Allenamides: A Powerful and Versatile Building Block in Organic Synthesis

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1. Introduction

In the past four decades, allenes have progressively risen from an unenviable status of being a structural curiosity to becoming one of the most powerful and versatile synthetic building blocks in organic synthesis.[1–3] Although the focal theme of this review is centered on chemistry of allenamides, a proper introduction would need to commence with allenamines. Allenamides are functionally derived from allenamines,[4] which along with structurally related systems such as allenol ethers[5] and allenyl sulfides,[6] can be classified as heteroatom-substituted allenes. Allenamines have been known for more than forty years since the first documentation of their preparations and characterizations in 1968 by Viehe.[7] It is noteworthy that Viehe was at the time developing a based-catalyzed isomerization of propargyl amines as a useful protocol for synthesizing ynamines (Scheme 1), which had just come onto the scene as a useful synthetic building block.[8–10] Allenamines were postulated as an intermediate en route to ynamines in this prototropic isomerization that follows essentially the zipper-type mechanism.

The π-donating ability of nitrogen atom renders allenamines more electron-rich than simple allenes, thereby predisposing them to electrophilic activations. An electronic bias can be exerted through delocalization of the nitrogen lone pair toward the allenic moiety as demonstrated in the resonance form of allenamines. Accordingly, highly regioselective transformations can be achieved with consecutive addition of electrophiles and nucleophiles (Scheme 2). In addition to aforementioned regiochemical control, allenamines also offer a number of other advantages over simple allenes. The trivalent nature of the nitrogen atom allows: (1) Tethering of a chirality-inducing unit for providing stereochemical induction; concomitantly with the inclusion of a coordinating unit to provide conformational rigidity; (2) a much greater flexibility in designing intramolecular reactions or tandem processes than with oxygen- or sulfur-substituted allenes; and last but not the least, (3) a novel entry to alkaloids if the nitrogen atom can be preserved throughout the entire transformative sequence. Moreover, intramolecular reaction manifolds as shown with a possible diastereoselective cyclopropanation reaction (Scheme 2) can greatly manifest these remarkable features, particularly the latter two. Therefore, while the chemistry of other

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heteroatom-substituted allenes is of high impact and value to organic synthesis, allenamines should prove to be more attractive for developing stereoselective methodologies as well as rapid assembly of structural complexity.[1,2]

Without illustrating any specifics here on allenamine chemistry given all the comprehensive reviews,[1,2] elegant precedents adopting allenamines in a range of transformations have indeed been documented to further support their synthetic potential and provoke interest from the synthetic community. Unfortunately, further developments had been severely thwarted because allenamines are also highly sensitive toward hydrolysis with a tendency to polymerize even at low temperatures (Scheme 3), thereby creating serious difficulties in their preparation and experimental handling.[1,2] Consequently, the great potential of chemistry of nitrogen-substituted allenes could only be partially realized. Therefore, efforts to identify an allenamine-equivalent should be of high significance if it can strike the right balance between stability and reactivity.

Toward this end, allenamides should represent ideal candidates as a stable allenamine-equivalent. Delocalization of the nitrogen lone-pair into the electron-withdrawing amido group should diminish its donating ability toward the allenic moiety, thereby leading to improved stability (Scheme 4). In short, the very simple fact that allenamides can champion an extra resonance form speaks volume of its superior stability over allenamines. It could be a great story if allenamides were a result of some clever design in search for a stable allenamine-equivalent. However, this is not true and the story is much less dramatic. Allenamides have co-existed along side of allenamines for all of the last four plus decades after Dickinson's first preparation and concise characterizations of 1,2-propadienyl-2-pyrrolidinone in 1967 (Scheme 5).[11]

In fact, Dickinson coined the term "allenamide" to describe 1,2-propadienyl-2-pyrrolidinone based the analogy of using enamides[17] for Stork's *N*-acylated enamines. To clarify reports by Cho[12] and others,[13] Dickinson concisely demonstrated that treatment of 2-pyrrolidinone with NaH and propargyl bromide had indeed led to the allenamide as the major and stable product also *via* the same prototropic isomerization pathway. Intriguingly, unlike Viehe's work, allenamide did not undergo further isomerization to the respective ynamide, although with further treatment of NaOMe and pyrrolidine, ynamide was postulated as an intermediate en route to the *N*-acyl-pyrrolidine product. Nevertheless, this documentation of ynamide actually predated Viehe's 1972 account,[14] and chemistry of ynamides has indeed generated an immense amount of interest from the synthetic community in the last 15 years.[15,16]

To align with the history, our foray into this field coincides with both of Viehe and Dickinson's work. In search of a useful synthetic method to construct chiral ynamides 16 years ago,[10] we found that based-catalyzed prototropic isomerization of propargyl amides reliably arrested at the allenic stage and gave none of the desired ynamides[10] (Scheme 6) regardless of nature of the base used, temperature, and solvents (also see Schemes 24 and 25 *vide infra*). More importantly, to properly acknowledge a critical person in our entire endeavor in allenamide chemistry, I owe everything to the very first postdoctoral research fellow in my group, Dr. Lin-Li Wei [Ph.D. with Professor Teck-Peng Loh at National

University of Singapore]. Dr. Wei, who was working on these isomerizations, pointed out that these allenamides that she had obtained could prove to be an excellent allenamine-equivalent, and evolve into highly versatile synthetic building blocks in organic synthesis.

Given the precedent, the ease of preparation, and stability, the most critical question would be whether these allenamides could possess sufficient reactivity. A survey of the literature indicates that although it was far from a blank page, allenamides have been much less explored relative to allenamines.[4,18–20] Precise reasons are not very clear, but there were very few citations on synthesis and applications of allenamides before 1989. While few more reports appeared from late 1980's to mid-1990's, the real outburst in chemistry of allenamides came 16 years ago, just as we also became deeply involved in the development of allenamide chemistry. Such sustained emergence strongly suggests that allenamides have set the gold standard for balancing reactivity and stability. They are becoming proven allenamine-equivalents that can be employed in a diverse array of stereoselective and intramolecular reactions that were not possible with traditional allenamines. They represent the ideal platform for pushing the limit of synthetic potential of nitrogen-substituted allenes.

It is the purpose of this review to provide proper illustrations of the elegant chemistry involving allenamides that has come to pass, thereby eliciting a greater amount of interests from the synthetic community to create new allenamide chemistry. Lastly, this perspective that advancement of any field requires collective creativity and innovation from many people and not just a few individuals rings hollow here. On that note, although we are trying our very best to be comprehensive, it is likely that we have inadvertently missed some beautiful work for which we express our regret here in advance.

2. Preparation

2.1. Historical Examples

Besides Dickinson's first allenamide synthesis[11] (Scheme 5), Bogentoft[21] reported another earlier example of allenamide synthesis (Scheme 7). Allenamide **2** was prepared in 50% yield *via* a base-induced isomerization of propargyl amide **1**. Per-hydrogenation of allenamide **2** was also reported to give alkyl amide **3**. In addition, under basic conditions, a mixture of oxazole **4** and oxo-quinazoline **6** could be obtained *via* C-O (pathway *a*) and C-N (pathway *b*) bond formation, respectively, from a ring-opened intermediate **5**.

In 1976, Corbel[22] achieved the first synthesis of an acyclic allenamide **8** also *via* the base induced isomerization of *N*-propargyl phosphoramidate [X = OEt]/phosphoramide [X = NMe$_2$] **7** (Scheme 8). Ynamide **9**[15] was found along with **8**, as a mixture when X = NMe$_2$.

2.2. Sigmatropic Rearrangement

Balasubramanian's[23] syntheses of benzimidazolyl thiazoles **12** represents the first applications of [3,3]-sigmatropic-rearrangement in allenamide synthesis (Scheme 9). Although not isolated, allenamides **11** were postulated as intermediates to **12** through [3,3]-sigmatropic rearrangements of benzimidazolyl propargylic sulfides **10**.

Balasubramanian[24] also found that de-propargylation occurred when bis-propargyl thiol benzimidazole **13** was refluxed in HMPT to afford benzimidazolyl thiazole **17** (Scheme 10). However, when heated in non-polar solvents, polymerization products were observed, presumably through allenamide **14** resulting from the initial [3,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement, albeit not isolated.

Overman[25] discovered that allenamides **19**, a secondary allenamide, could be isolated through an Overman-Claisen rearrangement of propargyl trichloroacetimidates **18** (Scheme 11). Allenamides **19** could be further isomerized to 1*Z*-3*E*-dienamides **20** in a highly stereoselective manner *via* 1,3-H shift from the γ-substituent.

Padwa[26a] found that when heating oxazole **21a** in a benzene-pyridine solution, 4-oxazolin-2-one derived allenamide **21b** was obtained in high yield *via* an aza-Claisen rearrangement (Scheme 12). This very much reminiscences chiral allenamides later on reported by Hsung (see Scheme 6).

Very Recently, Anderson[26b] reported a related rearrangement in the synthesis of α-(*N*-2-pyridonyl)ketones **23** via an Au(III) catalyzed tandem amination-hydration reaction from propargyloxypyridines **22**. The formation of allenamides **22c** was the result of a formal aza-Claisen rearrangement of **22a**.

More recently, Mapp[27] cleverly designed a facile synthesis of allenamides **28** *via* palladium-catalyzed [3,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement of propargyl phosphorimidates **27** generated from propargyl alcohols **24**, chlorophosphite **25**, and azide **26** (Scheme 13). With this method, an array of mono-, di-, and trisubstituted allenamides were obtained in good yields. When optically pure alcohols **24** [see **c–d**] were used as precursors, chiral allenamides **28** [see **c–d**] could be prepared with a high level of chirality transfer. It is noteworthy that formally with two electron-withdrawing substituents on the nitrogen atom, these are allen-imide equivalents.

Lu and Wang[28a] reported the isolation of *N*-phosphoryl allenamides **31** from propargyl alcohol **29** through an Yb(III)-catalyzed Meyer-Schuster type rearrangement[29a] followed by trapping with *N*-tolyl phosphoroamidate **30** (Scheme 14).

Very recently, Carbery[30] attempted to prepare allenamides **34** *via* Ireland-Claisen rearrangements[29b] of ynamide[15]-derived silyl ketene acetal **33** (Scheme 15). However, they obtained *Z*-2-amido diene **35** only, presumably through a facile decarboxylation-isomerization sequence from allenamides **34** after the rearrangement.

Tamura[31] reported the first example of [2,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement of sulfimine **38**, leading to allenamide **39** (Scheme 16). The rearranged precursor **38** was obtained by acylating the propargyl sulfide **36** with *N*-triflate carbamate **37**.

Van Vranken[32] demonstrated that a range of allenamides **42** could be synthesized in moderate to high yields by a Fe(II)-catalyzed tandem *S*-imidation/[2,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement of the possible ironnitrene intermediates **41** (Scheme 17).

Armstrong[33] showed that allenamides **46** could be prepared from propargyl sulfides **43** in an analogous manner but using oxaziridine **44** (Scheme 18). This reaction also proceeds through a related cascade *S*imidation/[2,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement sequence, under metal-free conditions with propargyl sulfimides **45** as a possible intermediate.

Armstrong[34] later synthesized allenamides **50** in high yields *via* a [2,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement of propargyl sulfimides **49**, which were prepared *in situ* from propargyl sulfides **47** and amidation agent **48** (Scheme 19). Notably, optically enriched allenamides **50** [see **a-d**] were also achieved with effective transfer of chirality information from enantiomerically enriched propargyl sulfimides **47** [see **a–d**].

2.3. Base-Induced Isomerization

2.3.1. Cyclic Propargyl Amides—
Base-induced isomerization of propargyl amides represents a highly atom-economical synthesis of allenamides. Padwa[35a] first discovered that propargyl amide **51** and allenamide **52** could be interconverted at high temperature under basic conditions when they were investigating flash vacuum pyrolysis of **52** (Scheme 20).

Galons[35b] reported another earlier example in which allenamides **55** were formed through a solid-liquid phase transfer catalyst-promoted reaction of imidazoles **53** with propargyl bromide **54** (Scheme 21).

Radl[36] employed the base-induced isomerization method to synthesize quinolone-derived allenamides **57** by using $NaHCO_3$ in aq EtOH solution (Scheme 22). Intriguingly, the desired isomerization product **57c** was not attainable from the respective *N*-propargyl acridone under this isomerization condition.

Zemlicka[37] documented syntheses of a series of nucleoside derived allenyl alcohols **59** through the base promoted isomerization of the corresponding 2-butynols **58** (Scheme 23). These nucleoside-derived analogues possess potential cytotoxic and antiviral activities.[38]

The *N*-propargylation-isomerization protocol for preparation of ynamide **63**[15] from acridone **60** have been documented from several research groups.[39] By slightly modifying previous propargylationisomerization protocol,[39a] Hsung[40] prepared ynamide **63**[15] from acridone **60** in two steps. However, they also found that by shortening the reaction time, allenamide **62** could be isolated in high yield as the isomerization intermediate[41a] (Scheme 24).

When extending this base-induced isomerization sequence to access a broader scope of ynamides **67**,[15] Hsung[41a] found that with *t*-BuOK as the base at room temperature, isomerization of propargyl amides **65** only provided allenamides **66** (Scheme 25). Consequently, a facile two-step protocol was established to prepare cyclic allenamides **66** from amides **64**:[41] (i) alkylation of amides **64** with propargyl bromide **54**; and (ii) base-induced isomerization to allenamides **66**. With this protocol, chiral allenamides **66e–g** were accessible for the first time, and a large scale synthesis of chiral allenamide **66g** was later documented.[41c]

Pellón[42] found that this two-step protocol could be rendered in one-pot by heating the mixture of acridones **68** and propargyl bromide **54** in KOH aqueous/butanone solution with cetyltrimethylammonium bromide as the phase transfer catalyst (PTC) (Scheme 26). Without isolating the *N*-propargylated intermediate **69**, acridone-derived allenamides **70** were isolated in good yields. It is noteworthy that these allenamides could not be prepared under Radl's conditions (Scheme 22).[36]

Plumet[43] also examined the base-induced two-step/one-pot operation using lactams **71** with different ring sizes (n = 1–5) (Scheme 27). They found that as the ring size increases, it is more difficult to obtain the desired isomerized products **73**.

Ishihara[44] reported an *N*-alkylation of selenium-containing β-lactams **74** in their synthesis of a key intermediates *en route* to antibacterial agents (Scheme 28). A small amount of allenamide **77** was isolated in addition to propargyl amide **75**. Both propargyl amide **75** and allenamide **77** could be cyclized to give selenacephem **76** and **78**, respectively.

2.3.2. Acyclic Propargyl Amides—While propargylating *N*-allylsulfonamide **79**, Meijere[45] obtained a mixture of allenamide **80** and propargyl amide **81** (Scheme 29).

Hsung[46] examined base-induced isomerizations of acyclic propargyl amides **82** and reported the first successful isomerization of chiral propargyl amides to ynamides **84** (Scheme 30).[15] Intriguingly, under the same reaction conditions, unlike propargyl amides **82c** and **82d**, urethanes such as **82a** and **82b** stopped at the first isomerization step to form allenamides **83a** and **83b**. Reasons for these contrasts are not clear at this point.

The base-promoted propargyl-allenamide isomerization was also observed in several metal-catalyzed reactions. Zhang and Liu[47] found that besides their expected formal cycloaddition product lactam **86**, the depropargylated amide **87** was also observed, probably *via* isomerization of Ag-acetylide **88** to allenamide **90** followed by a facile hydrolysis during quenching and work-up (Scheme 31). Although allenamide **90** was not isolated, it represents the most plausible intermediate that can explain the loss of the propargyl substituent.

2.4. Elimination

Tanaka[48a] found that lactam-derived allenamides **92** could be obtained in high yields from enol triflates **91** through a Et₃-promoted *E2*-elimination (Scheme 32). A similar Et₃N-assisted elimination protocol was also applied in Farina's[48b] synthesis of lactam-derived allenamides **94** from their corresponding enol triflates **93**.

Majumdar[49a] reported preparation of *N*-enyne acrydone **97** under PTC conditions and cumulene-type allenamides **96** were proposed as intermediates (Scheme 33).

More recently, Fallis[49b] suggested that allenamide **100** [another secondary allenamide] was formed from aniline substituted propargyl phosphonium ether **98** *via* an initial intramolecular elimination of triphenylphosphine oxide followed by trapping the cumulene intermediate **99** (Scheme 34).

2.5. Amino-Cyclization

Tamaru[50] reported a Pd-catalyzed intramolecular cyclization of propargyl biscarbamates **101** to generate allenamides **103** that could further cyclize to **105** (Scheme 35). The unsymmetrical biscarbamates **106** afforded a mixture of different allenamides **107** and **108**, from adducts **109** and **110**, respectively. Ratios of **107** and **108** with different substituents suggested that the oxidative addition of Pd(0) prefers the less hindered propargyl carbon as shown in **109** (Scheme 36).

Mori[51a] demonstrated that aminocyclization of β-lactam containing propargyl benzoate **111** could deliver allenamide **113** or enamide **115** in a selective manner depending on the ligand used (Scheme 37). When a monodentate ligand such as P-(*o*-tolyl)$_3$ was used, allenamide **113** with a carbapenam skeleton was isolated as the major product *via* the palladium intermediate **112**. However, when the bidentate ligand such as dppf was used, enamide **115** was isolated as the sole elimination product from the palladium π-allyl complex **114**.

Mori[51b] later reported this Pd(0)-catalyzed intramolecular cyclization of propargyl ether-containing amides using general *N*-sulfonyl substituted allenamides **117** (Scheme 38). When using the monodentate ligand P-(*o*-tolyl)$_3$, for R = OTBS, allenamides **117** could be isolated; However, in the case when R = H, **117** further isomerized to dienamide **118**. With dppf serving as ligand, depending on the substrates, enamides **120–122** could be obtained *via* nucleophilic addition and/or β-elimination pathways from palladium π-allyl complex **119** depending up substitutions (R = H versus OTBS).

2.6. Trost-Hsung *N*-Allenylations

Trost[52] reported the synthesis of cyclic and acyclic allenamides **125** by a Cu(I)-catalyzed C-N bond formation between allenyl halides **124** and various amides **123** (Scheme 39). Dienamides **127** were occasionally isolated, which likely resulted from isomerization (or 1,3-H shift) of the initially formed allenamides **125**.

At the same time, Hsung[53] also independently documented a related *N*-allenylation (Scheme 40). More critically, various chiral allenamides **130** were synthesized *via* Cu(I)-catalyzed stereospecific amidation of optically enriched allenyl halides such as *(M)*-**128a** [the *(P)*-enantiomer also led to the same result – enriched *(P)*-**130a** and *(P)*-**130b**, although not shown here].[54] Under these reaction conditions, chirality information of optically enriched allenyl halides was transferred with high fidelity.

Recently, Bäckvall[55] disclosed similar protocols in which a series of *N*-sulfonyl substituted allenamides **136** were synthesized using bromoallenes **135** and sulfonamides **134** (Scheme 41). In the coupling between *N,N′*-ditosyl-1,2-diaminobenzene **137** and bromoallene **135a**, cyclized product **139** was obtained in 63% yield *via* the allenamide intermediate **138**, thereby representing an intramolecular hydroamination of allenamides.

A general mechanism of this Cu(I)-catalyzed cross-coupling reaction is shown in Scheme 42. Overall, the catalytic cycle starts from oxidative addition of Cu(I) onto haloallenes **135** to form Cu(III) intermediates **140**, which could then undergo transmetallation with deprotonated amides to form **142**. The subsequent reductive elimination would afford

allenamides **136**. From Hsung's work, this proposed catalytic cycle implies that the optical integrity of the allenic copper(III) intermediates **140** and **142** could be preserved throughout the amidation or the *N*-alkenylation process.

2.7. Suzuki-Miyaura Cross-Coupling

Cao and Lai[56] reported α-arylated allenamides **146** through the Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling[57] between 1-alkoxycarbonyloxy allenamides **143** and arylboronic acids **145** (Scheme 43). Allenamides **146** could also be produced through couplings of 3-alkoxycarbonyloxy ynamides **144** with arylboronic acids **145**. A 1,3-aryl migration of the initially generated bulky ynamide intermediate **147** was proposed.

3. Reactions of Allenamides

3.1. Deprotonations

3.1.1. α-Deprotonation—Corbel[22] documented the first example of α-deprotonation of allenamide **148** to generate the lithiated allenamide **149,** which was trapped by electrophiles to afford α-substituted allenamides **150** (Scheme 44). Subsequent hydrolysis of **150** resulted in the corresponding unsaturated ketones **151**.

Hsung[58] later reported a regioselective α-deprotonation of allenamides **152** using *n*-BuLi (Scheme 45). The one-pot deprotonation/alkylation sequence can be widely applicable to access a series of α-substituted allenamides **153**, γ-deprotonation product **154** was not observed.

3.1.2. γ-Deprotonation—Corbel[22] demonstrated that trisubstituted allenamide **156** could be obtained from α-substituted allenamide **155** through a γ-deprotonation/trapping sequence (Scheme 46). Allenamide **156** could also undergo hydrolysis to afford substituted unsaturated ketone **157**.

Hsung[58] reported that when using *t*-BuLi as the base, the protonation had no α/γ selectivity as revealed after D_2O quench, leading to a 50:50 mixture of **153** and **154** (Scheme 47). However, the deprotonation/D_2O trapping sequence of allenamide **158** with the α-position blocked would occur at γ-position to afford **159** with moderate diastereoselectivity.

3.2. Addition Reactions

3.2.1. Hydroalkoxylation—Horino[59] found that hydroalkoxylations of allenamide **160** with alcohol **161** could take place at both γ (pathway *a*) and α (pathway *b*) positions to afford distal addition product **162** and proximal addition product **163**, respectively (Scheme 48). With an Au(I) catalyst, hydroxylation of **160** could be achieved more selectively at the α position to give **163** in high yield. Diene **163** was subsequently used to construct spiro dihydrofuran **164** through Ring-closing metathesis (RCM). In contrast, the distal addition product **162** was more favored under thermal conditions.

3.2.2. Hydro-Hydroxyalkylation—Krische[60a] cleverly designed an equivalent of aminoallylations of aldehydes *via* a Ru(II)-catalyzed stereoselective hydro-

hydroxyalkylation of allenamide **165** to construct *anti*-1,2-amidoalcohols **167** (Scheme 49). More specifically, aminoallylations of aldehydes **166** with allenamide **165** were achieved in a highly stereoselective manner *via* the closed chair-like transition state **168**. The hydrometalation of allenamides was achieved through the use of Ru(II)-catalyst with Cy_3P serving as the ligand and *i*-PrOH as the hydrogen source.

Krische[60b] further evolved this highly *anti*-selective hydro-hydroxyalkylation of allenamide **165** to prepare an array of *anti*-1,2-amidoalcohols **167** through the use of simple alcohols **169** (Scheme 50). The *anti* selectivity could be rationalized possibly *via* the same chair-like transition state formed through "*Nu-E*" pair **168**, which involved complexation of the hydro-ruthenated allenamide intermediate with the aldehyde generated *in situ* from respective alcohols **169** *via* hydrogen transfer.

3.2.3. Hydroamination—Radl[61] reported the preparation of a series of *N*-2-oxo-propyl-4-quinolones **173** from allenamides **170** *via* an initial hydroamination reaction using primary or secondary amines **171**. Subsequent hydrolysis of the enamine intermediate **172** [not isolated] during the work-up would lead to **173** (Scheme 51). It is noteworthy that the regioselectivity of this hydroamination appears to be opposite from what one would have been predicted based on the general resonance structure of allenamides (see Scheme 2). That is, the nucleophilic amino group landed on the more electron rich central allenic carbon. This could be regarded as an umpolung addition.

Broggini[62] reported an Au(III)-catalyzed intramolecular hydroamination of allenamides **174**, which afforded a mixture of *cis*- and *trans* 2-vinylimidazolidines **177** through the 5-*exo*-trig transition states **175** and **176**, respectively. Intriguingly, when R = Bn, only *cis*-**177** was isolated in good yield (Scheme 52). Although authors did not provide details, *cis*- and *trans* 2-vinylimidazolidines **177** likely came from cyclizations through Au(II)-complexes **175** and **176**, respectively [carbamate tautomers were drawn to show clarity].

Broggini[63] also found that allenamides **174** could be subjected to base promoted intramolecular hydroamination, leading to heterocycles **178, 179** and/or **180** (Scheme 53). In most cases, the cyclization occurs effectively with microwave irradiation at the central allenic carbon to afford **179**, thereby representing another umpolung addition. However, no hydroamination products were observed when R = Ph. Instead, at room temperature **181** was obtained *via* C-C bond formation through the transition state **182**.

In a clever design of enamide synthesis, Kimber[64] reported stereoselective hydroaminations of allenamides **183** with anilines **184** under Au(I)-catalyzed conditions to afford *E*-enamides **185** *via* intermediates **186** (Scheme 54).

Broggini[65] evolved their hydroamination method into the palladium-catalyzed intramolecular carboamination of allenamides for the synthesis of 4-imidazolidinones **189** and **191** (Scheme 55). In this work, they employed optically enriched *a*-amino allenamides **187**, and the reaction proceeded through a palladium-catalyzed carbopalladation–5-*exo-dig* amination process *via* palladium π-allyl intermediates **188** or **190** [carbonylated]. It is

noteworthy that this cascade worked well for intramolecular carbopalladation of allenamides *en route* to tricyclic fused-ring imidazolidinones such as **189c** and **189d**.

Broggini[66] further developed their carboamination and microwave-assisted hydroamination work using allenamides **192** that contains an indolyl unit (Scheme 56). Using **192**, Styryl-substituted indoloimidazoles derivatives **194** were synthesized through the intermediacy of palladium π-allyl complex **193** in which the trapping exclusively occurred at the internal allenic carbon by the indole nitrogen. In the presence of CO, this cyclization cascade could afford indoloimidazoles **199**. In addition, the authors found that the use of microwave was crucial in dictating the hydroamination pathway of **192**. In particular, under the microwave activation, oxidative addition of the indolyl NH bond took place to give the Pd(II)-complex **195**. A subsequent hydride transfer or hydro-palladation would lead to the palladium π-allyl intermediate **196** and streamline the reaction pathway toward vinyl indoloimidazoles **197**.

More recently, Broggini[67] documented an Au(III)-catalyzed intramolecular hydroamination of allenamides **200** to give 2-vinyl-4-quinazolinones **201** (Scheme 57). In addition, when switching to Pd(0) catalyst and along with ArI, the carboamination products 2-(α-styryl)quinazolin-4-one derivatives **203** could again be produced with good yields.

Again, Bäckvall[55] also has an example already shown in Scheme 41 (See **137→138→139**) in Section 2.6.

3.2.4. Hydroarylation—Oishi, Fujii and Ohno[68] developed the first gold-catalyzed intramolecular hydroarylation of allenamides **204** for the formation of dihydroquinolines **208** (Scheme 58). Mechanistically, the Au(I)-coordinated allenamides **205** could undergo cyclization to form the vinyl-gold cation complex **206** *via* an intramolecular SE-Ar reaction. Upon deprotonation-rearomatization, the neutral vinyl gold complex **207** could undergo protodemetalation to form the dihydroquinoline products **208**. For the unsymmetrical arenes, the regioselectivity was found to be ranging from moderate to excellent (see **208c/208d** and **208g/208h**).

Kimber[69] reported a highly stereoselective hydroarylation of allenamides **209** to obtain a series of achiral and chiral oxazolidinone-derived *E*-enamides **211** *via* the 1,4-addition to *N*-acyl iminium intermediates **210** (Scheme 59). This gold-catalyzed hydroarylation took place relatively faster than their Pd- and Ru-catalyzed counterparts. Bis-hydroarylation products could be obtained in some cases. For example, **209** reacted with furan twice through both 1,4- and 1,2-hydroarylation to give **211c**. In another case, bis-hydroarylation afforded **211e** when 2 equiv of **209** were used.

Kimber[70] also unveiled an Au(I)-catalyzed intramolecular hydroarylation of allenamides **212** for the construction of α-vinyl substituted tetrahydro isoquinolines **213** (Scheme 60). When R = Boc, the hydroarylation reaction was impeded presumably due to the steric hindrance of the bulky Boc group. On the other hand, these hydroarylations can be highly diastereoselective as shown with **213c**, which was isolated as a single diastereomer.

See Section 3.6.6. [3 + 3] Formal Cycloadditions for another example.

3.2.5. Hydroalkenylation—Takeda[71] reported a titanocene(II)-promoted cross-coupling of allenamide **214**, which could generate 1,4-dienes **217** regioselectively *via* the formation of the 2-alkylidenetitanacyclopentane complex **216** (Scheme 61). This process formally constitutes a hydroalkenylation [or hydrovinylation] of allenamides.

3.2.6. Hydroacylation—See Section 3.3 Aldol Reactions.

3.2.7. Cyano- and Boro-Acylations—Nakao and Hiyama[72] discovered that with a Ni(0) catalyst, cyanoesterification of allenamide **218** could take place to afford highly functionalized *E*-enamide **220** with moderate yield as well as high regio-and stereoselectivity *via* the Ni(II)-complex **221** (Scheme 62). The process constitutes a three-component coupling protocol with cyanoformate being generated *in situ* from chloroformate ester **219** and TMS-CN. Mapp[27] also demonstrated that their *de novo* allenamide **28a** (see Scheme 13) could be employed in a palladium-catalyzed regio- and stereoselective boro-acylation of the terminal allenic olefin, leading to enamide **222** (Scheme 62).

3.2.8. Hydrostannylation—See Section 3.4.2. Palladium Catalyzed Cyclizations.

3.2.9. Silylstannylation—Rajanbabu[73] found that highly functionalized *E*-silylenamides **224** could be obtained from allenamide **223** *via* a Pd-catalyzed silylstannylation in an excellent regio- and stereoselective manner (Scheme 63).

3.3. Aldol Additions

Seebach[74] first demonstrated that in the presence of TiCl(i-PrO)$_3$, lithiated chiral propargyl amides could undergo 1,2-additions to aldehydes in a stereoselective manner (Scheme 64). When chiral propargyl amide **225** was treated with *n*-BuLi and TiCl(i-PrO)$_3$, and subsequently added to various aldehydes, an array of *de novo* γ,γ-disubstituted chiral allenamides **226** were obtained with high stereoselectivity. The excellent selectivity could be rationalized through a highly organized chair-like transition state shown in the propargylic titanium complex **227** after the transmetallation.

Hegedus[75a] found that transmetallating deprotonated chiral *N*-propargyl-oxazolidinones with MgBr$_2$ could produce *de novo* optically active γ-stannylated allenamide **230** through a highly stereoselective *anti*-SE2′ process (Scheme 65). The presence of MgBr$_2$ favors coordinated intermediates but with transition state **232** being preferred over **231**, which suffers from *syn*-pentane like steric interaction. These authors subsequently developed an elegant application of these novel stannylated allenamides. Specifically, a BF$_3$-OEt$_2$ catalyzed aldol reaction between γ-stannylated allenamide **230** and various aldehydes afforded an array of β-hydroxylpropargyl amides **234** with high *syn*-stereoselectivity through the preferred open transition state **233**.

Hegedus[75b] also found that in the presence of BF$_3$-OEt$_2$, the readily available oxiranes **236** could be the precursor in place of aldehydes (through a Lewis acid assisted alkyl, aryl or hydride-shift) for the aldol addition to chiral γ-stannylated allenamide **235** (Scheme 66).

These reactions likely proceed through a similar open transition state as shown in **233** (Scheme 65), leading to β-hydroxyl propargyl amides **237** with high *syn*-stereoselectivity.

Hegedus[76] later disclosed that optically active γ,γ-disubstituted allenamides **240** could be synthesized (Scheme 67). However, in this case, with the aid of 9-BBN derived organoboranes, high *anti*-stereoselectivity was achieved through the transition state shown in **239**. This method proves to be an excellent stereochemical complement to Seebach's work.[74]

Vrancken and Mangeney[77] found that lithiated allenamides generated from the propargyl amide **228** could undergo aldol reactions in the presence of CuCN to afford *anti*-homopropargyl amino alcohols **241** with high yields and diastereoselectivities (Scheme 68). In most cases, the addition proceeds through the favored transition state *anti*$_a$**241**.

West[78] found that when lithiated allenamides **243** reacted with unsaturated aldehydes, the resulting aldol product would undergo a 1,3-H shift to afford 2-amido-1,4-pentadiene-3-ones **246** (Scheme 69). While this work is being classified under aldol reaction, this beautiful tandem sequence of aldol addition–1,3-H-shift sequence constitutes a formal hydroacylation process of allenamides, and is indeed also related to *Section 3.7. Tandem Cascades via Isomerizations*. Subsequently, West carried out Lewis or Brønsted acid-promoted Nazarov cyclization employing these 2-amido-1,4-pentadiene-3-ones **246**. Specifically, a reaction with 0.2 equiv of In(OTf)$_3$ or 5.0 equiv of TfOH was found to be highly effective, leading to 2-amido-1-indanones **247** in good yields and high diastereoselectivity in most cases.

3.4. Cyclizations

We note here that some of the intramolecular hydroamination work featured in Section 3.2.3. Hydroamination (see Schemes 52, 53, and 55), and intramolecular hydroarylation reports showcased in Section 3.2.4. Hydroarylation (see Schemes 58 and 60) also involved cyclizations.

3.4.1. Non-Transition Metal-Mediated—Hacksell[79] reported the first base-promoted cyclization involving allenamide intermediates in their effort to achieve *N*-methylation of propargyl amides **248** (Scheme 70). With NaH, methylated (when R = Me) propargyl amides isomerized to allenamides **249** in moderate yields. When R = H, allenamides **250** were believed to be the intermediate *en route* to the cyclized oxazoles **252**.

Tanaka and Torii[48a] synthesized a series of antibiotics 3-norcephems **255** from α-acylated β-lactam derived allenamides **253** (Scheme 71). In their work, the key step involved a CaCl$_2$-assisted 1,4-addition of nucleophiles to the central allenic carbon of **253** as shown in the complex **254**. Although this could be considered also as an umpolung phenomenon, with the α-acyl group in **253**, this is more in line with a classical 1,4-addition. An ensuing cyclization *via* a vinylogous enolate addition would furnish **255**.

Kant and Farina[80] reported a related conjugate addition of organocuprates to allenamides **256** (Scheme 72). Subsequent cyclization through intermediates **257** would give cephams **258**.

Farina and Kant[48b] also uncovered that LiBr or LiCl could achieve the same purpose (Scheme 73). Mechanistically, this transformation should be similar to those in Schemes 71 and 72. With X = Ts or SAr as a leaving group, LiBr (or LiCl) would attack the more positively charged sulfur moiety to form a sulfenyl bromide **260** and lithium sulfinate Li-Ts (or LiSAr if X = SAr). The sulfenyl bromide motif in **260** could now electrophilically activate the terminal allenic double bond in an intramolecular manner leading to a bromonium ion intermediate, and an ensuing nucleophilic addition of the sulfide anion would lead to **261**. Subsequently, a 1,4-addition of Li-Ts (or LiSAr) followed by elimination of LiBr would afford cephams **262**.

Gericke[81] documented that cyclizations of 2-pyridone substituted allenamides **263** took place in different pathways depended on R groups and/or reaction conditions (Scheme 74). In chloroform at room temperature and when R = H, **263** was transformed to chromene **264** through a 6π-electron pericyclic ring-closure of the 1-oxatriene intermediate **265**, which was generated through an initial 1,5-H shift. At 60 °C when R = Ac, allenamide **263** would cyclize to first give the allylic anion intermediate **266**. This allylic anion could then lead to benzofuran **267** or **269** through either abstracting a proton from DMSO when DMSO is the solvent (see *a*); or when in toluene, trapping of the Ac⁺ cation (see *b*) followed by [3,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement.

Noguchi[82] demonstrated that iodine could promote the cyclization of allenamides **270** *via* a 6-*endo*-trig pathway (Scheme 75). Authors proposed that the iodonium intermediates **271** were formed selectively at the terminal olefin to deliver bicyclic guanidines **272**.

Maddaluno[83] reported the synthesis of 3-(2-ethoxy)vinyl indole **274** from allenamide **273** (Scheme 76). The *E*-isomer was obtained as the major product through an initial aryl lithium addition onto the central allenic carbon followed by elimination of an OEt group. The *E*-isomer **274** could serve as an excellent 1,3-diene to undergo thermal or high-pressure [4 + 2] cycloaddition with ethyl acrylate **276** to give tetrahydro-carbazoles **275**.

Hsung[84] found that depending on the reaction conditions, a series of urea derived γ-substituted chiral allenamides **277** could undergo cyclization to afford substituted dihydrofurans **279** when using TBAF or **281** when using PPTS (Scheme 77).

Vázquez[85] illustrated that with TFA, allenamides **282** could be cyclized to give isoquinolines **284** *via* a Pictet-Spengler type cyclization onto *N*-acyl iminium ion **283** (Scheme 78).

Wang and Lu[28c] demonstrated that haloindenyl sulfononamides **290** could be synthesized through a BF₃-OEt₂-catalyzed tandem sequence commencing from propargyl alcohols **285**, sulfonamides, and NIS (Scheme 79). Although not isolated, the allenyl cations **288** was first formed *via* Meyer-Schuster rearrangement, and trapping of **288** with sulfonamides would lead to allenamides **287**, which could then undergo subsequent iodonium promoted cyclization.

Wang and Lu[28a] also reported that phosphoryl substituted allenamide **293**, prepared from propargyl alcohol **291** through a Yb(III)-catalyzed Meyer-Schuster rearrangement and

trapping with phosphoramidate **292**, could also undergo related cyclizations to give pyrrole **294** (Scheme 80). Intriguingly, iodine could promote the entire sequence *en route* to **294**. The formation of this structurally interesting pyrrole **294** is proposed in Scheme 81 (see **293→296→297→294**). In addition, authors found that when **295** reacted with *N*-tosyl hydroxylamine, allenamide **298** could be formed and further cyclize to give 2,5-dihydroisoxazole **299** or 4-halo-2,5-dihydroisoxazole **300**, respectively.[28b]

Savic[86] discovered that upon treatment with *t*-BuOK, Boc protected propargyl aminopyridines **301** could be cyclized to imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine derivatives **303** (Scheme 82). Authors suggest that allenamides **302** are likely the key intermediate involved in these cyclization reactions.

Miranda[87] reported a two-step operation to access 2,3-dihydropyrroles **306** involving a base-promoted cyclization of allenamide intermediates **305** (Scheme 83). A Ugi four-component reaction (Ugi 4-CR)[88] was conducted with In(III) catalyst to afford propargyl amide **304**. A subsequent base-promoted isomerization would generate allenamide intermediates **305**, which subsequently underwent 5-*endo*trig cyclization to produce 2,3-dihydropyrroles **306**.

3.4.2. Palladium Catalyzed Cyclizations—Grigg[89] first reported a *de novo* palladium-catalyzed intramolecular carbopalladation/cyclization–anion capture cascade process using allenamides **307** (Scheme 84). After oxidative addition of Pd(0) to the aryl iodide, a selective carbopalladation/cyclization onto the central allenic carbon would first generate the Pd-π-allyl complex **308**. This π-allyl species could be captured regioselectively by amines in the presence of K_2CO_3 at the sterically less hindered γ-allenic position (γ-attack), leading to allylic amines **309**. Although α-attack was confirmed by NMR, an equilibration appeared to take place under the reaction conditions to favor the more stable allylic amines. Intriguingly, the use of Ag_2CO_3 can alter this regioselectivity to favor in the α-attack as shown in vinyl aminal **309a'**. Authors believed that with Ag_2CO_3, the reaction proceeds through the cationic π-ally complex **308'**, which would favor an α-attack and impede any ensuing equilibration.

In the related discovery of the Pd-catalyzed carbopalladation/cyclization-anion capture methodology, Grigg[90] showcased a palladium-catalyzed hydrostannylation–carbopalladation/cyclization cascade to afford small (5-7) and large (11-17) nitrogen-heterocycles, in which cyclization occurred at the α-allenic carbon (Scheme 85). A series of allenamides **310** could be subjected to highly regioselective palladium [Pd(0) or Pd(II) could be operative]-catalyzed hydrostannylations to afford allylstannanes **311** as a mixture of *E/Z* isomers. Both *E/Z* isomeric allylstannanes could undergo an ensuing sequence of oxidative addition, carbopalladation/cyclization, and elimination promoted by Pd(0). It is noteworthy that the elimination of *n*-Bu$_3$SnPdX was faster than β-hydride (HPdX) elimination, thereby leading to the final products **314** in moderate to good yields.

Grigg[91] also reported an impressive poly-component cascade involving a wide range of regio- and stereoselective 5-, or 6-*exo*-dig cyclization (Scheme 86). Commencing from propargyl amides **315**, a Tl_2CO_3 promoted isomerization would first lead to allenamides **316**. Subsequent oxidative addition and carbopalladation/cyclization onto the central allenic

carbon would afford the formation of an unstable enaminoindoles **318**, which could be trapped through Diels-Alder cycloadditions with *N*-methylmaleimide (NMM) in refluxing CH$_3$CN to yield *endo*-cycloadducts **319**. Three examples from propargyl amides **320** to polycyclic products **321** were reported without isolation of the diene intermediate.

Grigg[92] also adopted organoboron reagents as anion transfer reagents in their palladium-catalyzed cyclization–anion capturing cascade (Scheme 87). Again, after carbopalladation/cyclization, the resulting palladium π-allyl complexes **323** could undergo transmetallation with boronic aids to give isoquinolones **324a–c** after reductive elimination. Although minor isomer **325** was also found, the Suzuki-Miyaura type cross-coupling was overall highly regioselective and favored predominantly at the less hindered γ-allenic carbon regardless of the base used.

Organostannanes could also be utilized as anion capture reagents in a Stille-type cross-coupling to give isoquinolones **324d–e**, although regiochemistry here was not as good[93] (Scheme 88). Again intriguing here, Ag$_2$CO$_3$ appears to have no significant bearing on the regioselectivity (see Scheme 84). When NaN$_3$ was used as the capture reagent, azides **326**[94] could be attained (Scheme 89). Upon treatment with DMAD in benzene, an ensuing 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition could take place to give triazole **328**. A one-pot cascade using norbornadiene as the dipolarophile was also explored and triazole **329** was obtained after a retro Diels-Alder reaction of the initially generated triazoline cycloadduct **326**.

Grigg[95] subsequently rendered the anion capture part of their intramolecular cascade (Scheme 90). This process was initiated also through the same carbopalladation/cyclization and the formation of palladium π-allyl complexes **331** but followed by their interception, *via* an intramolecular nucleophilic addition, leading to polycyclic isoquinolones **332**.

Grigg[96] reported another novel cascade process entailing a highly regio-and stereoselective Pd/In bimetallic mediated cyclization–allylation reaction (Scheme 91). Transmetallation of the palladium π-allyl intermediate with indium followed by allylation of chiral sulfonamide *S*-**344** afforded esters **336** with two contiguous chiral centers generated with complete stereochemical control. The major diastereomer could be rationalized through the more favored transition state **335** in which the coordination to In metal likely involves both the sulfoxide and carbonyl oxygen atoms.

Savic[97] showed their work on the palladium-catalyzed carbopalladation/cyclization–anion capture cascade but with the acetate anion as a capturing nucleophile (Scheme 92). The intramolecular version of this reaction proceeded quite well with allenamides **337** to give desired cyclized products **338**. However, while the intermolecular version with allenamide **337c** was also successful, a mixture of regioisomeric acetates **339** and **340** was obtained.

Fuwa and Sasaki[98] unveiled a clever approach for the synthesis of 2,3-disubstituted indole derivatives based on the intramolecular carbopalladation/cyclization–anion capture strategy (Scheme 93). Allenamides **341** bearing a substituent at the α-position were found to undergo a facile carbopalladation/cyclization to generate the palladium π-allyl intermediate **342**,

which in turn could be cross-coupled with a wide range of orgnanoboron species to give a variety of 2,3-disubstituted indoles **343**.

Lai[57] also reported an example of the Pd-catalyzed carbopalladation/cyclization cascade while attempting to construct tetrasubstituted allenamides via Suzuki-Miyaura coupling (Scheme 94). When allenamide **344** reacted with (2-hydroxyphenyl)boronic acid **345**, the cyclized amido-chromene product **347** was obtained instead of the α-aryl-substituted allenamide **346**, although **346** likely had served as an intermediate.

Hiroya[99] published a Pd-catalyzed annulation reaction of allenamide **349** with aryl iodides **348** (Scheme 95). In this work, the Pd-π-allyl species **350** readily underwent an intramolecular nucleophilic attack by an oxygen- or nitrogen-based nucleophile to give the annulated product **354**. The product *via* α-attack in a 5- or 6-*exo-trig* manner was obtained exclusively regardless of the bulkiness of the allenic substituents. Authors proposed that the nitrogen stabilization could render the α-allenic carbon more electropositive than the γ-allenic carbon, thereby favoring the α-attack. In cases such as **354a**, it is also a matter of 5-*exo-trig* α-attack versus 5-*endo-trig* γ-attacked.

Cheng[100] described their Pd-catalyzed cyclization–capture cascade utilizing the bicyclic alkene **358** for the terminating process (Scheme 96). The palladium π-allyl complex **357** generated from allenamide **356** through the carbopalladation/cyclization sequence could be cross-coupled with oxa-norbornadiene **358**, leading to 1,2-dihydroisoquinoline **362** in 78% yield. Authors proposed that the coordination of **358** to the palladium π-allyl complex **357** favored the *exo* face, and that an ensuing migratory insertion and β-oxy *syn*-elimination would lead to the palladium-oxo complex **361** before the Zn-reduction.

Following their successful synthesis of substituted indoles, Fuwa and Sasaki[101] evolved their strategy further to access indole-2,3-quinodimethanes **364** from allenamide **363** through the intermediacy of the cationic palladium π-allyl complex **364'** (Scheme 97). Indole-2,3-quinodimethanes **364** could be trapped efficiently *in situ* through Diels-Alder cycloaddition with an external dienophile to afford tetrahydrocarbazoles **365** in excellent yields. In the absence of an external dienophile, homo-dimers **366/366'** were isolated through a regioselective Diels-Alder cycloaddition in favor of **366**.

Bäckvall[102] recently published a novel Pd(II)-catalyzed oxidative carbocyclization methodology (Scheme 98). Under these conditions, allenamides **367** could cyclize to afford the corresponding dihydropyrrole derivatives **368**. When maleimide was employed as a dienophile with the Co-salen type complex **370** as co-catalyst, a tandem oxidative cyclization/Diels-Alder reaction occurred to give the polycyclic *endo*-cycloadduct **369**.

3.4.3. Rhodium Catalyzed Cyclizations—Brummond[103] first demonstrated a rhodium(I)-catalyzed allenic Alder-ene reaction employing alkynyl allenamides **371** (Scheme 99). A variety of cross-conjugated triene-containing heterocycles **372** were obtained in good to excellent yields. It was also demonstrated that when changing the atmosphere from argon to carbon monoxide, the reaction generated complex tricycles **373** in a Pauson-Khand manner with moderate diastereoselectivity.

3.4.4. Gold Catalyzed Cyclizations—Hegedus[104] published an efficient Au-catalyzed cyclization of chiral γ-substituted allenamides **374** (Scheme 100). An impressive series of highly functionalized *cis*-dihydrofurans **377** were synthesized as a single diastereomer. Authors also reported an alternative electrophilic activation method for cyclizing allenamides **374** that utilized NIS, leading to **375** with a handle for further elaboration at C-3 position of the furan ring.

Pérez-Castells[105] reported an Au-catalyzed cyclization and a subsequent gold-promoted nucleophile trapping for the formation of benzazepines **383** (Scheme 101). In this reaction, authors proposed that the gold first coordinated with the allene rather than the alkyne group as shown in **379**, although both coordination events are likely taking place and in rapid equilibrium. An ensuing nucleophilic attack accounted for the formation of enamides **380**, and at subsequent gold promoted cyclization onto the alkyne would occur (see **381→382→383**). It was also found that if the *N*-substituent X were less electron-withdrawing than sulfonyl groups, this cyclization did not take place.

Hsung[106] published an Au-catalyzed imino-Nazarov cyclization of α-aryl substituted allenamides **384** (Scheme 102). This regioselective cascade provided an efficient synthetic method in constructing aromatic ring-fused cyclopentenamides **387**. Authors suggested that the electronic preference accounted for the observed regioselectivity.

3.4.5. Radical Cyclizations—Hsung[107] reported the first radical cyclization of allenamides (Scheme 103). This cyclization reaction was highly regioselective for the central allenic carbon in **388**, leading to isoquinolines and isoindoles **389** in good to excellent yields. Authors suggested that the electronic nature of the allenamide nitrogen atom has no impact on the regioselectivity.

In addition, when chiral allenamides **390** with the aryl iodide group tethered through the α-carbon of the allenamide were employed, the radical cyclization afforded exclusively the *central*-cyclized indene products **391** (Scheme 104). Authors also described a tandem radical cyclization using allenamide **392** to give tricycle **394**. An initial *exo*-cyclization onto the α-allenic carbon of **393** appeared to be prerequisite for completing the tandem process.

3.4.6. Garratt-Braverman Cyclization—Garratt-Braverman cyclization,[108] a biradical generating process, represents a powerful tool for new CC bond formation.[108c] Recently, Basak[109] demonstrated successful construction of indolyl carbazole **399** through Garratt-Braverman cyclization of bis-allenamide **396** (Scheme 105). When refluxed in toluene in the presence of *t*-BuOK, amide **395** underwent isomerization to bis-allenamide **396**, and the subsequent intramolecular cyclization generated the biradical pyrrole intermediate **397**. The final product indolyl carbazole **399** was produced through the self-quenching/cyclization followed by aromatization.

3.4.7. Electrocyclization(EC)—Besides Garratt-Braverman cyclization, allenamides **401** could also be utilized to construct 6-membered aromatics through electrocyclization (Scheme 106). Zhou[110] synthesized a series of polyfunctional benzenes **403** from diene-propargyl amides **400**. They proposed that allenamides **401** were the precursor subject to the

6π EC reaction to afford cyclized intermediates **402**. In the presence of DBU, **402** isomerized to desired products **403** *via* aromatization.

3.5. Ring-Closing Metathesis

Hiemstra and Rutjes[111] attempted to date the only ring-closing metathesis reaction involving allenamides (Scheme 107). However, when using allenamide **404**, dienamide **405** was isolated as a result of the Ru-catalyzed isomerization (or 1,3-H shift), and the desired RCM product **406** was not observed.

3.6. Cycloadditions

3.6.1. [2 + 1] Cycloadditions—Hsung[112] reported the first detailed studies on epoxidations of chiral allenamides including ^{1}H NMR studies of these reactions (Scheme 108). When Oxone™ was used, isolation of cyclic ether **410** suggested that a more acidic medium during the oxidation can promote rapid ring-opening of allene oxide or epoxyallene **408** to provide the α, β-unsaturated *N*-acyl iminium intermediate **409**. A subsequent intramolecular 1,4-addition would generate ether **410**. The DMDO epoxidation of **407** in the presence of PPTS led to the formation of a mixture of pyrans **411a** and **411b**, which represent a 1,2-addition process to the *N*-acyl iminium intermediate related to **409** derived **408**. Isolation of the major pyran **411b** also implies double epoxidation of **407** or possible presence of a 2-amido-1,4-dioxasprio[2.2]pentane intermediate [not shown]. Treatment of allenamide **407** with buffered *m*-CPBA led to highly stereoselective formation of α-keto-*N,O*-acetal **412**, thereby suggesting a very rapid *in situ* trapping of **408** by the *m*-chlorobenzoate anion.

Hsung[113] published a detailed account of Simmons-Smith cyclopropanation of allenamides to generate amido-spiro[2,2]pentanes (Scheme 109). For α-unsubstituted allenamides **413**, only biscyclopropanation products **414** were observed, while α-substituted allenamides resulted in mixtures of mono- and bis-cyclopropanation products **415** and **414**. Diastereoselectivity was modest but a conformational analysis was proposed in Scheme 110 to account for the lack of selectivity. The preference for the two conformers **416** and **417** is small, and because the first cyclopropanation to **416** and **417** took place very rapidly, there was very little facial selectivity, as both **416** and **417** could participate cyclopropanation *via* their respective open face. However, the selectivity increases modestly when R^3 H because **416** becomes more favored as the conformer **417** suffers from enhanced $A^{1,3}$ strain.

3.6.2. [2 + 2] Cycloadditions—Studies of [2 + 2] cycloadditions were carried out by several research groups, among them Tamaru[114a] was the earliest in reporting their thermal [2 + 2] cycloaddition of allenamides. Various allenamides **422** underwent [2 + 2] cycloaddition reactions chemoselectively at the allenic β, γ-position with alkenes and alkynes to furnish cyclobutanes **423** and cyclobutenes **424** regio- and stereoselectively[114b] (Scheme 111). This methodology is general for alkenes bearing not only electron-withdrawing and conjugating groups but also electron-donating groups with complete retention of the alkene double bond geometries. However, the reaction is limited to terminal alkenes and alkynes, as internal alkynes, alkenes, and 1,3-dienes were unreactive.

In detailed study, Tamaru[115] documented an interesting dichotomy between inverse demand hetero-[4 + 2] and [2 + 2] cycloadditions of allenamides (Scheme 112). Depending upon the alkene substitution pattern, allenamides can react with siloxydienes, enol ethers, and allylsilanes to either undergo [2 + 2] cycloadditions to exclusively provide cyclobutane derivatives, or a hetero-[4 + 2] cycloaddition pathway with a vinyl *N*-acyl imine intermediate resulting from an initial 1,3-Ts shift. While details of this excellent and thorough investigation will not be digested here and can be found in the original paper, see Section 3.6.5 for discussions on the 1,3-Ts-shift–inverse demand hetero-[4 + 2] cycloaddition cascade.

Nair[116] published a unique [2 + 2] cycloaddition of allenamides **434** with [60]fullerene **435** to afford novel cyclobutane annulated fullerene derivatives **436** (Scheme 113). The reaction took place selectively on the internal double bond of allenamides, which had not been observed previously.

Chen[117] reported the first publication of Au-catalyzed [2 + 2] cycloadditions of allenamides (Scheme 114). Their methodology provided densely functionalized cyclobutane adducts **439** using a wide range of allenamides **437** with electron-rich olefins **438**. The cycloaddition was completely regio- and stereoselective, although α- or γ-substituted allenamides did not give desired products possibly due to the steric hindrance. The author also reported dimerization of starting allenamides **437** under the Au-catalysis in the absence of alkenes, leading to a series of dimerization products **440** (Scheme 115).

Mascareñas[118] reported a highly regioselective Au-catalyzed intermolecular [2 + 2] cycloaddition of allenamide **441** with various alkenes **442** for the synthesis of cyclobutanes **443** (Scheme 116). Most critically, these authors found that when using enamides as reacting partners, both (*E*) and (*Z*) isomers of enamides **442e** and **442f** generated single *trans*-stereoisomer as shown in **443e** and **443f**, respectively, thereby suggesting a stepwise cationic pathway. Intermolecular nucleophilic interception of the Au-allyl cation species **444** by the alkene would form a second cationic intermediate **445**. The formation of the more stabilized benzylic or *N*-acyl iminium cation (when using cyclic or acyclic enamides) should lead to the observed regioselectivity, while rotation around the $\sigma_{C\text{-}C}$ bond would result in the loss of original alkene stereochemical information. A final allenamide nitrogen atom-assisted ring-closing process followed by elimination and regeneration of the Au complex would furnish [2 + 2] adduct **443**.

González[119] independently published their Au-catalyzed [2+2] cycloaddition of *N*-tosyl allenamides **446** with enol ethers **447** (Scheme 117) at the same time. Although the same gold complex was used as in Mascareñas's report, catalyst loading was much lower, and more importantly, γ-substituted allenamides worked very well in this system to generate the cycloadduct such as **448c**.

3.6.3. [2 + 2 + 1] Cycloadditions—Hsung[58] first published a regioselective α-deprotonation and functionalization of electron-deficient allenamides **449**, and application of the resulting α-substituted allenamides in an intramolecular Pauson-Khand-type cycloaddition (Scheme 118). The functionalized allenamides **450** were treated with

$Mo(CO)_6$ to provide the desired [2 + 2 + 1] cycloaddition products **451** regioselectively in favor of the terminal olefin. As the first examples of Pauson-Khand-type reactions involving nitrogensubstituted allenes, these authors accounted the regioselectivity as a result of the Mo metal complexing to the less sterically congested terminal olefin of the allene.

Pérex-Castells[120] reported the first intermolecular Pauson-Khand reaction of allenamides **452** promoted with $Co(CO)_8$ (Scheme 119). These reactions were both regio- and stereoselective with several alkynes **453** to give functionalized cyclopentenones **454** bearing an *exo*-cyclic *E*-enamide. Subsequently, Pérez-Castells[121] unveiled a $Mo(MeCN)_3(CO)_3$ intramolecular Pauson-Khand type reaction of allenamide **455**, leading to tricycle **456** in 43% yield, although the original Co-conditions were not effective (Scheme 120). In it noteworthy that Oh[122] had earlier also demonstrated a molybdenumcatalyzed [2 + 2 + 1] cycloaddition of allenamide **457** to produce compound **458** (Scheme 121).

3.6.4. [3 + 2] Cycloadditions—Broggini and Zecchi[123] documented the first [3+2] cycloaddition in which a series of allenamides **459** were treated with benzonitrile oxide **460** under thermal conditions (Scheme 122). The reaction occurred predominantly at the internal double bond of allenamides to give dihydroisoxazoles **462** with an *exo*-cyclic olefin as the major product, which reacted readily with excess amount of benzonitrile oxide **460** to provide bis-spiro-oxazoles **463**. In addition, unlike **462**, the minor cycloadduct **461** was inert toward a second cycloaddition due to the sterics.

Tamaru[114b] also reported hetero-[3 + 2] cycloadditions of allenamides **464** with nitrile oxide **465** (Scheme 123). The reaction also took place on the internal double bond to afford diazadioxaspirocycles **466**.

Barluenga[124] published the first Rh-catalyzed carbo-[3 + 2] cycloaddition of allenamides **467** with chromium alkenyl(methoxy)carbine complexes **468** (Scheme 124). Most cyclization reactions took place with complete chemo-, regio-, and diastereoselectivities, leading to a broad range of functionalized amidocyclopentenes **469** in good to excellent yields. A tentative reaction pathway for the cycloaddition involved the Fischer-type rhodium(I)-carbene complexes **470** generated *via* a chromium-rhodium exchange. CO appears to be critical in this cycloaddition, as it not only improved the efficiency of the catalytic reaction by favoring the transmetallation step, but also allowed almost quantitatively recovery of $Cr(CO)_6$.

Piperno and Romeo[125] reported an example of thermal [3 + 2] cycloaddition of pyrimidine-dione containing allenamide **471** with nitrone **472** under conditions using microwave irradiation, leading to a mixture of iso-oxazolidines **473, 474** and **475** (Scheme 125). The cycloadducts **473** and **474** represent the two possible regiochemical addition of nitrone onto the terminal allenic double bond with a ratio of 7:1 in favor of the former, while the stereochemistry of iso-oxazolidine **475** was assigned by NOE as *trans*.

Piperno, Romeo, and Rescifina[126] later published another microwave assisted [3 + 2] cycloaddition of allenamides **476** with nitrones **477** (Scheme 126). In this work, both cycloadducts **478** and **479** were observed, representing cycloadditions onto the internal and

terminal allenic double bonds, respectively. The cycloadduct **479** was believed to be a result of thermal equilibration from **478** through intermediates **480** and **481**.

Wang and Lu[127] reported an efficient strategy for the synthesis of functionalized pyrazoles **486** from propargyl alcohol and *N*-sulfonyl-hydrazone (Scheme 127). *N*-Sulfonyl allenamide **484** was postulated as the key intermediate for this impressive tandem cascade as mapped in Scheme 127, featuring a pseudo-pericyclic (2n+4π) ring-closure of **484** and representing ultimately a formal [3 + 2] cycloaddition process. Various propargyl alcohols **482** and hydrazones **483** were applicable to give products **486**, although lower yields were obtained for hydrazones derived from aliphatic aldehydes.

3.6.5. [4 + 2] Cycloadditions—Tamaru[50] examined the first inverse electron-demand hetero-[4 + 2] cycloaddition reaction of allenamides **489** with MVK under thermal conditions (Scheme 128). The cycloaddition took place selectively at the internal double bond, leading to the desired spiro *N,O*-acetal products **490** in excellent yields.

These authors also conducted a detailed study of this [4 + 2] cycloaddition using allenamides **491** with a series of heterodienes (Scheme 129).[114b] While a competing [2 + 2] cycloaddition product was also detected (*vide supra*), ratios of the [4 + 2] cycloadducts versus the corresponding [2 + 2] cycloadducts varied with different heterodienes. The reaction with MVK afforded the [4 + 2] product **492a** in 80% yield, while the reaction with 2-methylacrolein predominantly gave the [2 + 2] addition product **493d**. The product distribution could be qualitatively rationalized by the charge delocalization caused by different substitution patterns (Scheme 130), that is, the methyl group of MVK increases the electron density on O atom and promotes the [4 + 2] reaction while the methyl group of α-methylacrolein decreases the positive charge on the terminal CH_2 and retards the [4 + 2] reaction. Relative activation energies were calculated and changed just as expected (–3.0, 0.0, 9.3 12.7 for **492a–d** respectively with acrolein as the standard). Detailed investigation can be found in the origin paper.

Hsung[41b] also disclosed an inverse electron-demand hetero-[4 + 2] cycloaddition reaction of allenamides **495** with acrolein or MVK (Scheme 131). The reaction of allenamides **495** containing a lactam moiety could proceed under both thermal and Lewis acid conditions with the five-membered lactam allenamide (n = 1) giving the best results. Further studies revealed that allenamides **497** containing an oxazolidinone or imidazolidinone moiety proved to be more reactive.

Hsung[128] further reported the first stereoselective version of this hetero-[4 + 2] cycloaddition reaction with chiral allenamides **499** (Scheme 132). A series of heterodienes as well as chiral allenamides were examined, affording pyranyl heterocycles **500** in good yields with selectivity being as high as 96:4.

To illustrate synthetic utilities of these pyranyl cycloadducts, Hsung[129] developed the first Lewis acid catalyzed stereoselective removal of the anomeric chiral urea group concomitant with allylation to give pyrans **502** (Scheme 133). Based on this methodology, an array of highly functionalized and structurally interesting tetrahydropyrans was assembled in

stereoselective manner (Scheme 134). These studies eventually led to the formal synthesis of natural product (+)-zincophorin (*vide infra*).

Hsung[130] also described the inverse electron-demand *aza*-[4 + 2] cycloaddition reaction of chiral allenamides **509** employing phenylsulfonyl protected 1-azadiene **508** (Scheme 135). Despite the moderate yield and selectivity, this *aza*-[4 + 2] reaction demonstrated the synthetic utility of chiral alleneamides for the synthesis of *aza*-glycoside related heterocycles.

Van Vranken[32] was the first to demonstrate that an allenamide could actually participate in a normal electron-demand [4 + 2] cycloaddition reaction with the external double bond of the allene motif serving as the corresponding dienophile. These authors reported an example of such reaction with allenamide **511**, which afforded cycloadduct **512** containing an enamide motif in 57% yield (Scheme 136). It is noteworthy that Mapp[27] also reported a similar reaction with *N*-phosporamidate substituted allenamide, which was synthesized using the method they had developed (See cycloadduct **512a** and Scheme 17)

Hsung[131] later showed that a stereoselective intramolecular normal electron demand [4 + 2] cycloaddition of allenamides **513** tethered to a diene motif could be achieved in good to excellent yields (Scheme 137). While Brønsted acids or transition metals including noble metals AuCl, AgBF$_4$ and AgSbF$_6$ could also catalyze this cycloaddition, and that this work predates elegant and high profiled efforts by Mascareñas and co-workers (See below), they were not necessary as thermal conditions was sufficient to give comparable results. Based on these efforts, the authors developed a tandem isomerization-[4 + 2] cycloaddition sequence using propargyl amides **515**, leading to a rapid assembly of structural complexity as demonstrated in **514** (Scheme 138).

López and Mascareñas[132] unveiled an intermolecular [4 + 2] reaction of allenamides **516** with a series of acyclic conjugated dienes to afford **517** in moderate to excellent yields and high *Z* selectivities (referring to the enamide double bonds) (Scheme 139). A preliminary reactivity screening revealed that similar reactions with either isolated allenes or allenol ethers instead of allenamides led to only complex mixtures, thereby further confirming the superiority of allenamides in these reactions. AuCl was proved to be a suitable catalyst for this cycloaddition reaction with cationic IPrAuCl/AgSbF$_6$ providing better results in some cases.

Mascareñas and co-workers[133] then reported an impressive enantioselective version of this [4 + 2] reaction (Scheme 140). High enantioselectivities (usually >90% *ee*) were obtained using chiral Au(I) complex **520** containing axially chiral triazoloisoquinolin-3-ylidene ligands. This method represented the first example of a highly enantioselective intermolecular [4 + 2] cycloaddition of allenamides.

Huang[134] reported a facile synthesis of highly substituted tetrahydro-1*H*-isoindolones from conjugated vinylic alkynes, imines and α, β-unsaturated enoic acid chlorides (Scheme 141). This reaction sequence proceeded through a CuI-catalyzed addition of alkyne **522** to imine **523** followed by amidation to give enyne **525**. Enyne **525** could then undergo a cascade of

DBU induced propargyl amide-allenamide isomerization and intramolecular [4 + 2] cycloaddition, leading to the desired product **527a** in good yield. Although sufficiently stable, isolation of the pure **525** was not necessary and the sequence worked very well in one pot.

Wu and Huang[135] disclosed a convenient one-pot synthesis of substituted isoindolines (Scheme 142). DBN-induced isomerization of bis-propargyl amides **531**, which were generated *via* Pd-catalyzed Sonogashira-type cross-coupling of β-iodoenones **528** (or electronic deficient iodobenzenes, see **530df**) with bis-propargyl amides **529**, would afford allenamide intermediates **532** that could further undergo an intramolecular [4 + 2] cycloaddition/aromatization to deliver **530** in moderate to good yields.

Tamaru[136,115] uncovered an unusual thermal 1,3-Ts-shift–hetero-[4 + 2] cycloaddition cascade employing allenamides **533** (Scheme 143). In the presence of a large excess of enol ethers **534**, the Ts group underwent N-to-C 1,3-migration concomitant with an ensuing hetero-[4 + 2] cycloaddition. The reaction was highly stereoselective with complete retention of configurations in the starting alkenes in which *Z*-enol ethers gave *cis*-products, while *E*-enol ethers afforded *trans*-products. However, the recovered enol ethers revealed that disubstituted acyclic *Z*-enol ethers had isomerized to give a *Z/E* mixture under the reaction conditions, while no isomerization took place without allenamides.

Consequently, authors suggested a unique enol ether-promoted 1,3-Ts-migration mechanism through the intermediacy of zwitter ion **537** to deliver 1-azadiene *s-trans*-**538** with the loss of geometrical integrity of enol ether as shown in path **A** and/or pathway **B**-to-**C** (Scheme 144). The ultimate cycloaddition of reactive *s-cis*-**538** with more reactive *Z*-enol ethers would afford the desired adducts **540** in a stereospecific manner. Although a direct cyclization pathway from *E*-**539** after equilibrating from *Z*-**539** (Path B-to-D) is a distinct possibility, the fact that cycloadduct **540** was isolated exclusively as *cis* ruled out this possibility, this is less likely because such cyclization would lose the original stereochemical information of the enol ether.

