

Electronic Supplementary Information

Facile Synthesis of 2-Methylenecyclobutanones via Ca(OH)₂-Catalyzed Direct Condensation of Cyclobutanone with Aldehydes and (PhSe)₂-Catalyzed Baeyer-Villiger Oxidation to 4-Methylenebutanolides

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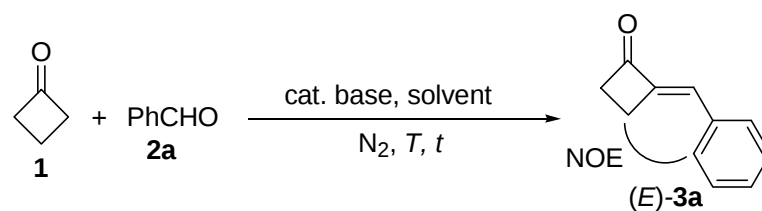
Experimental Section

General Methods. The chemicals, cyclobutanone, aldehydes, bases, solvents, and organoselenium catalysts were all purchased. Liquid aldehydes were redistilled under vacuum before use. Solid aldehydes were recrystallized in EtOH/H₂O under N₂ before use. All reactions were monitored by TLC and/or GC analysis. GC yields were calculated according to the internal standard curve. (*E*)-2-Methylenecyclobutanones **3** and (*E*)-4-methylenebutanolides **4** were all purified by column chromatogram. ¹H and ¹³C NMR and NOESY spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 600 instrument (600 MHz for ¹H and 150 MHz for ¹³C NMR spectroscopy) by using CDCl₃ as the solvent and Me₄Si as the internal standard. Chemical shifts for ¹H and ¹³C NMR were referred to internal Me₄Si (0 ppm) and *J*-values were shown in Hz. ⁷⁷Se NMR were recorded on an Agilent DD2 600 instrument (114 MHz) by using D₂O as the solvent. Melting points were measured using a WRS-2A digital instrument. Mass spectra were measured on a Thermo Trace DSQ II or a Shimadzu GCMS-QP2010 Ultra spectrometer (EI). Elemental analysis was performed on an Elementar Vario EL cube instrument. HRMS (ESI) analysis was measured on a Bruker microTOF-Q II instrument.

General Procedure for Preparation of (*E*)-2-MCBones **3.** To a 10 mL round-bottomed flask was added 0.1 mmol of Ca(OH)₂. A solution of aldehyde **2** (1.0 mmol) and cyclobutanone **1** (3.0 mmol) in 3 mL of anhydrous ethanol were then injected via a syringe under N₂. The mixture was then stirred at 80 °C for 24 hours under N₂. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the residue was purified through flash column chromatogram (eluent: petroleum ether: EtOAc 9:1) to give (*E*)-**3**.

General Procedure for (PhSe)₂-Catalyzed Baeyer-Villiger Oxidation of (*E*)-2-MCBones **3 to (*E*)-4-Methylenebutanolides with H₂O₂.** (*E*)-2-MCBones **3** (0.3 mmol) and (PhSe)₂ (0.015 mmol) were added to a reaction tube. A solution of H₂O₂ (1.5 mmol) in 1 mL of CH₃CN was then injected via a syringe. The mixture was then stirred at room temperature (ca. 30 °C) for 24 h. After the reaction completed as monitored by TLC, 2 mL of water was added and the mixture was extracted with EtOAc (2 mL × 3). The combined organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvent evaporated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash column chromatogram (eluent: petroleum ether: EtOAc 8:1) to give (*E*)-**4**.

Table S1. Detailed Optimization of the Reaction Conditions for Preparation of (E)-2-MCBones **3**.^a

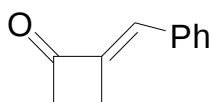


run	1 (equiv.)	base (mol%)	solvent (mL)	<i>T</i> (°C)	<i>t</i> (h)	3a % ^b
1	1.2	NaOH (10)	EtOH (2)	80	24	2
2	1.5	NaOH (10)	EtOH (2)	80	24	7
3	3	NaOH (10)	EtOH (2)	80	24	38
4	4	NaOH (10)	EtOH (2)	80	24	41
5	5	NaOH (10)	EtOH (2)	80	24	47
6	5	NaOH (5)	EtOH (2)	80	24	33
7	5	NaOH (20)	EtOH (2)	80	24	3
8	5	NaOH (40)	EtOH (2)	80	24	0
9	6	NaOH (10)	EtOH (2)	80	24	46
10	5	KOH (10)	EtOH (2)	80	24	21
11	5	CsOH (10)	EtOH (2)	80	24	10
12	5	LiOH (10)	EtOH (2)	80	24	18
13	5	Mg(OH) ₂ (10)	EtOH (2)	80	24	7
14	5	Ca(OH)₂ (10)	EtOH (2)	80	24	68
15	5	Sr(OH) ₂ ·8H ₂ O (10)	EtOH (2)	80	24	17
16	5	Ba(OH) ₂ ·8H ₂ O (10)	EtOH (2)	80	24	27
17	5	Fe(OH) ₃ (10)	EtOH (2)	80	24	3
18	5	Na ₂ CO ₃ (10)	EtOH (2)	80	24	37
19	5	NaHCO ₃ (10)	EtOH (2)	80	24	25
20	5	K ₂ CO ₃ (10)	EtOH (2)	80	24	34
21	5	CaCO ₃ (10)	EtOH (2)	80	24	8
22	5	BeO (10)	EtOH (2)	80	24	2
23	5	MgO (10)	EtOH (2)	80	24	17
24	5	CaO (10)	EtOH (2)	80	24	23

