylphenyl)(3-methoxyphenyl)methanone (**6c**)



Following the general procedure B, benzocyclobutenol **1s** (59.3 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : dichloromethane = 1 : 1) afforded **6c** as a yellow liquid (33.2 mg, 68% yield). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.36 (s, 1H), 7.26 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.22 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.05 – 7.03 (m, 1H), 6.78 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 1.95 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.64, 159.87, 157.73, 140.84, 138.47, 132.84, 129.71, 123.64, 122.74, 121.92, 119.44, 114.75, 112.96, 55.45, 21.90. HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₁₅H₁₅O₃ [M + H]⁺: calcd 243.1016; found 243.1017.

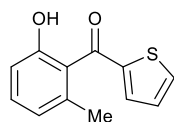
(2-Hydroxy-6-methylphenyl)(4-methoxyphenyl)methanone (**6d**)



Following the general procedure B, benzocyclobutenol **1t** (59.3 mg, 0.2 mmol) was

used. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : dichloromethane = 1 : 3) afforded **6d** as a yellow liquid (17.2 mg, 35% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.05 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.89, 163.82, 156.90, 137.88, 132.17, 131.88, 131.77, 124.27, 122.62, 114.58, 113.94, 55.50, 21.71. HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₁₅H₁₅O₃ [M + H]⁺: calcd 243.1016; found 243.1013.

(2-Hydroxy-6-methylphenyl)(thiophen-2-yl)methanone (**6e**)

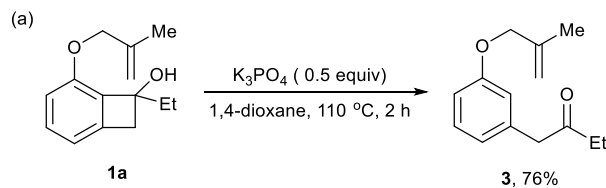


Following the general procedure B, benzocyclobutenol **1u** (54.5 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : dichloromethane = 1 : 4) afforded **6e** as a colorless liquid (18.0 mg, 41% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.73 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.20 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 2.21 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.13, 155.28, 144.70, 137.18, 135.37, 135.24, 131.78, 128.28, 125.39, 122.80, 114.32, 20.96. HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₁₂H₁₁O₂S [M + H]⁺: calcd 219.0474; found 219.0475.

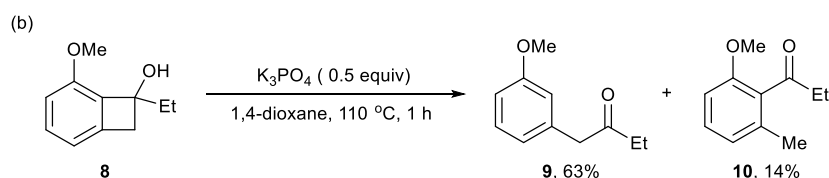
VII. Control experiments

i. The reaction of different benzocyclobutenols in the presence of K₃PO₄

To an oven-dried Schlenk tube with a stirring bar was added K₃PO₄ (21.2 mg, 0.1 mmol) and benzocyclobutenols. The tube was evacuated and backfilled with N₂ for three times. 1,4-Dioxane (1.0 mL) was then added. The tube was heated at 110 °C for 2 h. The mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl solution and extracted with EtOAc for three times. The combined organic phases were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to afford the ring-opening products.

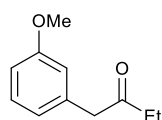


Benzocyclobutenol **1a** (43.7 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used and the reaction time was 2 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 50 : 1) afforded **3** as a yellow liquid (33.1 mg, 76% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.22 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.83 – 6.78 (m, 3H), 5.09 (s, 1H), 4.98 (s, 1H), 4.41 (s, 2H), 3.64 (s, 2H), 2.47 (q, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 1.83 (s, 3H), 1.02 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 208.97, 158.96, 140.78, 135.84, 129.61, 121.81, 115.82, 113.18, 112.73, 71.60, 49.87, 35.09, 19.42, 7.73.



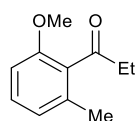
Benzocyclobutenol **8** (35.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used and the reaction time was 1h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 50 : 1) afforded **9** (22.5 mg) in 63% yield and **10** (5.1 mg) in 14% yield.

