Supporting Information

Palladium(II)-Catalyzed Tandem Oxidative Acetoxylation/ortho C-H Activation/Carbocyclization of Arylallenes

Javier Mazuela, Debasis Banerjee, and Jan-E. Bäckvall*

Department of Organic Chemistry, Arrhenius Laboratory, Stockholm University, SE-106 91 Stockholm, Sweden

Index

General information	S3
Preparation of starting materials	S 3
Typical Experimental Procedure	S11
Selected optimization results	S11
Characterization products	S14
Characterization of side product	S21
Kinetic Experiments	S22
Calculations Kinetic Isotopic Effect (KIE)	S25
Carbocyclization using Diethyl 2-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)-2-phenyl-	
$malonate-d_6 (1a-d_6)$	S26
References	S26
NMR Spectra	S27

General information

Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were used as received from the commercial suppliers. Pd(OAc)₂ was obtained from Pressure Chemicals and used without further purification. Commercially available benzoquinone was separated from insoluble impurities by dissolving it in refluxing cyclohexane and decanting. After evaporation, benzoquinone was obtained as yellow needles. The cyclization reactions described in this report were performed without any efforts to exclude moisture unless otherwise noted. AcOH (p.a. grade) were purchased from Sigma Aldrich. Dry THF and DMF for the preparation of starting materials were obtained from a VAC Solvent Purifier. Reactions were monitored using thin-layer chromatography (SiO₂). TLC plates were visualized with UV light (254 nm), vanillin stain or KMnO₄ stain. Flash chromatography was carried out with 60Å (particle size 35–70 µm) normal flash silica gel. NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz (¹H) or 500 MHz (¹H) and at 100 MHz (^{13}C) or 125 MHz (^{13}C) , respectively. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in ppm, using the residual solvent peak in CDCl₃ ($\delta H = 7.26$ and $\delta C = 77.16$ ppm) as internal standard, and coupling constants (J) are given in Hz. HRMS were recorded using ESI-TOF techniques.

Preparation of starting materials

All bromoallenes were prepared according to the procedure published by Landor with minor modifications.¹ Diethyl arylmalonates were prepared as described in literature.²



Representative procedure for the synthesis of allenes **1**. *Diethyl* 2-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)-2-phenylmalonate (**1***a*)



To a suspension of NaH (60% in mineral oil, 840 mg, 20.1 mmol) in anhydrous THF (150 ml) was added a solution of diethyl phenylmalonate (3.8 g, 3.5 mL, 16.0 mmol) in anhydrous THF (10 ml) at 0 °C. After the addition, the mixture was stirred for another 20 min at r.t. Then a solution of 1-bromo-3-methylbuta-1,2-diene (4.8 g, 32.0 mmol) in anhydrous THF (10 ml) was added at r.t. and the resulting mixture was stirred for 20h at 65 °C. After the reaction was complete as monitored by TLC, it was cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with 50 mL of Et₂O and quenched with 30 mL of water. The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (2 x 50 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄. Evaporation and column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 25/1) afforded 4g of a 5:1 mixture of product **1a**:terminal alkyne. This mixture was dissolved in acetonitrile and Pd(OAc)₂ (12 mg, 0.053 mmols), CuI (11 mg, 0.053 mmols) and DABCO (892 mg, 7.95 mmols) were added. The resulting mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with 50 mL of Et₂O and quenched with 30 mL of water. The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (2 x 50 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄. Evaporation and column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 25/1) afforded **1a** as a colorless oil (2.88 g, 60%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.47-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.28 (m, 3H), 5.83 (h, 1H, J = 2.8 Hz), 4.26 (m, 4H), 1.66 (d, 6H, J = 2.8 Hz), 1.28 (t, 6H, J = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 202.3, 169.9, 137.5, 128.5, 127.9, 127.6, 99.7, 90.6, 64.5, 61.8, 19.8, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₁₈H₂₂O₄ [M+Na]+ : 325.1410; found: 325.1435.

Diethyl 2-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)-2-(o-tolyl)malonate (1b)



57% Isolated yield, colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.23-7.10 (m, 4H), 5.85 (h, 1H, J = 2.8 Hz), 4.28 (m, 4H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 1.50 (d, 6H, J = 2.8 Hz), 1.29 (t, 6H, J = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 202.9, 170.5, 137.3, 136.8, 131.5, 128.0, 127.3, 125.4, 99.3, 90.7, 65.2, 62.0, 21.2, 19.4, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₁₉H₂₄O₄ [M+Na]+ : 339.1567; found: 339.1579.

