

Published in final edited form as:

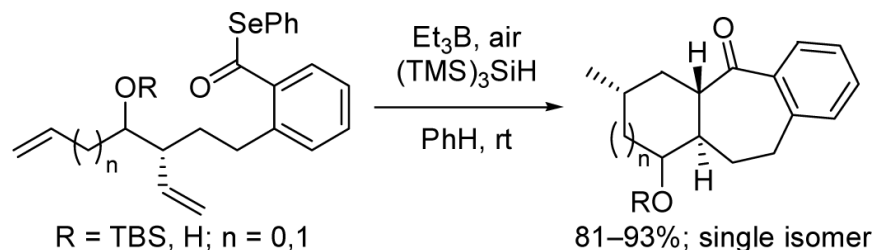
*Org Lett.* 2006 April 27; 8(9): 1867–1870.

## Stereoselective Cascade Reactions that Incorporate a 7-*exo* Acyl Radical Cyclization

Seth W. Grant, Koudi Zhu, Yu Zhang, and Steven L. Castle

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602

### Abstract



Radical cascades that feature a 7-*exo* acyl radical cyclization followed by a 6-*exo* or 5-*exo* alkyl radical cyclization proceed with very good yields and diastereoselectivities. Two stereocenters are created by the reaction, and a single isomeric product was obtained from each of the five substrates examined. The relative configurations of the products are consistent with cyclizations occurring via chairlike or pseudochairlike transition states.

The synthesis of seven-membered rings via radical cyclization is rare and usually limited to specialized substrates.<sup>1</sup> Acyl radical cyclizations represent a large subset of the known 7-*exo* radical processes. The slower reduction rates of acyl radicals relative to alkyl radicals render them more useful in 7-*exo* cyclizations.<sup>2</sup> In a seminal report, Boger demonstrated that 7-*exo-trig* acyl radical cyclizations with unactivated alkene acceptors are facile provided an aromatic ring is present in the tether between the radical and the acceptor.<sup>3</sup> Evans,<sup>4</sup> Bonjoch,<sup>5</sup> and Ryu<sup>6</sup> have subsequently disclosed various 7-*exo* ring closures involving acyl radicals. Significantly, Evans found that these reactions can proceed with excellent diastereoselectivity.<sup>4</sup> Despite these advances, to the best of our knowledge there are no published reports of cascade reactions that incorporate a 7-*exo* acyl radical cyclization.<sup>7</sup>

Lyconadin A (**1**, Figure 1) is an anticancer alkaloid isolated by Kobayashi from the club moss *Lycopodium complanatum*.<sup>8</sup> Its unique molecular skeleton makes **1** an attractive target for total synthesis. In the course of planning such an endeavor, we recognized that a bicyclo[5.4.0] undecane ring system is embedded within the framework of **1** (depicted in bold in Figure 1). A tandem 7-*exo*–6-*exo* radical cyclization would be a particularly efficient means of preparing this structural motif. Accordingly, we decided to study the facility and stereoselectivity of this process with model substrates prior to commencing the total synthesis. Herein, we report that 7-*exo*–6-*exo* and 7-*exo*–5-*exo* cascade cyclizations which employ an acyl radical in the initial ring closure proceed in good yields with excellent levels of diastereoselectivity.

scastle@chem.byu.edu.

**Supporting Information Available:** Experimental procedures and characterization data for all new compounds, as well as <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra for selected compounds. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

In order to mimic the 2-pyridone moiety of **1** and take advantage of the precedent of Boger,<sup>3</sup> we targeted phenylethered phenyl selenoester **12** as our initial cyclization substrate and prepared it as outlined in Scheme 1. Thus, saponification of 1-isochromanone (**2**)<sup>9</sup> and exhaustive PMB protection afforded ester **3**, which was reduced with LiAlH<sub>4</sub>. Treatment of the resultant crude alcohol with TBS-Cl provided differentially protected diol **4**. Cleavage of the PMB ether delivered phenethyl alcohol **5**, which was converted into the corresponding bromide in excellent yield. Alkylation of diethyl acetone 1,3-dicarboxylate (DEADC) by this bromide provided **6** in good yield. Careful optimization of Johnson's conditions<sup>10</sup> was required in order to preclude styrene formation via elimination of the bromide.

