

Electronic Supporting Information

The kinetics of alkyl radical ring closures at selenium: formation of selenane.

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General procedures for the preparation of **5**, **7** and **10** ($R \neq Bn$). Table S1. Gaussian Archive Entries for all transition structures **11** calculated in this work. 1H , ^{13}C and ^{77}Se NMR spectra of **5**, **7** and **10** ($R \neq Bn$). (35 pages).

General procedures for the preparation of **5, **7** and **10** ($\text{R} \neq \text{Bn}$).**

Materials and Instrumentation: Chemicals and HPLC grade solvents were used as received and reactions were performed under argon unless otherwise stated. Dry ethanol was attained by distillation over magnesium. Dichloromethane, diethyl ether and tetrahydrofuran were dried using Glass Contour[©] solvent system. ¹H NMR spectra were collected using a Varian INOVA 400 or 500 MHz NMR. ¹³C and ⁷⁷Se NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian INOVA 500 mHz NMR. ¹H and ¹³C NMR chemical shifts are given in ppm relative to internally referenced CHCl_3 . ⁷⁷Se NMR chemical shifts are given in ppm relative to externally referenced diphenyl diselenide (δ 464). High resolution mass spectra were collected on a Finnigan LTQ FT by Thermo Electron Corporation. Infrared spectra were obtained using a Perkin Elmer Spectrum One FTIR spectrometer. Gas chromatography analysis was performed using Schimadzu GC-17A (column: CYDEX-B, 50m \times 0.22mm, film thickness 0.25 μm .

General procedure for the preparation of ethyl 5-(alkylseleno)hexanoates **7 and alkyl hexyl selenides **10**.**

Sodium borohydride was added portion wise to a solution of the dialkyl diselenide^{S1-S3} (0.55 equiv) in anhydrous ethanol (5 mL per mmol diselenide) at 0° until the yellow colour has disappeared. Ethyl 5-bromohexanoate or 1-bromohexane (1.0 equiv) was added and the solution was stirred at RT overnight. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and residue taken up in water. The resultant mixture was extracted with ether (3 x), the combined organic phases were dried (MgSO_4 or Na_2SO_4) and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was separated by flash chromatography (petroleum spirits : ethyl acetate) to yield the required product as a yellow oil.

General procedure for the hydrolysis of esters **7.**

Aqueous sodium hydroxide (ca. 1.0 equiv) was added to a solution of the required ester **7** (1.0 equiv) in ethanol (3.0 mL per mmol ester) and the resultant solution heated as reflux for 1 h. After cooling to RT, the ethanol was removed *in vacuo*, the residue dissolved in water and the aqueous solution washed with ether (3 x). After acidification with 10% hydrochloric acid, the solution was extracted with ether (3 x), the combined organic phases dried (Na_2SO_4) and the solvent removed *in vacuo* to afford the required 6-(alkylseleno)hexanoic acid as a pale solid which was converted to the corresponding Kim ester **5** without further purification.

General procedure for the preparation of Kim esters 5.

A solution of *N,S*-dimethyl-*N*-hydroxydithiocarbamate (1.5 equiv) in dichloromethane (1.0 mL per 1.5 mmol carbamate) was added drop wise to a solution of *N,N'*-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (1.0 equiv) and the required 6-(alkylseleno)hexanoic acid (1.0 equiv) in dichloromethane (2.0 mL per mmol acid). The reaction mixture was stirred at RT overnight and then filtered through celite. The filtrate was washed with NaHCO₃ and satd NaCl. The organic phase was dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a grey-green oil that was separated by flash chromatography (petroleum spirits : ethyl acetate) to yield the required product as a yellow/green oil.

References.

- S1 M.-D. Ruan, H.-R. Zhao, W.-Q. Fan and Z.-J. Zhou, *J. Organometal. Chem.*, 1995, **485**, 19 – 24.
- S2 A. Krief, C. Delmotte and W. Dumont, *Tetrahedron*, 1997, **53**, 12147 – 12158.
- S3 E. Block, M. Birringer, W. Jiang, T. Nakahodo, H. J. Thompson, P. J. Tuscanp, H. Uzar, X. Zhang and Z. Zhu, *J. Agric. Food Chem.*, 2001, **49**, 458 – 470.
- S4 H. J. Reich and C. P. Jasperse, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1986, **51**, 2981 – 2988.

Table S1.