Diethyl 2-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)-2-(m-tolyl)malonate (1c)



55% Isolated yield, colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.27-7.21 (m, 3H), 7.15-7.09 (m, 1H), 5.82 (h, 1H, J = 2.9 Hz), 4.26 (m, 4H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 1.67 (d, 6H, J = 2.9 Hz), 1.29 (t, 6H, J = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 202.4, 169.8, 137.3, 129.2, 128.3, 127.8, 125.5, 99.6, 90.6, 64.5, 61.8, 21.6, 19.9, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₁₉H₂₄O₄ [M+Na]⁺: 339.1567; found: 339.1588.

Diethyl 2-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)-2-(p-tolyl)malonate (1d)



55% Isolated yield, colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.36-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.18-7.13 (m, 2H), 5.82 (h, 1H, J = 2.9 Hz), 4.25 (m, 4H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.67 (d, 6H, J = 2.9 Hz), 1.29 (t, 6H, J = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 202.1, 170.0 ,137.3, 134.5, 128.6, 128.3, 99.5, 90.5, 64.1, 61.7, 21.0, 19.9, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₁₉H₂₄O₄ [M+Na]⁺: 339.1567; found: 339.1586.

Diethyl 2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)malonate (1e)



64% Isolated yield, yellow oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.27-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.07-7.01 (m, 2H), 6.88-7.81 (m, 1H), 5.81 (h, 1H, J = 2.9 Hz), 4.25 (m, 4H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 1.68 (d, 6H, J = 2.9 Hz), 1.29 (t, 6H, J = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 202.2, 169.7, 159.1, 138.9, 128.8, 120.9, 114.7, 113.0, 99.6, 90.4, 64.4, 61.8, 55.2, 19.9, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₁₉H₂₄O₅ [M+Na]⁺: 355.1516; found: 355.1545.

Diethyl 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)malonate (1f)



68% Isolated yield, yellow oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.42-7.35 (m, 2H), 6.91-6.85 (m, 2H), 5.82 (h, 1H, J = 2.9 Hz), 4.24 (m, 4H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 1.67 (d, 6H, J = 2.9 Hz), 1.29 (t, 6H, J = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 202.1, 170.1, 158.9, 129.7, 129.6, 113.3, 99.6, 90.6, 63.8, 61.7, 55.2, 19.9, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for $C_{19}H_{24}O_5 [M+Na]^+$: 355.1516; found: 355.1529.

Diethyl 2-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)-2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)malonate (1g)



70% Isolated yield, yellow oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.74 (s, 2H), 5.83 (h, 1H, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 4.27 (m, 4H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 6H), 1.69 (d, 6H, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 1.31 (t, 6H, *J* = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 202.2, 169.7, 152.5, 137.6, 132.8, 106.1, 99.7, 90.4, 64.3, 61.8, 60.8, 56.1, 19.9, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₁H₂₈O₇ [M+Na]⁺: 415.1727; found: 415.1752.

Diethyl 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)malonate (1h)



52% Isolated yield, colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.47-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.08-6.98 (m, 2H), 5.81 (h, 1H, J = 2.9 Hz), 4.26 (m, 4H), 1.65 (d, 6H, J = 2.9 Hz), 1.29 (t, 6H, J = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 202.4, 169.7, 163.4, 160.9, 133.3, 130.4, 114.6, 99.9, 90.5, 63.8, 61.9, 19.8, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₁₈H₂₁FO₄ [M+Na]⁺: 343.1316; found: 343.1332.

Diethyl 2-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)-2-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)malonate (1i)



Following the general procedure but using DMF as solvent instead of THF. 45% Isolated yield, colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.65-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.44 (m, 1H), 5.85 (h, 1H, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 4.28 (m, 4H), 1.63 (d, 6H, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 1.30 (t, 6H, *J* = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 202.7, 169.8, 138.4, 132.0, 130.3, 130.0, 128.2, 125.8, 125.7, 125.5, 125.4, 124.4, 124.3, 122.8, 100.4, 90.3, 64.1,

61.2, 19.6, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for $C_{19}H_{21}F_3O_4$ [M+Na]⁺: 393.1284; found: 393.1288.

Diethyl 2-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)malonate (1j)



Following the general procedure but using DMF as solvent instead of THF. 47% Isolated yield, colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.63-7.56 (m, 4H), 5.84 (h, 1H, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 4.28 (m, 4H), 1.64 (d, 6H, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 1.29 (t, 6H, *J* = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 202.6, 169.2, 141.5, 129.6, 129.1, 124.7, 122.7, 100.2, 90.2, 64.2, 62.1, 19.7, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₁₉H₂₁F₃O₄ [M+Na]⁺: 393.1284; found: 393.1267.