Reduction of **6** with NaBH<sub>4</sub> was modestly *syn*-selective<sup>11</sup> and provided **7** as a mixture of diastereomers after TBS protection. The minor *anti* diastereomer was gradually removed over the course of the next few steps. Conversion of both ester moieties to the corresponding Weinreb amides was followed by attempts to form bisolefin **10** via a reduction–Wittig olefination sequence. Unfortunately, significant differences in the reduction rates of the two amides necessitated the stepwise approach to **10** portrayed in Scheme 1. Then, selective cleavage of the primary benzylic silyl ether mediated by camphorsulfonic acid (CSA) was followed by oxidation and phenyl selenoesterification,<sup>12</sup> delivering cyclization substrate **12** in good yield.

Pleasingly, treatment of **12** with Et<sub>3</sub>B, air, and tris(trimethylsilyl)silane according to a slight modification of the conditions disclosed by Evans<sup>4c</sup> provided tricycle **13** in excellent yield as a single diastereomer (Scheme 2). The *trans* ring fusion and relative configuration of the methyl-bearing stereocenter of **13** are consistent with data obtained from both 1D and 2D NMR experiments.<sup>13</sup> Notably, (TMS)<sub>3</sub>SiH proved critical to the success of the cyclization, as use of the more rapid hydrogen atom donor Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH resulted in a complex mixture from which prematurely reduced byproducts could be tentatively identified. Interestingly, we found that vigorous stirring of the reaction mixture was crucial to the reproducibility of the reaction. We propose that fast stirring leads to an increase in the surface area of the solution that is exposed to air, thereby increasing the concentration of oxygen in solution and resulting in more efficient initiation of the radical cascade process.

Intrigued by this result, we next examined cascade cyclizations of substrates related to **12** in order to ascertain the origins of the excellent diastereoselectivity. To probe the role of the OTBS group, we generated free alcohol **14** from **12** via treatment with CSA as illustrated in Scheme 3. Interestingly, cyclization of **14** provided alcohol **15** as a single diastereomer which was identical in structure to material obtained from deprotection of **13**. Accordingly, the bulky silyl ether moiety is not required to achieve stereoselectivity in this process.

By simply changing the conditions for reduction of ketone **6**, we were able to access phenyl selenoester **21**, the diastereomer of our original cyclization substrate **12**. Thus, exposure of **6** to freshly prepared Zn(BH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub><sup>14</sup> and silylation of the resultant alcohol delivered *anti* isomer **16** in 4:1 dr (Scheme 4). Conversion of **16** into **21** proceeded without incident via the route employed for the synthesis of **12**. Gratifyingly, **21** produced a single tricyclic product upon treatment with Et<sub>3</sub>B–(TMS)<sub>3</sub>SiH. The structure of this compound was formulated as **22** based on NMR experiments.<sup>13</sup> Therefore, it appears that this 7-*exo*–6-*exo* cascade radical cyclization occurs with outstanding diastereoselectivity regardless of the relative configuration of the OTBS substituent.

Although not directly relevant to our targeted natural product **1**, we also examined the corresponding 7-*exo*–5-*exo* tandem radical cyclizations in order to learn more about the scope of the cascade reaction. The synthesis of requisite phenyl selenoester **31** is detailed in Scheme 5. Alkylation of diethyl malonate with the bromide derived from **5** and reduction of the resultant

diester afforded 1,3-diol **24** in excellent yield. Monoprotection of this diol as a PMB ether followed by oxidation and vinyl Grignard addition provided allylic alcohol **26** as a ca. 1:1 mixture of diastereomers. This mixture was carried on as such through the remainder of the synthesis. Then, TBS protection of the secondary alcohol and PMB ether cleavage delivered primary alcohol **28**. This compound was transformed into diene **29** via an oxidation–Wittig methylenation sequence. Conversion of **29** into phenyl selenoester **31** mirrors the routes shown in Schemes 1 and 4 used to prepare the 7-*exo*–6-*exo* cyclization substrates.