1-(3-Methoxyphenyl)butan-2-one (**9**)



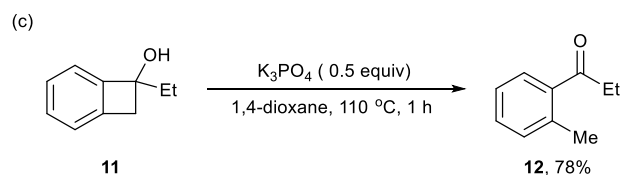
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.23 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.82 – 6.78 (m, 2H), 6.75 – 6.74 (m, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.65 (s, 2H), 2.47 (q, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 1.02 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 208.88, 159.77, 135.89, 129.63, 121.69, 114.95, 112.39, 55.14, 49.85, 35.08, 7.72.

1-(2-Methoxy-6-methylphenyl)propan-1-one (**10**)



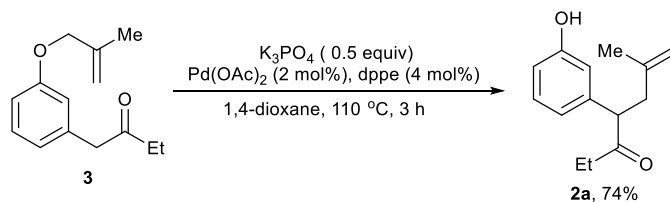
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.20 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.79 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.74

(d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.77 (q, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 1.16 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 208.94, 155.93, 135.20, 131.33, 129.55, 122.77, 108.15, 55.52, 37.72, 18.87, 7.78.



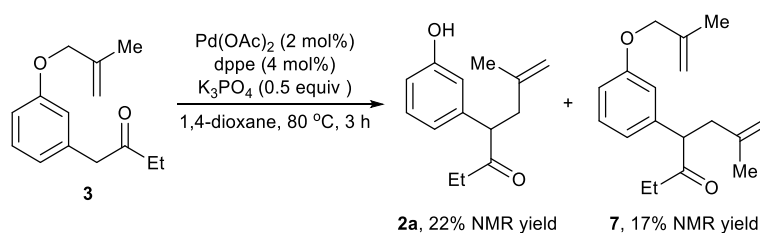
Benzocyclobutenol **11** (29.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used and the reaction time was 1h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : dichloromethane = 5 : 1) afforded ketone **12** as a colorless liquid (23.0 mg, 78% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.65 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.94 (q, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 1.22 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 205.15, 138.09, 137.83, 131.86, 131.02, 128.22, 125.61, 34.72, 21.24, 8.36.

ii. The reaction of ketone **3** under standard conditions



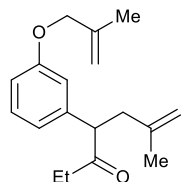
Following the general procedure A, ketone **3** (43.7 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used as the substrate. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) afforded **2a** (32.5 mg) in 74% yield.

iii. The reaction of ketone **3** at 80°C



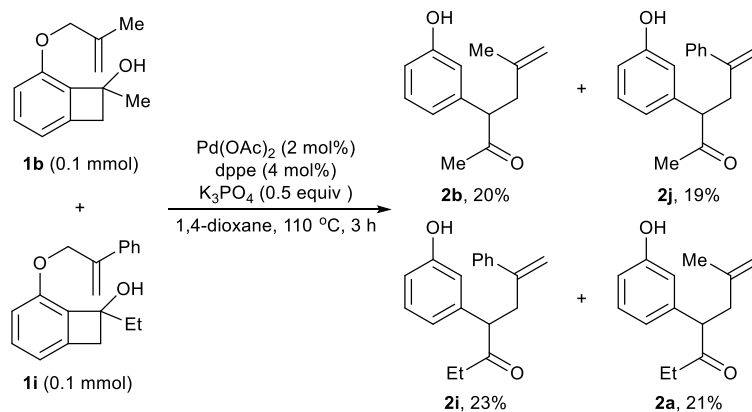
Following the general procedure A except that the reaction temperature was 80 °C, ketone **3a** (43.7 mg, 0.2 mmol) was used. The NMR yields of compound **2a** and **7** were 22% and 17%, respectively.