Alkyl group (R)	Temp. (°C)	[9] / [10] ^a	k_H^b (M ⁻¹ s ⁻¹)	k_c (s ⁻¹)
2-octyl	23	8.6×10^{-3}	7.8×10^6	6.7×10^3
	35	1.06×10^{-2}	8.9×10^6	9.5×10^3
	45	1.06×10^{-2}	9.9×10^6	1.2×10^4
	55	1.77×10^{-2}	1.09×10^7	1.9×10^4
	65	2.79×10^{-2}	1.19×10^6	3.3×10^4
	70	2.79×10^{-2}	1.24×10^7	3.5×10^4
	75	2.75×10^{-2}	1.30×10^7	3.6×10^4
<i>tert</i> -butyl	25	2.19×10^{-2}	8.0×10^6	1.8×10^4
	38	3.53×10^{-3}	9.2×10^6	3.3×10^4
	45	3.95×10^{-2}	9.9×10^6	3.9×10^4
	58	4.52×10^{-3}	1.12×10^6	5.1×10^4
	63	5.46×10^{-2}	1.17×10^6	6.4×10^4
	72	7.25×10^{-2}	1.27×10^7	9.2×10^4
benzyl	70	1.39×10^{-1}	1.24×10^7	1.7×10^5
	75	1.61×10^{-1}	1.30×10^7	2.1×10^5
	80	1.89×10^{-1}	1.35×10^7	2.6×10^5
	90	1.54×10^{-1}	1.49×10^7	2.3×10^5
	100	1.87×10^{-1}	1.58×10^7	3.0×10^5
	105	1.90×10^{-1}	1.63×10^7	3.1×10^5
	110	2.21×10^{-1}	1.69×10^7	3.7×10^5
	116	2.52×10^{-2}	1.76×10^7	4.4×10^5

^aAverage of three experiments. ^bTaken from ref. 36.**Table S1. Rate data for the ring closure of the 5-(alkylseleno)pentyl radical 4 (R ≠ *n*-octyl). Reaction performed under pseudo-first-order conditions in 0.1M *tert*-dodecanethiol.**

B3LYP/6-31G(d) Gaussian Archive Entries for the transition states 11 involved in the cyclization of radicals 4, and single-point energies.

Transition state 11, R = Me.

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1\1\GINC-MERRI014\FTS\UB3LYP\6-31G(d)\C6H13Se1(2)\ROOT\21-Feb-2014\0\\
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b\\freq\\0,2\Se,0.,0.,0.\C,0.,0.,1.98270465\C,1.4122175438,0.,2.571369
0351\C,2.2229471276,-1.2763499189,2.2959219327\C,-1.9004574472,1.18476
95847,-0.0639350375\H,-1.631342966,2.1651495805,0.3301207009\H,-2.1565
646961,1.2122388297,-1.1219486641\H,-2.6427025377,0.6589168763,0.53452
98853\H,-0.573299327,-0.8737341068,2.3097602992\H,-0.5437249826,0.9000
742625,2.277873533\H,1.3286651964,0.1371701737,3.6595235764\H,1.955181
2575,0.8720173037,2.1834206733\H,1.697384086,-2.1377221368,2.735016130
8\H,3.1843319827,-1.2037178776,2.8205525827\C,2.4819821634,-1.55401227
37,0.806647539\H,3.0417205798,-0.7165533656,0.367679742\H,3.1363293638
,-2.4382174794,0.7222512179\C,1.2149614395,-1.7908264398,0.0033430833\
H,0.5763503844,-2.5801234581,0.4079771733\H,1.3946220819,-1.956202865,
-1.0607675057\\Version=AM64L-G09RevC.01\\State=2-A\\HF=-2635.7756654\\S2=
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022371,-0.1761625,0.4682977\\Polar=0.,0.,0.,0.,0.\\Quadrupole=-0.1934
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13Se1)]\\@
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ROMP2/GTMP2large//B3LYP/6-31G(d)=-2636.0158068

ROCCSDT/GT1Bas//B3LYP/6-31G(d)=-2635.3807755

Transition state 11, R = Et.