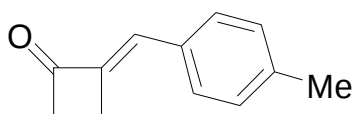
25	5	Et ₃ N (10)	EtOH (2)	80	24	2
26	5	DBU (10)	EtOH (2)	80	24	33
27	5	Ca(OH) ₂ (10)	MeOH (2)	reflux	24	35
28	5	Ca(OH) ₂ (10)	<i>i</i> -PrOH (2)	80	24	42
29	5	Ca(OH) ₂ (10)	<i>t</i> -BuOH (2)	80	24	50
30	5	Ca(OH) ₂ (10)	MeCN (2)	80	24	57
31	5	Ca(OH) ₂ (10)	THF (2)	reflux	24	32
32	5	Ca(OH) ₂ (10)	Cyclohexanol (2)	80	24	61
33	5	Ca(OH) ₂ (10)	EtOH (2)	60	24	52
34	5	Ca(OH) ₂ (10)	EtOH (2)	40	24	31
25	5	Ca(OH) ₂ (10)	Cyclohexanol (2)	100	24	42
36	5	Ca(OH) ₂ (10)	EtOH (0.5)	80	24	41
37	5	Ca(OH) ₂ (10)	EtOH (1)	80	24	57
38	5	Ca(OH)₂ (10)	EtOH (3)	80	24	77 (70)
39	5	Ca(OH) ₂ (10)	EtOH (4)	80	24	76
40	5	Ca(OH) ₂ (10)	EtOH (5)	80	24	72
41	4	Ca(OH) ₂ (10)	EtOH (3)	80	24	80
42	3	Ca(OH)₂ (10)	EtOH (3)	80	24	83 (75)
43	2	Ca(OH) ₂ (10)	EtOH (3)	80	24	68
44	1.5	Ca(OH) ₂ (10)	EtOH (3)	80	24	51
45	1	Ca(OH) ₂ (10)	EtOH (3)	80	24	32
46	3	Ca(OH) ₂ (10)	EtOH (3)	80	18	64
47	3	Ca(OH) ₂ (10)	EtOH (3)	80	36	73
48	3	Ca(OH) ₂ (10)	EtOH (3)	80	48	67
49	3	Ca(OH) ₂ (20)	EtOH (3)	80	24	75
50	3	Ca(OH) ₂ (5)	EtOH (3)	80	24	67
51	3	Ca(OH) ₂ (1)	EtOH (3)	80	24	33

^a As indicated in the table, the mixture of excess **1**, freshly distilled **2a** (1 mmol), and catalytic amount of a base in a solvent was heated under N₂ and then monitored by GC. ^b GC yields (shown outside the parenthesis, using biphenyl as the internal standard) and isolated yields (shown in parenthesis) are based on **2a**. As determined by NOESY analysis, only the (*E*)-stereomer of **3a** was obtained.

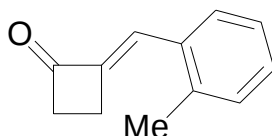
Characterization of the Products



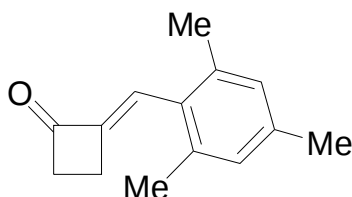
(E)-2-Benzylidenecyclobutanone ((E)-3a). Soild. m.p. 88.7-90.3 °C. IR (KBr): 2976, 2932, 2866, 1737, 1645, 1449, 1384, 1228, 1176, 1113, 934, 759, 685 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS): δ 7.52–7.40 (m, 5H), 7.04 (t, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.15 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.99 (dt, $J = 2.4$ Hz, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 199.7, 146.2, 134.6, 130.1, 130.0, 128.9, 126.5, 45.8, 23.6; *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}$: C, 83.51; H, 6.37. Found: C, 83.67; H, 6.22. Known compound.¹



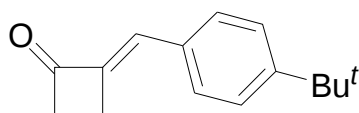
(E)-2-(4-Methylphenyl)methylenecyclobutanone ((E)-3b). Soild. m.p. 84.3-85.7 °C. IR (KBr): 2928, 1736, 1646, 1603, 1448, 1103, 919, 810, 523, 498 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS): δ 7.41 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.02 (t, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.13 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.97 (dt, $J = 2.4$ Hz, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 199.7, 145.1, 140.6, 131.8, 130.1, 129.7, 126.6, 45.7, 23.5, 21.6; MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) 172 (12, M^+), 157 (58), 129 (100); *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}$: C, 83.69; H, 7.02. Found: C, 83.84; H, 6.90.



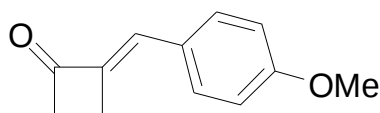
(E)-2-(2-Methylphenyl)methylenecyclobutanone ((E)-3c). Soild. m.p. 69.0-70.2 °C. IR (KBr): 2975, 2870, 1732, 1639, 1595, 1481, 1387, 1291, 1260, 1126, 1089, 1033, 889, 799, 763, 711, 491, 463 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS): δ 7.46 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.19–7.09 (m, 4H), 3.00 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.84 (dt, $J = 3.0$ Hz, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 198.6, 145.4, 138.4, 131.8, 129.9, 128.9, 126.8, 125.2, 122.5, 44.5, 22.5, 18.7; MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) 172 (12, M^+), 158 (12), 157 (100), 143 (10), 129 (90), 128 (46), 127 (15), 116 (31), 115 (65), 105 (14), 89 (9). HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 173.0961; found: 173.0975.



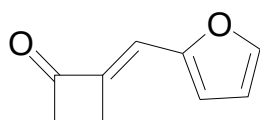
(E)-2-(2,4,6-Trimethylphenyl)methylenecyclobutanone ((E)-3d). Oil. IR (film): 2937, 1754, 1652, 1611, 1446, 1394, 1225, 1178, 1100, 1033, 852, 736, 668, 591, 564, 561 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS): δ 7.20 (t, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (s, 2H), 3.02 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.55 (dt, J = 2.4 Hz, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 199.8, 149.1, 138.1, 136.6, 129.9, 128.6, 126.8, 44.1, 23.0, 21.1, 20.5; MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) 200 (16, M^+), 185 (100), 157 (98); *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}$: C, 83.96; H, 8.05. Found: C, 83.79; H, 8.11.



(E)-2-(4-*tert*-Butyl)methylenecyclobutanone ((E)-3e). Solid. m.p. 98.3-99.5 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. IR (KBr): 2961, 2869, 1744, 1644, 1605, 1509, 1464, 1394, 1364, 1127, 1096, 900, 829, 561 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS): δ 7.47–7.42 (m, 4H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 3.13 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.97 (dt, J = 2.4 Hz, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.33 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 199.7, 153.6, 145.3, 131.8, 130.0, 126.5, 126.0, 45.7, 35.0, 31.2, 23.5; MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) 214 (9, M^+), 171 (36), 157 (100), 130 (34), 129 (91), 128 (38), 115 (38), 57 (32). HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 215.1430; found: 215.1428.