Exposure of **31** to the previously developed tandem cyclization conditions resulted in a separable 1:1 mixture of tricyclic compounds **32** and **33**, whose structures were elucidated via 1D and 2D NMR spectroscopy (Scheme 6).<sup>13</sup> Since **32** and **33** are epimeric only at the OTBS-bearing carbon, we believe that the 7-*exo*–5-*exo* radical cyclization cascade was highly stereoselective, with each diastereomer of the starting material delivering a single product.

The stereochemical course of the reactions is consistent with cyclization via chairlike or pseudochairlike transition states in which the number of equatorial or pseudoequatorial substituents is maximized (Figure 2). Evans has postulated similar transition states for other stereoselective 7-*exo-trig* acyl radical cyclizations.<sup>4a</sup> It is noteworthy that the cyclization of **21** provided a single diastereomer. Apparently, the presence of an axial hydrogen in the transition state of the second cyclization (see Figure 2, R<sub>1</sub> = H) is sufficient to force the alkene to reside in an equatorial orientation due to the strain inherent in the alternative axial conformer.

Comparison of the structures of tricycles **13**, **15**, and **22** with that of lyconadin A reveals that our tandem cyclizations create the proper stereochemistry at the methyl-bearing carbon but the improper stereochemistry at the  $\alpha$ -carbonyl ring junction. Fortunately, it should be possible to invert the configuration at the latter carbon. We are currently investigating this transformation.

In conclusion, we have found that 7-*exo* acyl radical cyclizations followed by 6-*exo* or 5-*exo* alkyl radical cyclizations can occur with excellent yields and diastereoselectivities. In fact, of the five cyclization substrates examined,<sup>15</sup> all were transformed into a single detectable diastereomer. The stereochemistry of the adducts is consistent with the cyclizations proceeding via chairlike or pseudochairlike transition states. To the best of our knowledge, these reactions represent the first examples of radical cascades that incorporate a 7-*exo* acyl radical cyclization. Studies to fully define the scope and limitations of this process and apply it to the total synthesis of natural products are in progress.

## Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

### Acknowledgment

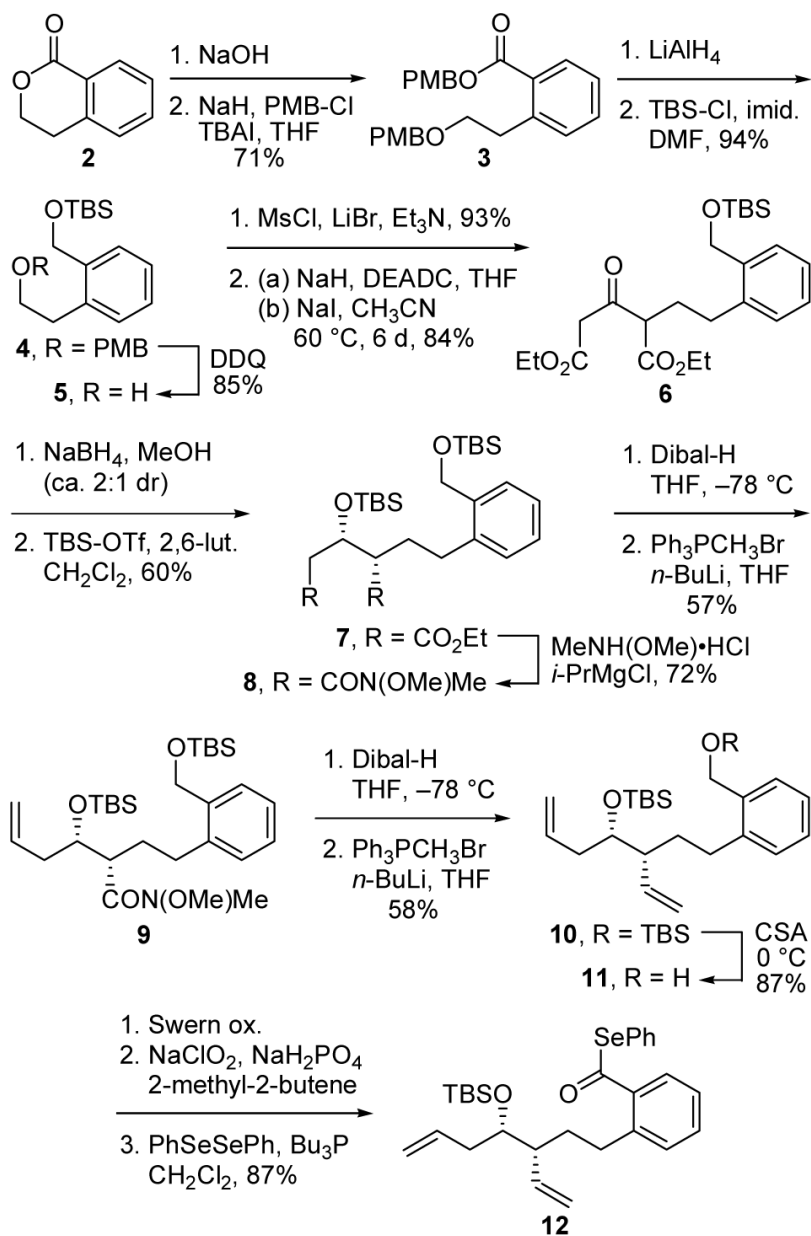
We thank Brigham Young University and the National Institutes of Health (GM70483) for support of this work. S.W.G. thanks the BYU Cancer Research Center for a Summer Research Fellowship.