Tamaru[137,115] further studied the reaction of allenamide **541** with allylsilanes **542** to achieve a better understanding of this unique 1,3-sulfonyl rearrangement (Scheme 145). Under thermal conditions, the desired [4 + 2] adducts **543a–c** were obtained with allylsilanes **542a–c**. A small amount of **544** was also isolated as a side product, but its mechanism was not clear. Authors again suggested that the nucleophilicity of silanes was not the key factor, and instead they proposed that the Lewis acidity of silicon might be critical for promoting the sulfonyl shift.

3.6.6. [3 + 3] Formal Cycloadditions—Kuroda[138] unveiled the only example of [3 + 3] formal cycloadditions or annulations[139] of allenamides **545** with phenols **546** (Scheme 146). These annulations could be carried out under mild conditions in the presence of a catalytic amount of Tf_2NH, leading to a series of highly functionalized chromanes **547**. This methodology also represents a formal hydroarylation at the terminal carbon of the allenic double bond without any metal catalyst.

3.6.7. [4 + 3] Cycloadditions—In 2001, Hsung[140] uncovered a novel cascade consisting of epoxidation of chiral allenamides **548** with DMDO followed by [4 + 3] cycloadditions[141] of various dienes, leading to oxabicyclo[3.2.1]octanes **549** (Scheme 147). The reaction was initially believed to proceed through the *Z*-isomer of nitrogen-stabilized oxyallyl cations, which were generated through ring-opening of the allenoxide intermediate (see Scheme 108). With the *Z*-oxyallyl cations being operative and sterics serving as the key and the only stereochemical controlling element, approaching of the diene from the less congested top face [called *endo*-I here for consistency] would lead to the major *endo*-I cycloadduct as assigned for **549a**. Improvement of the overall stereoselectivity when using ZnCl$_2$ further deepens the faith in such a claim because the zinc cation can lock up the oxyallyl cation in a bidentate manner to further enhance the facial differentiation.

Hsung[142] later found a reversal of diastereoselectivity in the [4 + 3] cycloaddition of allenamides with 2-substituted furan. While DMDO oxidation of allenamide **548** in the presence of 2-methyl furan and ZnCl$_2$ afforded **551a** as the major product, the corresponding cycloaddition reaction with methyl 2-furoate afforded the *endo*-II type adduct **552b** more favorably (Scheme 148). These results collectively aroused suspicious of the original stereochemical understanding of this cycloaddition, and more critically, initiated a long-term collaborative effort to understand the regiochemical outcome of this cycloaddition regiochemically, which has been devoid of within the literature.

Consequently, Krenske, Houk, and Hsung[143] conducted a detailed mechanistic study of this nitrogenstabilized oxyallyl cation [4 + 3] cycloadditions to provide a rationale. DFT calculations revealed that the *E*-oxyallyl cations were actually the preferred species regardless of the presence of ZnCl$_2$, and there was no bidentate coordination (Scheme 149). Furthermore, when phenyl-substituted Evans auxiliary was employed as the chiral auxiliary as shown in allenamide **548**, the approach of dienes preferred the sterically more hindered face of the oxyallyl cation! This contrasteric approach was attributed to a stabilizing CH-π interaction between the C3-H on furan and the phenyl substituent as in **553** (Scheme 150).

On the other hand, when no CH-π interaction could be achieved, as with the Bn-substituted Evans auxiliary, reaction did indeed proceed from the sterically less hindered face of the *E*-oxyallyl cation to provide the *endo*-II cycloadduct **554** as the major product. Steric preference and CH-π interaction could also operate in sync to give **555** (note the *S*-stereochemistry) in excellent diastereoselectivity. These new mechanistic insights provided corrections to the stereochemical assignment of **549d** and **549e** (see Scheme 147), which should in fact be as shown in **554** and **555**, respectively.

Based on the new theoretical evidence, Krenske, Houk, and Hsung[144] subsequently disclosed a systematic study of the [4 + 3] cycloaddition reaction of achiral allenamide **556** with unsymmetrically substituted furans and established the first cohesive model for the regiochemistry of [4 + 3] cycloadditions based on both theory and experiments (Scheme 151). For reactions with 2-substituted or 2,3-disubstituted furans, *syn* selectivity was favored, while *anti* was favored for cycloadditions with 3-substituted furans. DFT Calculations predicted the correct major products and brought forth the first cohesive mechanistic model based on the theoretic premise that (a) these nitrogen-stabilized oxyallyl

cations are actually ambiphlic with enolate like-character in their HOMO; and (b) while asynchronously concerted, ω-bond formation occurs first (Scheme 152). Consequently, with electron-withdrawing ester groups, the regiochemical preference was consistent with electronic effects, mimicking a conjugate addition, while the observed regioselectivities for methylfurans likely a result of the preference for least hindered ω-bond formation.

Krenske, Houk, and Hsung[145] further studied both regio- and stereoselectivity of [4 + 3] cycloadditions of 2 or 3-monosubstituted furans with chiral allenamides **548** (Schemes 153). For brevity and clarity, only a few examples of C-3-substituted cases are shown here, while details can be referred back to the original publication. Overall, the regiochemical model for achiral allenamides is consistent with these experimentally observed regioselectivities, and the new stereochemical model could be again adopted for the observed *endo*-I/II selectivities.

Krenske, Houk, and Hsung[146] recently also disclosed their investigations of regio- and stereoselectivity issues of [4 + 3] cycloadditions of chiral allenamide **548** with a series unsymmetrically disubstituted furans (Scheme 154). The reaction was found to give *syn-endo*-II products **560** predominantly. DFT calculations were again performed to rationalize the experimental outcomes. Interestingly, in the calculated TS-561, the original proposed CH-π interaction was not found.

Song and Hsung[147] demonstrated that these nitrogen-stabilized oxyallyl cations are also suitable for [4 + 3] cycloadditions with protected pyrroles **564** to construct tropanone systems (Scheme 155). This cycloaddition reaction showed similar stereoselectivities as those with furans.

Hsung[148] unveiled an enantioselective [4 + 3] cycloaddition reaction[149] using Lewis acid catalysts (Scheme 156). Reactions of allenamides **556** with DMDO and various dienes in the presence of catalytic CuOTf$_2$ and C_2-symmetric bisoxazoline **565** afforded cycloadducts **566** in good yields and up to 99% *ee*. This asymmetric reaction with unsymmetrical furans also provided regioselectivities consistent with what have been discussed above.

Hsung[150] also reported a stereoselective intramolecular [4 + 3] cycloaddition reaction of allenamides **567** or **570** with *N*-tethered dienes through the intermediacy of the *E*-oxyallyl cation **569** (Schemes 157 and 158). A series of *N*-heterocyclic products **568** and **571**, including tethers to form 7- and 8-membered rings (**571g** and **568d**), was obtained in good yields and *exo* selectivity was actually observed. The tolerance of longer tethering length reaffirms the advantage of nitrogen-stabilized oxyallyl cations because of the conformationally rigid trivalent nature of the nitrogen atom and its aptitude to overcome greater entropy for intramolecular cycloadditions.

Hsung[151] further extended this diastereoselective intramolecular [4 + 3] cycloaddition to disubstituted chiral allenamides with the diene motif being tethered at either α- or γ-allenic carbon (Scheme 159). High *endo*-selectivity was observed for these reactions, and interestingly, for γ-tethered allenamides **575** and **576**, the axial chirality of allenamides did not have an impact on the overall stereoselectivity of the cycloaddition.

3.7. Tandem Cascades *via* Isomerizations

3.7.1. α-Isomerization—Hsung[152a] reported a series of studies on regio- and stereoselective isomerizations of allenamides with first of which leading to the preparation of *de novo* 2-amido-dienes and a tandem isomerization-6*p*-electron electrocyclic ring-closure (Scheme 160). It was found that under either thermal conditions (condition A) or Brønsted acidic conditions (condition B), allenamides **580** underwent effective isomerization, or 1,3-H shift, to give *de novo* 2-amido-dienes **581**. This 1,3-H shift was found to be highly regio- and stereoselective, as products **581** were obtained with >20:1 *E/Z* ratios. It is noteworthy that related 1,3-H shift has been documented by others[78,152b] (also see Scheme 69). Recently, Das[152c] reported a computational study on such 1,3-H shift. Details of their study will not be discussed here.

The excellent *E*-selectivity attained provided a platform for a pericyclic transformation, as allenamide **582** underwent isomerization to give 3-amido-triene **583** in 89% yield, and subsequently, a thermal 6π-electron electrocyclic ring-closure of **583** gave cyclic diene **584**. Alternatively, cyclic diene **584** could also be obtained directly from allenamide **582** under thermal condition in a tandem sequence, albeit with lower overall yield.

Hsung[153] subsequently expanded the substrate scope of this 1,3-H shift for the preparation of 3-amidotrienes. Under acidic conditions, allenamides **585** can be efficiently transformed into 3-amido-trienes **586** in good to excellent yields (Scheme 161). Allenamides such as **587** with both α- and γ-substitutions were also examined. The 1,3-H shift in this case was found to be completely regioselective and took place exclusively from the α-position, affording highly substituted (*E*)-3-amido-trienes **588a–b**.

Hsung[154] also found that heating allenamide **589** led to two ring-closure products: the desired cyclic 2-amido diene **591** and the unexpected 1-amido diene **592** in 1:4.5 ratio (Scheme 162). The formation of **592** implied the presence of 1,3,5-hexatriene **593**, resulting from an antarafacial 1,7-H shift from the initial triene **590**. It is noteworth that the ring-closure of 1,3,5-hexatriene **593** is highly diastereoselective. Diene **592** could also be obtained from **589** *via* a two-step sequence, with the initial 1,3-H shift promoted by an acid.

An application[154] of this 1,3-H-1,7-H shift in tandem with [4+2] cycloaddition was explored (Scheme 163). Reactions of allenamides **594**, containing a *Z*-allyl group, led to the desired tricyclic products **596a** and **596b** as single isomers through a highly stereoselective [4 + 2] cycloaddition of cyclic 1-amido-diene intermediate **595** after the 1,3-H-1,7-H shift. In contrast, the 1,7-shift was suppressed in reactions of allenamide **597**, containing an *E*-allyl group. In this case, tricyclic products **599a** and **599b** were obtained in excellent yield and diastereoselectivity. This reaction can be carried out thermally in a triple tandem manner commencing from **597**. These tandem processes provide a rapid assembly of complex tricycles from simple allenamides, demonstrating their tremendous synthetic potential.

Hsung[155] later described a diastereoselective 6π-electrocyclic ring-closure employing halogensubstituted 3-amidotrienes *via* a 1,6-remote asymmetric induction (Scheme 164). This process utilized electrophilic halogenations of α-substituted allenamides **600**, and 2-halo-3-amido-di- and -trienes **601** were prepared in synthetically useful overall yields with

E-stereoselectivity under optimized conditions. These reactions were thought to proceed through *N*-acyl iminium ions **602**.

The successful *de novo* synthesis of these chiral 2-halo-3-amidotrienes enabled the diastereoselective 6 π-electron electrocyclizations *via* a challenging remote 1,6-asymmetric induction[155] (Scheme 165). While simple thermal conditions failed, addition of AlMe3 effectively promoted the electrocyclization of **603**, leading to the desired cyclic products **604** in good to excellent yields with overall good diastereoselectivity. A potential model is proposed as shown in TS-**604** to rationalize the selectivity.

3.7.2. γ-Isomerization—Hsung[152a] also examined isomerizations or 1,3-H shift of allenamides from the γ-position for the preparation of 1-amido-dienes (Scheme 166). Authors found that 1,3-H shift of two types of γ-substituted allenamides with a cyclohexylidene group **605** and those with an iso-propylidene group **607** led to 1-amidodienes **606** or **608**, respectively, as *E*-enamides exclusively. It was observed that acidic conditions appear to be more effective than thermal conditions. The thermal 1,3-H shift required higher temperatures and/or longer reaction times than those of α-isomerizations. It is noteworthy again that related isomerization or 1,3-H shift from the γ-position has been documented by others[25,52,111,152b] (see Schemes 11, 19, and 107).

Hsung[156] utilized the 1,3-H shift from the γ-position of allenamide for Oppolzer-type intramolecular Diels-Alder cycloadditions (Scheme 167). Fully functionalized allenamide **611** could be prepared from the copper catalyzed coupling between amide **609** and 1-iodoallene **610**. The authors found that allenamide **611** underwent effective base-mediated 1,3-H shift (see Trost's similar isomerization[52] in Scheme 39) and Diels-Alder cycloaddition to give cycloadduct **612a** in excellent yield. The cycloaddition was believed to proceed *via* an *endo*-transition state as shown in **613**, leading to rapid assembly of a diverse array of *N*-heterocyclic manifolds.

4. Natural Product Synthesis

Hsung[157] documented a successful application of allenamide chemistry in the formal total synthesis of (+)-zincophorin **619** *via* an inverse electron-demand hetero-[4 + 2] cycloaddition of chiral allenamide **615** (Scheme 168). Heterodiene **614** and chiral allenamide **615** underwent highly stereoselective cycloaddition to afford pyran **616** as a single isomer. Pyran **616** underwent high-pressure hydrogenation of **616**, which was not trivial, and the ensuing SnBr4-promoted crotylation with concomitant removal of the chiral urea group gave the key intermediate **617**. It is noteworthy that in this entire sequence, the chiral auxiliary of allenamide **615** serves to provide stereochemical control for the cycloaddition and hydrogenation, and in return, the new stereocenters would dictate the selectivity of the final crotyalation and removal (and recovery) of the auxiliary. Pyran **617** was subsequently transformed into **618**, which spectroscopically matched Miyashita's advanced intermediate,[158] thereby constituting a formal total synthesis of (+)-zincophorin.

Hsung[159] applied the highly stereoselective tandem sequence consisting of an allenic 1,3-H shift, 6π-electron pericyclic ring-closure and an intramolecular Diels-Alder cycloaddition as

an approach toward the BCD-ring of atropurpuran (Scheme 169). Fully functionalized allenamide **622** was prepared from allylic bromide **620** and lithiated allenamide **621**. The desired 1,3-H shift was very fast and occurred with a catalytic amount of acid. The ring-closure of **623** and Diels-Alder cycloaddition took place in the presence of Lewis acid and high temperature to furnish the *endo* cycloadduct **626** as the desired product, although *dr* was very modest. A series of standard but stereoselective transformation using cycloadduct **627** led to **631**, which was unambiguously assigned to match the carbon skeleton of the BCD-ring of atropurpuran (Scheme 170).

Hegedus[160] reported the first exercise of utilizing allenamides in natural product synthesis through achieving a synthesis of 1-deoxy-D-galactohomonojirimycin using an optically active allenamide **633** (Scheme 171). The Lewis acid catalyzed addition of **633** to aldehyde **632** produced aminotetraol **634** in excellent yield with > 95% *syn* selectivity. After subsequent transformations including hydroboration/oxidation of silyl-alkyne, lactonization, auxiliary cleavage and deprotection of alcohol, amino-alcohol **635** was obtained in excellent overall yield. Mitsunobu cyclization of the alcohol **635** gave desired bicyclic amino lactone **636**, which upon reduction and deprotection furnished the hydrochloride salt of 1-deoxy-D-galactohomonojirimycin **637**.

Vázquez and Domínguez[85] described a novel approach to the tetracyclic unit of protoberberine using allenamide chemistry (Scheme 172). Allenamide **638** was subjected to acid catalyzed intramolecular electrophilic aromatic substitution via the *N*-acyl iminium ion **639**. The desired cyclization product **640** was obtained in good yield, and a subsequent 6-*exo* Heck reaction of **640** furnished methylene protoberberine **641**.

Lastly, Hsung[147] illustrated an approach to parvineostemonine using a highly stereoselective [4 + 3] cycloaddition reaction of nitrogen-stabilized oxyallyl cation derived from DMDO-epoxidation of allenamide **642** with *N*-Boc-pyrrole (Scheme 173). The [4+3] cycloadduct **643** was obtained in excellent yield and essentially as a single diastereomer. Reduction of **643** followed by acid promoted removal of then Boc group and *N*-allylation gave the tropanone intermediate **644**. Allylations of **644** would furnish the bis-allyl intermediate **645**, which was subjected to ring-closing metathesis condition to give *aza*-tricycle **646** containing the ABC-core of parvineostemonine.

5. Most Recent Development

In addition to attempts to prepare allenamides from ynamide-derived[15] propargyl ester *via* Ireland-Claisen rearrangement[30] (see Scheme 15), Carbery[161] recently found that ynamide-derived[15] propargyl esters **32** could undergo an Au-catalyzed [3,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement to form allenamide intermediates **648**, which could be subjected to 1*H*-indole **647** trapping/proto-deauration sequence to afford γ-indolyl α-acyloxyenamides **650** (Scheme 174).

Charette[162] recently reported a Rh(II) catalyzed cyclopropanation between *N*-phthaloyl derived allenamide **651** and α-cyano diazo ester **652** to afford diacceptor alkylidene cyclopropyl amide **653** (Scheme 175). This cyclopropanation took place regioselectively at

the less-hindered terminal double bond with high *E*/Z ratio and high *ee* when using Rh$_2$(S-IBAZ)$_4$ as the catalyst through carbenoid **654**.

Conclusion

It is clear that the field of allenamide chemistry has received an increasingly growing attention in the past 15 years. This review has showcased these elegant developments from many dozens of research groups around the world. These innovative transformations have rendered allenamide a highly versatile building in organic synthesis and led to diverse array of carbo- and heterocyclic structures that can serve as platforms for further transformations. There is no doubt the level of interest in allenamides from the synthetic community is immensely high, and there is a tremendous amount of momentum to continue demonstrating the synthetic utility and applications of allenamides and taking their chemistry to the highest level of visibility. We hope this review can serve as another starting point for the allenamide chemistry.

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Biographies

Ting Lu obtained her B.S. in Chemistry from Nankai University in China in 2002. She then went to National University of Singapore to obtain her M.S. degree in Materials Science in 2005. After that, she joined Professor Richard Hsung's research group in University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and then to University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she studied on the methodology development in cyclopropanations of enamides and allenamides, and got her Ph.D. degree in Organic Chemistry in 2009. Now she is working on new catalytic systems for the production of bio-renewable chemicals from biomass in Institute of

Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, Agency for Science, Technology and Research, Singapore.

Zhenjie Lu obtained her B.S degree in chemistry in 1996 from the East China University of Science and Technology in Shanghai, China. She started as a graduate student at Michigan State University under Professor Bill Wulff's direction in 2002 as a graduate student and fished her Ph.D. degree in 2008. Her research involved studies on the optimization and synthetic application of catalytic asymmetric aziridination reactions.

Zhi-Xiong Ma received a B.S. degree in chemistry from University of Science and Technology of China (USTC) in 2005. He carried out doctoral research under the supervision of Professor Gang Zhao at Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry (SIOC), CAS and obtained his Ph.D. degree in late 2010. Currently he is conducting postdoctoral research with Professor Richard Hsung at University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research interests include visible-light photoredox catalysis and natural product synthesis.

Yu Zhang received his B.S degree in chemistry in 1996 from East China University of Science and Technology in Shanghai, China. In 2000 he joined Professor Bill Wulff's group as a graduate student at Michigan State University. He obtained his Ph.D. degree in 2006 after working in the area of mechanism and methodology development of catalytic asymmetric aziridination. After spending one year at University of Maryland working for Professor Michael P. Doyle, from 2007 to 2009 he was a postdoctoral scholar at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, working with Professor Richard Hsung in the area of ynamide chemistry and natural product synthesis. He is currently a research scientist at Dow AgroSciences LLC.

Richard P. Hsung obtained his B.S. in Chemistry and Mathematics from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI. He then attended The University of Chicago and received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Organic Chemistry, respectively, under the supervision of Professors Jeff Winkler and Bill Wulff. After pursuing a postdoctoral stay with Professor Larry Sita in Chicago and NIH-postdoctoral work with Professor Gilbert Stork at Columbia University, he moved to University of Minnesota-Twin Cities as an Assistant Professor in 1997 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2002. He was promoted to Professor and moved to University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2006. He was a recipient of the Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award and the National Science Foundation Career Award. He has coauthored over 200 publications, delivered over 200 invited lectures, and supervised over 150 students and postdoctoral fellows with research interests in developing cycloaddition and annulation approaches to natural product syntheses and stereoselective methods using allenamides, ynamides, enamides, and cyclic acetals.

heteroatom-substituted allenes

allenes   allenol ether   allenyl sulfides   allenamines   allenamides

based-catalyzed prototropic isomerization
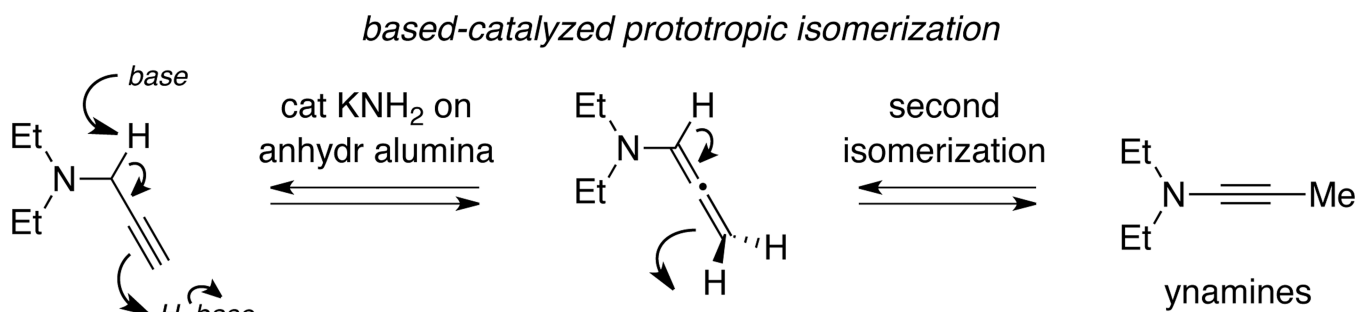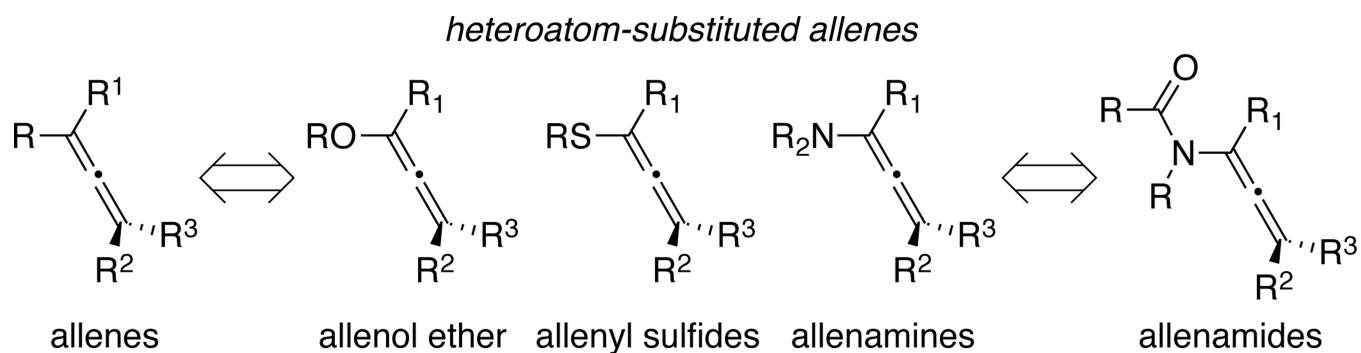
Scheme 1.

Scheme 2.

Scheme 3.

allenamide resonance forms

versus

delocalization of the nitrogen lone pair is now diverted
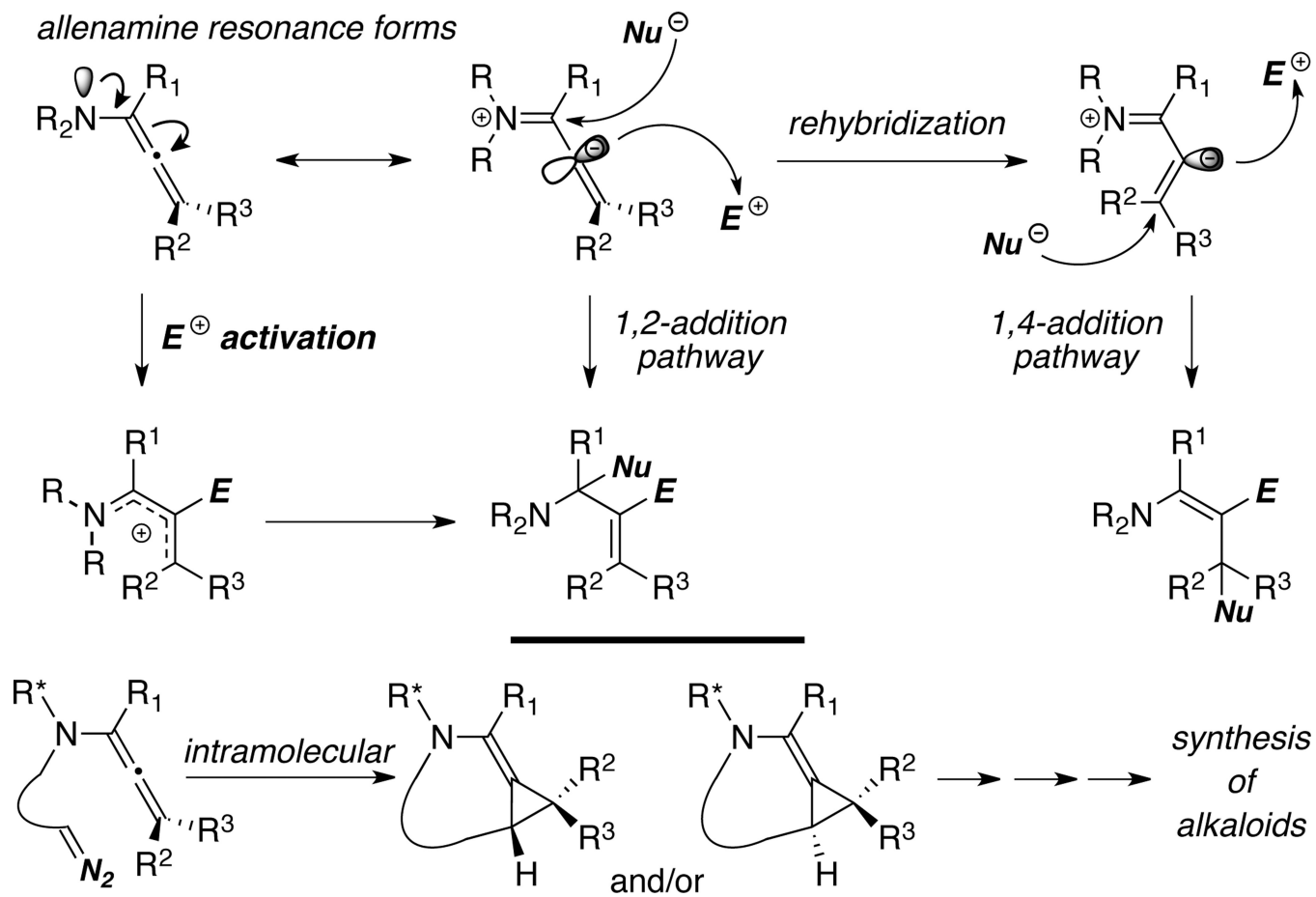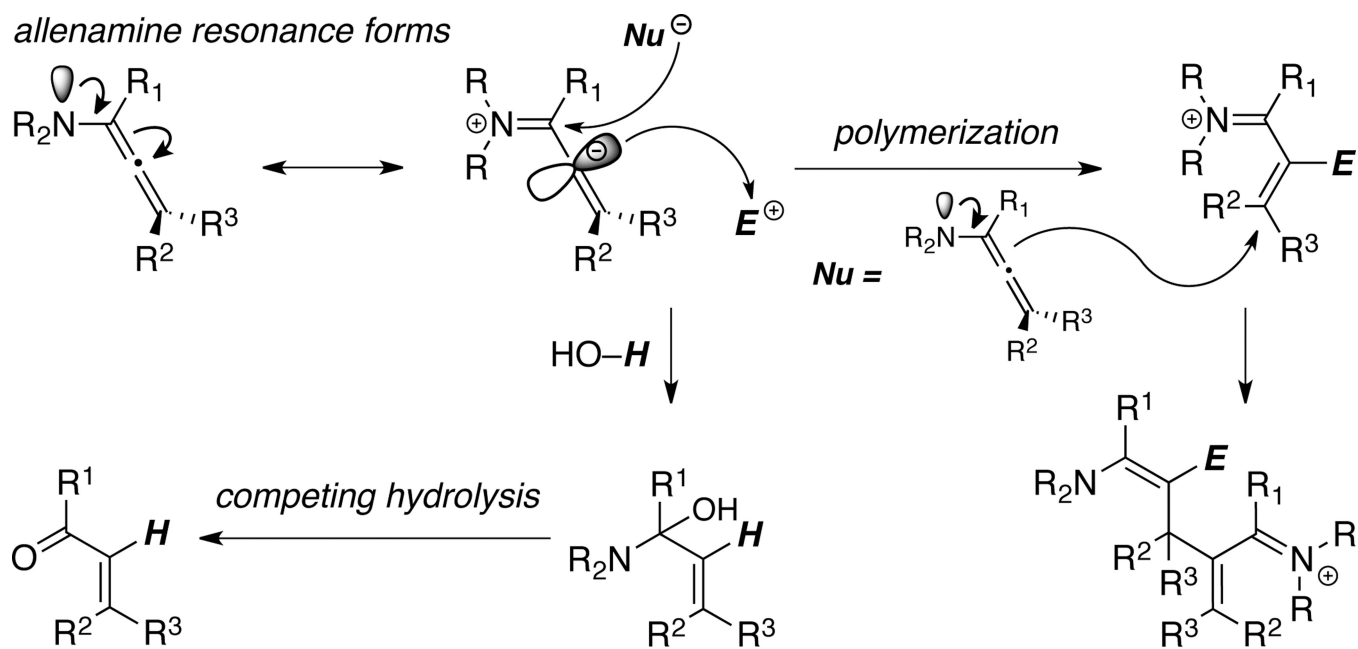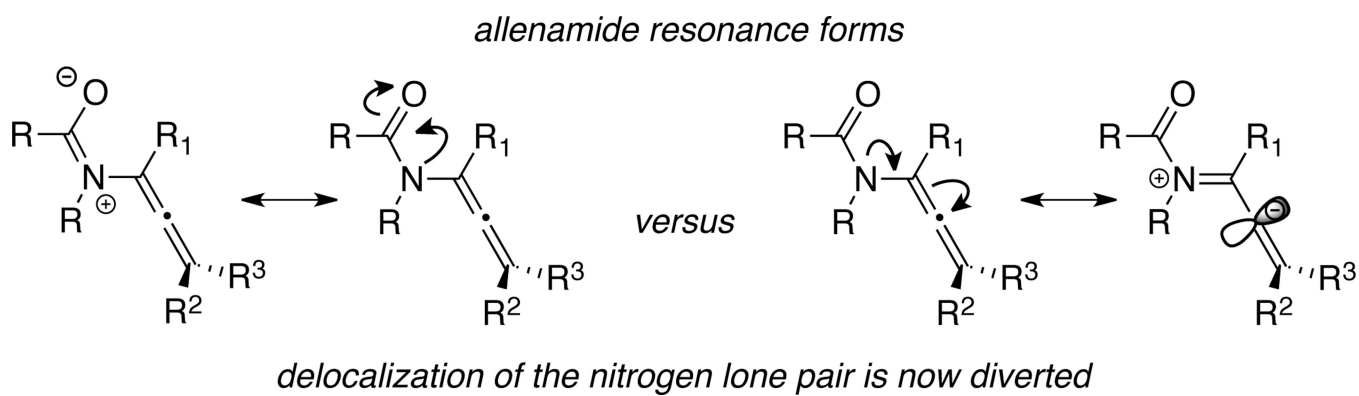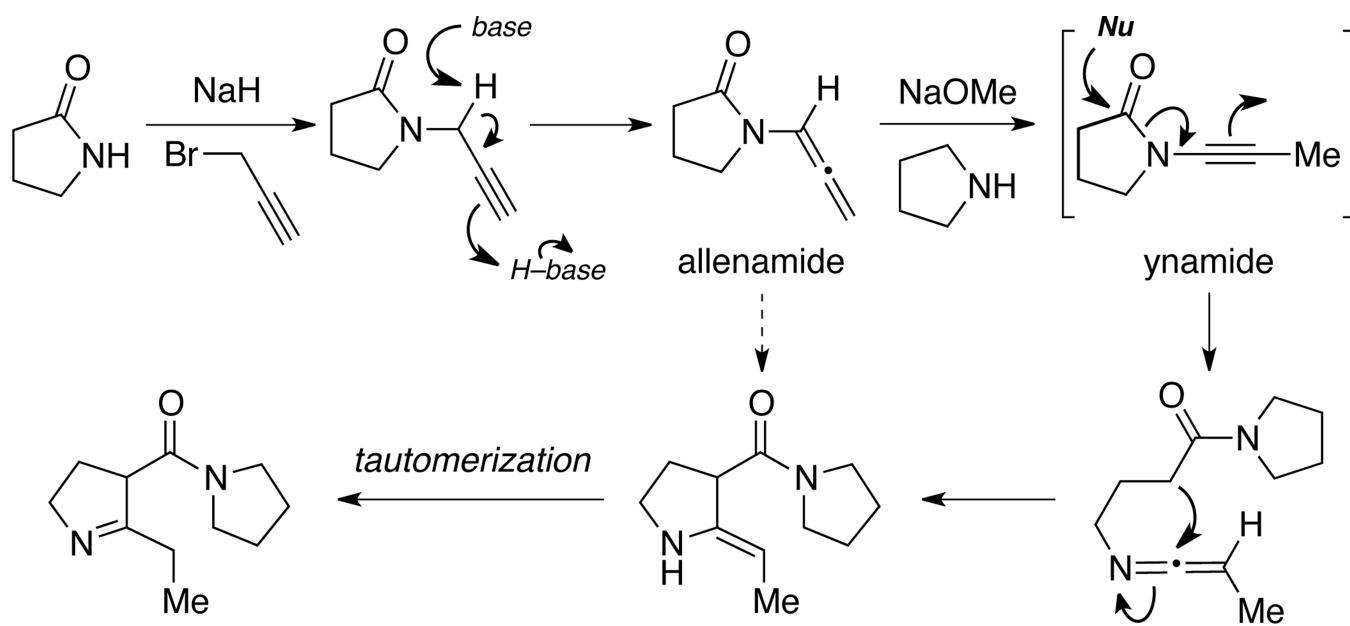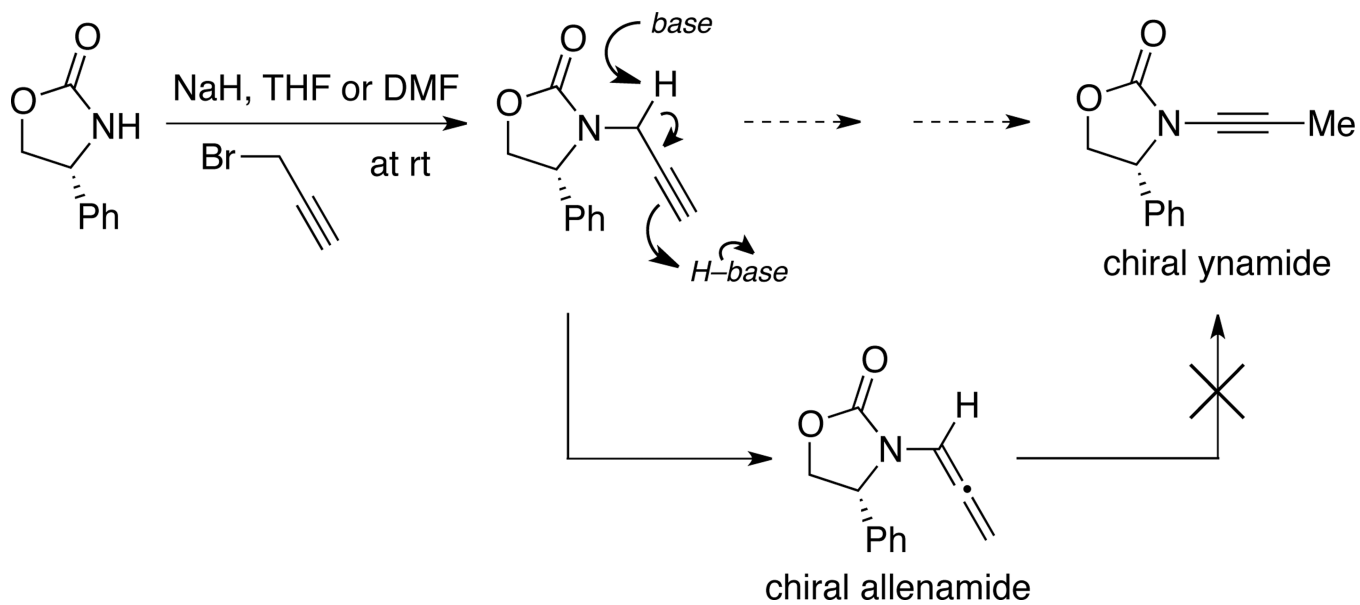
Scheme 4.

Scheme 5.

Scheme 6.
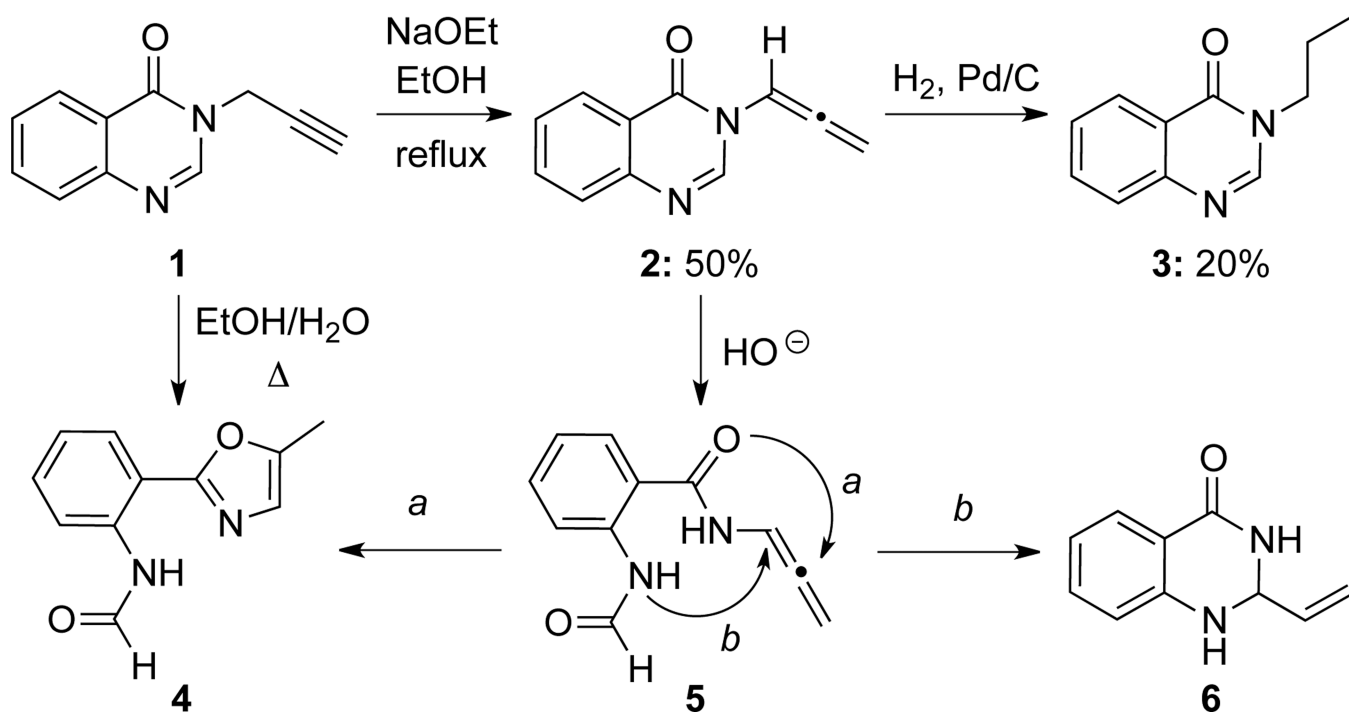
Scheme 7.
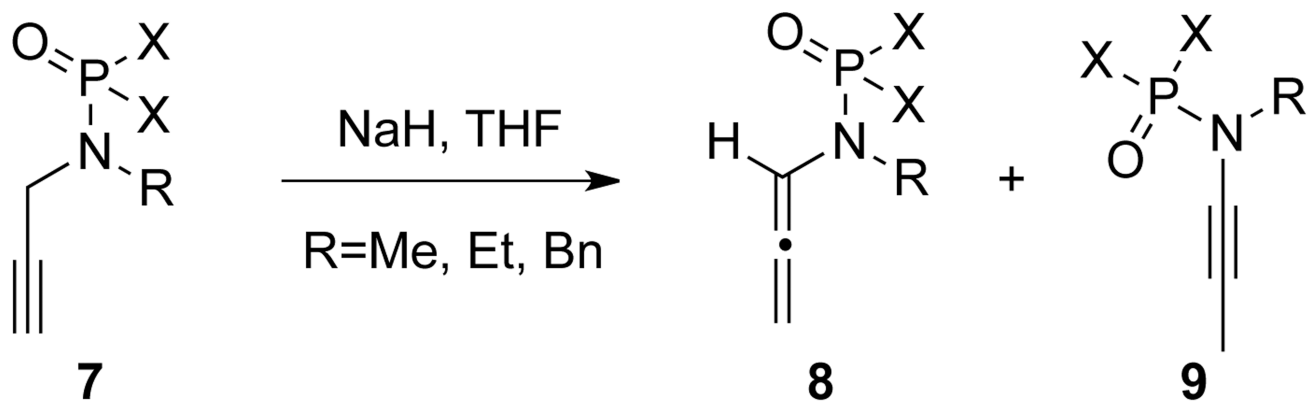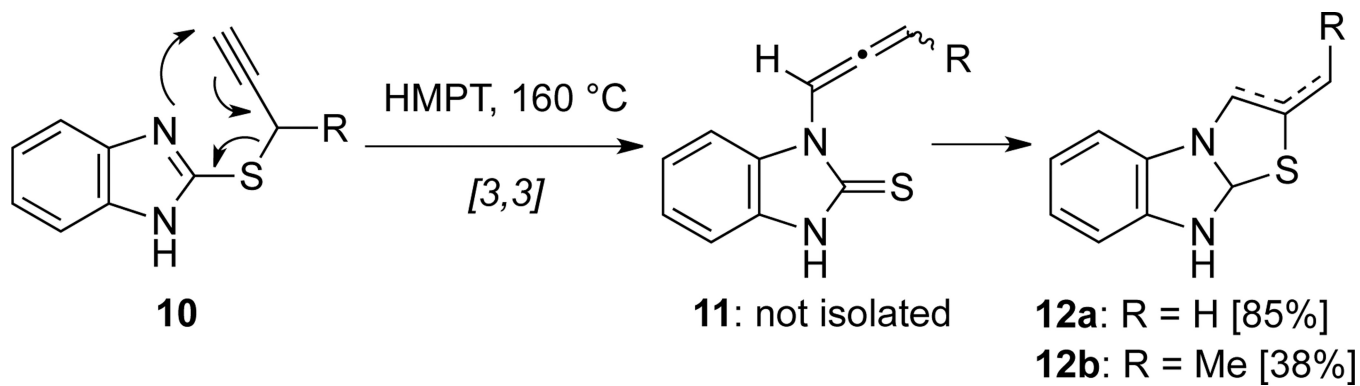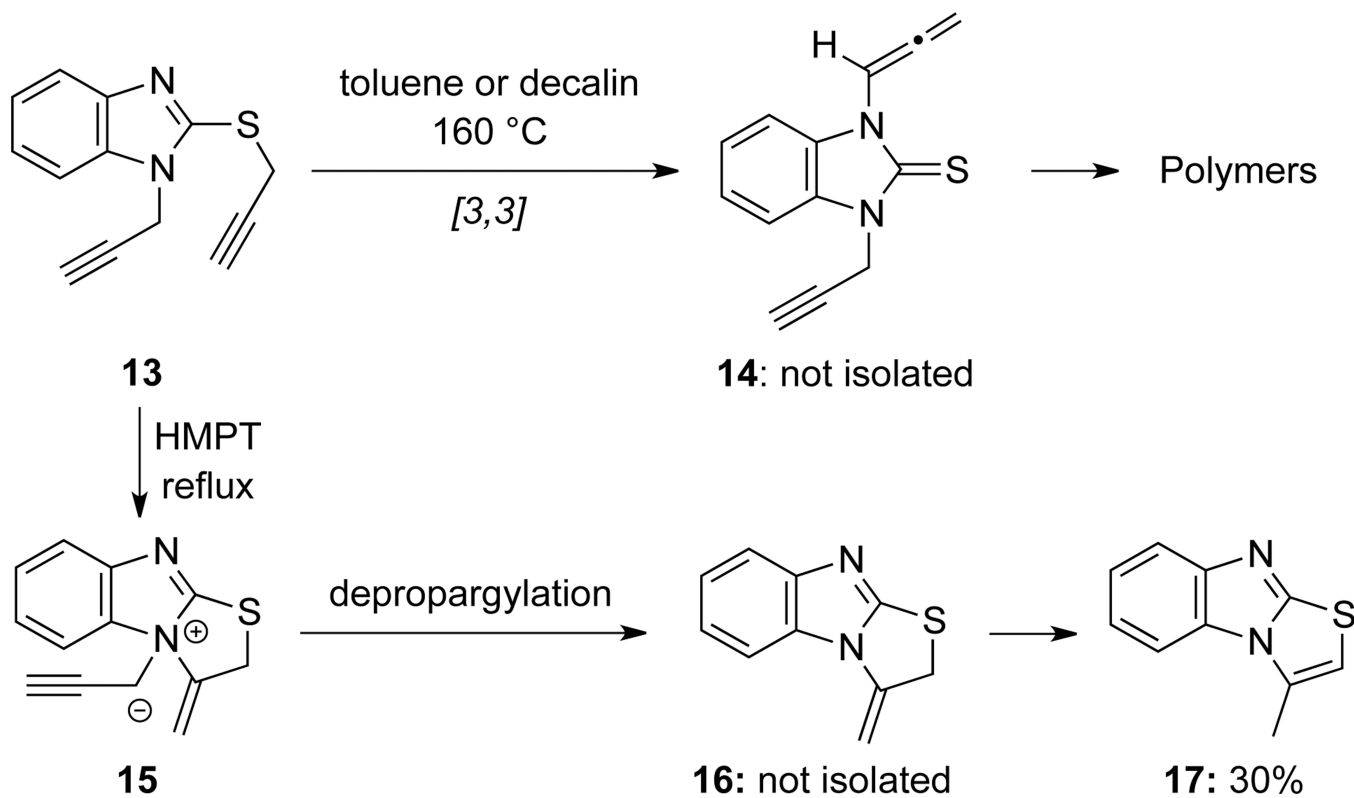
Scheme 8.

Scheme 9.

Scheme 10.
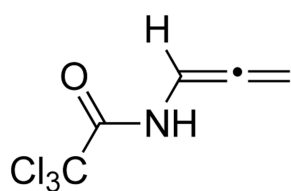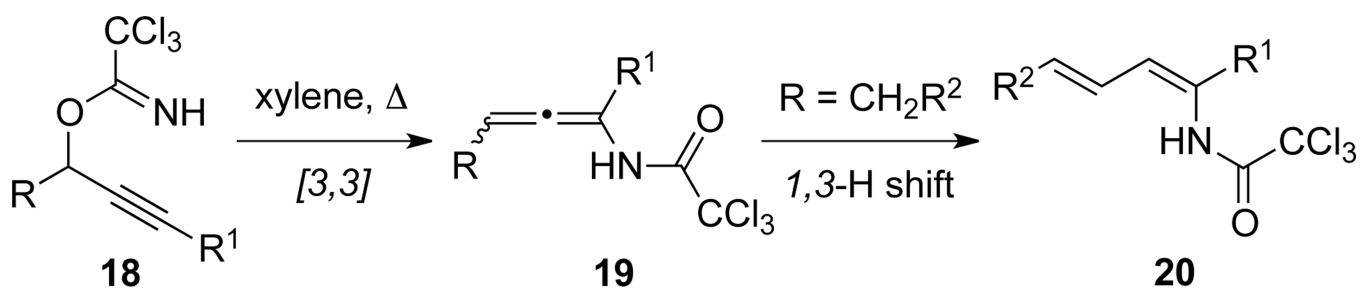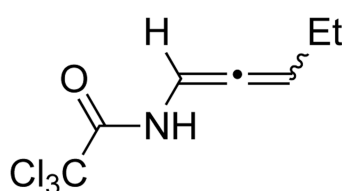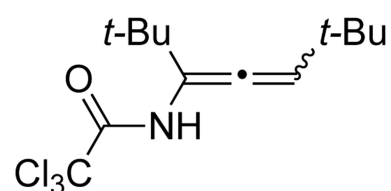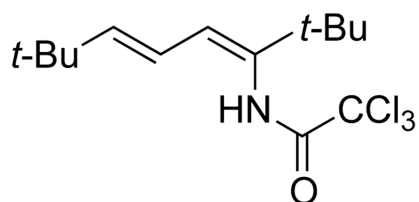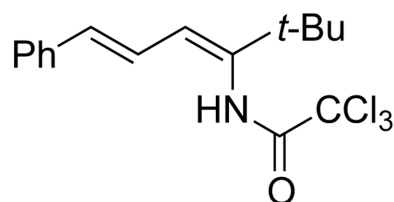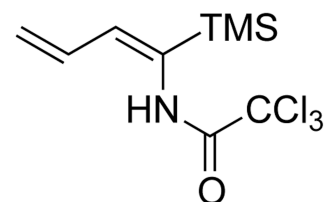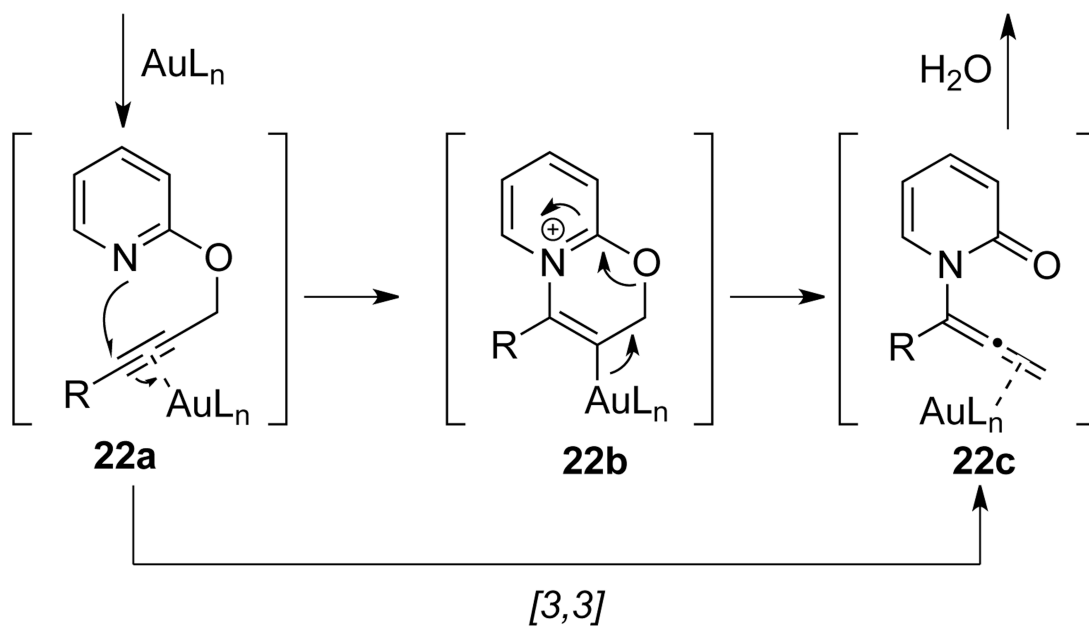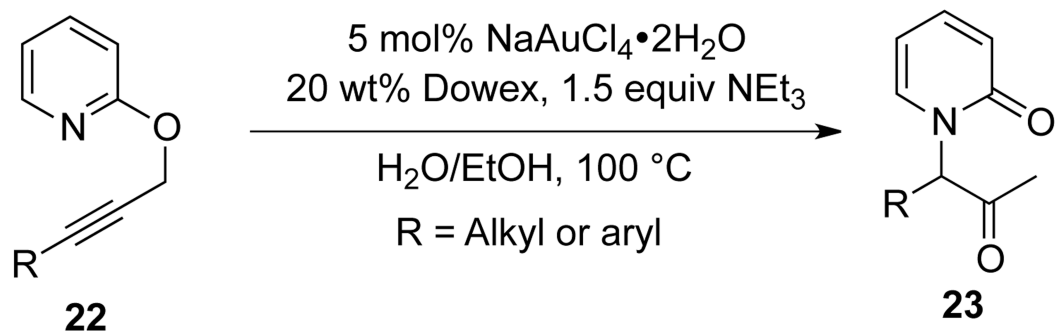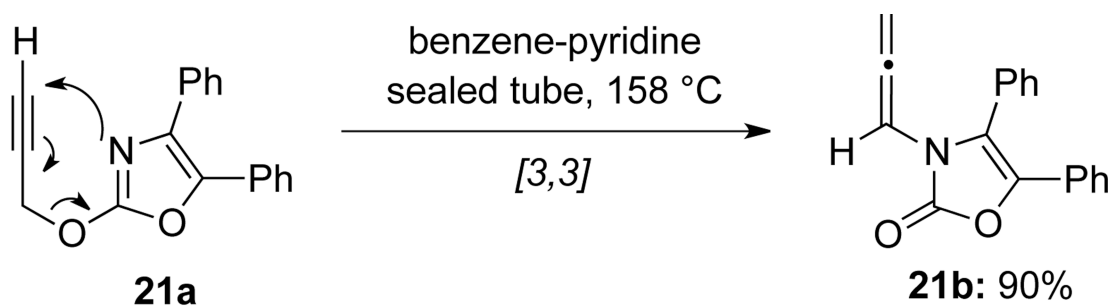
Scheme 11.