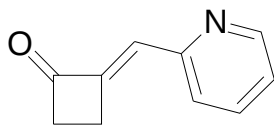


(E)-2-(4-Methoxy)methylenecyclobutanone ((E)-3f). Solid. m.p. 79.0-79.6 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. IR (KBr): 2932, 2840, 1731, 1644, 1600, 1569, 1512, 1462, 1423, 1388, 1305, 1259, 1175, 1122, 1026, 942, 902, 824, 761, 717, 589, 533, 501 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS): δ 7.43 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.07 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.88 (dt, J = 2.4 Hz, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 198.8, 160.6, 143.1, 131.3, 126.7, 125.7, 114.0, 54.8, 45.0, 22.7; MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) 188 (57, M^+), 187 (24), 160 (87), 159 (69), 157 (71), 145 (100), 129 (51), 117 (78), 115 (40), 89 (40), 77 (20), 63 (22). HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 189.0910; found: 189.0944.

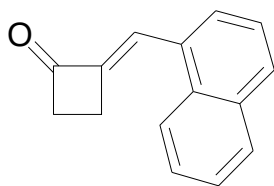


(E)-2-(Furan-2-yl)methylenecyclobutanone ((E)-3g). Solid. m.p. 59.4-60.5 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. IR (KBr): 3116, 2937, 2251, 1734, 1639, 1474, 1390, 1328, 1224, 1177, 1108, 1016, 911, 819, 741, 684, 591, 534 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS): δ 7.56 (s, 1H), 6.85 (t, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (d, J = 3.0

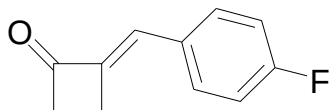
Hz, 1H), 6.51 (t, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.08 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.92 (dt, $J = 2.4$ Hz, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 199.1, 151.3, 145.3, 143.8, 115.9, 113.4, 112.5, 45.0, 22.9. MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) 148 (39, M^+), 120 (85), 91 (100); *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_8\text{O}_2$: C, 72.96; H, 5.44. Found: C, 72.87; H, 5.48.



(*E*)-2-(Pyridine-2-yl)methylenecyclobutanone ((*E*)-3h). Soild. m.p. 81.6-82.9 °C. IR (KBr): 2978, 2934, 2870, 1777, 1750, 1654, 1584, 1467, 1434, 1386, 1294, 1224, 1109, 1084, 1020, 950, 907, 844, 777, 745, 612, 510 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS): δ 8.68 (d, $J = 4.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.72 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.05 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.17-3.11 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 200.1, 154.0, 150.6, 150.3, 136.4, 125.4, 125.1, 123.5, 46.0, 24.2; MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) 159 (3, M^+), 131 (56), 130 (100), 103 (20), 78 (9), 77 (9), 76 (9), 52 (8), 51 (13). HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{10}\text{NO}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 160.0757; found: 160.0745.

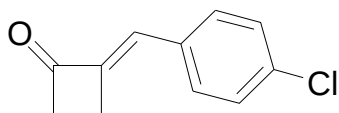


(*E*)-2-(Naphthalen-1-yl)methylenecyclobutanone ((*E*)-3i). Soild. m.p. 98.1-99.2 °C. IR (KBr): 3050, 2932, 1739, 1638, 1508, 1387, 1327, 1227, 1177, 1104, 881, 783, 735, 542, 429 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS): δ 8.17 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.91-7.88 (m, 3H), 7.80 (d, $J = 4.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.50 (m, 3H), 3.18 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 3.02 (dt, $J = 2.4$ Hz, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 199.6, 147.6, 133.8, 132.5, 130.6, 129.0, 127.0, 126.6, 126.3, 125.3, 123.2, 122.6, 45.5, 23.7; MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) 208 (47, M^+), 179 (100), 165 (88); *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}$: C, 86.51; H, 5.81. Found: C, 86.70; H, 5.66.

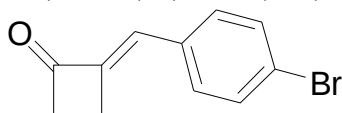


(*E*)-2-(4-Fluorophenyl)methylenecyclobutanone ((*E*)-3j). Soild. m.p. 89.1-90.1 °C. IR (KBr): 2935, 1735, 1644, 1594, 1507, 1392, 1294, 1225, 1159, 1106, 905, 833, 775, 526 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS): δ 7.52-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.12-7.09 (m, 2H), 7.01 (t, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.16

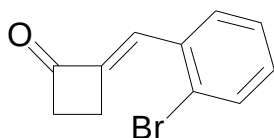
(t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.97 (dt, $J = 2.4$ Hz, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 199.4, 163.6 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 250.7$ Hz), 145.7, 132.0 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 8.4$ Hz), 130.8 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 3.3$ Hz), 125.2, 116.2 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 21.8$ Hz), 45.8, 23.4; MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) 176 (27, M^+), 148 (100), 133 (96); *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_9\text{FO}$: C, 74.99; H, 5.15. Found: C, 75.08; H, 5.10.



(*E*)-2-(4-Chlorophenyl)methylenecyclobutanone ((*E*)-3k). Soild. m.p. 95.7-97.3 °C. IR (KBr): 2932, 1732, 1645, 1587, 1490, 1403, 1180, 1089, 1011, 892, 817, 703, 518, 491 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS): δ 7.44 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.98 (t, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.16 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.97 (dt, $J = 2.4$ Hz, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 199.3, 146.7, 136.0, 133.1, 131.2, 129.2, 125.1, 45.9, 23.5; MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) 192 (8, M^+), 157 (39), 129 (100). Known Compound.¹

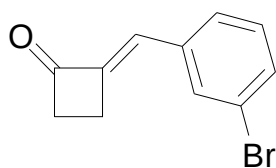


(*E*)-2-(4-Bromophenyl)methylenecyclobutanone ((*E*)-3l). Soild. m.p. 62.1-63.5 °C. IR (KBr): 2927, 1780, 1728, 1640, 1484, 1396, 1176, 1117, 1093, 1069, 1006, 892, 813, 697, 515, 490 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS): δ 7.54 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.97 (t, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.16 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.96 (dt, $J = 1.8$ Hz, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 199.3, 146.8, 133.5, 132.2, 131.6, 131.3, 125.2, 45.9, 23.6; MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) 236 (4, M^+), 157 (54), 129 (100); *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_9\text{BrO}$: C, 55.72; H, 3.83. Found: C, 55.86; H, 3.91.