Diethyl 2-(2-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)-2-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)malonate (1k)



Following the general procedure but using DMF as solvent instead of THF. 43% Isolated yield, colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.91 (dd, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz, *J* = 1.5 Hz), 7.47 (td, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1.6 Hz), 7.37 (td, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1.6 Hz), 7.26 (dd, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz, *J* = 1.5 Hz), 5.90 (h, 1H, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 4.25 (m, 4H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 1.50 (d, 6H, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 1.26 (t, 6H, *J* = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 202.9, 169.8, 168.1, 139.5, 131.3, 130.9, 130.5, 129.8, 127.2, 92.1, 65.4, 61.9, 51.8, 21.6, 19.5, 13.9; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₀H₂₄O₆ [M+Na]⁺: 383.1465; found: 383.1468.

Diethyl 2-(3-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)-2-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)malonate (11)



Following the general procedure but using DMF as solvent instead of THF. 47% Isolated yield, colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.18-8.15 (m, 1H), 8.02-7.97 (m, 1H), 7.68-7.63 (m, 1H), 7.43 (t, 1H, J = 7.8 Hz), 5.85 (h, 1H, J = 2.9 Hz), 4.27

(m, 4H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 1.65 (d, 6H, J = 2.9 Hz), 1.29 (t, 6H, J = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 202.6, 169.5, 166.9, 137.9, 133.3, 129.9, 129.8, 128.8, 127.9, 100.1 90.3, 64.2, 62.0, 52.1, 19.7, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₀H₂₄O₆ [M+Na]⁺: 383.1465; found: 383.1479.

Diethyl 2-(4-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)-2-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)malonate (1m)



Following the general procedure but using DMF as solvent instead of THF. 40% Isolated yield, colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.04-7.99 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.51 (m, 2H), 5.84 (d, 1H, J = 2.9 Hz), 4.26 (m, 4H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 1.63 (d, 6H, J = 2.9 Hz), 1.29 (t, 6H, J = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 202.6, 169.3, 166.8, 142.6, 129.1, 128.7, 100.1, 90.3, 64.4, 62.0, 52.1, 19.7, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₀H₂₄O₆ [M+Na]⁺: 383.1465; found: 383.1477.

Diethyl 2-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)malonate (1n)



30% Isolated yield, white solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.92-7.89 (m, 1H), 7.87-7.79 (m, 3H), 7.61-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.52-7.46 (m, 2H), 5.93 (h, 1H, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 4.29 (m, 4H), 1.67 (d, 6H, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 1.30 (t, 6H, *J* = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 202.6, 169.9, 135.4, 132.9, 132.7, 128.3, 127.4, 127.3, 127.2, 126.9, 126.2, 125.9, 99.7, 90.5, 64.5, 61.9, 19.8, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₂H₂₄O₄ [M+Na]⁺: 375.1567; found: 375.1568.

Diethyl 2-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)-2-(phenanthren-9-yl)malonate (10)



25% Isolated yield, white solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.70 (dd, 2H, J = 20.2, J = 8.7), 7.88 (dd, 2H, J = 20.2, J = 8.7), 7.70-7.64 (m, 2H), 7.63-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.55-

7.49 (m, 1H), 6.07 (h, 1H, J = 2.9 Hz), 4.30 (m, 4H), 1.23 (m, 12H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 203.9, 170.4, 133.1, 131.1, 130.4, 130.1, 129.1, 127.5, 127.1, 127.0, 162.6, 125.9, 125.6, 123.0, 122.3, 99.8, 90.9, 65.4, 62.1, 19.0, 13.9; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₆H₂₆O₄ [M+Na]⁺: 425.1723; found: 425.1738.

2-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)-2-phenylpropane-1,3-diol (1p)



To a suspension of LiAlH₄ (233 mg, 6.15 mmols) in 40 mL Et₂O at 0°C, a solution of **1a** (600mg, 1.98 mmols) in 10 mL Et₂O were added. The mixture was stirred overnight at rt. The reaction mixture was quenched with 20 mL of water. The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (2 x 25 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄. Evaporation and column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1) afforded 412 mg of product **1p** (95% yield) as a white solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.50-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.26 (m, 1H), 5.20 (h, 1H, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 4.10-3.91 (m, 4H), 1.98 (b, 2H), 1.79 (d, 6H, *J* = 2.9 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 201.7, 141.6, 128.6, 127.4, 127.0, 98.4, 91.9, 68.2, 50.4, 20.6; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₁₄H₁₈O₂ [M+Na]⁺: 241.1199; found: 241.1205.