6-Methyl-4-(3-((2-methylallyl)oxy)phenyl)hept-6-en-3-one (**7**)

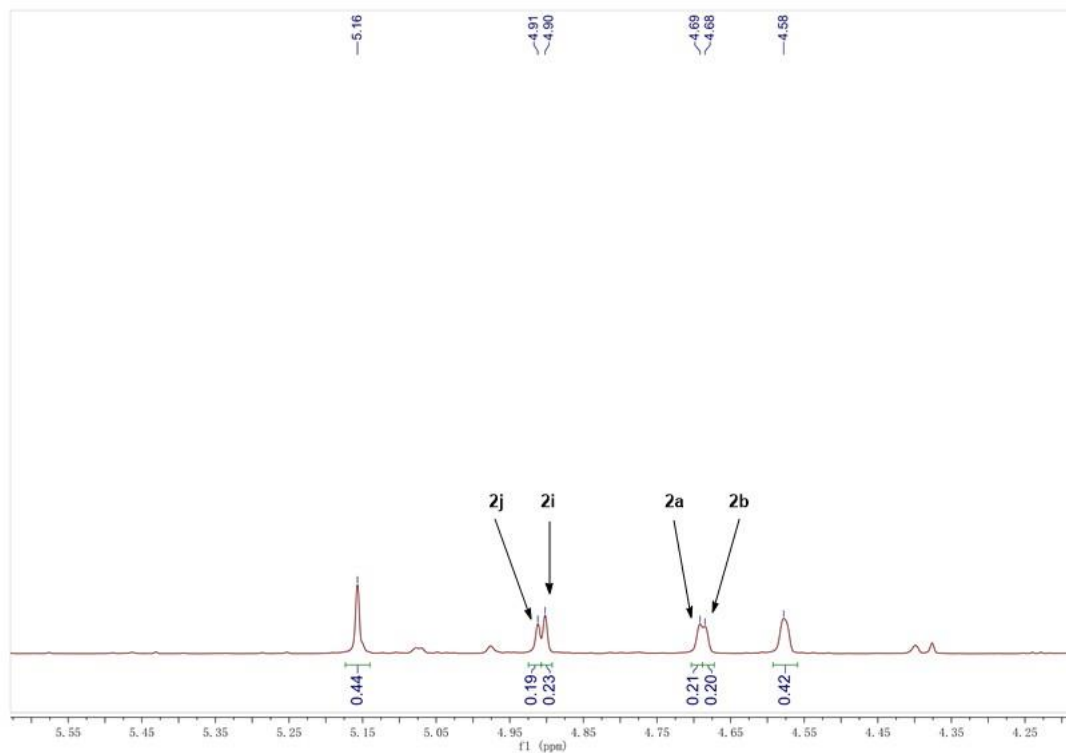


^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.21 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.81 – 6.79 (m, 3H), 5.09 (s, 1H), 4.98 (s, 1H), 4.69 (s, 1H), 4.59 (s, 1H), 4.41 (s, 2H), 3.84 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.81 (dd, $J = 14.8, 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.51 – 2.30 (m, 3H), 1.83 (s, 3H), 1.67 (s, 3H), 0.96 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 210.28, 159.00, 143.10, 140.77, 140.39, 129.65, 120.76, 114.66, 113.32, 112.79, 111.85, 71.63, 56.89, 39.86, 35.04, 22.82, 19.44, 7.82. HRMS (ESI $^+$) for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{NaO}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: calcd 295.1669; found 295.1671.

iv. The cross-over experiment



Following the general procedure A, benzocyclobutenols **1b** (21.8 mg, 0.1 mmol) and **1i** (28.0 mg, 0.1 mmol) were used as the substrates. After workup, the crude product was analyzed by ^1H NMR spectrometer. It was found that compounds **2a**, **2b**, **2i** and **2j** were formed in a ratio of around 1:1:1:1.



VIII. Mechanistic studies by DFT calculations

i. Computational details

All of the calculations were performed with the Gaussian 09 package⁷ using B3LYP-D3(BJ) functional.⁸ Geometry optimizations were carried out with the def2-SVP⁹ basis set. Vibrational frequencies were computed analytically at the same level of theory to confirm whether the structures are minima (no imaginary frequencies) or transition states (only one imaginary frequency). Selected key transition-state structures were confirmed to connect corresponding reactants and products by intrinsic reaction coordinate (IRC) calculations.¹⁰ To obtain better accuracy, energies of the optimized geometries were recalculated using the def2-TZVPP¹¹ basis set. Solvation effects (1,4-dioxane, $\epsilon = 2.2099$) were taken into account using the PCM model¹² with UFF radii in the single-point calculations. The final Gibbs free energies reported in the article are the single-point energies with Gibbs free energy correction (at 298.15 K).