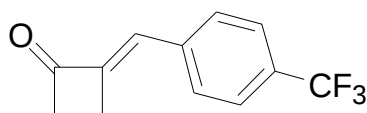


(*E*)-2-(2-Bromophenyl)methylenecyclobutanone ((*E*)-3m). Oil. IR (film): 2926, 2177, 1740, 1637, 1461, 1429, 1388, 1277, 1229, 1172, 1126, 1087, 1020, 891, 755, 696, 501, 450 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS): δ 7.63 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.16 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.97 (dt, $J = 3.0$ Hz, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 199.1, 148.2, 134.0, 133.7, 131.0, 129.1, 127.5, 127.1, 125.0, 45.8, 23.4; MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) 236 (2, M^+), 157 (50), 129 (100); *Anal.* Calcd for

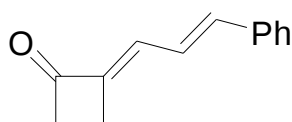
C₁₁H₉BrO: C, 55.72; H, 3.83. Found: C, 55.88; H, 3.84.



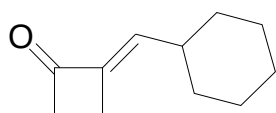
(E)-2-(3-Bromophenyl)methylenecyclobutanone ((E)-3n). Oil. IR (film): 1781, 1737, 1640, 1463, 1126, 1089, 1023, 757, 509, 450 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS): δ 7.63 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.97 (dt, *J* = 2.4 Hz, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 199.1, 148.2, 134.0, 133.7, 131.0, 129.1, 127.5, 127.1, 125.0, 45.8, 23.4; MS (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* (%) 236 (1, M⁺), 157 (48), 129 (100); *Anal.* Calcd for C₁₁H₉BrO: C, 55.72; H, 3.83. Found: C, 55.57; H, 3.68.



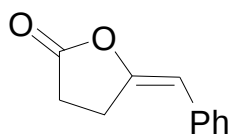
(E)-2-(4-Trifluoromethylphenyl)methylenecyclobutanone ((E)-3o). Soild. m.p. 92.3-93.7 °C. IR (KBr): 2935, 1734, 1643, 1417, 1321, 1235, 1164, 1113, 1063, 1013, 910, 834, 735, 685, 596, 498 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS): δ 7.66 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (t, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 3.21 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.04 (dt, *J* = 2.4 Hz, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 199.1, 148.7, 138.0, 131.3 (d, *J*_{CF} = 32.7 Hz), 130.0, 125.8 (m), 124.6, 46.1, 23.7; MS (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* (%) 226 (10, M⁺), 198 (15), 170 (50), 157 (100). Known Compound.¹



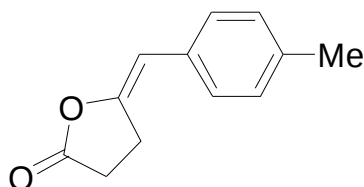
(E,E)-2-(3-Phenyl-allylidene)-cyclobutanone ((E,E)-3p). Soild. m.p. 72.5-73.5 °C. IR (KBr): 3061, 3027, 2973, 2933, 1724, 1675, 1626, 1449, 1391, 1103, 970, 737, 688, 515 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS): δ 7.40-7.22 (m, 5H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 11.4 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (dd, *J* = 11.4 Hz, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 199.1, 147.6, 142.5, 136.2, 129.2, 128.9, 127.2, 126.6, 123.5, 43.8, 20.8; MS (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* (%) 184 (70, M⁺), 156 (83), 155 (66), 141 (100), 128 (95), 127 (40), 115 (67), 102 (27), 91 (40), 78 (27), 77 (28). HRMS calcd for C₁₃H₁₃O ([M+H]⁺): 185.0961; found: 185.0983.



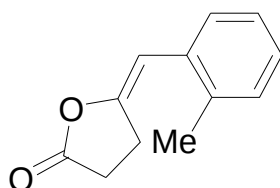
(E)-2-Cyclohexylcyclobutanone ((E)-3q). Oil. IR (film): 2928, 2853, 1756, 1665, 1448, 1393, 1231, 1110, 1088, 963, 901, 734 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS): δ 6.15 (dt, $J = 2.7$ Hz, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.92 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.63 (td, $J = 2.4$ Hz, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.15-2.10 (m, 1H), 1.76-1.71 (m, 4H), 1.33-1.18 (m, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 200.1, 146.0, 135.7, 43.8, 38.2, 31.7, 25.8, 25.5, 20.6; MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) 164 (9, M^+), 163 (14), 136 (17), 135 (100), 107 (26), 93 (22), 81 (32), 80 (14), 79 (54), 67 (22), 55 (21). HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 165.1274; found: 165.1275.



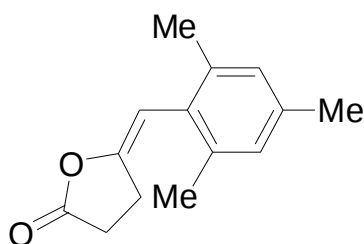
(E)-4-Benzylidenebutanolide ((E)-4a). Soild. m.p. 94.2-95.7 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. IR (KBr): 2944, 1801, 1676, 1445, 1371, 1295, 1233, 1173, 1125, 1012, 935, 912, 871, 821, 757, 693, 611, 570, 548, 516, 468, 446, 425 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS): δ 7.36-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.22 (m, 3H), 6.33 (t, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.17 (dt, $J = 1.8$ Hz, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.75 (t, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 174.2, 151.1, 134.4, 128.7, 127.8, 126.7, 107.1, 27.8, 25.1; MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) 174 (100, M^+), 145 (46); *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2$: C, 75.84; H, 5.79. Found: C, 75.93; H, 5.88. Known Compound.^{2,3}



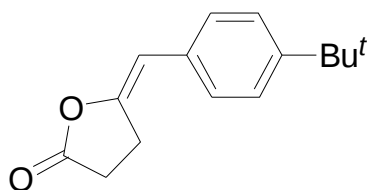
(E)-4-(4-Methylphenyl)methylenebutanolide ((E)-4b). Soild. m.p. 91.3-92.5 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. IR (KBr): 2922, 1796, 1671, 1609, 1513, 1443, 1417, 1292, 1210, 1170, 1125, 933, 886, 808, 715, 520, 488 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS): δ 7.15 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.12 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.29 (s, 1H), 3.14 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.74 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 174.3, 150.5, 136.5, 130.2, 129.4, 127.7, 107.0, 27.8, 25.1, 21.2; MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) 188 (100, M^+), 145 (52), 132 (78); *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_2$: C, 76.57; H, 6.43. Found: C, 76.75; H, 6.50.



