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Gold(I)-Catalyzed Enantioselective Polycyclization Reactions

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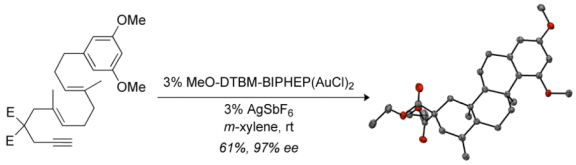
Abstract



A series of enantioselective polycyclization reactions, catalyzed by a cationic bisphosphine gold complexes, are described. The polycyclization reactions, which employ an alkyne as an initiating group, begin with a gold-promoted 6-*exo*-dig cyclization and can be terminated with a variety of nucleophiles including carboxylic acids, phenols, sulfonamides and electron-rich aryl groups. This method allows for the preparation of up to 4-bonds in a single operation with excellent diastereo- and enantioselectivity.

Polycyclization reactions of unsaturated molecules allow for the rapid construction of complex structures in a single operation.1 Thus, numerous methods that allow for excellent disastereocontrol have been developed over the past 50 years.2 In contrast, enantioselective variants are rare and the majority of reported examples involve cyclization cascades that are promoted by reactions of alkenes with electrophillic reagents.3,4 Given that the substrates contain multiple alkenes, initiating polycyclization reactions through selective activation of an alkyne5,6 offers the potential advantage of circumventing unwanted reactions resulting from non-selective alkene activation; however, an example of an enantioselective polycyclization reaction of alkynes has yet to be reported.

Given that the majority of polycyclizations reactions have been induced by an endocyclic process, we first evaluated the use of chiral phosphinegold(I) complexes in a 6-*endo*-dig initiated polycyclization of 1,5-enynes;7 however, only poor enantioselectivity was obtained (up to 33% ee). While gold(I)-catalyzed enantioselective reactions of alkynes remain rare, the majority or reports involve 5-*exo*-dig additions;8 however, we have recently reported an example of an enantioselective rearrangement initiated by a *6-exo*-dig cyclization.9 Therefore we hypothesized that a related process might be employed to induce enantioselective polycyclization reactions.

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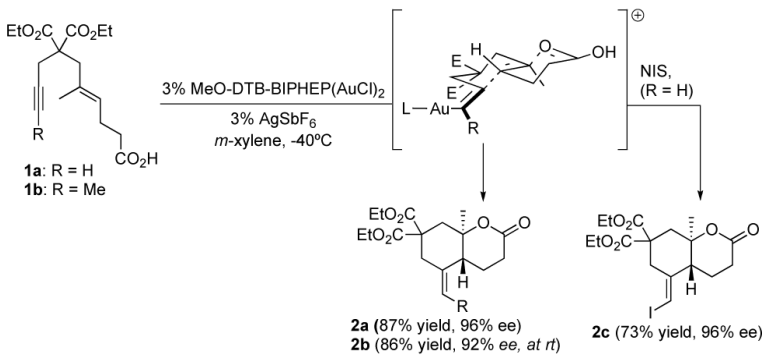
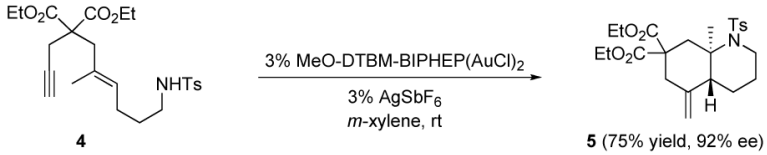
Supporting Information Available: Experimental procedures, compound characterization data, and crystallographic data (CIF). This material is available free of charge via the internet at http://pubs.acs.org.



