



Published in final edited form as:

Chemistry. 2013 June 17; 19(25): . doi:10.1002/chem.201300913.

## Phosphate Tether-Mediated Ring-Closing Metathesis Studies to Complex 1,3-*anti*-Diol-Containing Subunits

Dr. Rambabu Chegondi, Soma Maitra, Jana L. Markley, and Prof. Paul R. Hanson

Department of Chemistry, University of Kansas, Lawrence KS 66045 (USA), Fax: (+) (785) 864-5396, Homepage: [http://www.chem.ku.edu/groups/hanson\\_grp/](http://www.chem.ku.edu/groups/hanson_grp/)

Paul R. Hanson: [phanson@ku.edu](mailto:phanson@ku.edu)

### Abstract

An array of examples of diastereoselective, phosphate tether-mediated ring-closing metathesis reactions, which highlight the importance of product ring size and substrate stereochemical compatibility, as well as complexity, is reported. Studies focus primarily on the formation of bicyclo[n.3.1]phosphates, involving the coupling of  $C_2$ -symmetric dienediol subunits with a variety of simple, as well as complex alcohol cross-partners.

### Keywords

phosphate tether; diastereotopic differentiation; ring-closing metathesis; bicyclic phosphate; natural products

### Introduction

The development of atom-,<sup>[1]</sup> step-,<sup>[2]</sup> and redox-economical<sup>[3]</sup> methods to generate important subunits common to a variety of biologically-relevant natural products stands at the forefront of modern-day synthesis and drug discovery. In particular, tether-mediated methodologies which couple both simple and complex molecular fragments to access highly functionalized core intermediates represent some of the most facile and convergent pathways to accomplish this goal.<sup>[4]</sup> Over the past decade, we have investigated the use of phosphate tethers to access complex polyol fragments via the desymmetrization of 1,3-*anti*-diol subunits using ring-closing metathesis (RCM) and one-pot, sequential RCM/CM/hydrogenation protocols.<sup>[5]</sup> In this regard, reported studies have focused solely on the use of simple allyl alcohol coupling partners to synthesize bicyclo[4.3.1]-phosphates en route to the syntheses of bioactive natural products.<sup>[6]</sup> Despite obvious attributes, a thorough understanding of the behavior of phosphate tethers across a wide range of substrates represents a notable deficiency that impedes general applicability of the method—as well as extensive use—in the synthesis of biologically active small molecules. This stands in contrast to seminal works by Evans, Kobayashi, and others that have provided insight on the behavior of silicon tethers to RCM in a variety of systems.<sup>[4,7]</sup> Inspired by this shortcoming, as well as a surprising inability to access the targeted key fragment en route to the synthesis of dictyostatin (**1**) (Scheme 1), *vide infra*, ongoing efforts in our lab have focused on the exploration of phosphate-tether reactivity profiles across a spectrum of substrates. We herein report the preliminary results of a detailed study highlighting the stereochemical factors

Correspondence to: Paul R. Hanson, [phanson@ku.edu](mailto:phanson@ku.edu).

Supporting information for this article is available on the WWW under <http://www.chemeurj.org/> or from the author.

involved in phosphate tether-mediated diastereotopic differentiation of 1,3-*anti*-diol subunits (Figure 1).

Recent efforts towards synthesis of 1,3-*anti*-diol containing natural products utilizing phosphate tether-mediated selective reactions<sup>[5,6]</sup> led to application for dictyostatin, a marine macrolide with promising antitumor and anticancer activities.<sup>[8]</sup> Retrosynthetic analysis of fragments **2** or **3** (Scheme 1) revealed that **1** could, in theory, be constructed via a phosphate tether-mediated tripodal coupling of POCl<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>-symmetric diene diol (*S,S*)-**7** and olefin partner **6**, followed by RCM to yield the bicyclo[5.3.1]- and [7.3.1]-phosphates **4** and **5**, respectively.

## Results and Discussion

Initial studies focused on synthesis of the C1–C8 fragment of dictyostatin via formation of the *Z*-configured, bicyclo[5.3.1]-phosphate **4** from triene **9** [via monochlorophosphate (*S,S*)-**8**] (Scheme 2). However, the desired product **4** was not observed.<sup>[9]</sup> Interestingly, coupling of (*R,R*)-**8** with **6** generated triene **10**, which upon RCM yielded bicyclic phosphate **11** (dictyostatin diastereomeric subunit) in 65%. This result demonstrated that unforeseen factors were operative, which prompted efforts to carry out a detailed investigation of more complex tethers.

Studies were next focused on the synthesis of the *Z*-configured 10-membered subunit **5** (Scheme 1) via RCM with substrates bearing requisite “dictyostatin-like” olefin tether partners (Scheme 3). In this study, trienes **13a–c**, possessing various substitutions at the C3 carbinol (P<sup>1</sup> = H, TBS, and MOM), were synthesized. Subsequent RCM of **13a–c** afforded excellent yields of *E*-configured bicyclo[7.3.1]phosphates **14a–c**. In addition, the diastereomeric triene **15** [derived from (*R,R*)-**8**] also produced the RCM product **16** in good yield and with *E*-selectivity. Collectively, these results prompted us to carry out detailed RCM studies to various bicyclo[n.3.1]phosphates.