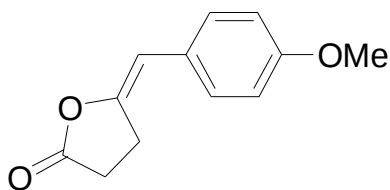
(E)-4-(2-Methylphenyl)methylenebutanolide ((E)-4c). Oil. IR (film): 2930, 1803, 1730, 1675, 1601, 1485, 1460, 1415, 1381, 1293, 1161, 1121, 1090, 932, 842, 752, 725, 664, 617, 546, 494, 450 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS): δ 7.13-7.08 (m, 4H), 6.30 (s, 1H), 2.96 (dt, $J = 1.8$ Hz, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.63 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.21 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 174.4, 151.0, 136.7, 133.0, 130.3, 127.5, 127.1, 125.9, 105.2, 27.9, 24.7, 20.0; MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) 188 (100, M^+), 145 (48), 132 (21), 129 (19), 128 (20), 117 (20), 105 (36), 104 (53), 103 (22), 78 (26), 77 (21). HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 189.0910; found: 189.0944.



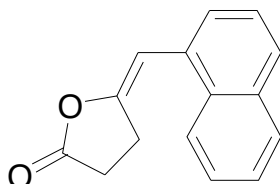
(E)-4-(2,4,6-Trimethylphenyl)methylenebutanolide ((E)-4d). Soild. m.p. 93.6-94.5 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. IR (KBr): 2922, 1803, 1690, 1612, 1446, 1380, 1340, 1291, 1161, 1106, 1026, 923, 852, 740, 671, 564, 473 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS): δ 6.88 (s, 2H), 6.15 (s, 1H), 2.66 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.55 (dt, $J = 2.4$ Hz, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 174.8, 150.6, 136.9, 136.7, 129.2, 128.3, 104.0, 27.9, 23.7, 21.0, 20.3; MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) 216 (100, M^+), 173 (44), 157 (52); Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2$: C, 77.75; H, 7.46. Found: C, 77.89; H, 7.58.



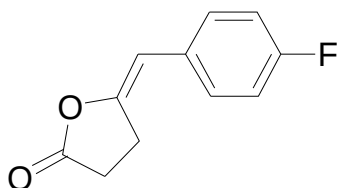
(E)-4-(4-tert-Butylphenyl)methylenebutanolide ((E)-4e). Soild. m.p. 92.6-93.5 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. IR (KBr): 2963, 2868, 1800, 1737, 1676, 1602, 1512, 1461, 1361, 1292, 1266, 1171, 1104, 1015, 936, 888, 807, 559 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS): δ 7.36 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.30 (s, 1H), 3.16 (dt, $J = 1.8$ Hz, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.74 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.32 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 174.3, 150.6, 149.7, 131.4, 127.5, 125.6, 106.8, 34.6, 31.3, 27.8, 25.1; MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) 230 (27, M^+), 216 (16), 215 (100), 159 (13), 145 (9), 131 (13), 115 (10), 91 (9), 55 (8). HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 231.1380; found: 231.1375.



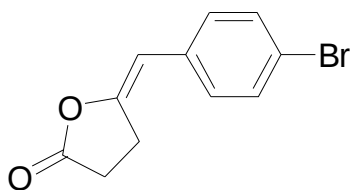
(E)-4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)methylenebutanolide ((E)-4f). Oil. IR (film): 2938, 2836, 1795, 1679, 1603, 1511, 1443, 1360, 1297, 1233, 1178, 1101, 1033, 939, 828, 733, 523 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS): δ 7.14 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.27 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.11 (dt, J = 1.8 Hz, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.73 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 174.7, 149.9, 129.0, 116.1, 114.9, 114.2, 106.6, 55.8, 42.0, 25.0; MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) 204 (100, M^+), 148 (66), 134 (32), 133 (16), 121 (24), 120 (50), 119 (12), 91 (27), 77 (27), 51 (19). HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_3$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 205.0859; found: 205.0872.



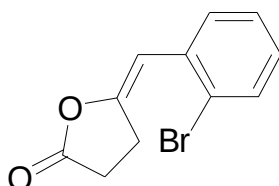
(E)-4-(Naphthalen-1-yl)methylenebutanolide ((E)-4i). Solid. m.p. 102.3-103.6 $^\circ\text{C}$. IR (KBr): 2977, 2902, 1803, 1675, 1453, 1400, 1293, 1259, 1166, 1106, 1081, 1048, 927, 880, 780 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS): δ 7.35-7.99 (m, 7H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 3.01-3.04 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.70-2.73 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 174.5, 152.0, 131.0, 128.6, 127.8, 126.3, 126.1, 125.7, 125.3, 124.3, 104.2, 27.8, 24.6; MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z 224 (3, M^+), 207 (38), 57 (100); *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_2$: C, 80.34; H, 5.39. Found: C, 80.46; H, 5.18.



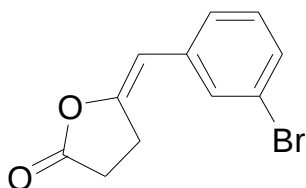
(E)-4-(4-Fluorophenyl)methylenebutanolide ((E)-4j). Solid. m.p. 93.5-94.6 $^\circ\text{C}$. IR (KBr): 2929, 2268, 1788, 1672, 1508, 1416, 1292, 1220, 1176, 1105, 929, 878, 837, 741, 655, 524, 483 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS): δ 7.17-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.03-7.06 (m, 2H), 6.30 (s, 1H), 3.13 (dt, J = 1.8 Hz, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.75-2.78 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 174.0, 161.4 (d, J_{CF} = 245.4 Hz), 150.8, 130.4 (d, J_{CF} = 3.3 Hz), 129.3 (d, J_{CF} = 7.8 Hz), 115.6 (d, J_{CF} = 21.3 Hz), 106.0, 27.7, 25.0; MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z 192 (88, M^+), 136 (82), 108 (100); *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_9\text{FO}_2$: C, 68.74; H, 4.72. Found: C, 68.58; H, 4.63.



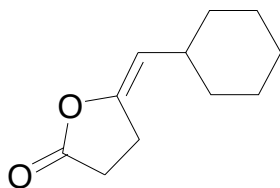
(E)-4-(4-Bromophenyl)methylenebutanolide ((E)-4l). Solid. m.p. 67.3-68.4 °C. IR (KBr): 2927, 1803, 1681, 1587, 1489, 1443, 1402, 1293, 1222, 1167, 1098, 1075, 1009, 969, 942, 912, 873, 832, 805, 740, 651, 559, 512 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS): δ 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.26 (s, 1H), 3.13 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.77 (t, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 173.9, 151.7, 133.3, 131.8, 129.8, 129.3, 106.1, 27.6, 25.1; MS (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* 252 (18, M⁺), 89 (100); *Anal.* Calcd for C₁₁H₉BrO₂: C, 52.20; H, 3.58. Found: C, 52.08; H, 3.43.



