

# Aromatic Ion Platform and Its Application

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## ***Group Seminar of LSPN***

*Laboratory of Synthesis and Natural Products (LSPN)  
Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)*

**Hua Wu**  
**24.04.2019**

# Outline

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1. Introduction

2. **Aromatic cation**

3. **Aromatic anion**

4. Summary and Outlook

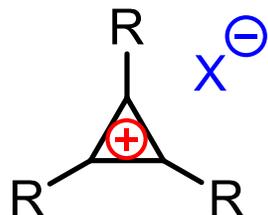
# Introduction

## Hückel's rule

According to Hückel's Molecular Orbital Theory, a compound is particularly stable if all of its bonding molecular orbitals are filled with paired electrons.

$$4n + 2 \quad \pi \text{ electrons}$$

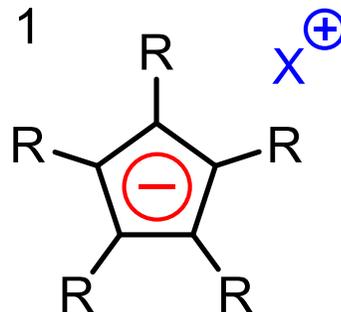
$n = 0$



**Cyclopropenyl cation**

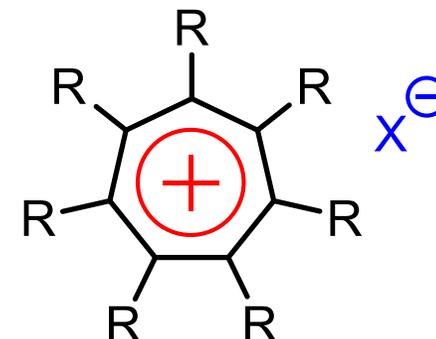
Smallest of the Hückel ring systems

$n = 1$



**Cyclopentadienyl anion**  
(Cyclopentadienide ion)

$n = 1$



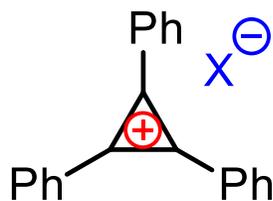
**Cycloheptatrienyl cation**  
(Tropylium ion)

## Ronald Breslow



S.L. Mitchill Professor of Chemistry and University Professor

Ronald Breslow was born in Rahway, New Jersey on March 14, 1931. Yoshida was born in 1925



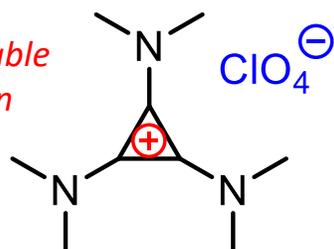
**Cyclopropenyl cation**

## 吉田善一 Zen-ichi Yoshida



[Kyoto University](#)

*One of the most stable carbocations known*



**TDAC**

**Aminocyclopropenium ion**

## Otto Diels

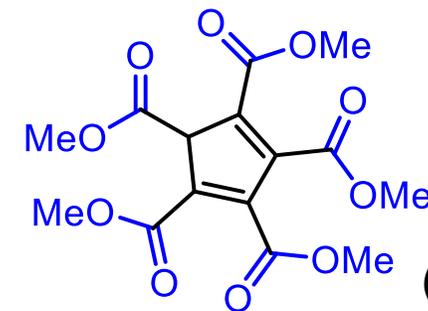


**Born**

23 January 1876

Hamburg, German Empire

1,2,3,4,5-pentacarbomethoxycyclopentadiene



**(PCCP)**

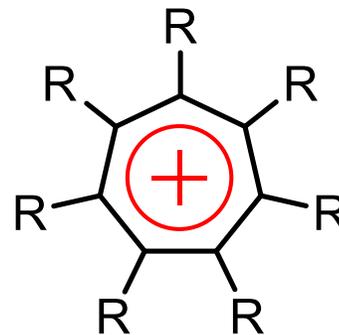
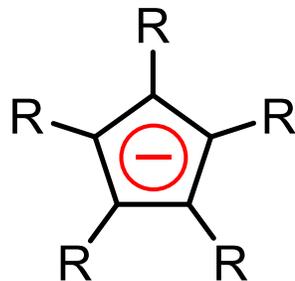
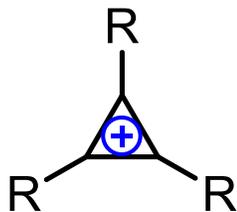
Breslow, R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1957**, 79, 5318

*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1971**, 93, 2573.

Diels, O. *Ber. Dtsch. Chem. Ges.* **1942**, 75, 1452.

# Introduction

## Aromatic ions



*Aromatic ions have been brought into organic synthesis.*



**Tristan Lambert** was born in Madison, WI, in 1976. In 1998, he began graduate studies at UC-Berkeley as one of Dave MacMillan's first students. In 2000, Tristan moved with the MacMillan group to Caltech where he earned his Ph.D. for the development and application of novel Claisen rearrangements. In 2004, he began postdoctoral studies with Sam Danishefsky. In 2006, Tristan accepted a faculty position in the Department of Chemistry at Columbia University. In 2011 he was promoted to Associate Professor and in 2016 to Full Professor. In January 2018, he moved to the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at **Cornell University**. His research group focuses on the study of intriguing chemical building blocks such as **aromatic ions and their application to problems in the areas of catalysis, reaction design, and polymers.**

# Outline

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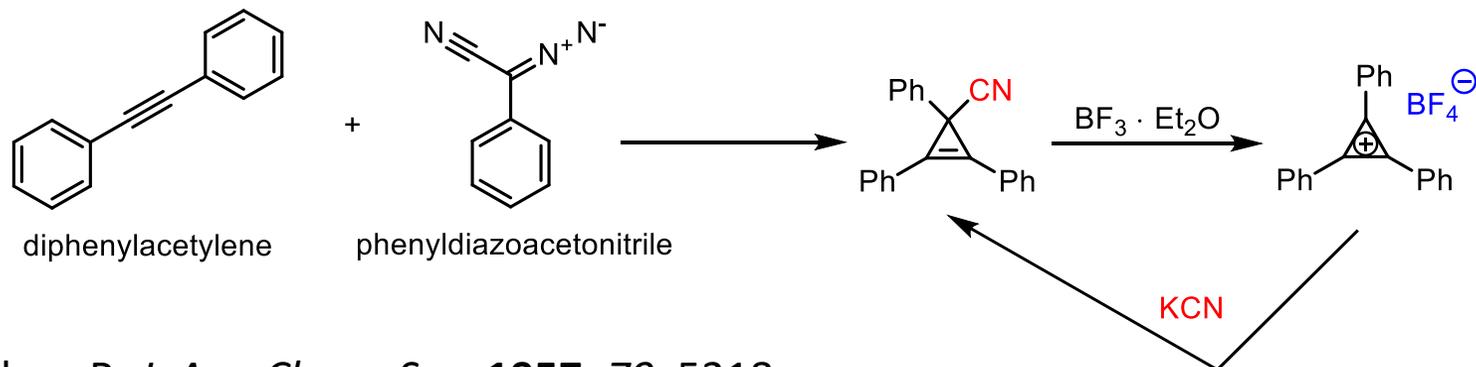
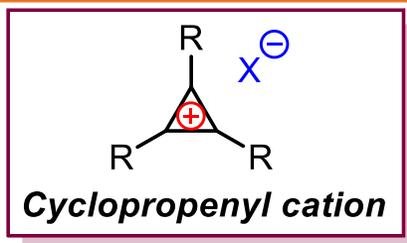
1. Introduction

**2. Aromatic cation**

3. Aromatic anion

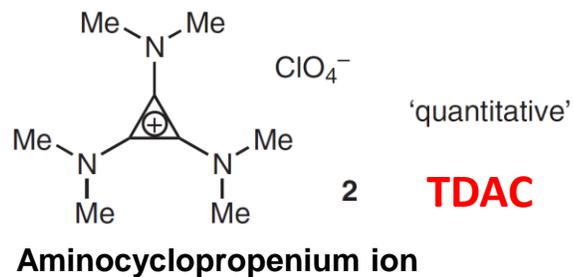
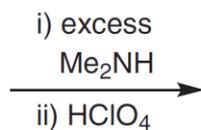
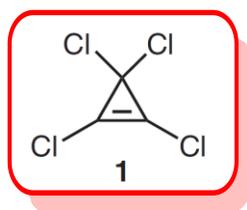
4. Summary and Outlook

# Synthesis of Cyclopropenyl Cation



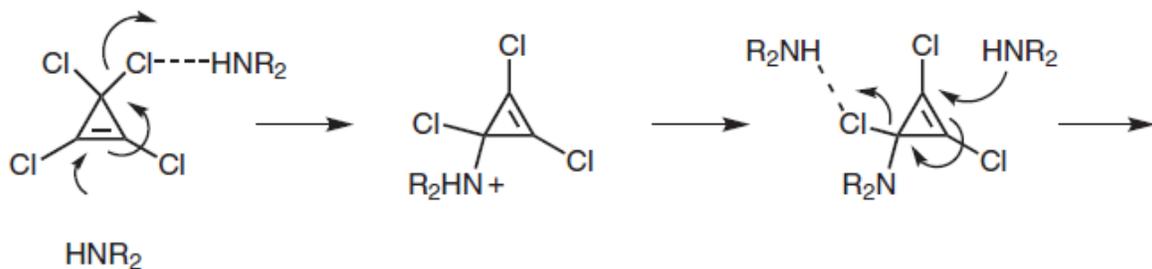
Breslow, R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1957**, *79*, 5318

Yoshida 1971

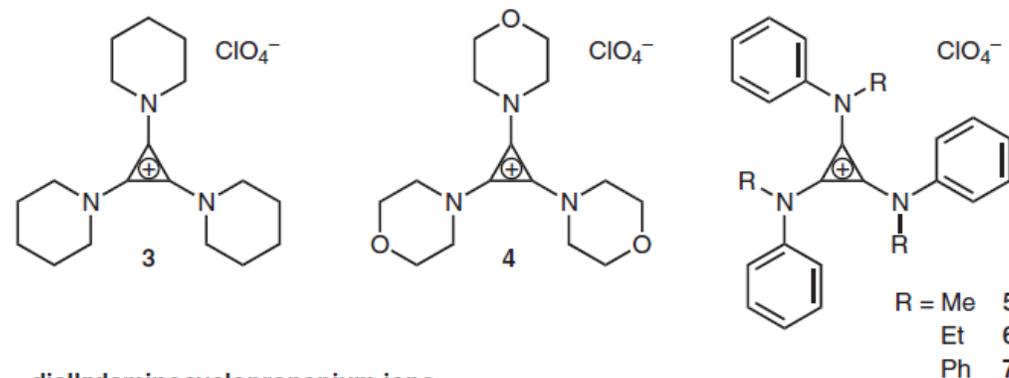


*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1971**, *93*, 2573.