Scheme 12.
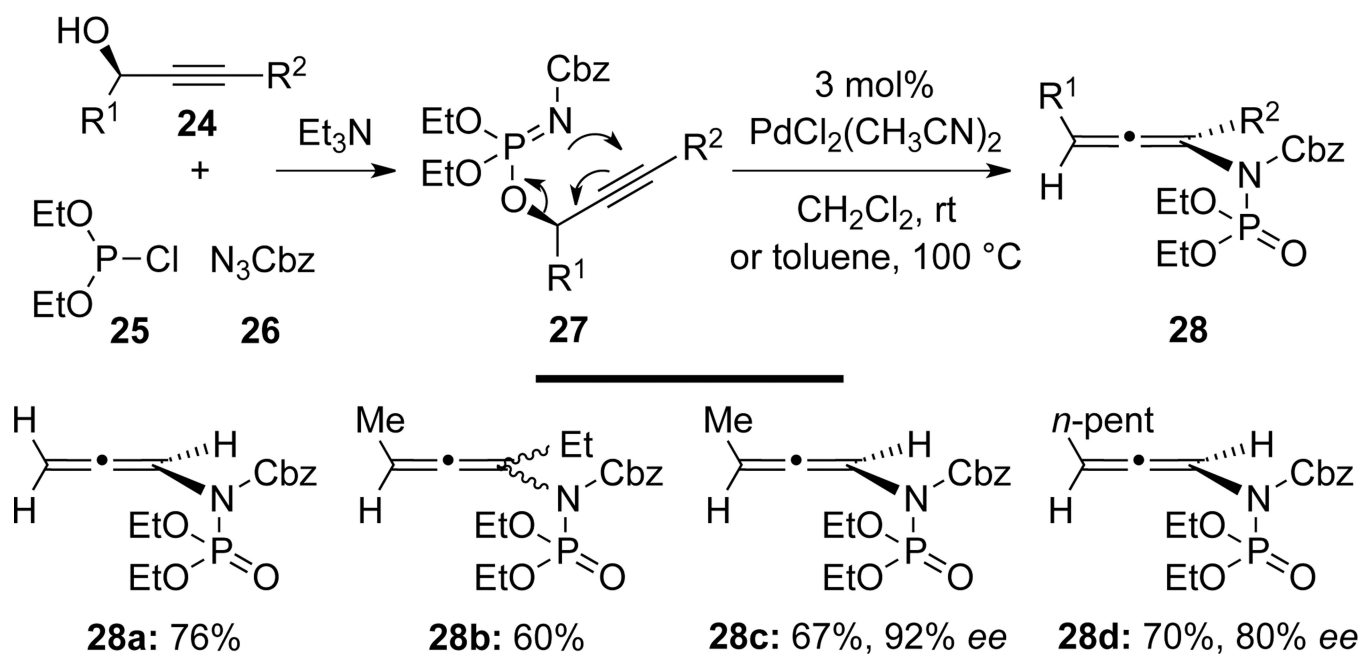
Scheme 13.
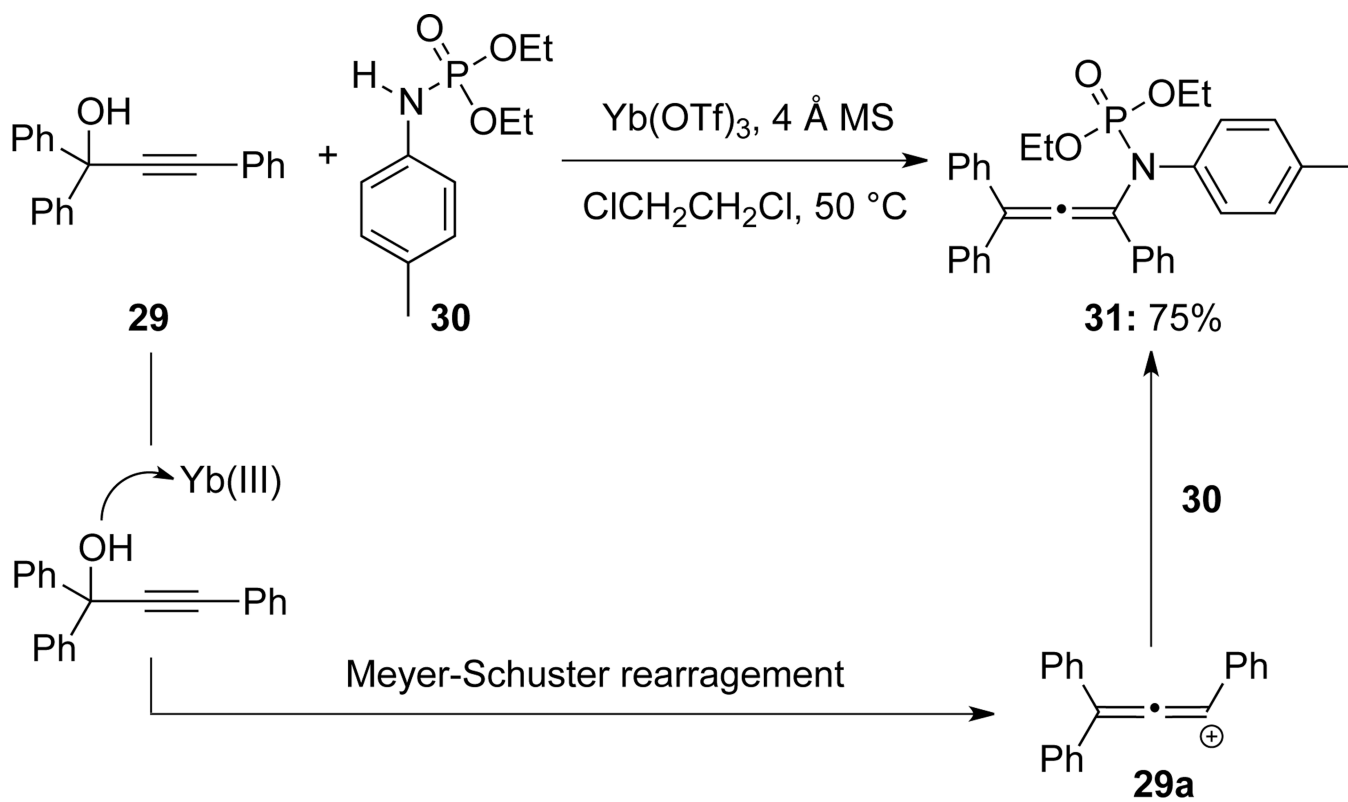
Scheme 14.
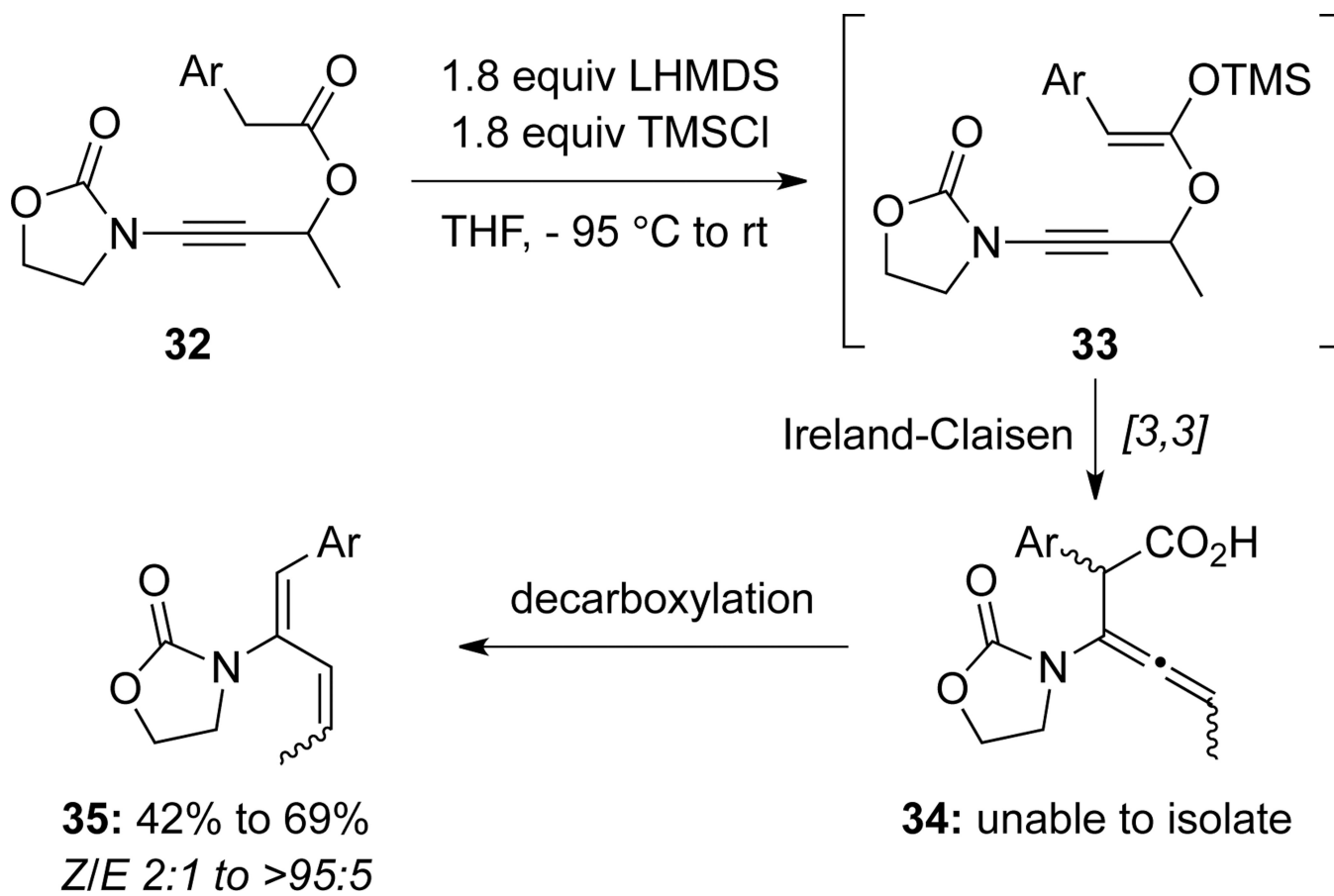
Scheme 15.
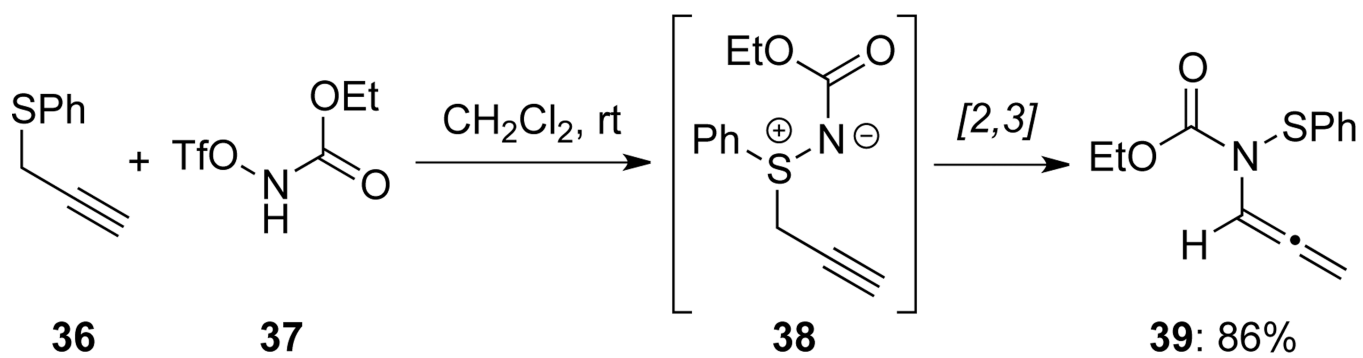
Scheme 16.
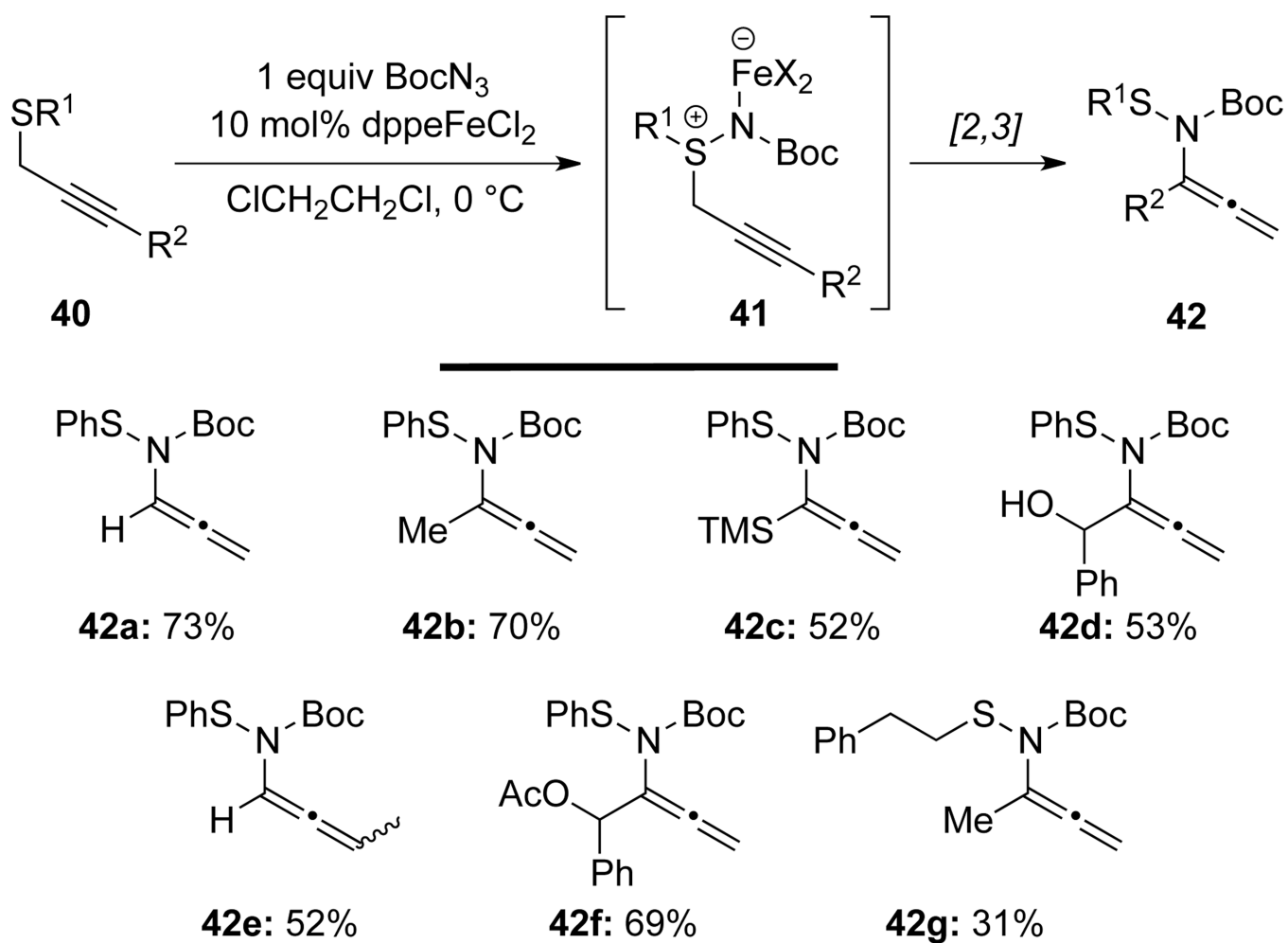
Scheme 17.
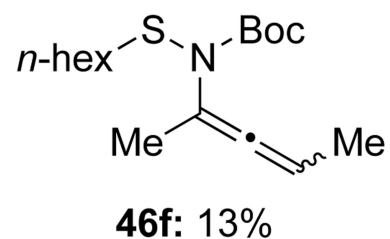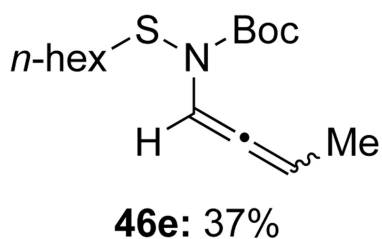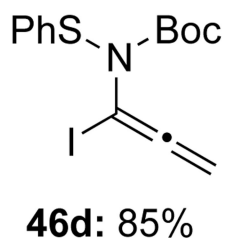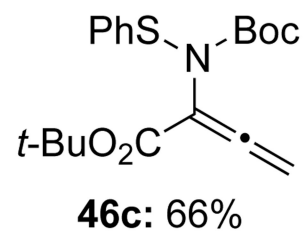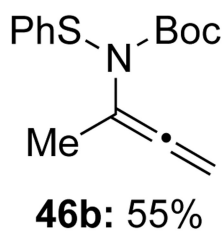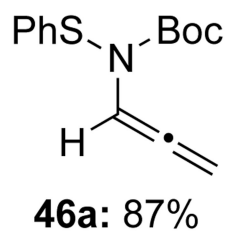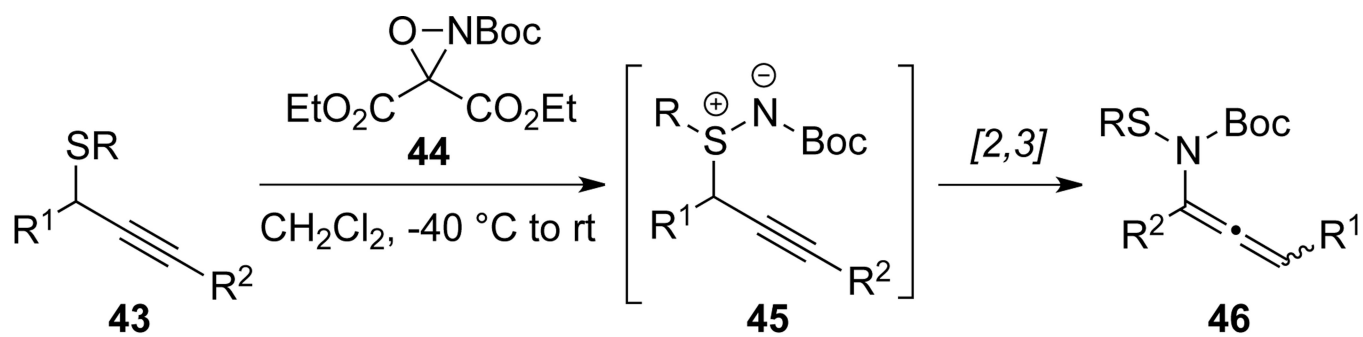
Scheme 18.
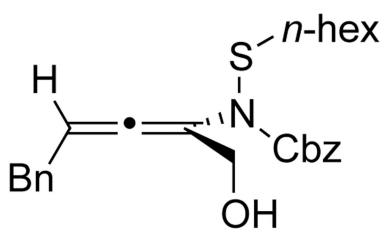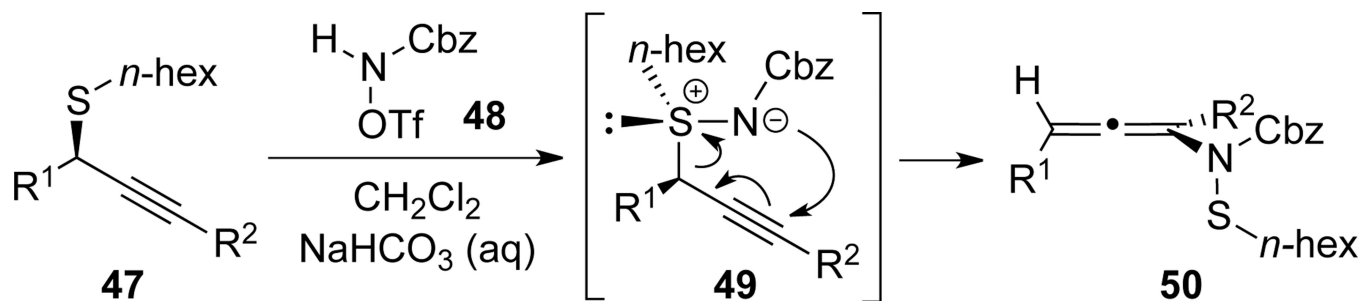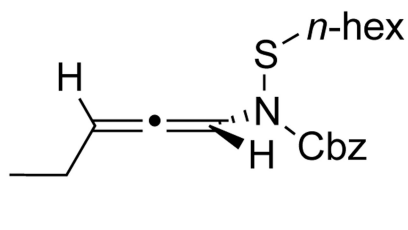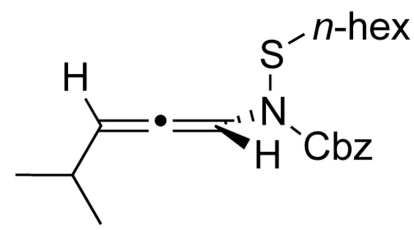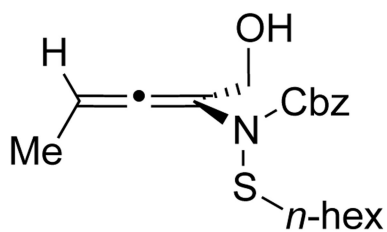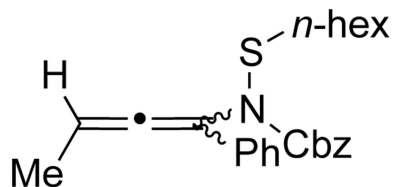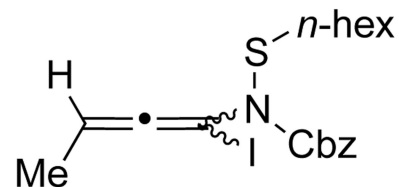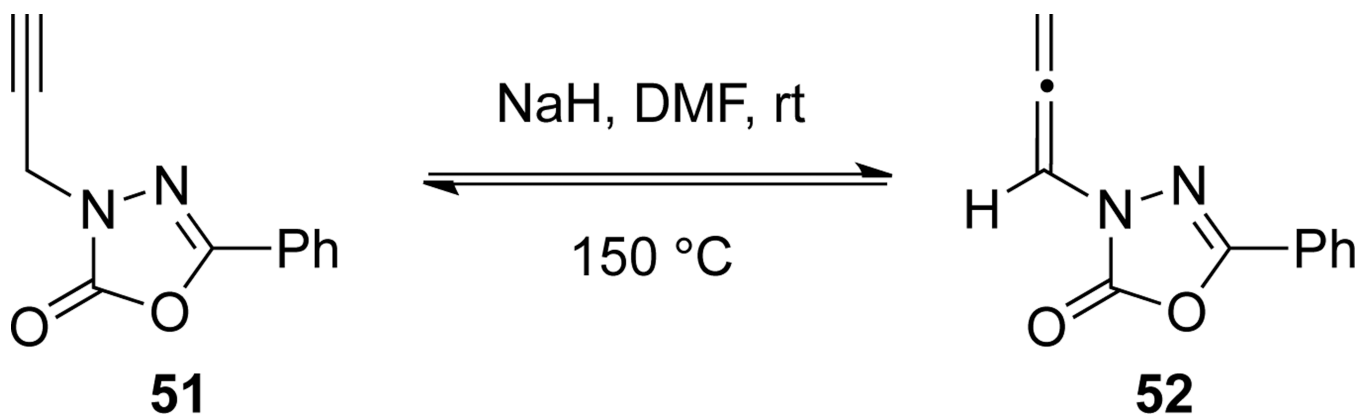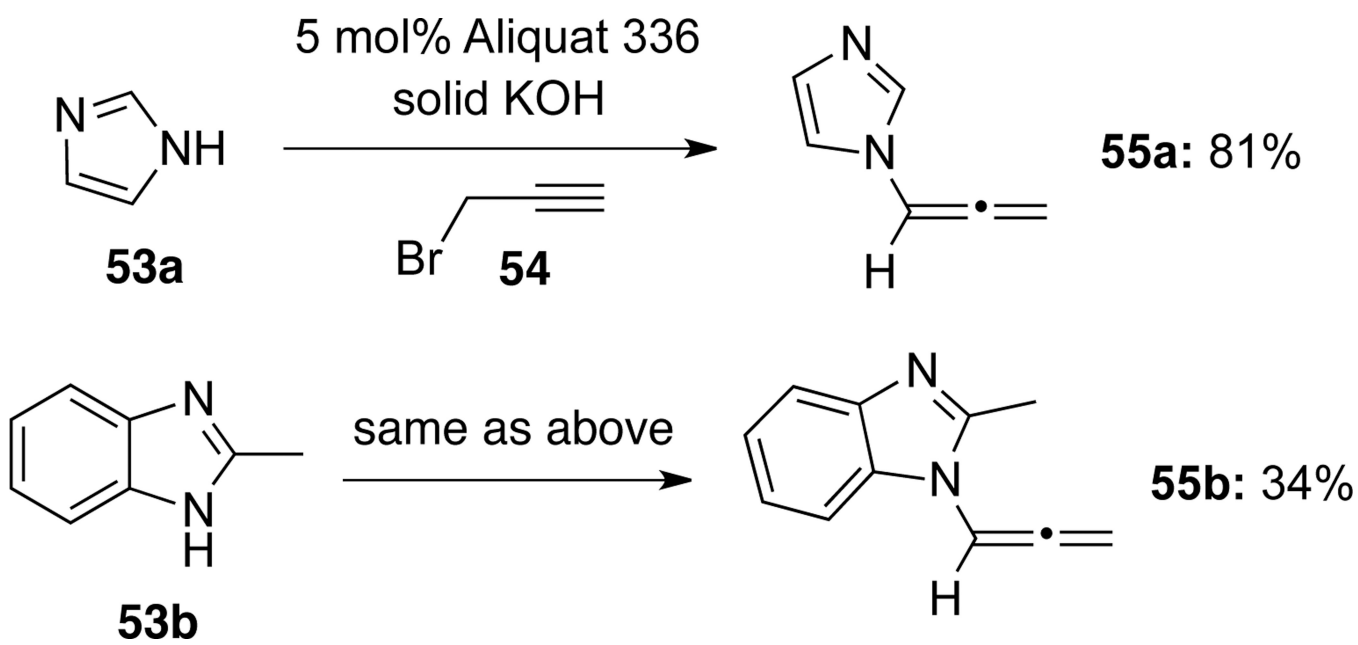
Scheme 19.

Scheme 20.

Scheme 21.
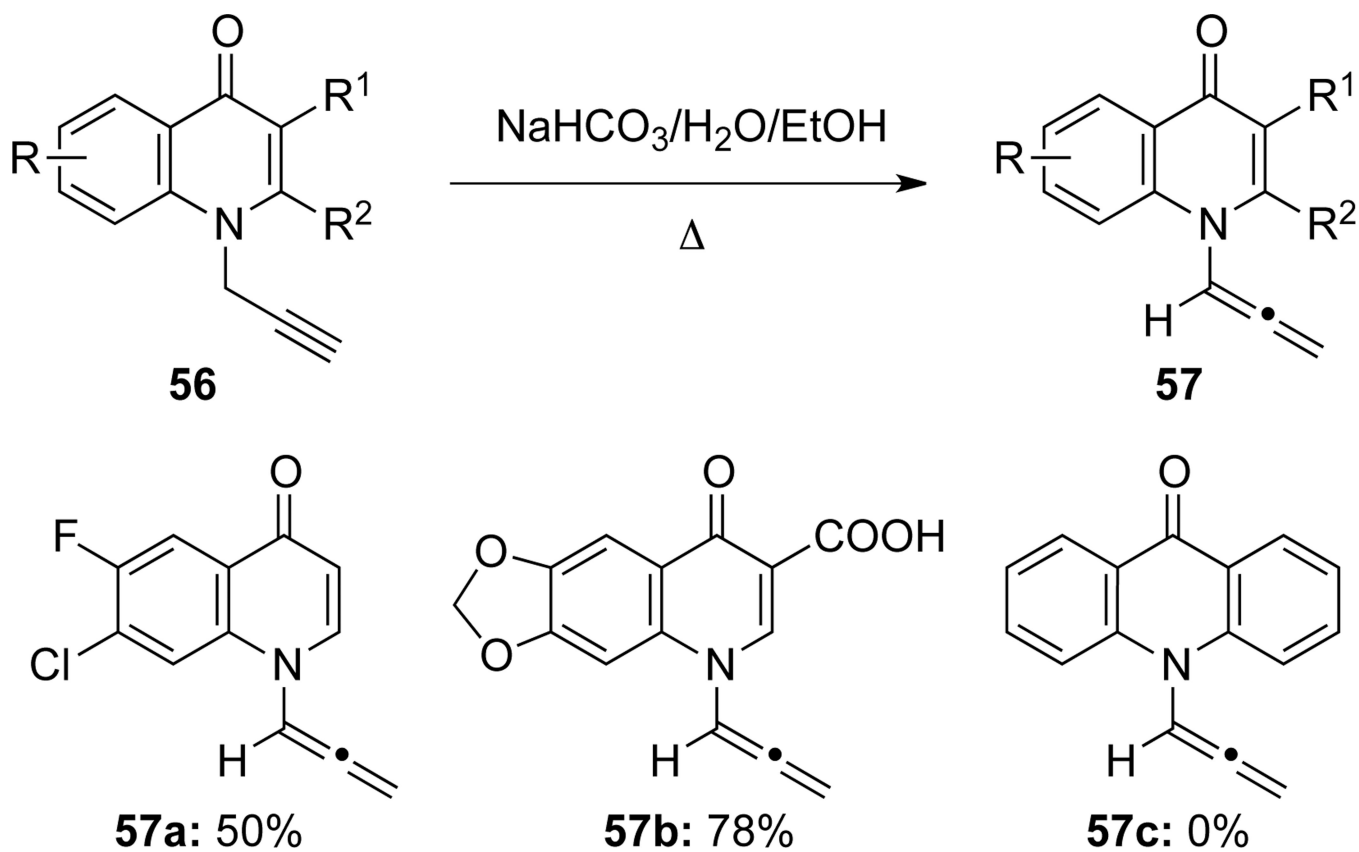
Scheme 22.
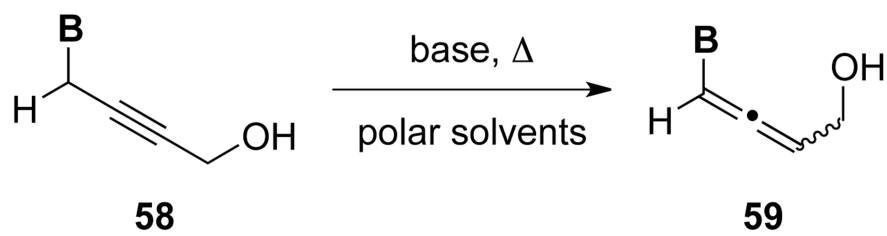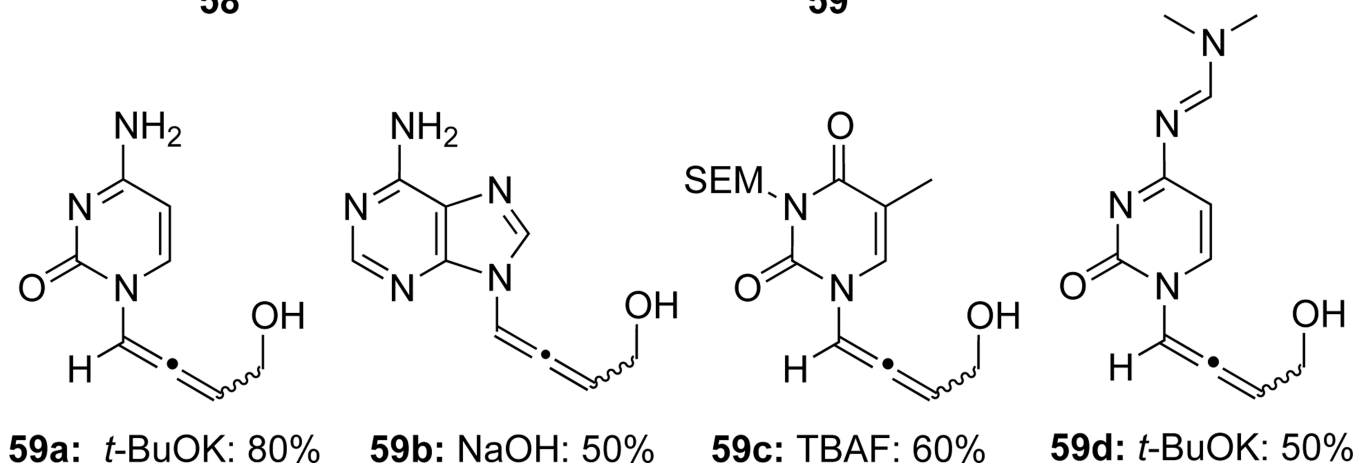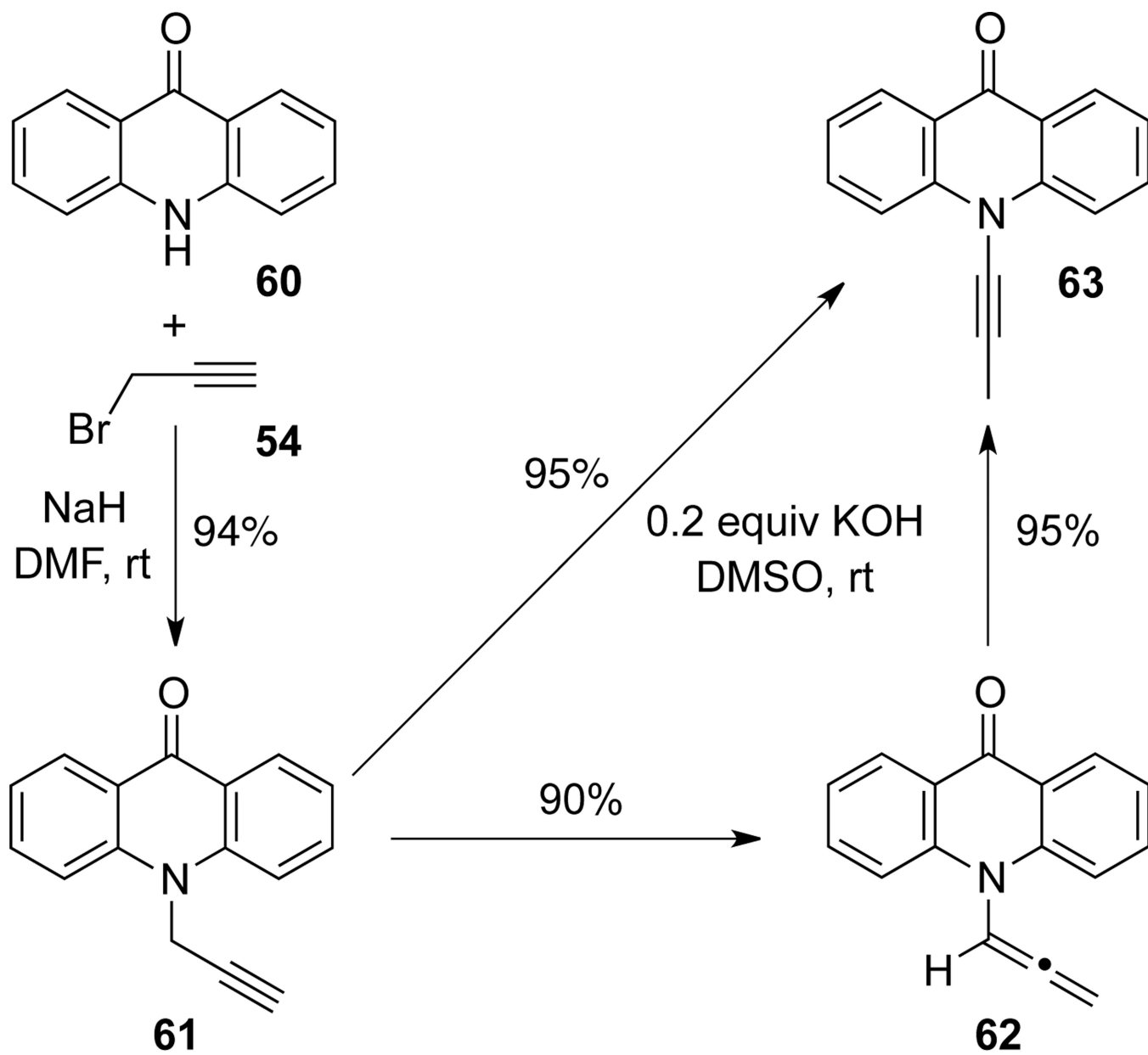
Scheme 23.

Scheme 24.
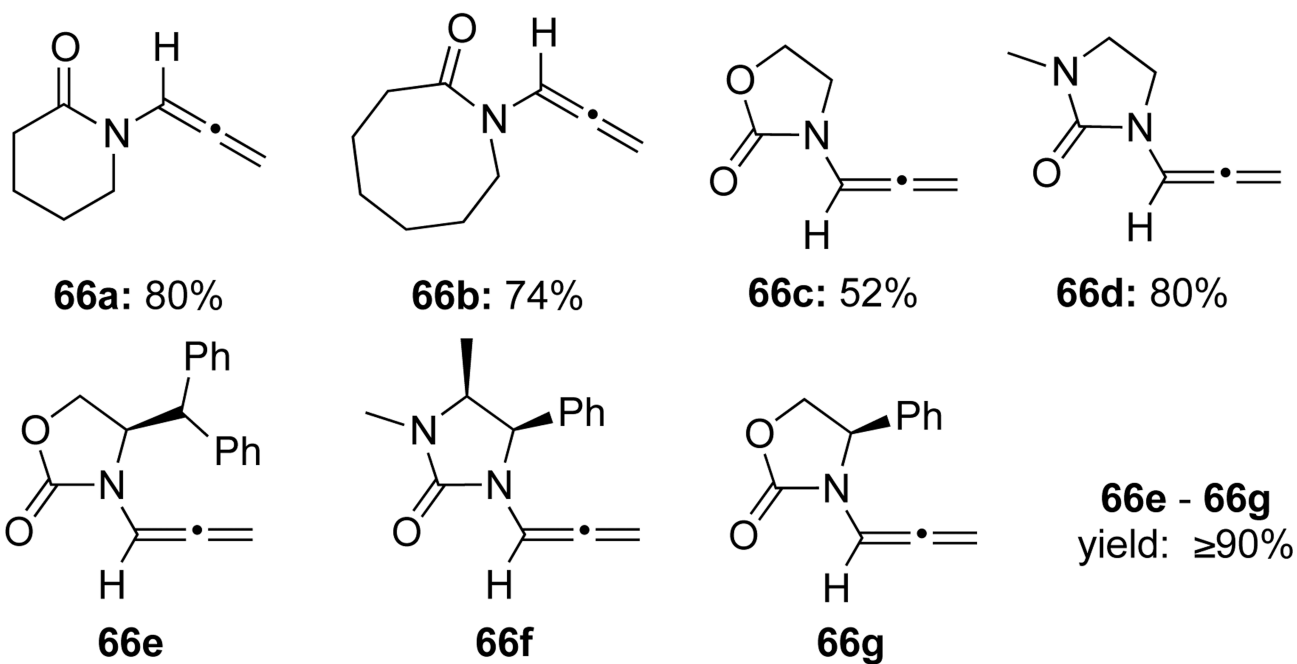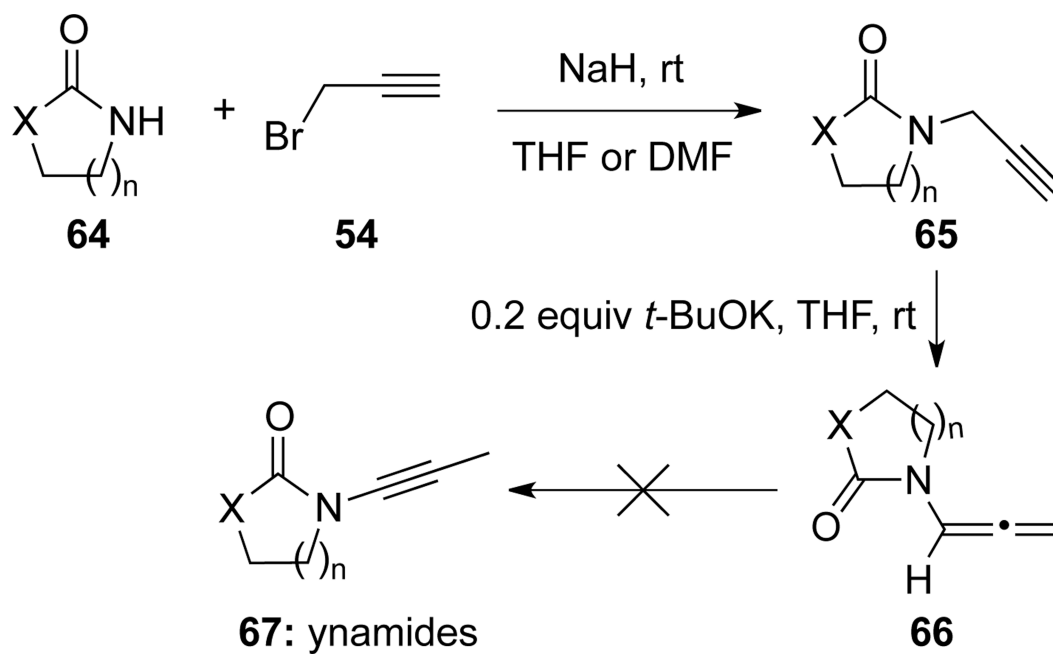
Scheme 25.
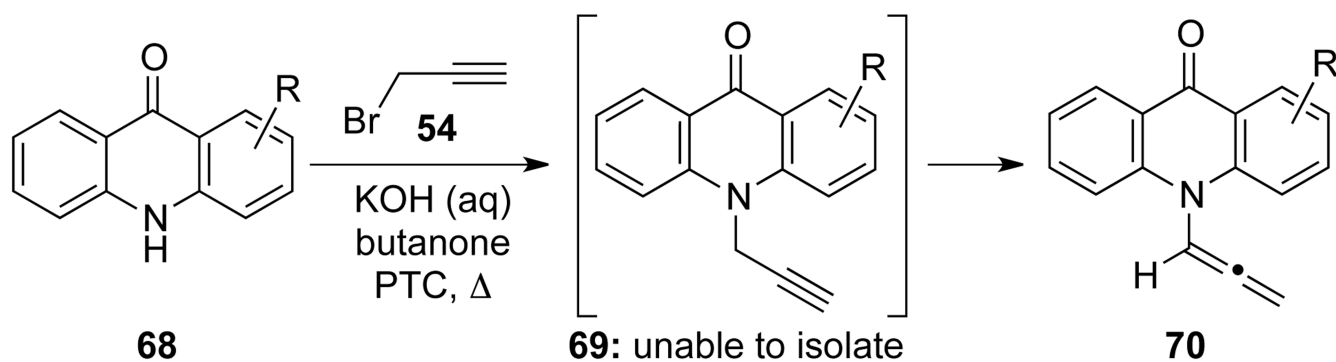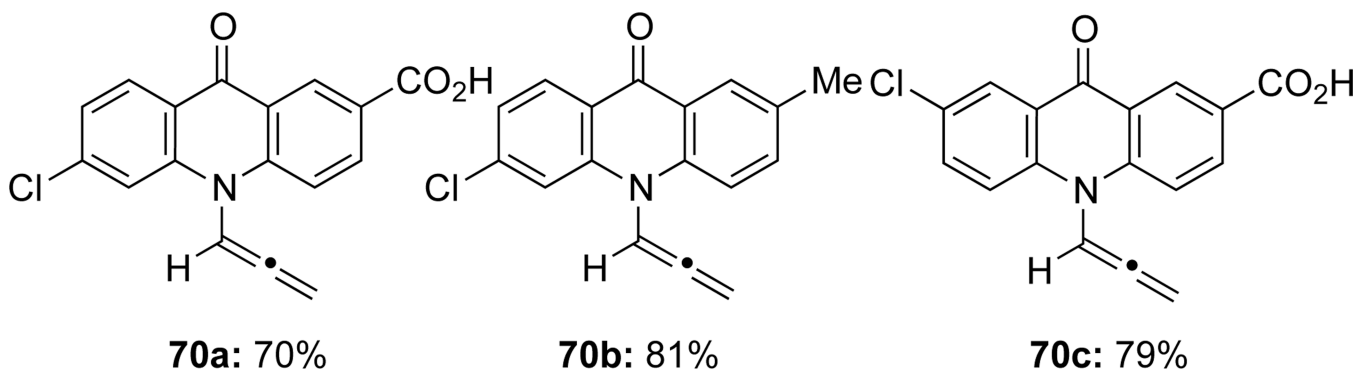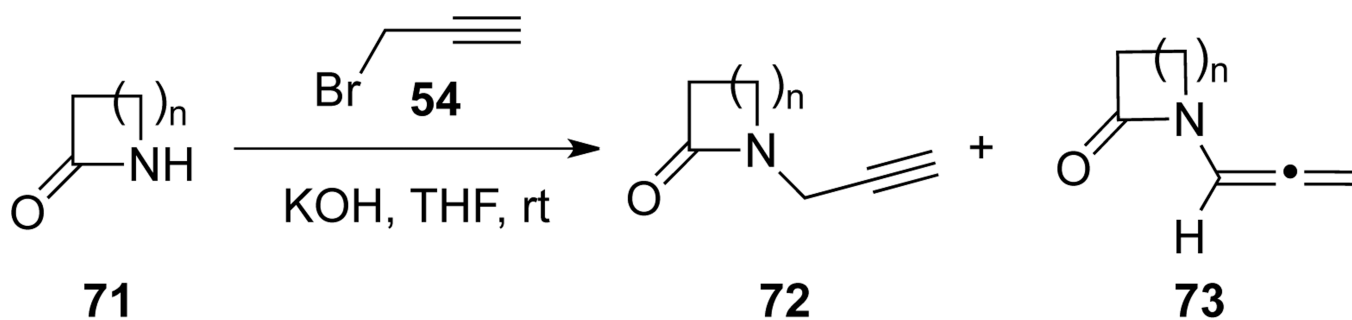
Scheme 26.

Scheme 27.

n	yield [%]: **72** + **73**	ratio: **72** : **73**
1	37	0 : 100
2	100	<1 : >99
3	100	3 : 2
4	91	12 : 5
5	77	30 :1
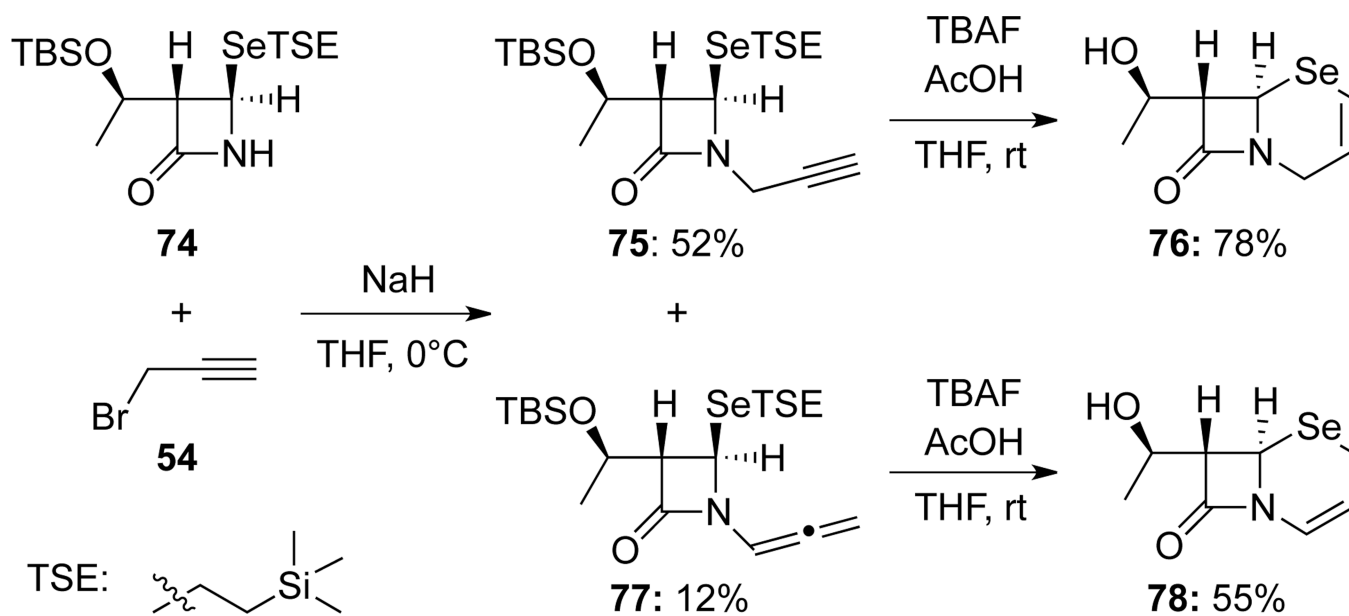
Scheme 28.

Scheme 29.

82
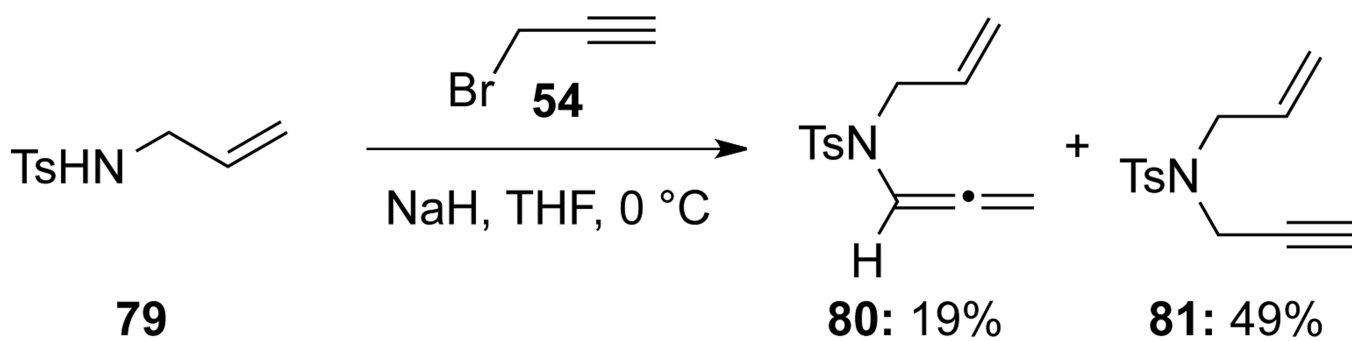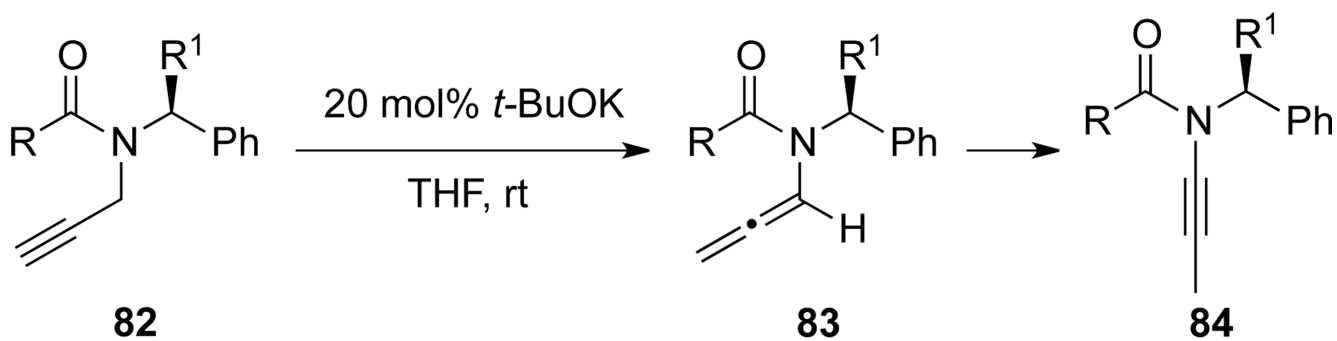
82a: R = OBn, R^1 = H   75%   0

82b: R = OMe, R^1 = Me   60%   0

82c: R = Me, R^1 = Me   not isolated   83%

82d: R = Ph, R^1 = Me   not isolated   50%

Scheme 30.
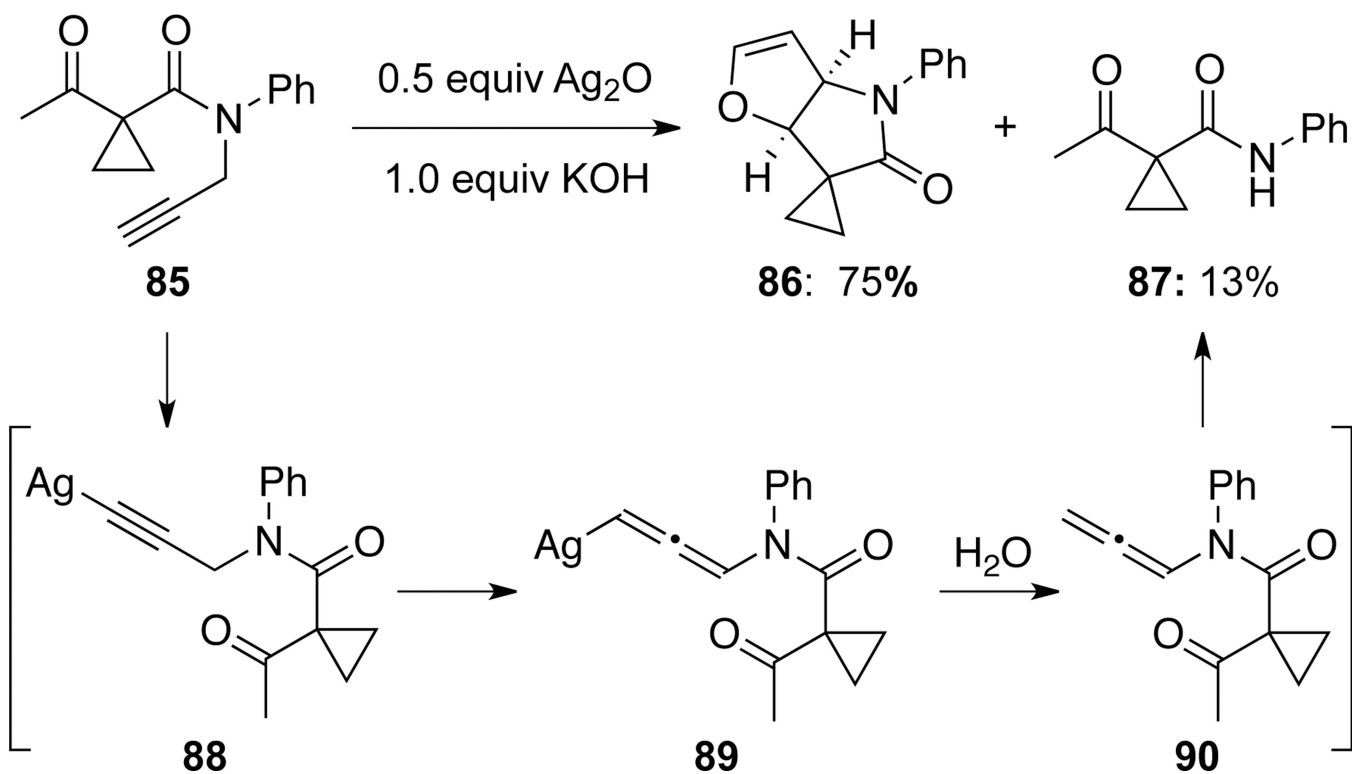
Scheme 31.
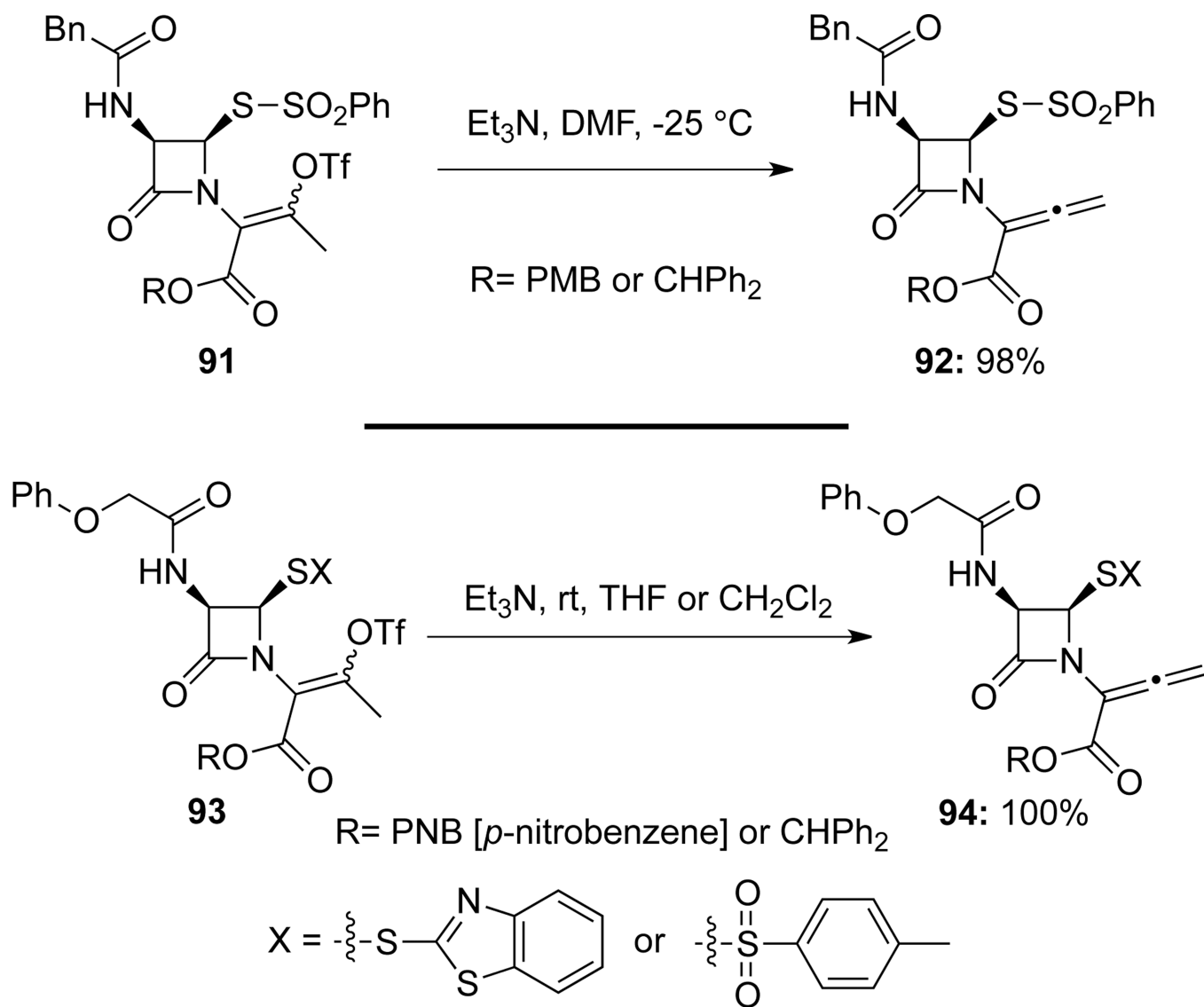
Scheme 32.
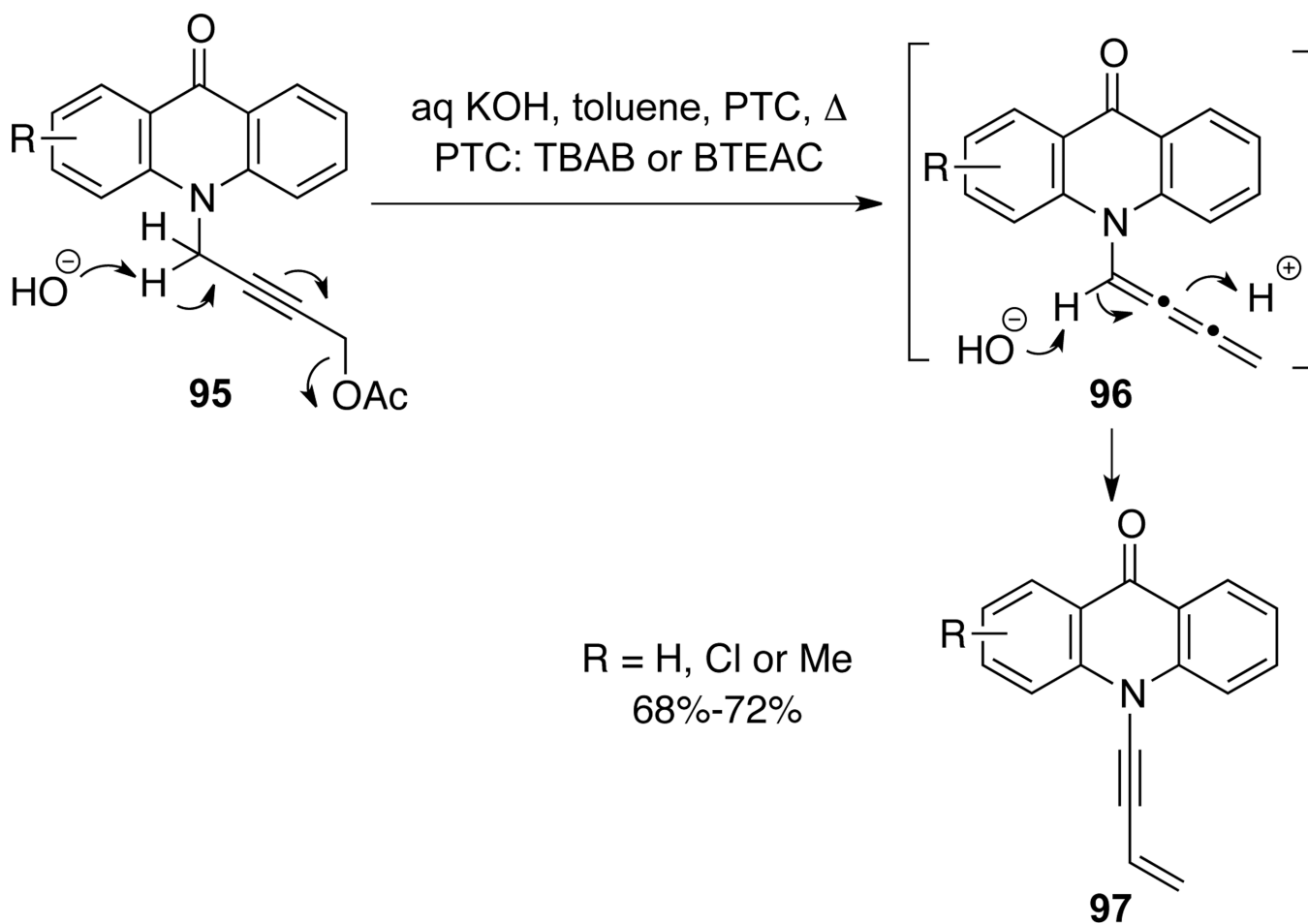
Scheme 33.
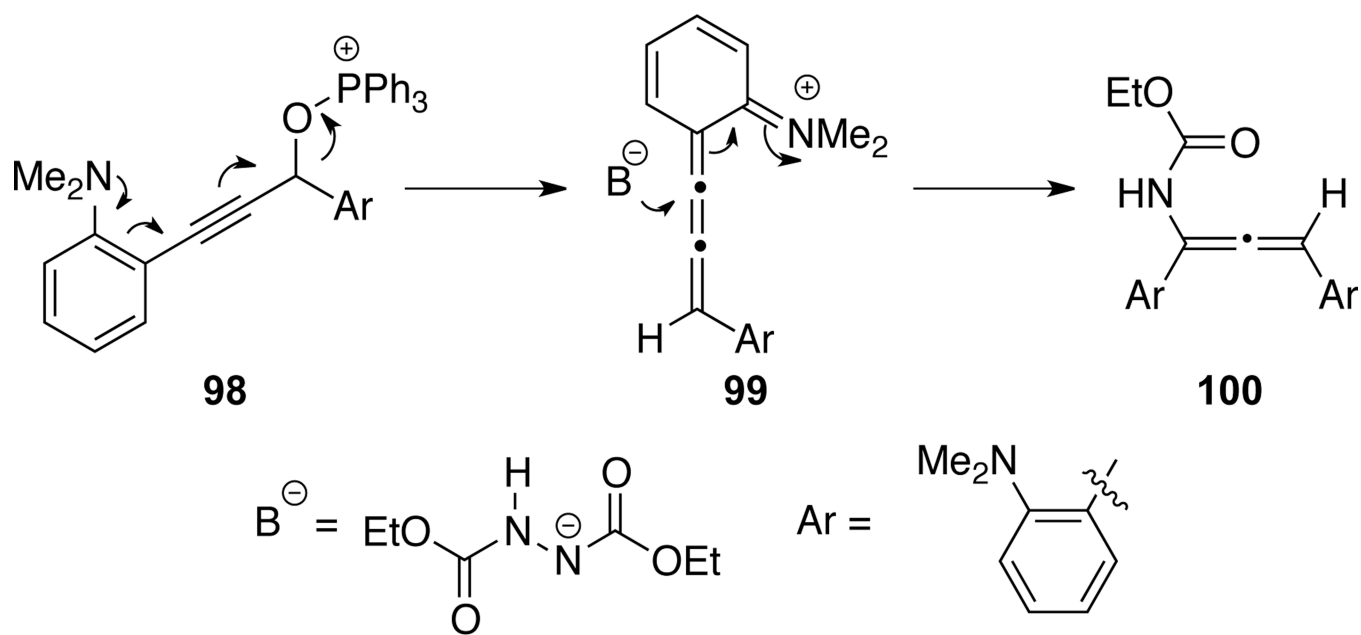
Scheme 34.
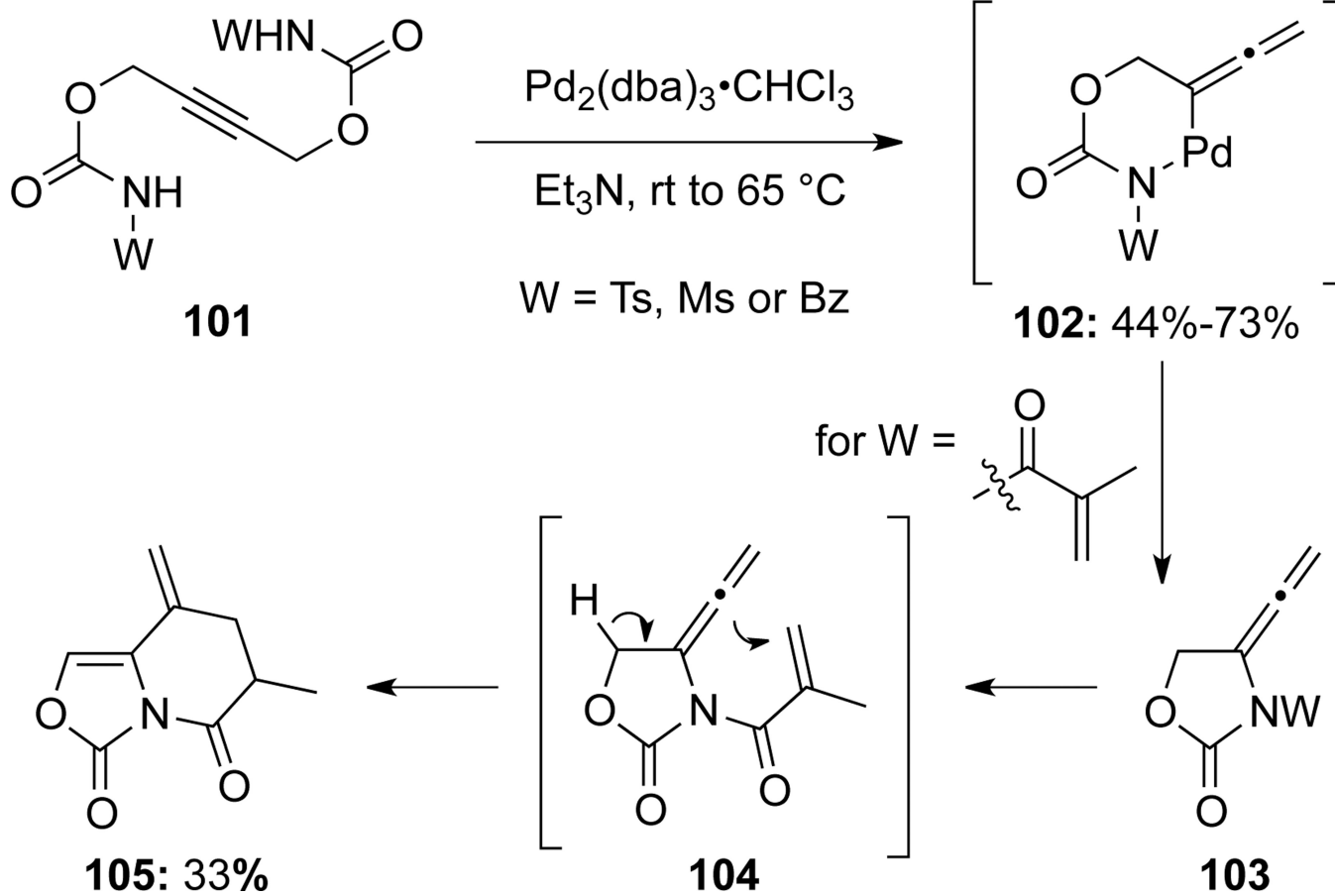
Scheme 35.

Scheme 36.
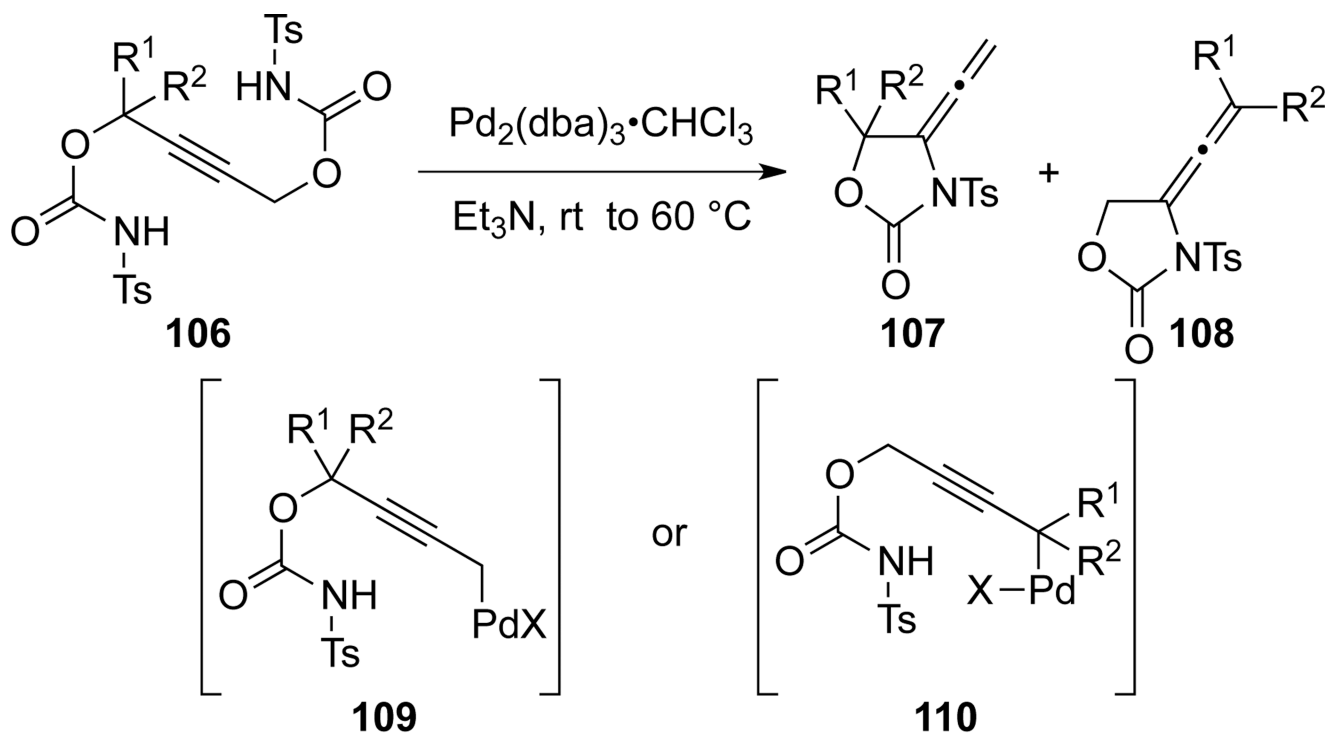
R¹	R²	yield [%]: **107** + **108**	ratio: **107** : **108**
Et	H	47	1.7 : 1
t-Bu	H	58	2.0 : 1
Ph	H	58	2.1 : 1
Me	Me	70	30 : 1
-(CH₂)₅-		56	20 : 1
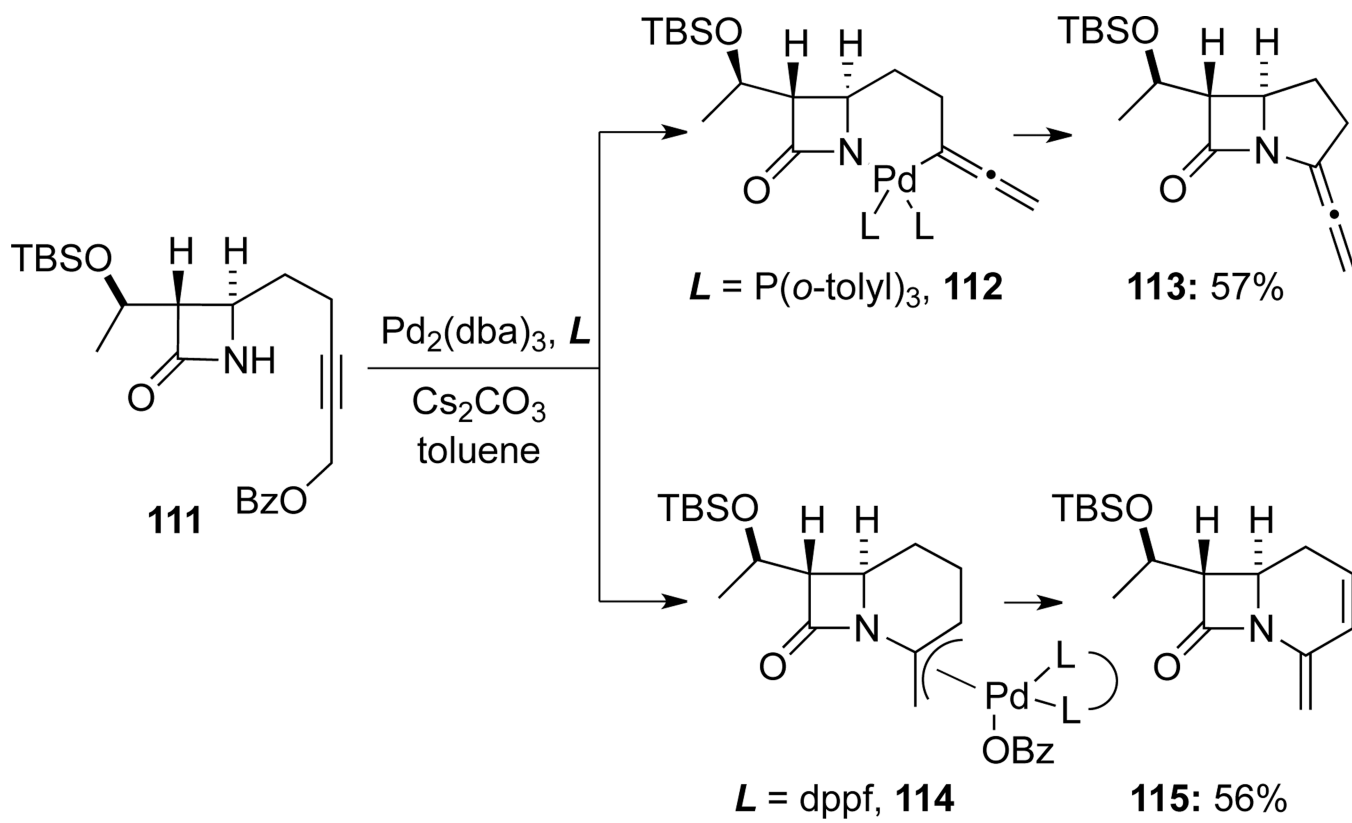
Scheme 37.

Scheme 38.

Scheme 39.

10 mol% CuCN, 20 mol% DMEDA
2 equiv Cs$_2$CO$_3$, toluene

X = CH$_2$ at rt;
X = NMe at 50 °C

(M)-**128a:**
75% *ee*

129

X= CH$_2$, *(M)*-**130a:**
71%, 75% *ee*
X= NMe, *(M)*-**130b:**
79%, 75% *ee*

(±)-**131**

+

132

133a-f

(R)-**133a:** 41%

(±)-**133b:** 90%

(±)-**130c:** 60%

133d(*P,R*) & (*M,R*)**:** 84%

133e(*P,R*) & (*M,R*)**:** 55%

133f(*P,R*) & (*M,R*)**:** 35%

Scheme 40.