(E)-4-(2-Bromophenyl)methylenebutanolide ((E)-4m). Oil. IR (film): 2976, 1806, 1676, 1563, 1468, 1437, 1297, 1161, 1123, 1102, 1025, 935, 837, 757, 662, 507 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS): δ 7.61 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.10-7.13 (m, 1H), 6.50 (s, 1H), 3.04-3.08 (m, 2H), 2.72-2.75 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.0, 152.2, 134.3, 133.1, 128.8, 128.4, 127.3, 124.5, 106.6, 27.6, 24.7; MS (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* 252 (32, M⁺), 296 (38), 89 (100); *Anal.* Calcd for C₁₁H₉BrO₂: C, 52.20; H, 3.58. Found: C, 52.37; H, 3.62.



(E)-4-(3-Bromophenyl)methylenebutanolide ((E)-4n). Oil. IR (film): 2974, 1806, 1676, 1468, 1437, 1297, 1161, 1123, 1102, 1024, 934, 836, 757, 663, 507, 447 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS): δ 7.61 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.10-7.12 (m, 1H), 6.50 (s, 1H), 3.05 (dt, *J* = 2.4 Hz, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.73 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 172.1, 150.4, 132.4, 131.2, 126.9, 126.5, 125.4, 122.6, 104.7, 25.7, 22.8; MS (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* 252 (31, M⁺), 196 (20), 89 (100); *Anal.* Calcd for C₁₁H₉BrO₂: C, 52.20; H, 3.58. Found: C, 52.28; H, 3.73.



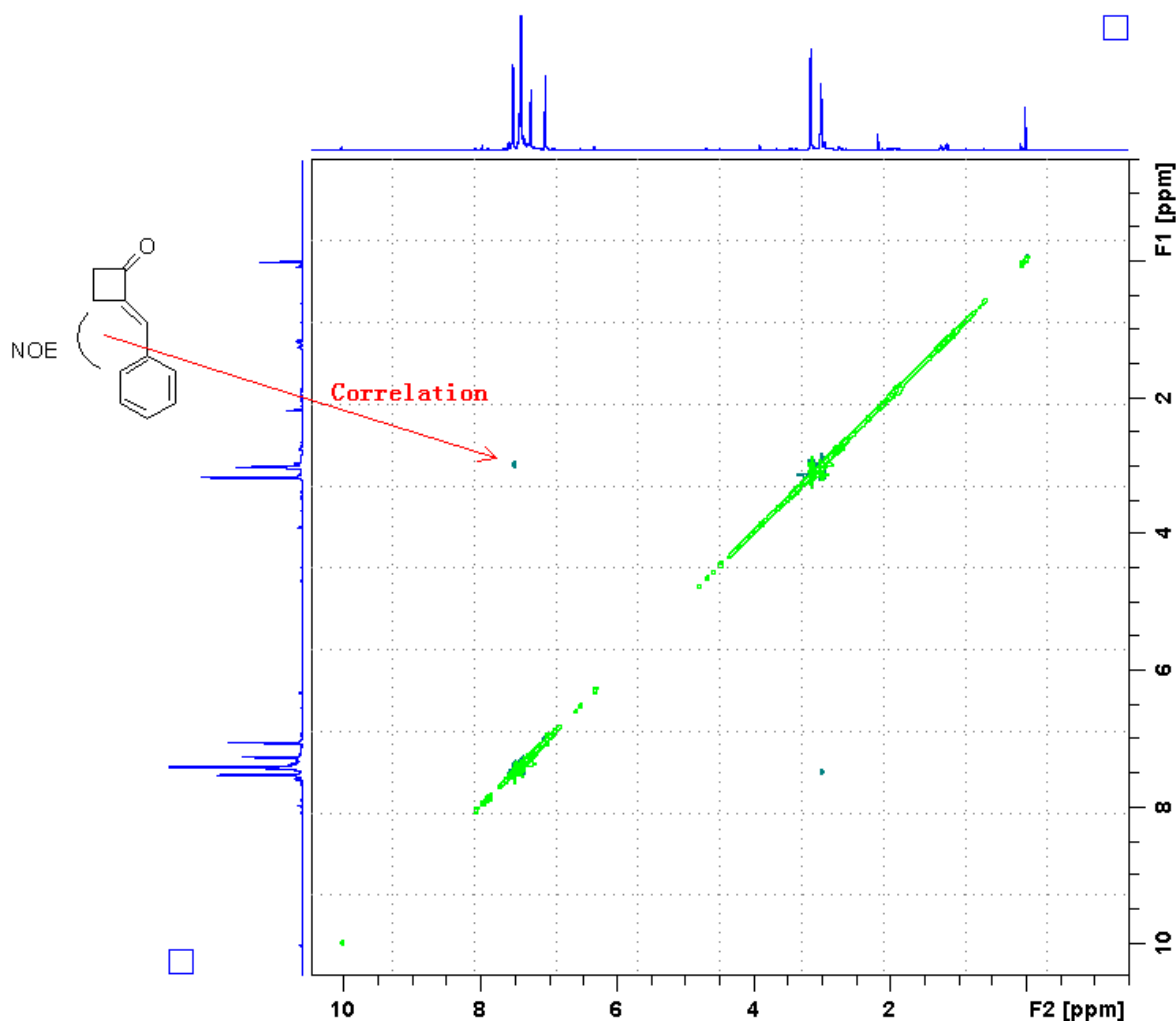
(E)-4-Cyclopropylidenebutanolide ((E)-4q). Oil. IR (film): 2925, 2851, 1797, 1696, 1447, 1418, 1379, 1345, 1295, 1238, 1175, 1139, 1091, 1012, 975, 911, 839, 664, 581, 536, 454 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS): δ 5.09 (d, $J = 10.2\text{Hz}$, 1H), 2.84 (t, $J = 8.4\text{ Hz}$, 2H), 2.66 (t, $J = 8.4\text{ Hz}$, 2H), 1.99-1.93 (m, 1H), 1.74-1.64 (m, 4H), 1.31-1.08 (m, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 175.1, 147.9, 110.7, 35.4, 33.3, 27.8, 25.9, 22.6; MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) 180 (43, M^+), 137 (100), 109 (56), 99 (56), 95 (65), 82 (66), 81 (92), 80 (51), 67 (50), 55 (67). HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 181.1223; found: 181.1229.