Investigations began with RCM studies of trienes **18** and **20** constructed from enantiomeric (*S,S*)-**8** and (*R,R*)-**8** en route to 7-membered bicyclo[4.3.1]phosphates *trans*-**19** and *cis*-**21**, respectively (Scheme 4). In contrast to the elegant diastereoselective RCM studies by Evans and coworkers<sup>7</sup> using Si-tethered dienes where only *cis*-substituted 7-membered products were observed, RCM of phosphate trienes **18** and **20**, yielded both 7-membered products *trans*-**19** and *cis*-**21**, albeit with different reaction rates and catalyst loadings (Scheme 4). In addition, the *cis*-diastereomer reacted at a much faster rate and with better yields. Presumably, a detrimental 1,2-steric interaction between the CH<sub>2</sub>OBn group and the metallocyclobutane in intermediate *trans*-**A** outlined in Scheme 4 is operative, thus slowing RCM for the *trans*-substituted case.

In order to ascertain additional information regarding the aforementioned 1,2-interaction, a double diastereotopic differentiation investigation of triene **22** was initiated using RCM. RCM of triene **22** [derived from the coupling of monochlorophosphate (*S,S*)-**8** with 2,4-dimethylpenta-1,4-dien-3-ol] exclusively produced the kinetically favored *cis*-substituted bicyclo[4.3.1]phosphate **23** via an intermediate lacking a 1,2-interaction as in intermediate *cis*-**B**.

Studies were next directed to the 8-membered RCM reactions of trienes **26** and **30** derived from the coupling of alcohol (*R*)-**24** (R = H) with monochlorophosphates (*S,S*)-**8** and (*R,R*)-**8**, respectively. Gratifyingly, both 8-membered bicyclo-[5.3.1] phosphates, *trans*-**28** and *cis*-**32**, respectively, were formed with good yields (Scheme 6). In similar fashion, the trienes **27** and **31** were synthesized from methyl-substituted alcohol (*R*)-**25** (R = Me). When

subjected to the RCM reaction only the *trans*-**29** formed, albeit in only 32% yield, while no *cis*-product formation **33** was observed. A plausible explanation for these results is highlighted with *trans*-**C** and *cis*-**D** intermediates, whereby the metallocyclobutane would most likely form on the *exo*-face presumably due to the concave structure of the bicyclic phosphate and the size of the Ru-complex. Based on this assumption, in the case of the formation of *cis*-**33**, an unfavorable 1,3-interaction<sup>[10]</sup> between the vinylic CH<sub>3</sub> and CH<sub>2</sub>OBn groups impedes RCM. However, for *trans*-**29**, no such interaction exists, thus RCM proceeds, albeit in moderate yield.

Comparative analysis of the non-allylic substituted trienes **26** and **30** that readily underwent RCM (Scheme 6), to trienes **9** and **10**, bearing allylic Me-substitution (Scheme 3), allowed us to conclude that the stereochemistry of allylic substitution was the deciding factor in the successful formation of the desired product. Thus, additional studies were conducted for the RCM reactions of trienes derived from monochlorophosphates (*R,R*)-**8**/*S,S*)-**8** and substituted homoallyl alcohols *syn*-**34** and *anti*-**35** (Scheme 7). Product formations were observed only for *cis*,*syn*-**38** and *trans*,*anti*-**43**, which is consistent with the previously mentioned preliminary results for dictyostatin, *vide supra*.

A plausible model was developed in order to provide insight for the observed stereochemical outcomes seen in the bicyclo[5.3.1]phosphate cases, in which the stereochemistry of allylic substitution is the critical factor (Figure 2). When considering the metallocyclobutane intermediates, the previous assumption that metallocyclobutane formation occurs on the exocyclic face eliminates the intermediates, *endo*,*endo*-**E** and *endo*,*exo*-**F**. Inspection of the remaining two intermediates, *exo*,*exo*-**G** and *exo*,*endo*-**H**, reveals an unfavorable steric interaction between the *exo*-Me and the required *exo*-metallocyclobutane in the case of *exo*,*exo*-**G**, which impedes the formation of the resultant bicyclic phosphate. Thus, only when the allylic Me is *endo* and the formed metallocyclobutane is *exo* is the intermediate energetically accessible such that the reaction can proceed to completion. This trend analysis therefore accounts for the selectivity.

For experimental confirmation of the proposed intermediates in Figure 2, we synthesized triene **45a** from ( $\pm$ )-2-methylbut-3-en-1-ol and the monochlorophosphate (*S,S*)-**8** in order to perform a double diastereotopic differentiation experiment (Scheme 8). Subsequent RCM reaction exclusively generated bicyclo[5.3.1]phosphate diastereomer **46**, which was confirmed by X-ray crystallography, along with unreacted diastereomeric triene **45b**.<sup>[11]</sup> X-ray crystallography analysis<sup>[12]</sup> confirmed the *endo* orientation of the allylic methyl group in the bicyclic phosphate **46**, thus supporting our proposed favorable intermediate *exo*,*endo*-**H** shown in Figure 2.

Next, we extended the 8-membered RCM studies to include coupling of the homologated monochlorophosphates **48**, **49**, **54** and **55** with allylic alcohol **47** (Scheme 9). Trienes **50** and **56**, derived from unsubstituted monochlorophosphates **48** and **54** (R = H), respectively, participated in the RCM reaction although with poor yield for the *trans*-substituted bicyclo[5.3.1]phosphate **52** compared to the *cis*-substituted bicyclo[5.3.1]phosphate **58**. The lowered yield of *trans*-**52** was presumable due to an unfavorable 1,2-interaction between metallocyclobutane and -CH<sub>2</sub>OBn in the intermediate *trans*-**I**. In the cases of methyl-substituted homologated trienes **51** and **57**, no *cis* RCM product **59** was observed due to a highly unfavorable 1,3-interaction (*syn*-pentane) between -CH<sub>3</sub> and -CH<sub>2</sub>OBn in intermediate *cis*-**J**.<sup>[10]</sup>

## Conclusion

In conclusion, we have detailed the phosphate tether-mediated diastereotopic differentiation of  $C_2$ -symmetric dienediol subunits via RCM. Experimental outcomes were shown to be highly dependent upon various parameters, including the concave nature of the bicyclic phosphate, the stereochemistry within each coupling partner and ring size. Plausible metallocyclobutane-containing intermediates for RCM reactions to bicyclo[4.3.1]- and [5.3.1]-phosphates are proposed to rationalize observed experimental outcomes. In addition, notable *trans*-products in the bicyclo[4.3.1]phosphate series, as well as exclusive *E*-selectivity in the bicyclo[7.3.1]phosphate series, were also observed. Further applications in the synthesis of polyketide natural products, along with RCM studies towards other bicyclo[n.3.1]phosphates, are in order and will be reported in due course.