15 mol% CuTC, 30mol% DMEDA.
2 equiv Cs₂CO₃
toluene, dioxane, or THF, Δ

2.5 equiv

134 **135** **136**

136a: 56% **136b:**35% **136c:** 52%

137 **138** **139:** 63%
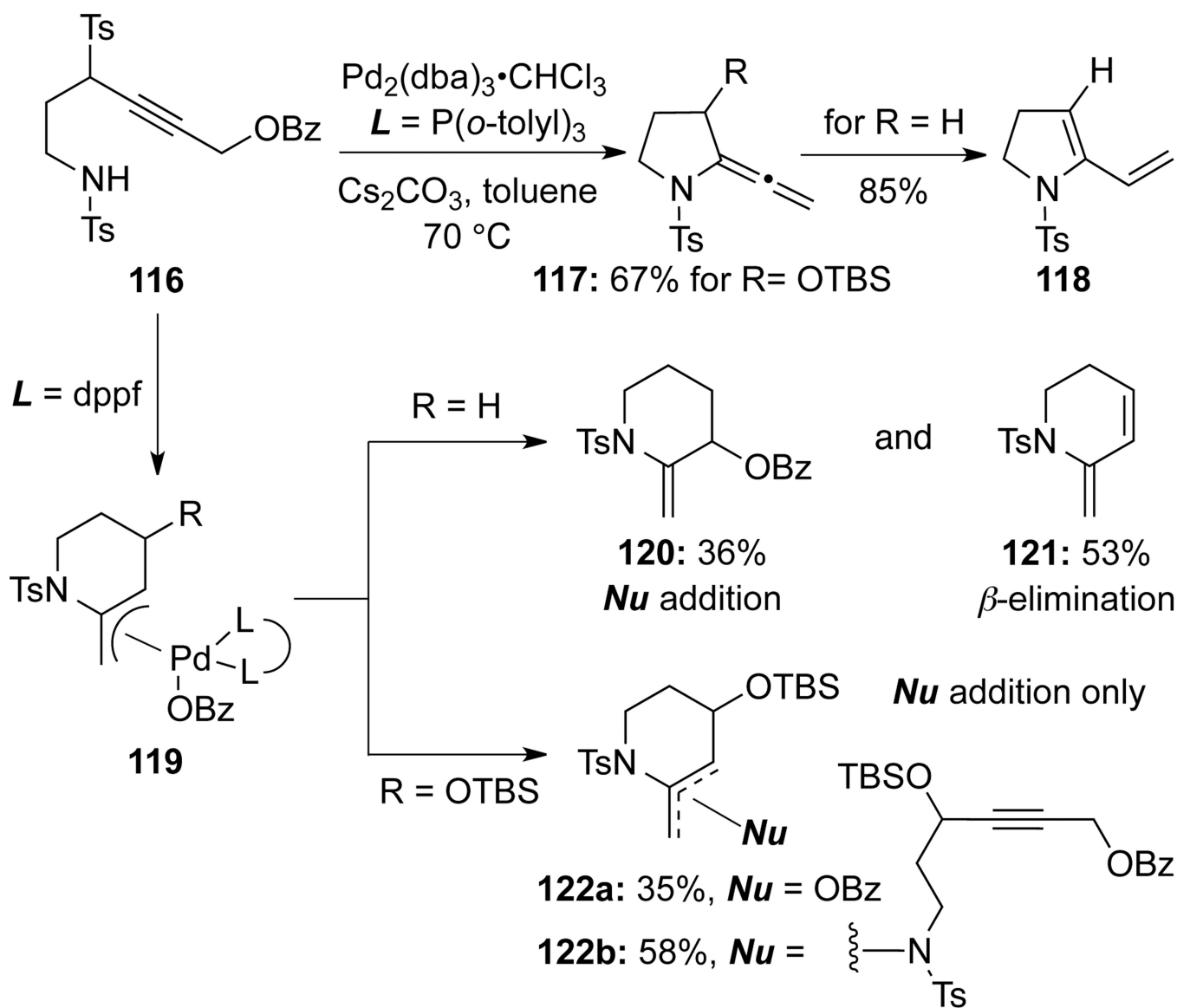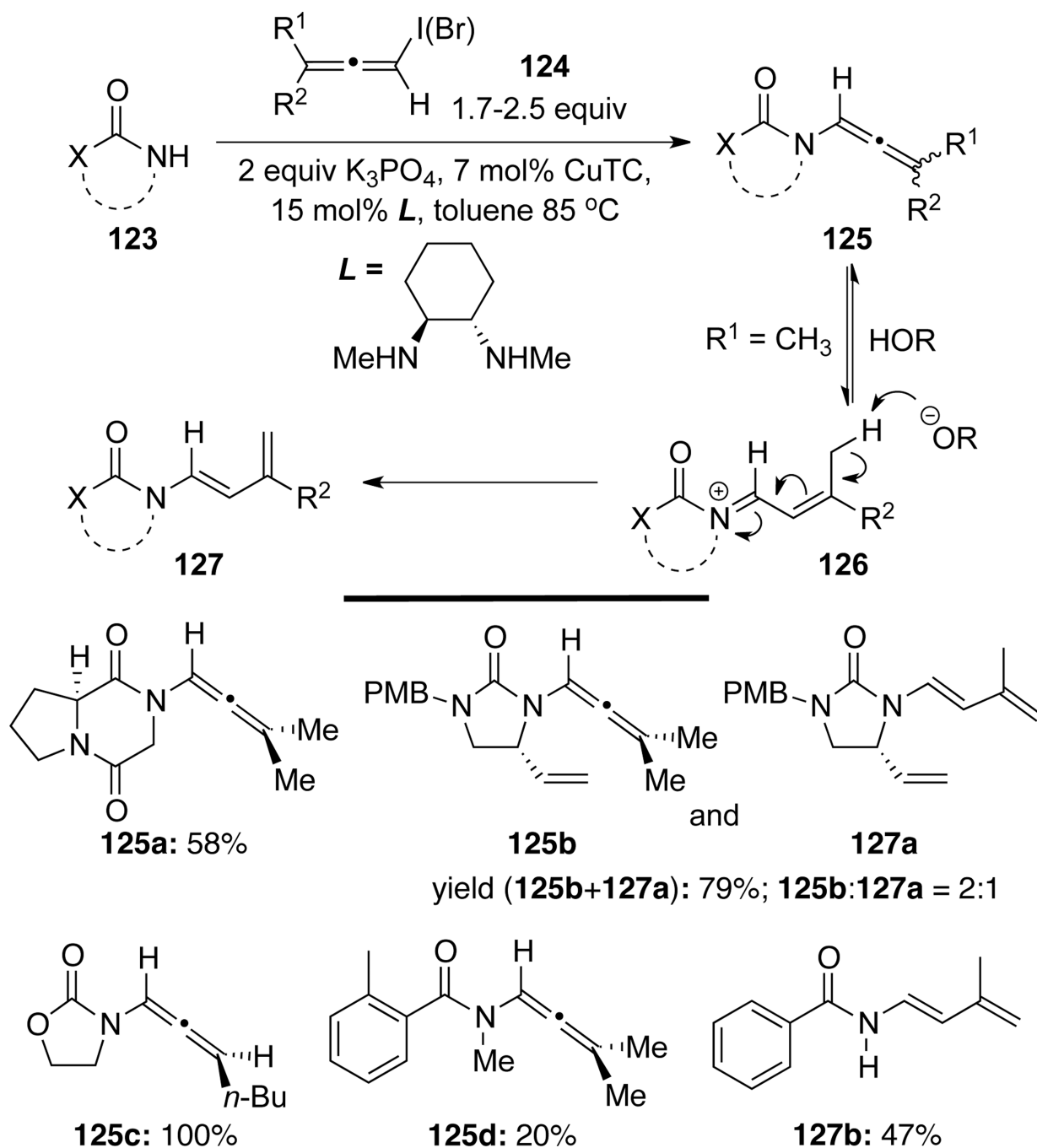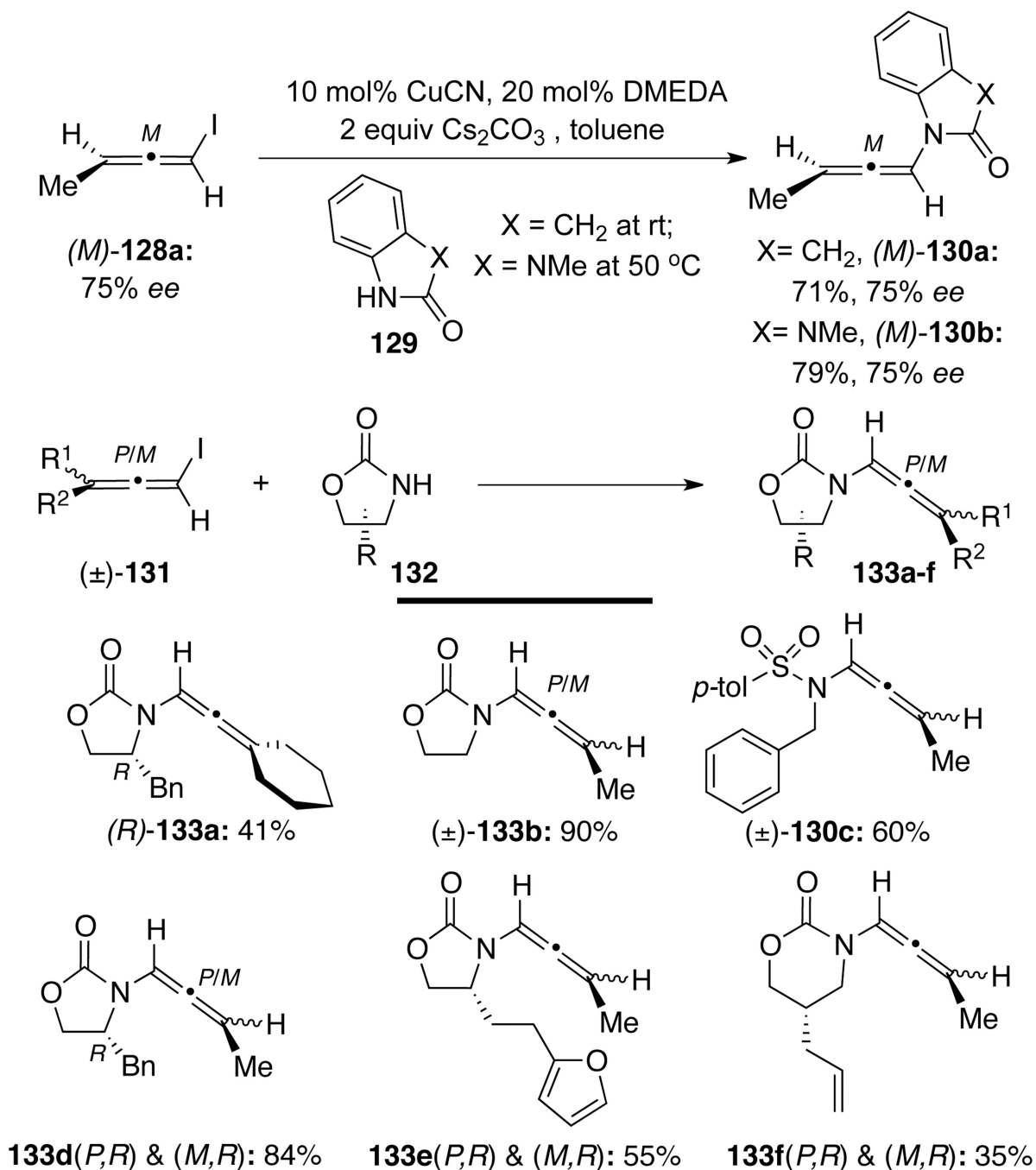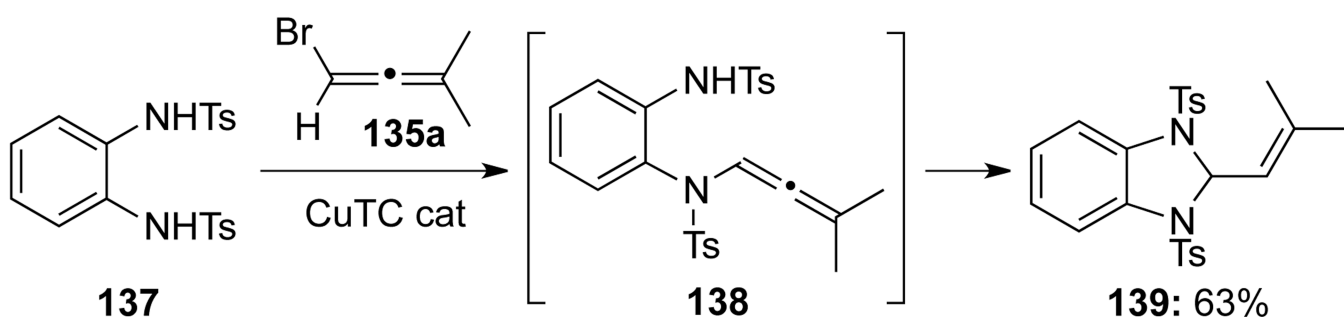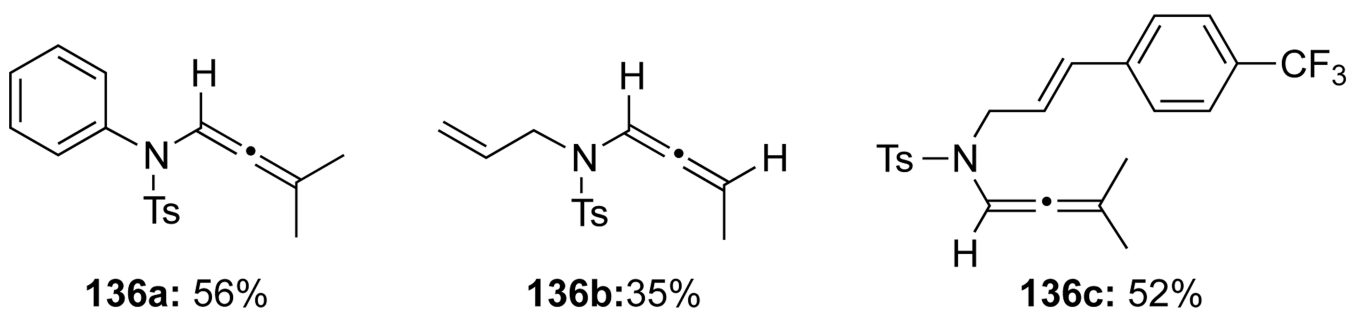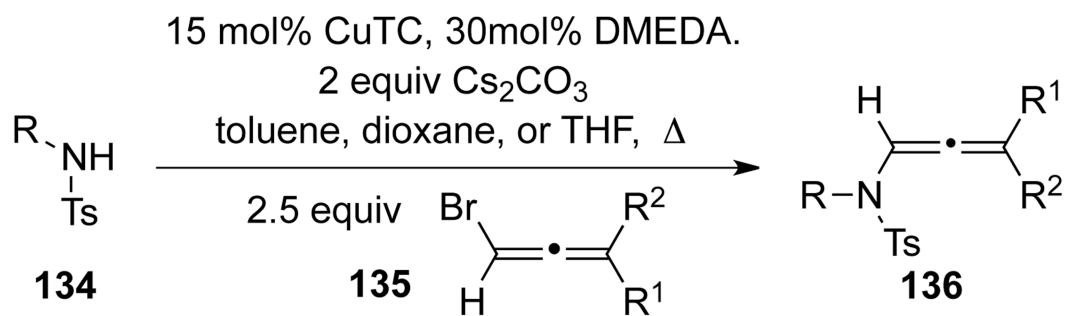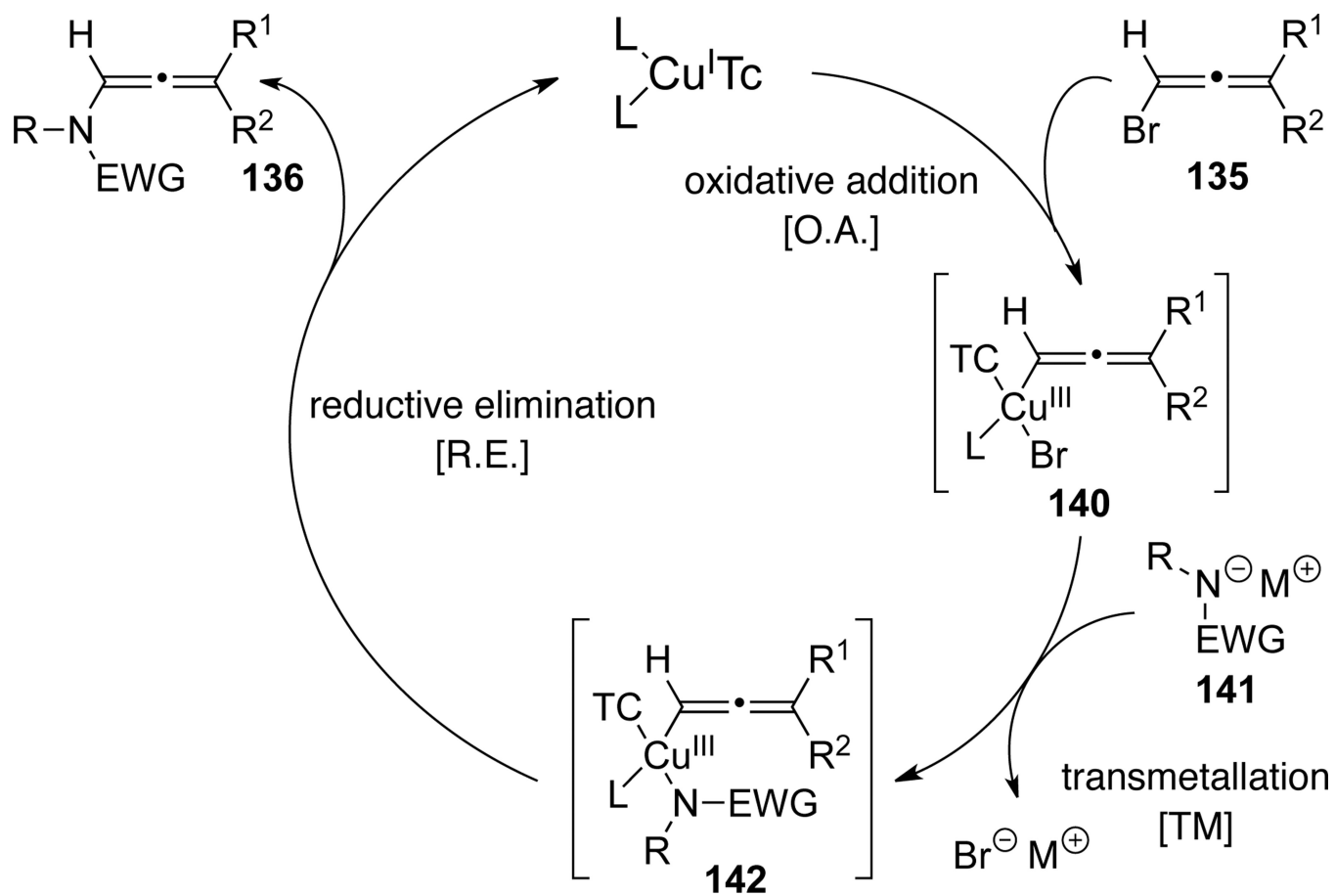
Scheme 41.

Scheme 42.

Scheme 43.

Scheme 44.

R = Me or Bn
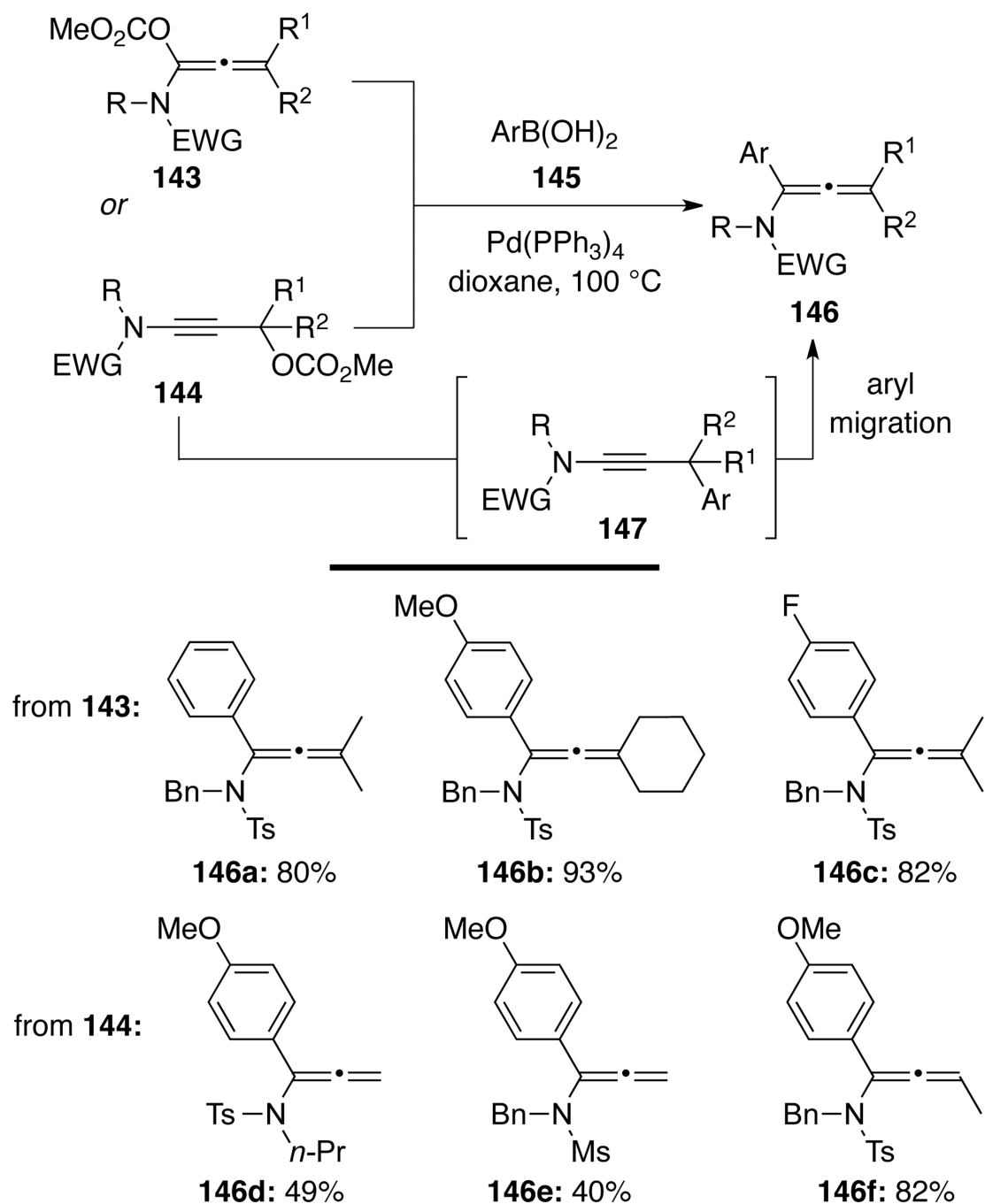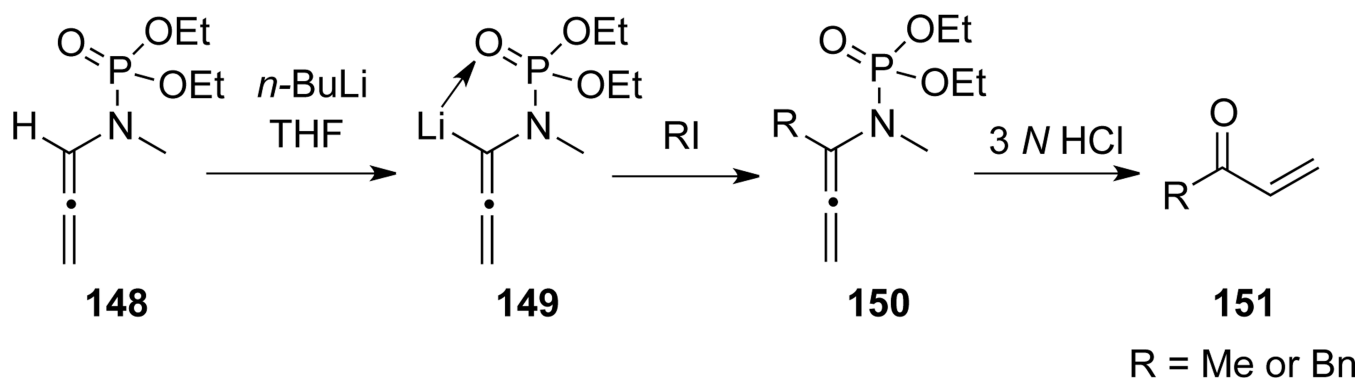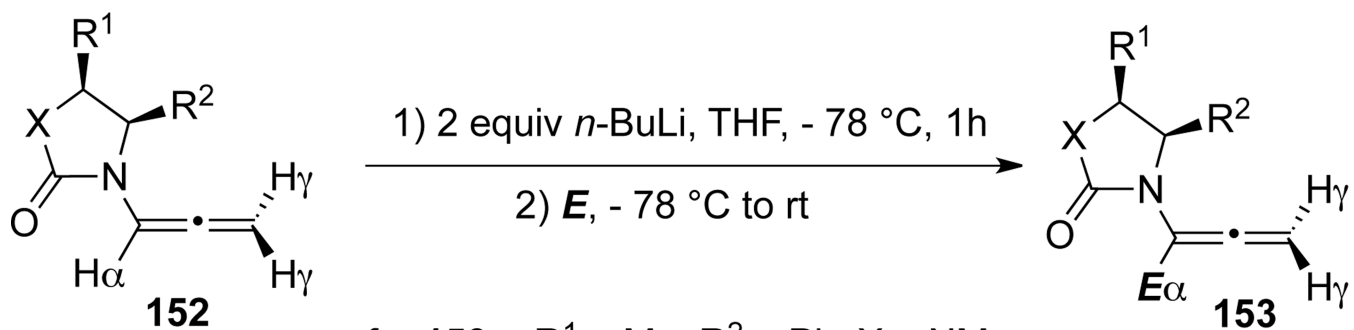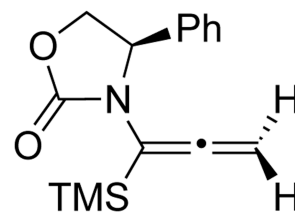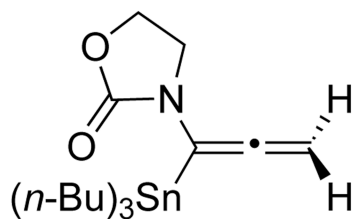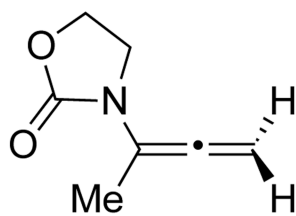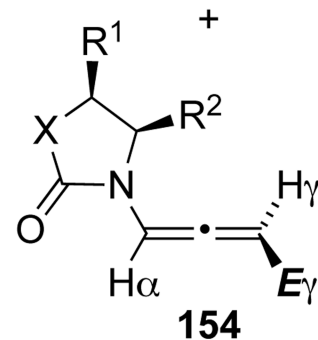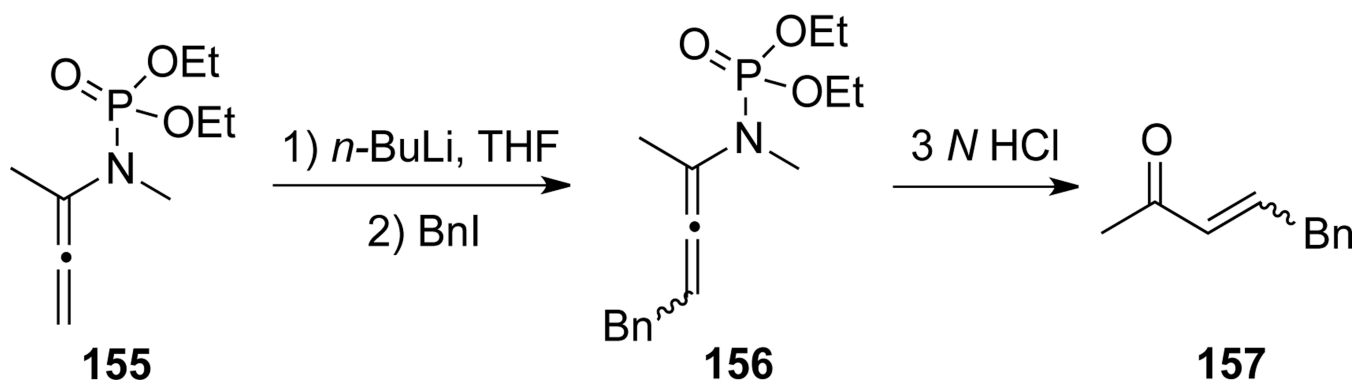
Scheme 45.
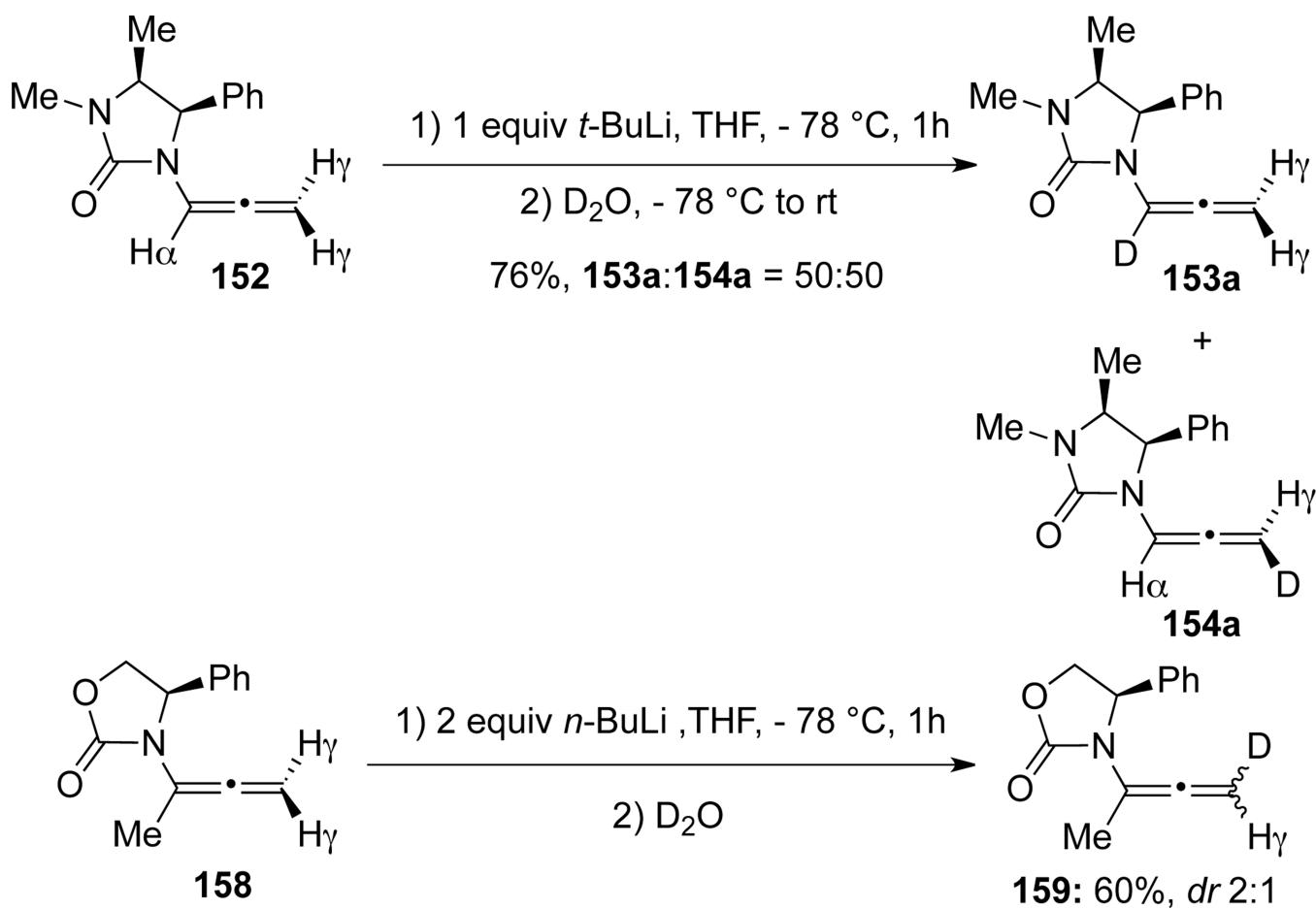
Scheme 46.

Scheme 47.
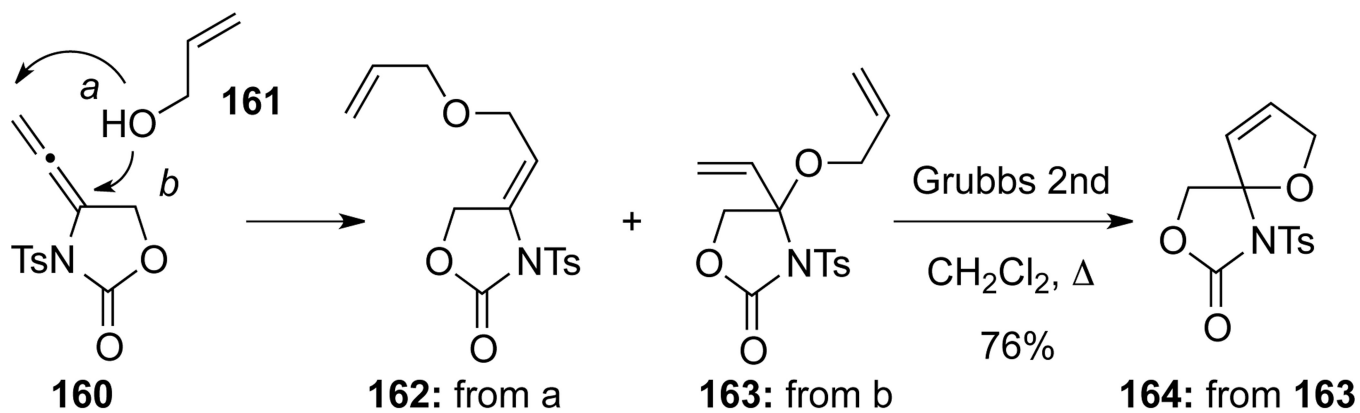
Scheme 48.

(PPh$_3$)AuCl (5 mol%) AgSbF$_6$ (5 mol%	**162**	**163**
CH$_2$Cl$_2$, rt	8%	70%
dioxane, 80°C	55%	15%

Scheme 49.
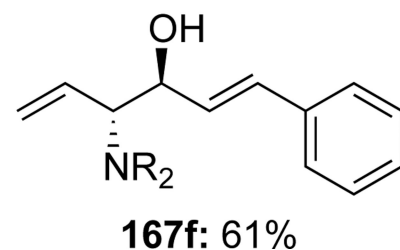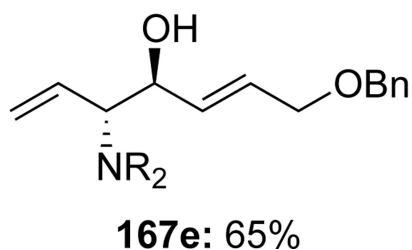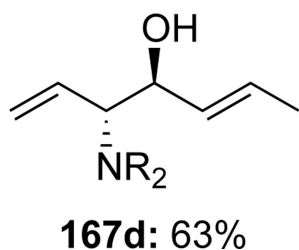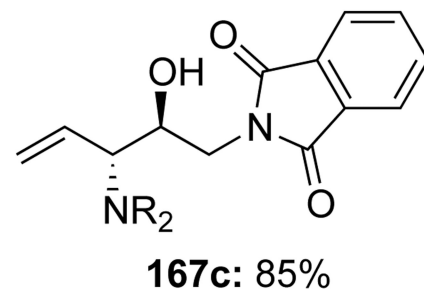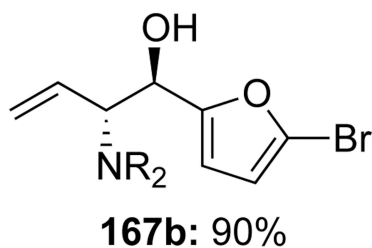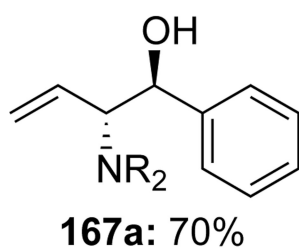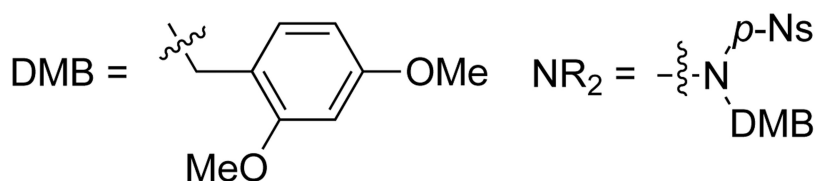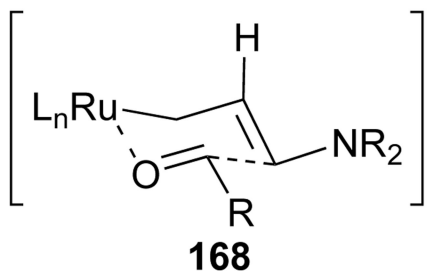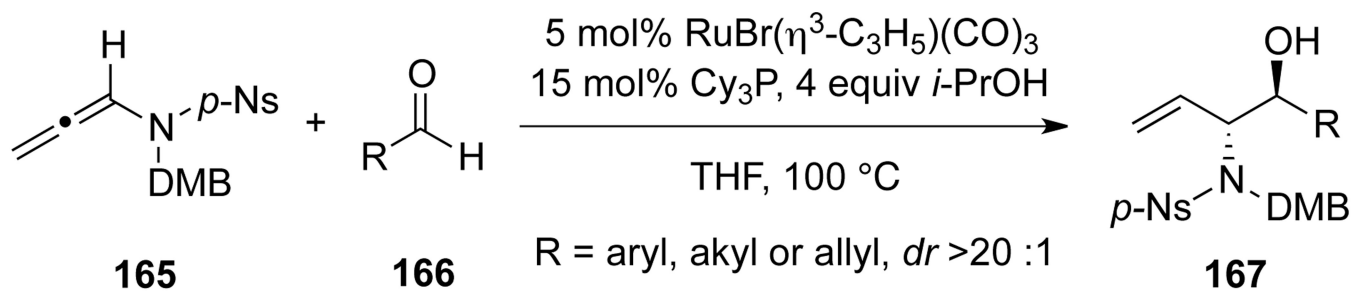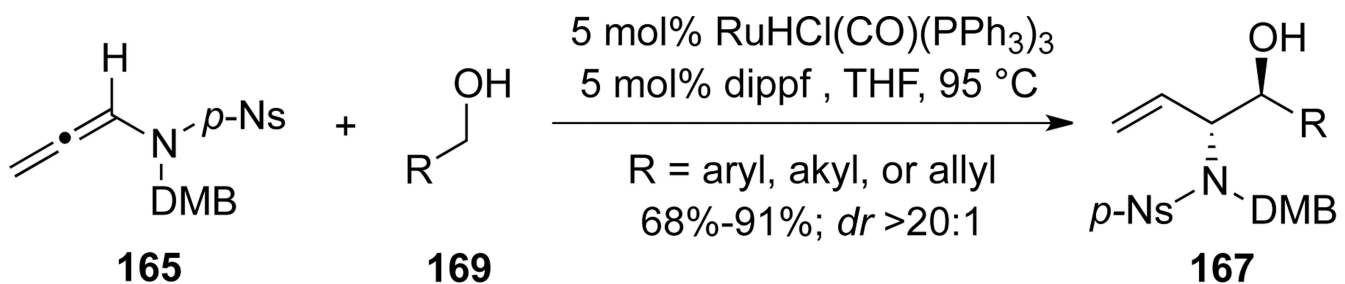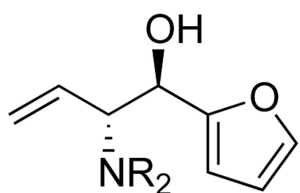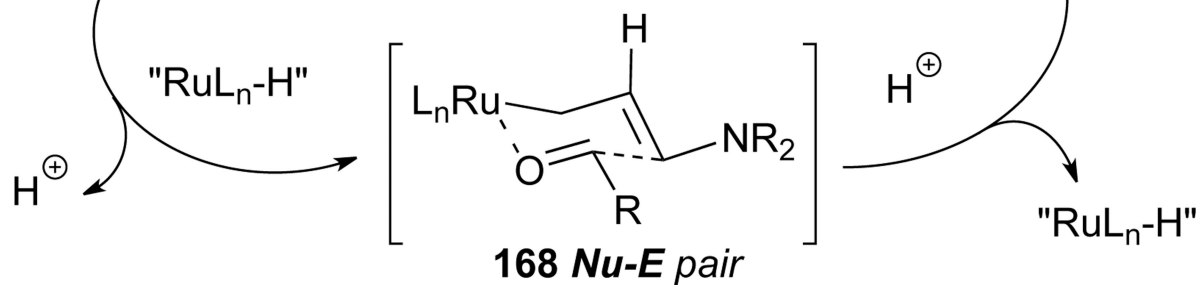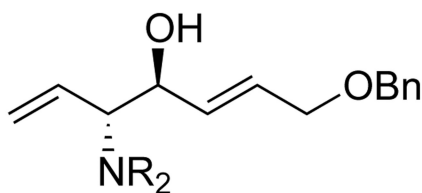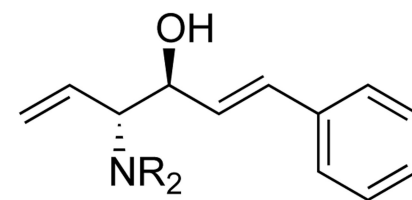
Scheme 50.

170   **172:** not isolated   **173**

173a: 67%   **173b:** 60%

Scheme 51.

174 → **175** ⇌ **176**

for R = *i*-Pr, Me, Et, *t*-Bu or Ph
(cis + trans): 32%-62%

for R = Bn, *cis* only: 65%

cis-**177**   +   *trans*-**177**

Scheme 52.

174	method:	178	179	180
a: R = *i*-Pr	**A**	32%	29%	0
b: R = *i*-Pr	**B**	0	95%	0
c: R = *t*-Bu	**A**	9%	28%	25%
d: R = *t*-Bu	**B**	0	89%	0
e: R = Bn	**A**	8%	36%	27%
f: R = Bn	**B**	0	72%	0
g: R = Ph	**A**			

(±)-**181**: 73%

182

Scheme 53.

Scheme 54.

Scheme 55.

Scheme 56.

194a: Ar = Ph [74%]
194b: Ar = 4-MeOC$_6$H$_4$ [88%]
194c: Ar = 4-NO$_2$C$_6$H$_4$ [68%]

199a: Ar = Ph [45%]
199b: Ar = 4-MeOC$_6$H$_4$ [31%]
199c: Ar = 4-MeCOC$_6$H$_4$ [28%]

197a: R^1 = H [71%]
197b: R^1 = 4-MeO [67%]
197c: R^1 = 4-Cl [85%]

197d: Ar = Ph [63%]
197e: Ar = 4-MeOC$_6$H$_4$ [89%]
197f: Ar = 4-ClC$_6$H$_4$ [85%]
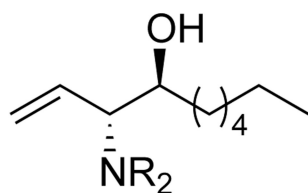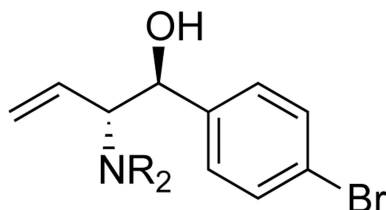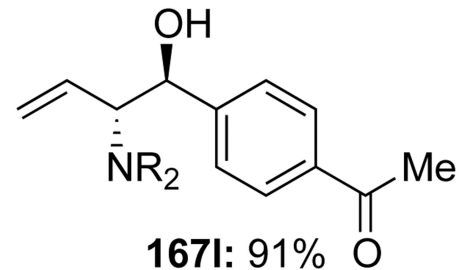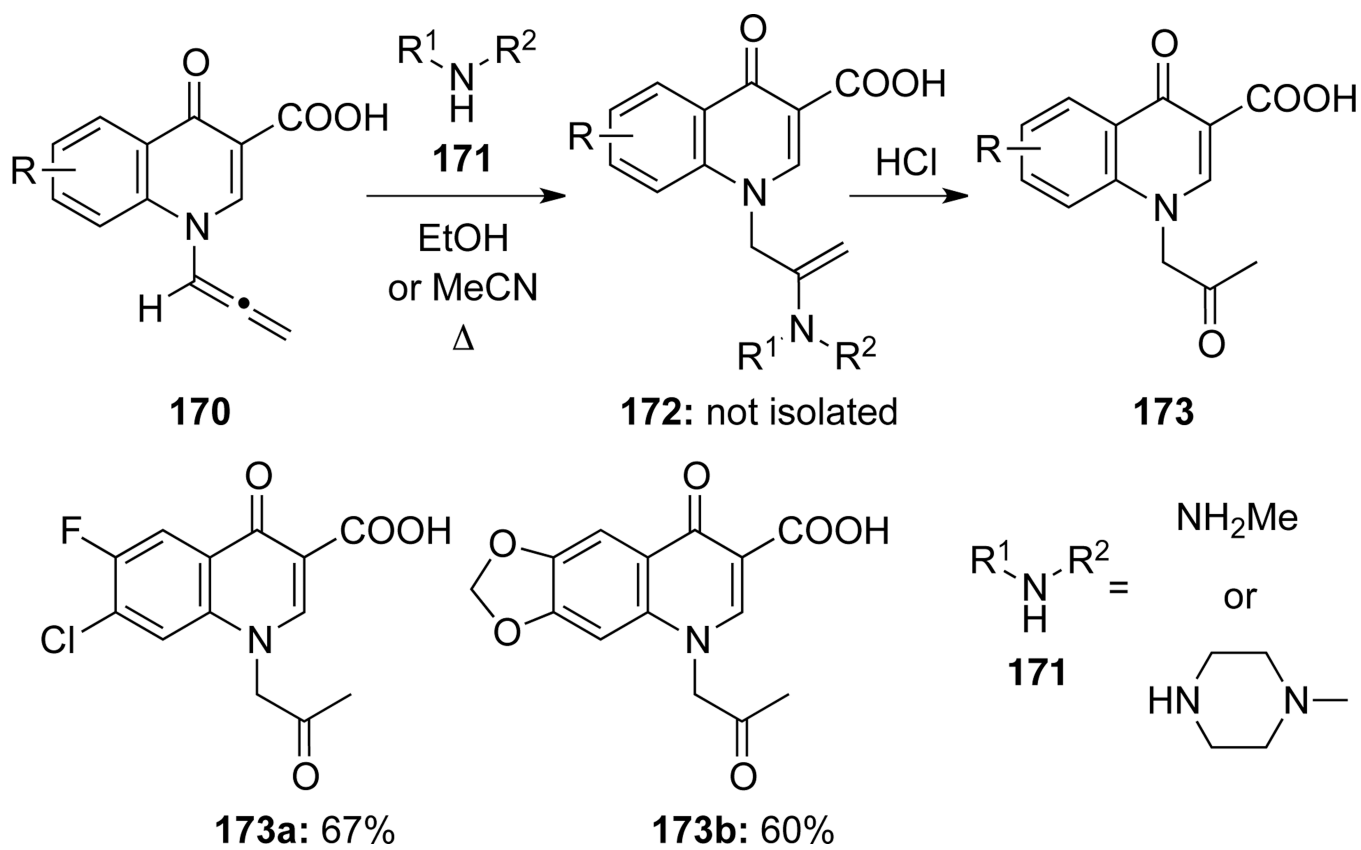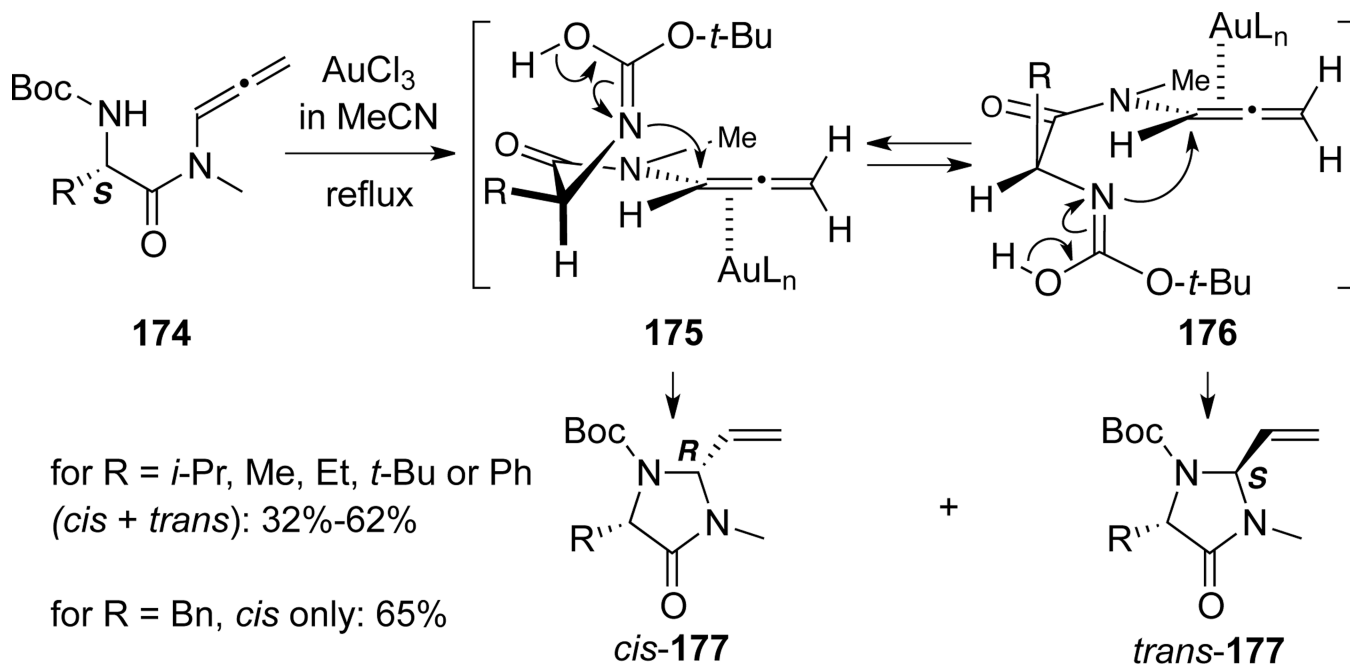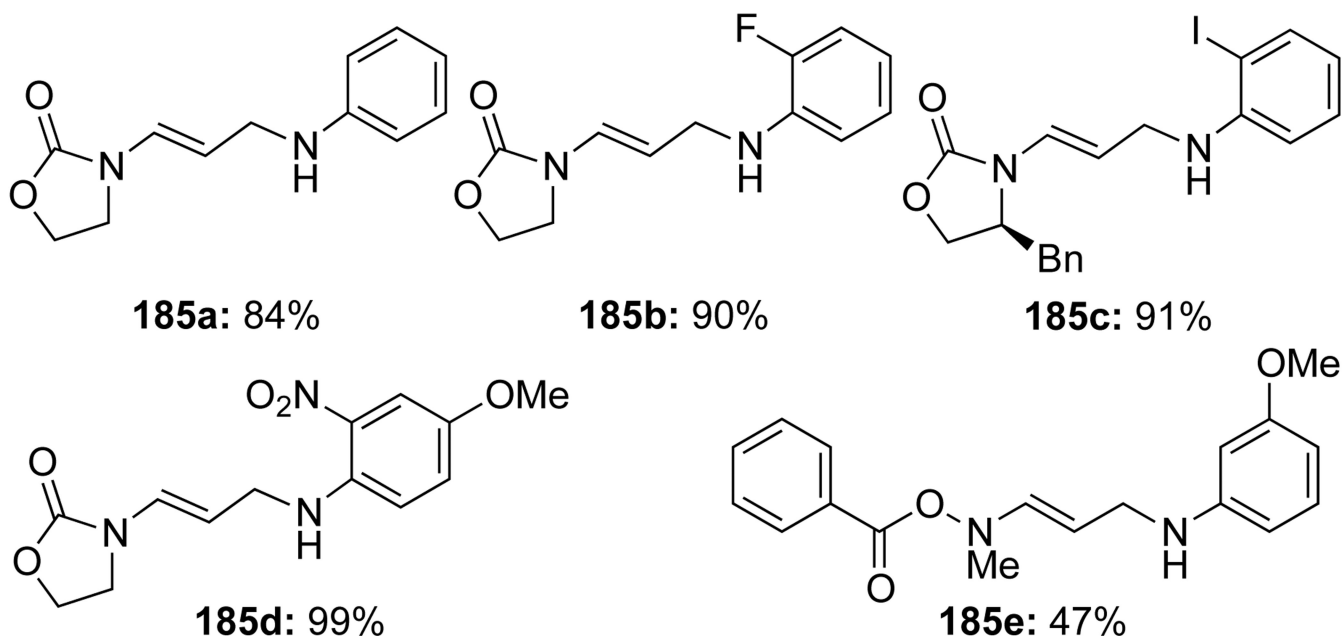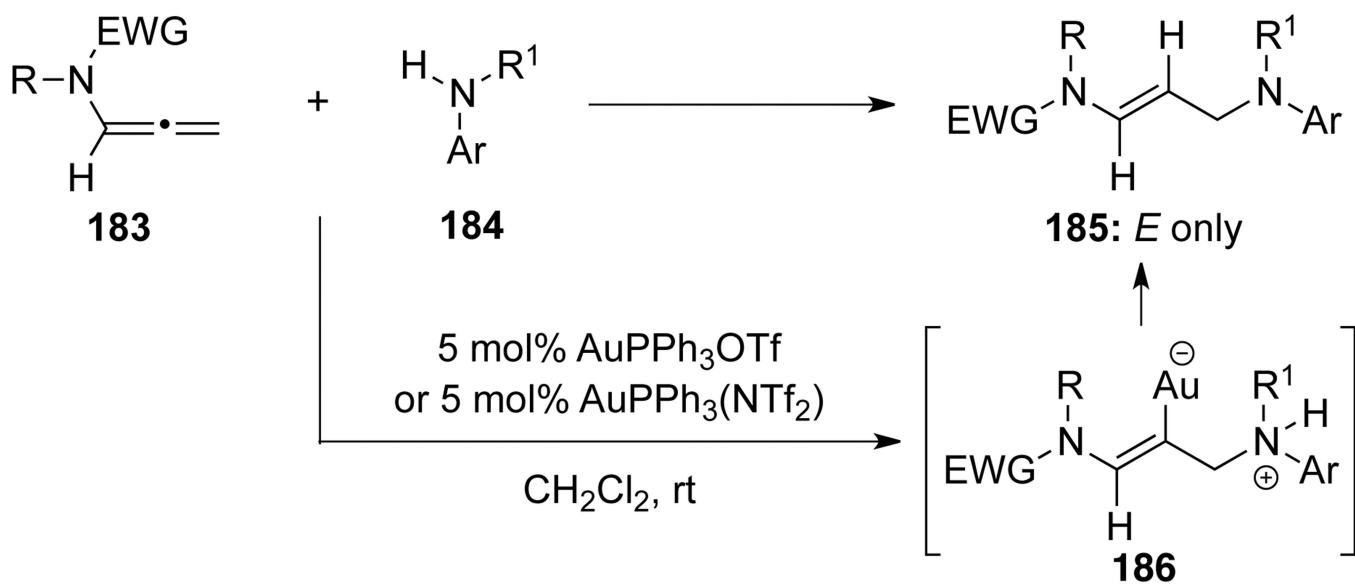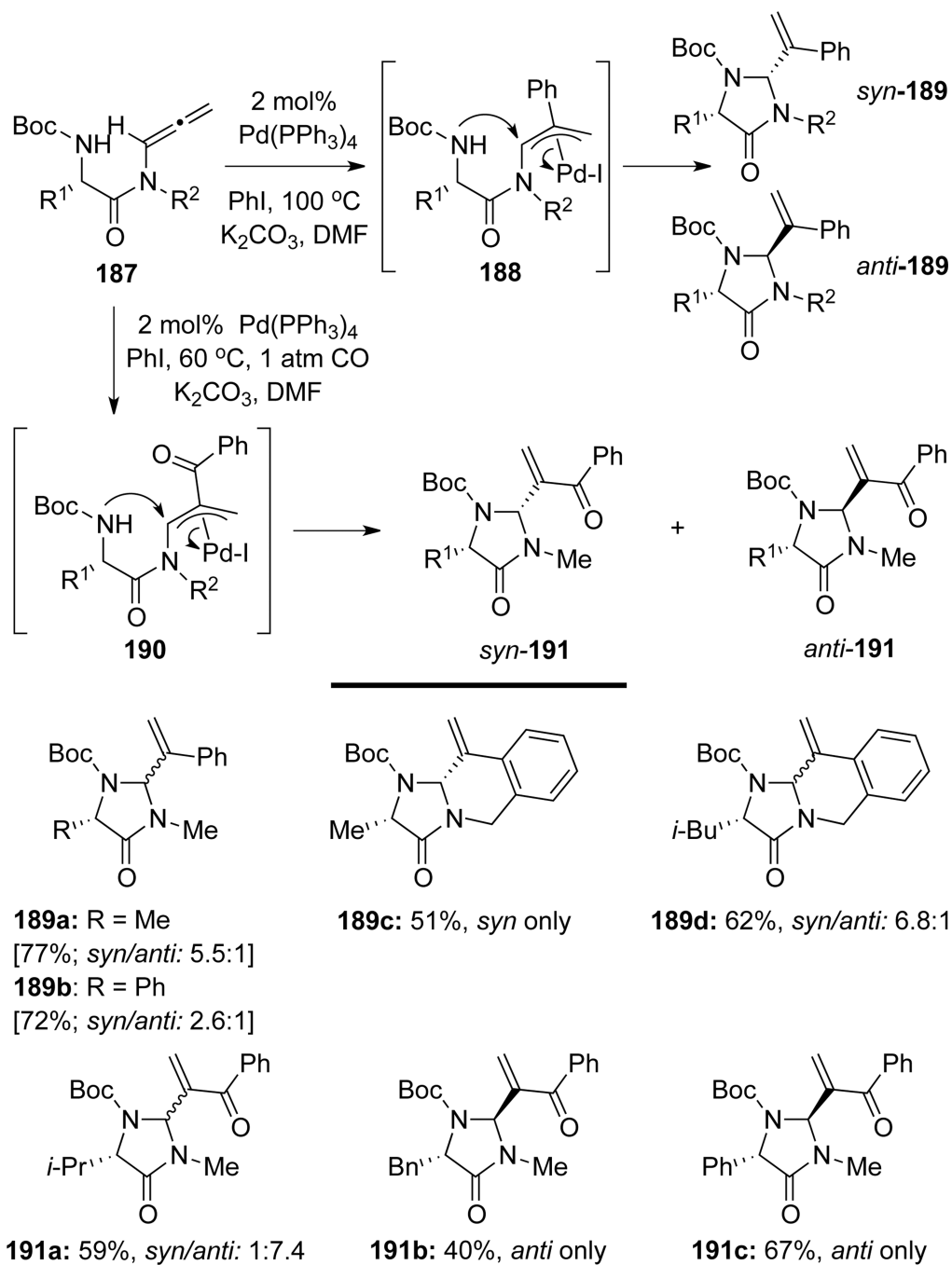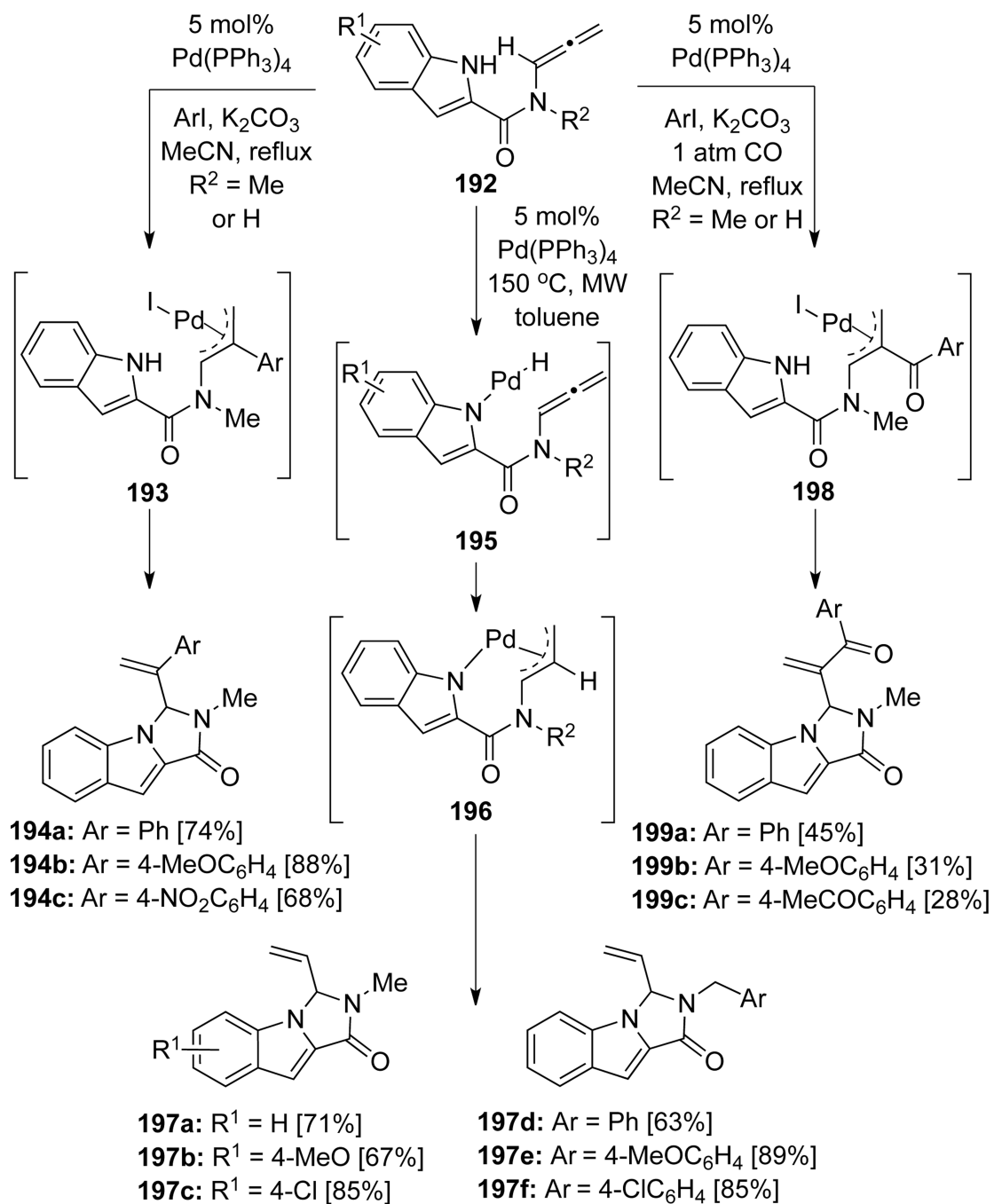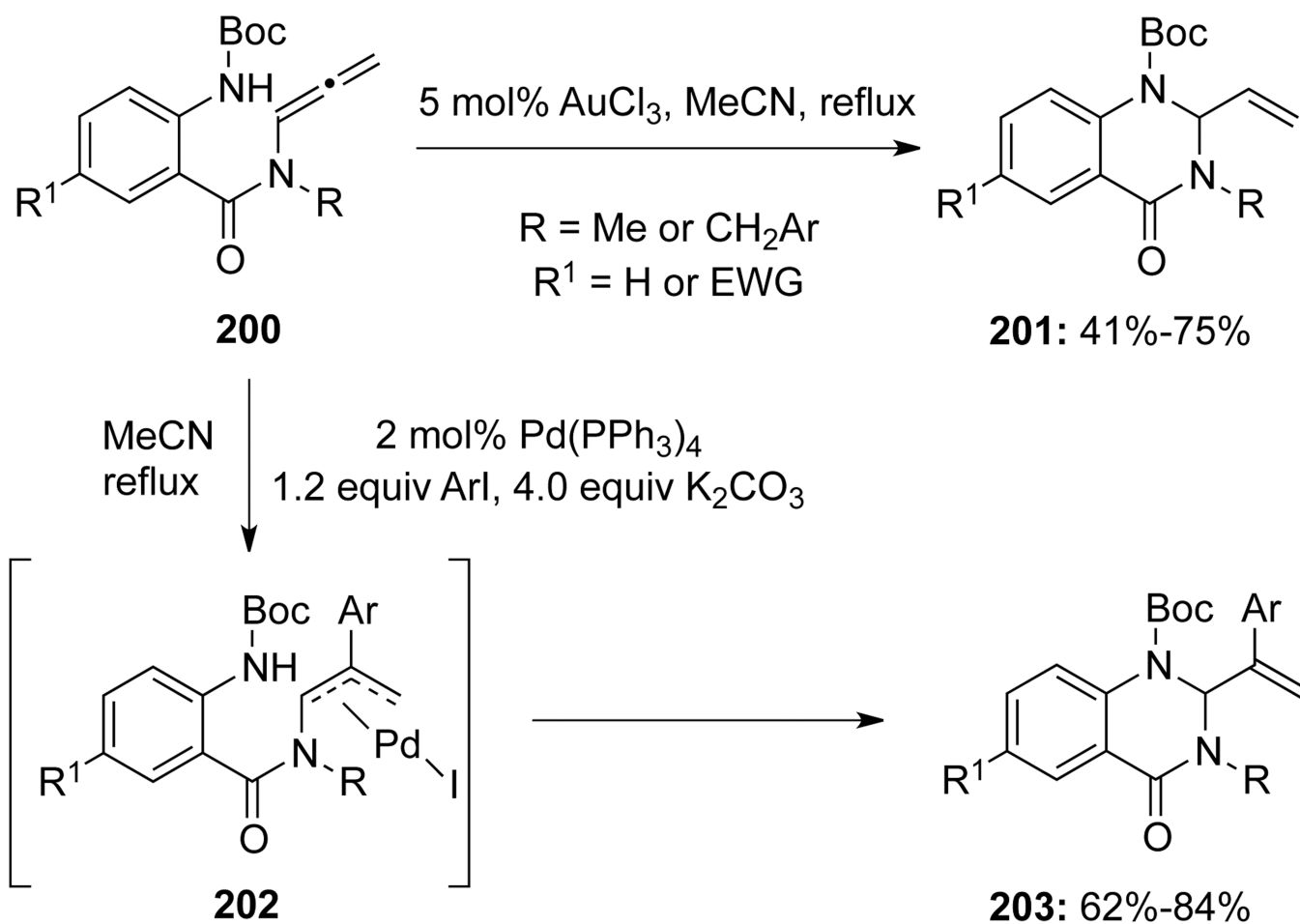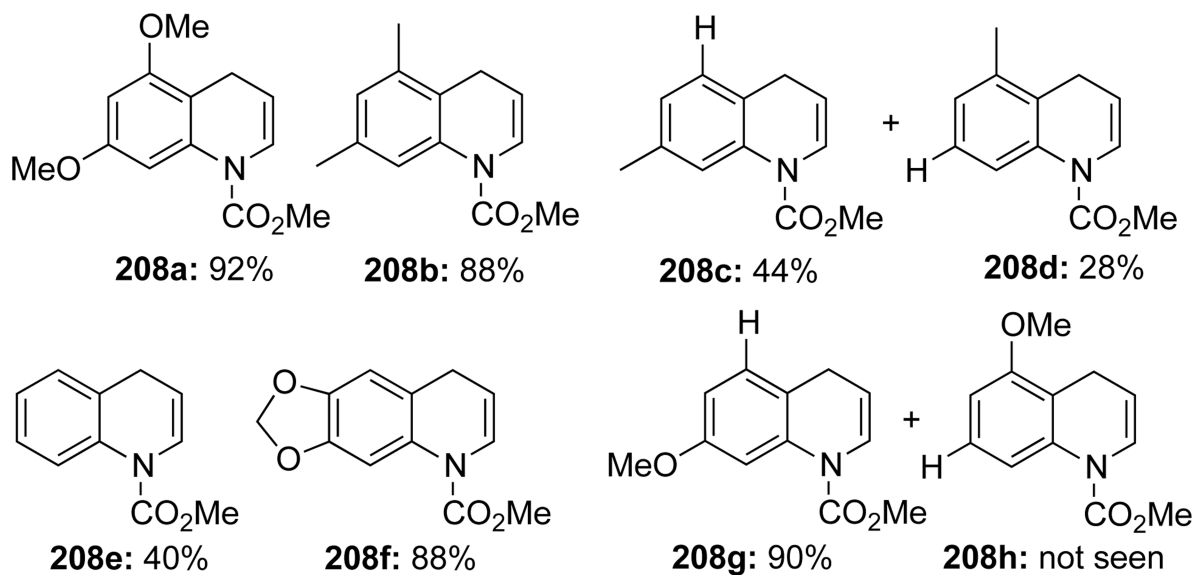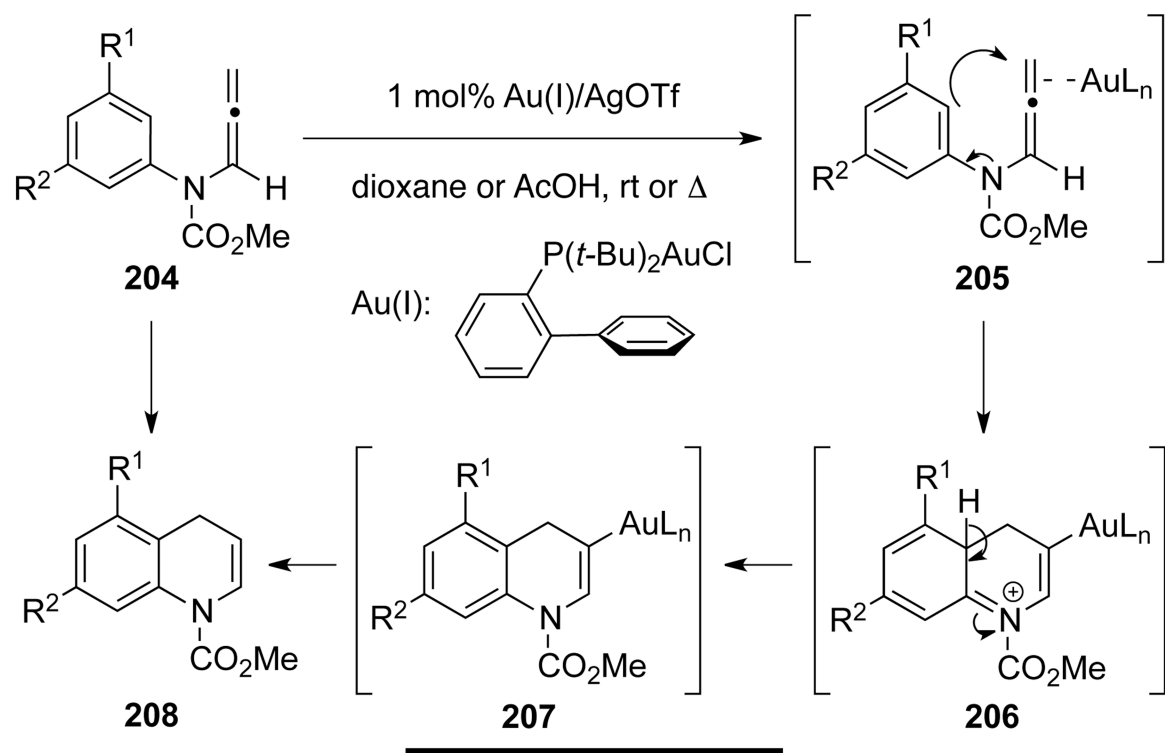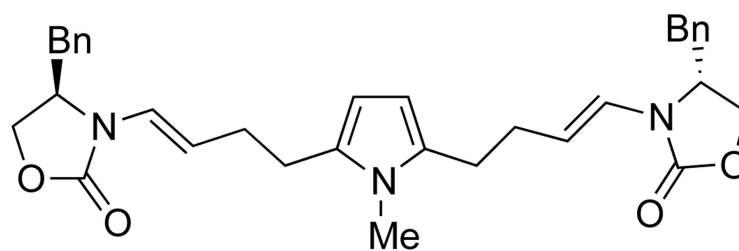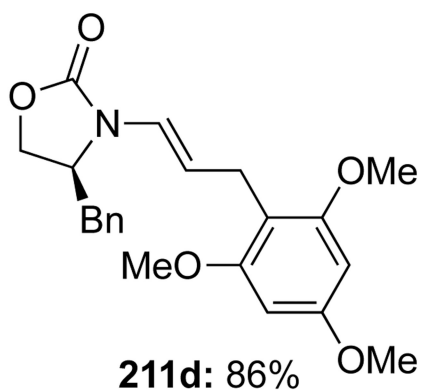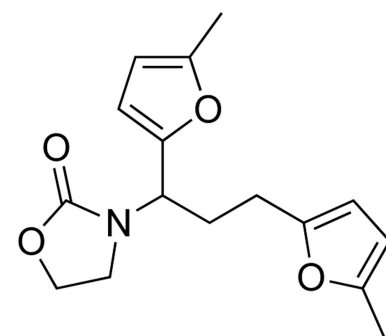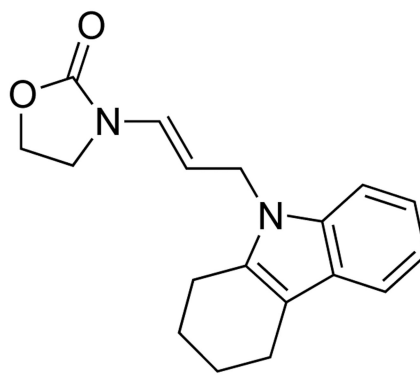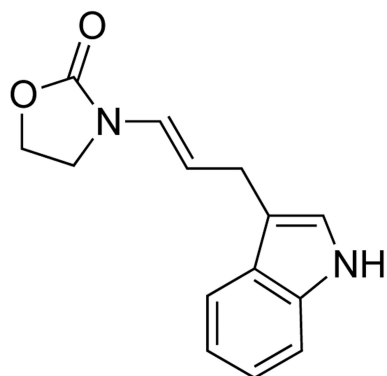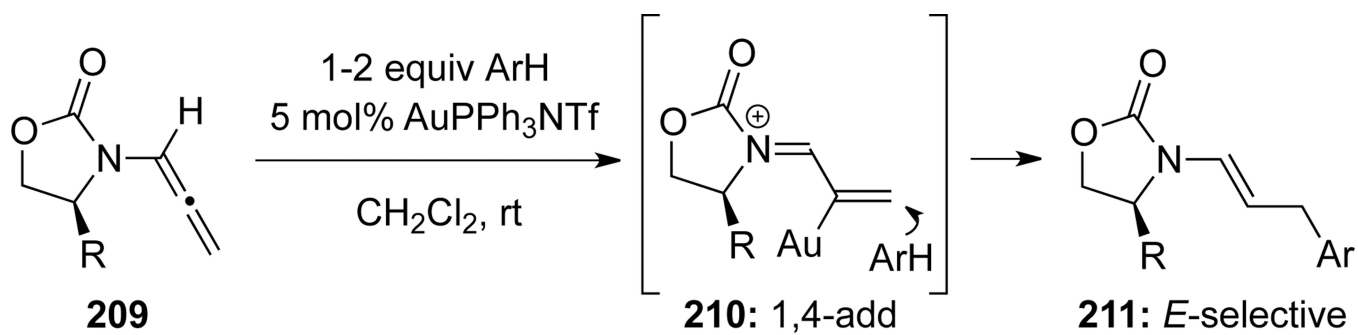
Scheme 57.