References

1. J. P. Markham, S. T. Staben, F. D. Toste, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2005, **127**, 9708.
2. WSS: Spectral data were obtained from Wiley Subscription Services, Inc. (US).
3. G. Tsolomiti, A. Tsolomitis, *Hetero. Commun.* 2006, **12**, 93.

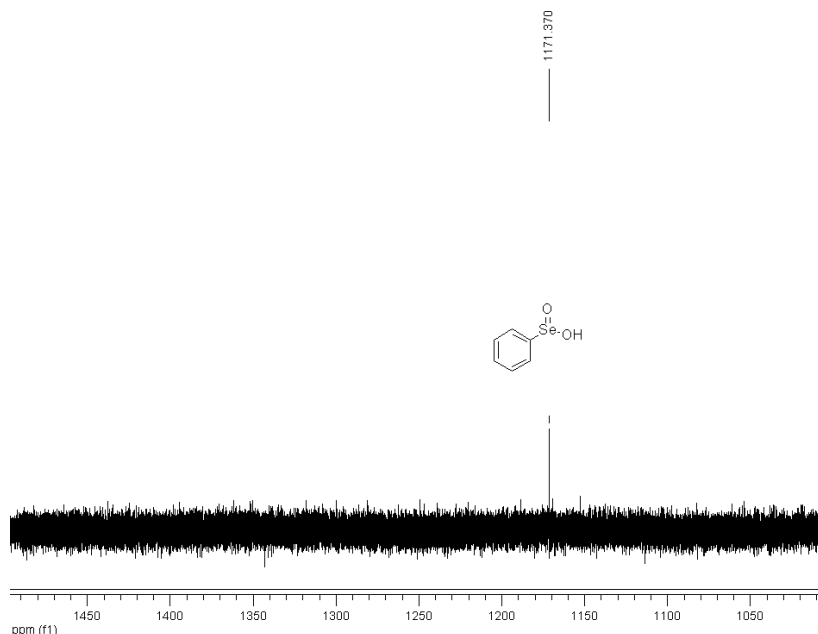
NOESY Spectra of Product (*E*)-3a and Determination of the Products' Stereochemistry

- 1) As shown in the following NOESY spectra of **3a**, the strong correlation between an aromatic proton (7.40 ppm) and the protons of cyclic CH₂ (2.99 ppm) confirmed that they are in a *syn*-position, indicating that product **3a** is the (*E*)-stereomer.
- 2) On the contrary, obviously there is no correlation between the vinylic proton (7.04 ppm) and the protons of cyclic CH₂ (2.99 ppm), implying that they are in an *anti*-position, which also indicated that product **3a** is the (*E*)-stereomer.
- 3) The stereochemistry of products (*E*)-**3a**, **3g**, and **3k** were also confirmed by the literature data (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2005**, 127, 9708).
- 4) The stereochemistry of other products (*E*)-**3** can be inferred analogously by comparing their NMR spectra and chemical shifts of the corresponding protons with those of **3a**, **3g** and **3k**.

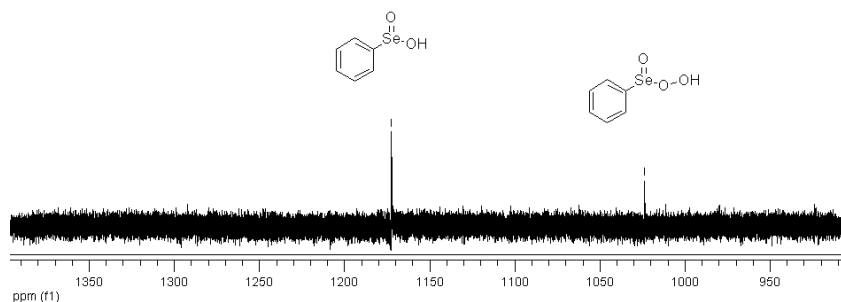
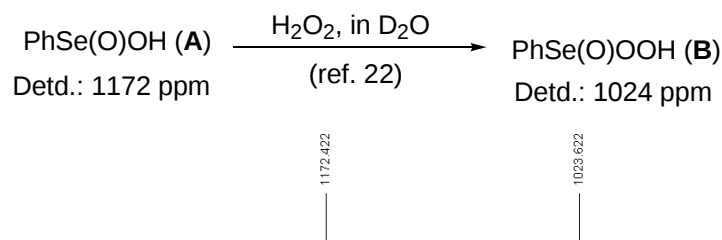


⁷⁷Se NMR Spectroscopic Analysis of the Involved Organoselenium Species

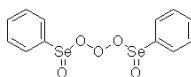
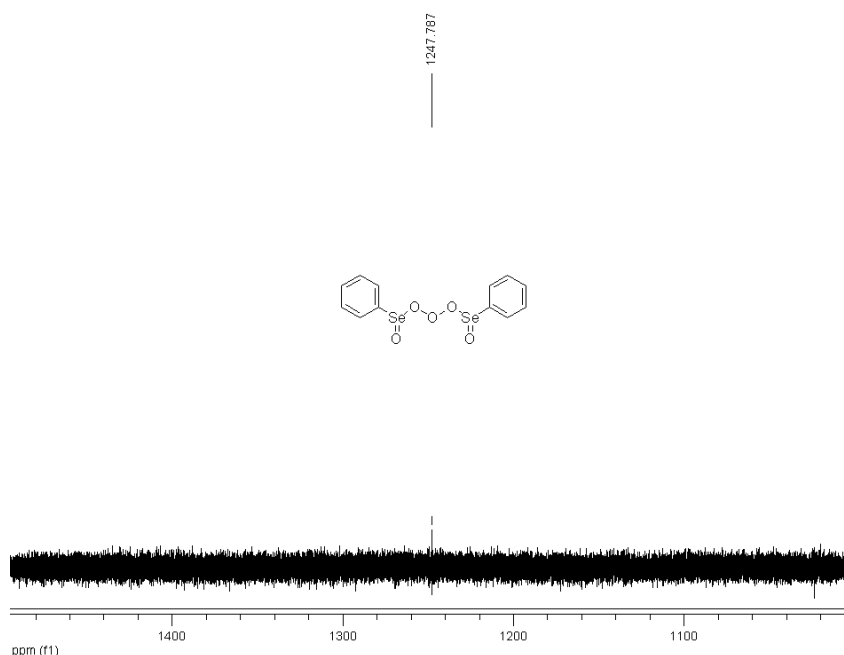
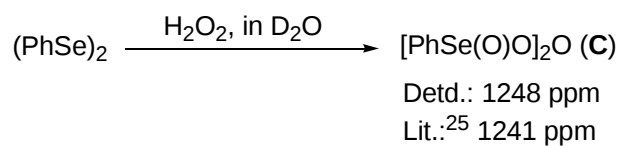
Step 1. Determined chemical shift of pure benzeneseleninic acid PhSe(O)OH (**A**) in D₂O is 1171 ppm, which is consistent with the literature data (1182 ppm, see: D. Dowd, P. Gettins, *Magn. Reson. Chem.* 1988, **26**, 1).