## Experimental Section

### (4*S*,6*S*)-2-(((2*S*,3*S*,4*S*)-1-((4-methoxybenzyl)oxy)-2,4-dimethylhex-5-en-3-yl)oxy)-4,6-divinyl-1,3,2-dioxaphosphinane 2-oxide (**9**)

To a solution of alcohol **6** (0.152 g, 0.575 mmol) in THF (2.9 mL), at  $-40\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  under argon, was added *n*-BuLi (2.5 M, 0.551 mmol), dropwise. The mixture was allowed to stir for 5 minutes, at which point a solution of phosphate monochloride (*S,S*)-**8** (0.100 g, 0.479 mmol) in THF (1 mL) was slowly added to the reaction vessel via cannulation. The mixture stirred at  $-40\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  for 2 hours (monitored by TLC) and was quenched with 3 mL of aqueous  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  (sat.). The biphasic solution was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3  $\times$  5 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification via flash chromatography (silica, 2:1 Hexanes/EtOAc) provided 0.172 g (82% yield) of triene product **9**, as a colorless oil.<sup>13</sup> Optical Rotation:  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +23.0$  ( $c = 0.1$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ );  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.28 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 6.01 (ddd,  $J = 16.7, 10.8, 5.7$  Hz, 1H), 5.96–5.78 (m, 2H), 5.45 (d,  $J = 17.1$  Hz, 1H), 5.38 (d,  $J = 17.2$  Hz, 1H), 5.29 (d,  $J = 10.6$  Hz, 2H), 5.10–5.02 (m, 3H), 4.97–4.90 (m, 1H), 4.60–4.55 (m, 1H), 4.49 (d,  $J = 11.5$  Hz, 1H), 4.36 (d,  $J = 11.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.41 (dd,  $J = 9.0, 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 3.32 (dd,  $J = 8.9, 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 2.50 (dq,  $J = 13.8, 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.18–2.11 (m, 1H), 2.06 (ddd,  $J = 18.5, 14.0, 6.0$  Hz, 2H), 1.07 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H), 0.99 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  159.0, 140.0, 135.4 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 4.0$  Hz), 135.3 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 7.6$  Hz), 130.7, 129.4, 117.7, 117.1, 115.6, 113.7, 85.0 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 7.4$  Hz), 77.3 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz), 75.5 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 6.2$  Hz), 72.8 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 6.0$  Hz), 72.5, 55.3, 41.2 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 3.5$  Hz), 36.1 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 3.9$  Hz), 35.2 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 7.3$  Hz), 17.5, 11.9;  $^{31}\text{P NMR}$  (162 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -7.01; FTIR (neat): 2952, 2949, 1615, 1547, 1252, 1234, 1009, 845, 741  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{33}\text{O}_6\text{PNa}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ )<sup>+</sup> 459.1912; found 459.1902 (TOF MS ES+).

### (1*R*,3*S*,4*S*,7*R*,9*R*,*Z*)-3-((*S*)-1-((4-methoxybenzyl)oxy)propan-2-yl)-4-methyl-9-vinyl-2,10,11-trioxa-1-phosphabicyclo[5.3.1]undec-5-ene 1-oxide (*trans,anti*-**11**)

To a flask containing triene phosphate **10** (0.080 g, 0.183 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (dry, degassed, 26 mL), equipped with an argon inlet and reflux condenser, was added portion wise ( $\text{ImesH}_2$ )( $\text{PCy}_3$ )( $\text{Cl}$ ) $_2$ Ru=CHPh (G-II)<sup>14</sup> (16 mg, 0.018 mmol, 10 mol%), and the reaction mixture was heated to reflux. Upon completion (monitored by TLC), the reaction was cooled to room temperature and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification via flash chromatography (silica, 2:1 Hexanes/EtOAc) provided 61 mg (65% yield) of the bicyclic phosphate **11** as a colorless oil.<sup>15</sup> Optical Rotation:  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -7.3$  ( $c = 0.16$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ );  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.26 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 5.87 (dddd,  $J = 17.2, 10.6, 5.4, 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 5.49 (ddd,  $J = 11.6, 8.2, 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 5.43 (ddd,  $J = 17.2, 1.2, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 5.39 (d,  $J = 11.9$  Hz, 1H), 5.27 (ddd,  $J = 10.6, 1.2, 1.1$  Hz, 1H), 4.98 (dd,  $J = 11.8, 5.4$

Hz, 1H), 4.48 (s, 2H), 4.06 (ddd,  $J = 29.1, 11.5, 3.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.71 (t,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 1H), 3.53–3.45 (m, 1H), 3.48 (dd,  $J = 9.1, 5.9$  Hz, 2H), 2.24–2.11 (m, 2H), 1.78 (ddd,  $J = 14.5, 3.9, 1.8$  Hz, 1H), 1.19 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.01 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 159.1, 136.0, 135.4 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 10.5$  Hz), 130.7, 129.2, 128.1, 117.1 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 1.3$  Hz), 113.7, 83.6 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 7.4$  Hz), 77.8 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 7.2$  Hz), 76.1 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 6.3$  Hz), 72.9, 72.2, 55.2, 36.5 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 6.2$  Hz), 35.1, 32.6 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 1.3$  Hz), 17.4, 9.4;  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (162 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) -10.71; FTIR (neat): 2982, 2934, 1605, 1507, 1268, 1241, 1003, 831, 741  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{29}\text{O}_6\text{PNa}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ) $^+$  431.1599; found 431.1575 (TOF MS ES+). For all other experimental data and spectra, see supporting information.

## Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

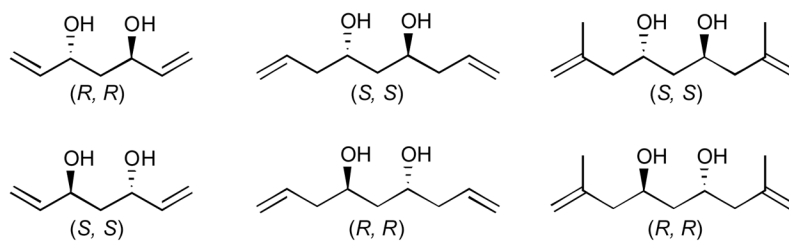
## Acknowledgments

This investigation was generously supported by funds provided by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIH RO1 GM077309). We thank Dr. Justin Douglas and Sarah Neuenswander for assistance with NMR measurements and Dr. Todd Williams for HRMS analysis. We kindly acknowledge Dr. Victor Day of the Molecular Structure Group (MSG) at the University of Kansas for X-ray analysis (NSF-MRI grant CHE-0923449). We also thank Materia, Inc. for supplying metathesis catalyst.

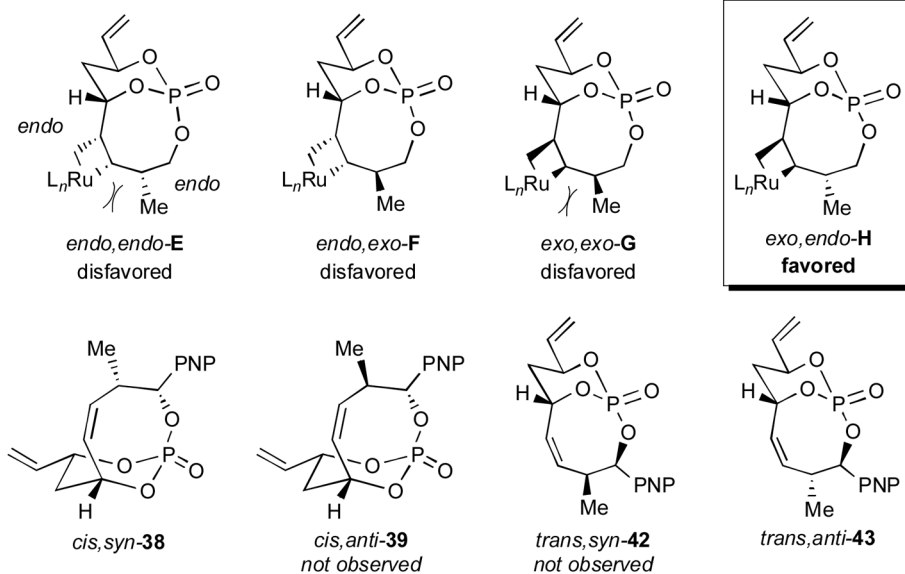
## References

1. a) Trost BM. *Science*. 1991; 254:1471–1477. [PubMed: 1962206] b) Trost BM. *Angew Chem, Int Ed*. 1995; 34:259–281.
2. Wender PA, Verma VA, Paxton TJ, Pillow TH. *Acc Chem Res*. 2008; 41:40–49. [PubMed: 18159936]
3. a) Young IS, Baran PS. *Nat Chem*. 2009; 1:193–205. [PubMed: 21378848] b) Hoffmann RW. *Synthesis*. 2006:3531–3541.
4. Cusak A. *Chem Eur J*. 2012; 18:5800–5824. [PubMed: 22492395]
5. a) Whitehead A, McReynolds MD, Moore JD, Hanson PR. *Org Lett*. 2005; 7:3375–3378. [PubMed: 16018664] b) Thomas CD, McParland JP, Hanson PR. *Eur J Org Chem*. 2009:5487–5500.c) Venukadasula PKM, Chegondi R, Suryan GM, Hanson PR. *Org Lett*. 2012; 14:2634–2637.
6. a) Venukadasula PKM, Chegondi R, Maitra S, Hanson PR. *Org Lett*. 2010; 12:1556–1559. [PubMed: 20196547] b) Chegondi R, Tan MML, Hanson PR. *J Org Chem*. 2011; 76:3909–3916. [PubMed: 21504150] c) Hanson PR, Chegondi R, Nguyen J, Thomas CD, Waetzig JD, Whitehead A. *J Org Chem*. 2011; 76:4358–4370. [PubMed: 21528846]
7. a) Evans PA, Cui J, Buffone GP. *Angew Chem Int Ed*. 2003; 42:1734–1737. b) Matsui R, Seto K, Fujita K, Suzuki T, Nakazaki A, Kobayashi S. *Angew Chem Int Ed*. 2010; 49:10068–10073. c) Eiseman JL, Bai L, Jung WH, Moura-Letts G, Day BW, Curran DP. *J Med Chem*. 2008; 51:6650–6653. [PubMed: 18839939] d) Hoye TR, Jeon J, Kopel LC, Ryba TD, Tennakoon MA, Wang Y. *Angew Chem Int Ed*. 2010; 49:6151–6155. f) Evans, PA. *Metathesis in Natural Product Synthesis: Strategies, Substrates and Catalysis*. Cossy, J.; Arseniyadis, S.; Meyer, C., editors. Wiley-VCH; Weinheim: 2010. p. 225–259.
8. a) Pettit GR, Chicacz ZA, Gao F, Boyd MR, Schmidt JM. *J Chem Soc Chem Commun*. 1994:1111–1112. b) Paterson I, Britton R, Delgado O, Gardner NM, Meyer A, Naylor GJ, Poullennec KG. *Tetrahedron*. 2010; 66:6534–6545. c) Shin Y, Fournier JH, Fukui Y, Brückner AM, Curran DP. *Angew Chem*. 2004; 116:4734–4737. *Angew Chem Int Ed*. 2004; 43:4634–4637. d) Zhu W, Jiménez M, Jung WH, Camarco DP, Balachandran R, Vogt A, Day BW, Curran DP. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2010; 132:9175–9187. [PubMed: 20545347] e) O'Neil GW, Phillips AJ. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2006; 128:5340–5341. [PubMed: 16620095] f) Ramachandran PV, Srivastava A, Hazra D. *Org Lett*. 2007; 9:157–160. [PubMed: 17192109] g) Jogalekar AS, Damodaran K, Kriel FH, Jung WH, Alcaraz AA, Zhong S, Curran DP, Snyder JP. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2011; 133:2427–2436. [PubMed:

- 21299225] h) Gallon J, Esteban J, Bouzbouz S, Campbell M, Reymond S, Cossy J. *Chem Eur J*. 2012; 18:11788–11797. and references cited therein. [PubMed: 22865684]
9. This result is in contrast to the elegant RCM studies by Eustache and Curran to derive Si-tethered 8-membered monocyclic subunits en route to attenol A and C6-epi-dictyostatin, see Van de Weghe P, Aoun D, Boiteau JG, Eustache J. *Org Lett*. 2002; 4:4105–4108. and reference 7c, respectively. [PubMed: 12423097]
  10. For a similar observation in all carbon-based RCM, see: Liu J, Lotesta SD, Sorensen EJ. *Chem Commun*. 2011; 47:1500–1502.
  11. See Supporting Information for  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR analysis of **45a** and **45b**.
  12. CCDC 905668 (*trans*-**19**) and 905667 (**46**) contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\\_request/cif](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif)
  13. All other trienes are synthesized following the same procedure.
  14. Scholl M, Ding S, Lee CW, Grubbs RH. *Org Lett*. 1999; 1:953–956. [PubMed: 10823227]
  15. All the ring-closing metathesis reactions are carried out following the same procedure with appropriate solvent, temperature and catalyst loading mentioned in the schemes.