(((2-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)-2-phenylpropane-1,3-diyl)bis(oxy))bis(methylene))dibenzene (**1q**)



To a suspension of NaH (190 mg in 60% oil, 4.67 mmols) in 4 mL DMF, **1p** (300 mg, 1.37 mmols) in 2mL DMF was added dropwise at 0 °C and stirred for 1h at 0 °C. BnBr (360 µL, 515mg, 3.01 mmols) was added dropwise at 0 °C and the mixture was stirred overnight at rt. The reaction mixture was quenched with a mixture of 15 mL Et₂O and 5 mL water, extracted with Et₂O (3 x 20 mL) washed with water (25 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄. Evaporation and column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20/1) afforded 497 mg of product **1q** (91% yield) as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.50-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.20 (m, 13H), 5.33 (h, 1H, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 4.54 (m, 4H), 3.88 (d, 2H, *J* = 9.1 Hz), 3.78 (d, 2H, *J* = 9.1 Hz), 1.69 (d, 6H, *J* = 2.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 201.9, 143.2, 138.8, 128.2, 127.8, 127.7, 127.3, 127.2, 126.3, 97.4, 93.0, 74.0, 73.3, 48.8, 20.4; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₈H₃₀O₂ [M+Na]⁺: 421.2138; found: 421.2140.

Diethyl 2-(3-methylpenta-1,2-dien-1-yl)-2-phenylmalonate (1r)



Following the general procedure but using 1-bromo-3-methylpenta-1,2-diene instead of 1-bromo-3-methylbuta-1,2-diene. 62% Isolated yield, colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.49-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.27 (m, 3H), 5.91 (h, 1H, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 4.25 (m, 4H), 1.90 (m, 2H), 1.65 (d, 6H, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 1.28 (td, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz, *J* = 1.6 Hz), 0.93 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.4 Hz) ; ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 201.4, 169.9, 169.8, 137.5, 128.5, 127.8, 127.5, 106.0, 92.4, 64.5, 61.7, 26.8, 18.3, 14.0, 12.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₁₉H₂₄O₄ [M+Na]⁺: 339.1567; found: 339.1581.

Diethyl 2-(2-cyclohexylidenevinyl)-2-phenylmalonate (1s)



Following the general procedure but using (2-bromovinylidene)cyclohexane instead of 1-bromo-3-methylbuta-1,2-diene. 65% Isolated yield, colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.46-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.27 (m, 3H), 5.84 (h, 1H, J = 2.9 Hz), 4.27 (m, 4H), 2.09-2.02 (m, 4H), 1.60-1.32 (m, 6H), 1.28 (t, 6H, J = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 199.1, 169.9, 137.6, 128.5, 127.8, 127.5, 106.7, 90.7, 64.7, 61.8, 30.7, 27.0, 25.9, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₁H₂₆O₄ [M+Na]⁺: 365.1723; found: 365.1755.

Diethyl 2-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)-2-phenylmalonate-d₅ (**1a**-d₅)



58% Isolated yield, colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.84 (h, 1H, J = 2.8 Hz), 4.26 (m, 4H), 1.66 (d, 6H, J = 2.8 Hz), 1.29 (t, 6H, J = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 202.3, 99.7, 90.6, 64.4, 61.8, 19.8, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₁₈H₁₇D₅O₄ [M+Na]+ : 330.1724; found: 330.1744.



52% Isolated yield, colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.47-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.28 (m, 3H), 5.83 (s, 1H), 4.26 (m, 4H), 1.29 (t, 6H, J = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 202.3, 169.9, 137.5, 128.5, 127.9, 127.6, 90.6, 64.5, 61.8, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₁₈H₁₆D₆O₄ [M+Na]+ : 331.1787; found: 331.1801.

Typical Experimental Procedure for Carbocyclization of 1 to 2.

In a sealable microwave tube were placed 0.2 mmol of arylallene, 4.5 mg Pd(OAc)₂ (0.02 mmols) and 36.5 mg of benzoquinone (0.34 mmol). The mixture was dissolved in 2 mL of acetic acid and 32 μ L DMSO-d6 (0.4 mmols) were added. The mixture was stirred for 16h at 60°C. The resulting mixture was quenched with a 5 mL 1:1 mixture H₂O:AcOEt and extracted with AcOEt (3 x 3 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄. Evaporation and column chromatography on silica gel afforded the desired indene product.

Selected optimization results

Table S1. Optimization of additives





standard.

Table S2. Optimization amount of DMSO-d6



^[a] Yields were determined by ¹H NMR using mesitylene as internal standard.

Table S3. Optimization of oxidants





^[a] Yields were determined by ¹H NMR using mesitylene as internal standard.