ii. Key transition states of the C–C bond cleavage

To gain deeper insights into the origins of the substituent-controlled selectivity,

preliminary mechanistic studies were performed by means of density functional theory calculations. Starting from the oxy-anionic intermediates generated *via* the deprotonation of the OH group by K_3PO_4 , the key transition states of the proximal and distal C–C bond cleavage were located. The computations show that for the reaction of α -methyl substituted benzocyclobutenol, the proximal C–C bond cleavage is more favored than the distal C–C bond cleavage by 1.1 kcal/mol. On the other hand, for the reaction of α -phenyl substituted benzocyclobutenol, the distal C–C bond cleavage is preferred by 1.0 kcal/mol compared with the proximal C–C bond cleavage. Although the calculated energy differences are somewhat underestimated compared to the experiments, the computations indeed reproduced quite well the selectivity switch upon change of the substituent.

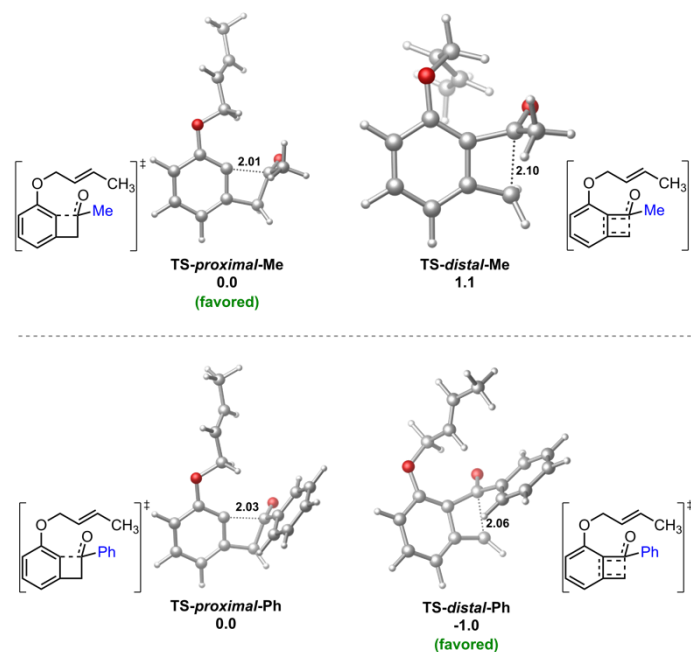


Figure S8. Calculated energies of the proximal and distal C–C bond cleavage. Energies and bond distances are given in kcal/mol and Å, respectively.

iii. Cartesian coordinates and energies

TS-*proximal*-Me

E= -655.1608259

Thermal correction to Gibbs free energy = 0.201389

C	-6.38142800	-0.22226200	2.67312600
C	-5.57580400	-0.73631500	1.64280300

C	-4.59843500	0.10773000	1.10436600
C	-4.38059800	1.41223700	1.56268000
C	-5.22045500	1.90719400	2.55736300
C	-6.21728800	1.09234000	3.12830300
H	-7.15984100	-0.84848900	3.12310300
H	-5.73143800	-1.75752900	1.27643400
H	-6.85762000	1.49681000	3.91956600
O	-5.12886800	3.20313900	3.01440600
C	-4.09251900	3.97176300	2.41910500
H	-4.08980000	3.86634800	1.32008400
H	-3.10838200	3.58445600	2.75367400
C	-4.26174400	5.39501900	2.84891000
C	-4.21038300	6.44758600	2.02554400
H	-4.41946900	5.55280600	3.92511400
H	-4.06521100	6.25981100	0.95352700
C	-4.32906700	7.88383700	2.44375500
H	-5.17385600	8.38420600	1.93596400
H	-4.48322700	7.97749100	3.53083800
H	-3.42383200	8.46078700	2.17893300
C	-2.92914400	1.40307700	0.17861400
C	-3.61561500	-0.01146500	-0.03003600
O	-2.94403000	2.26333300	-0.72675700
H	-4.09988700	-0.00810700	-1.02139600
H	-2.91518800	-0.87036600	0.01360700
C	-1.67475200	1.32330700	1.07185600
H	-0.82276300	0.99104000	0.44512300
H	-1.43622300	2.33019900	1.44767100
H	-1.78627300	0.63425600	1.92380200