Scheme 58.

Scheme 59.
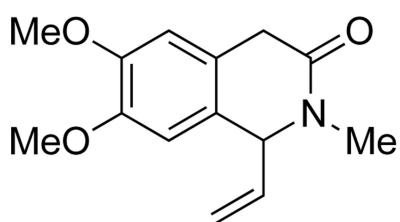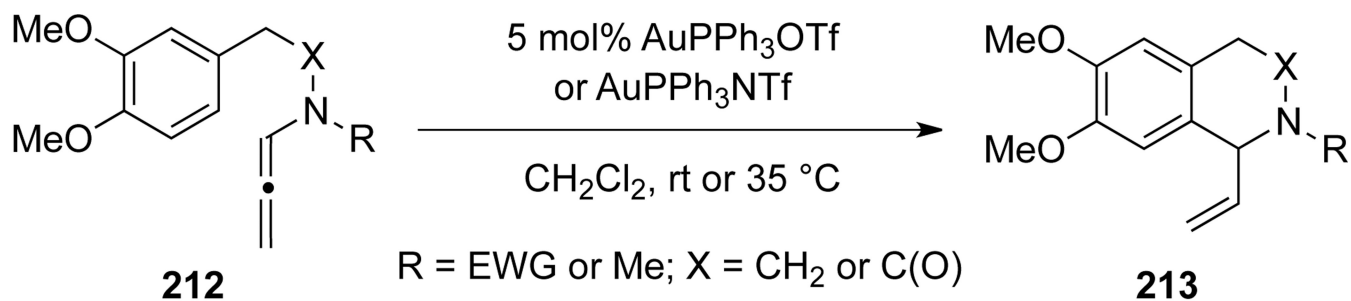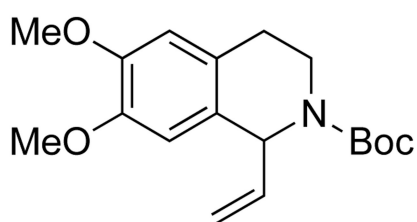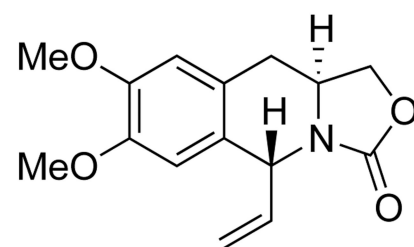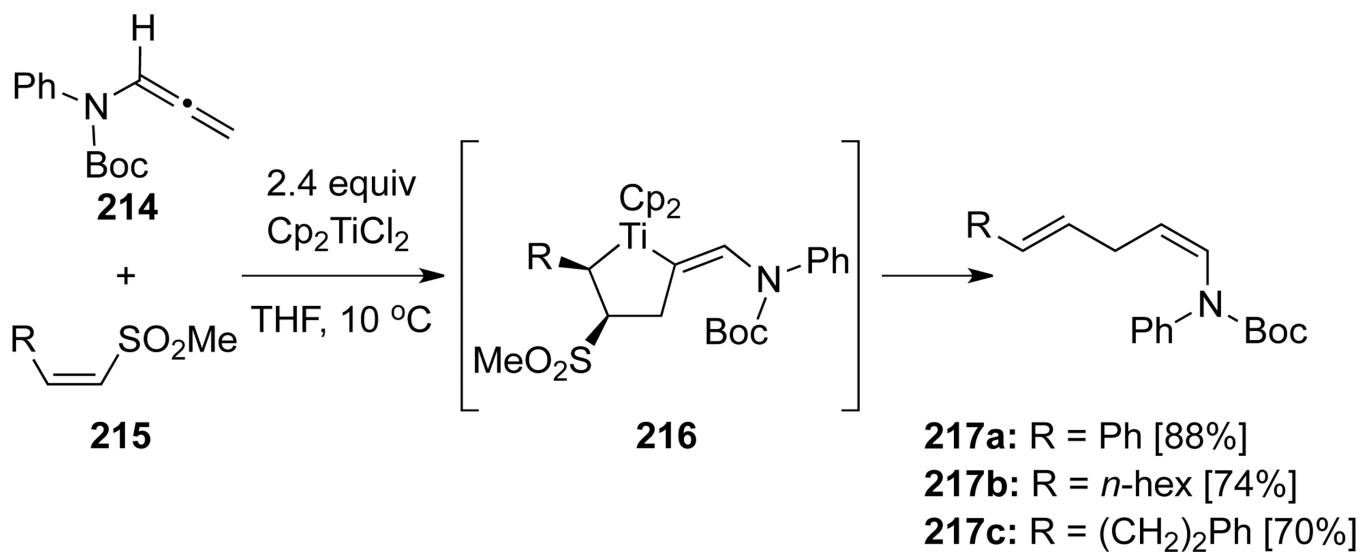
Scheme 60.

Scheme 61.

Scheme 62.

Scheme 63.

225

1) *n*-BuLi
TiCl(*i*-PrO)₃
THF, -78 °C

2) RCHO

226

227

226a: 67%, *dr* 97:3

226b: 66%, *dr* 97:3

226c: 60%, *dr* 98:2
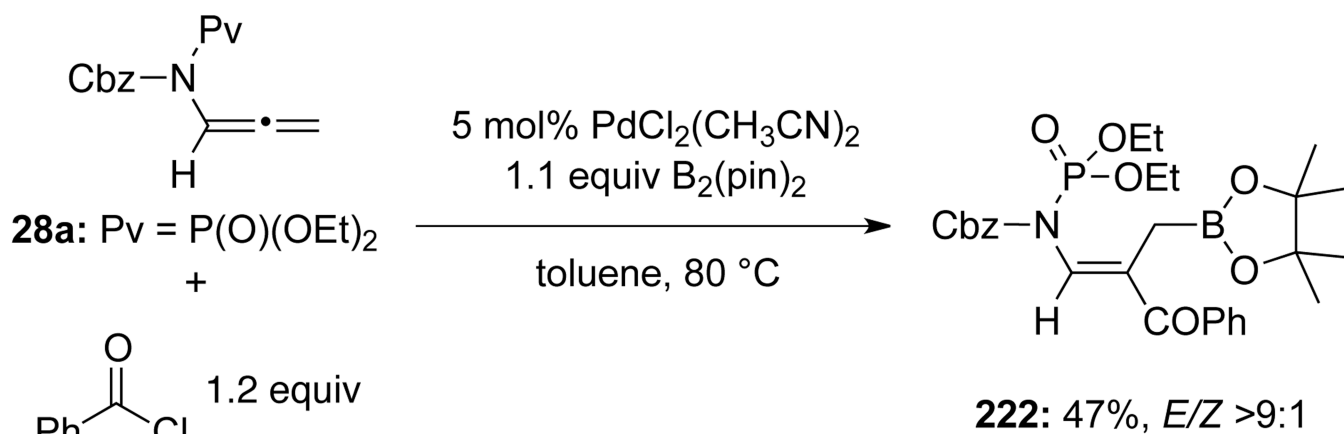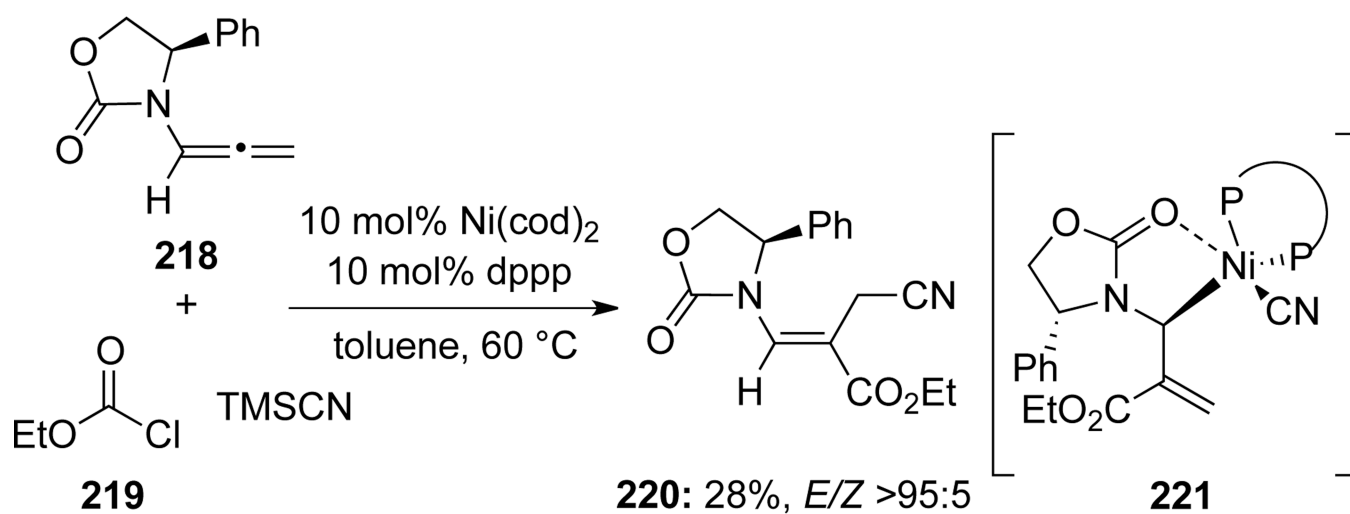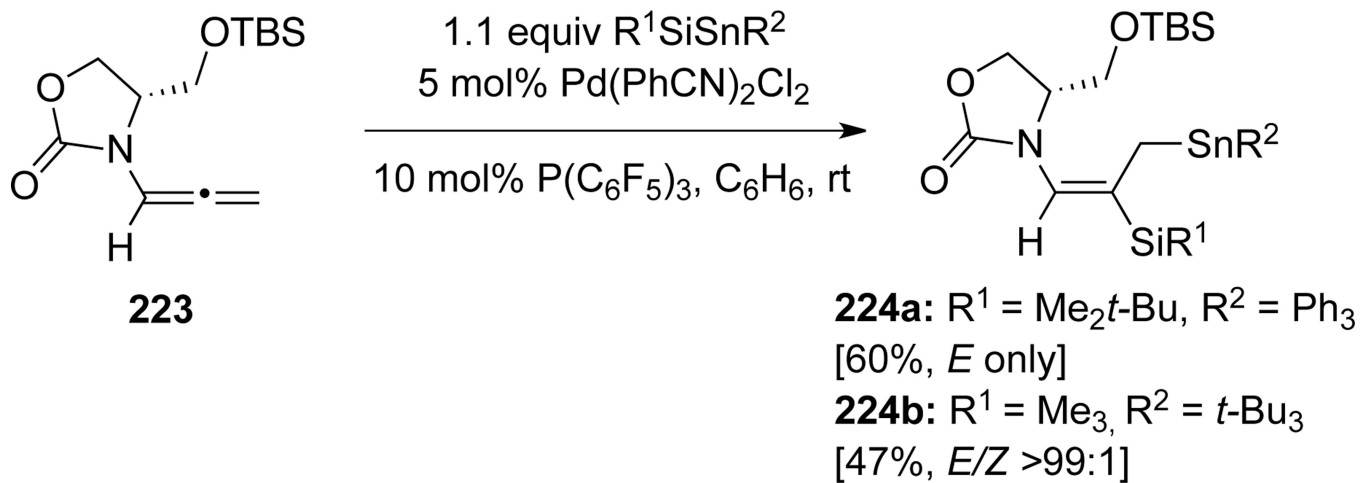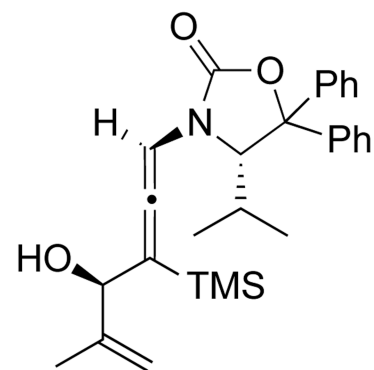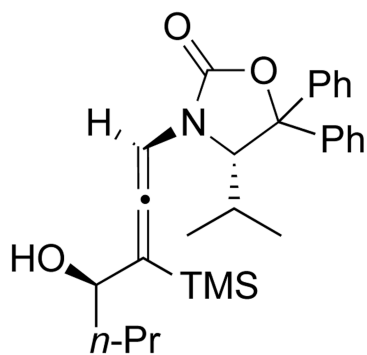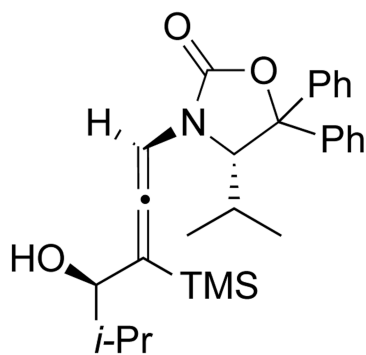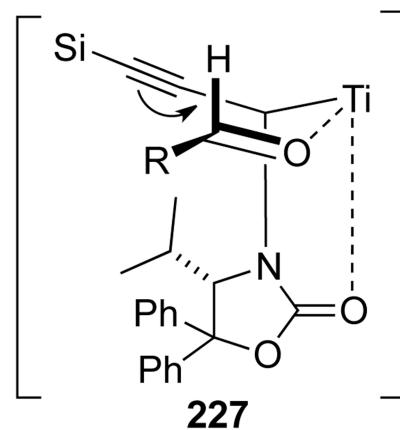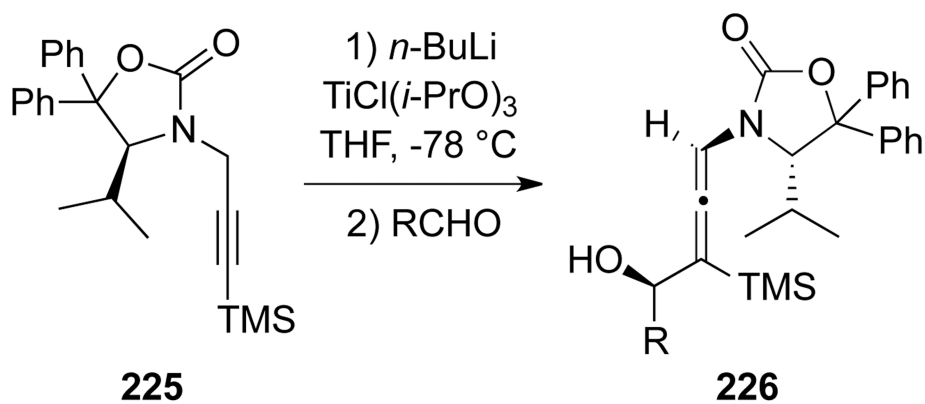
Scheme 64.

Scheme 65.

Scheme 66.

1) *n*-BuLi, TMEDA, THF, -78 °C
2) B-MeO-9-BBN

3) RCHO, BF₃•OEt₂

238

239

*anti-***240**

240a: 87%, *dr* 83:17

240b: 87%, *dr* 77:23

240c: 61%, *dr* 83:17

240d: 72%, *dr* 81:19

240e: 86%, *dr* 83:17

240f: 78%, *dr* 88:12

Scheme 67.

228

anti_a **241**   syn_a **241**

*TS for anti_a **241***

anti_s **241**   syn_s **241**

241a: 88%, *dr* 95:5   **241b:** 83%, *dr* 93:7   **241c:** 84%, *anti_a* only

241d: 75%, *dr* 86:14   **241e:** 52%, *dr* 59:9:32

R = alkyl, alkenyl alkynyl,
anti only; dr = anti_a:anti_s;
For R= Ph, *dr = anti_a:anti_s:syn_a*
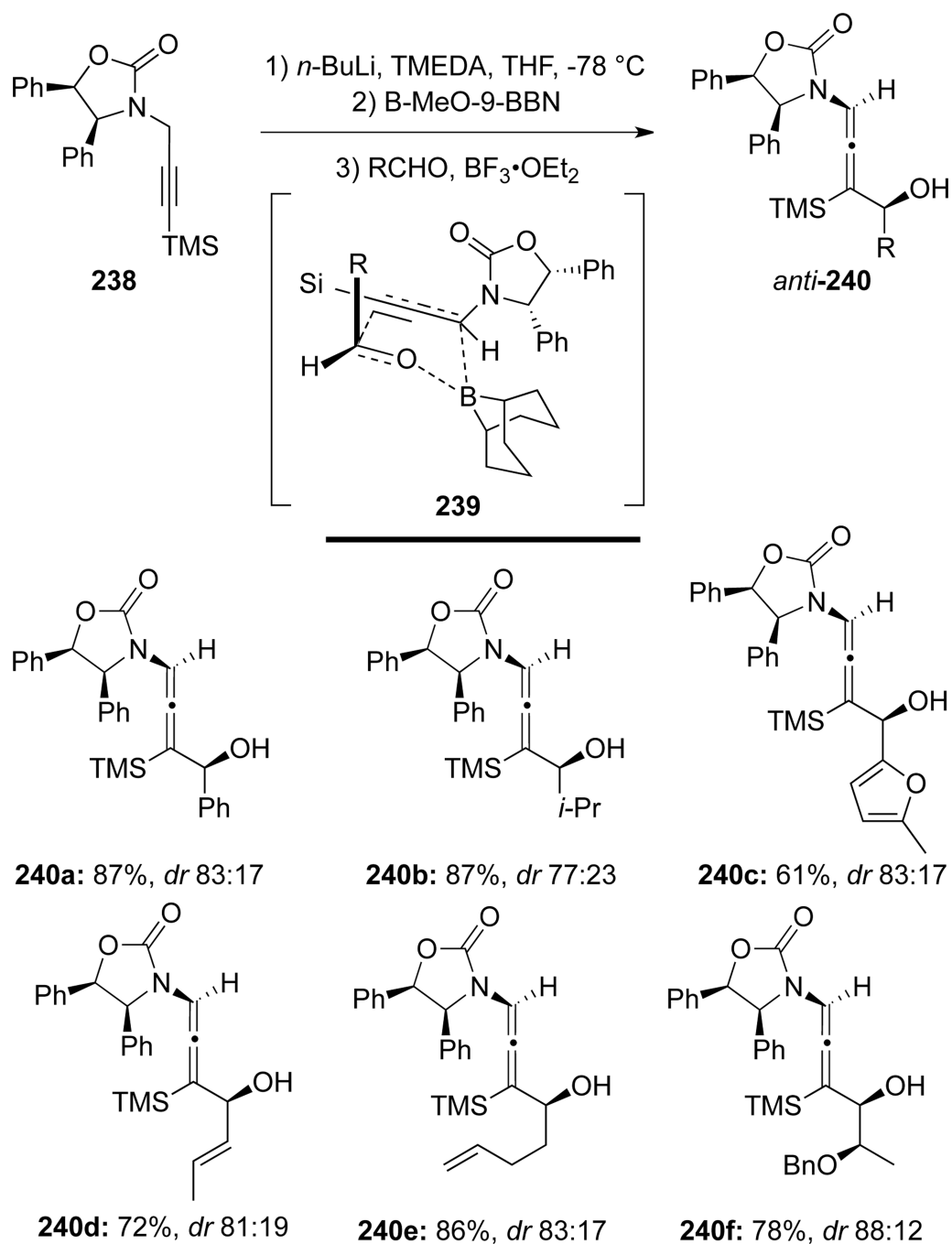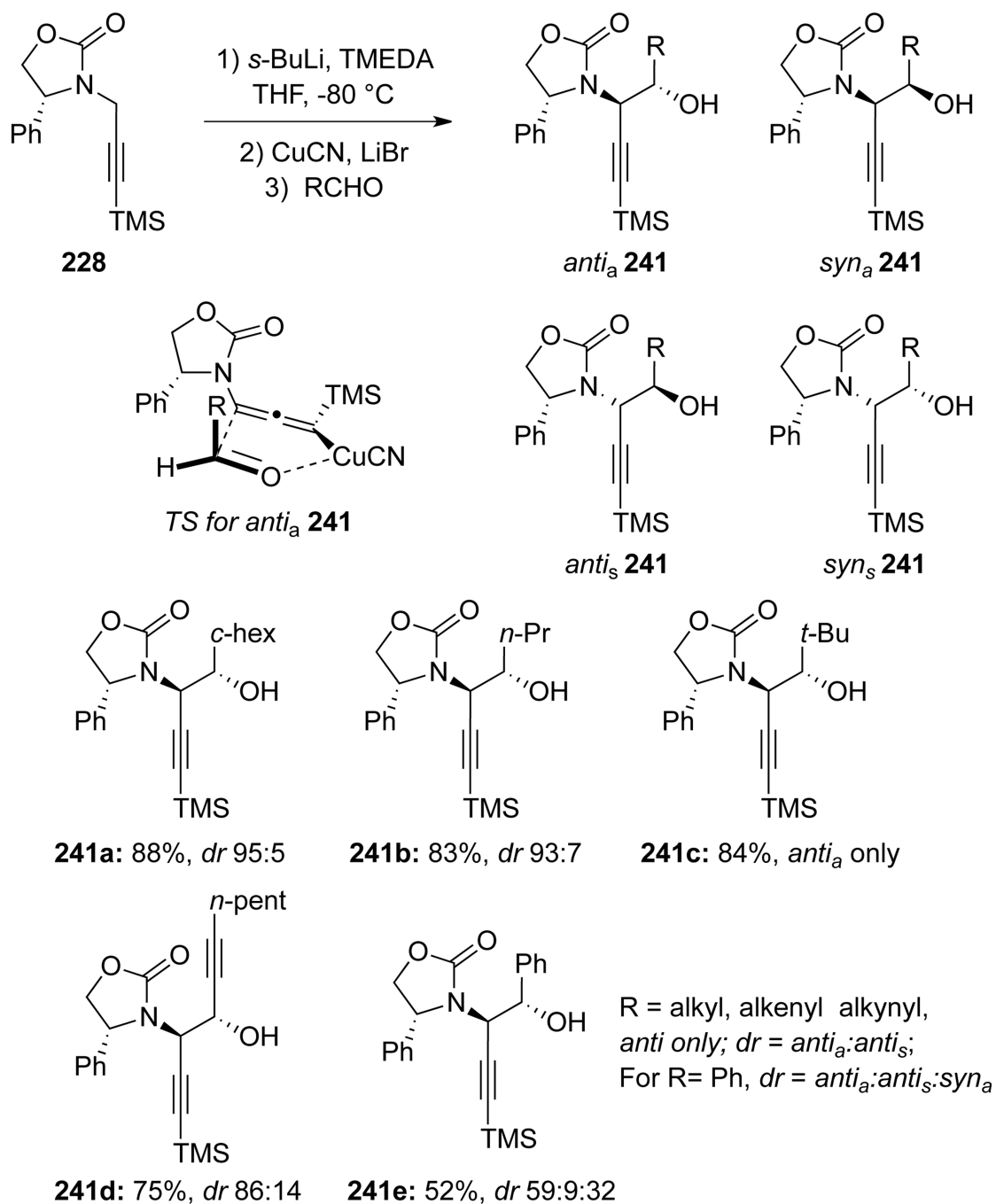
Scheme 68.

Scheme 69.

Scheme 70.

253

254

255: 23%-64%

R = PMB or CHPh$_2$

Nu:

Scheme 71.

256 → **257** → **258:** 75%-95%

R₂CuMgBr

THF, -78 °C
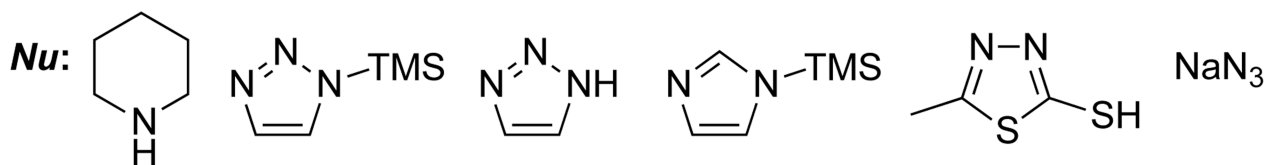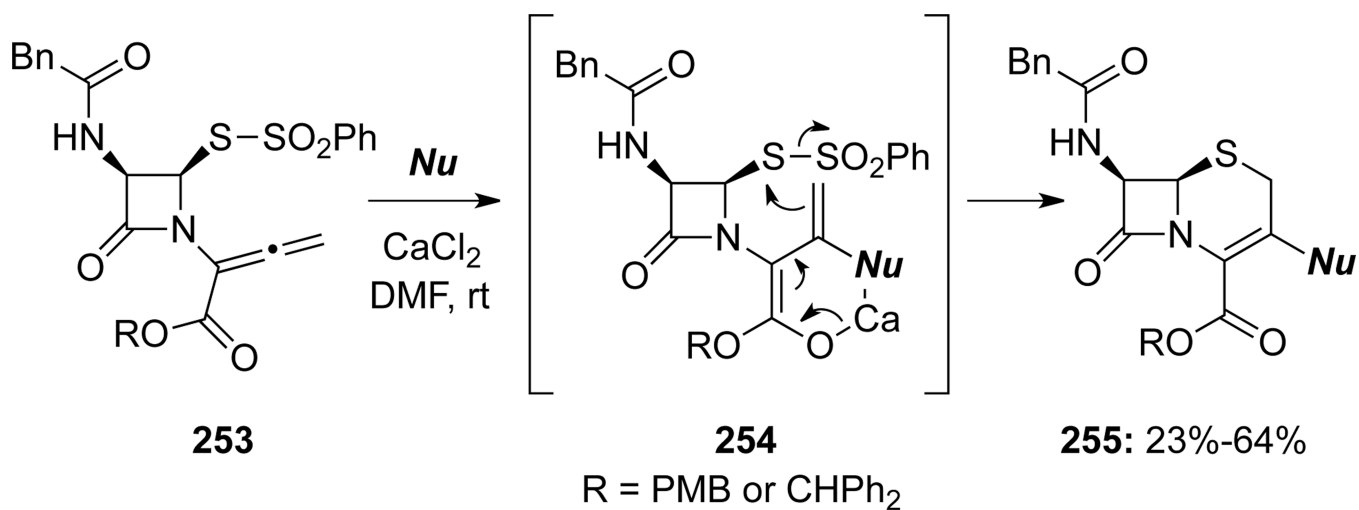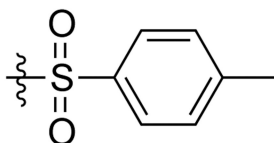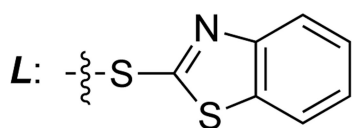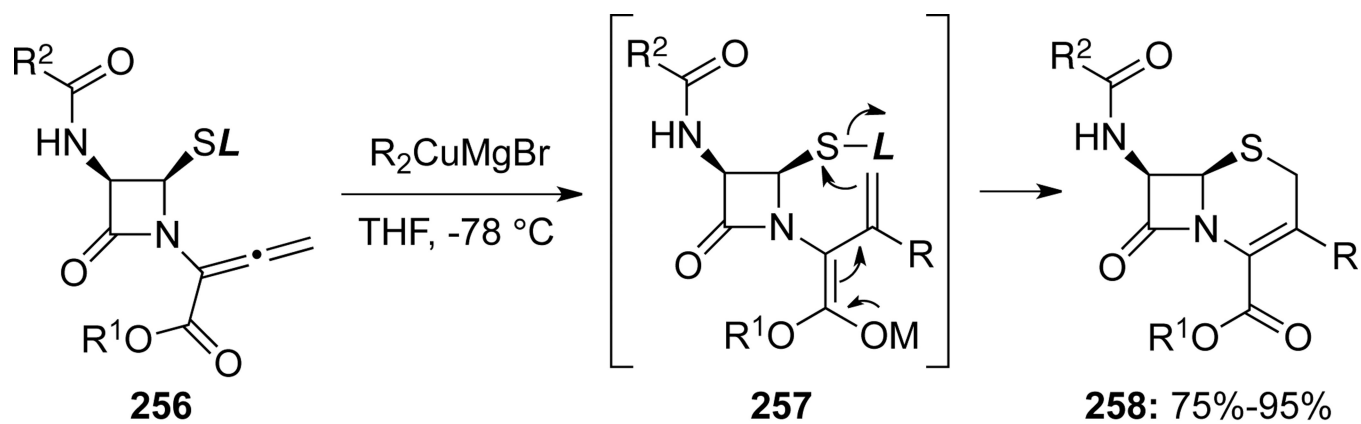
R = Me, Ph or *Z*-propenyl
R¹ = CHPh₂, R² = CH₂OPh

L:

Scheme 72.

259: R = CH₂OPh

LiBr or LiCl in THF or NMP
0 °C to rt

Li-X

X = Ts or

260

R¹O₂C

262

Li-X

LiBr

1,4-add/eliminat

261

262a: R¹ =PNB [65%]   **262b:** R¹ = CHPh₂ [61%]   **262c:** R¹ = CHPh₂ [31%]
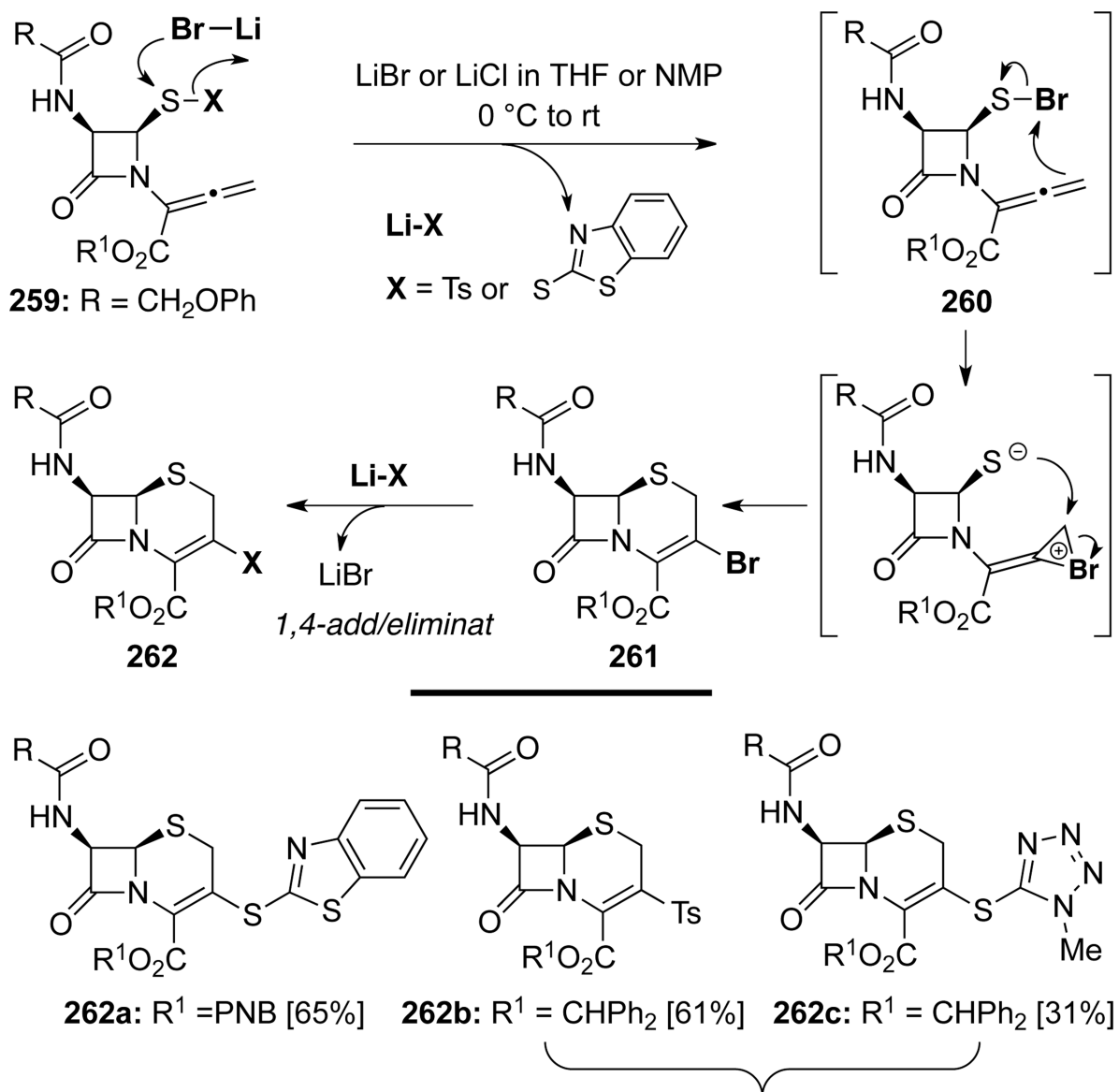
Both can be derived from **259** where X = Ts:
262b via using 3.8 equiv LiBr;
and **262c** via using 2.0 equiv LiBr with
excess Na-2-mercapto-tetrazolate

Scheme 73.
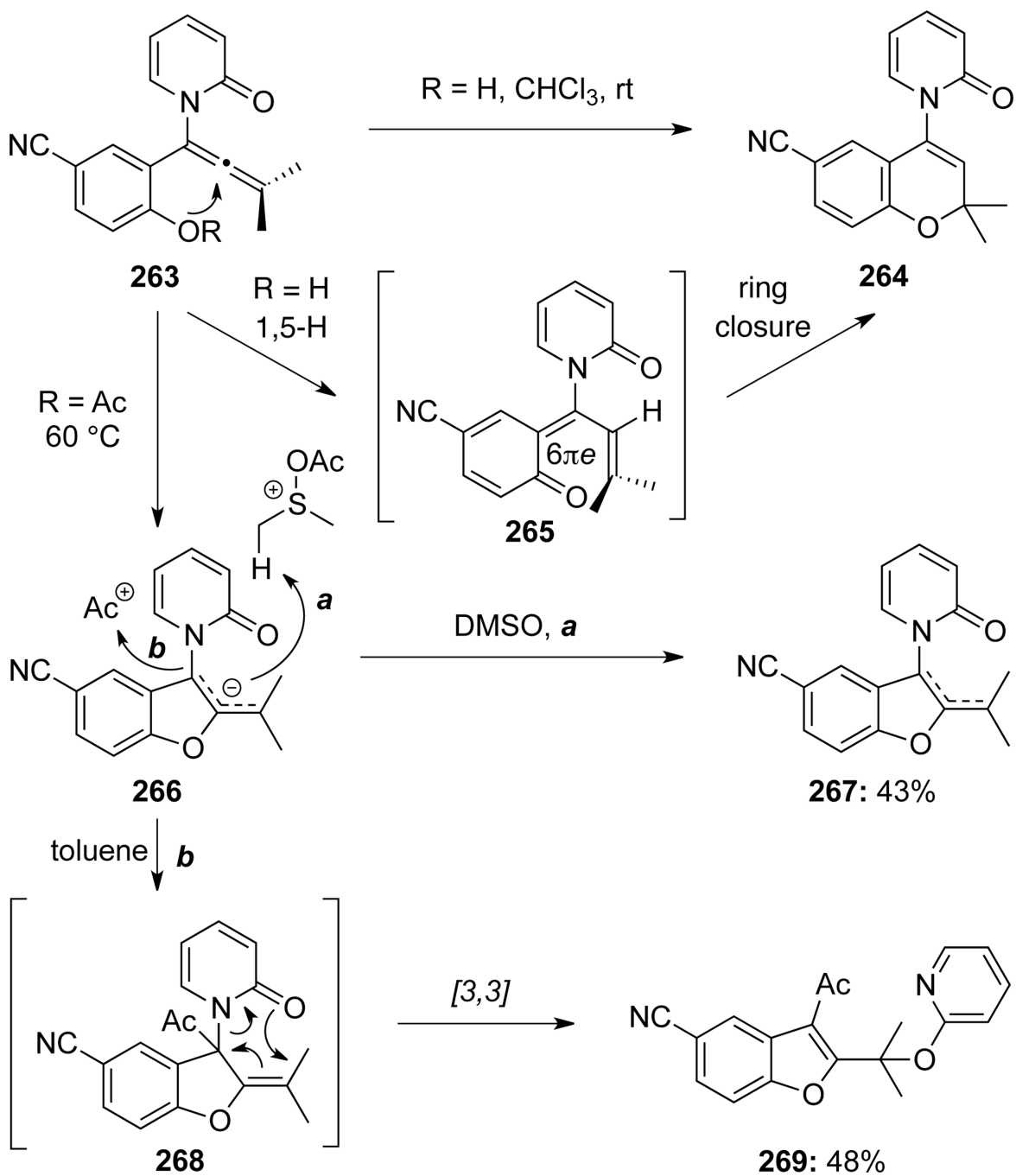
Scheme 74.
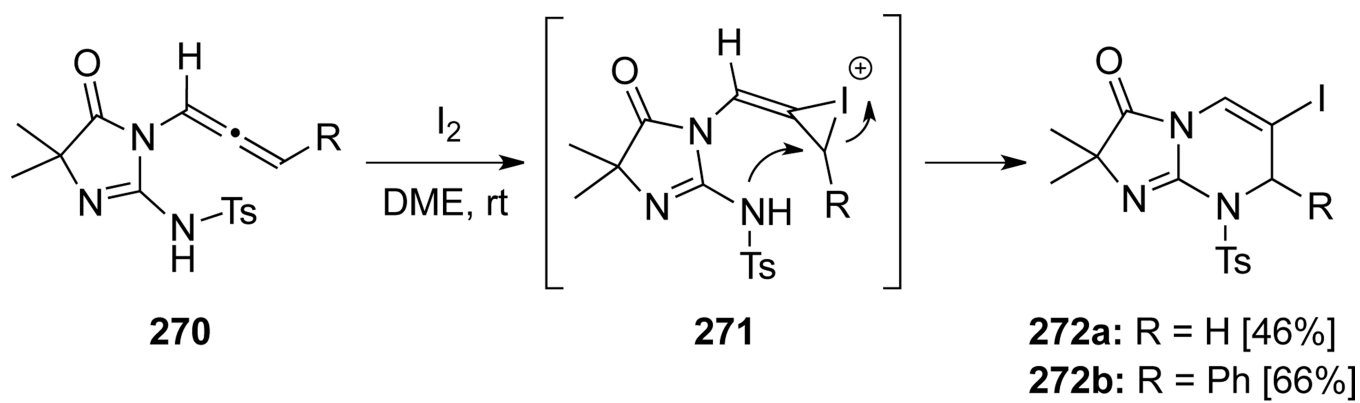
Scheme 75.
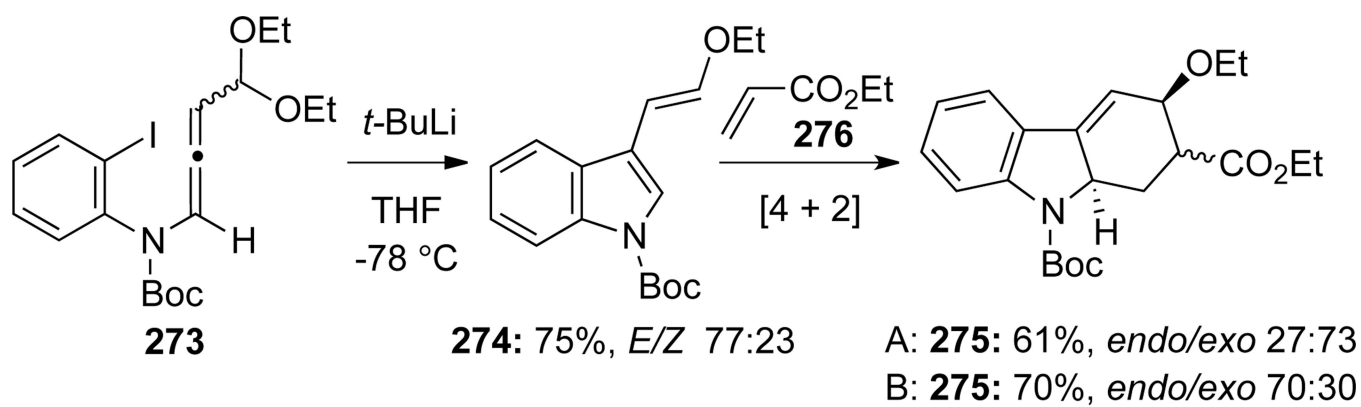
For [4 + 2]: Method A: toluene, 110 °C; Method B: THF, rt, 12 Kbar

Scheme 76.

R = aryl, *c*-hex, or *i*-Pr

Scheme 77.

Scheme 78.

Ar = aryl; R = H, alkyl, alkoxyl, or halo

285

286

287

288

289

290: 44%-77%

Scheme 79.

$Ar^1 =$

Scheme 80.

Scheme 81.

301 → **302** → **303**

1.2 equiv *t*-BuOK

THF, rt to 50°C

loss of Boc
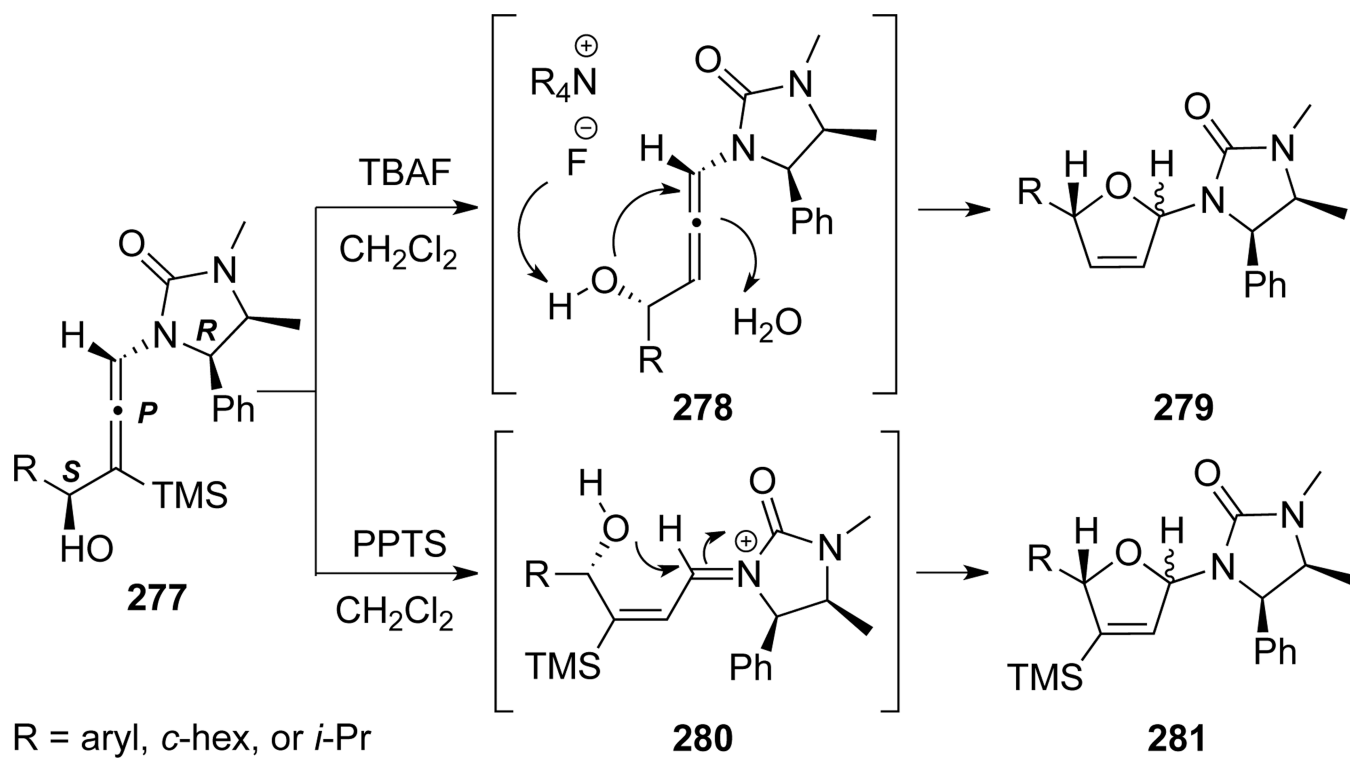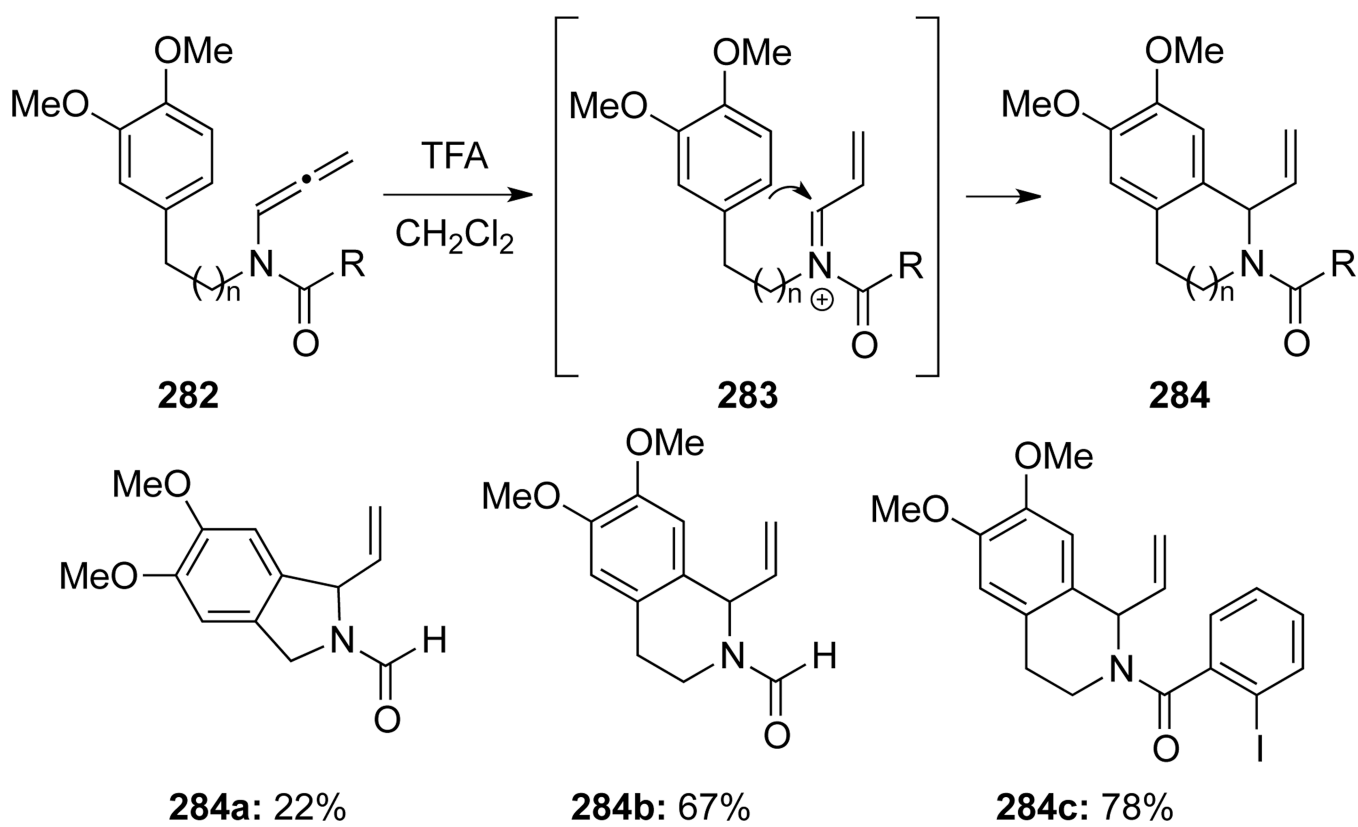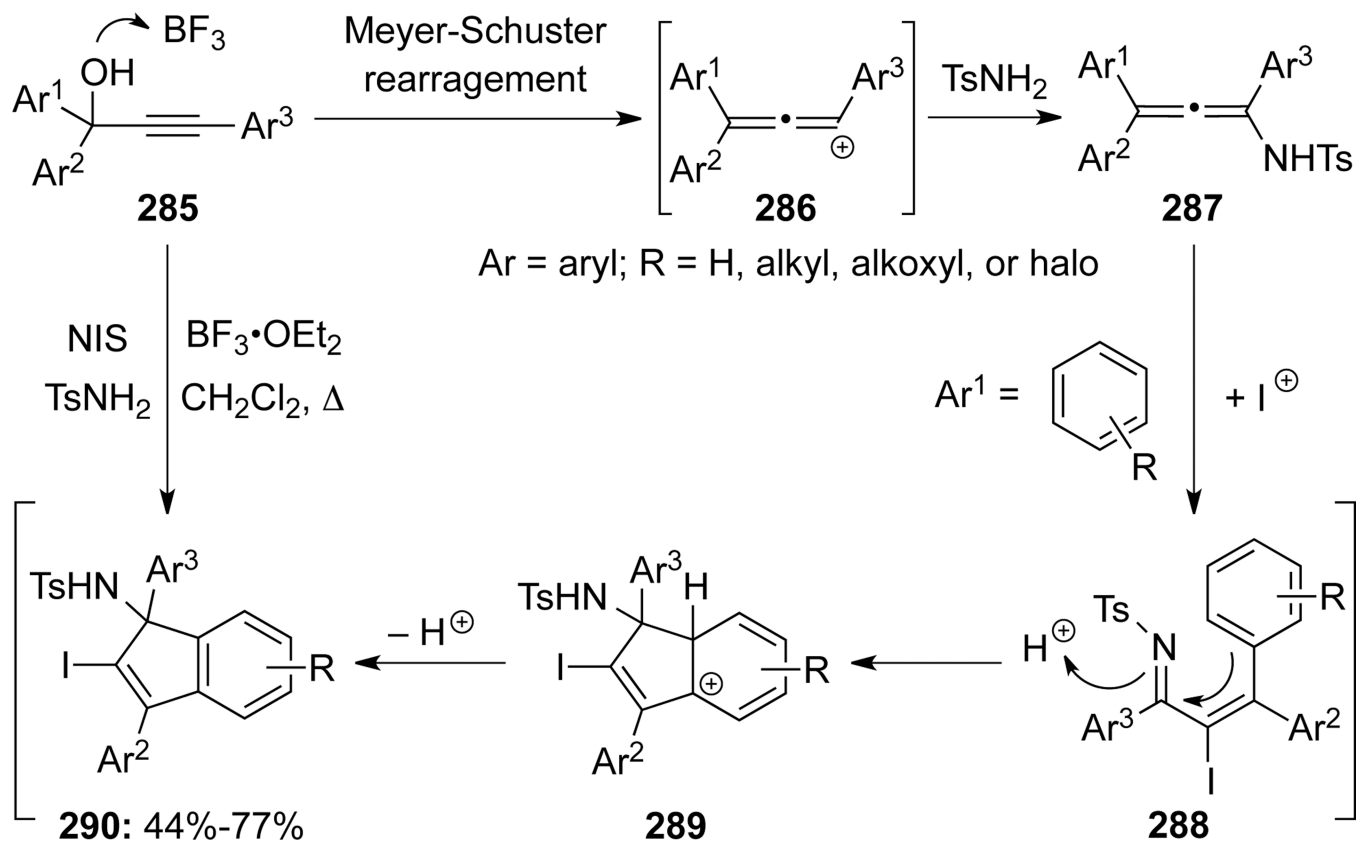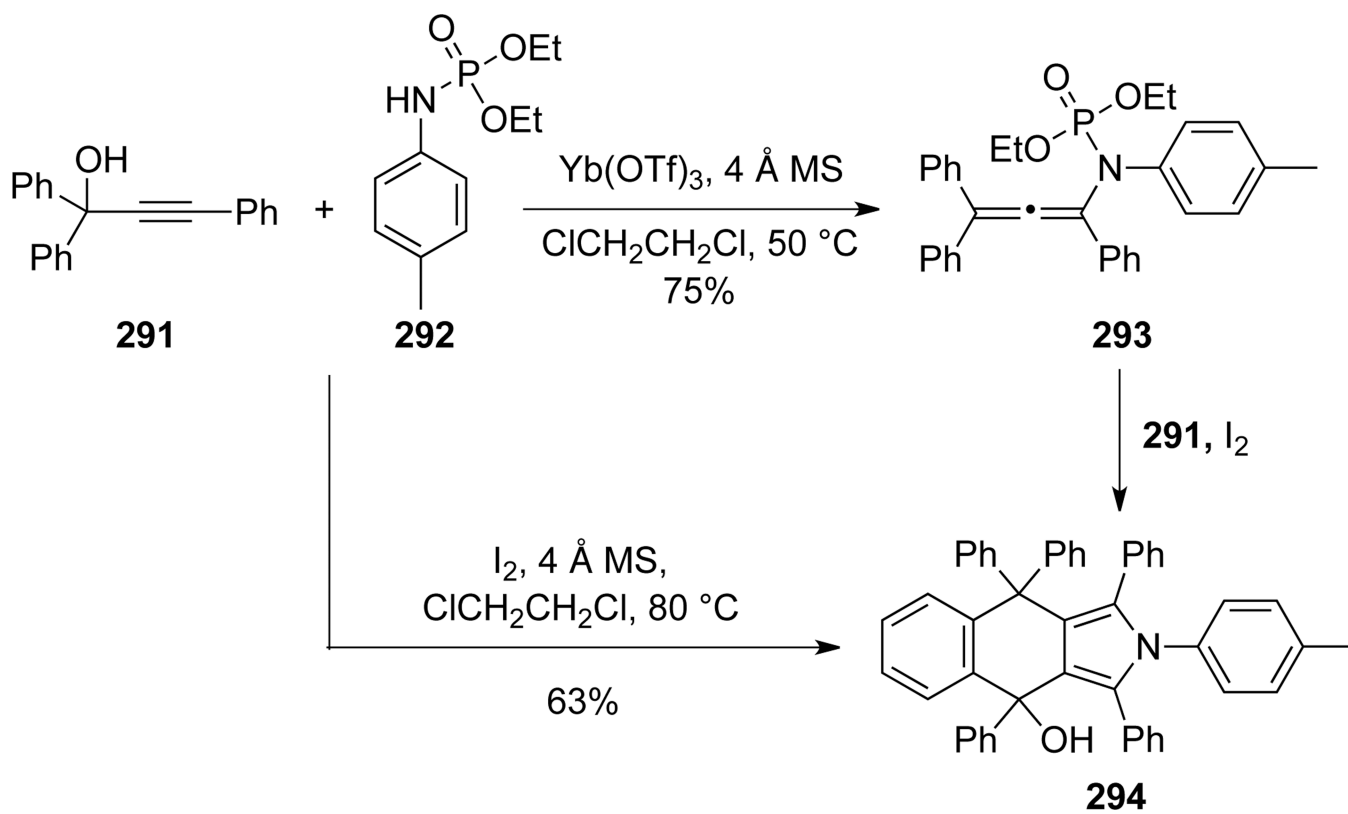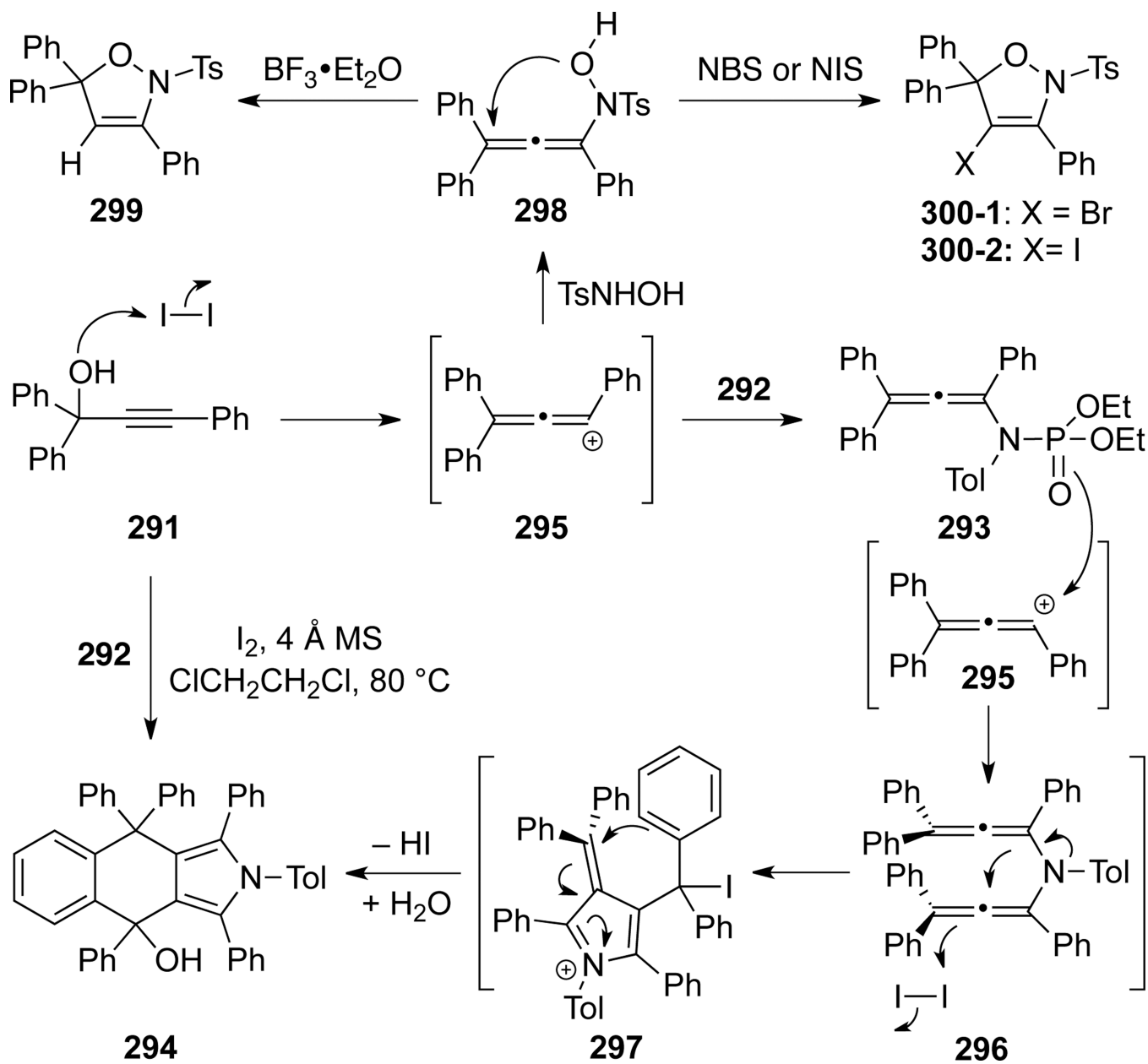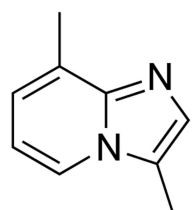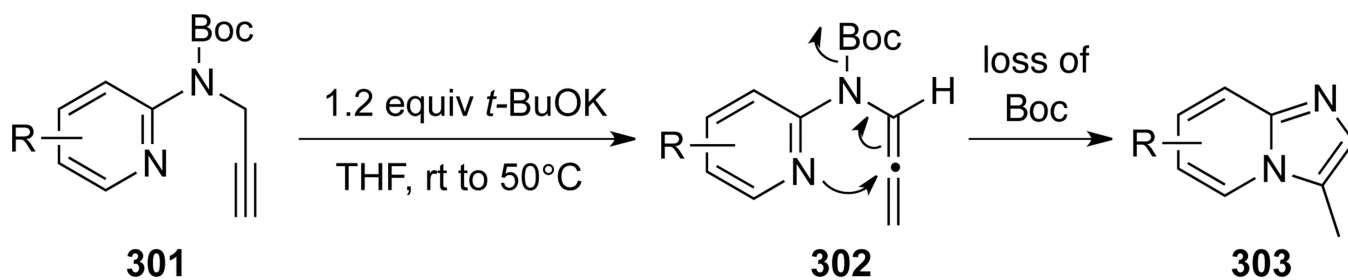
303a: 53%
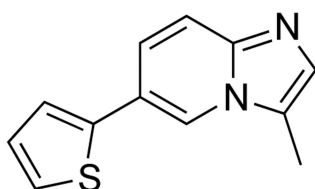
303b: 68%
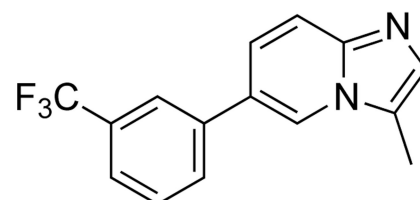
303c: 58%
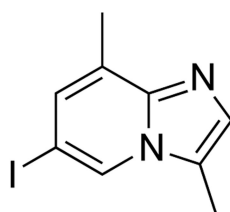
303d: 58%
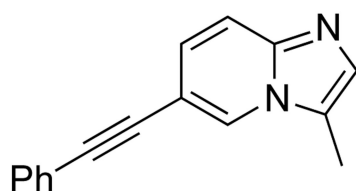
303e: 72%
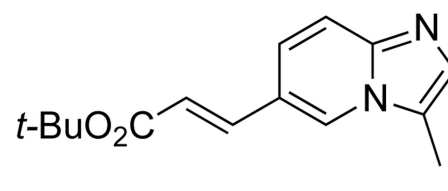
303f: 51%

Scheme 82.

Scheme 83.

Scheme 84.

310: X = I, Br

1.1 equiv *n*-Bu₃SnH
10 mol% Pd(OAc)₂

20 mol% PPh₃
0 °C, THF

311: R = *n*-Bu₃Sn

Pd(0)
O.A.

312: R = *n*-Bu₃Sn

313: R = *n*-Bu₃Sn

Et₄NCl·H₂O

MeCN
80 °C

314

314a: 66%

314b: 52%

314c: 50%

314d-h: n = 5-11 [40%-46%]

314i: 72%

Scheme 85.

Scheme 86.

5 mol% Pd(OAc)$_2$
10 mol% PPh$_3$
2.0 equiv Na$_2$CO$_3$
or Tl$_2$CO$_3$ or Ag$_2$CO$_3$

RB(OH)$_2$
toluene/H$_2$O (2:1)
refluxing

322

323

324: major

325: minor

324a: R = Ph [61%]

324b: R = [60%]

324c: R = Ph [54%]

Scheme 87.