Table S4. Optimization of the amount of benzoquinone

E E 1a	10 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂ X equiv BQ 2 equiv DMSO-d ₆ AcOH, 60 ⁰C, 16 h E= COOEt	E E + OAc	E E E E Ph 3a
Entry ^[a]	Equiv. BQ	2a, Yield [%]	3a , Yield [%]
1	1.1	49	5
2	1.3	56	6
3	1.5	60	6
4	1.7	65	6
5	2	61	6

^[a] Yields were determined by ¹H NMR using mesitylene as internal standard.

Table S5. Use of co-solvents

$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	E E 1a	10 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂ 1.5 equiv BQ 2 equiv DMSO-d ₆ AcOH:Cosolvent (1:1) $60 ^{\circ}$ C, 16 h E=COOEt	E E + OAc 2a	E E E E Ph 3a
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Entry ^[a]	Cosolvent	2a, Yield [%]	3a , Yield [%]
2 THF 33 <5 3 Dioxane 37 <5 4 DCE 26 <5 5 Toluene 32 <5 6 DME 0	1	-	60	6
3 Dioxane 37 <5 4 DCE 26 <5 5 Toluene 32 <5 6 DME 0	2	THF	33	<5
4 DCE 26 <5 5 Toluene 32 <5 6 DME 0	3	Dioxane	37	<5
5 Toluene 32 <5	4	DCE	26	<5
6 DME 0	5	Toluene	32	<5
\mathbf{U}	6	DMF	0	-
7 AcOEt 38 <5	7	AcOEt	38	<5

^[a] Yields were determined by ¹H NMR using mesitylene as internal standard.

Table S6. Use of bases

E E 1a	10 mol% Pd(OAc) ₂ <u>1.5 equiv BQ</u> 2 equiv DMSO-d ₆ , 2 equiv Base 60 °C, 16 h E= COOEt	E E + OAc 2a	E E E E E B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B
Entry ^[a]	Base	2a, Yield [%]	3a , Yield [%]
1	-	60	6
2	LiOAc·2H ₂ O	50	8
3	KOAc	46	9
4	CsOAc	44	8
5	PivOLi	-	-

^[a] Yields were determined by ¹H NMR using mesitylene as internal standard.

Characterization of products 2.

Diethyl 3-(2-acetoxypropan-2-yl)-1H-indene-1,1-dicarboxylate (2a)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.74 (d, 1H, J = 7.4 Hz), 7.49 (d, 1H, J = 7.8 Hz), 7.39-7.26 (m, 2H), 6.38 (s, 1H), 4.23 (m, 4H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 1.82 (s, 6H), 1.28 (t, 6H, J = 7.1 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.4, 167.7, 150.9, 142.0, 140.8, 128.5, 126.7, 126.2, 125.9, 121.5, 79.1, 68.8, 62.1, 26.6, 21.9, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₀H₂₄O₆ [M+Na]⁺: 383.1465; found: 383.1477.

Diethyl 3-(2-acetoxypropan-2-yl)-7-methyl-1H-indene-1,1-dicarboxylate (2b)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.37 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.26 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.08 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 6.30 (s, 1H), 4.22 (m, 4H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 1.80 (s, 6H), 1.26 (t, 6H, *J* = 7.1 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.3, 167.8, 150.6, 142.8,

139.5, 136.2, 129.0, 128.5, 127.5, 119.2, 78.9, 69.2, 61.9, 26.7, 21.8, 19.5, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for $C_{21}H_{26}O_6 [M+Na]^+$: 397.1622; found:397.1634.

Diethyl 3-(2-acetoxypropan-2-yl)-6-methyl-1H-indene-1,1-dicarboxylate (2c)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.55 (s, 1H), 7.37 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.16 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 6.30 (s, 1H), 4.23 (m, 4H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.01 (s, 3H), 1.80 (s, 6H), 1.29 (t, 6H, *J* = 7.1 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.4, 167.9, 150.9, 141.0, 139.3, 136.1, 129.2, 126.7, 125.7, 121.1, 79.1, 68.6, 62.1, 26.5, 21.9, 21.5, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₁H₂₆O₆ [M+Na]⁺: 397.1622; found: 397.1644.

Diethyl 3-(2-acetoxypropan-2-yl)-5-methyl-1H-indene-1,1-dicarboxylate (2d)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.61 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.30 (s, 1H), 7.10 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 6.36 (s, 1H), 4.23 (m, 4H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 1.82 (s, 6H), 1.28 (t, 6H, *J* = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.4, 167.9, 150.9, 142.1, 138.2, 138.0, 128.7, 127.0, 125.5, 122.3, 79.2, 68.5, 62.1, 26.6, 21.9, 21.8, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₁H₂₆O₆ [M+Na]⁺: 397.1622; found: 397.1629.