TS-distal-Me

E= -655.1604541

Thermal correction to Gibbs free energy = 0.202796

C	-6.25953900	0.58122400	2.76907300
C	-5.71207600	0.51361000	1.48142700
C	-4.67868200	1.40805500	1.15789700
C	-4.12910000	2.25536500	2.14115600
C	-4.72344100	2.37461500	3.40356600
C	-5.80036200	1.51695600	3.70524200
H	-7.07925800	-0.08954400	3.05013900
H	-6.10005800	-0.19523600	0.74243000
H	-6.24166700	1.58302800	4.70313500
O	-4.29425400	3.18342300	4.42461500
C	-3.79009200	4.48504600	4.07835200
H	-2.97739500	4.41094600	3.34036400
H	-3.39306200	4.87853400	5.02906800
C	-4.87487100	5.37051900	3.53617800
C	-4.95568600	5.68638300	2.23709900
H	-5.65951800	5.68866300	4.23888700
H	-4.16793800	5.28541400	1.57862500
C	-6.05675200	6.49543500	1.62210300
H	-6.58893000	5.90608800	0.85387000
H	-6.79578000	6.83080500	2.36926000
H	-5.66072600	7.38823900	1.10394000
C	-2.82670200	2.72028800	1.47292800
C	-3.85934000	1.67299400	-0.03287500
O	-2.54434800	3.93643400	1.27739700
H	-4.12365300	2.59419500	-0.56758100
H	-3.64021500	0.83727000	-0.72185600
C	-1.65638500	1.77085600	1.77066700
H	-0.86203900	1.94052700	1.02677200

H	-1.23773300	2.01956300	2.76745400
H	-1.95071200	0.71096400	1.76683200

TS-proximal-Ph

E= -846.9922855

Thermal correction to Gibbs free energy = 0.250006

C	-6.34851200	-0.26276200	2.68711500
C	-5.52646700	-0.79095200	1.67735200
C	-4.58894300	0.06917800	1.09525600
C	-4.43510100	1.40034100	1.49145800
C	-5.26888100	1.90511500	2.48593200
C	-6.23148800	1.07359600	3.09069000
H	-7.09886200	-0.89932300	3.16836700
H	-5.63516800	-1.83517200	1.36409200
H	-6.87746200	1.48146100	3.87515200
O	-5.19568100	3.20749300	2.91201300
C	-4.14629400	3.96660300	2.31993700
H	-4.18890700	3.91580400	1.21780700
H	-3.16944900	3.52725700	2.59975300
C	-4.24687100	5.37257100	2.81917500
C	-4.19142300	6.46030400	2.04332200
H	-4.34694700	5.48464900	3.90764000
H	-4.10177900	6.31898000	0.95808700
C	-4.22999100	7.87853700	2.53164100
H	-5.07246000	8.43758900	2.08498900
H	-4.33348100	7.92631800	3.62753900
H	-3.31185400	8.42821200	2.25403100
C	-2.94185000	1.36753400	0.11937600
C	-3.57480200	-0.07067900	-0.00851900
O	-2.96892700	2.15924500	-0.84695700

C	-1.76778600	1.48082600	1.09432200
C	-0.91104000	2.57989200	0.93317500
C	-1.48155400	0.56260800	2.12039500
C	0.18190200	2.77603700	1.78104900
H	-1.14960100	3.26035400	0.11267600
C	-0.38324500	0.74838400	2.96139800
H	-2.14436200	-0.28978200	2.28201600
C	0.45473100	1.86002400	2.80180600
H	0.83080500	3.64738200	1.64270500
H	-0.18143000	0.02329300	3.75643800
H	1.31055700	2.00770500	3.46742600
H	-4.03103800	-0.13126900	-1.01021700
H	-2.85008500	-0.90178500	0.09131400