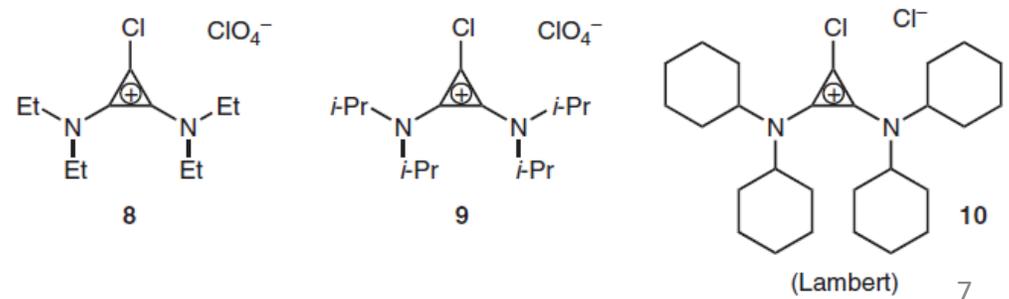
## SN2' Mechanism



other TDACs prepared

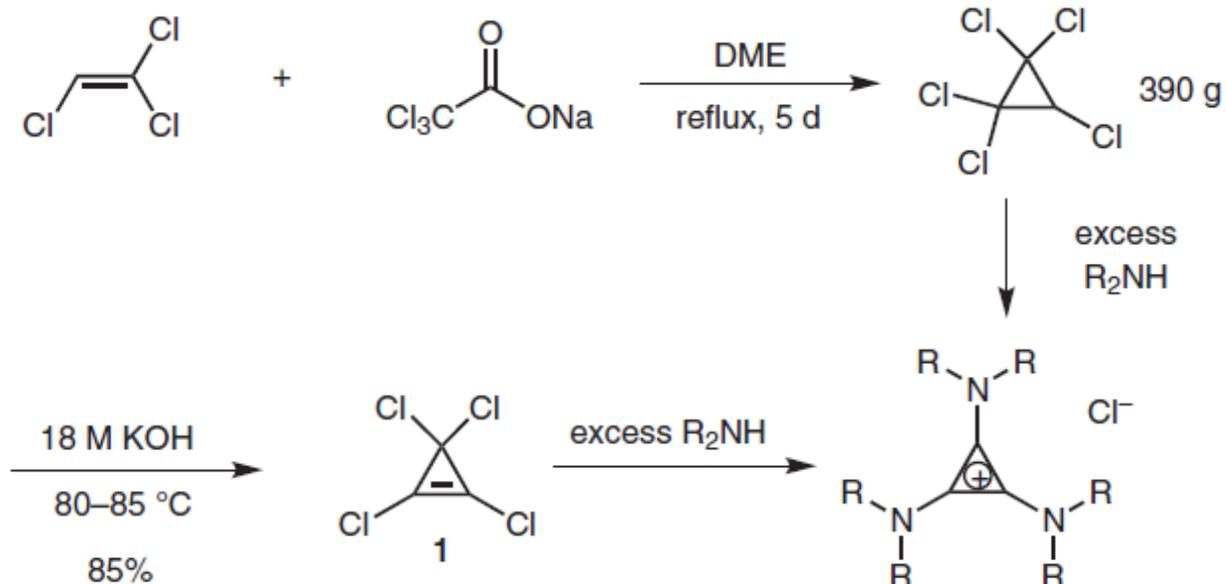


dialkylaminocyclopropenium ions



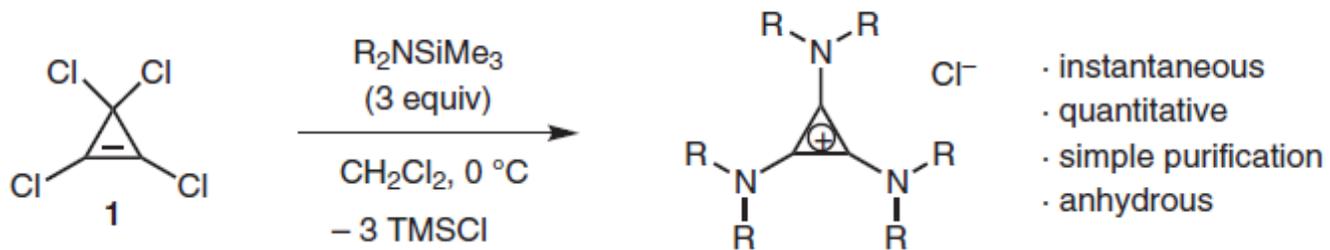
# Synthesis of Cyclopropenyl Cation

Taylor 1994



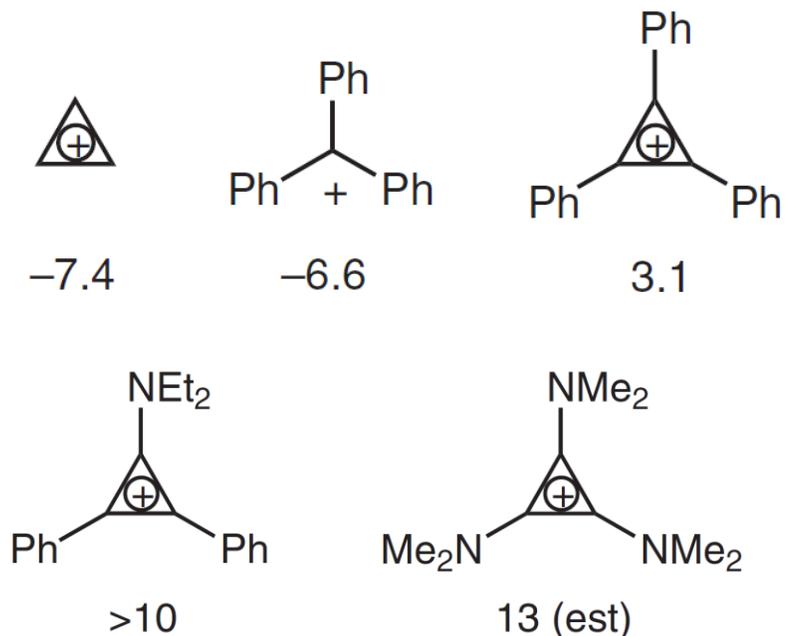
Taylor, M. J. *et al. J. Chem. Soc. Chem. Commun.* **1994**, 2517.

Weiss 1975



Weiss, R. *et al. Tetrahedron Lett.* **1975**, 3491

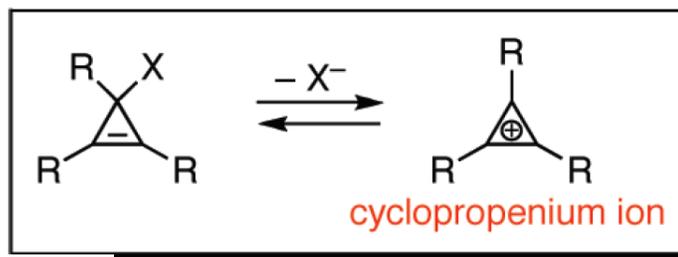
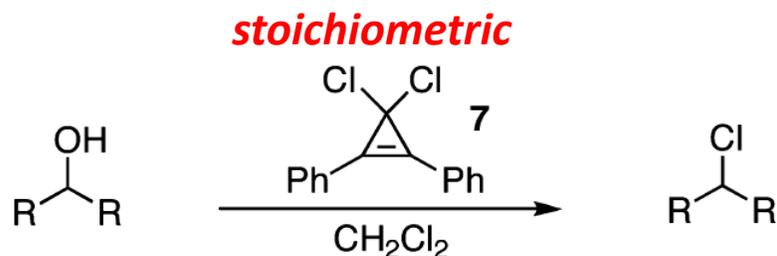
$pK_{\text{R}^+}$  values



**One measure of this stability is given by their  $pK_{\text{R}^+}$  value, which is numerically equivalent to the pH of an aqueous solution in which a given cation is 50% converted into corresponding carbinol.**

# Reaction Promoted by Cyclopropenyl Cation

## Aromatic Cation Activation of Alcohols: Conversion to Alkyl Chlorides Using Dichlorodiphenylcyclopropene



- 2π-electron aromatic system
- discovered by Breslow (1957)
- highly stabilized carbocations
- electronically, sterically tunable
- potential for new reaction design

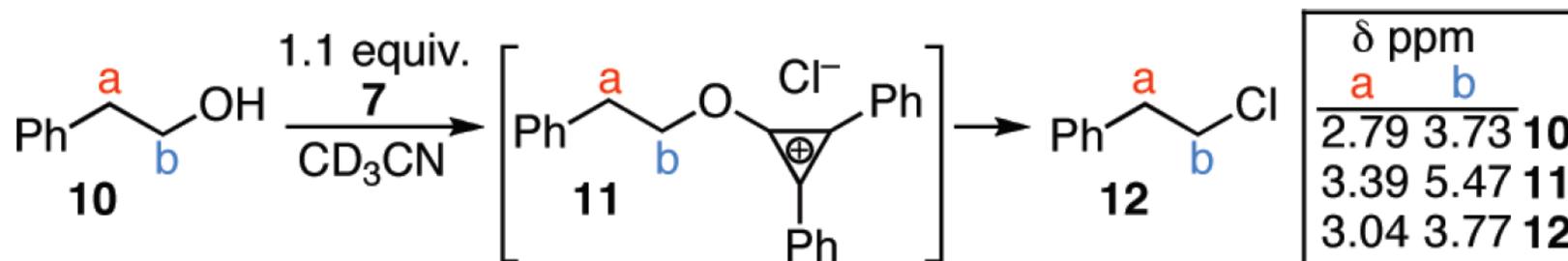
T. H. Lambert, *et al.* *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, *131*, 13930.