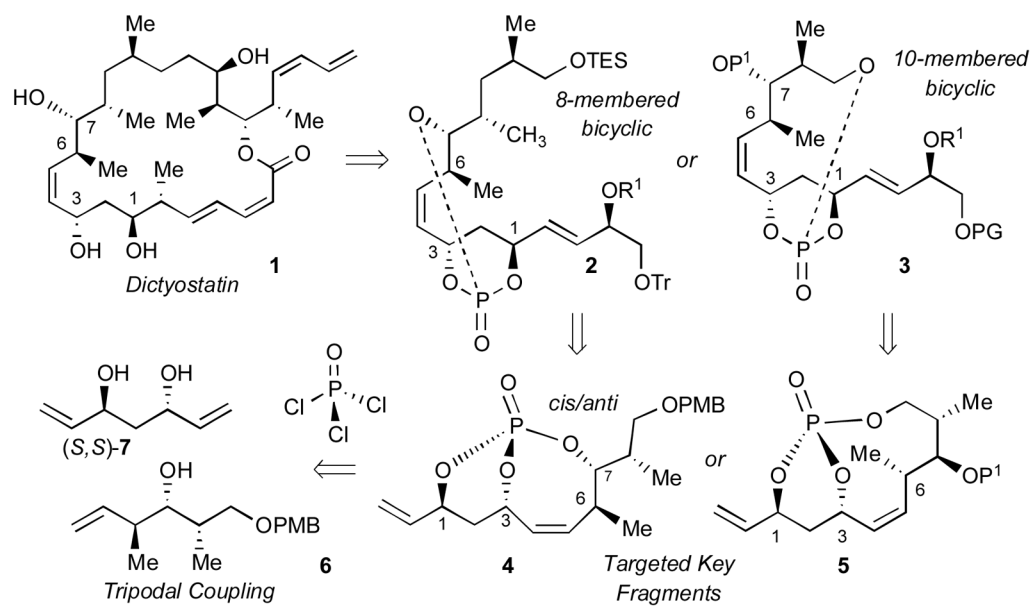


**Figure 1.**  
 $C_2$ -symmetric 1,3-*anti*-diol substrates

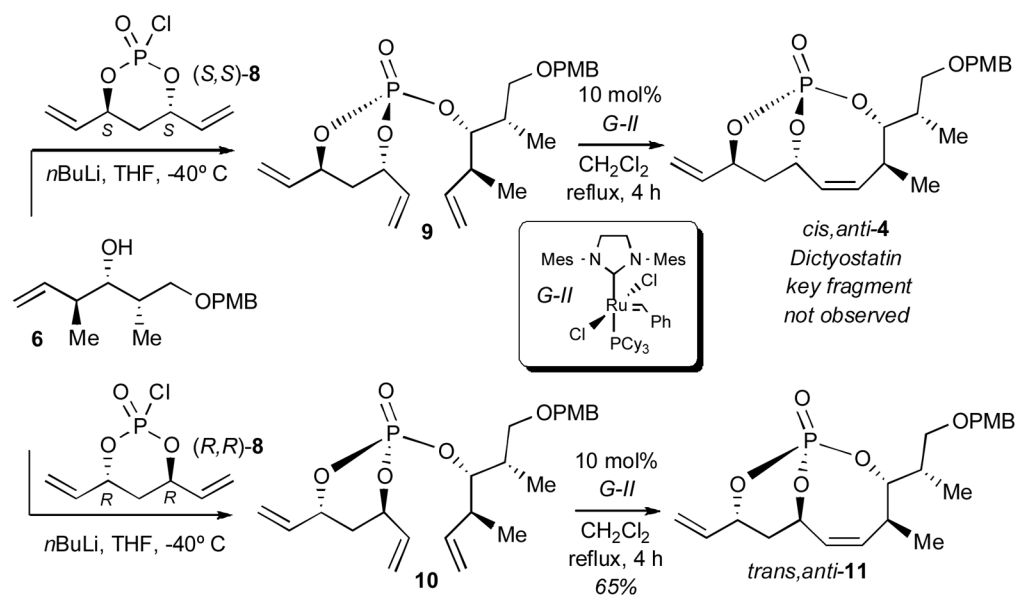


**Figure 2.**  
Proposed transition states and accessible products.

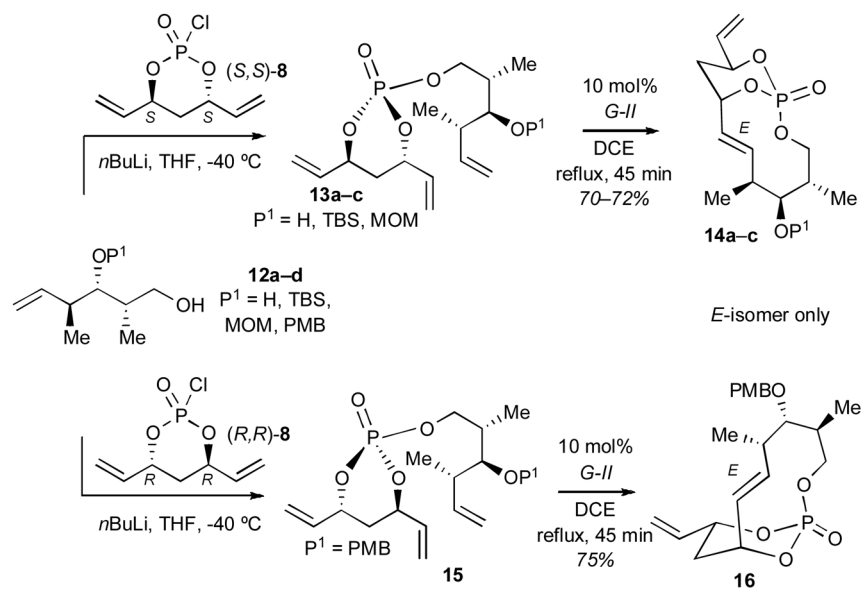




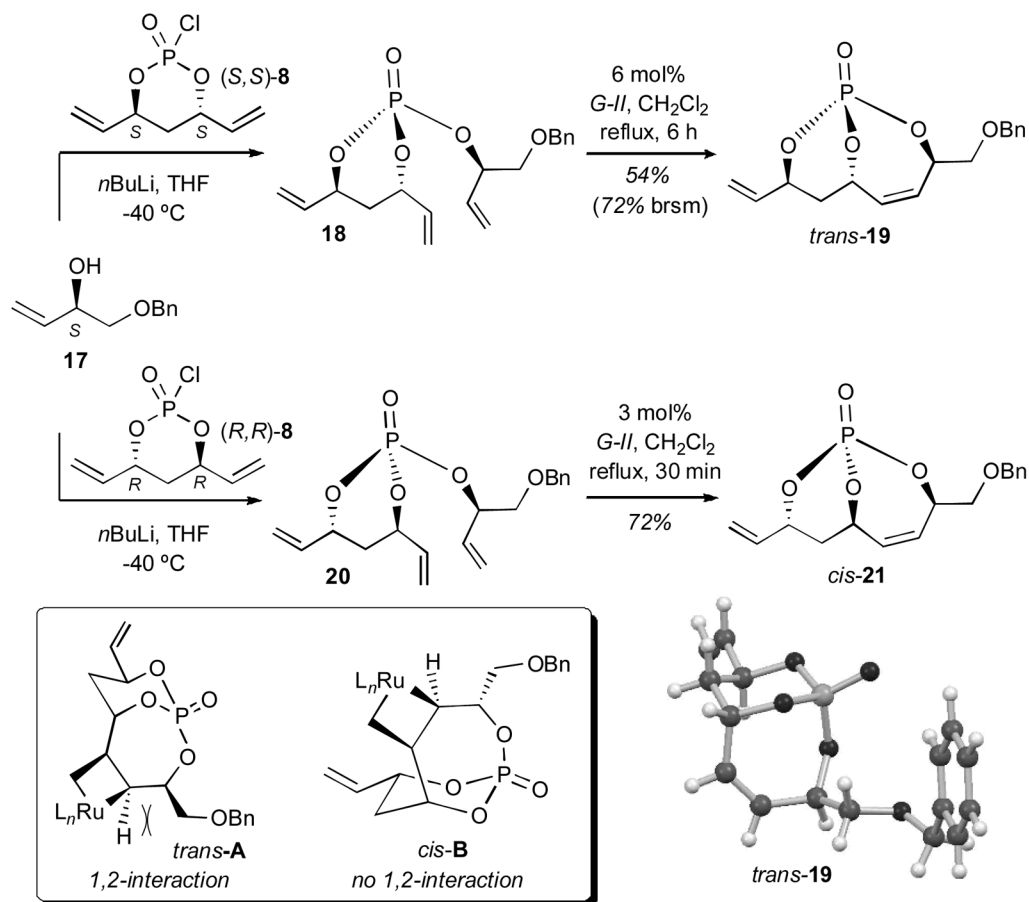
**Scheme 1.**  
Proposed retrosynthesis of dictyostatin via a phosphate tether-mediated desymmetrization approach.