TS-distal-Ph

E= -846.9938628

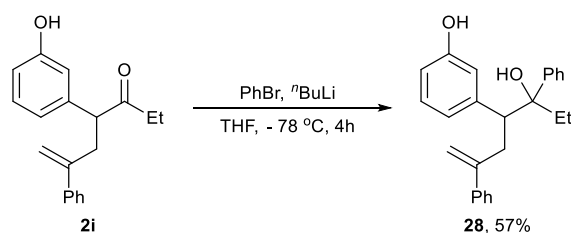
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C	-6.59214900	0.68035100	2.47547000
C	-5.94528600	0.67133200	1.22621900
C	-4.75027300	1.38531900	1.14608900
C	-4.18870800	2.04403900	2.24149300
C	-4.85859400	2.10280500	3.46624100
C	-6.07061000	1.38516700	3.56797900
H	-7.53554300	0.13884400	2.60299300
H	-6.37928300	0.14243200	0.37224400
H	-6.59685900	1.39566500	4.52657500
O	-4.44673300	2.79281100	4.56074100
C	-3.21926500	3.53409800	4.45200200
H	-3.34780400	4.42619900	5.08704600
H	-3.05332900	3.86432900	3.40154600

C	-2.05409300	2.72111500	4.92375300
C	-1.12328700	3.13531100	5.78965400
H	-1.94948500	1.73614400	4.45753000
H	-1.22766200	4.13189600	6.24260000
C	0.10413700	2.35419900	6.15805000
H	0.17446000	2.18495400	7.24890300
H	0.11952900	1.37887000	5.64822800
H	1.02352200	2.89252100	5.86287700
C	-2.90493700	2.53384300	1.43460800
C	-3.67897600	1.79881700	0.16282900
O	-2.65108600	3.80870900	1.37308500
C	-1.68290900	1.65516300	1.83993800
C	-0.45563700	2.31587000	1.96255300
C	-1.73281800	0.28085800	2.12079200
C	0.69435400	1.63277300	2.36502700
H	-0.48695000	3.38832000	1.75032400
C	-0.58642100	-0.40879200	2.52851600
H	-2.68571000	-0.25016400	2.04456500
C	0.63480100	0.26510500	2.65623500
H	1.64410500	2.16896200	2.46689300
H	-0.64588400	-1.47821100	2.75659800
H	1.53023200	-0.27250400	2.98338100
H	-3.99554600	2.59727800	-0.52521700
H	-3.15487800	0.99989600	-0.39115600

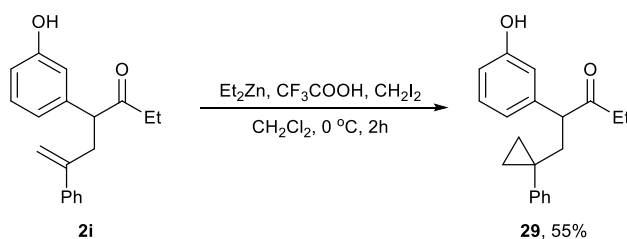
IX. Synthetic applications

i. Reaction of compound 2i with phenyl lithium¹³



t -BuLi (1.6 M in hexane, 0.28 mL, 0.4 mmol) was added dropwise to the solution of bromobenzene (46.0 μ L, 0.4 mmol) in THF (1.0 mL) at -78 $^{\circ}$ C. After stirring at -78 $^{\circ}$ C for 1 h, a solution of **2i** (56.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) in THF (1.0 mL) was added dropwise. The reaction solution was stirred at -78 $^{\circ}$ C for another 4 h and then quenched with saturated aqueous NH_4Cl solution. The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc for three times. The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 , filtered, and evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) to afford **28** as a yellow liquid (40.8 mg, 57% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.43 – 7.42 (m, 4H), 7.36 – 7.30 (m, 1H), 7.24 – 7.12 (m, 4H), 6.87 – 6.85 (m, 2H), 6.75 – 6.70 (m, 3H), 5.61 (brs, 1H), 4.89 (s, 1H), 4.67 (s, 1H), 2.94 (dd, J = 11.4, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 2.82 – 2.75 (m, 1H), 2.69 (d, J = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 1.92 (brs, 1H), 1.75 – 1.65 (m, 1H), 1.36 – 1.26 (m, 1H), 0.49 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 155.32, 146.59, 144.48, 142.31, 140.75, 129.03, 128.07, 127.92, 127.05, 126.48, 126.42, 125.83, 114.46, 113.63, 79.91, 54.93, 35.91, 34.54, 7.60. HRMS (ESI^+) for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{26}\text{NaO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}$] $^+$: calcd 381.1825; found 381.1828.