Diethyl 3-(2-acetoxypropan-2-yl)-4-methoxy-1H-indene-1,1-dicarboxylate (2e)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.38 (s, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.33 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.5 Hz), 6.88 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz, *J* = 2.5 Hz), 6.25 (s, 1H), 4.22 (m, 4H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 1.80 (s, 6H), 1.29 (t, 6H, *J* = 7.1 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.4, 167.8, 158.5, 150.7, 142.6, 134.8, 124.7, 121.9, 114.0, 112.3, 79.1, 68.7, 62.1, 55.6, 26.6, 21.9, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₁H₂₆O₇ [M+Na]⁺: 413.1571; found: 413.1585.

Diethyl 3-(2-acetoxypropan-2-yl)-5-methoxy-1H-indene-1,1-dicarboxylate (2f)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.05 (d, 1H, J = 2.4 Hz), 6.81 (d, 1H, J = 8.6 Hz, J = 2.4 Hz), 6.39 (s, 1H), 4.23 (m, 4H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 1.80 (s, 6H), 1.28 (t, 6H, J = 7.1 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.3, 167.9, 160.2, 150.7, 143.4, 132.9, 127.9, 126.3, 110.8, 108.4, 79.0, 68.1, 62.0, 55.5, 26.6, 21.9, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₁H₂₆O₇ [M+Na]⁺: 413.1571 found: 413.1546.

Diethyl 3-(2-acetoxypropan-2-yl)-4,5,6-trimethoxy-1H-indene-1,1-dicarboxylate (2g)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.11 (s, 1H), 6.29 (s, 1H), 4.25 (m, 4H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.85 (s, 6H), 1.28 (t, 6H, *J* = 7.1 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.8, 167.9, 152.8, 151.4, 147.3, 142.7, 137.1, 126.7, 125.4, 105.8, 79.6, 38.0, 62.1, 60.5, 56.3, 26.3, 22.5, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₃H₃₀O₉ [M+Na]⁺: 473.1782; found: 473.1807.

Diethyl 3-(2-acetoxypropan-2-yl)-5-fluoro-1H-indene-1,1-dicarboxylate (2h)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.67 (dd, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz, J = 5.5 Hz), 7.17 (dd, 1H, J = 9.0 Hz, J = 2.5 Hz), 7.00-6.94 (m, 1H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 4.23 (m, 4H), 2.04 (s, 3H), 1.80 (s, 6H), 1.28 (t, 6H, J = 7.1 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.4, 167.3, 150.3, 143.9, 136.2, 128.6, 126.9, 113.0, 112.7, 109.1, 108.9, 78.8, 68.3, 62.3, 26.5, 21.8, 13.9; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₀H₂₃FO₆ [M+Na]⁺: 401.1371; found: 401.1366.



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.99 (s, 1H), 7.66-7.56 (m, 2H), 6.52 (s, 1H), 4.25 (m, 4H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 1.81 (s, 6H), 1.30 (t, 6H, *J* = 7.1 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.3, 166.8, 150.3, 145.4, 141.3, 129.3, 128.2, 125.9, 122.9, 121.5, 78.7, 68.9, 62.5, 26.6, 21.8, 13.9; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₁H₂₃F₃O₆ [M+Na]⁺: 451.1339; found: 451.1379.

Diethyl 3-(2-acetoxypropan-2-yl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-indene-1,1-dicarboxylate (2j)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.85 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.57 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 6.48 (s, 1H), 4.25 (m, 4H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 1.82 (s, 6H), 1.29 (t, 6H, *J* = 7.1 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.4, 166.8, 150.2, 144.2, 142.7, 130.8, 128.3, 126.2, 125.6, 123.3, 122.9, 118.2, 78.8, 69.0, 62.5, 26.7, 21.6, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₁H₂₃F₃O₆ [M+Na]⁺: 451.1339; found: 451.1364.

1,1-Diethyl 7-methyl 3-(2-acetoxypropan-2-yl)-1H-indene-1,1,7-tricarboxylate (2k)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.85 (d, 1H, J = 7.9 Hz), 7.71 (dd, 1H, J = 7.9 Hz, J = 1.1 Hz), 7.45 (t, 1H, J = 7.9 Hz), 6.39 (s, 1H), 4.16 (m, 4H), 3.85 (s, 1H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 1.80 (s, 6H), 1.18 (t, 6H, J = 7.1 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.2, 167.3, 166.7, 149.4, 143.8, 142.7, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 127.5, 125.3, 78.7, 69.7, 61.8, 51.7, 26.6, 21.8, 13.9; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₂H₂₆O₈ [M+Na]⁺: 441.1520; found: 441.1528.