10 mol% Pd$_2$(dba)$_3$
40 mol% tri(2-furyl)-phosphine

toluene, 110 °C

322

323

n-Bu$_3$SnR
Ag$_2$CO$_3$

324   +   **325**

324d/325d: R = 2-furyl [70% (6:1)]
324e/325e: R = CH=CH$_2$ [60% (1:1)]

Scheme 88.

Scheme 89.

10 mol% Pd(OAc)$_2$
20 mol% tri(2-furyl)-phosphine

toluene, 50 °C
K$_2$CO$_3$, Ag$_2$CO$_3$, or Cs$_2$CO$_3$

330

331

intramolecular trapping

332a: 54%

332

332b: 63%

332c: 50%

332d: R = CO$_2$Me [45%]

Scheme 90.

Scheme 91.

337

10 mol% Pd(OAc)$_2$
20 mol% PPh$_3$

NaOAc, DMSO
85-90 °C

338

338a: 52%

338b: 46%

337c

+

10 mol% Pd(OAc)$_2$
20 mol% PPh$_3$

NaOAc, DMSO
85-90 °C

339: 29%

+

340: 19% [*E/Z* 2:1]

Scheme 92.

Scheme 93.

343a: R = Ts [88%]
343b: R = Boc [98%]

343c: 82%

343d: R^1 = Bn [98%]
343e: R^1 = TMS [71%]

343f: 61%

Scheme 94.

348

349

10 mol% Pd(OAc)$_2$

15 mol% P(2-Tol)$_3$
K$_2$CO$_3$, DMF

350

351

or

352

353

354a: 81%

354b: 99%

354

355 not observed

Scheme 95.

356

5 mol% PdCl$_2$(PPh$_3$)$_2$

Zn, THF, 80 °C

357

358

360

359

361

362: 78%

Scheme 96.

Scheme 97.

367 → **368**

5 mol% Pd(OAc)₂
1.05 equiv BQ
THF, 50 °C

BQ =

368a: 94%   **368b:** 64%   **368c:** 95%   **368d:** 86%

367a →

5 mol% Pd(OAc)₂
5 mol% **370** / O₂
1 equiv maleimide, THF, 50 °C

369: 93%, 92% *endo*
[*trans/cis* 85:15]

Maleimide =

370

Scheme 98.

Scheme 99.

Scheme 100.

Scheme 101.
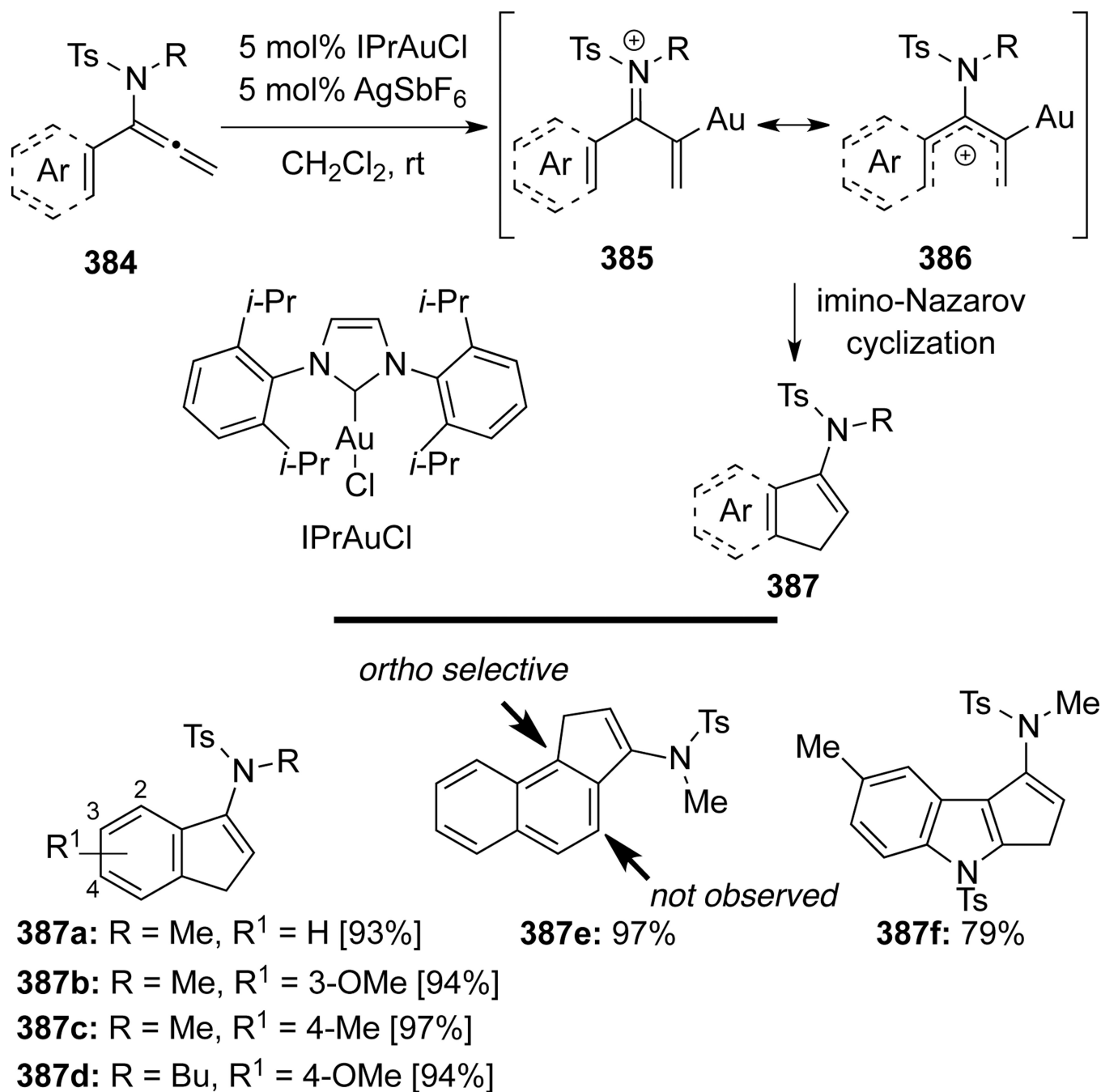
Scheme 102.
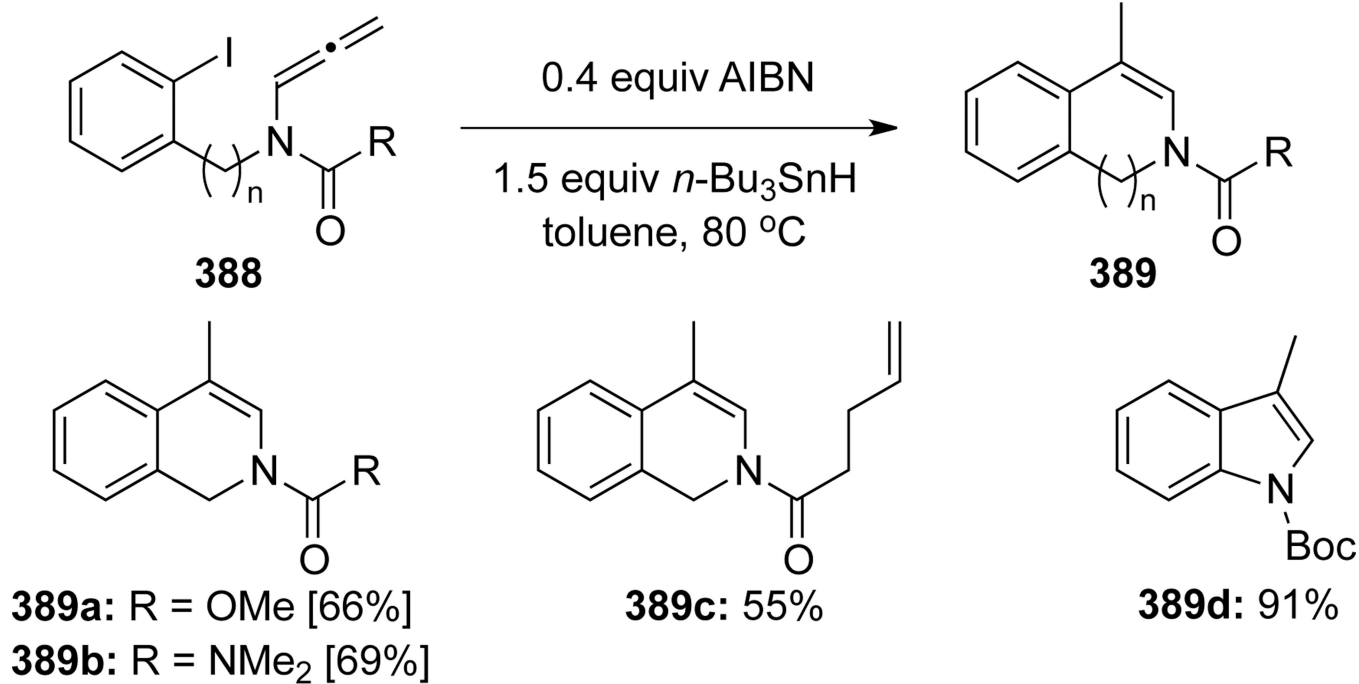
Scheme 103.
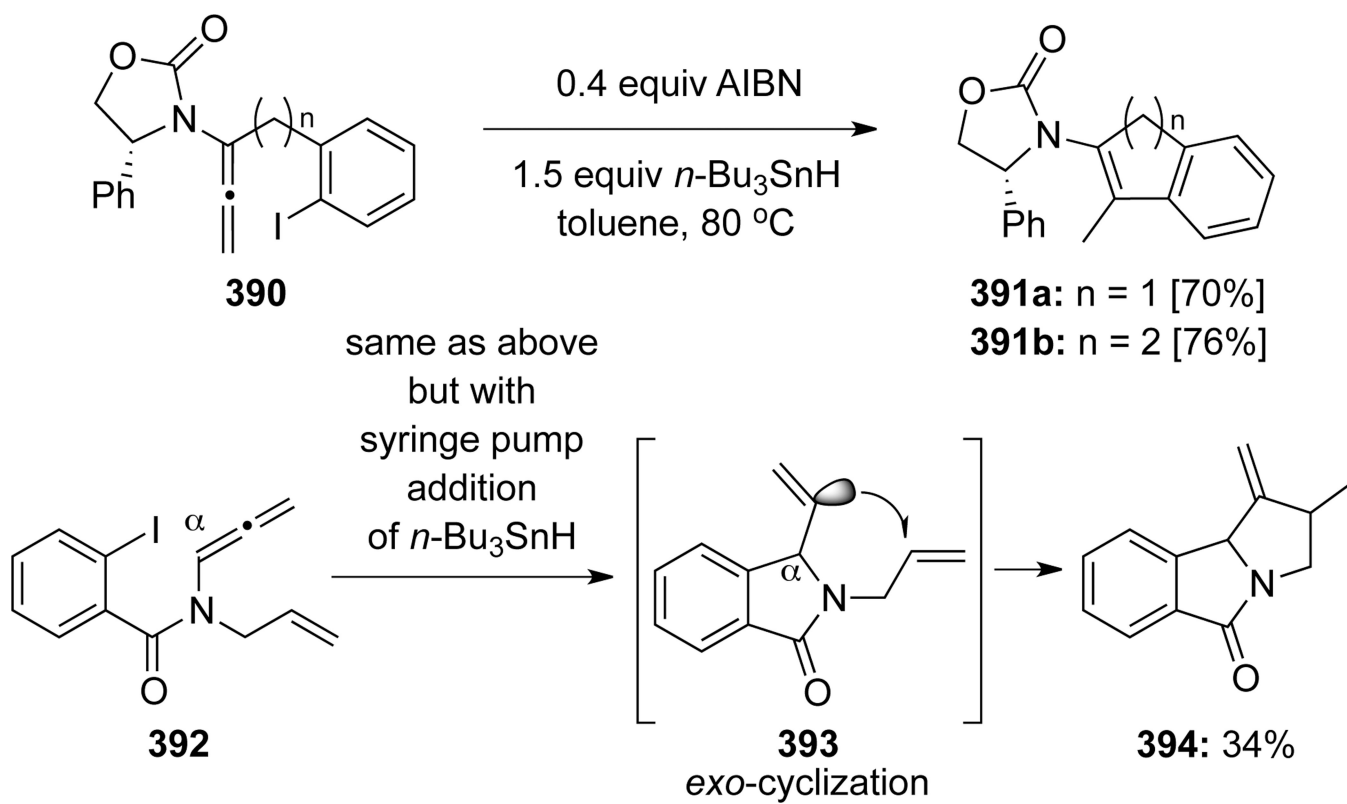
Scheme 104.
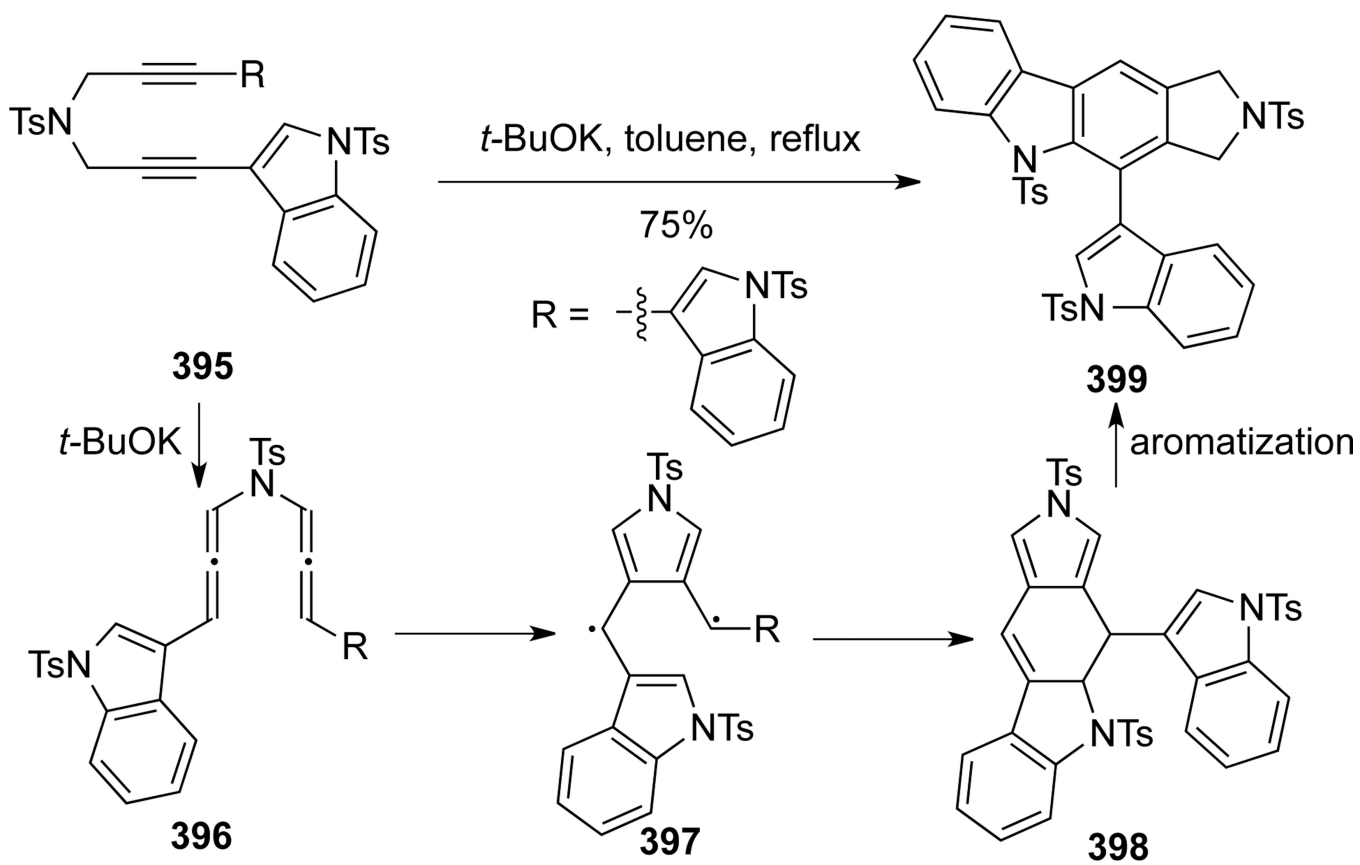
Scheme 105.
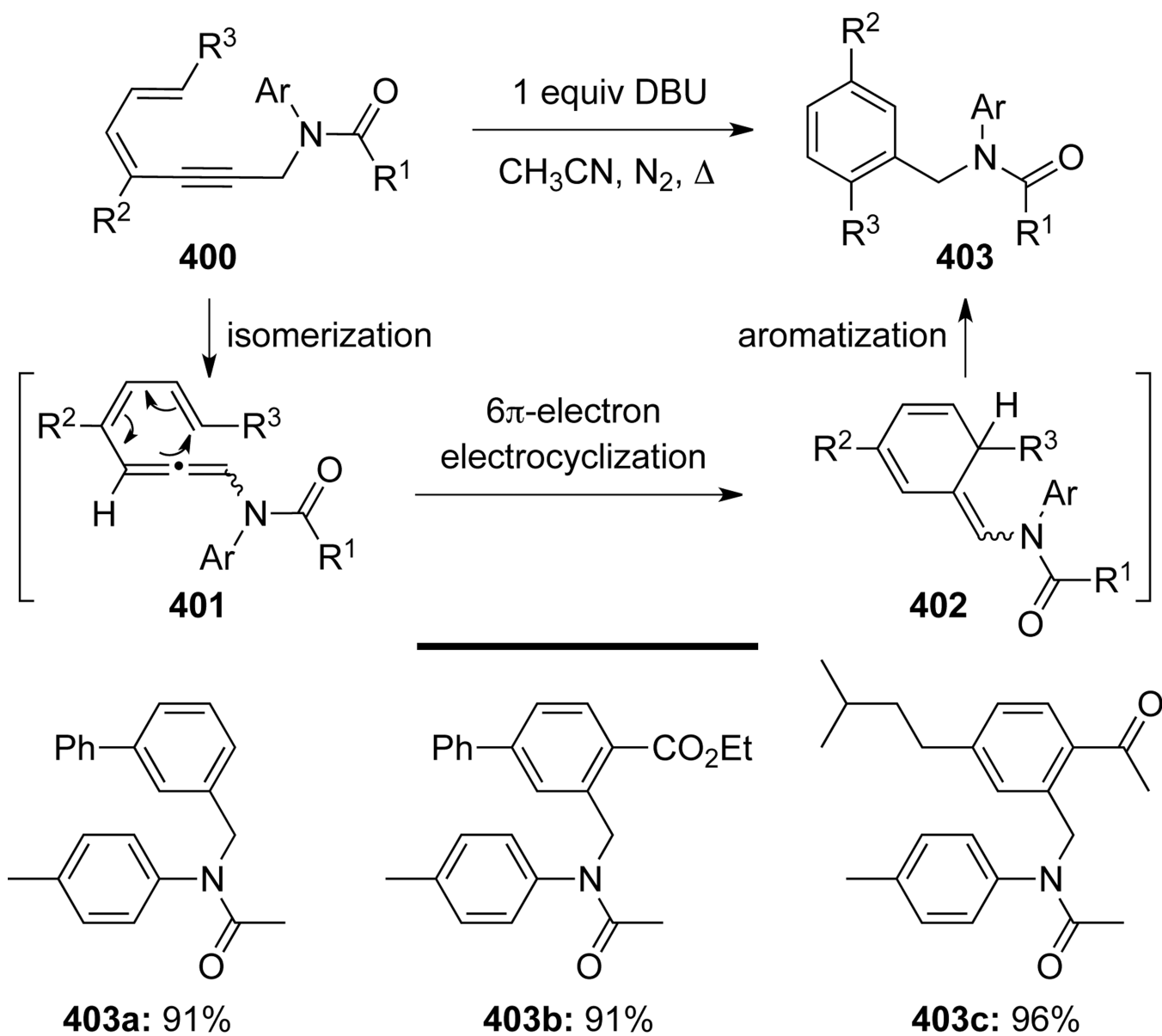
Scheme 106.
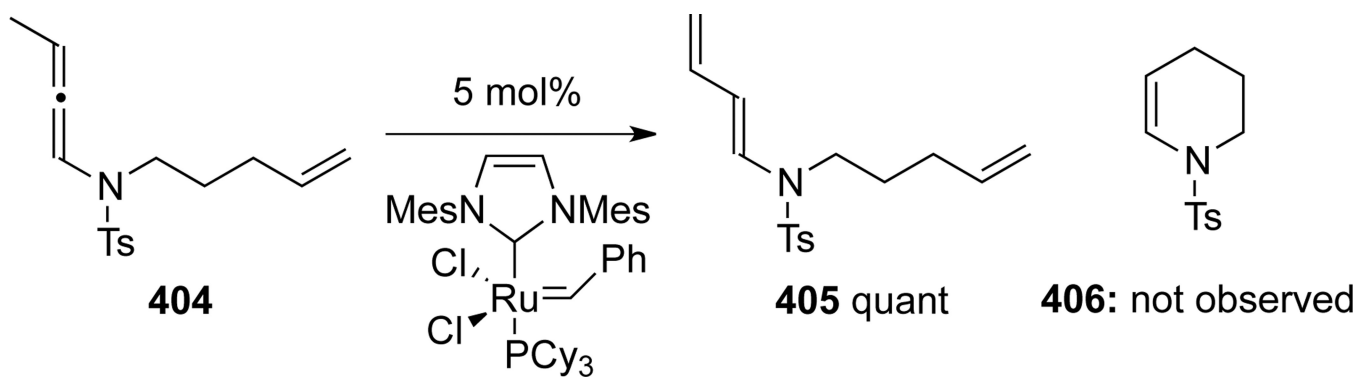
Scheme 107.
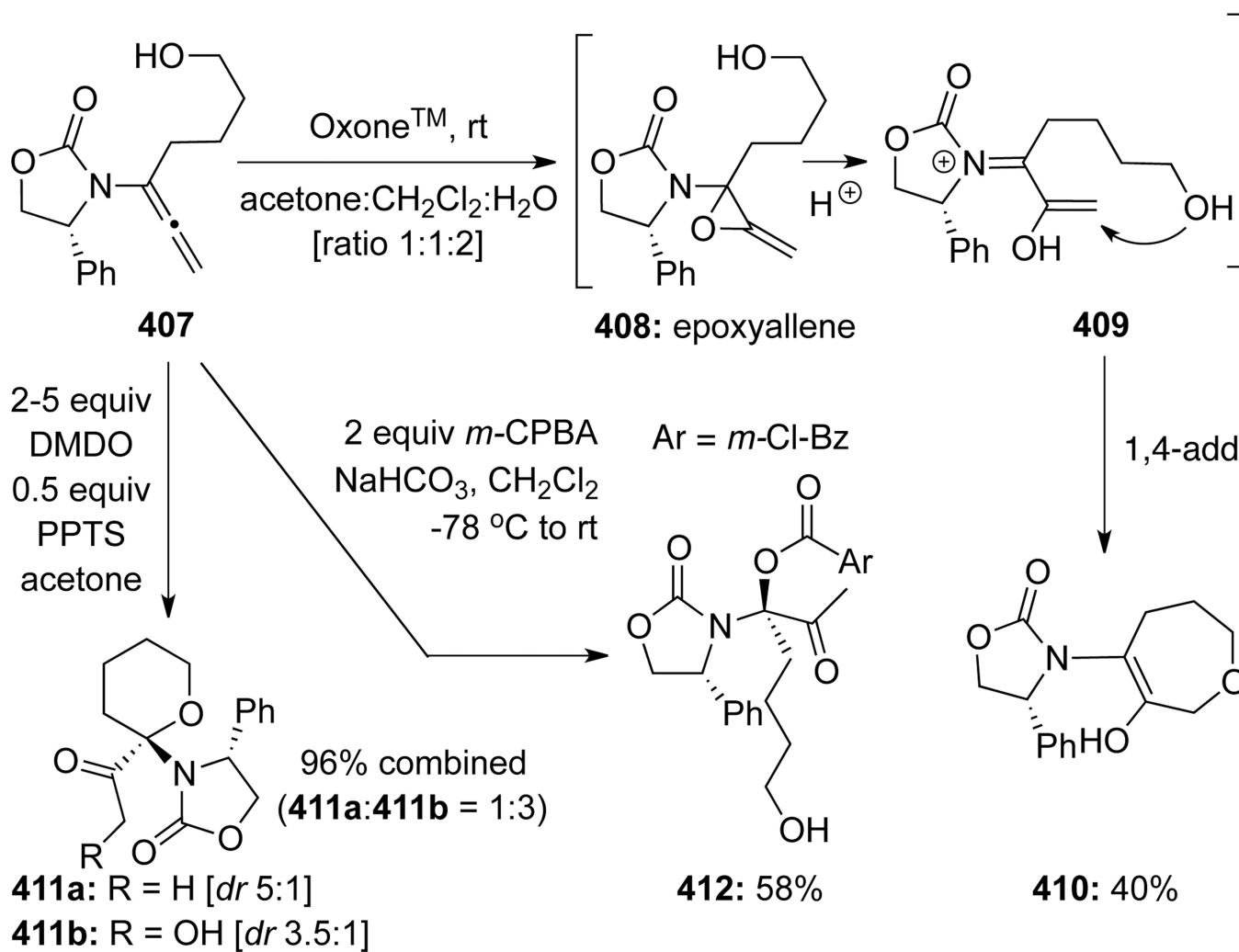
Scheme 108.
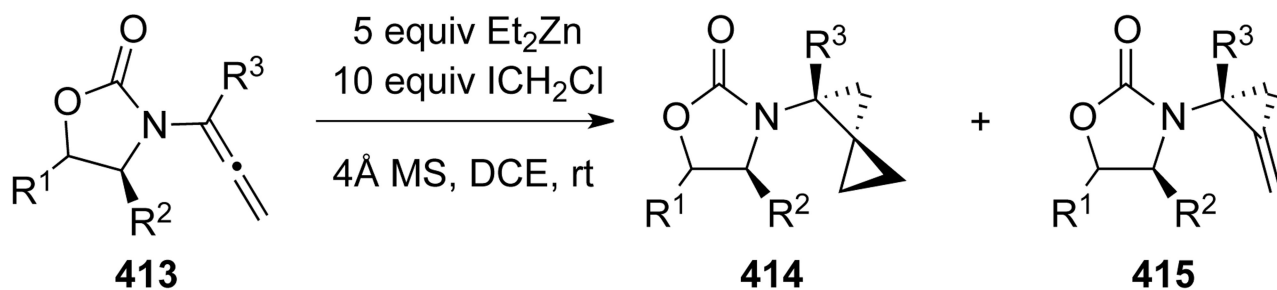
R³ = H: bis-cyclopropyl product **414** only

414a: R² = Bn [50%; *dr* 3:2]   **414c:** R² = Me [47%; *dr* 1:1]   **414e:** 30%, *dr* 2.1:1
414b: R² = Ph [60%; *dr* 3:2]   **414d:** R² = Ph [54%; *dr* 1:1]
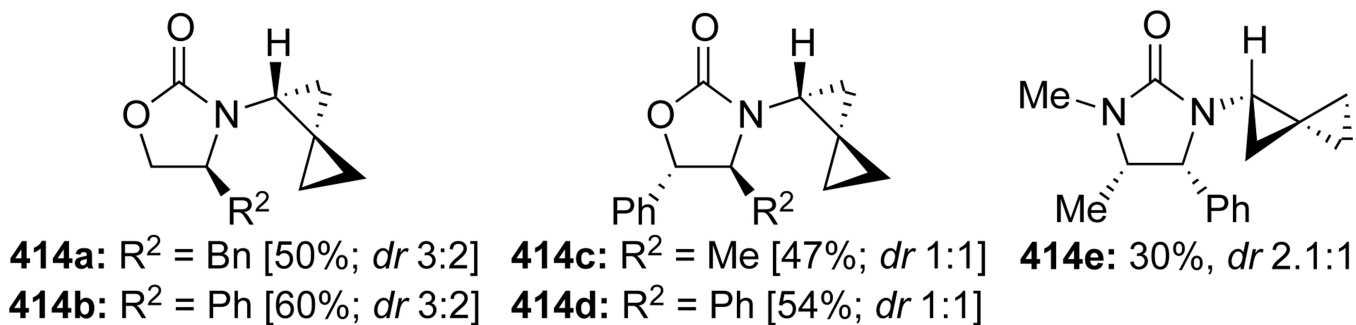
R³ ≠ H: a mixture of mono- and bis-cycloprop products

414f: 29%   **415f:** 42%   **414g:** 26%, *dr* 3.5:1   **415g:** 38%, *dr* 3.5:1
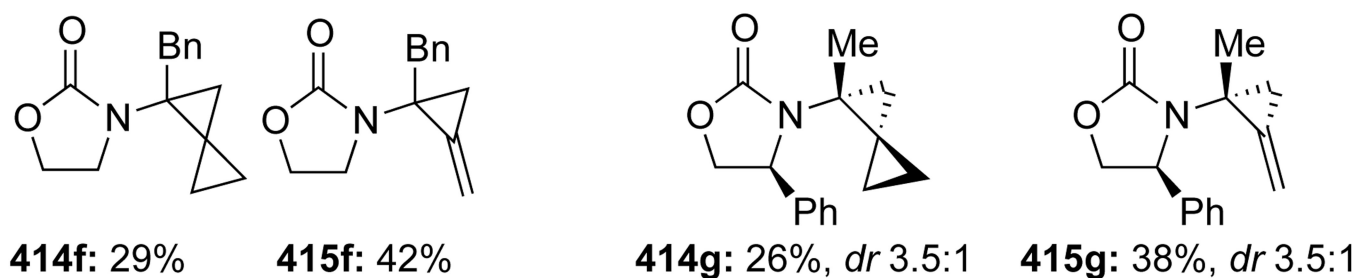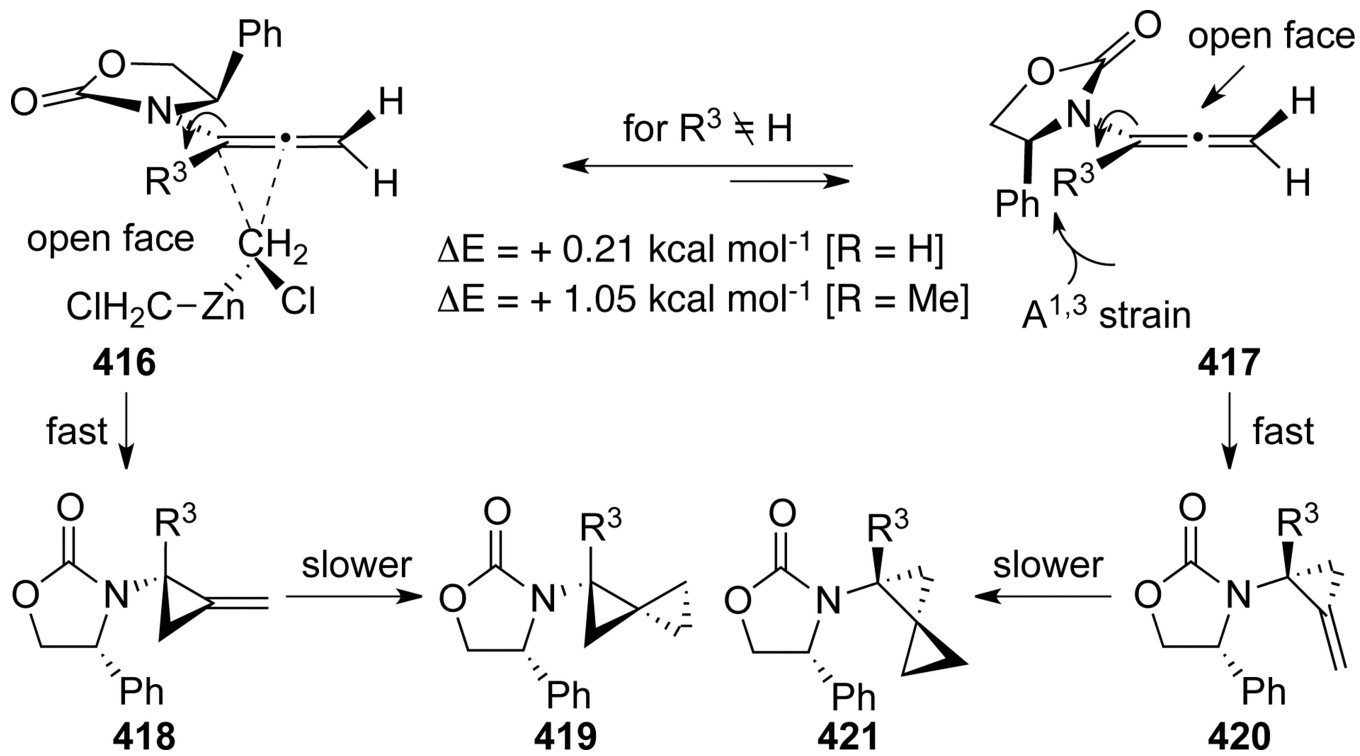
Scheme 109.

Scheme 110.

Scheme 111.

Scheme 112.

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434
n = 1, 2, or 3

435

110 °C
toluene

436a: n = 1 [45%]
436b: n = 2 [34%]
436c: n = 3 [28%]
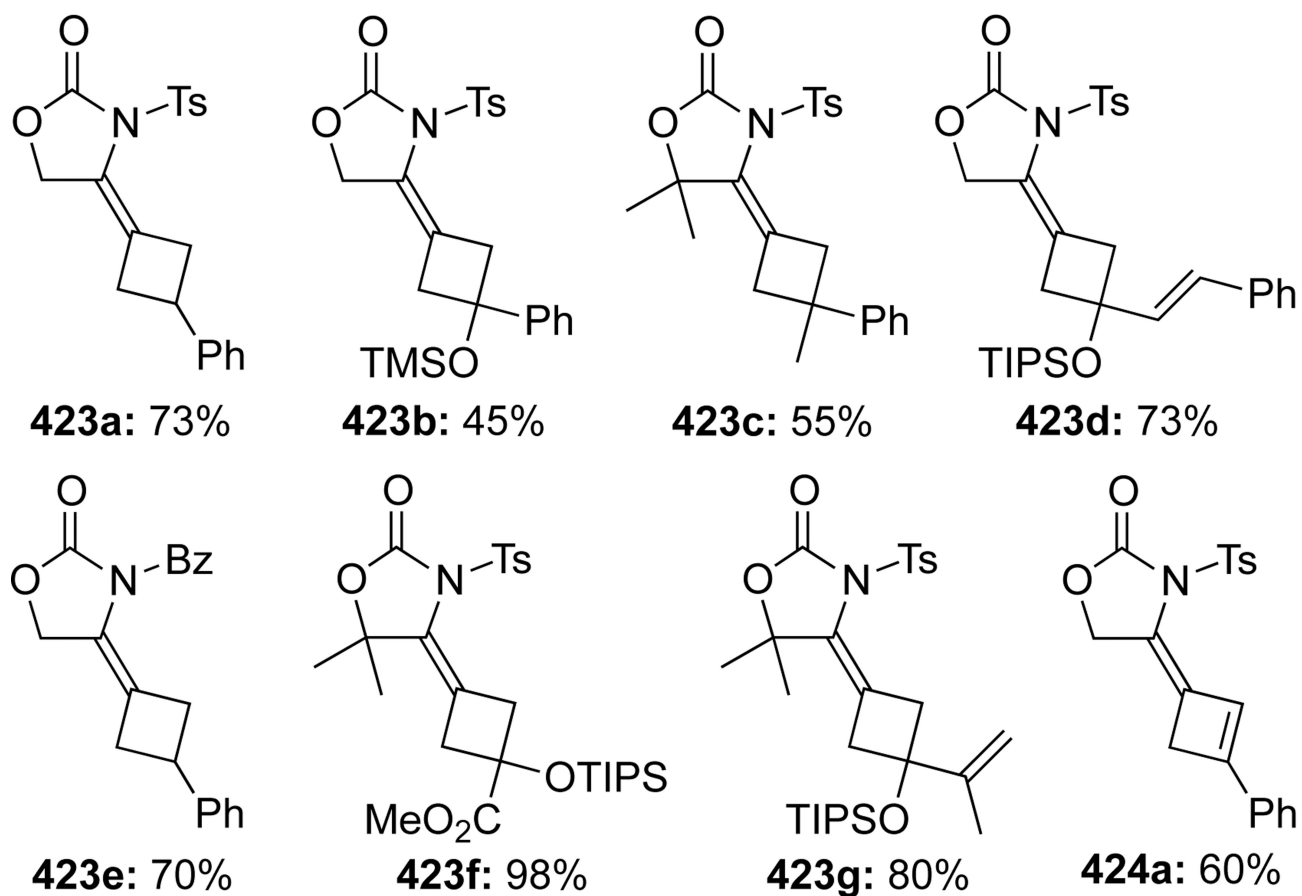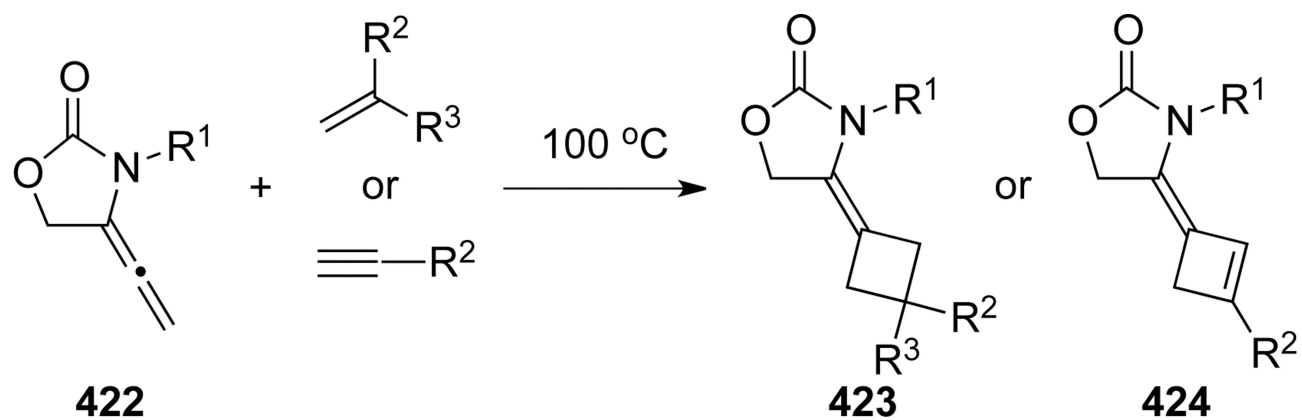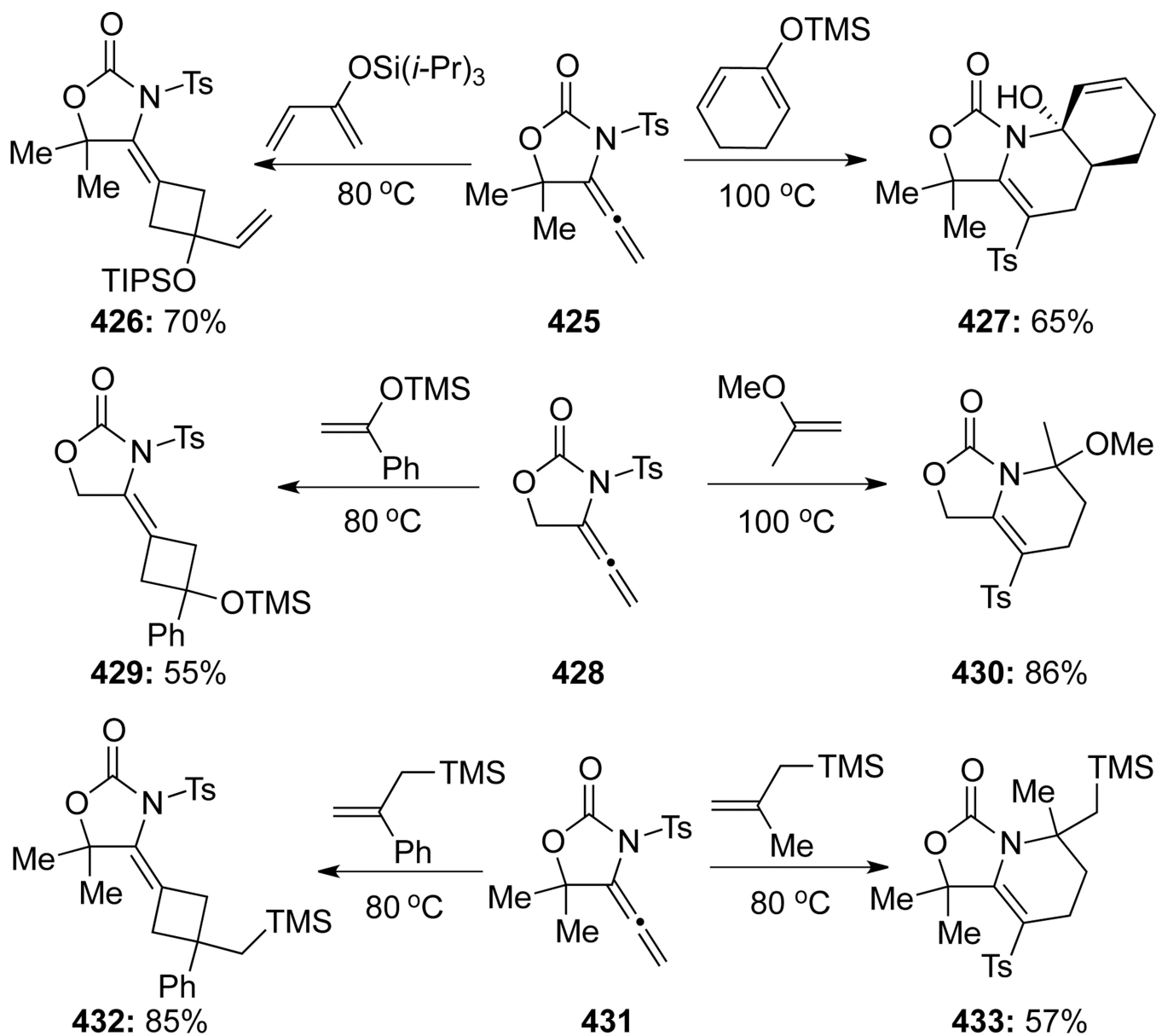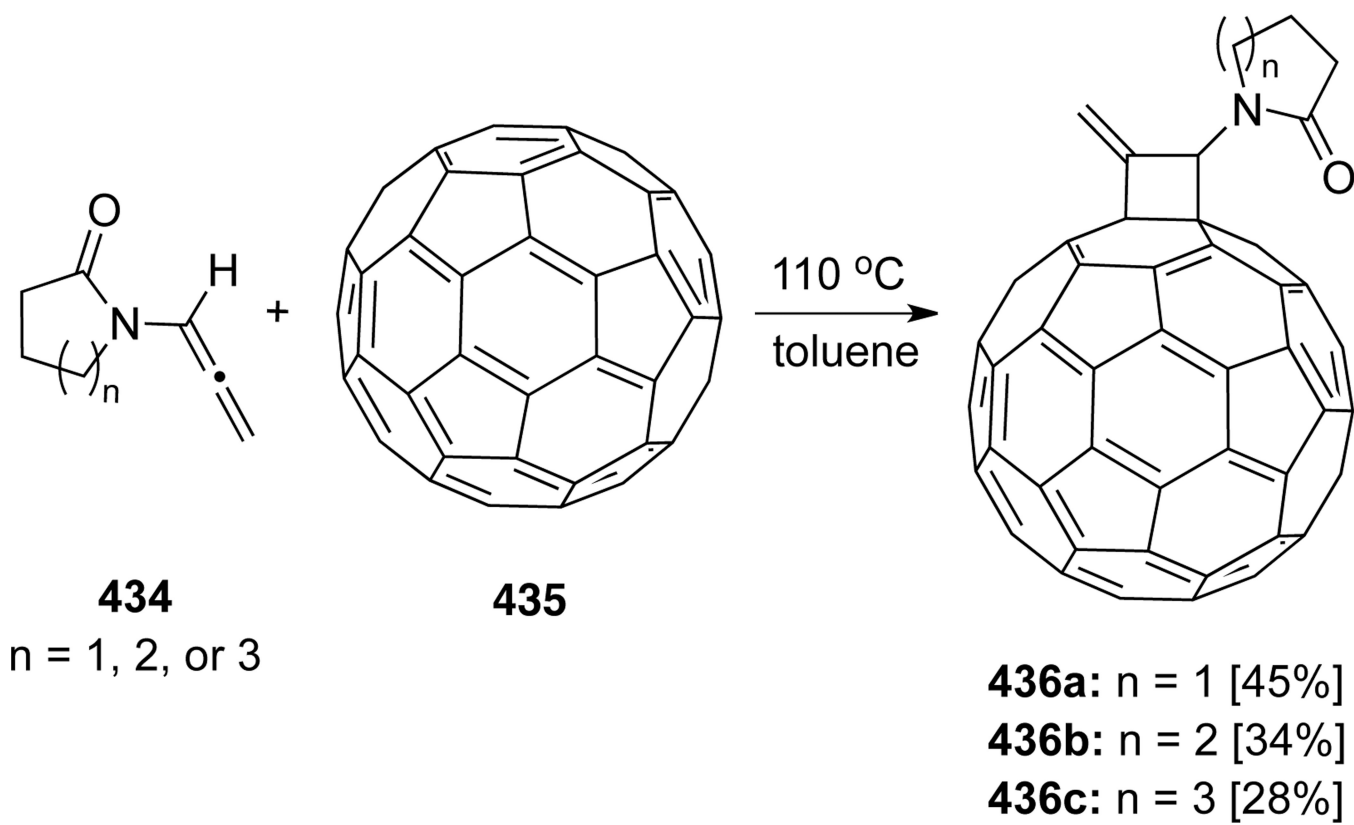
Scheme 113.
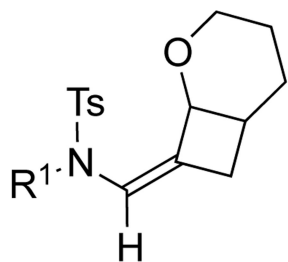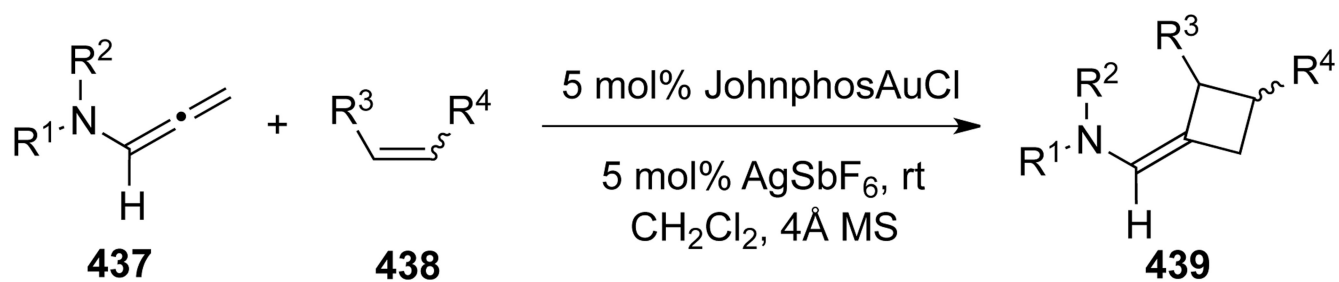
Scheme 114.

439a: R^1 = *n*-Bu [61%]
439b: R^1 = 1,3,5-Me$_3$C$_6$H$_2$ [85%]
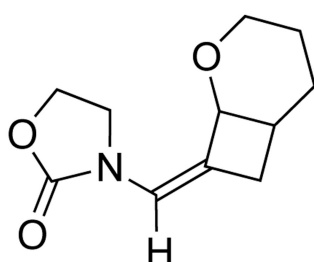
439c: 82%
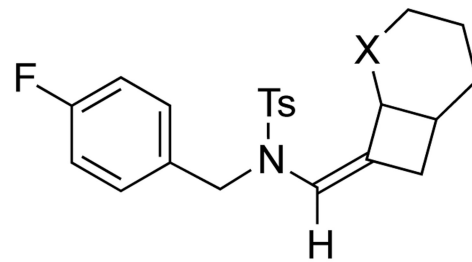
439d: X = O [87%]
439e: X = NBoc [78%]
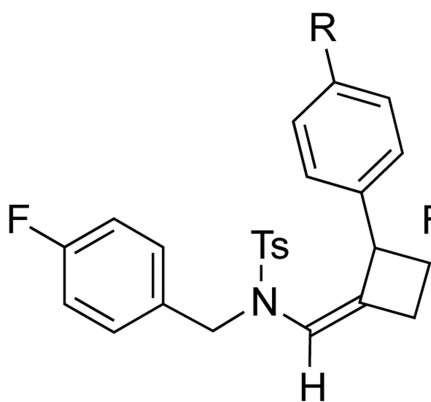
439f: R = OEt [83%]
439g: R = *t*-Bu [68%]
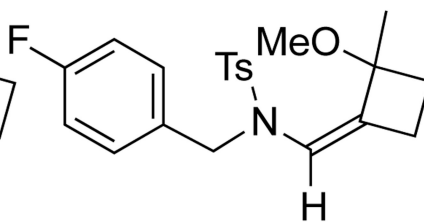
439h: 69%
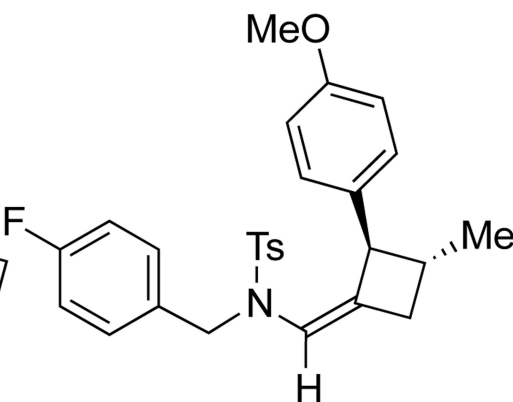
439i: 85%
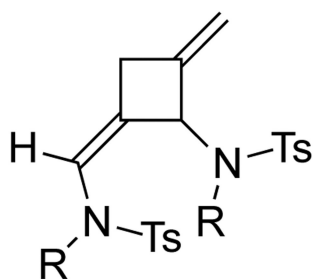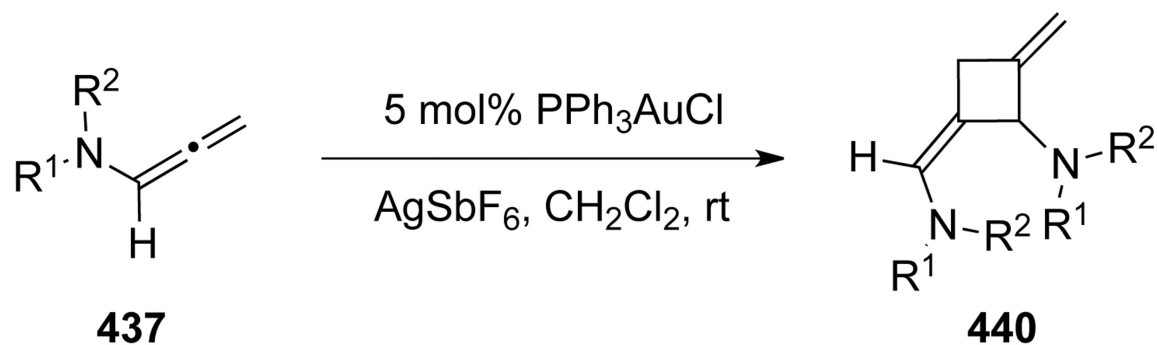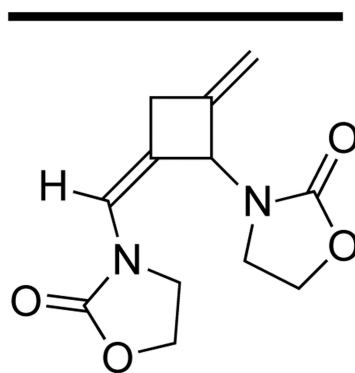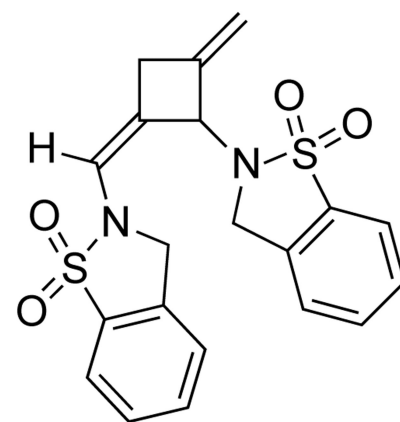
Scheme 115.
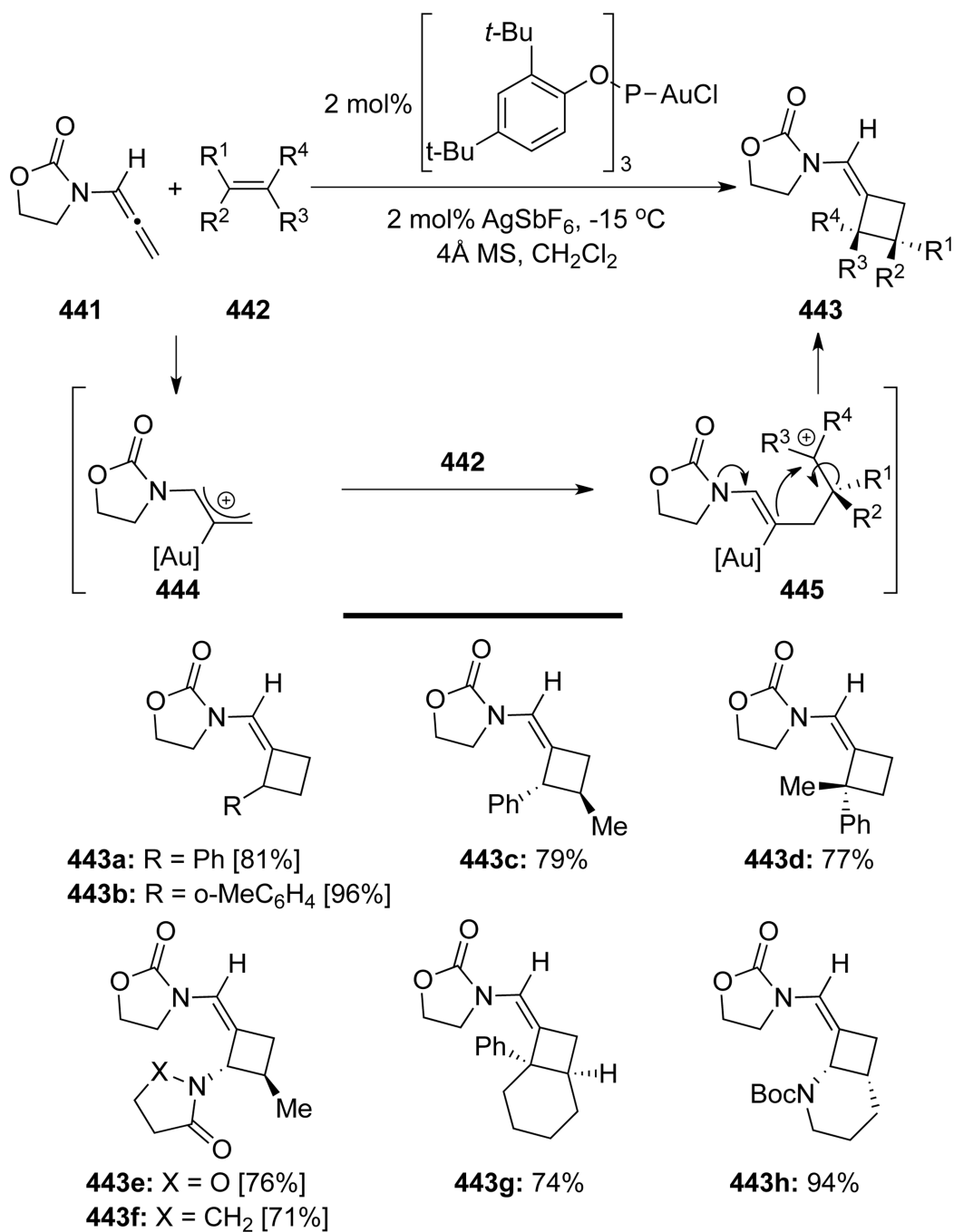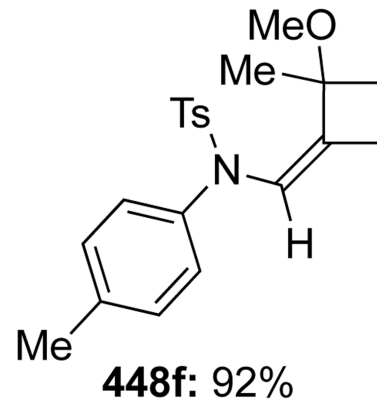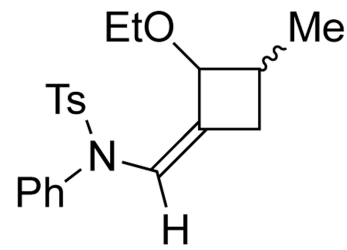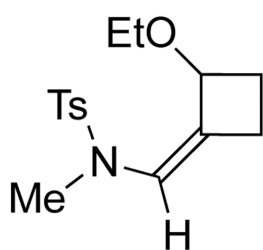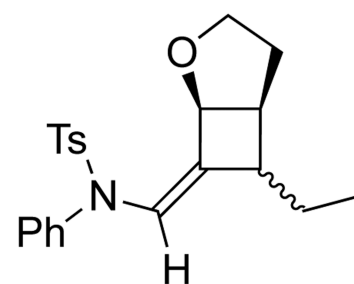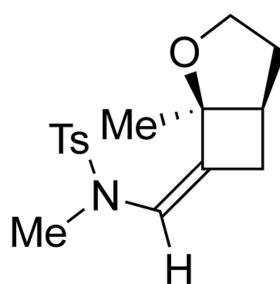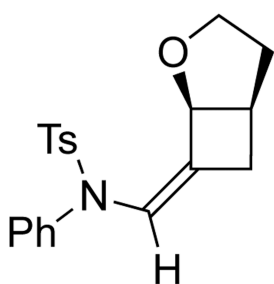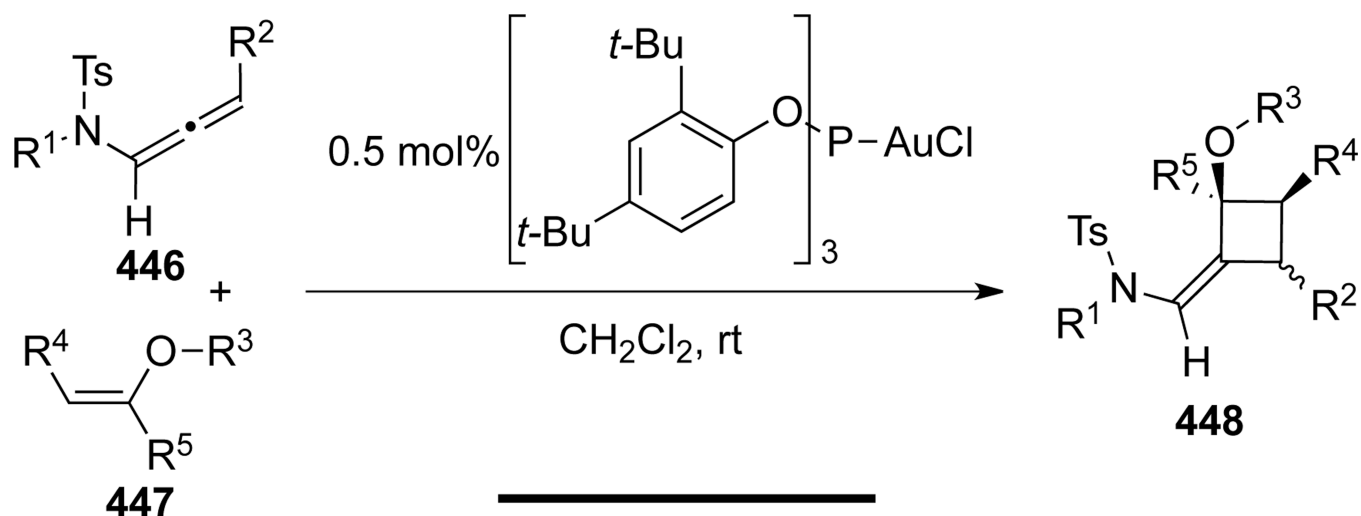
Scheme 116.

Scheme 117.

Scheme 118.

Scheme 119.

455

Mo(MeCN)$_3$(CO)$_3$

456: 43%

1.5 equiv Co(CO)$_8$
MeCN, NMO

no PK product

Scheme 120.

Scheme 121.

Scheme 122.