Entry	Substrate	Product	temp. (°C)	time (min.)	% yield
1			23	10	81
2			23	3	92
3			23	5	95
4			23	5	84
5			23	5	92

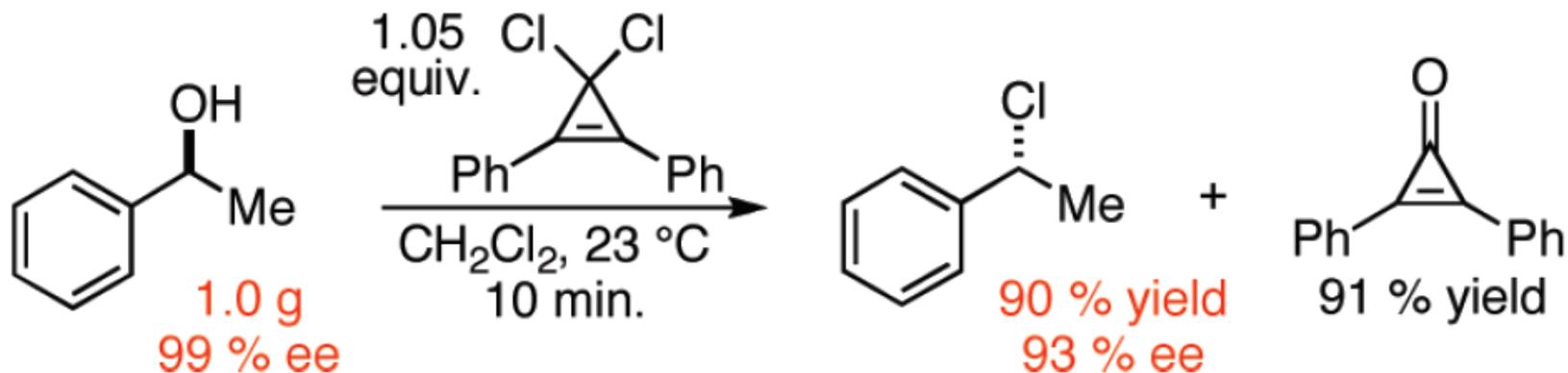
6			23	10	88 <sup>c</sup>
7			23	65	93
8			23	15	89
9			80 <sup>d</sup>	20	95
10			80 <sup>d</sup>	30	93 <sup>c</sup>
11			23	40	45 <sup>c,e</sup>

# Reaction Promoted by Cyclopropenyl Cation

## Aromatic Cation Activation of Alcohols



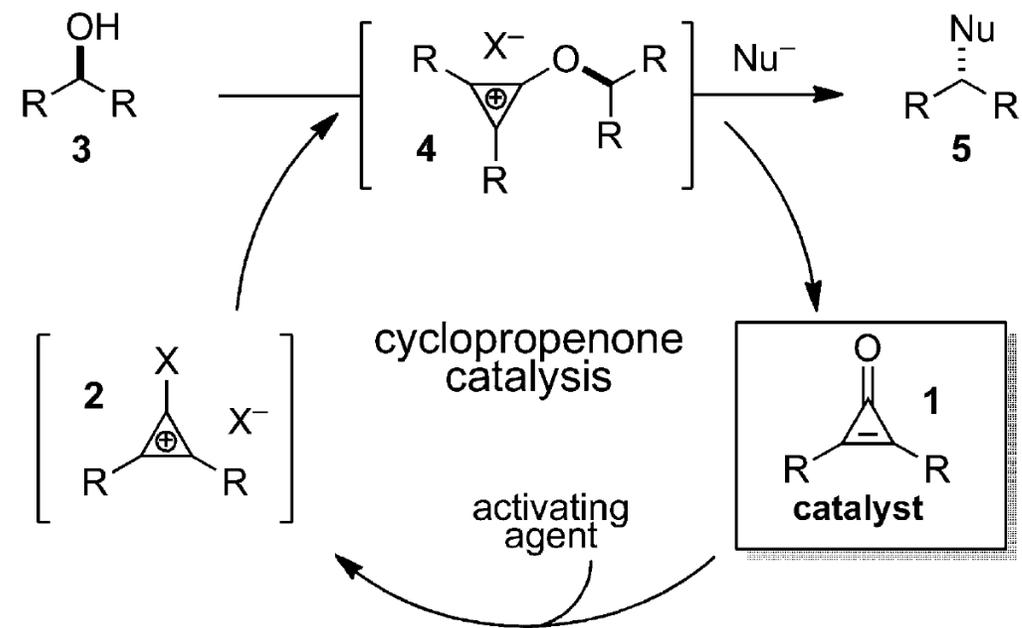
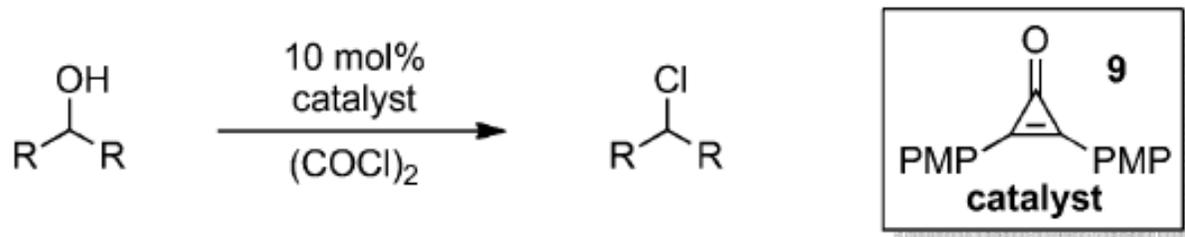
**Figure 3.** Chemical shifts of the alkoxy-cyclopropenium intermediate.



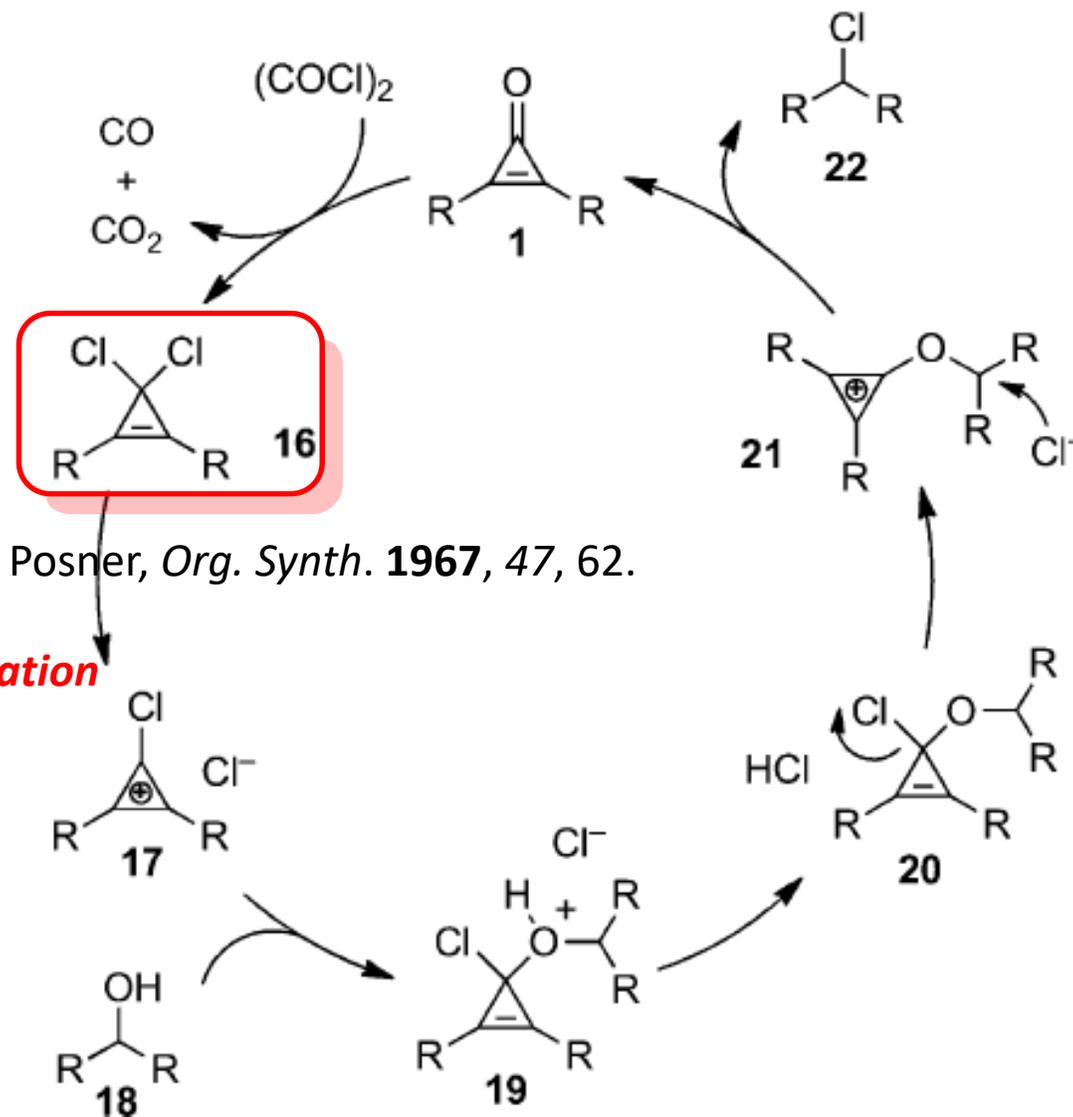
T. H. Lambert, *et al.* *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, *131*, 13930.