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.38 (d, 1H, J = 1.4 Hz), 8.08 (dd, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz, J = 1.4 Hz), 7.56 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz), 6.52 (s, 1H), 4.25 (m, 4H), 3.94 (s, 1H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 1.81 (s, 6H), 1.29 (t, 6H, J = 7.1 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.3, 167.0, 166.9, 150.6, 146.6, 141.0, 130.5, 129.7, 128.1, 126.8, 121.2, 78.8, 68.8, 62.4, 52.1, 26.6, 21.8, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₂H₂₆O₈ [M+Na]⁺: 441.1520; found: 441.1536.

1,1-Diethyl 7-methyl 3-(2-acetoxypropan-2-yl)-1H-indene-1,1,5-tricarboxylate (2m)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.16 (s, 1H), 8.00 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.80 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 6.43 (s, 1H), 4.24 (m, 4H), 3.95 (s, 1H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.83 (s, 6H), 1.28 (t, 6H, *J* = 7.1 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.5, 167.1, 167.0, 150.6, 145.4, 142.4, 130.6, 127.9, 127.6, 125.8, 122.5, 78.9, 69.0, 62.4, 52.2, 26.7, 21.8, 13.9; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₂H₂₆O₈ [M+Na]⁺: 441.1520; found: 441.1539.

Diethyl 3-(2-acetoxypropan-2-yl)-1H-cyclopenta[b]naphthalene-1,1-dicarboxylatedicarboxylate (**2n**)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.16 (s, 1H), 7.92-7.81 (m, 3H), 7.53-7.45 (m, 2H), 6.47 (s, 1H), 4.26 (m, 4H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.88 (s, 6H), 1.30 (t, 6H, *J* = 7.1 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.3, 167.9, 160.2, 150.7, 143.4, 132.9, 127.9, 126.3, 110.8, 108.4, 79.0, 68.1, 62.0, 55.5, 26.6, 21.9, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₄H₂₆O₆ [M+Na]⁺: 433.1622; found: 433.1634.



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.59 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.51 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.38-7.26 (m, 11H), 7.17 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 6.35 (s, 1H), 4.56 (m, 4H), 3.69 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 3.64 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 2.02 (s, 3H), 1.78 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.6, 148.1, 142.0, 138.8, 132.6, 128.3, 127.4, 127.3, 127.2, 125.0, 124.6, 121.3, 79.6, 73.4, 71.1, 57.1, 26.9, 22.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₃₀H₃₂O₄ [M+Na]⁺: 479.2193; found: 479.2221.

Diethyl 3-(2-acetoxybutan-2-yl)-1H-indene-1,1-dicarboxylate (2r)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.73 (d, 1H, J = 7.4 Hz), 7.49 (d, 1H, J = 7.8 Hz), 7.37-7.25 (m, 2H), 6.37 (s, 1H), 4.22 (m, 4H), 2.25-2.07 (m, 2H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.83 (s, 3H), 1.31-1.14 (m, 6H), 0.87 (t, 3H, J = 7.5 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.3, 168.0, 167.6, 149.7, 142.0, 140.8, 128.4, 128.0, 126.2, 125.8, 121.5, 82.4, 68.8, 62.1, 31.4, 22.7, 21.9, 14.0, 8.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₁H₂₆O₆ [M+Na]⁺: 397.1622; found: 397.1611.

Diethyl 3-(1-acetoxycyclohexyl)-1H-indene-1,1-dicarboxylate (2s)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.73 (d, 1H, J = 7.4 Hz), 7.52 (d, 1H, J = 7.9 Hz), 7.36-7.23 (m, 2H), 6.38 (s, 1H), 4.22 (m, 4H), 2.70-2.55 (m, 2H), 2.04 (s, 3H), 1.81-1.64 (m, 8H), 1.28 (t, 3H, J = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.1, 167.8, 150.7, 142.2, 140.7, 128.3, 127.0, 126.1, 125.9, 121.4, 80.1, 69.0, 62.1, 34.5, 25.5, 21.6, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₃H₂₈O₆ [M+Na]⁺: 423.1756; found: 423.1778.



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.74 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 7.49 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.39-7.26 (m, 2H), 6.38 (s, 1H), 4.23 (m, 4H), 1.82 (s, 6H), 1.29 (t, 6H, *J* = 7.1 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.5, 167.7, 151.0, 142.0, 140.8, 128.5, 126.7, 126.2, 125.9, 121.5, 79.1, 68.8, 62.1, 26.6, 21.6, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₀H₂₁D₃O₆ [M+Na]⁺: 386.1653; found: 386.1637.