(1)

Accordingly, we began a systematic evaluation ligand effects in the bicyclization of carboxylic acid **1a** (Table 1).10 Reaction of **1a**, catalyzed by a series monocationic (BINAP)gold(I) complexes, produced lactone **2a** with 17-40% ee along with small amounts of **3** (entries 1-3). Given the notable improvements in enantioselectivity previously observed in gold-catalyzed reaction employing sterically-encumbered phosphines,8,11 we examined *tert*-butyl-substituted phosphines as ligands. While the Segphos-based ligand gave poorer enantioselectivity (entry 4), we were pleased to find that the use MeO-DTBM-BIPHEP resulted in the formation of **2a** in 48% ee (entry 5). The reaction showed a dramatic solvent effect, with non-polar aromatic solvents providing the desired lactone **2a** in up 87% ee.12 Switching the ligand to MeO-DTB-BIPHEP furnished fused bicyclic compound **2a** as a single diastereomer13 in 87% yield and 92% ee (entry 9). A further improvement in enantioselectivity was achieved by conducting the reaction at −40°C, thereby furnishing **2a** in 96% ee, as a single diastereomer and only trace amounts of **3** (eq 1).14 Under these conditions, gold(I)-catalyzed cyclization of **1a**, in the presence of an electrophilic iodine source, afforded diastereomerically pure vinyl iodide **2c** in 96% ee. The observation that the enantioselectivity obtained in the formation of **2c** was identical with that of **2a** is in agreement with iodination occurring subsequent to the cyclization event.15 Internal alkyne **1b** also underwent the gold(I)-catalyzed cyclization to afford **2b** as a single alkene isomer in 86% yield and 92% ee (eq 1); although longer reaction times were required, even at rt, for full conversion.

We next evaluated various nucleophiles as terminating groups for the gold-catalyzed polycyclization. We were pleased to find that the catalyst and conditions developed for lactonization of **1** were fairly insensitive to the nature of the terminating group. For example, gold-catalyzed sulfonamide-terminated cyclization of enyne **4** produced decahydroquinoline **5** in 75% yield and 92% ee (eq 2). Cyclization of phenoxy-substituted prenyl alkynes also



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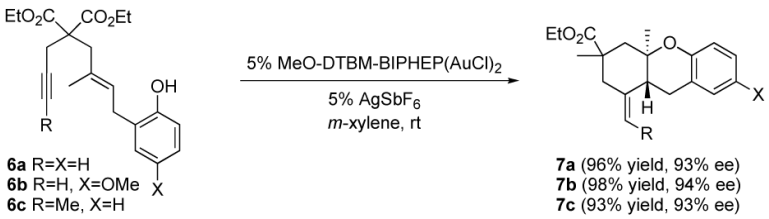

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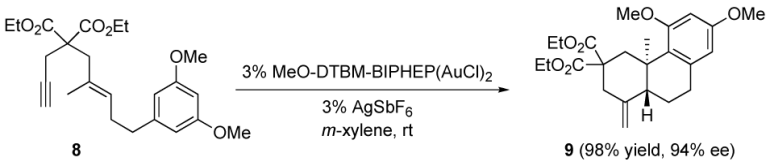
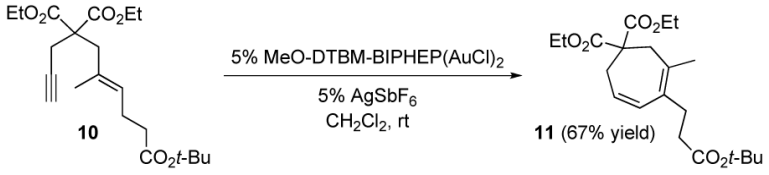


(4)

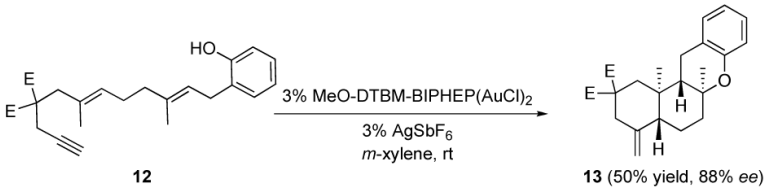
afforded products consistent with a cation-initiated polycyclization reaction. For example, gold-catalyzed reaction of **6a-c** produced hexahydroxanthene derivatives **7a-c** in excellent yield and enantioselectivity (eq 3). Additionally, the use of an electron-rich aryl group as a nucleophile allowed for the enantioselective formation of **9**, which contains a benzylic quaternary center, in 98% yield and 94% *ee* (eq 4). The generality of the reaction conditions is noteworthy, allowing a diverse range of nucleophilic terminating groups to participate in the gold-catalyzed polycyclization reaction with excellent chemo-, diastereo- and enantioselectivity.