# Reaction Promoted by Cyclopropenyl Cation

## Cyclopropenone-Catalyzed Chlorodehydration of Alcohols



T. H. Lambert, *et al.* *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 12222.

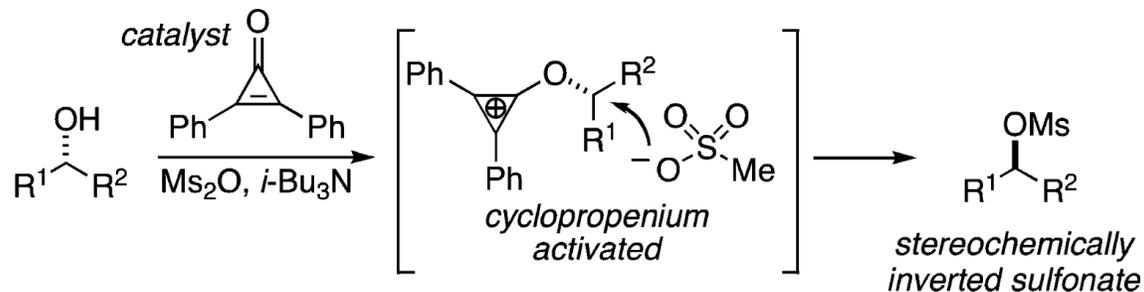


R. Breslow, J. Posner, *Org. Synth.* **1967**, *47*, 62.

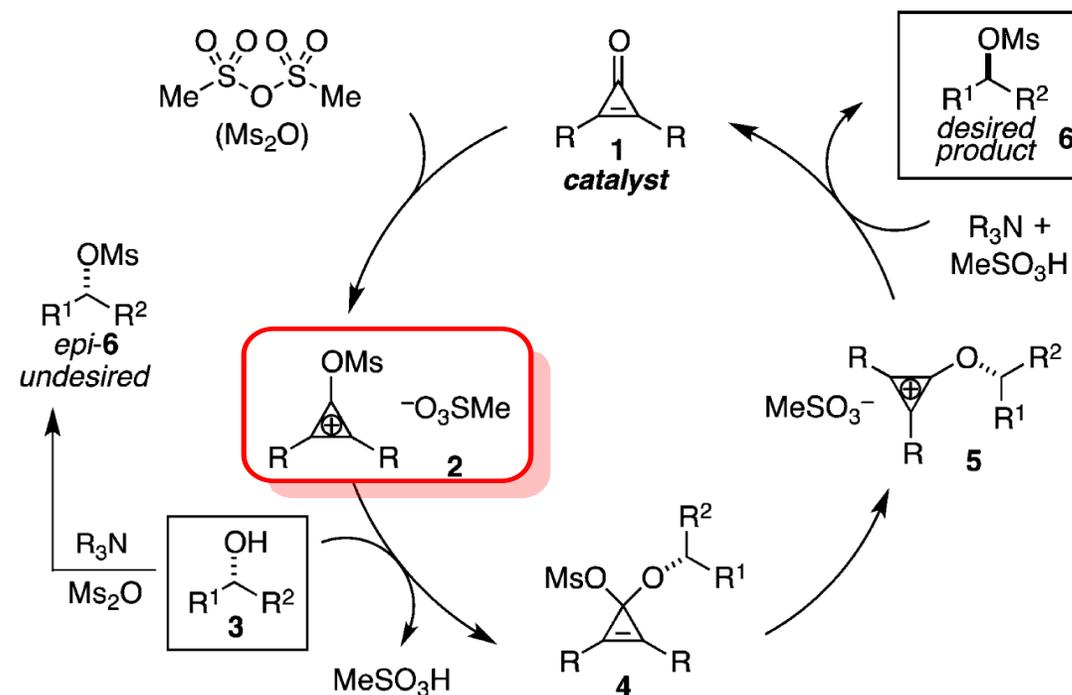
**ionization**

# Reaction Promoted by Cyclopropenyl Cation

## Cyclopropenone Catalyzed Substitution of Alcohols with Mesylate Ion



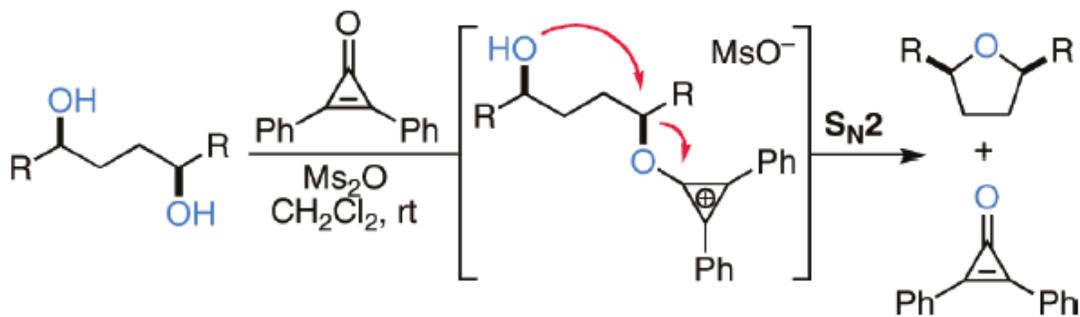
entry	substrate	15 mol% <b>8<sup>b</sup></b>		100 mol% <b>8<sup>c</sup></b>	
		yield (%)	er	yield (%)	er
1		75	97:3	91	95:5
2		77	95:5	92	96:4
3		72	96:4	83	94:6
4 <sup>d</sup>		81	95:5	98	97:3
5		74	96:4	77	95:5



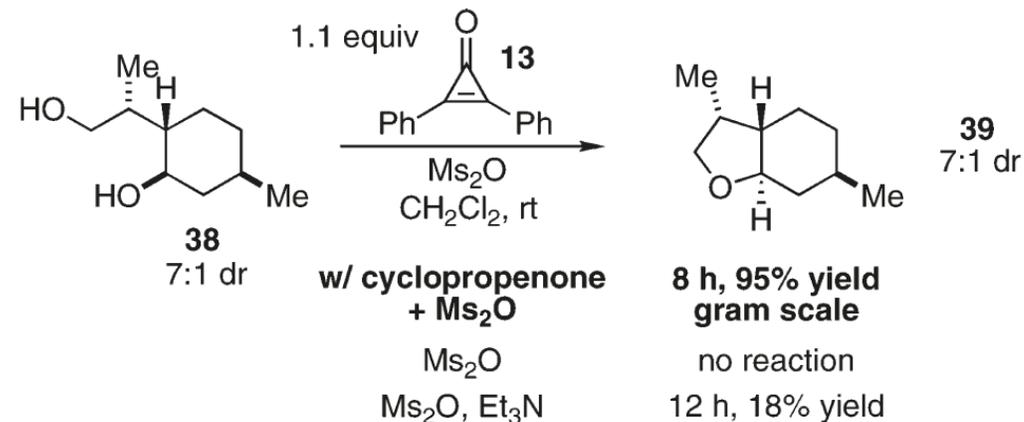
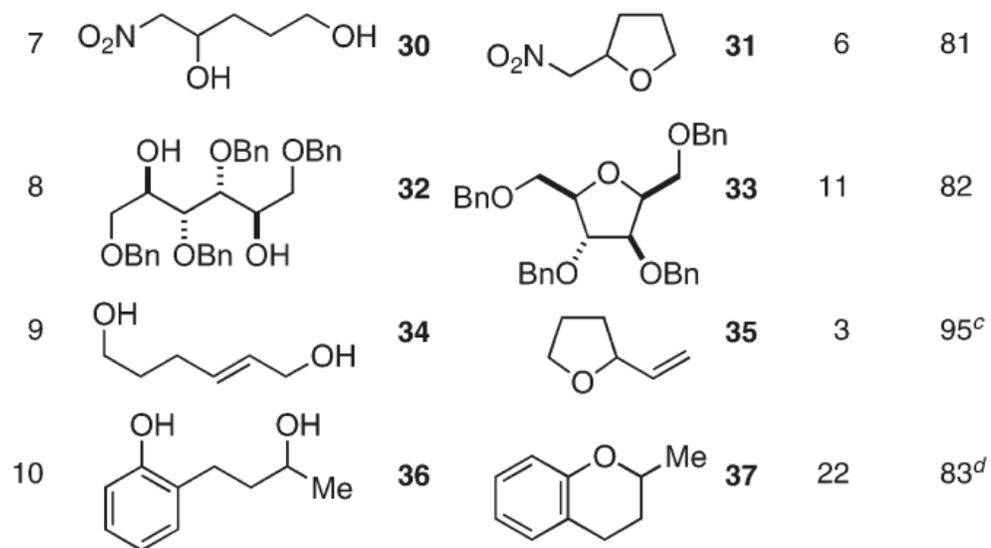
T. H. Lambert, *et al.* *Org. Lett.* **2013**, *15*, 38.