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,2,D3,0\H,5,B6,1,A5,2,D4,0\H,2,B7,1,A6,5,D5,0\H,2,B8,1,A7,5,D6,0\H,3,B
9,2,A8,1,D7,0\H,3,B10,2,A9,1,D8,0\H,4,B11,3,A10,2,D9,0\H,4,B12,3,A11,2
,D10,0\C,4,B13,3,A12,2,D11,0\H,14,B14,4,A13,3,D12,0\H,14,B15,4,A14,3,D
13,0\C,14,B16,4,A15,3,D14,0\H,17,B17,14,A16,4,D15,0\H,17,B18,14,A17,4,
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B4=2.19528759\\B5=1.09293372\\B6=1.09188704\\B7=1.0946688\\B8=1.09274811\\B
9=1.10013758\\B10=1.09782104\\B11=1.10048987\\B12=1.09773829\\B13=1.537287
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7462527\ D11=61.94475639\ D12=59.4362328\ D13=174.79367446\ D14=-63.357106
61\ D15=-52.26316106\ D16=177.14296257\ D17=-73.49982397\ D18=-56.72517854
\ D19=63.23803913\ D20=-176.81787217\ \Version=ES64L-G09RevD.01\ State=2-A
\ HF=-2675.0933554\ S2=0.764113\ S2-1=0.\ S2A=0.750066\ RMSD=4.780e-09\ RMSF
=4.198e-05\ Dipole=-0.0280221,-0.0735532,0.4313791\ Quadrupole=0.011633,
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ROMP2/GTMP2large//B3LYP/6-31G(d)=-2675.2368084

ROCCSDT/GT1Bas//B3LYP/6-31G(d)=-2674.5645816

Transition state 11, R = iso-Propyl.

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1\1\GINC-R2506\FTS\UB3LYP\6-31G(d)\C8H17Se1(2)\ROOT\23-Feb-2014\1\\# B
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1,A4,2,D3,0\H,2,B6,1,A5,5,D4,0\H,2,B7,1,A6,5,D5,0\H,3,B8,2,A7,1,D6,0\H
,3,B9,2,A8,1,D7,0\H,4,B10,3,A9,2,D8,0\H,4,B11,3,A10,2,D9,0\C,4,B12,3,A
11,2,D10,0\H,13,B13,4,A12,3,D11,0\H,13,B14,4,A13,3,D12,0\C,13,B15,4,A1
4,3,D13,0\H,16,B16,13,A15,4,D14,0\H,16,B17,13,A16,4,D15,0\C,5,B18,1,A1
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ROMP2/GTMP2large//B3LYP/6-31G(d)=-2714.4534379

ROCCSDT/GT1Bas//B3LYP/6-31G(d)=-2713.7510934

Transition state 11, R = tert-Bu

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\C,2.3250529437,-1.1986729589,2.2377280562\C,-1.9349453464,1.184292020
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,2.7449604896\H,3.3045336763,-0.9840198269,2.6846891223\C,2.5179755787
,-1.5134288224,0.7444255735\H,2.9053694282,-0.6259081629,0.2248910597\
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,0.0525353765\H,0.6971772897,-2.774293377,0.5546153866\H,1.3348563542,
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1.7728646464\H,-4.0133982786,1.200248619,0.5855672624\C,-2.1644155806,
1.237117659,-1.5456004026\H,-1.2798808167,1.6133424908,-2.0724888288\H
,-2.4039037095,0.2461435925,-1.9475003654\H,-3.004303443,1.9071952994,
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-2.3159964565,3.2749335885,0.3981271064\Version=AM64L-G09RevC.01\Stat
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ROMP2/GTMP2large//B3LYP/6-31G(d)=-2753.6763773

ROCCSDT/GT1Bas//B3LYP/6-31G(d)=-2752.9377168

Transition state 11, R = Bn.

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9.91420531\D8=-175.00523438\D9=62.8467998\D10=56.69646054\D11=171.5499
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418\D16=96.78499584\D17=-80.53794102\D18=-178.47232672\D19=1.82341013\
D20=-181.40552904\D21=-1.29696156\D22=-0.61357393\D23=180.47446895\D24
=179.45905535\D25=-180.03980707\D26=-63.66928291\D27=53.5529728\\Versi
on=ES64L-G09RevD.01\State=2-A\HF=-2866.8344166\S2=0.764549\S2-1=0.\S2A
=0.750093\RMSD=6.301e-09\RMSF=2.292e-05\Di pole=0.0898083,-0.0952522,0.
5184119\Quadrupole=-0.8798374,-1.7134914,2.5933289,0.9179507,1.0537099
,-1.1826249\PG=C01 [X(C12H17Se1)]\\@

ROMP2/GTMP2large//B3LYP/6-31G(d)=-2866.5547094

ROCCSDT/GT1Bas//B3LYP/6-31G(d)=-2865.7533212





















