**Scheme 2.**

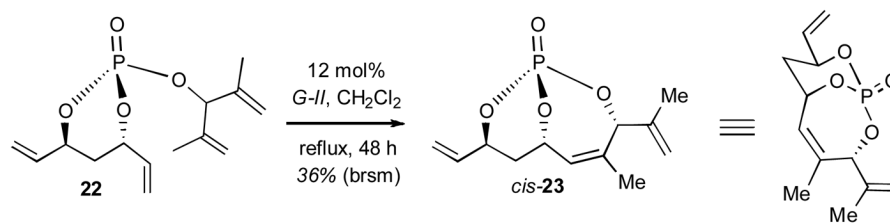
RCM to bicyclo[5.3.1]phosphate intermediates en route to key fragments of dictyostatin.

**Scheme 3.**

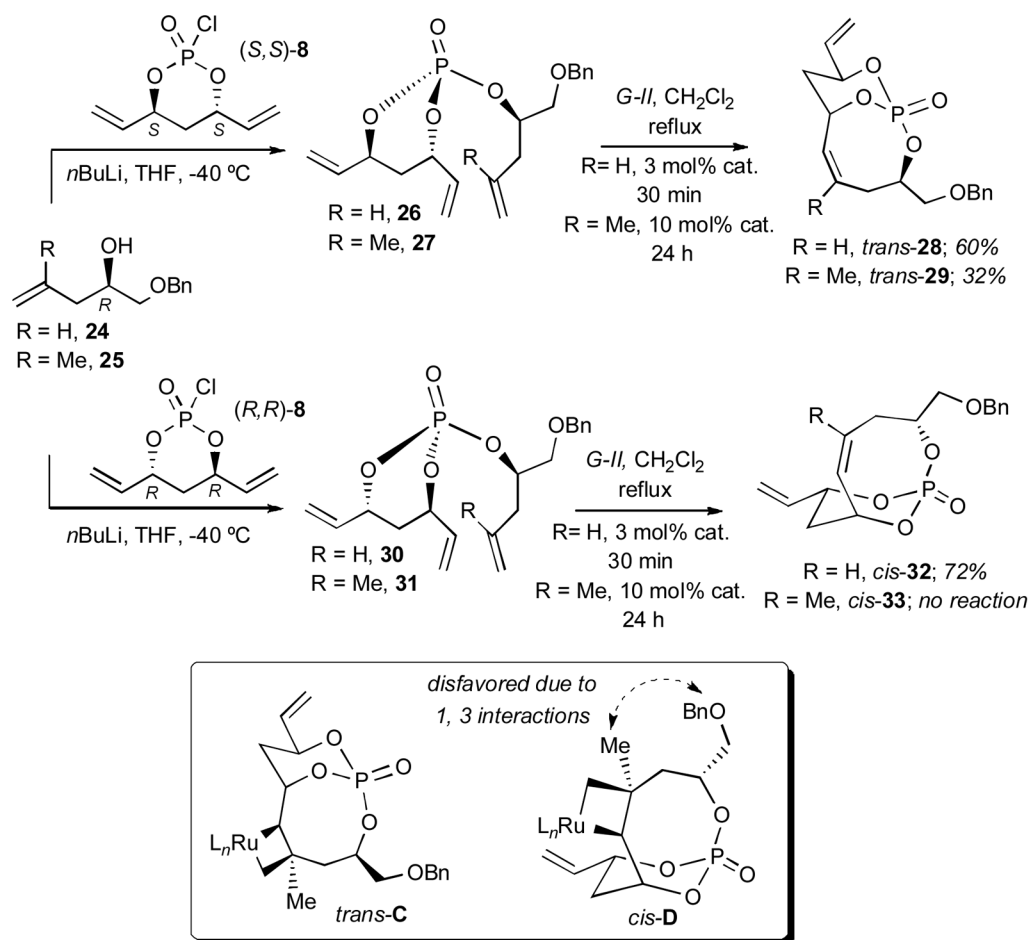
RCM to bicyclo[7.3.1]phosphate intermediates en route to key fragments of dictyostatin.