## References

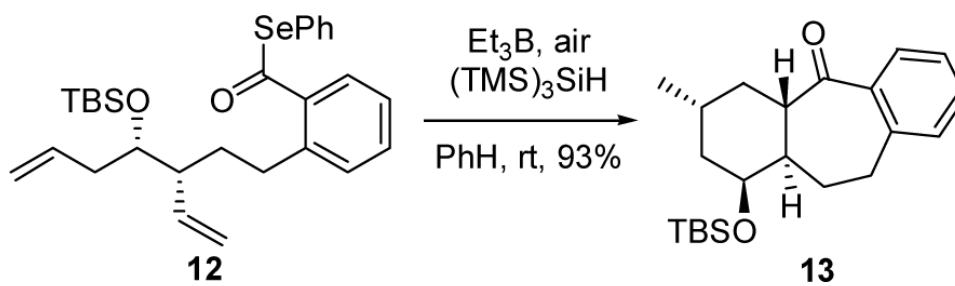
1. a Justicia J, Oller-López JL, Campaña AG, Oltra JE, Cuerva JM, Buñuel E, Cárdenas DJ. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2005;127:14911. [PubMed: 16231947] b Lang S, Corr M, Muir N, Khan TA, Schönebeck F, Murphy JA, Payne AH, Williams AC. *Tetrahedron Lett* 2005;46:4027. Srikrishna, A. *Radicals in Organic Synthesis*. Renaud, P.; Sibi, MP., editors. 2. Wiley-VCH; Weinheim: 2001. p. 163-187.
2. a Chatgililoglu C, Crich D, Komatsu M, Ryu I. *Chem. Rev* 1999;99:1991. [PubMed: 11849018] b Boger DL. *Israel J. Chem* 1997;37:119.
3. a Boger DL, Mathvink RJ. *J. Org. Chem* 1988;53:3377. b Boger DL, Mathvink RJ. *J. Org. Chem* 1992;57:1429.

4. a Evans PA, Roseman JD. *J. Org. Chem* 1996;61:2252. b Evans PA, Raina S, Ahsan K. *Chem. Commun* 2001:2504. c Evans PA, Manangan T, Rheingold AL. *J. Am. Chem. Soc* 2000;122:11009. d Evans PA, Manangan T. *Tetrahedron Lett* 1997;38:8165. e Evans PA, Manangan T. *J. Org. Chem* 2000;65:4523. [PubMed: 10959853]
5. a Quirante J, Escolano C, Bonjoch J. *Synlett* 1997:179. b Quirante J, Vila X, Escolano C, Bonjoch J. *J. Org. Chem* 2002;67:2323. [PubMed: 11925248]
6. a Ryu I, Miyazato H, Kuriyama H, Matsu K, Tojino M, Fukuyama T, Minakata S, Komatsu M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc* 2003;125:5632. [PubMed: 12733892] b Tojino M, Otsuka M, Fukuyama T, Matsubara H, Schiesser CH, Kuriyama H, Miyazato H, Minakata S, Komatsu M, Ryu I. *Org. Biomol. Chem* 2003;1:4262. [PubMed: 14685329]
7. For a review on radical cascade reactions, see: McCarroll AJ, Walton JC. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed* 2001;40:2224. For examples of cascades employing acyl radicals, see ref. <sup>2a</sup>.
8. Kobayashi J, Hirasawa Y, Yoshida N, Morita H. *J. Org. Chem* 2001;66:5901. [PubMed: 11511269]
9. Kim SS, Sar SK, Tamrakar P. *Bull. Korean Chem. Soc* 2002;23:937.
10. Johnson WS, Plummer MS, Reddy SP, Bartlett WR. *J. Am. Chem. Soc* 1993;115:515.
11. Williams RM, Lee BH, Miller MM, Anderson OP. *J. Am. Chem. Soc* 1989;111:1073.
12. Singh U, Ghosh SK, Chadha MS, Mamdapur VR. *Tetrahedron Lett* 1991;32:255.
13. See Supporting Information for details on structural assignments.
14. Overman LE, Angle SR. *J. Org. Chem* 1985;50:4021.
15. This analysis counts each diastereomer of 31 as a separate substrate.