# Reaction Promoted by Cyclopropenyl Cation

## Cyclopropenium-Activated Cyclodehydration of Diols

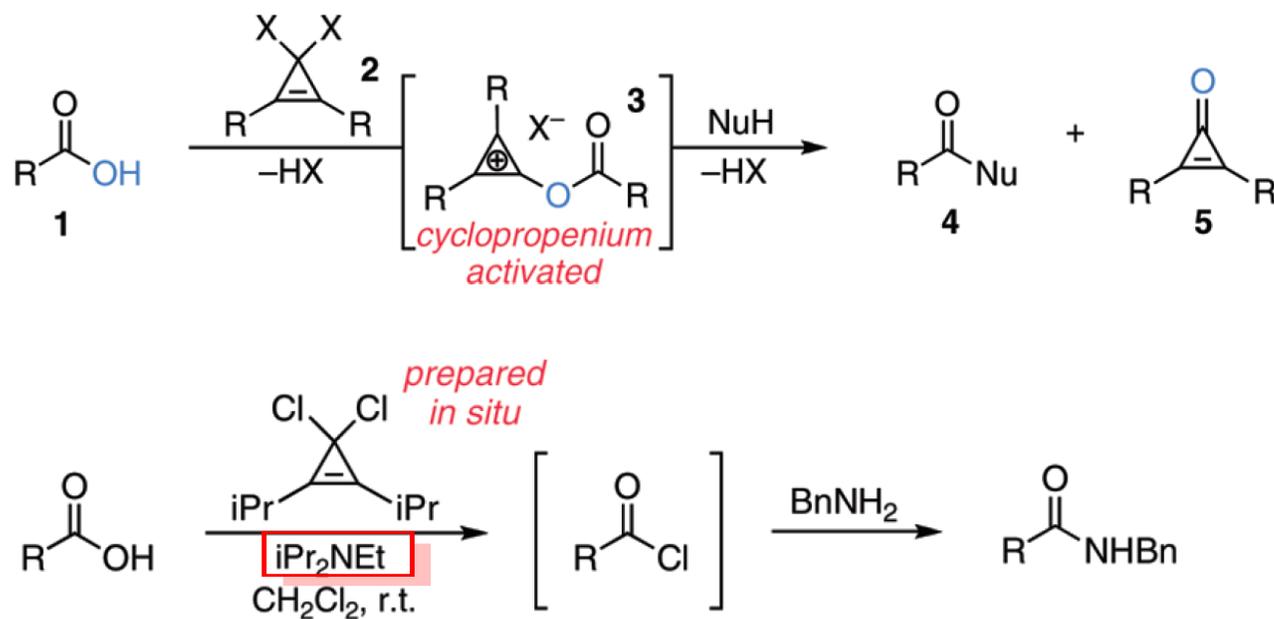


entry	substrate	product	time (h)	% yield
1			4	91
2			10	89
3			1	91 <sup>c</sup>
4			1	94
5			3.5	87
6			7	92



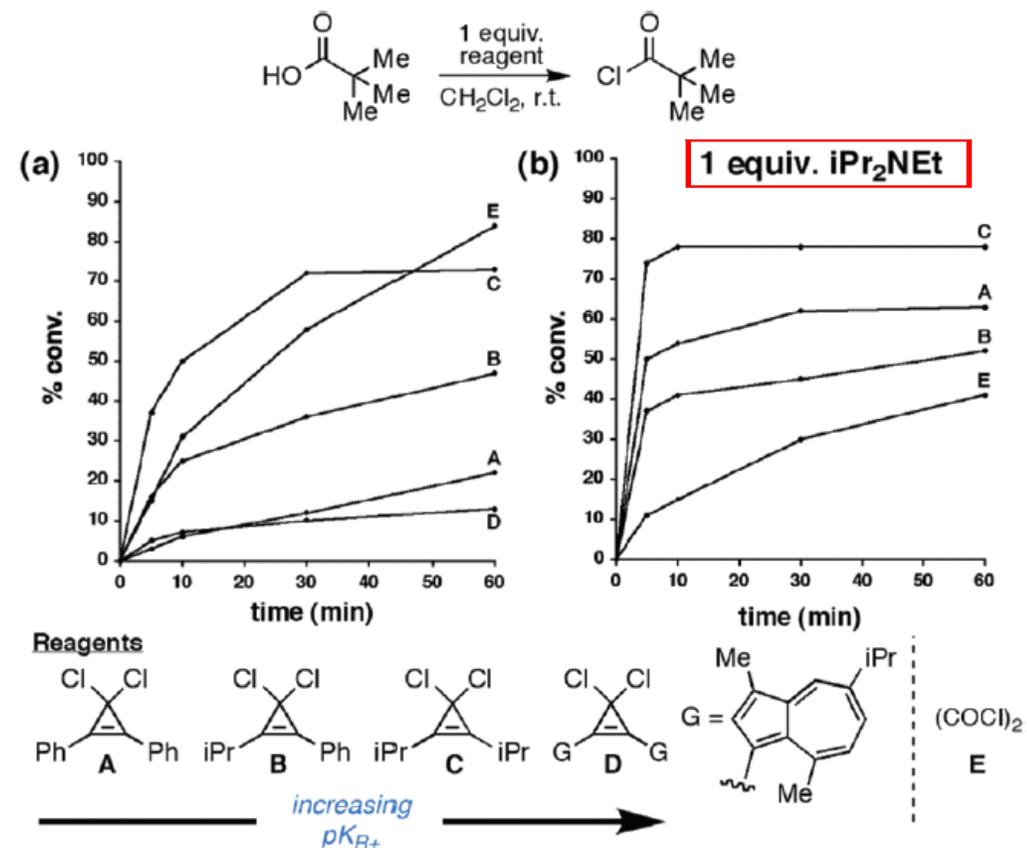
# Reaction Promoted by Cyclopropenyl Cation

## Nucleophilic Acyl Substitution via Aromatic Cation Activation of Carboxylic Acids: Rapid Generation of Acid Chlorides under Mild Conditions



T. H. Lambert, *et al.* *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, *132*, 5002.

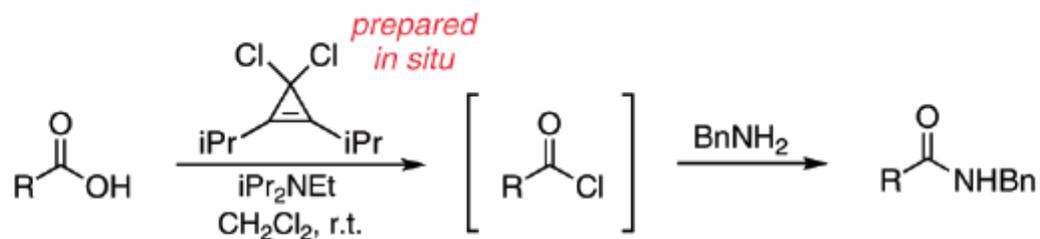
Chart 1. Rate Comparison for Acid Chloride Formation<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup> Reactions were run by the addition of a solution of pivalic acid without (a) or with (b)  $iPr_2NEt$  to a solution of 3,3-dichlorocyclopropenes A–D in  $CH_2Cl_2$ . Timed aliquots were quenched with excess (5 equiv) benzylamine, and % conversions were determined by  $^1H$  NMR analysis of  $N$ -benzylpivalamide compared to  $Bn_2O$  as an internal standard.

# Reaction Promoted by Cyclopropenyl Cation

## Nucleophilic Acyl Substitution via Aromatic Cation Activation of Carboxylic Acids: Rapid Generation of Acid Chlorides under Mild Conditions



entry	substrate	product	time (min)	% yield
1			2	97
2			5	86
3			10	78

*Acid sensitive substrates were also well tolerated!*

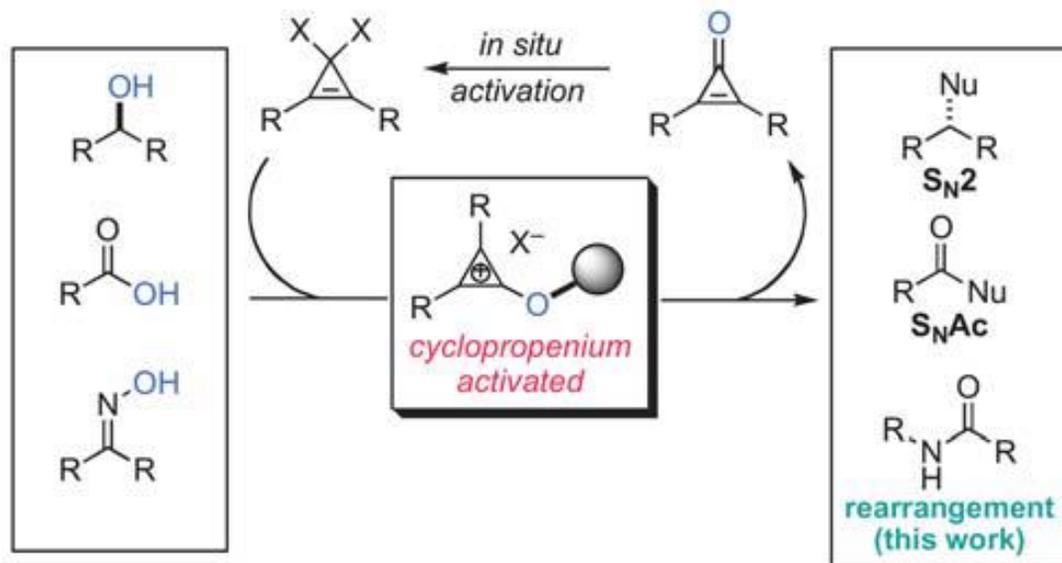
4			5	79
5			5	94
6			5	92
7			20	44

T. H. Lambert, *et al.* *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, *132*, 5002.

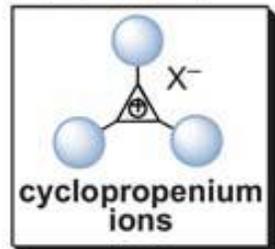
# Reaction Promoted by Cyclopropenyl Cation

## Cyclopropenium-activated Beckmann rearrangement. Catalysis versus self-propagation in reported organocatalytic Beckmann rearrangements

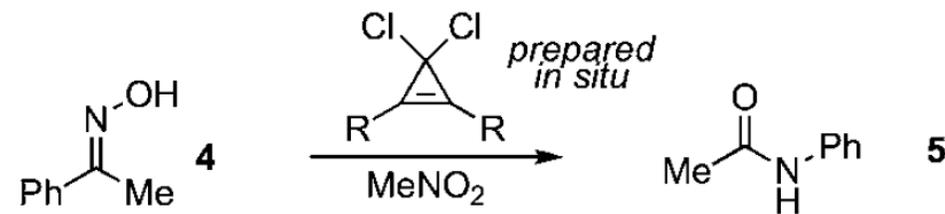
### (A) Promotion of dehydration reactions via cyclopropenium activation