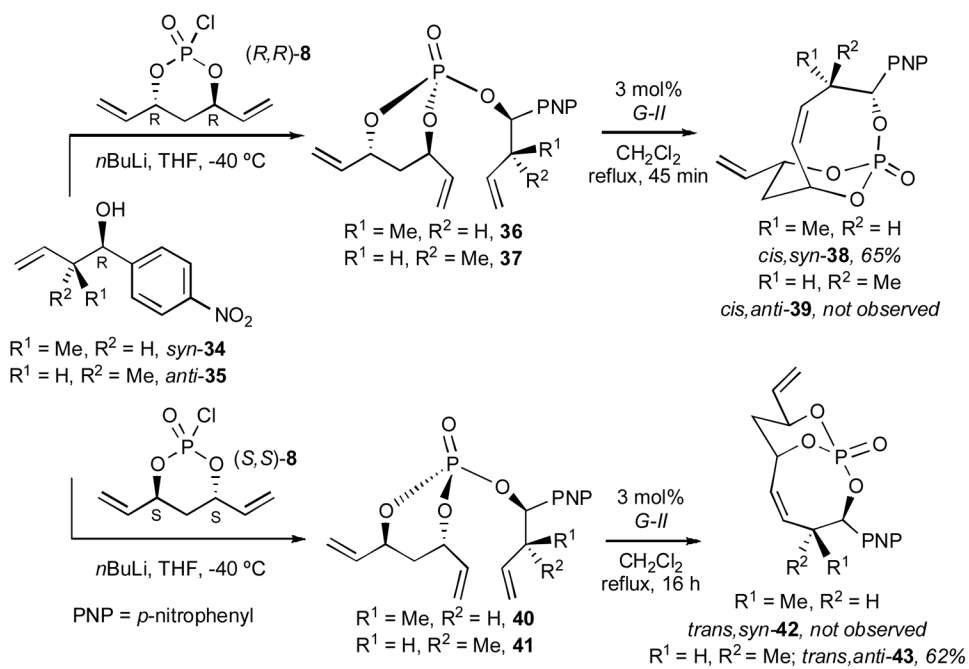
**Scheme 4.**  
Bicyclo[4.3.1]phosphate series.



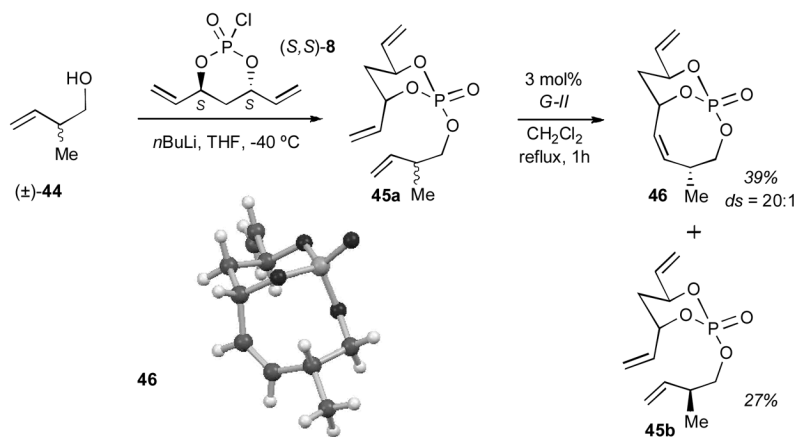
**Scheme 5.**  
Kinetic control to bicyclo[4.3.1]phosphate.



**Scheme 6.**  
Bicyclo[5.3.1]phosphate series.

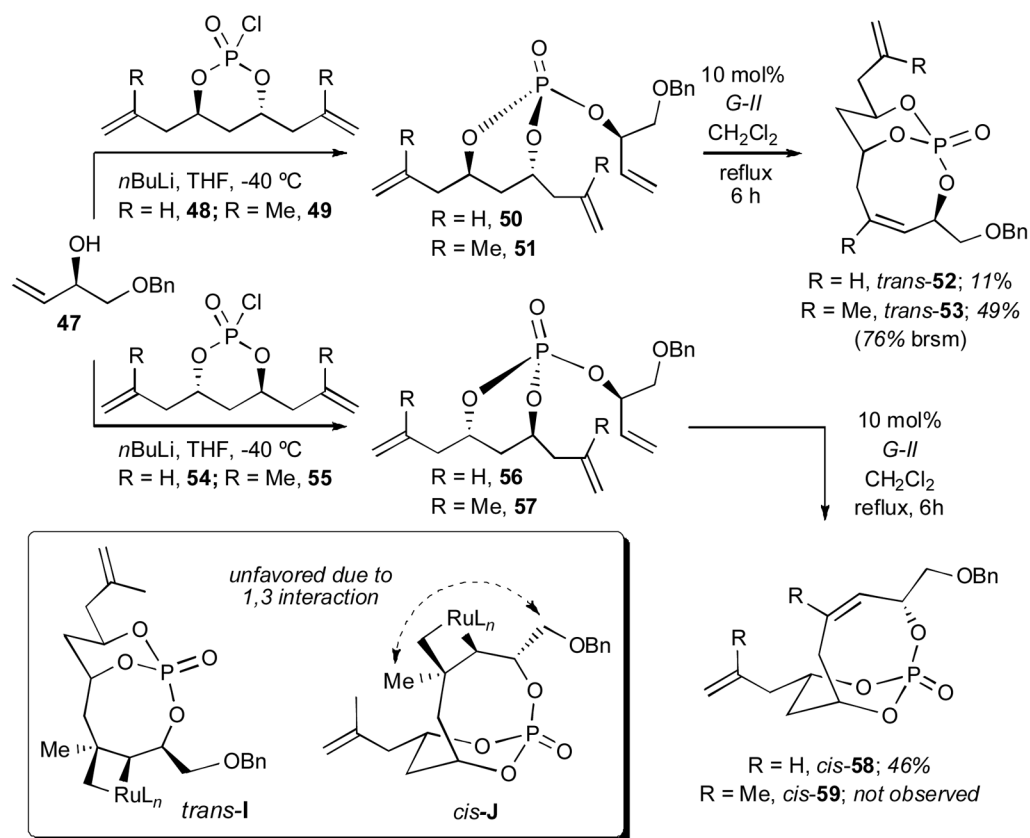
**Scheme 7.**

Effect of methyl substitution in RCM to bicyclo[5.3.1]phosphates.

**Scheme 8.**

Experimental confirmation for above proposed intermediate *exo,endo-H*.





**Scheme 9.** RCM to bicyclo[5.3.1]phosphates with homologated 1,3-*anti*-dienediol.