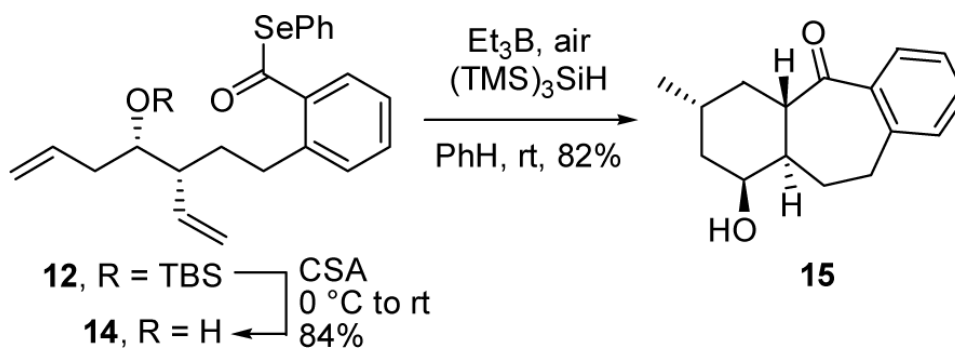




**Scheme 1.**  
Preparation of Phenyl Selenoester **12**

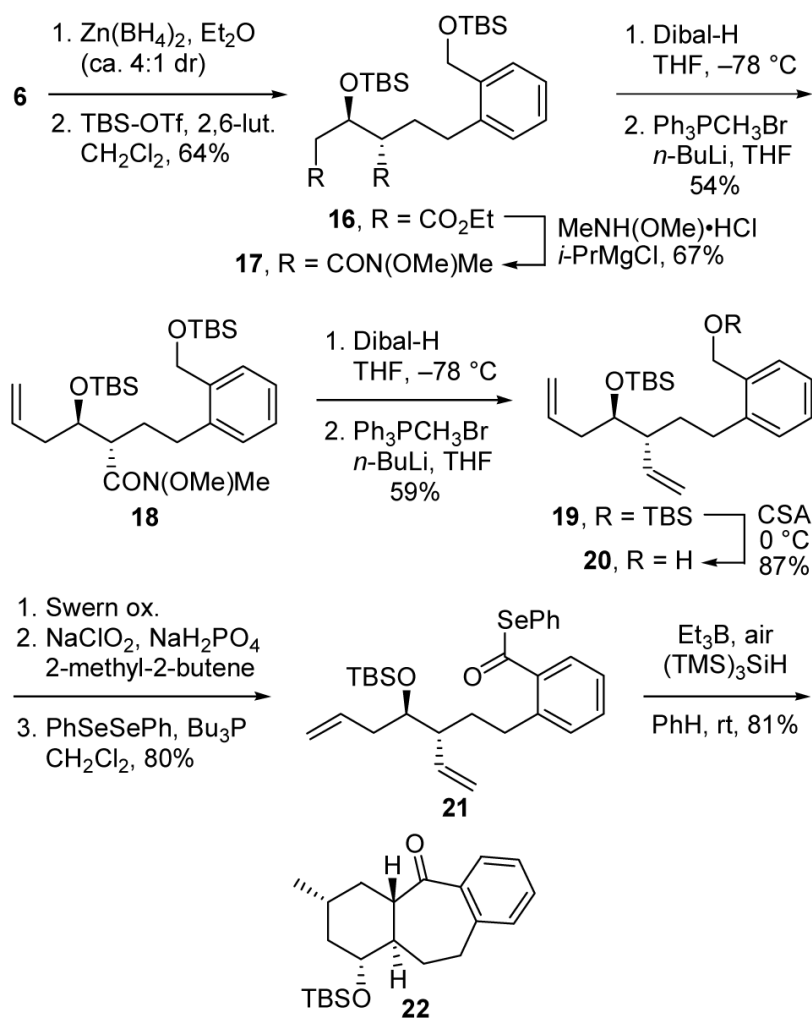


**Scheme 2.**  
Tandem 7-*exo*-6-*exo* Cyclization of **12**