### (B) Cyclopropenium ions



- First prepared by Breslow in 1957
- Generated in situ from cyclopropenones
- High tunability of electronic and steric profile  $\rightarrow$  platform for asymmetry

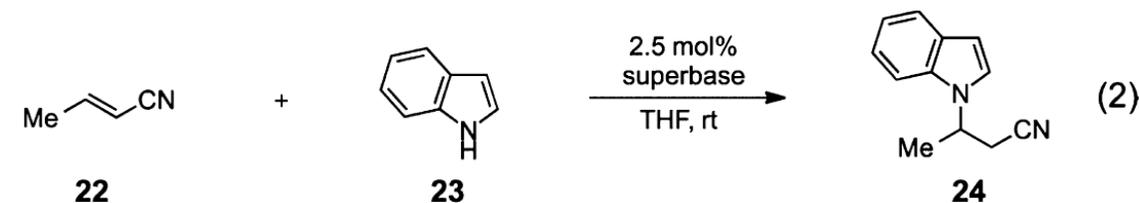
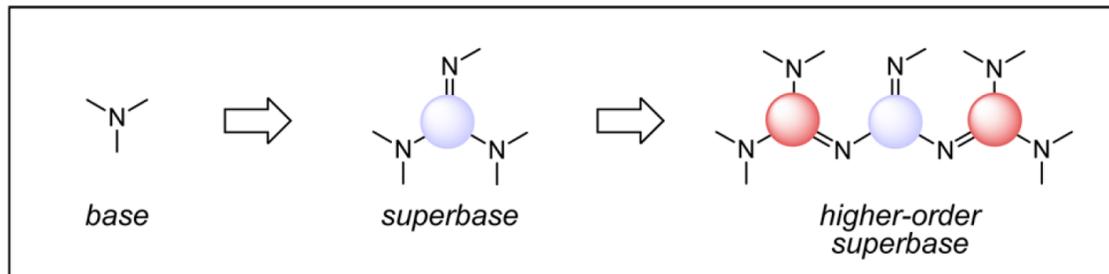


entry	$R^c$		mol (%)	$T/^\circ C$	time/min	% yield
1	Ph	<b>2</b>	105	21	90	70
2	<i>i</i> Pr	<b>6</b>	105	21	75	77
3	4-OMe-Ph	<b>7</b>	105	21	45	77
4	Xyl	<b>8</b>	105	21	20	98
5	Mes	<b>9</b>	105	21	30	92 <sup>d</sup>
6	Mes	<b>9</b>	10	21	30	10
7	Mes	<b>9</b>	10	60	30	100
8	Mes	<b>9</b>	5	60	90	100
9	Mes	<b>9</b>	2	60	8 h	24

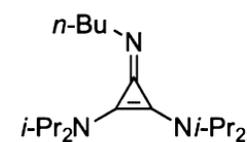
T. H. Lambert, *et al.* *Chem. Sci.* **2010**, *1*, 705.

# Cyclopropenyl Cation: Superbase

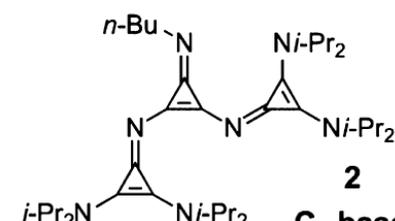
## Higher-Order Cyclopropenimine Superbases: Direct Neutral Brønsted Base Catalyzed Michael Reactions with $\alpha$ -Aryl Esters



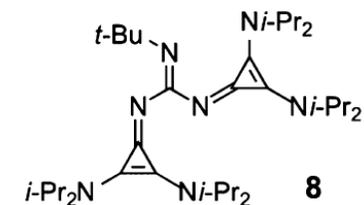
superbase:



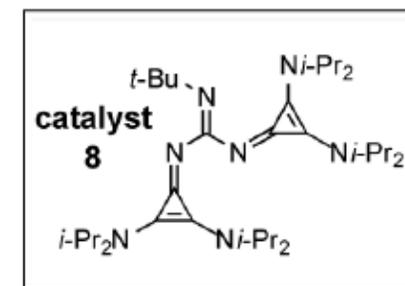
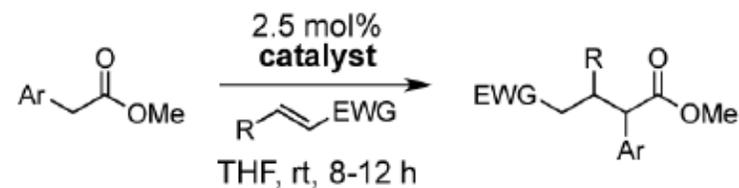
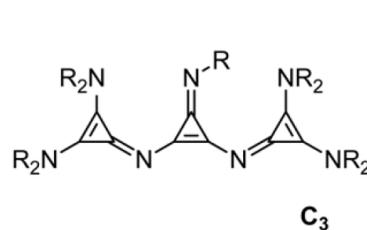
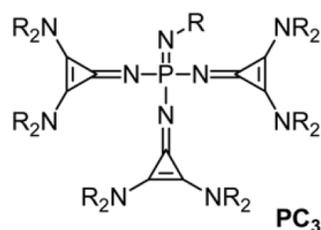
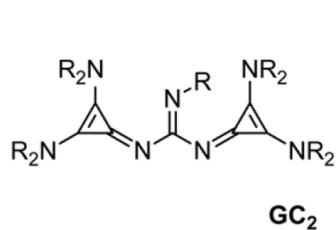
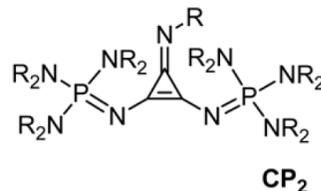
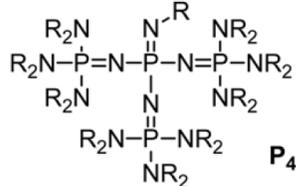
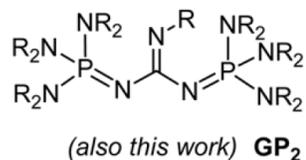
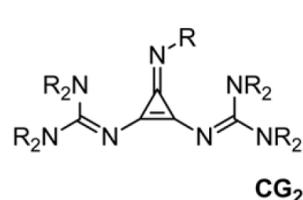
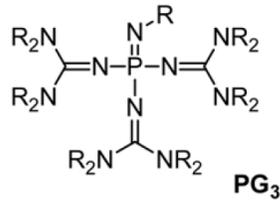
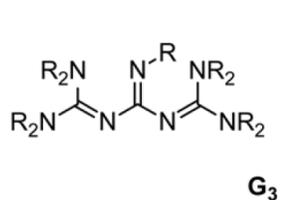
**C<sub>1</sub> base**  
 $\text{pK}_{\text{BH}^+} = 27.6$   
0% conv.  
24 h



**C<sub>3</sub> base**  
 $\text{pK}_{\text{BH}^+} = 31.6$   
89% yield  
3 h

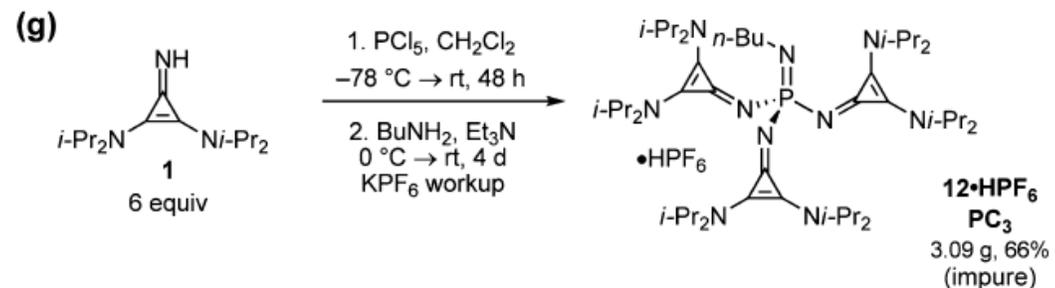
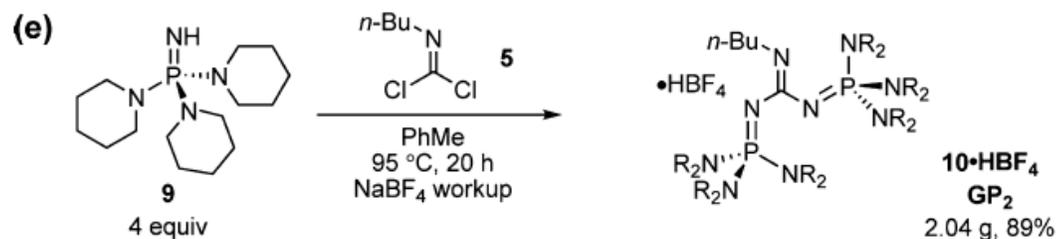
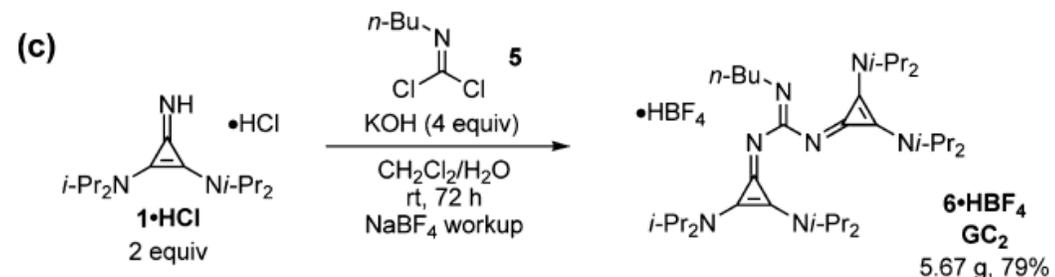
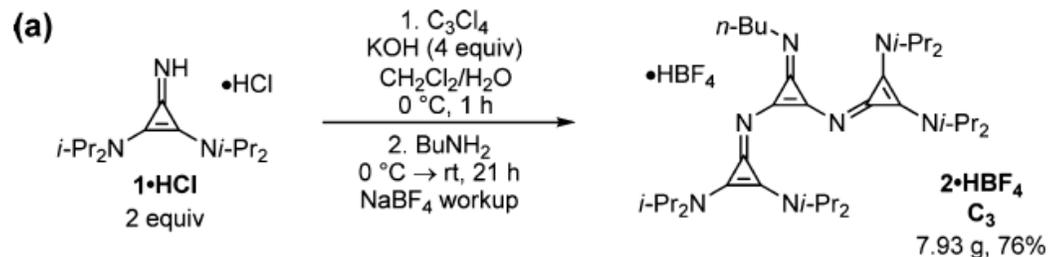