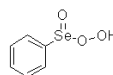
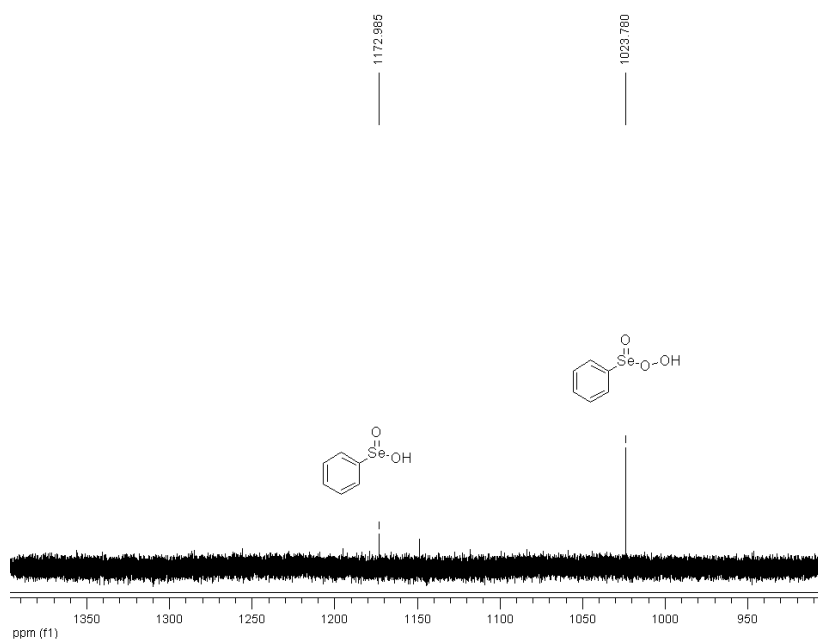
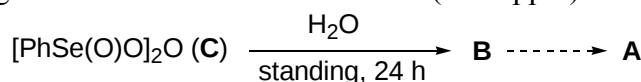
Step 2. Literature chemical shift of the unstable benzeneseleninoperoxoic acid PhSe(O)OOH (**B**) is not available, but it was reported that **B** could be obtained from **A** by treatment with H₂O₂ (see: L. Syper, J. Mlochowski, *Tetrahedron* 1987, **43**, 207). As shown below, by treating **A** with H₂O₂ in D₂O, a new peak at 1024 ppm was detected, which is most possibly the chemical shift of **B**.



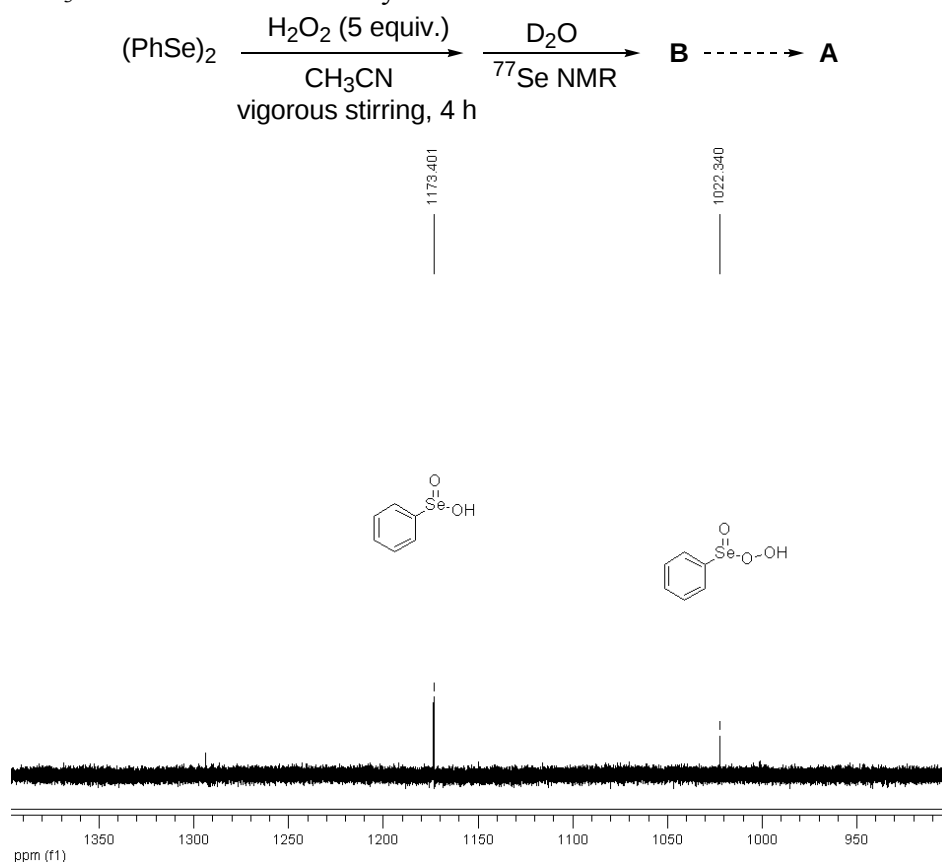
Step 3. By treating $(\text{PhSe})_2$ with H_2O_2 in D_2O , a new peak at 1248 ppm was detected, which, consists with the literature data (1241 ppm, see: <http://www.chem.wisc.edu/areas/reich/handouts/nmr/se-data.htm>) of benzeneseleninoperoxoic anhydride $[\text{PhSe}(\text{O})\text{O}]_2\text{O}$ (**C**), is thus most possibly the chemical shift of **C**.



Step 4. After standing for 24 h, the chemical shifts of the above sample (in step 3) changed a lot. As shown below, the peak of $[\text{PhSe}(\text{O})\text{O}]_2\text{O}$ (**C**) disappeared and that of **B** (1024 ppm) appeared as the major one, with generation of small amounts of **A** (1173 ppm).



Step 5. On the other hand, as shown below, vigorous stirring of the mixture of (PhSe)₂ and H₂O₂ (5 equiv.) in CH₃CN for 4 h could directly afford **A** and **B** without the detection of **C**.



¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of Products (E)-3 and (E)-4