Diethyl 3-(2-acetoxypropan-2-yl)-1H-indene-1,1-dicarboxylate-d₇ (2a-d₇)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.38 (s, 1H), 4.23 (m, 4H), 1.82 (s, 6H), 1.29 (t, 6H, J = 7.1 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 167.9, 151.0, 162.7, 79.1, 68.8, 62.1, 26.6, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₀H₁₇D₇O₆ [M+Na]⁺: 390.1904; found: 390.1888.

Diethyl 3-(2-acetoxypropan-2-yl)-1H-indene-1,1-dicarboxylate-d₉ (2a-d₉)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.74 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 7.49 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.39-7.26 (m, 2H), 6.38 (s, 1H), 4.23 (m, 4H), 1.29 (t, 6H, *J* = 7.1 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.4, 167.7, 150.9, 142.0, 140.8, 128.5, 126.7, 126.2, 125.9, 121.5, 78.8, 68.8, 62.1, 29.7, 14.0; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₂₀H₁₅D₉O₆ [M+Na]⁺: 392.2030; found: 392.2050.

Characterization of side product



Dimer **3a** was formed during the reaction and was isolated and fully characterized by ¹H and ¹³C NMR and HRMS. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.62 (m, 4H), 7.39-7.26 (m, 6H), 6.52 (s, 2H), 4.93 (s, 2H), 4.67 (s, 2H), 4.20 (m, 8H), 2.70 (s, 6H), 1.26 (t, 12H, J = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.6, 145.8, 140.4, 137.9, 128.0, 127.7, 126.6, 118.1, 63.8, 61.8, 21.6, 13.9; HRMS (ESI): calc. for C₃₆H₄₂O₈ [M+Na]⁺: 625.2772; found: 625.2738.

The formation of the dimer could be explained by the following pathway (Scheme S1):



Scheme S1. Mechanism for formation of dimer 3a.

The reaction starts with a C-H activation of the allene moiety to form the Pd-vinyl complex **A'**. Insertion into the allene moiety of a new aryl-allene molecule leads to the formation of the (π -allyl)palladium species **B'**. Final β -hydride elimination releases a Pd-H species (which is reoxidazed by BQ) under the formation of dimer **3a**.

Kinetic Experiments











Calculations Kinetic Isotopic Effect (KIE)



The kinetic isotopic effect value was calculated from the conversion (c = 27%) and the excess of **2a**-*d*₃ (e**2a**-*d*₃ = ([**2a**-*d*₃]-[**2a**-*d*₇])/ ([**2a**-*d*₃]+[**2a**-*d*₇])) using the equation $k_{\rm H}/k_{\rm D} = \ln(1-(c(1+e2a-d_3)))/\ln(1-(c(1-e2a-d_3))))$, which gave a value of 1.05.



The kinetic isotopic effect value was calculated from the conversion (c = 28%) and the excess of $2\mathbf{a} \cdot d_3$ (e $2\mathbf{a} \cdot d_3$ = ([$2\mathbf{a} \cdot d_3$]-[$2\mathbf{a} \cdot d_9$])/ ([$2\mathbf{a} \cdot d_3$]+[$2\mathbf{a} \cdot d_9$])) using the equation $k_{\rm H}/k_{\rm D} = \ln(1-(c(1+e\mathbf{2a} \cdot d_3)))/\ln(1-(c(1+e\mathbf{2a} \cdot d_3))))$, which gave a value of 1.20.



The ratio of the formation of products $3\mathbf{a} \cdot d_0$ vs $3\mathbf{a} \cdot d_5$ vs $3\mathbf{a} \cdot d_{10}$ was determined by HRMS. It was assumed that formation of **A'** is irreversible and that once the intermediates **A'**- d_0 or **A'**- d_5 were formed, they react with the same rate with either **1a** or **1a**- d_6 (see mechanism in Scheme S1 on p. S24). According to this assumption the KIE was calculated to $k_{\rm H}/k_{\rm D} = 7.2 (k_{\rm H}/k_{\rm D} = ([3\mathbf{a} \cdot d_0] + [3\mathbf{a} \cdot d_5] - [3\mathbf{a} \cdot d_{10}])/2[3\mathbf{a} \cdot d_{10}]).$

Carbocyclization using $[D_6]$ -Diethyl 2-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)-2-phenylmalonate (1a-d₆)



References

¹Landor, S. R.; Patel, A. N.; Whiter, P. F.; Greaves, P. M. J. Chem. Soc. (C) **1966**, 1223.

²Yip, S.F.; Cheung, H.Y.; Zhou, Z.; Kwong, F. Y. Org. Lett. 2007, 17, 3469.































































S-57





