**GC<sub>2</sub> base**  
 $\text{pK}_{\text{BH}^+} = 35.6$   
95% yield  
3 h



# Cyclopropenyl Cation: Superbase

## Synthesis method



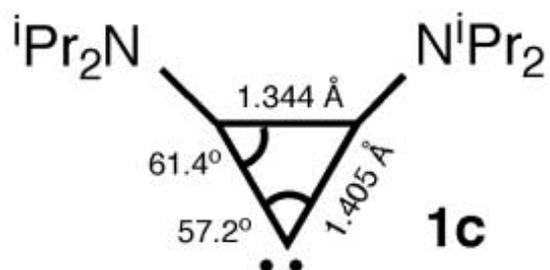
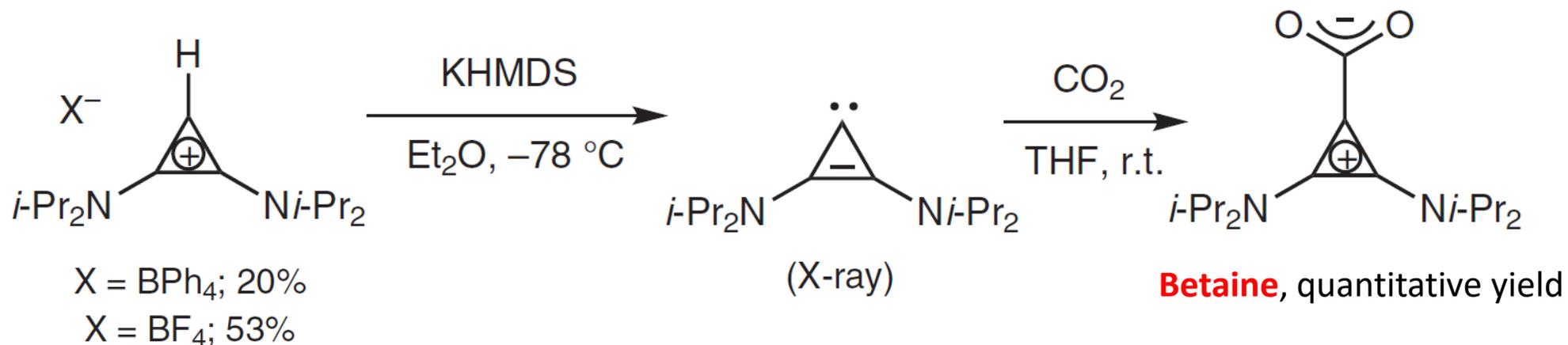
## Basicities of different higher-order superbases

Table 1. Basicities of Higher-Order Superbases<sup>a</sup>

	<b>16</b> G <sub>1</sub> 24.8		<b>17</b> C <sub>1</sub> 27.6		<b>18</b> P <sub>1</sub> 27.8
	<b>11</b> G <sub>3</sub> 29.5		<b>4</b> CG <sub>2</sub> 29.0		<b>19</b> PG <sub>3</sub> <sup>b</sup> 37.9
	<b>6</b> GC <sub>2</sub> 35.6		<b>2</b> C <sub>3</sub> 31.6		<b>12</b> PC <sub>3</sub> 42.1 (est)
	<b>10</b> GP <sub>2</sub> 34.3		<b>20</b> CP <sub>2</sub> unstable, ring-opens		<b>21</b> P <sub>4</sub> <sup>b</sup> 42.7 <sup>b</sup>

# Reaction Promoted by Cyclopropenyl Cation

## Cyclopropenylenes: From Interstellar Space to an Isolated Derivative in the Laboratory



a) It was found that only *certain combinations of counteranions* of the precursor and bases led to the generation of free, uncomplexed carbene.

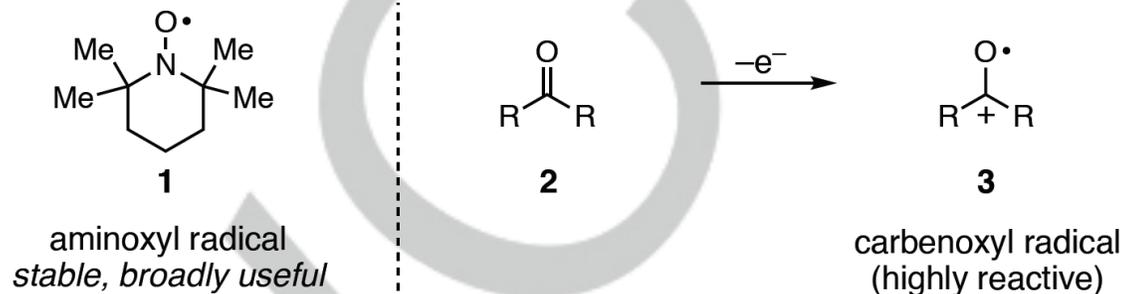
b) Although not air stable, the carbene proved to *be relatively thermally stable*, only decomposing 10% when heated to 80 degree in toluene for two hours.

Bertrand, G. *et al.* *Science* **2006**, 312, 722.

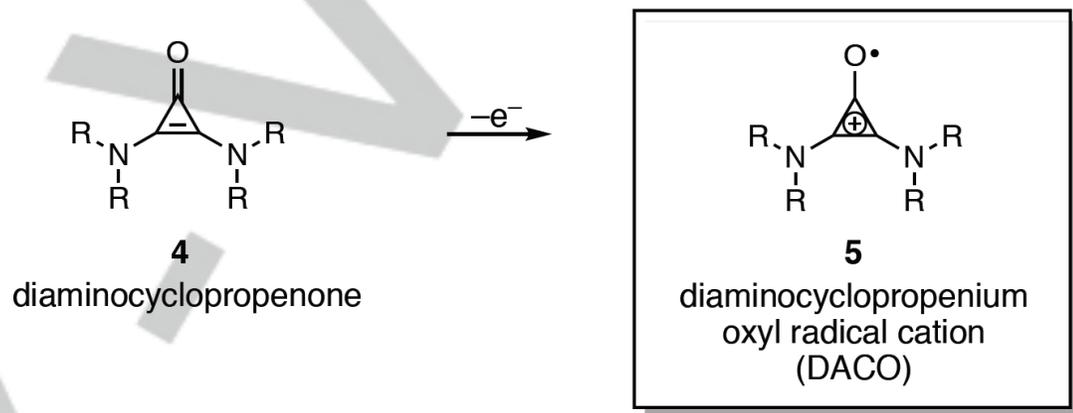
# Reaction Promoted by Cyclopropenyl Cation

## Oxidizable Ketones: Persistent Radical Cations from the Single Electron Oxidation of 2,3-Diaminocyclopropenones

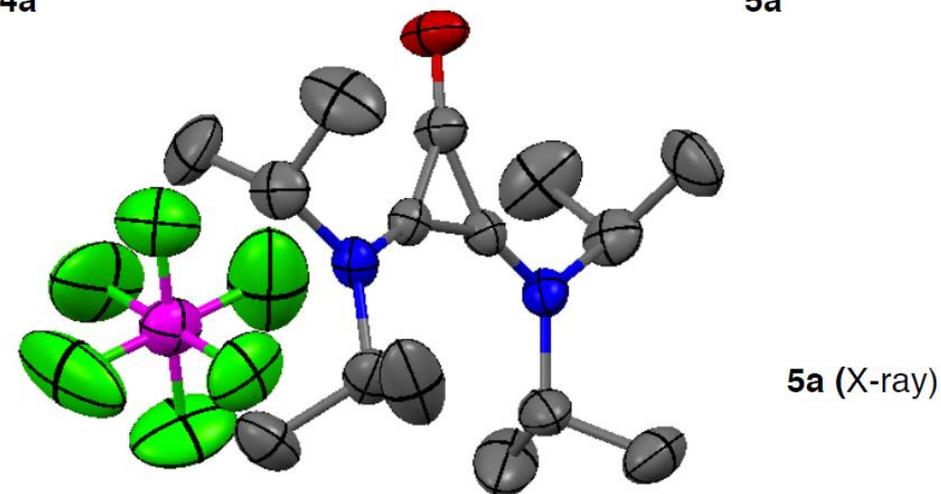
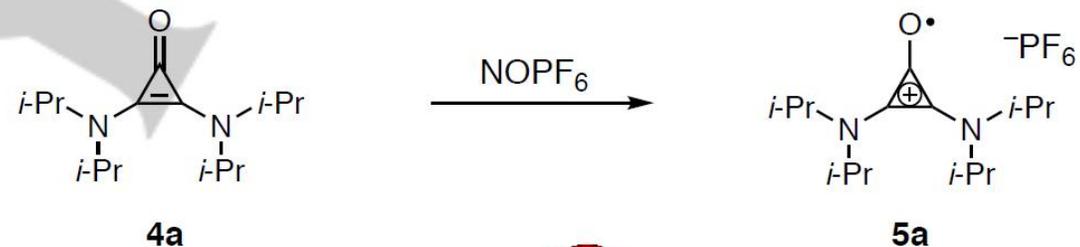
(a) Aminoxy radical and carboxyl radical cations