464 + **465** → rt →

466a: R = H [50%]
466b: R = Me [60%]
466c: R = −(CH$_2$)$_4$− [66%]
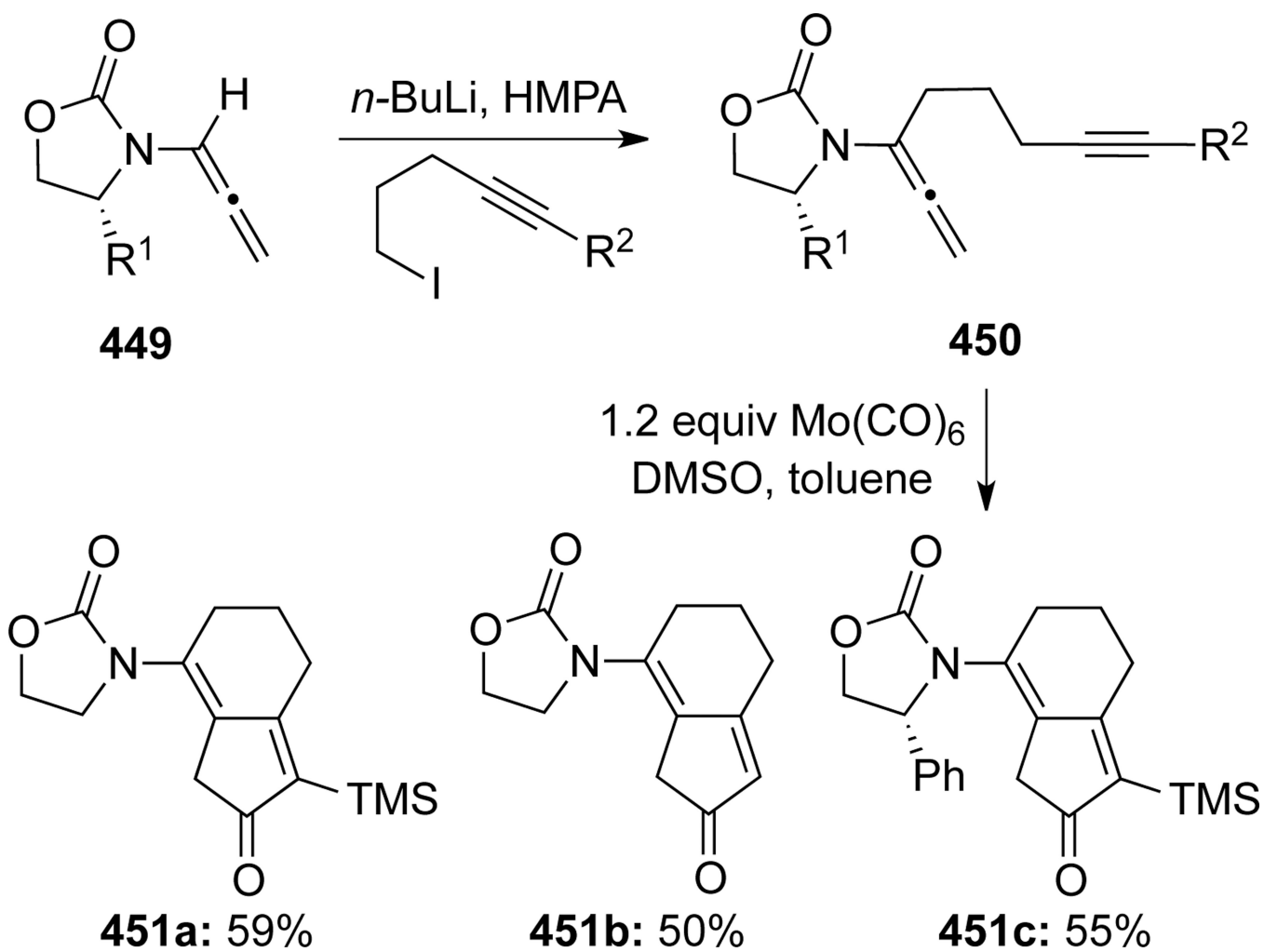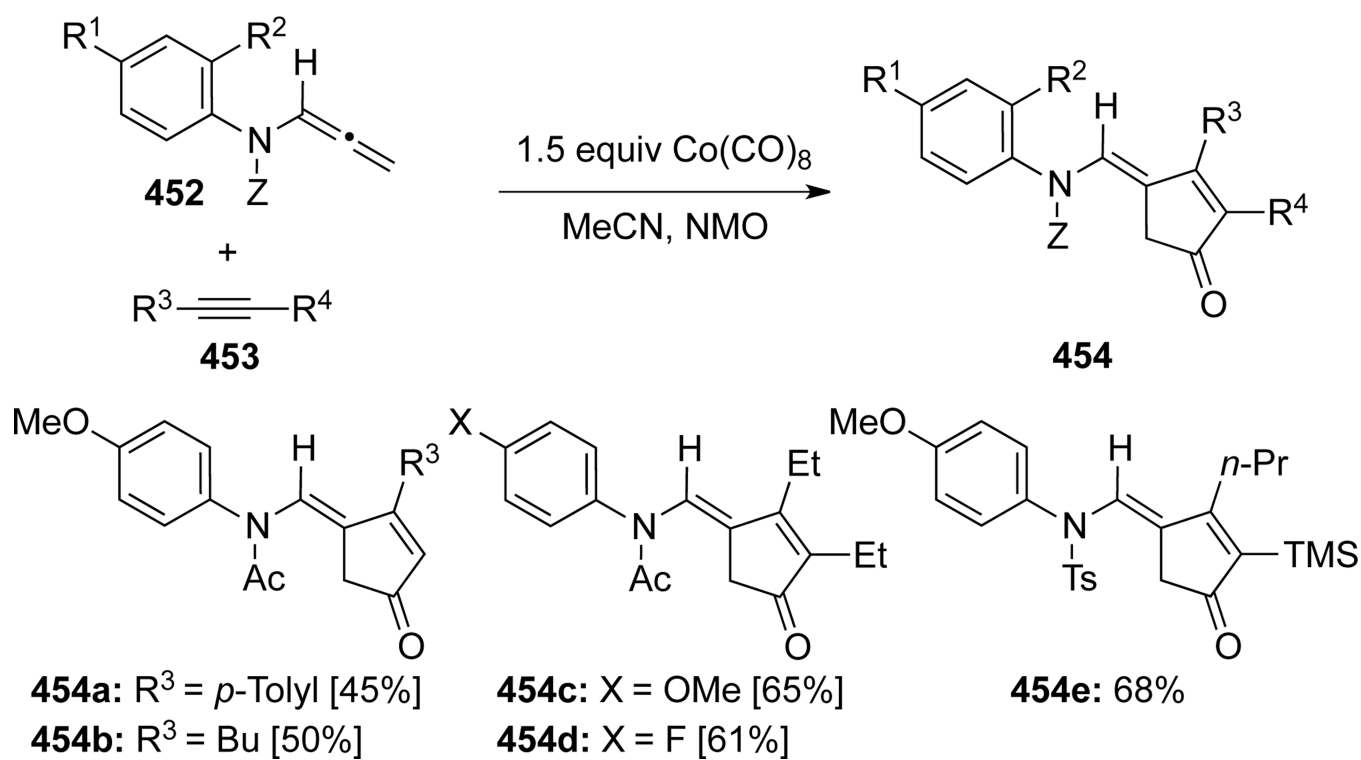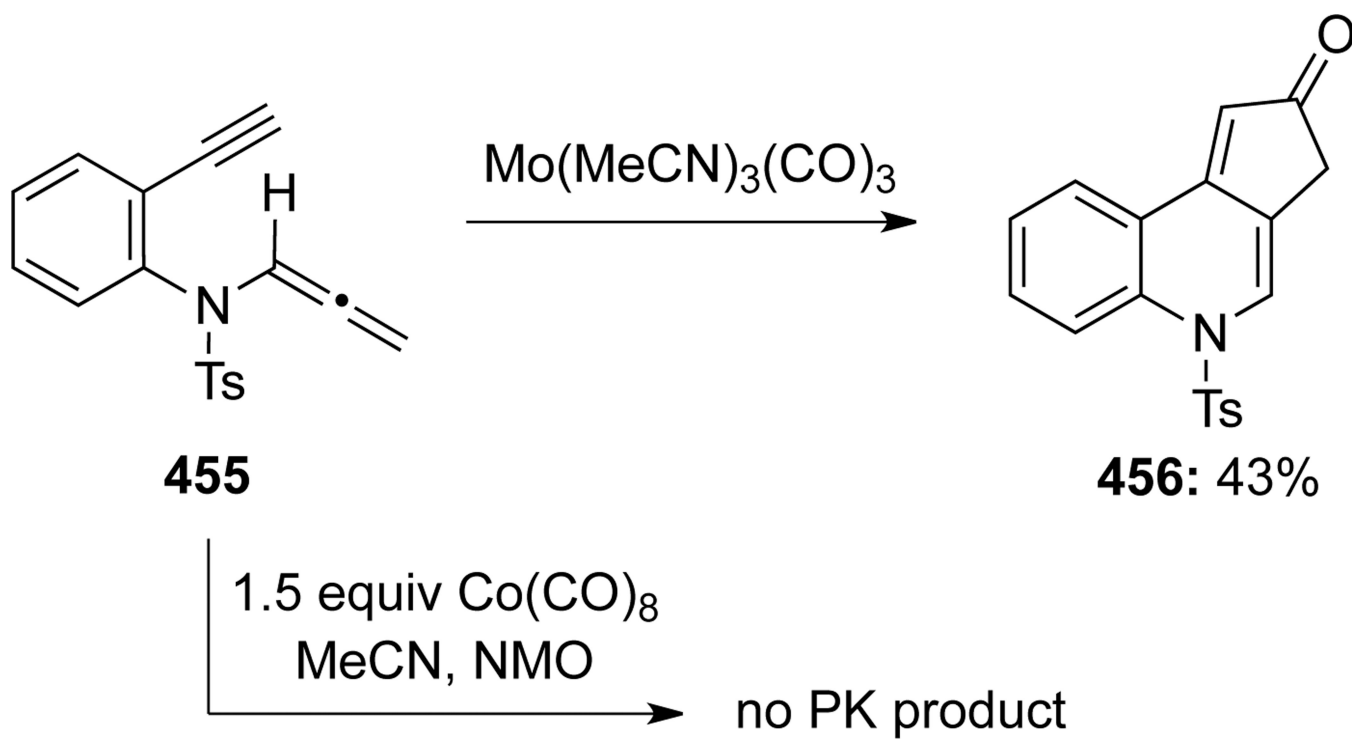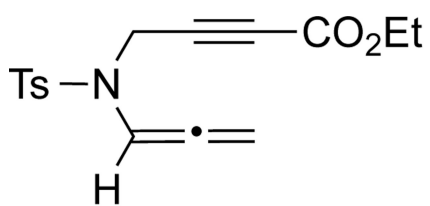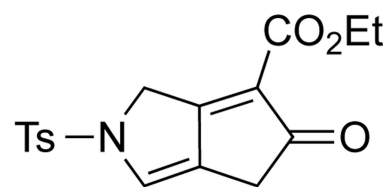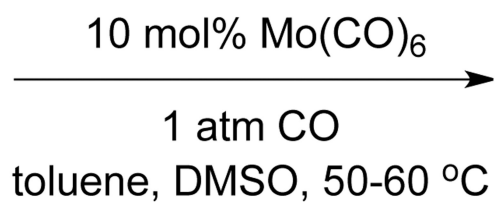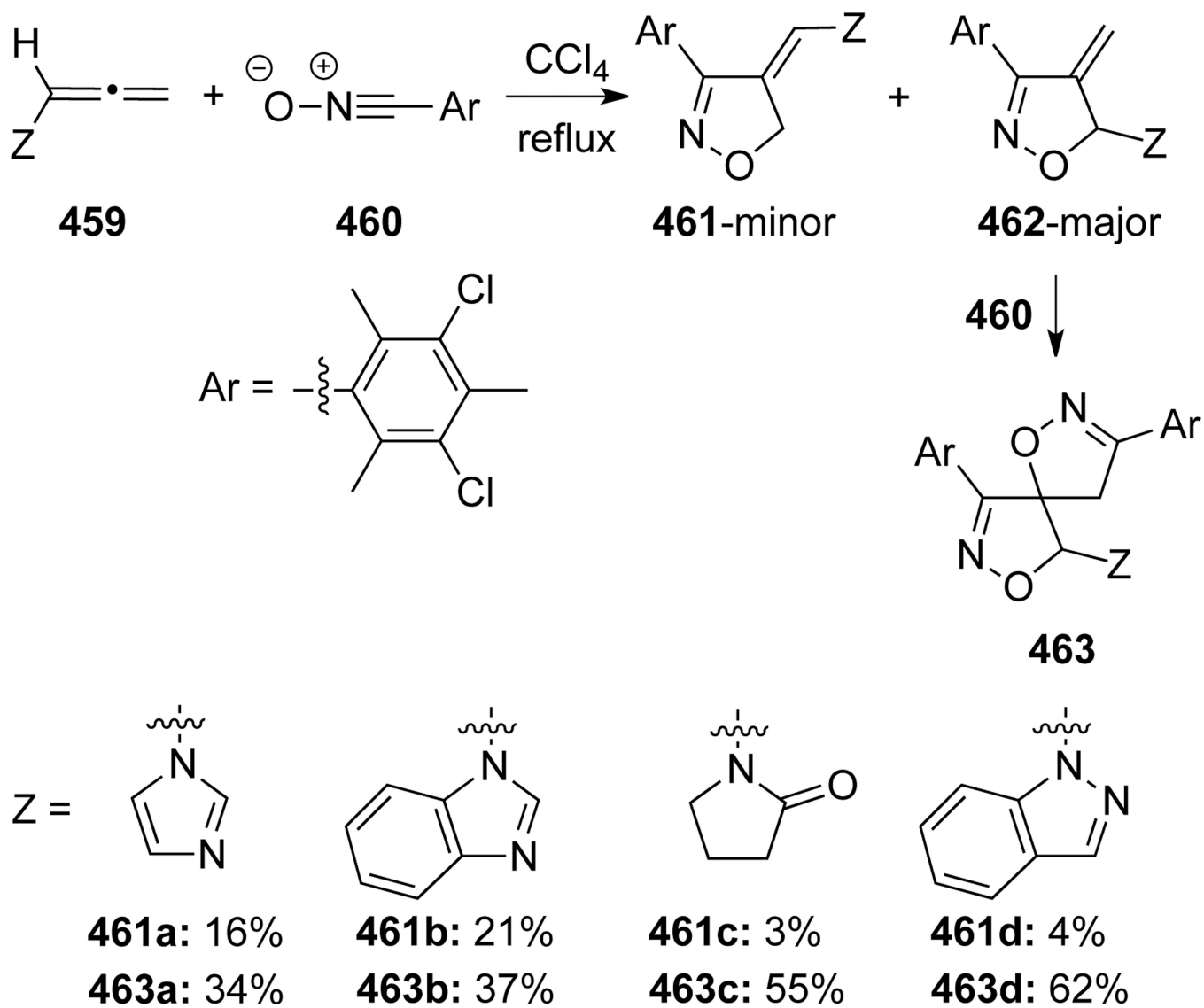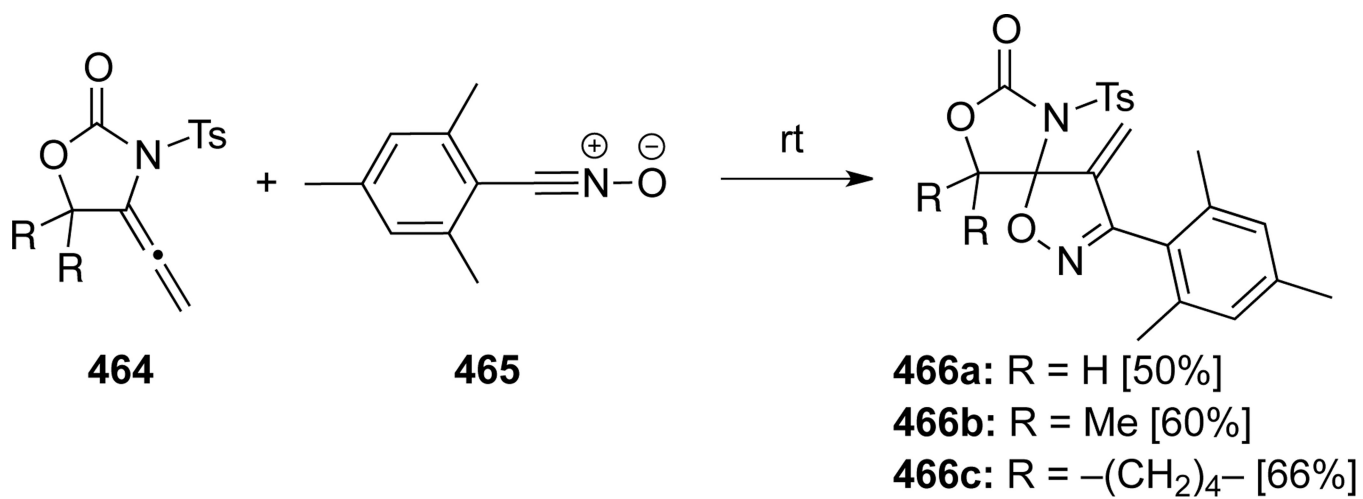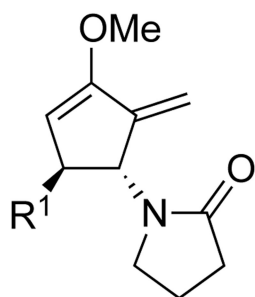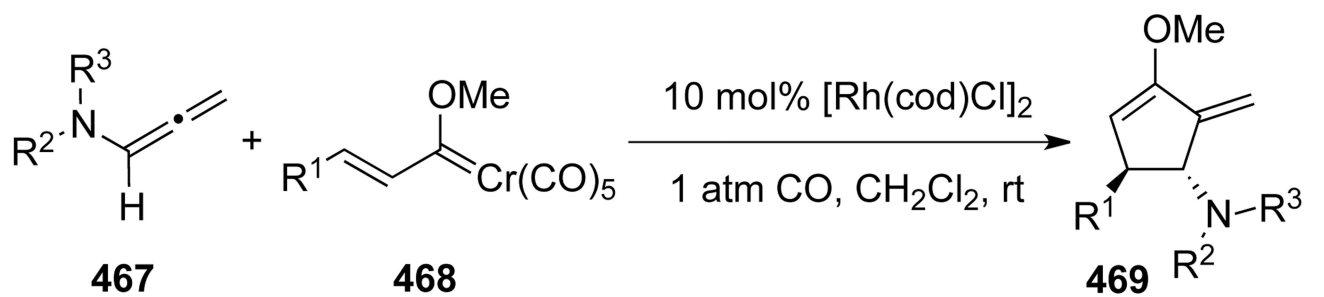
Scheme 123.

469a: R^1 = C$_6$H$_5$ [78%]
469b: R^1 = 2-furyl [80%]
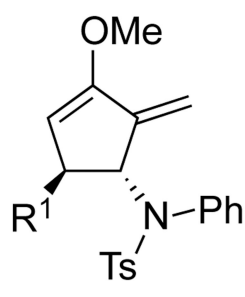
469c: R^1 = C$_6$H$_5$ [88%]
469d: R^1 = 2-furyl [88%]

469e: 98%

L$_n$M = [Rh(cod)Cl] or [Rh(CO)$_2$Cl]

Scheme 124.

Scheme 125.

476 + **477** $\xrightarrow[\text{CCl}_4 \text{ or EtOH}]{\text{MW}}$ **478** + **479**

B =
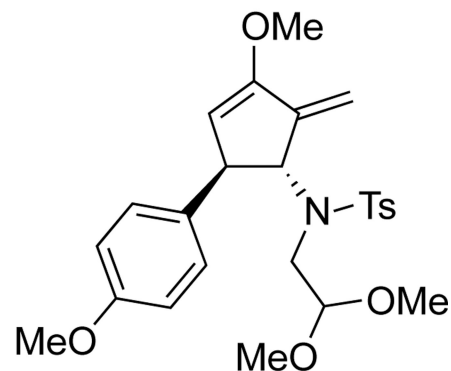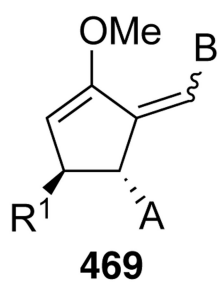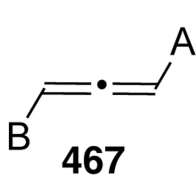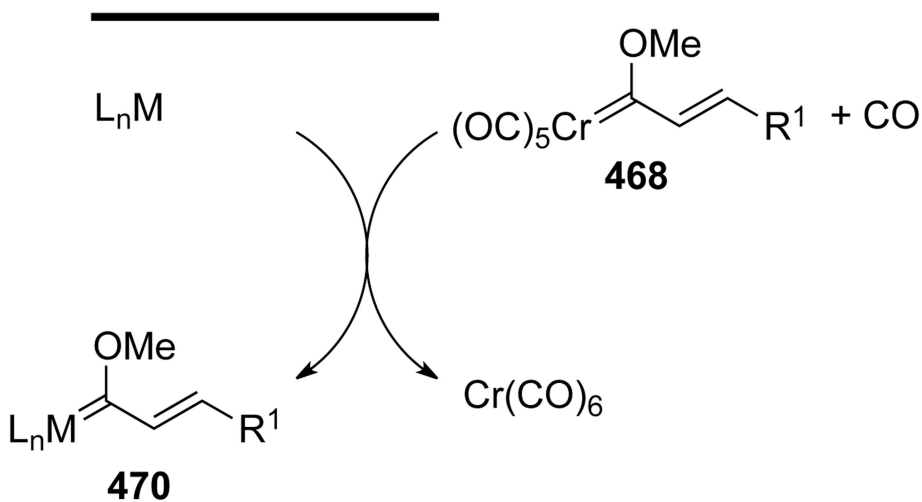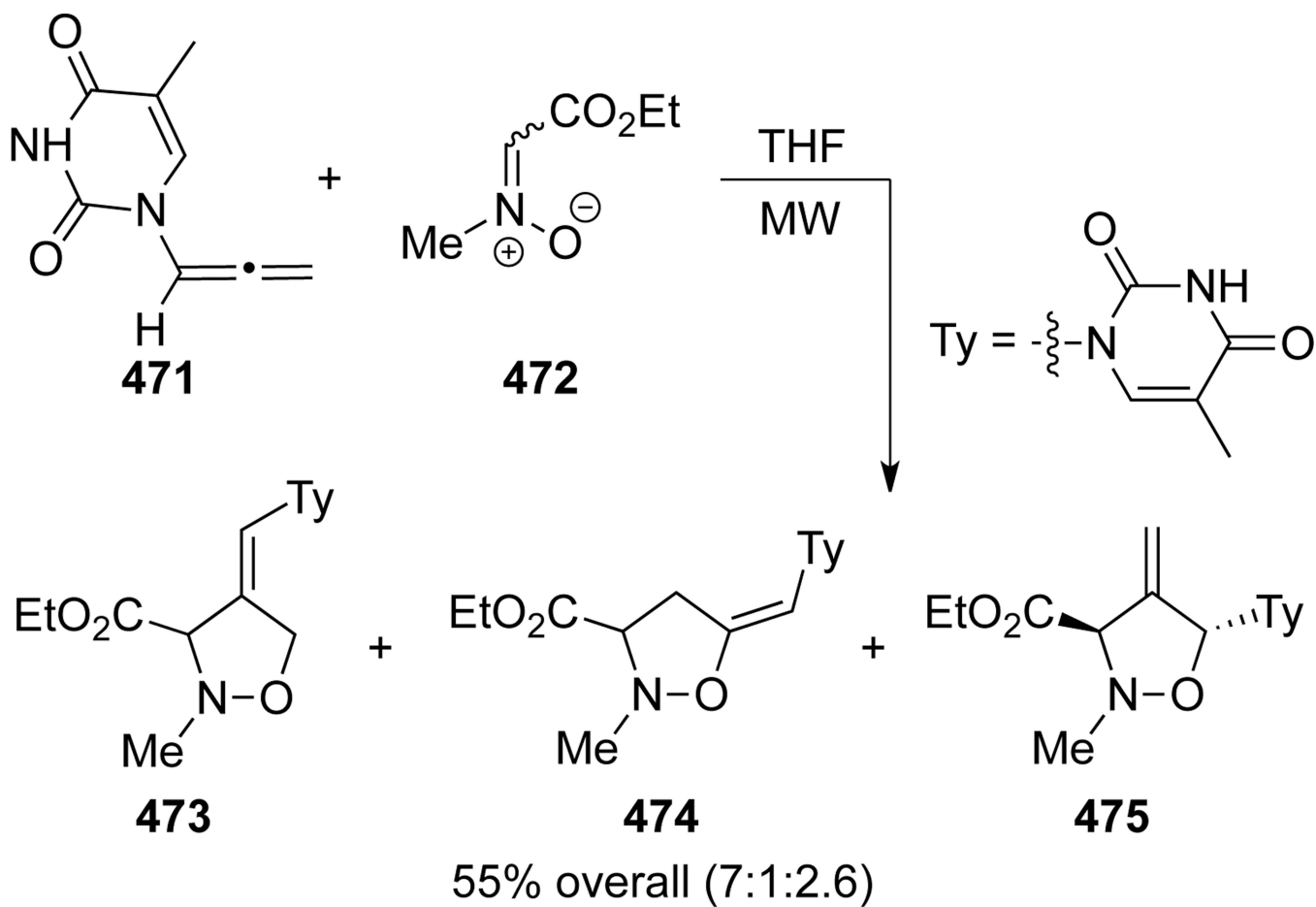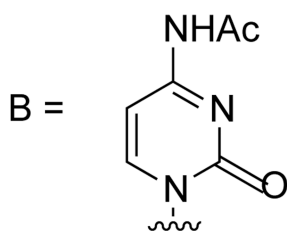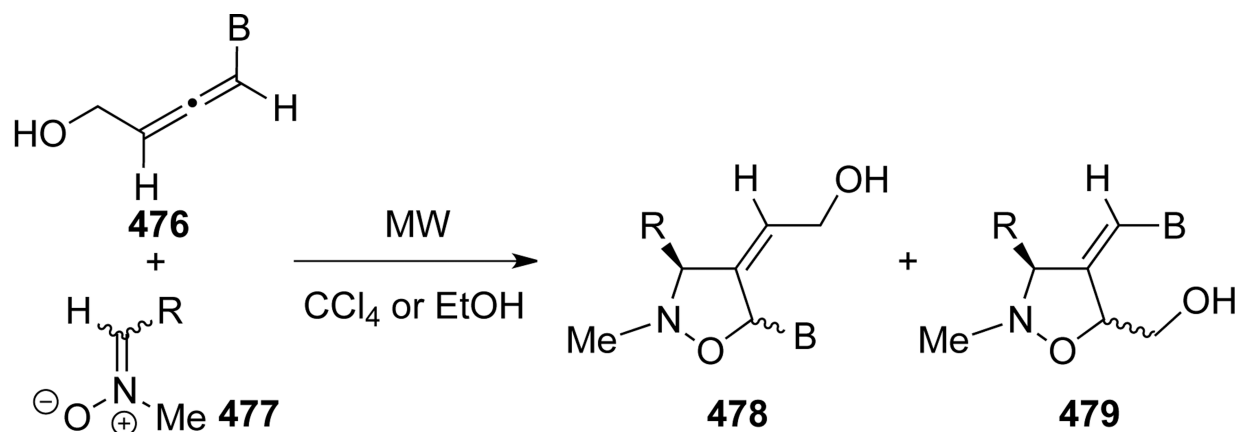
R = CO₂Et, **478a** only, 50% dr 1:1
R = H, **478b**:**479b** = 1:2, 72%

B =
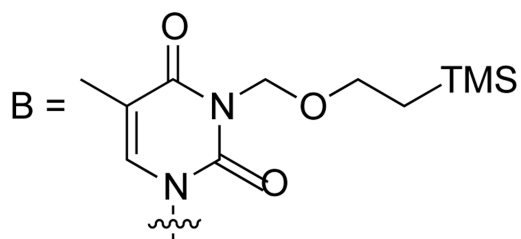
R = CO₂Et, **479c** only, 50% dr 1:1
R = H, **478d**:**479d** = 1:2, 69%

478 → **480** → **481** → **479**

Scheme 126.

Scheme 127.

Scheme 128.

491

494

80 °C, N₂, neat

492: X = NTs

493

a: R¹ = Me, R² = H   80%   18%

b: R¹ = H, R² = H   52%   44%

c: R¹ = R² = Me   40%   57%

d: R¹ = H, R² = Me   11%   83%
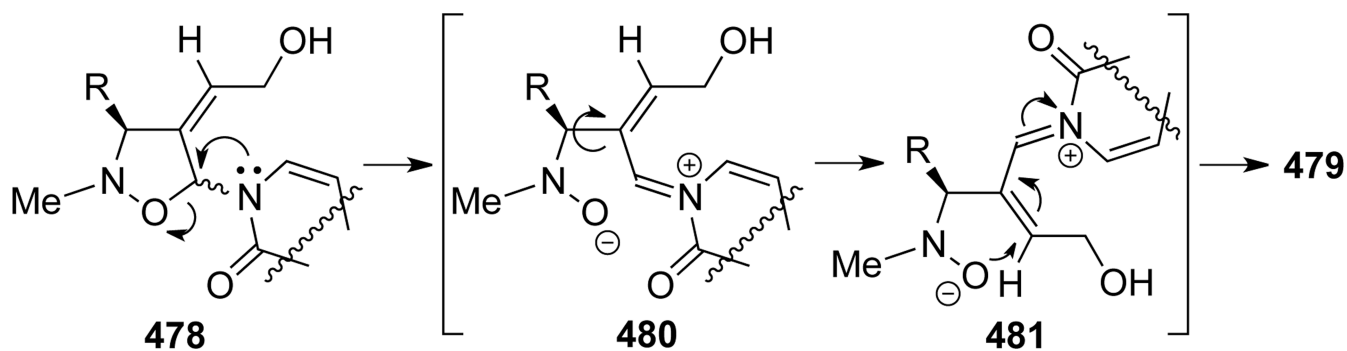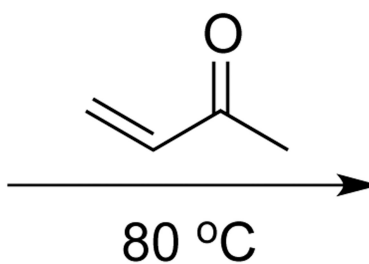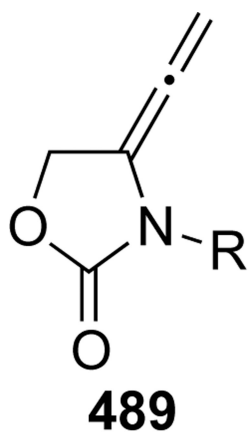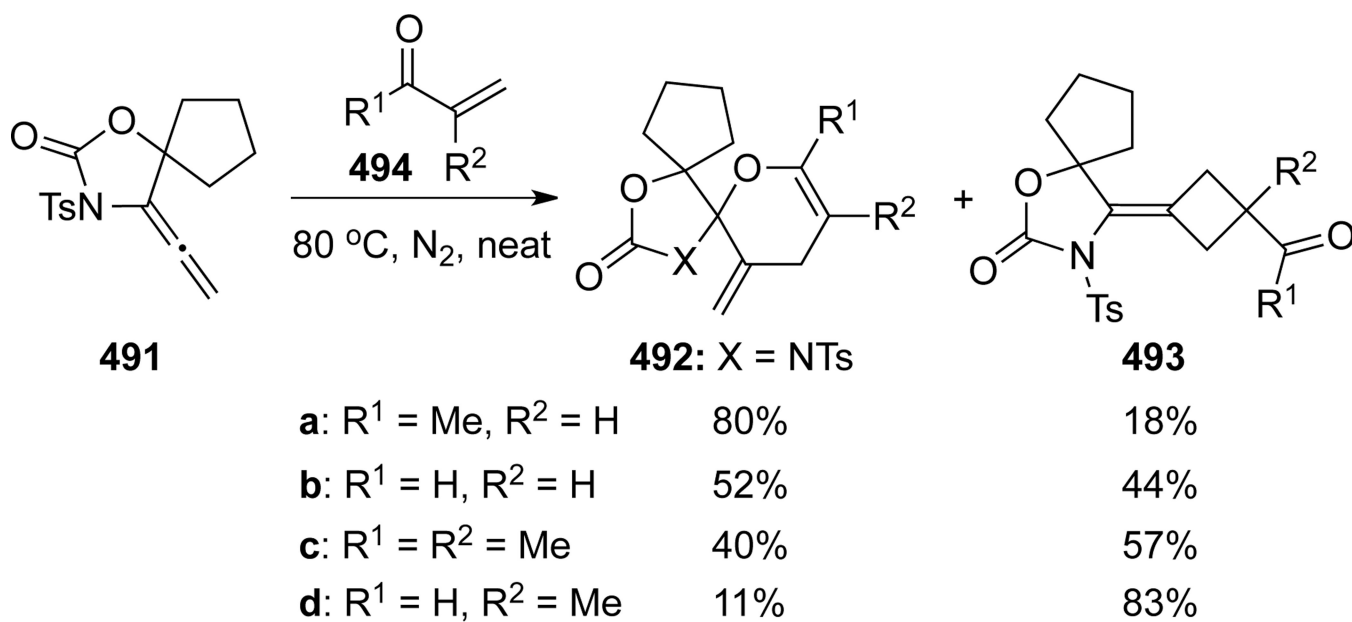
Scheme 129.

Scheme 130.

Scheme 131.

499 → **500**

CH₃CN, 80 °C

500a: 65%, *dr* 87:13   **500b:** 50%, *dr* 84:16   **500c:** 70%, *dr* ≥96:4

500d: 60%, *dr* 75:25   **500e:** 37%, *dr* 63:37   **500f:** 74%, *dr* 94:6

Scheme 132.

500f: R = 1-Naph

501: *dr* ≥95:5

Scheme 133.

503

500f: R = 1-Naph

504

505

506

507a: P = Ac, R^1 = Me
507b: P = Piv, R^1 = t-Bu

Scheme 134.

508 + **509** →(CH₃CN, 50-100 °C)→ **510**

510a: 63%, *dr* 1:1
71%, *dr* 4.4:1 (CHCl₃)

510b: 58%, *dr* 1:1
52%, *dr* 1.5:1 (PhH)

510c: 62%, *dr* 1:1

510d: 53%, *dr* 1:1

510e: 29%, *dr* 3:1

Scheme 135.

Scheme 136.

513 THF, 85 °C or Au(I), Ag(I) or Brønsted acids **514**
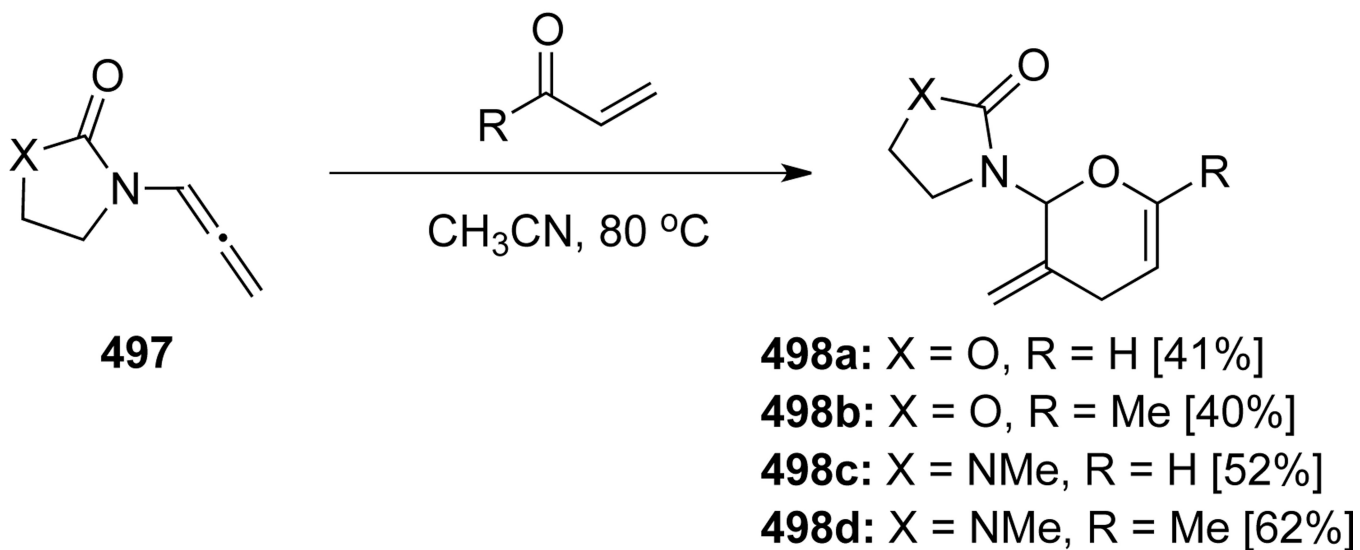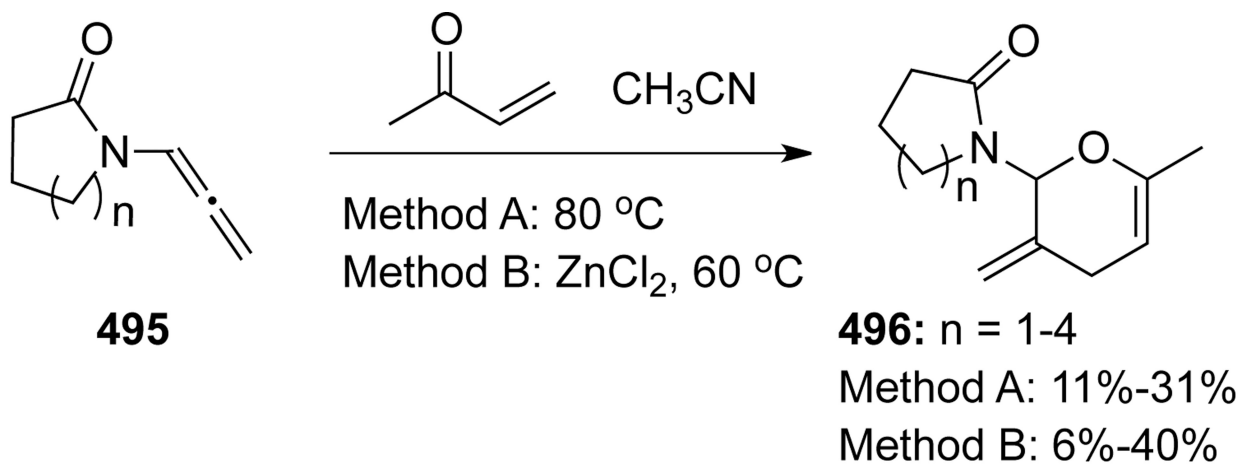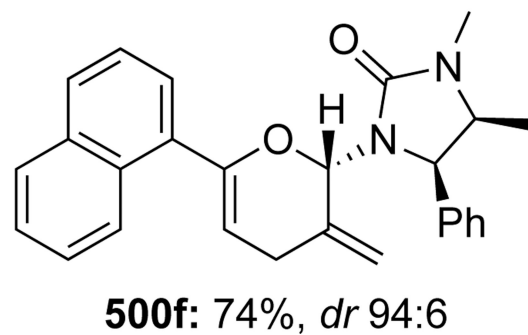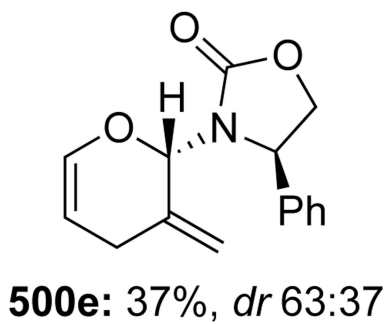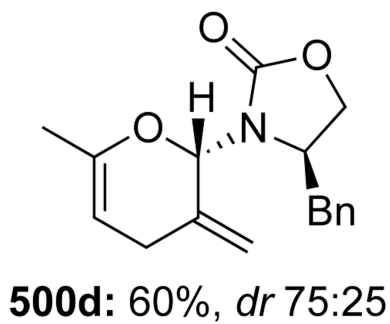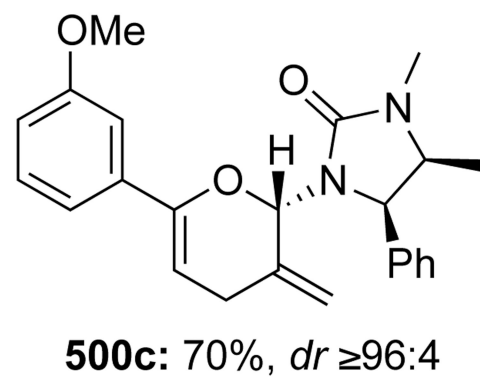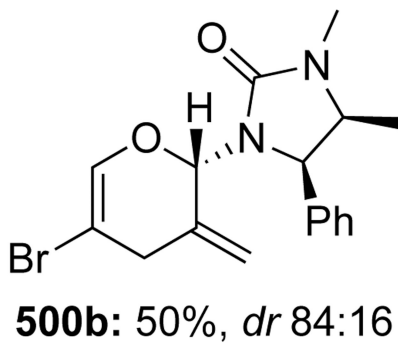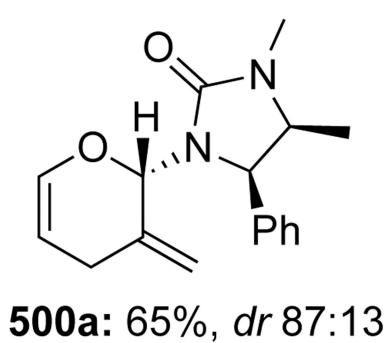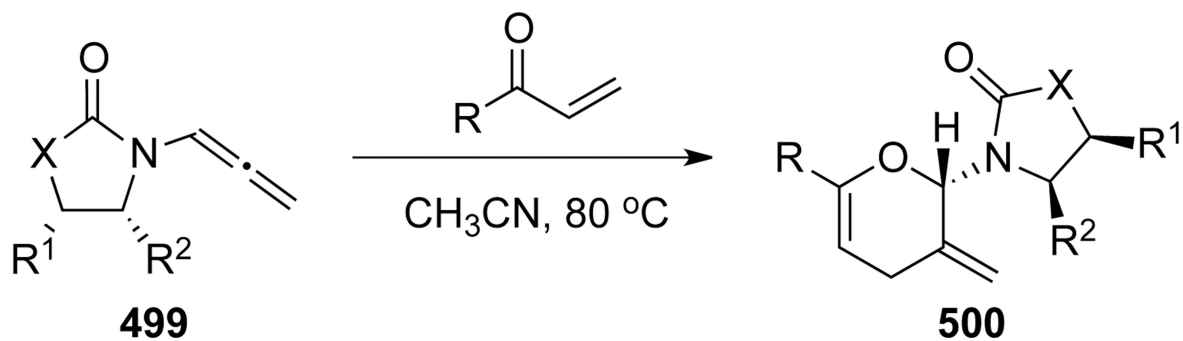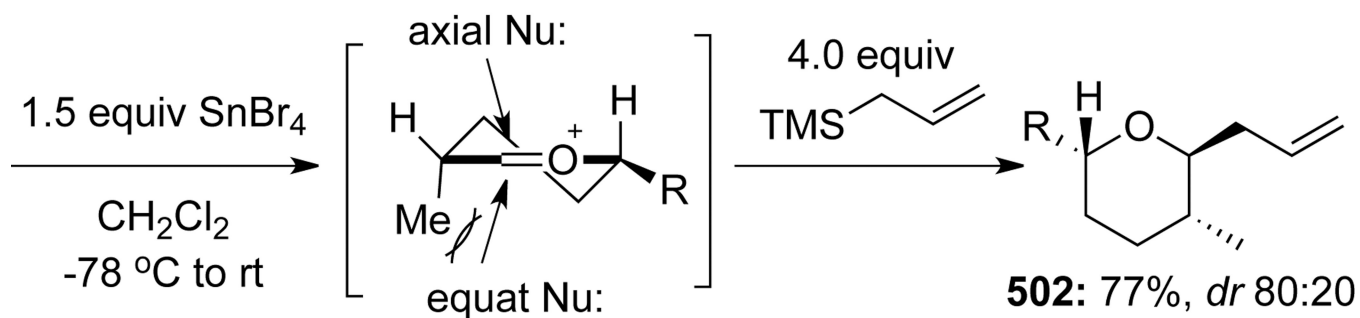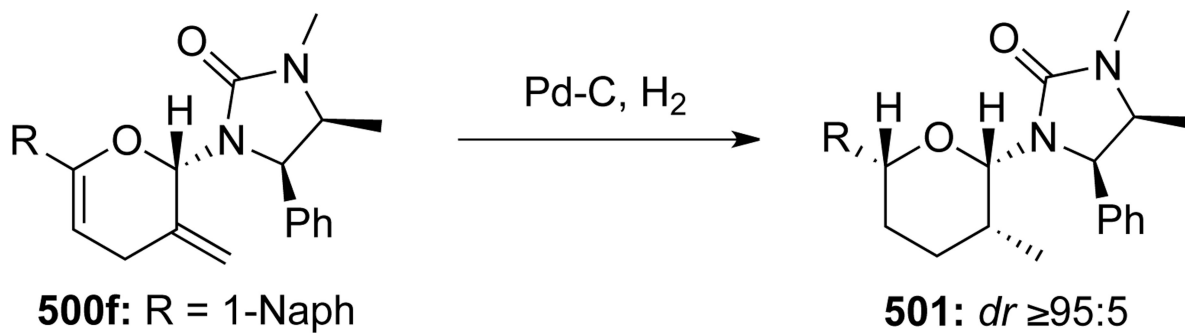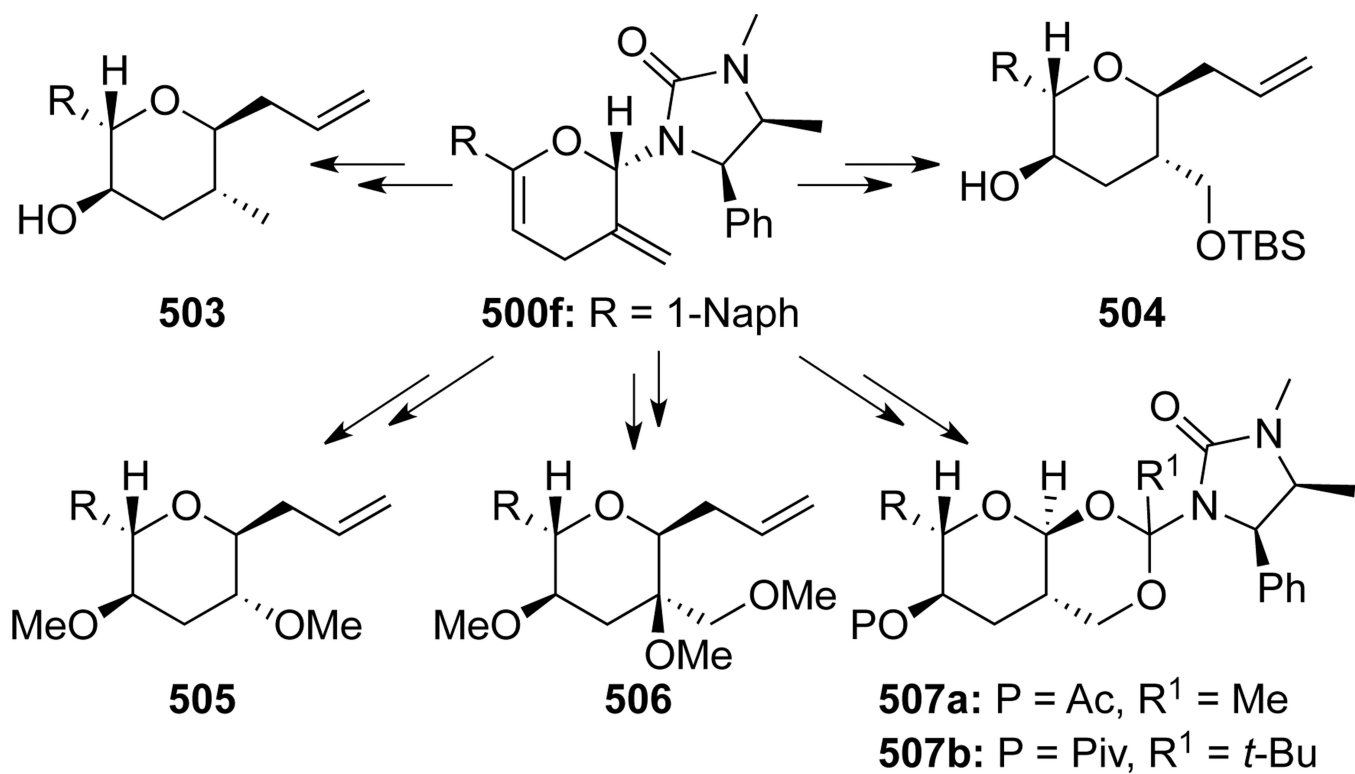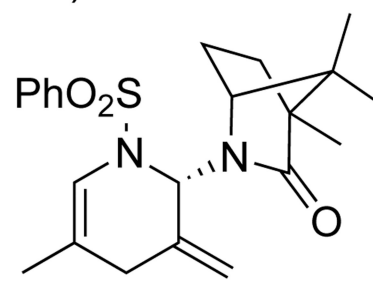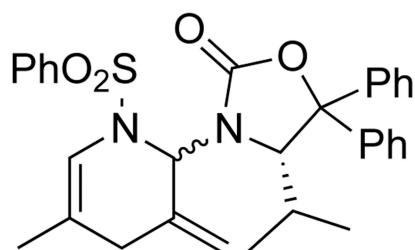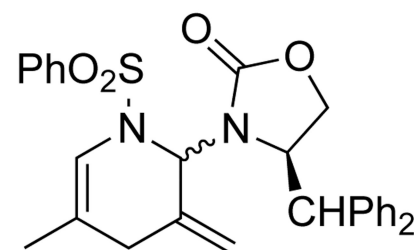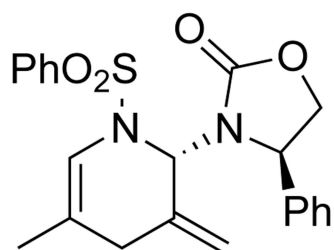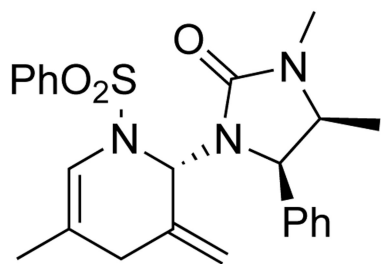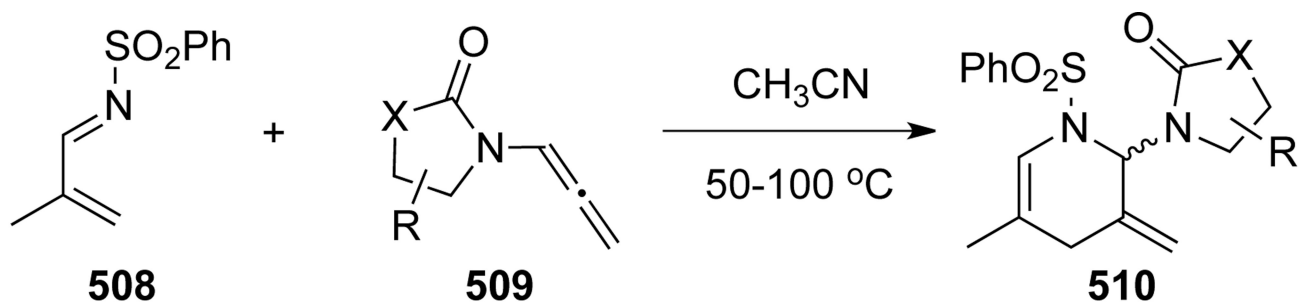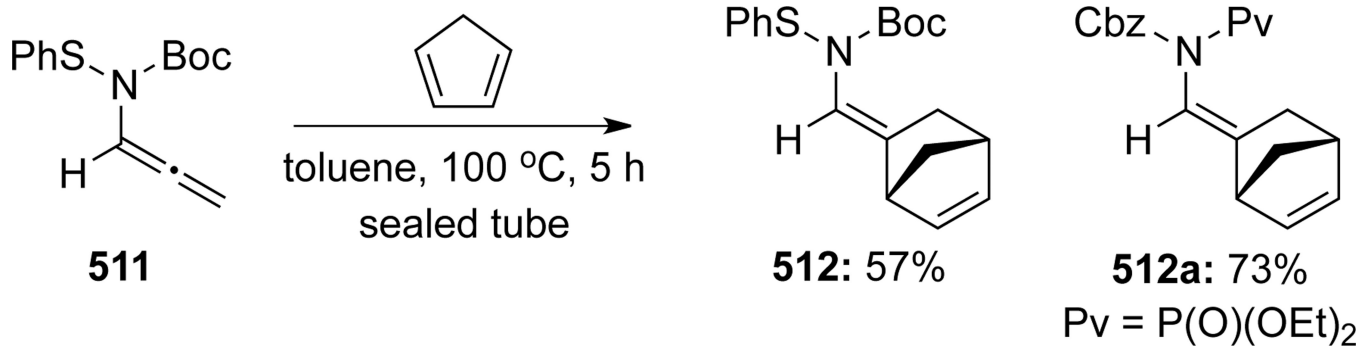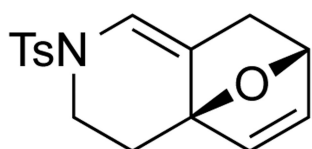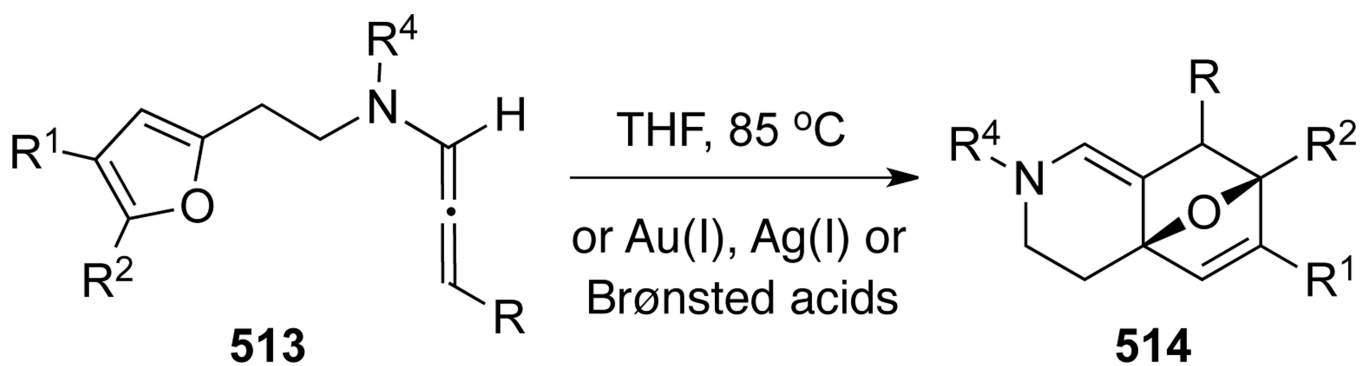
514a: 91%
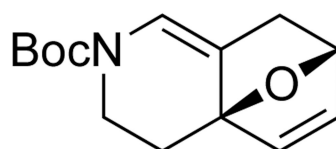
514b: 65%
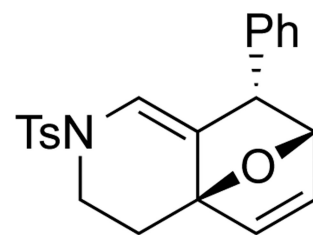
514c: 77%, *dr* 3:1
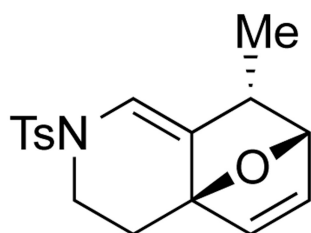
514d: 57%, *dr* 3:1
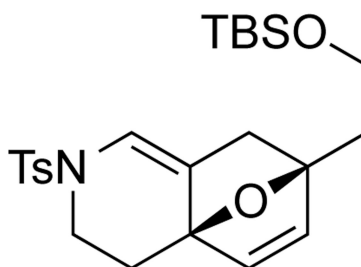
514e: 77%

514f: 93%

Scheme 137.

515

t-BuOK, THF

rt to 85 °C

514: P = Ts or *p*-Ns; R = H, Me or Ph
R^1 = H or alkyl; n = 0 or 1
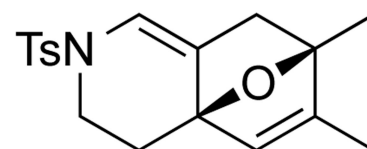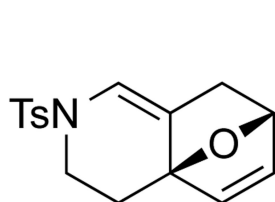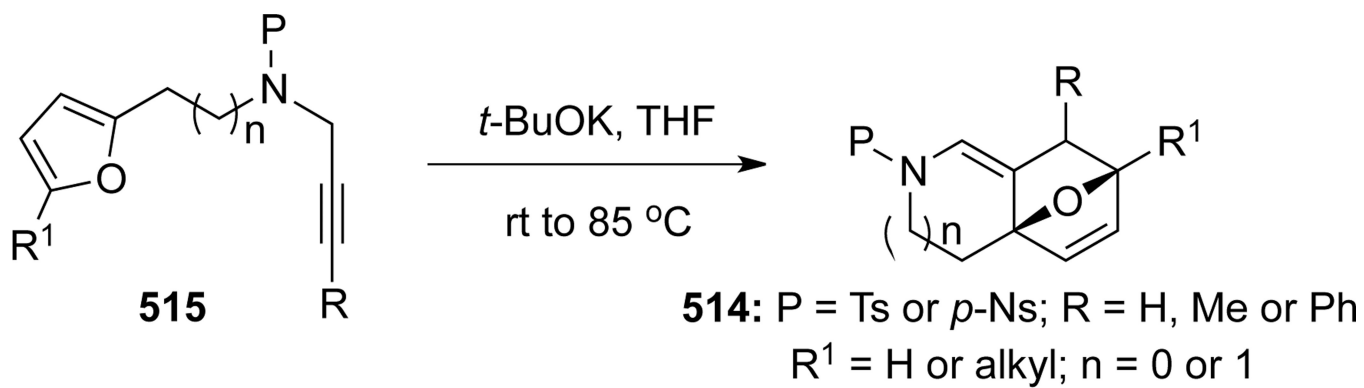
514a: 86%
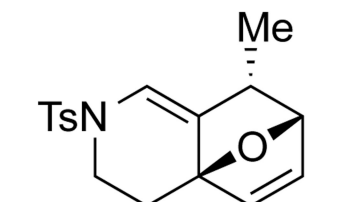
514d: 42%, *dr* 3:1

514e: 63%

Scheme 138.

516 → **517**

517a: 66%, *Z:E* 93:7

517b: 60%, *Z:E* 93:7

517c: 76%, *Z:E* 1:0

517d: 94%, *Z:E* 1:0

517e: 79%, *Z:E* 1:0

517f: 99%, single isomer

Scheme 139.

(R_a)-**520**: Ad = 1-Adamantyl
R = Me or Cyclohexyl

521a: 88%, 99% *ee*

521b: 85%, 94% *ee*

521c: 71%, 91% *ee*

521d: 50%, 90% *ee*

521e: 75%, *dr* 6:1
96% *ee*

521f: 51%, 91% *ee*
with (S_a)-**520**

Scheme 140.

Scheme 141.

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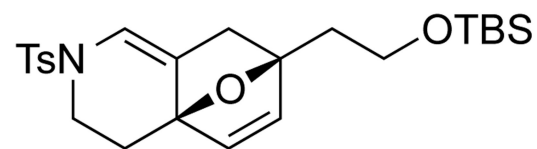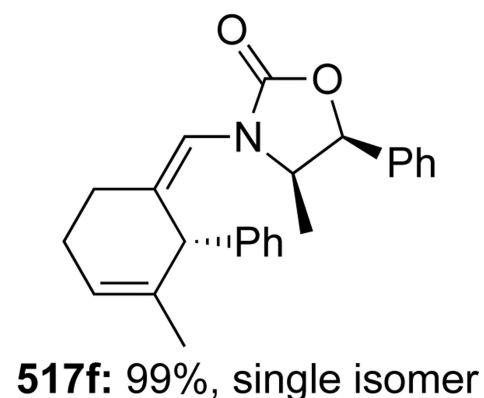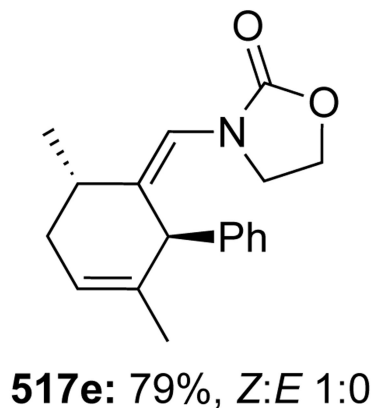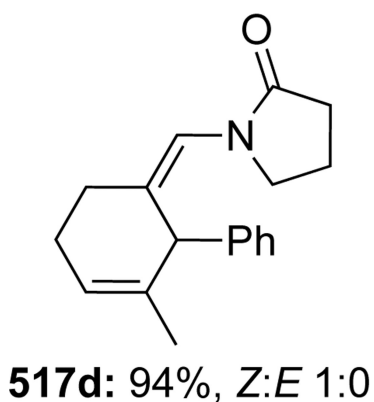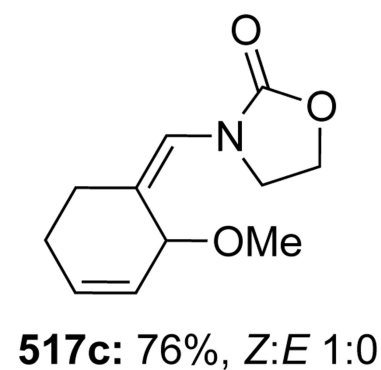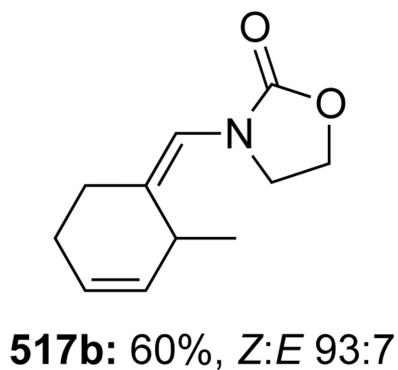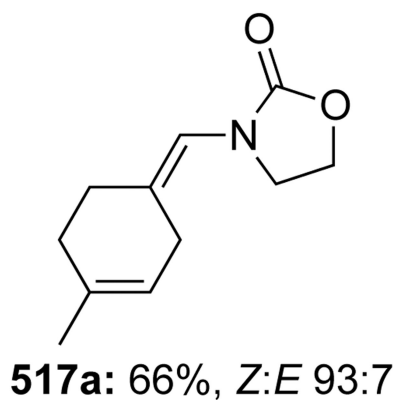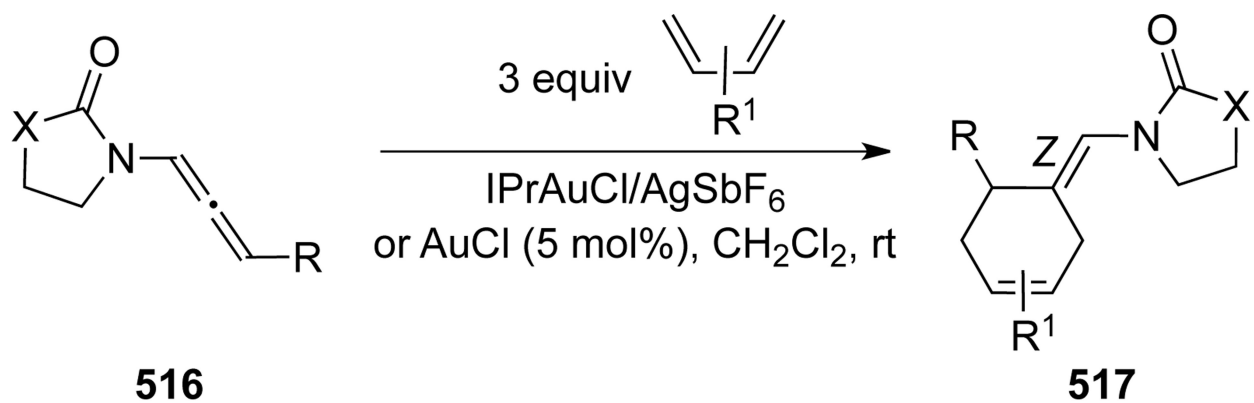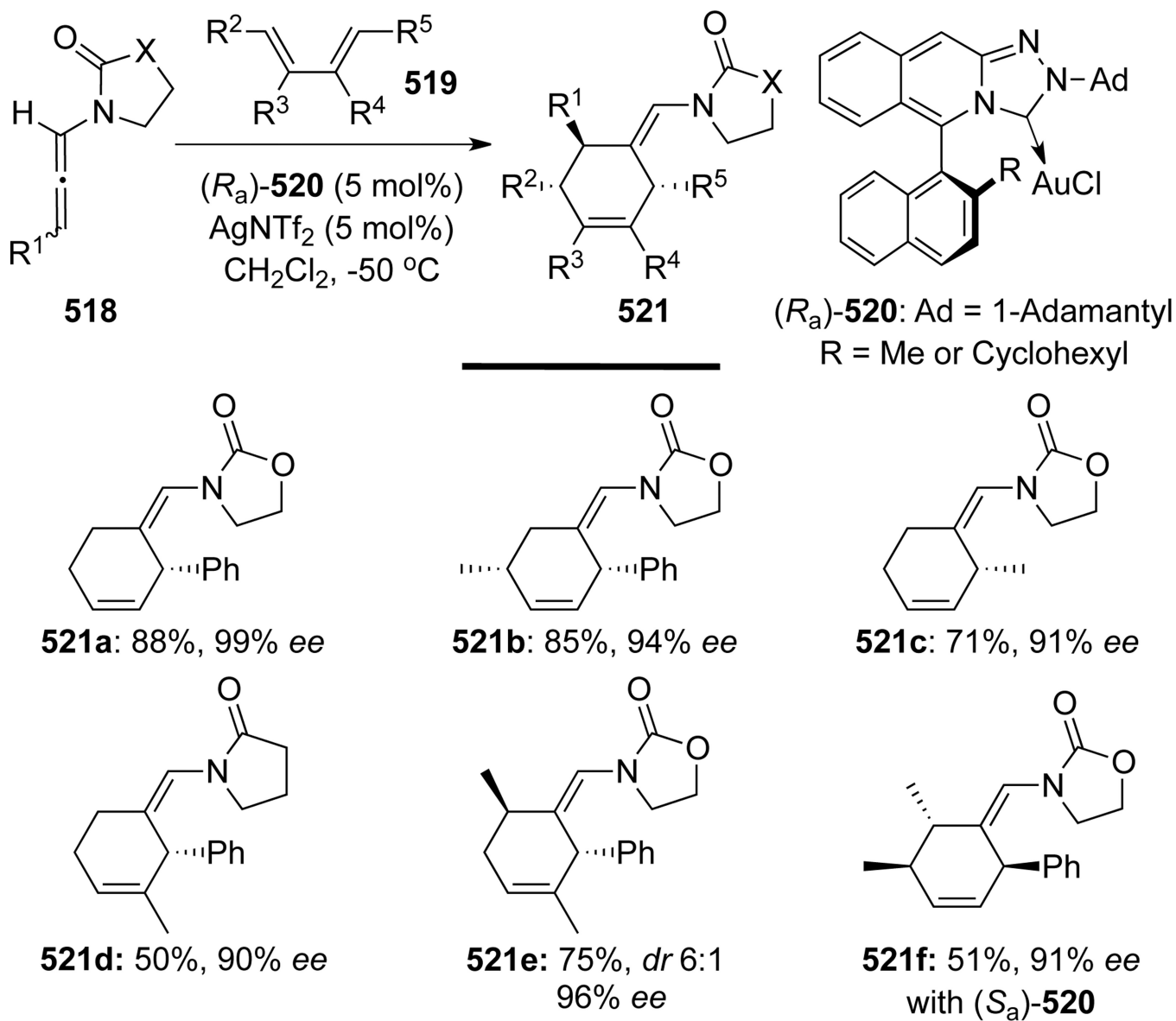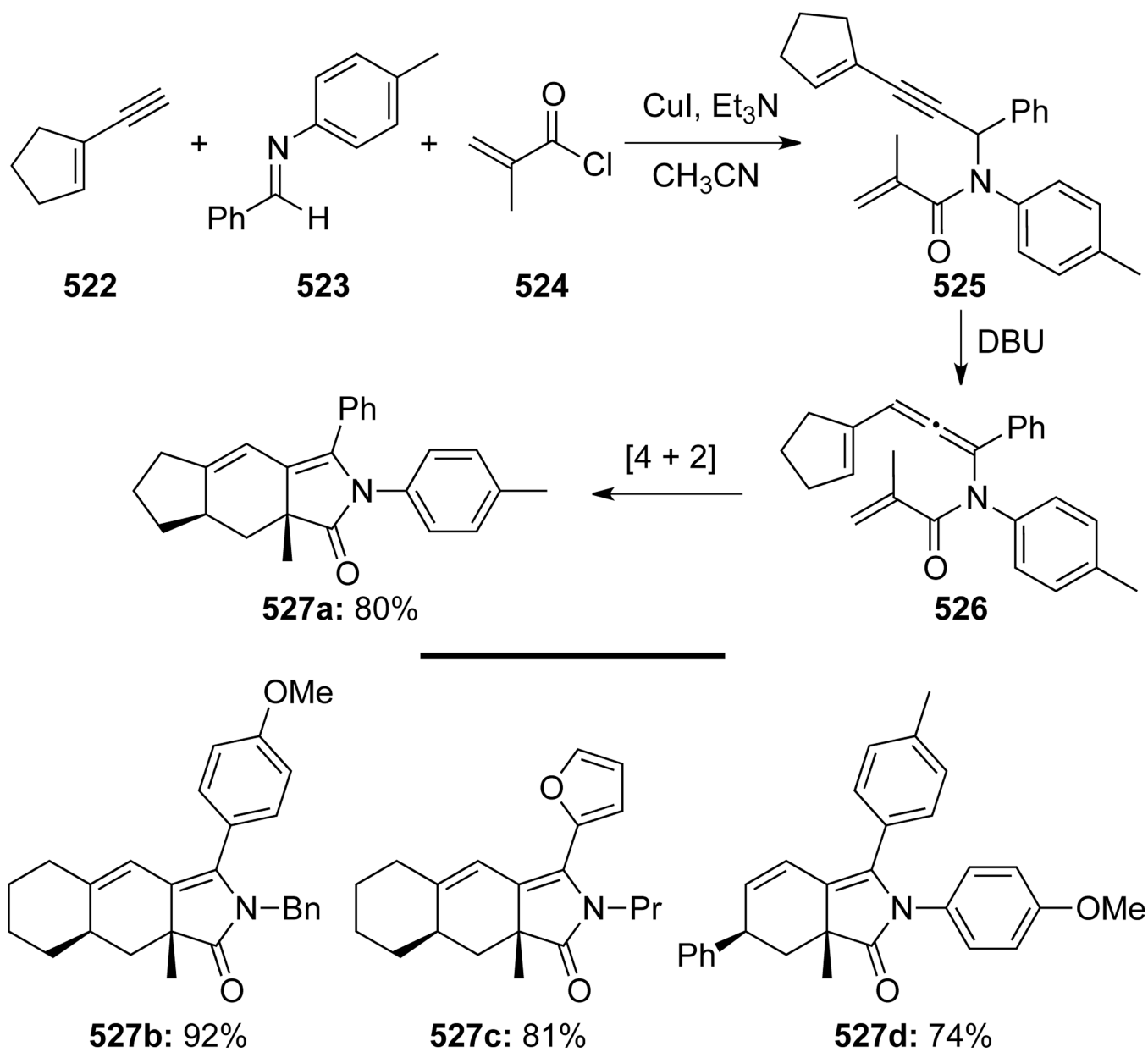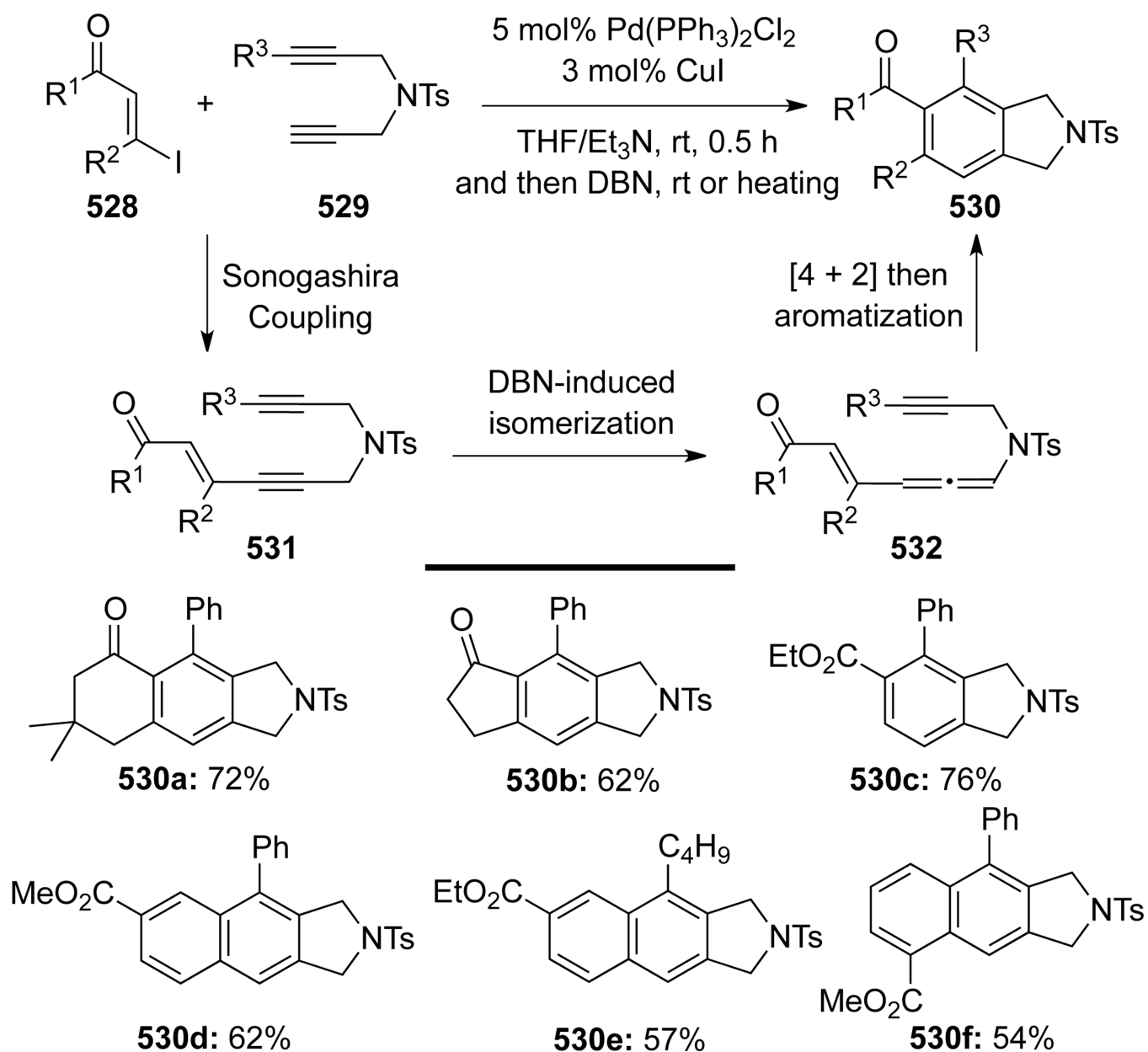
Scheme 142.