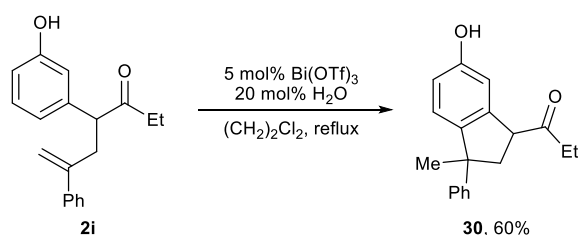
ii. Cyclopropanation of **2i**¹⁴



$\text{CF}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ (22.0 μ L, 0.30 mmol) was added to a solution of Et_2Zn (1.0 M in hexane, 0.3 mL, 0.3 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (1.0 mL) at 0 $^{\circ}$ C. After stirring at 0 $^{\circ}$ C for 20 min, CH_2I_2 (24.0 μ L, 0.3 mmol) was added dropwise and the resulting solution was stirred at 0 $^{\circ}$ C for another 20 min. A solution of **2i** (28.0 mg, 0.1 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (1.0 mL)

was then added dropwise. After stirring at 0 °C for 2 h, **2i** was completely consumed as monitored by TLC. The reaction mixture was quenched with aqueous 3 M HCl solution. The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc for three times. The combined organic phases were washed with saturated NaHCO₃ solution and brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered, and evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) to afford **29** as a colorless liquid (16.2 mg, 55% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36 – 7.13 (m, 6H), 6.75 – 6.66 (m, 3H), 6.04 (brs, 1H), 3.61 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (dd, *J* = 14.2, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.39 – 2.17 (m, 2H), 1.86 (dd, *J* = 14.3, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 0.86 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.70 – 0.68 (m, 3H), 0.44 – 0.42 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 212.25, 156.26, 144.27, 141.15, 129.89, 128.99, 128.30, 126.19, 120.86, 114.61, 114.28, 56.31, 42.55, 35.48, 24.20, 12.89, 12.84, 7.74. HRMS (ESI⁺) for C₂₀H₂₂NaO₂ [M + Na]⁺: calcd 317.1512; found 317.1516.

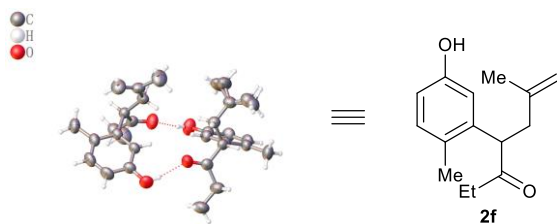
iii. Intramolecular cyclization of **2i**¹⁵



To an oven-dried Schlenk tube with a stirring bar was successively added **2i** (28.0 mg, 0.1 mmol) and Bi(OTf)₃ (3.3 mg, 5.0 μmol). The tube was then evacuated and backfilled with N₂ for three times. H₂O (0.36 μL, 0.02 mmol) and 1,2-dichloroethane (1.0 mL) was then added. The tube was heated to reflux and stirred for 3.5 h. The mixture was quenched with ice water and extracted with Et₂O for three times. The combined organic phases were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 20 : 1) to afford the desired product **30** as a yellow liquid (16.8 mg, 60% yield, 1.5:1 d. r.). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.40 – 7.22⁺ (m, 4H, 4H*), 7.17 – 7.11 (m, 2 H, 2H*), 6.92 – 6.77⁺ (m, 2 H, 2H*), 4.24* (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.06 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.77 – 2.46⁺ (m, 4H, 4H*), 1.82 (s,

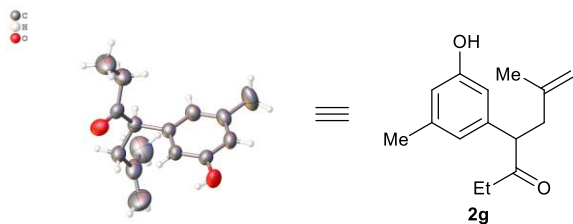
3H), 1.69* (s, 3H), 1.18 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H), 1.09* (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 212.67, 212.58*, 155.31, 155.22*, 148.63*, 148.56, 143.95*, 142.28, 142.19, 141.57*, 128.13⁺, 126.88*, 126.25, 126.07*, 125.98, 125.51*, 125.37, 115.41*, 115.18, 111.72*, 111.61, 55.92*, 55.09, 50.96*, 50.66, 48.16*, 47.84, 34.79, 34.02*, 28.54, 27.56*, 7.85⁺. HRMS (ESI^+) for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{NaO}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: calcd 303.1356; found 303.1363.