In contrast, gold-catalyzed reaction of *t*-butylester **10** afforded only 18% of lactone **2a** along with 27% of **3** and 18% of cycloheptadiene **11**. Moreover, gold-catalyzed reaction of **10** in methylene chloride generated **11** as the major product (eq 5). These products are consistent with a mechanism in which gold, rather than the trapping nucleophile, stabilizes the developing positive charge in the cyclization.16 This observation supports the hypothesis that the nature of the nucleophile, and even the solvent, can impact the nature of the gold intermediate in these cyclization reactions.17,18



(5)

Encouraged by the successful gold-catalyzed bicyclization reactions, we turned our attention to examining the corresponding tricyclization process. To this end, gold-catalyzed reaction of phenol **12** afforded tetracyclic ether in 88% ee (eq 5). Additionally, diene-yne **14** reacted smoothly at room temperature to afford tetracyclic compound **15** as a single diastereomer in 61% yield and 97% ee (eq 7). An X-ray structure **15** provided confirmation of the structure and allowed for assignment of its absolute stereochemistry**.**



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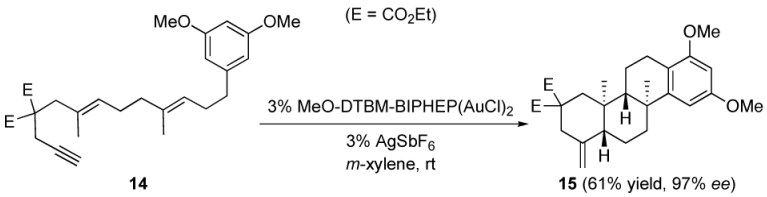

(7)

In conclusion, we have developed the first example of a highly enantioselective polyene cyclization reaction in which transition metal-promoted alkyne activation serves as the cyclization initiating event. The (MeO-DTB-BIPHEP)gold(I)-catalyzed reaction offers an efficient method for the stereoselective synthesis of polycyclic compounds whose stereochemistry is consistent with the Stork-Eschenmoser postulate for polyene cyclization. In this context, a number of nucleophiles can be used to terminate the reaction, and therefore carbo- and heterocyclic structures can be accessed.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

Acknowledgments

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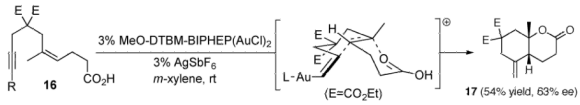
(12). Replacing $AgSbF_6$ with either $AgClO_4$ (81% ee) or $AgBF_4$ (82% ee) resulted in a decrease in enantioselectivity.

(13). In accord with the Stork-Eschenmoser hypothesis2a-b, cyclization of (*Z*)-alkene **16** selectively afforded *cis*-fused lactone **17** in 54% yield and 63% ee.



(14). In all other examples, the enantioselectivity was identical at rt and −40°C.

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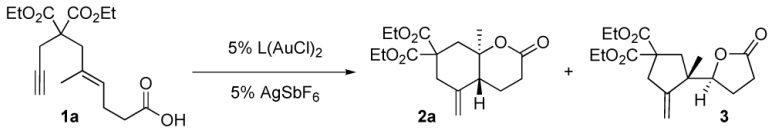
Table 1

Optimization of Reaction Conditions



entry	ligand (L)	Solvent	% Yield[a] 2a (3)	ee (%)
1	(*S*)-BINAP	CH_2Cl_2	83 (7)	−17
2	(*R*)-tolyl-BINAP	CH_2Cl_2	72 (8)	23
3	(*R*)-xylyl-BINAP	CH_2Cl_2	70 (10)	40
4	(*R*)-DTBM-Segphos	CH_2Cl_2	81 (8)	2
5	(*R*)-MeO-DTBM-BIPHEP	CH_2Cl_2	71 (7)	46
6	(*R*)-MeO-DTBM-BIPHEP	benzene	76 (8)	83
7	(*R*)-MeO-DTBM-BIPHEP	toluene	77 (9)	85
8	(*R*)-MeO-DTBM-BIPHEP	*m*-xylene	76 (12)	87
9	(*R*)-MeO-DTB-BIPHEP	*m*-xylene	86 (11)	92

*[a]*Yield determined by ^{1}H-NMR versus an internal standard (9-bromophenanthrene).