Scheme 143.

Scheme 144.

542a: R = Me, 25 h   56%   20%
542b: R = *i*-Pr, 12 h   48%   19%
542c: R = Ph, 10 h   40%   10%
542d: R = OEt, 24 h   0   nd
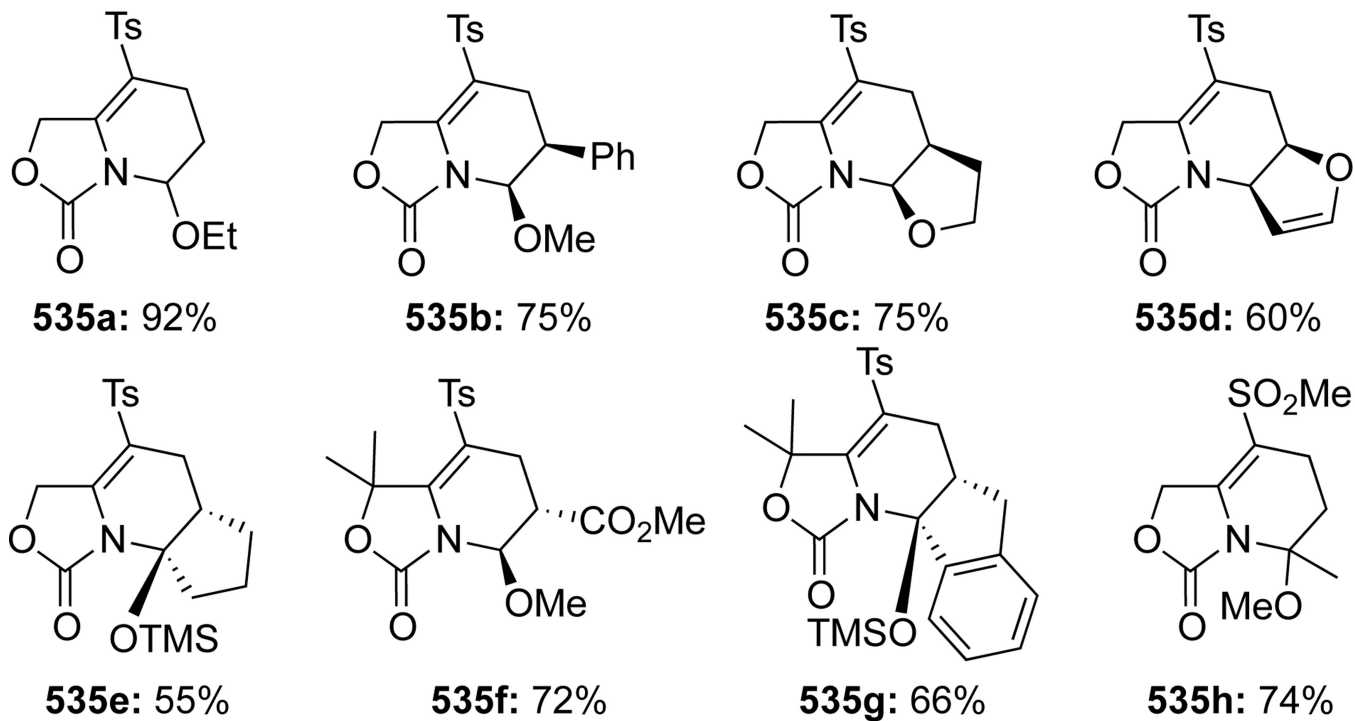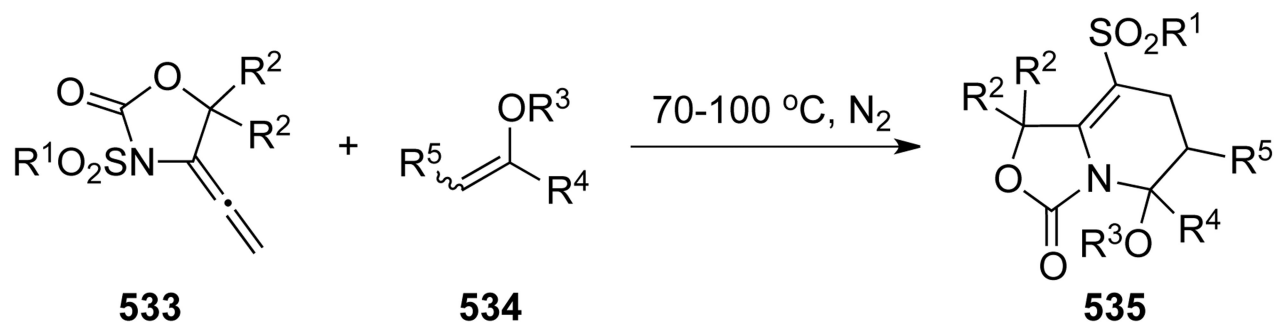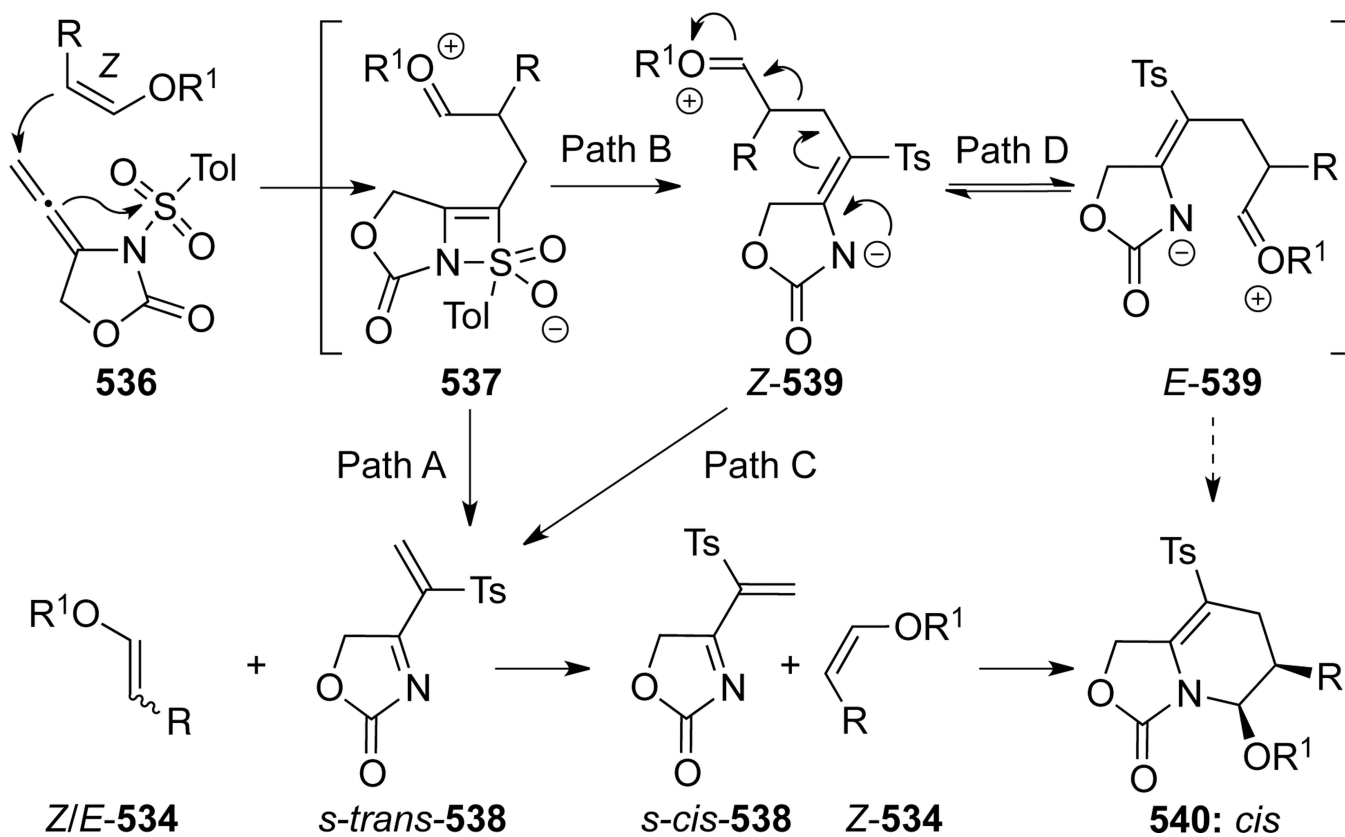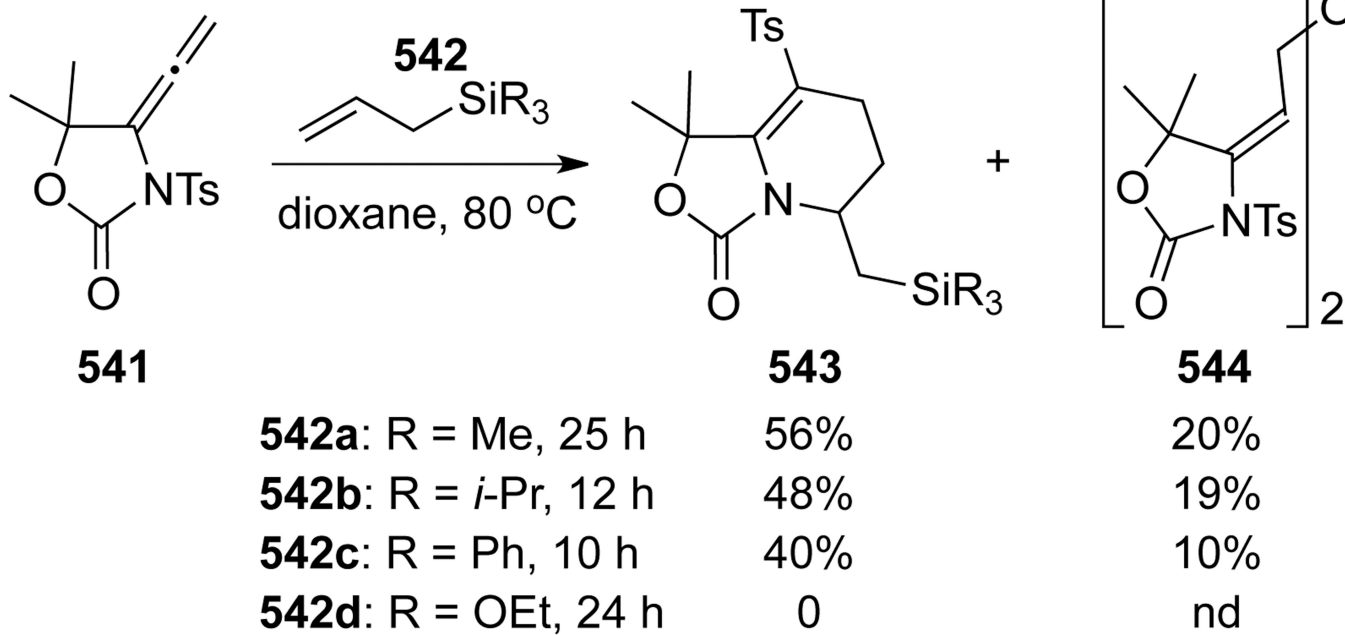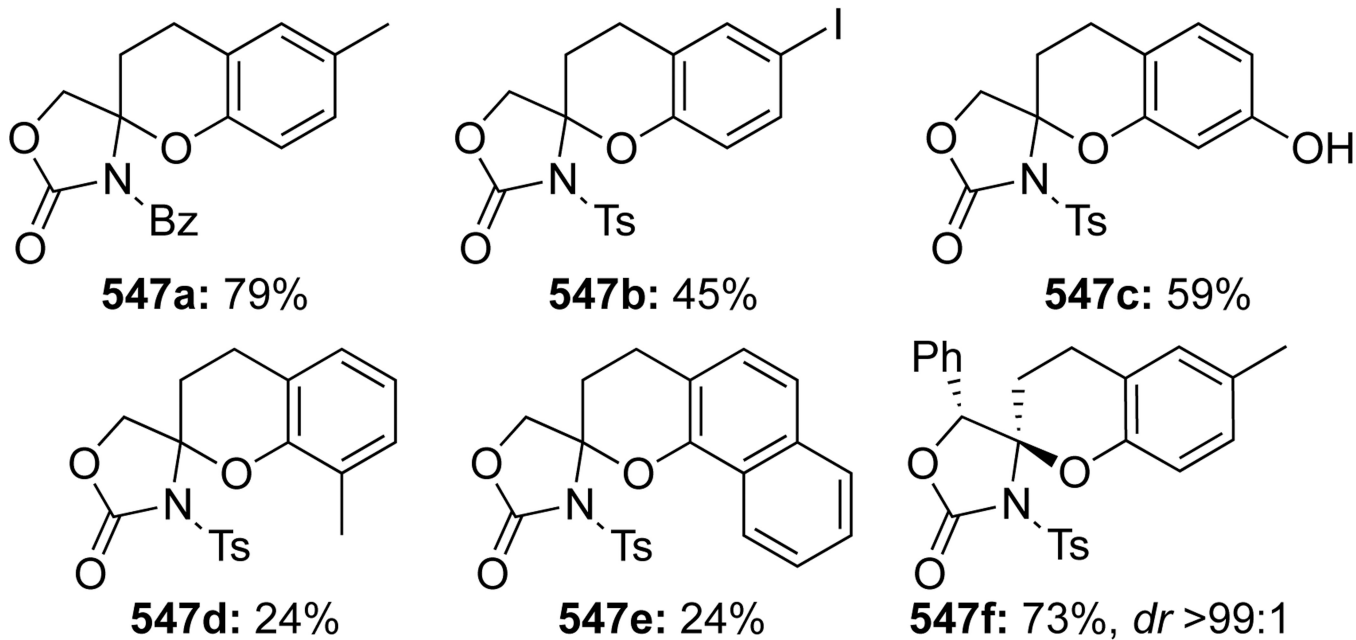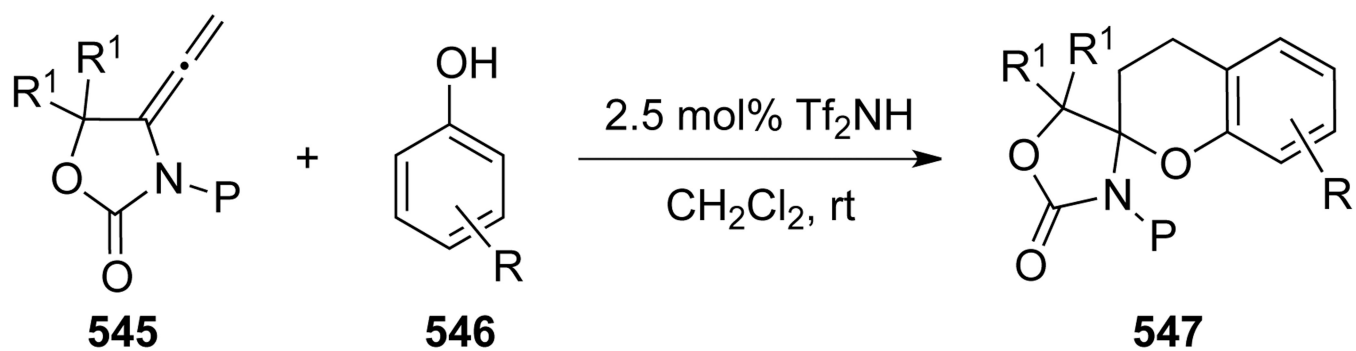
Scheme 145.

Scheme 146.

Scheme 147.

Scheme 148.

(E)-oxyallyl cation (preferred)   (Z)-oxyallyl cation   (E)-oxyallyl cation (preferred)   (Z)-oxyallyl cation
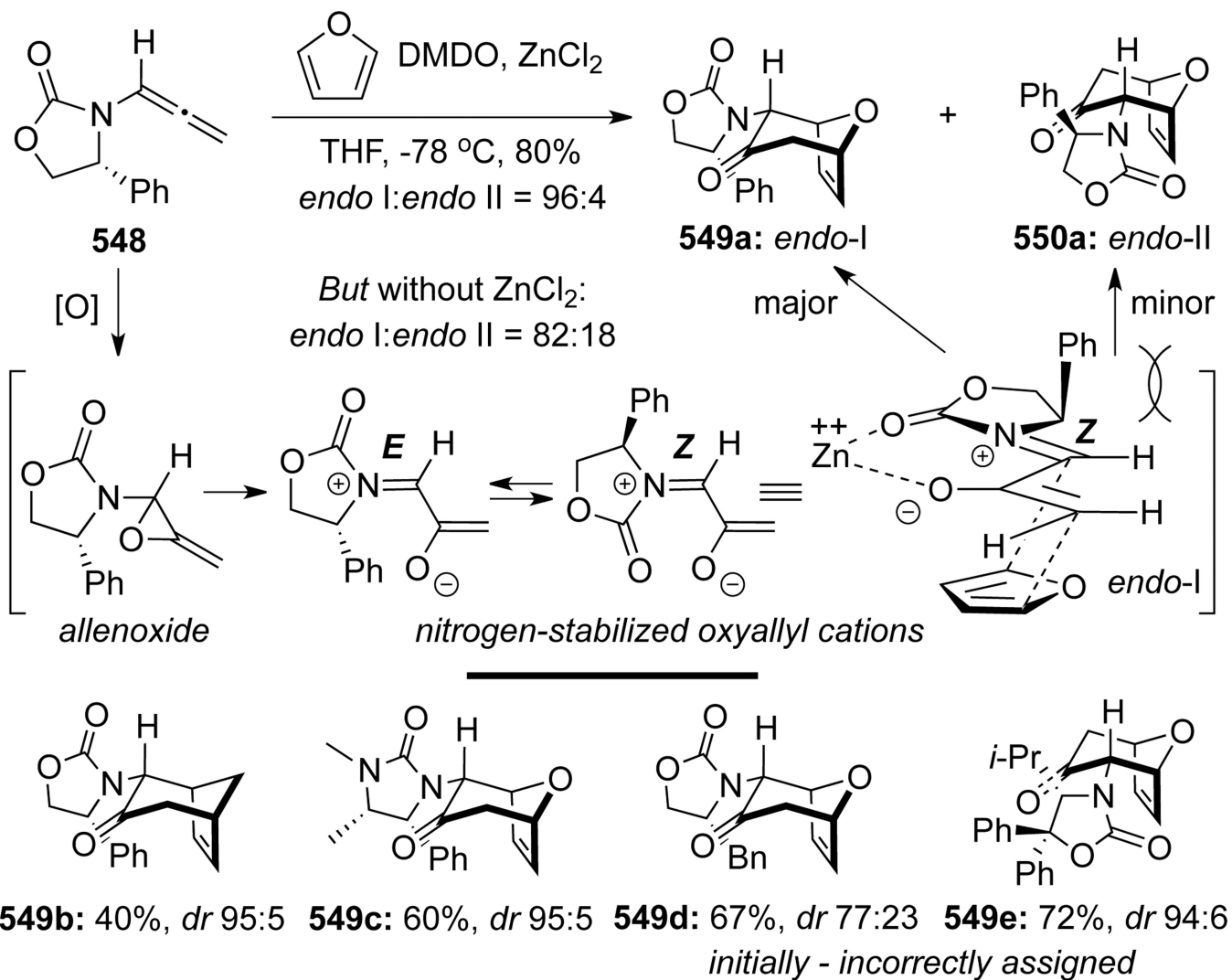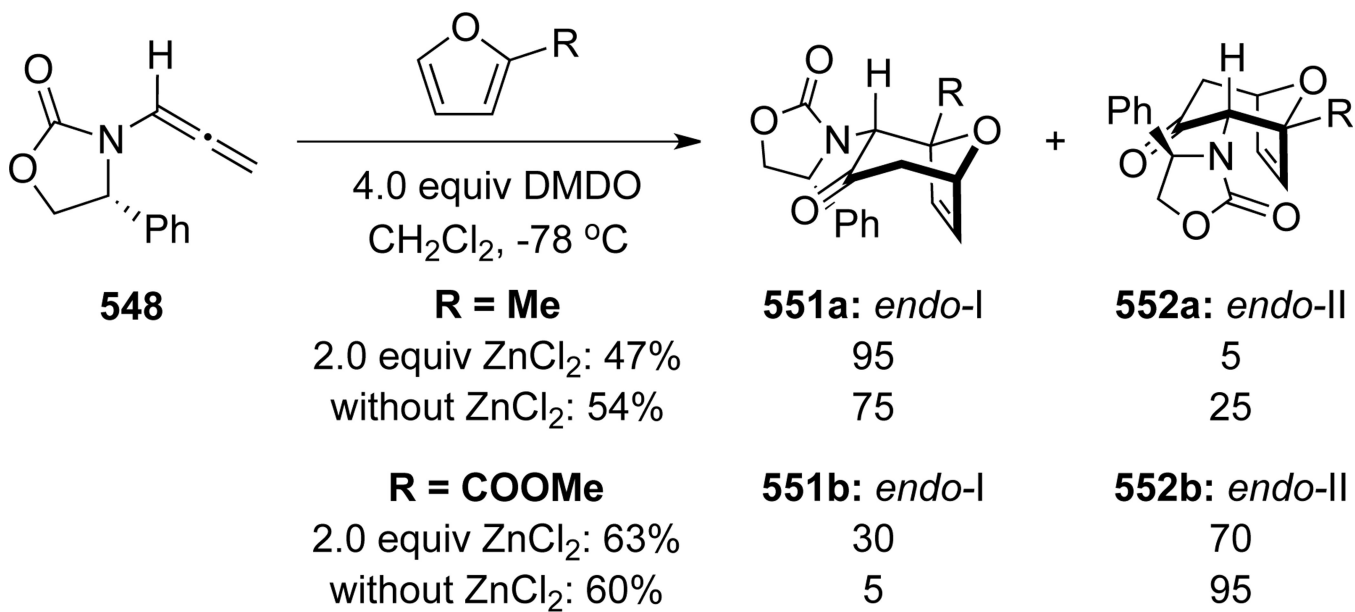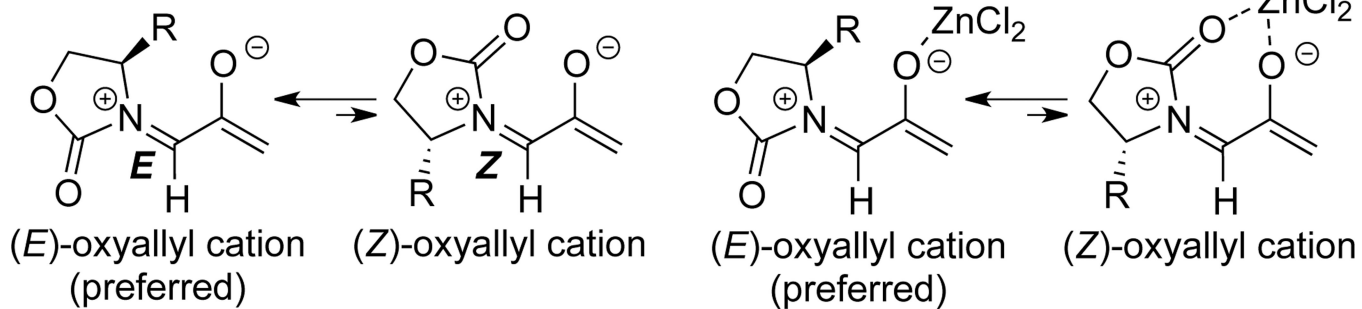
For R = Ph: *could not be located* $\Delta E = 6.2 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$

Scheme 149.

CH-π driven/contra sterics   sterically driven   CH-π and sterically driven

endo-I

endo-II   endo-II

endo-I   endo-II   endo-I

553
endo-I:*endo*-II = 82:18

554
endo-I:*endo*-II = 23:77

555
endo-I:*endo*-II = 6:94

Scheme 150.

556

4.0 equiv DMDO
CH₂Cl₂, -78 °C
additive

557: *syn*   +   **557:** *anti*
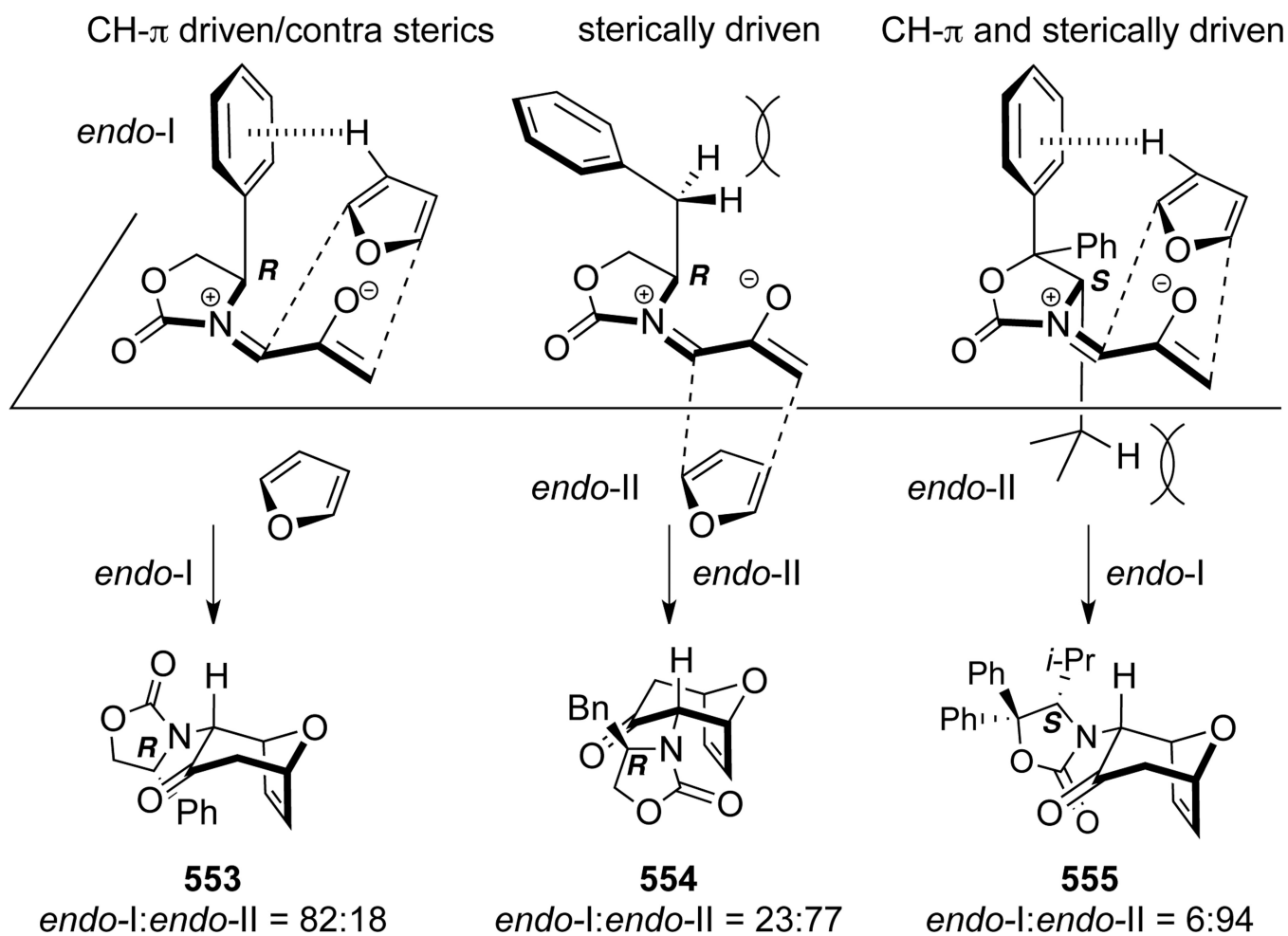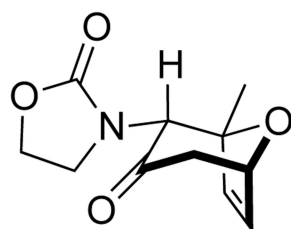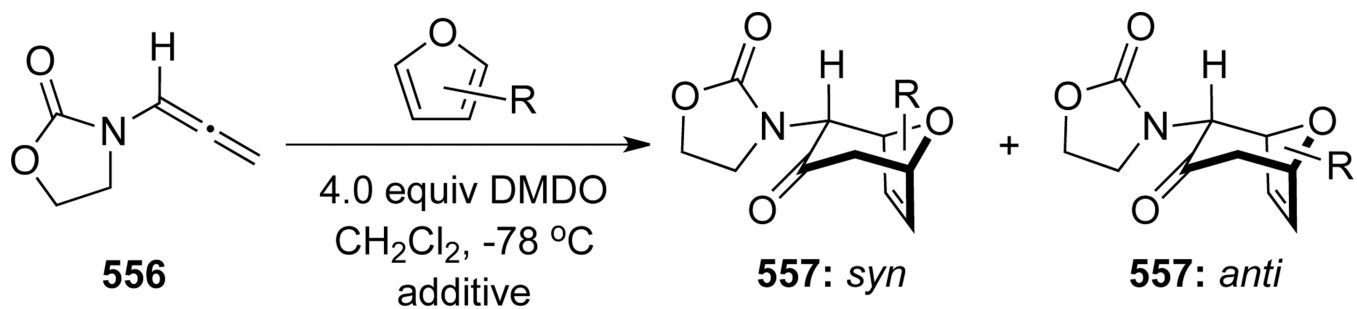
557a: major *syn*
no additive: 90%, 83:17
ZnCl₂: 97%, 86:14
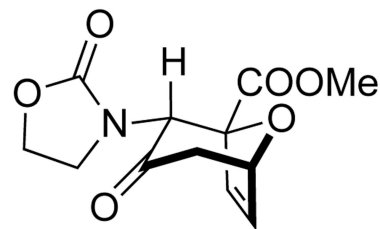
557b: major *syn*
no additive: 41%, ≥95:5
NaClO₄: 67%, ≥95:5
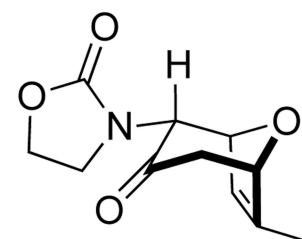
557c: major *anti*
no additive: 95%, 13:87
ZnCl₂: 96%, 22:78
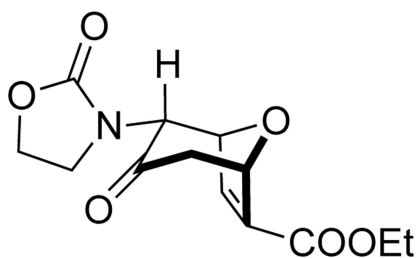
557d: major *anti*
no additive: 36%, 9:91
ZnCl₂: 53%, 9:91
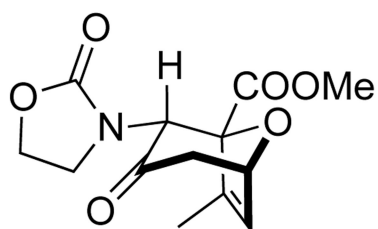
557e: major *syn*
ZnCl₂: 65%, ≥95:5
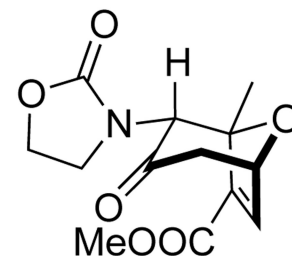
557f: major *syn*
ZnCl₂: 56%, ≥95:5

Scheme 151.

D: electron donating:
*a steric model -
less hindered attack*

W: electron withdrawing:
*an electronic model -
conjugate addition like*

syn: favored   *anti*: favored   *syn*: favored   *anti*: favored

nitrogen-stabilzed oxyallyl cations: ambiphilic w/HOMO = enolate-like
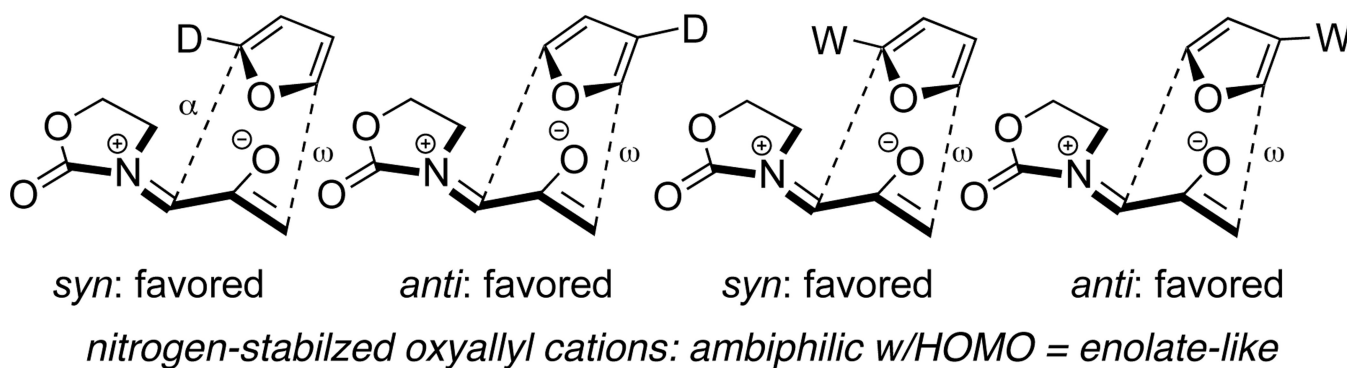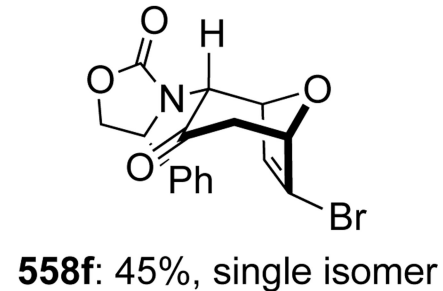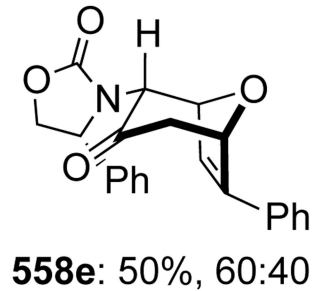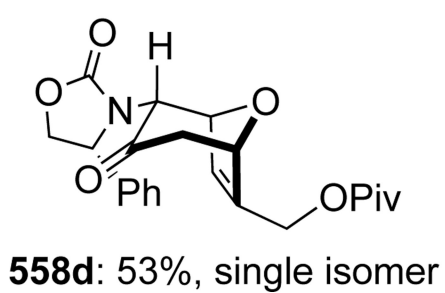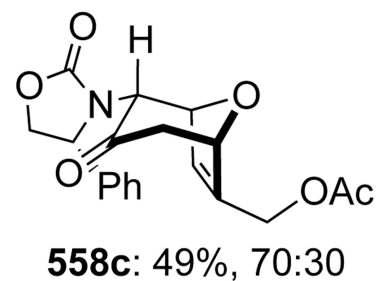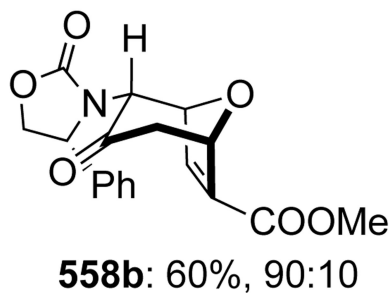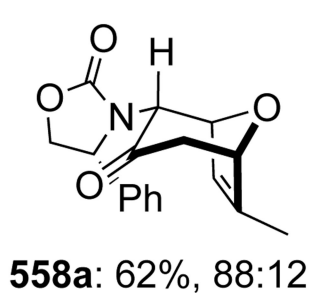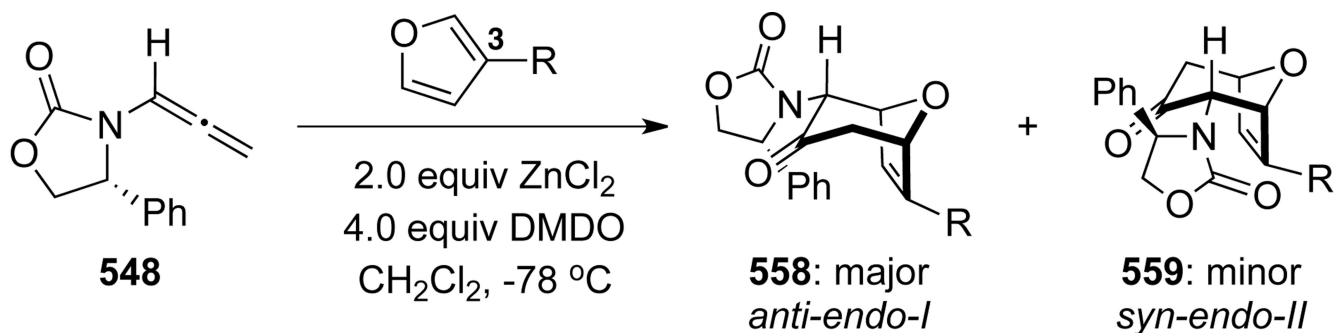
Scheme 152.

Scheme 153.
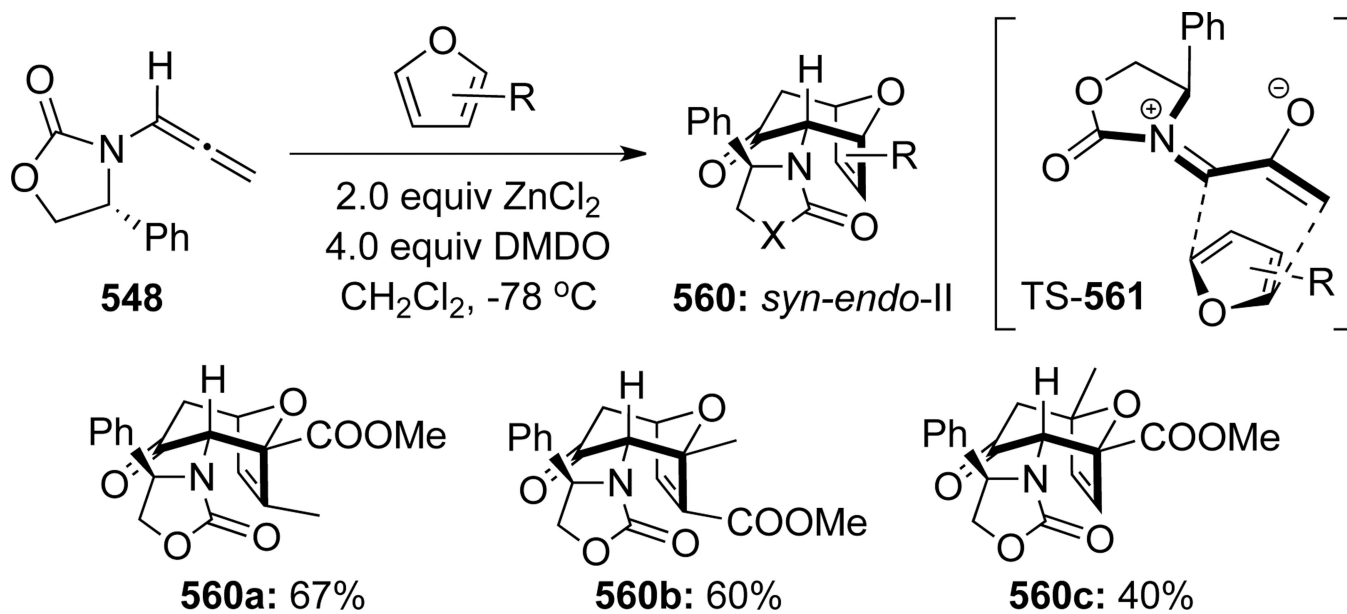
Scheme 154.
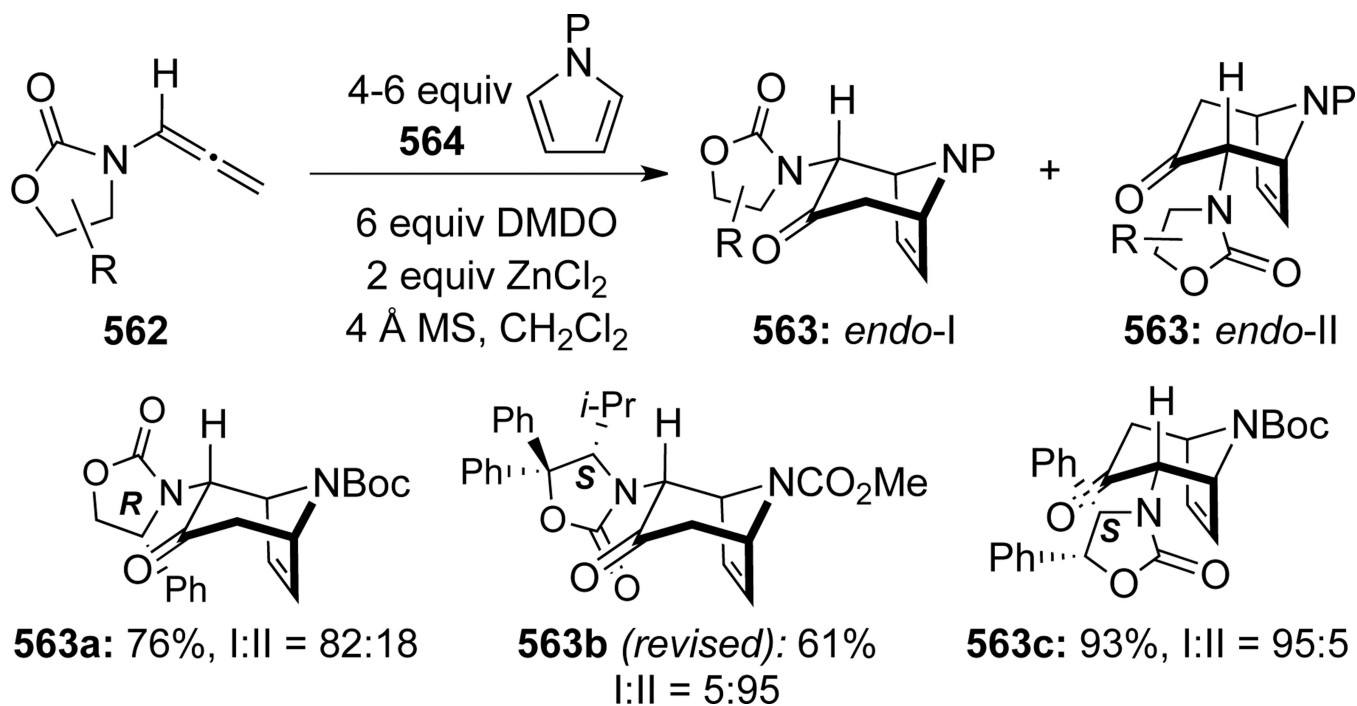
Scheme 155.
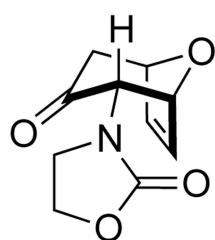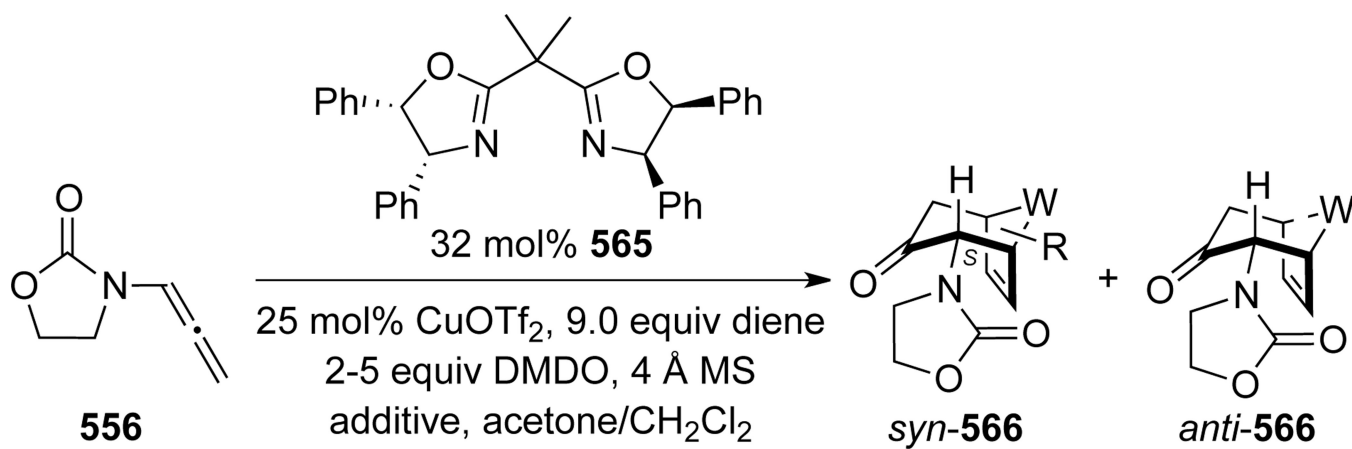
Scheme 156.

567

2-3 equiv DMDO

CH$_2$Cl$_2$, -45 °C

568

intermediate **569**
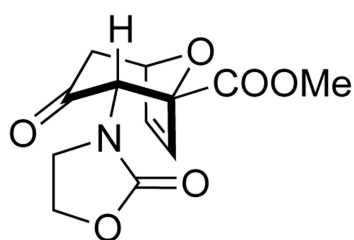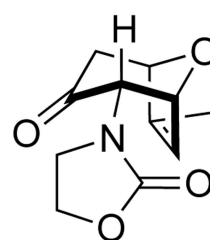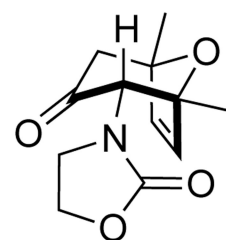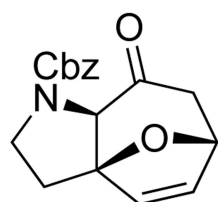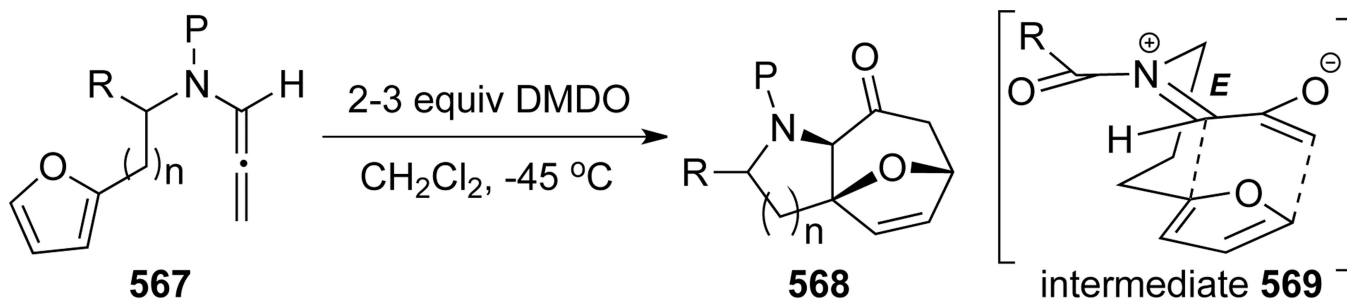
568a: 75%
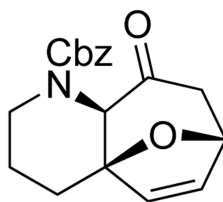
568b: 47%, *dr* 60:40
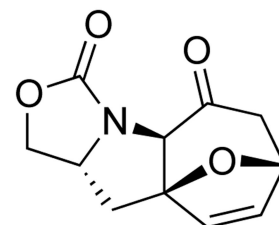
568c: 82%, *dr* 96:4
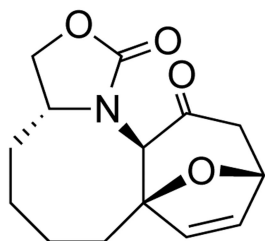
568d: 57%, *dr* 70:30
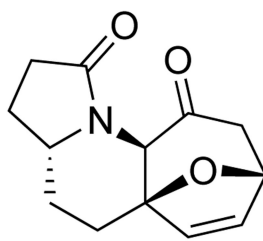
568e: 90%, *dr* 87:13
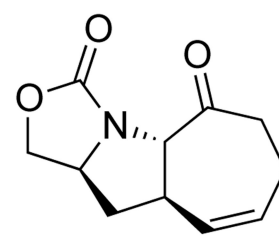
568f: 75%, *dr* 62:38

Scheme 157.

Scheme 158.

Scheme 159.

(*P*)-**575**: n = 1
(*M*)-**575**: n = 1
576: n = 2, *P:M* = 1:1

577: n = 1, 60%, *dr* 90:10
578: n = 1, 75%, *dr* 90:10
579: n = 2, 65%, *dr* 97:3

Scheme 160.

585 → **586**

10 mol% CSA, CH₂Cl₂, rt
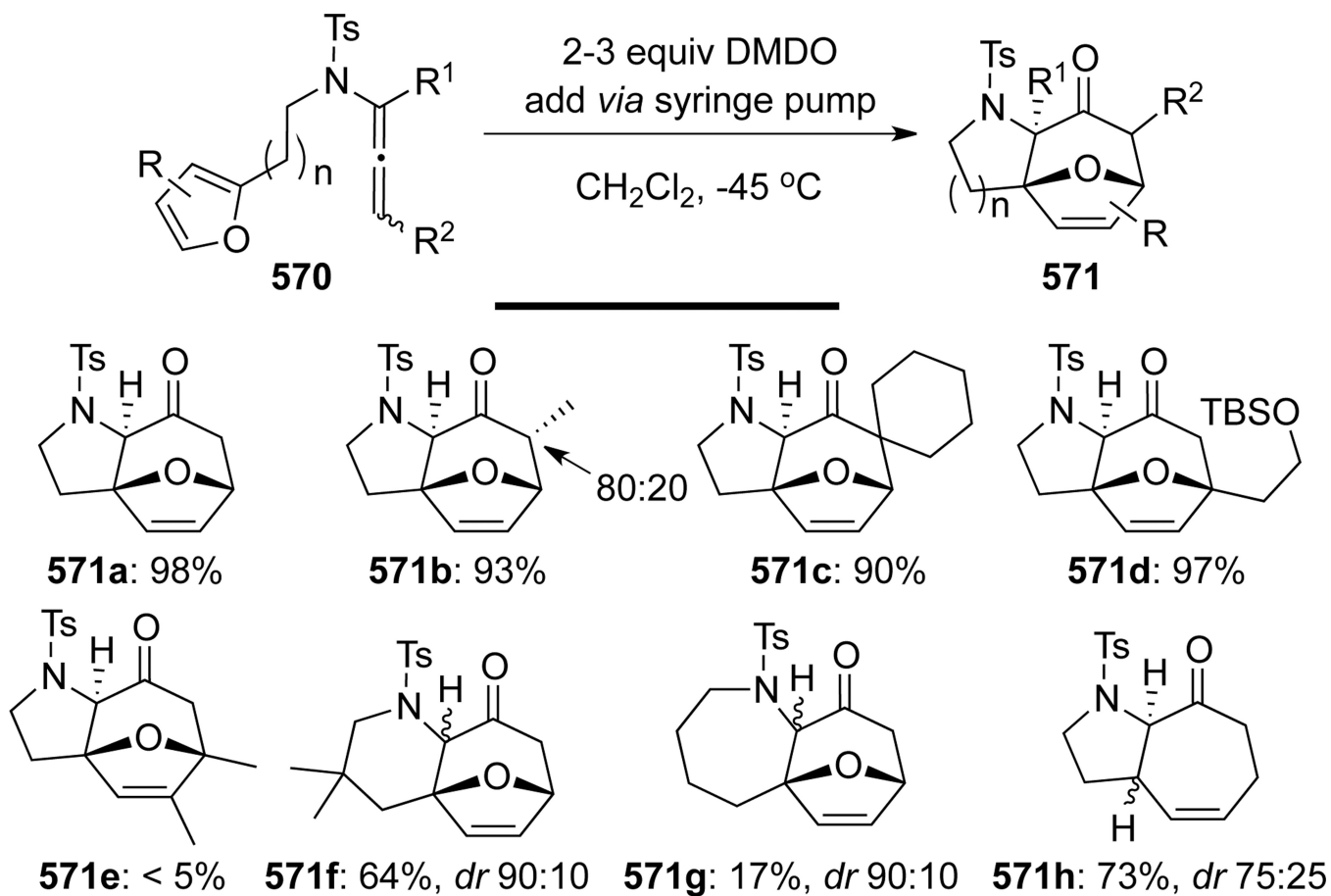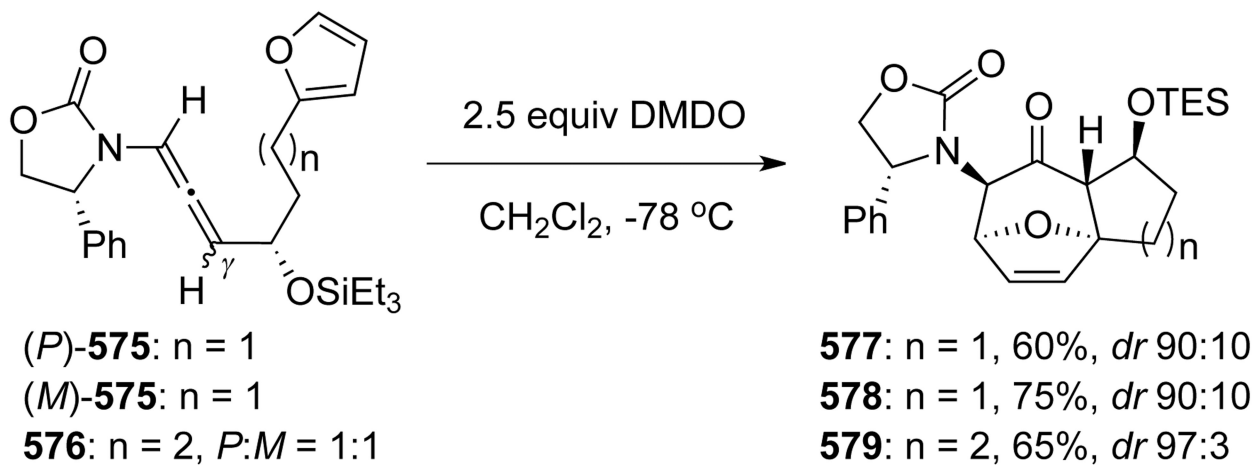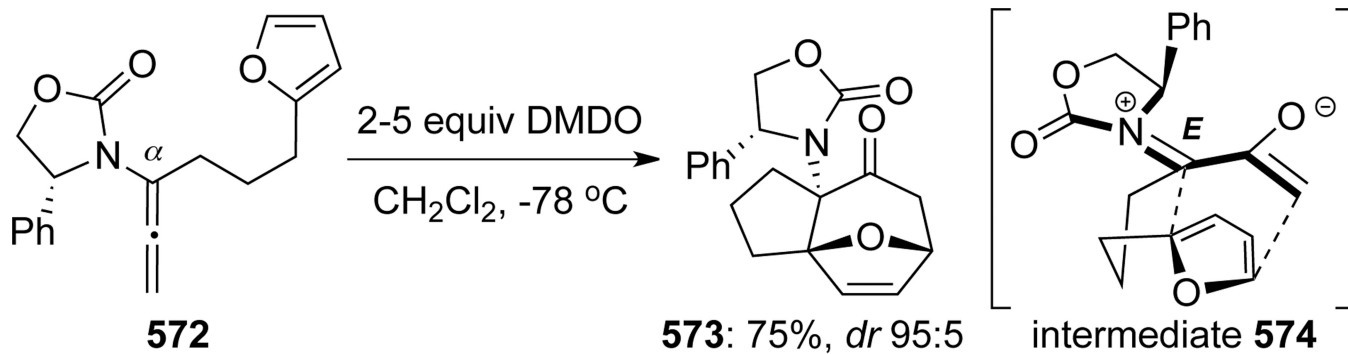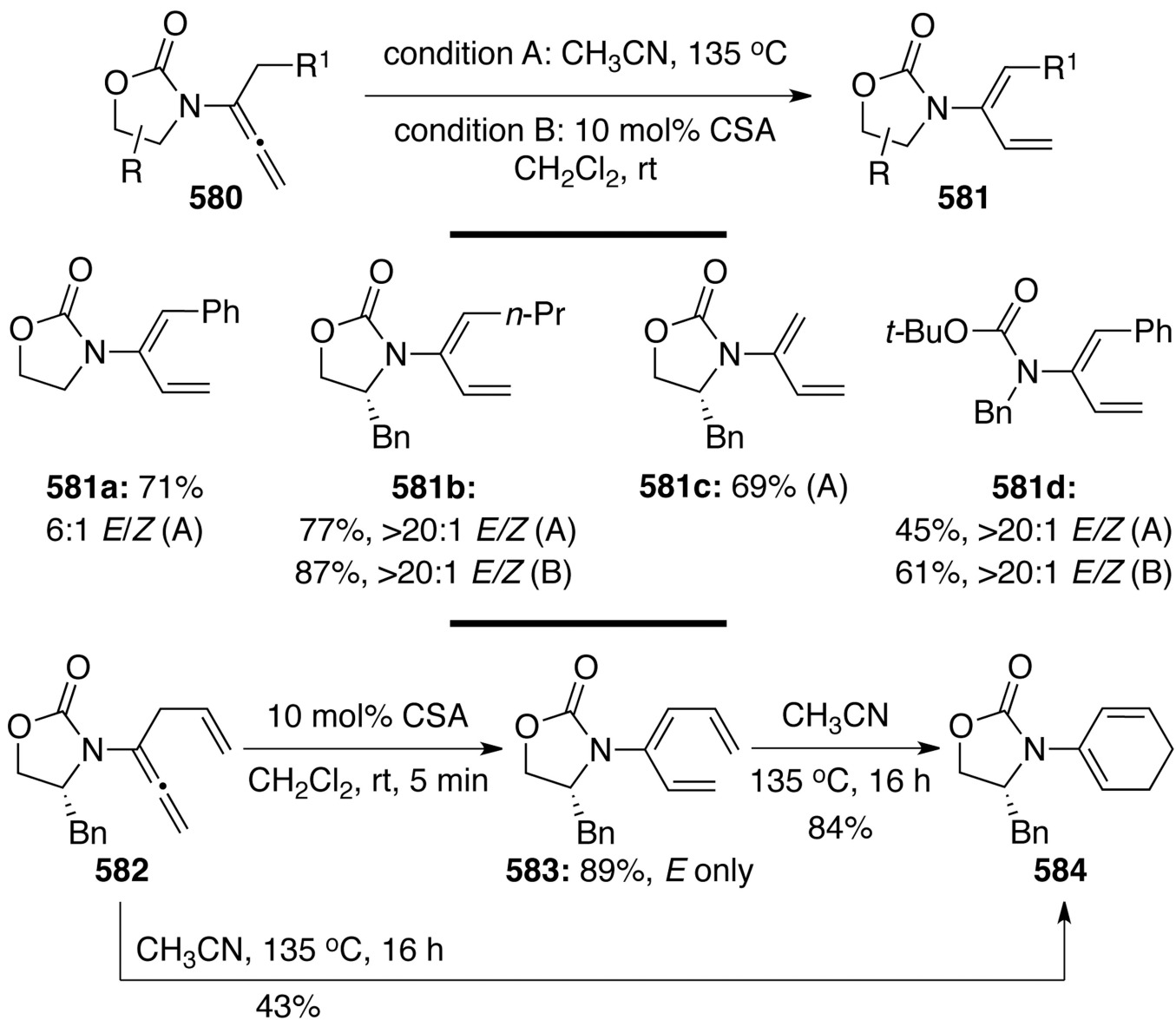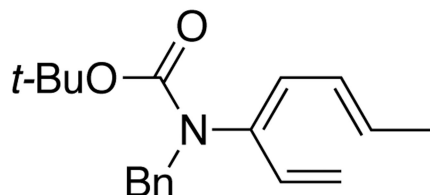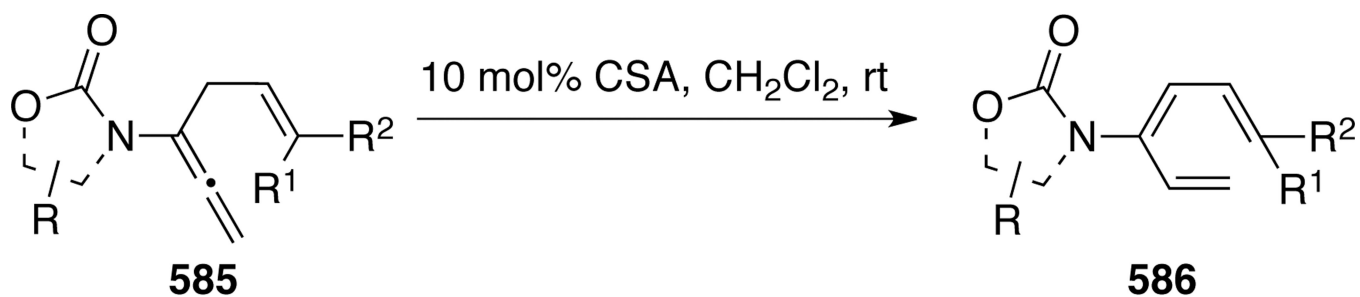
586a: 86%
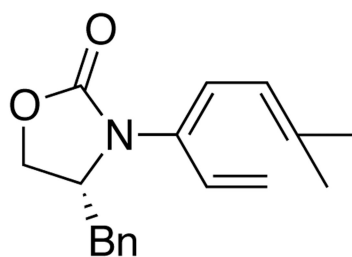
586b: 89%

586c: 95%

587a: R = H
587b: R = Me

10 mol% CSA

CH₂Cl₂, rt, 10 min
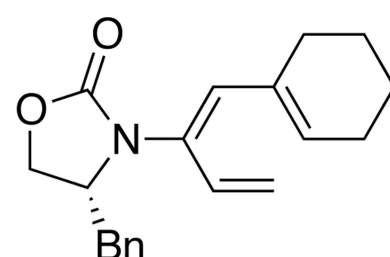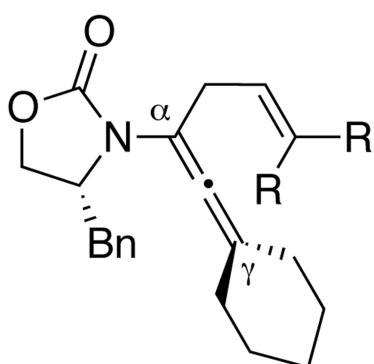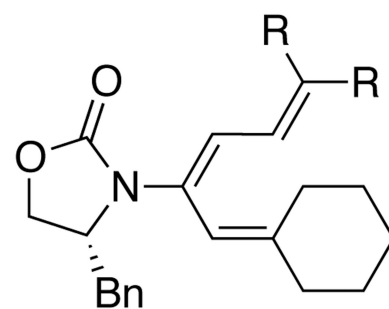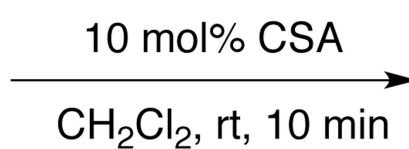
588a: R = H [68%]
588b: R = Me [80%]

Scheme 161.

Scheme 162.

594 → xylene, 135 °C / *1,3-H–1,7-H shift-ring-closure* → **595** → [4 + 2] / *dr* 20:1 → **596a:** R = H [55%] **596b:** R = Ph [48%]

597 → cat. CSA CH₂Cl₂ / *1,3-H shift* → **598a:** X = O [75%] **598b:** X = NTs [62%] → xylene 135 °C / *ring-closure and [4 + 2]* → **599a:** 68% **599b:** 78%

xylene, 135 °C: X = O [52%]; X = NTs [62%]

Scheme 163.

Scheme 164.

Scheme 165.

605

condition A: CH₃CN, 175 °C

condition B: 10 mol% CSA
CH₂Cl₂, rt

606a: W = Ac, R = Ph
[95% (A), 90% (B)]
606b: W = Ts, R = Bn
[96% (A), 97% (B)]

607

condition A: CH₃CN, 135-175 °C

condition B: 10 mol% CSA
CH₂Cl₂, rt

608a: W = Ac, R = Ph
[46% (A), 97% (B)]
608b: W = Ts, R = Bn
[77% (A), 99% (B)]

Scheme 166.

Scheme 167.

Scheme 168.

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Scheme 169.

627: [dr = 2:1]

3 equiv DMDO
acetone
-40 °C to rt

628: N* = chiral amide

10 mol% p-TsOH
acetone/H₂O
[3:1], rt

631: 71%

ArCO₂H
DCC, DMAP
CH₂Cl₂, rt

Ar = 2,4-dinitro-Ph

630: 73%

Ph₃P=CH₂
in THF
0 °C to rt

629: 85%
overall

R = C(O)Ar

ent

atroppuran

Scheme 170.

Scheme 171.

Scheme 172.

Scheme 173.

Scheme 174.

651

+

652

Method A: 1 mol% Rh$_2$(OPiv)$_4$
CH$_2$Cl$_2$, 0 °C to rt
Or: Method B: 1 mol% Rh$_2$(S-IBAZ)$_4$
PhH/Mesitylene, 0 °C to rt

via

654

653: 95%, E/Z >97:3 (Method A);
48%, E/Z 97:3, 90% ee (Method B)

Scheme 175.