X. X-ray data of compounds 2f, 2g and 6b



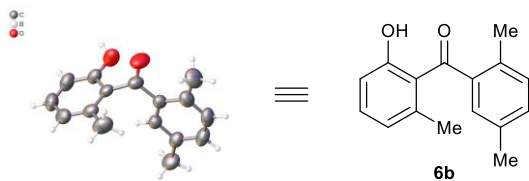
Crystal data and structure refinement for compound **2f**:

Empirical formula	C ₁₅ H ₂₀ O ₂	
Formula weight	232.31	
Temperature	293.26 (10) K	
Wavelength	1.54184	
Crystal system	monoclinic	
Space group	P2 ₁ /c	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 23.7772 (3) Å	α = 90°
	b = 7.7804 (1) Å	β = 102.3770 (10)°
	c = 15.2918 (2) Å	γ = 90°
Volume	2763.17(6) Å ³	
Z	8	
Density (calculated)	1.117 g/cm ³	
Absorption coefficient	0.570 mm ⁻¹	
F(000)	1008.0	
Theta range for data collection	11.43 to 152.112°	
Index ranges	-29 ≤ h ≤ 29, -8 ≤ k ≤ 9, -19 ≤ l ≤ 14	
Reflections collected	25147	
Independent reflections	5500 [R _{int} = 0.0194, R _{sigma} = 0.0126]	
Data/restraints/parameters	5500/97/335	
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.028	
Final R indexes [I >= 2σ (I)]	R ₁ = 0.0462, wR ₂ = 0.1280	
Final R indexes [all data]	R ₁ = 0.0497, wR ₂ = 0.1311	



Crystal data and structure refinement for compound **2g**:

Empirical formula	C ₁₅ H ₂₀ O ₂	
Formula weight	230.29	
Temperature	294.09 (10) K	
Wavelength	1.54184	
Crystal system	monoclinic	
Space group	C2/c	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 24.5707 (3) Å	α = 90°
	b = 7.8487 (10) Å	β = 106.1310 (10)°
	c = 15.3888 (2) Å	γ = 90°
Volume	2850.86 (6) Å ³	
Z	8	
Density (calculated)	1.073 g/cm ³	
Absorption coefficient	0.552 mm ⁻¹	
F(000)	992.0	
Theta range for data collection	11.974 to 152.206°	
Index ranges	-26 ≤ h ≤ 30, -9 ≤ k ≤ 9, -19 ≤ l ≤ 19	
Reflections collected	26256	
Independent reflections	2893 [R _{int} = 0.0212, R _{sigma} = 0.0089]	
Data/restraints/parameters	2893/0/166	
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	0.950	
Final R indexes [I >= 2σ (I)]	R ₁ = 0.0465, wR ₂ = 0.1550	
Final R indexes [all data]	R ₁ = 0.0483, wR ₂ = 0.1578	



Crystal data and structure refinement for compound **6b**:

Empirical formula	$C_{16}H_{16}O_2$	
Formula weight	240.29	
Temperature	293.74 (10) K	
Wavelength	1.54184	
Crystal system	orthorhombic	
Space group	$P2_12_12_1$	
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 7.35280 (10) \text{ \AA}$	$\alpha = 90^\circ$
	$b = 7.36750 (10) \text{ \AA}$	$\beta = 90^\circ$
	$c = 24.5337 (4) \text{ \AA}$	$\gamma = 90^\circ$
Volume	$1329.03(3) \text{ \AA}^3$	
Z	4	
Density (calculated)	1.201 g/cm^3	
Absorption coefficient	0.619 mm^{-1}	
F(000)	512.0	
Theta range for data collection	7.206 to 152.764.	
Index ranges	$-9 \leq h \leq 9, -9 \leq k \leq 9, -30 \leq l \leq 28$	
Reflections collected	12440	
Independent reflections	2657 [$R_{\text{int}} = 0.0335, R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0199$]	
Data/restraints/parameters	2657/0/167	
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.079	
Final R indexes [$I \geq 2\sigma(I)$]	$R_1 = 0.0420, wR_2 = 0.1210$	
R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0448, wR_2 = 0.1237$	

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XII. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of the described compounds