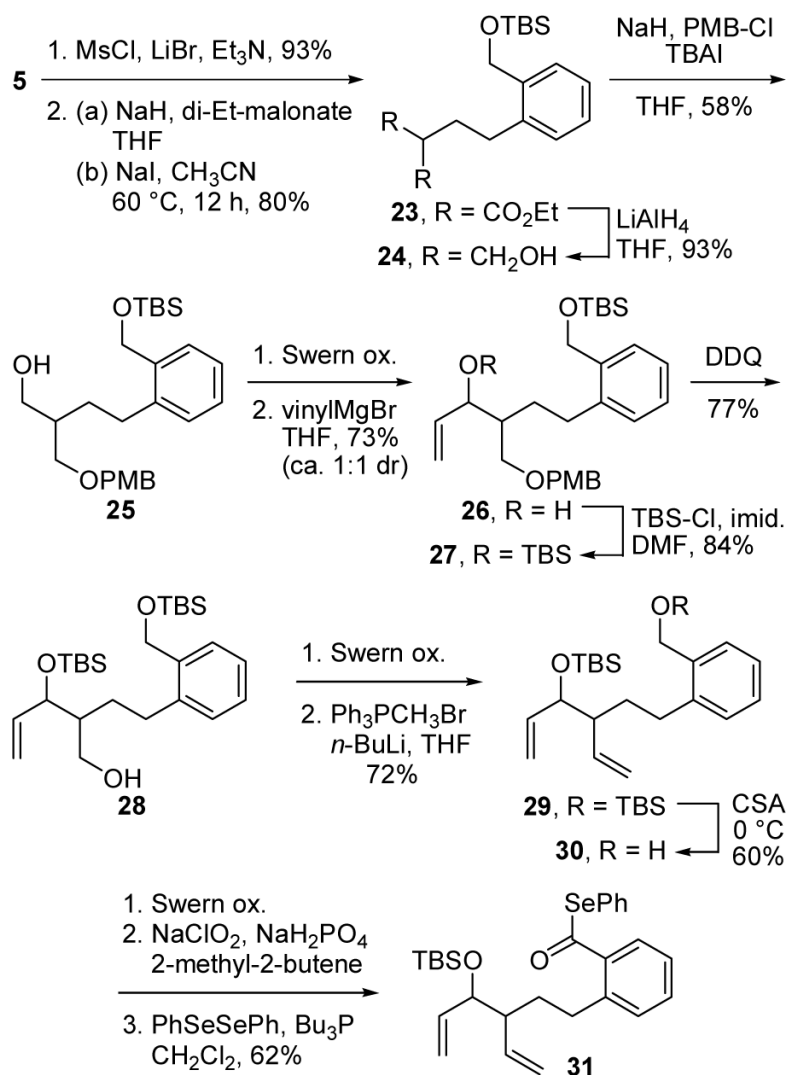


**Scheme 3.**  
Tandem Cyclization of Alcohol **14**

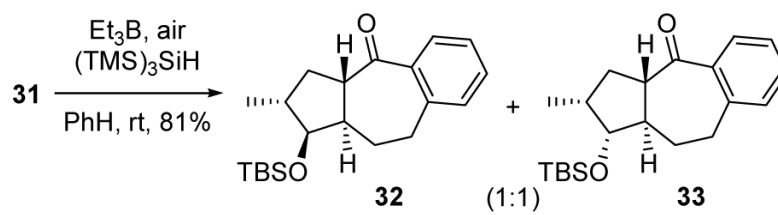




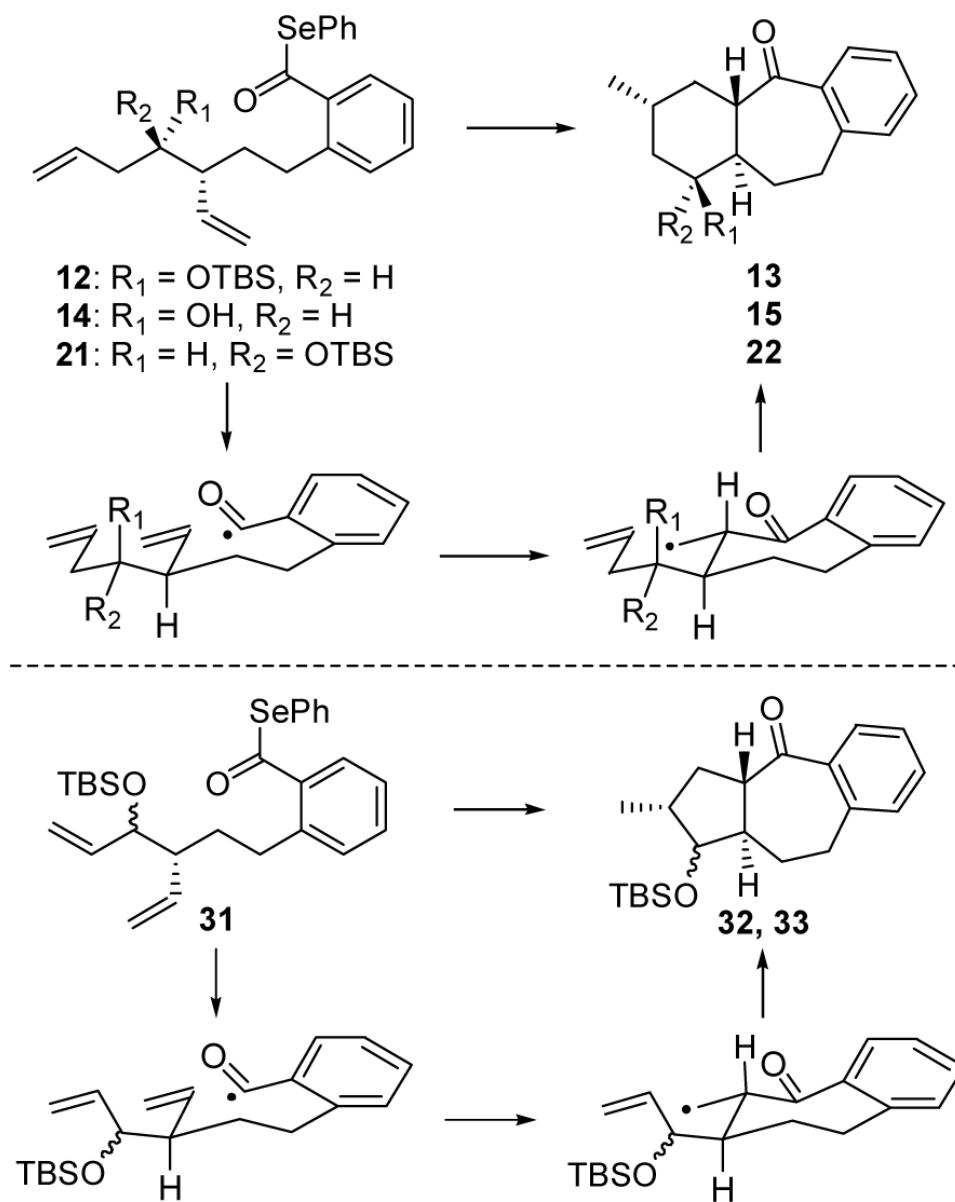
**Scheme 4.**  
Synthesis and Cyclization of Phenyl Selenoester **21**



**Scheme 5.**  
Preparation of Phenyl Selenoester **31**



**Scheme 6.**  
Tandem 7-*exo*-5-*exo* Cyclization of **31**



**Figure 2.**  
Proposed Pathways of Tandem Cyclizations.