(b) Diaminocyclopropenone oxidation



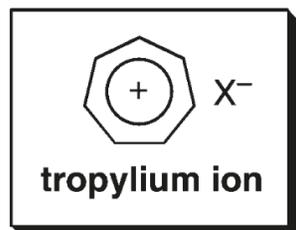
(c) Generation of a DACO radical cation



**single electron oxidation to produce persistent radical cations**

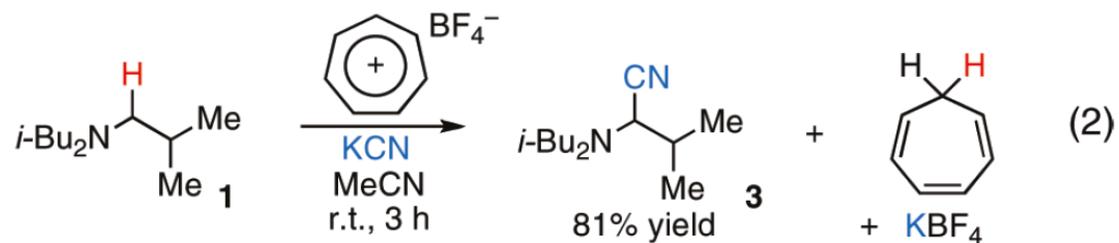
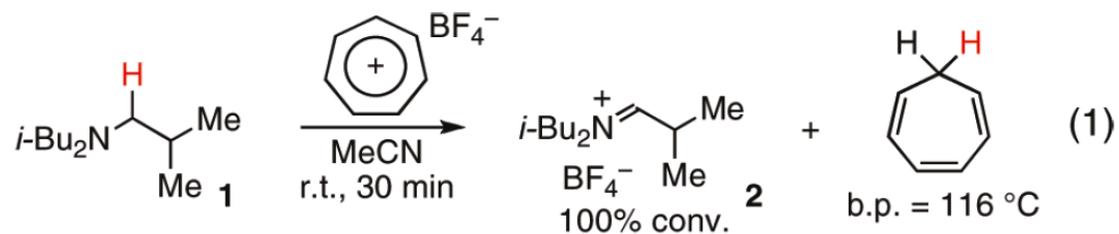
# Reaction Promoted by Tropylium Ion

## Tropylium Ion Mediated $\alpha$ -Cyanation of Amines

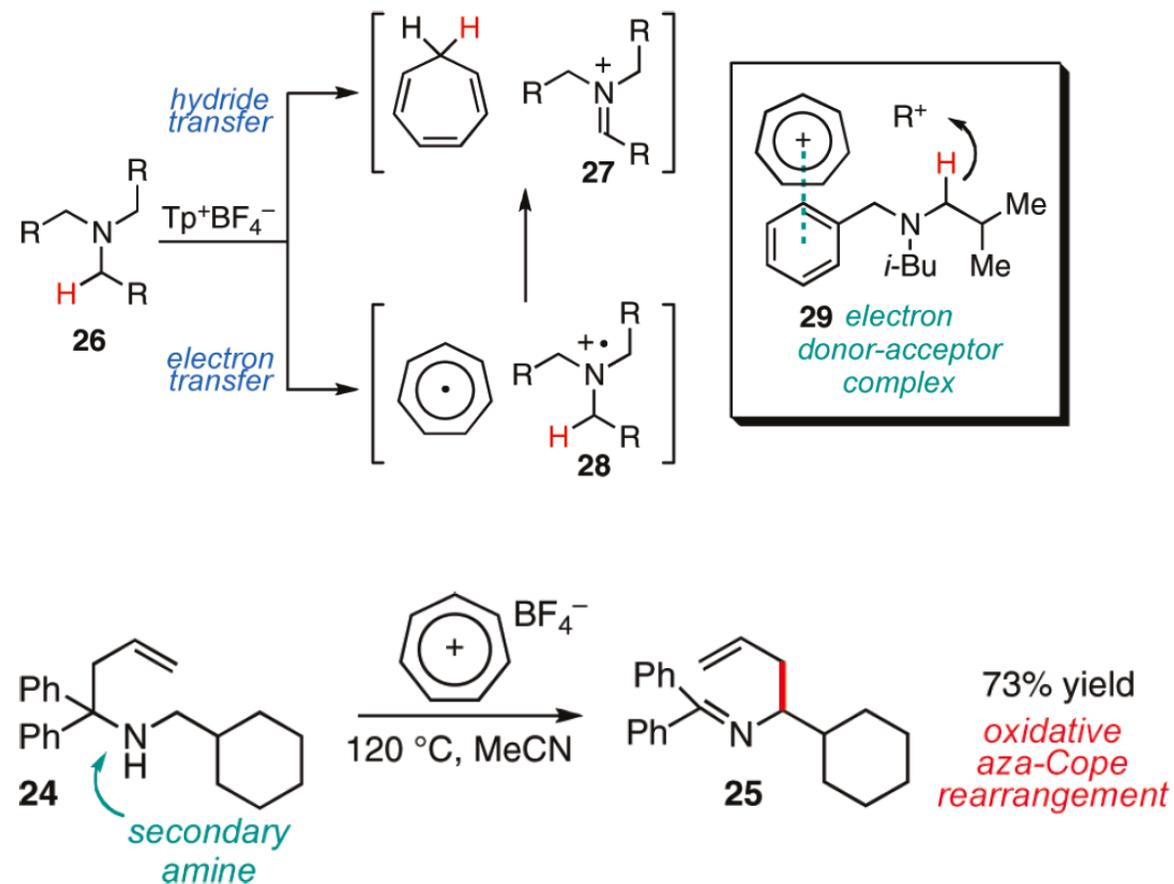


- $6\pi$ -electron aromatic system
- first prepared by Doering and Knox in 1954
- aromatic carbocation

Knox, L. H. *et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1954**, *76*, 3203.

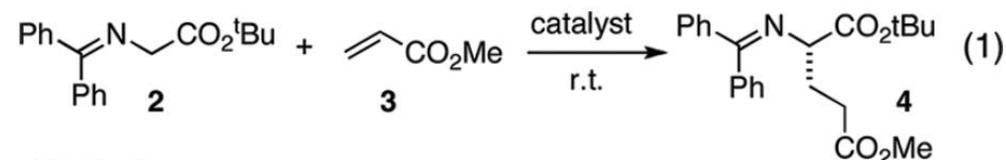
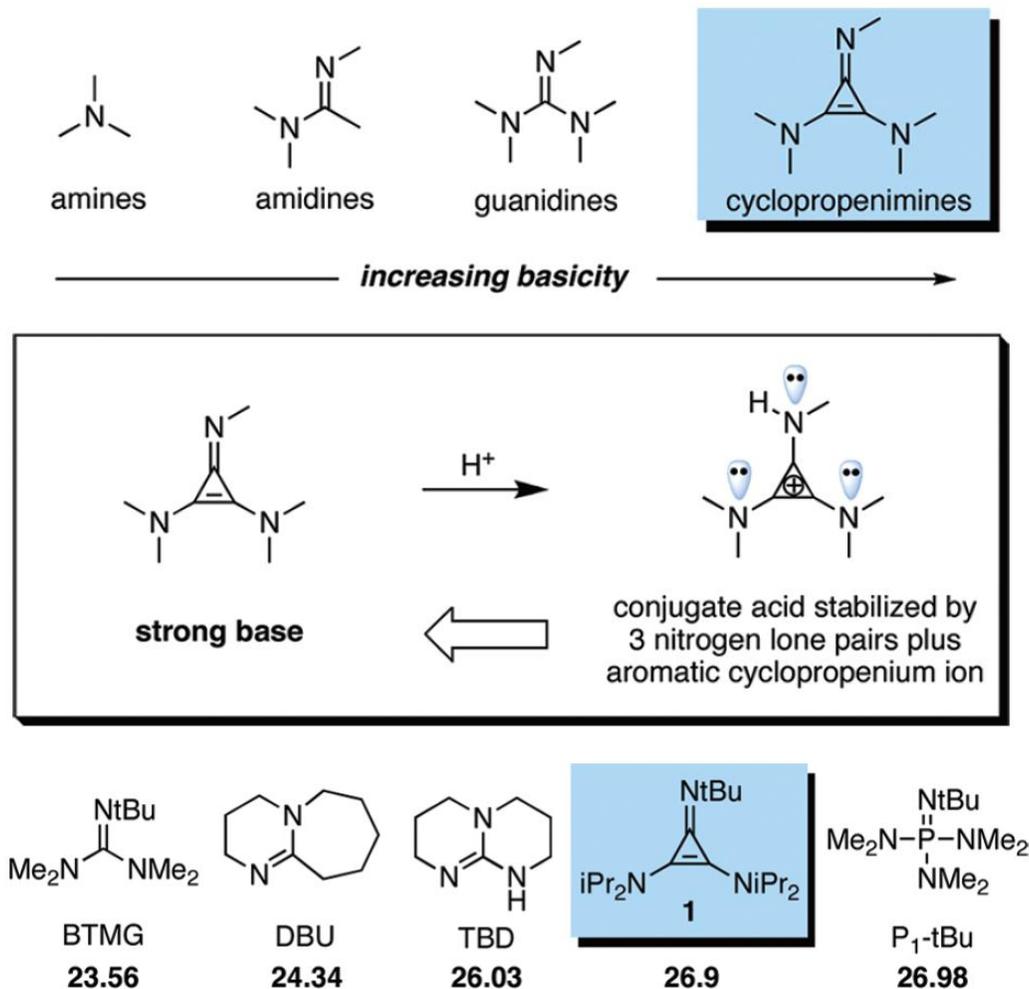


T. H. Lambert, *et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, *133*, 1260.

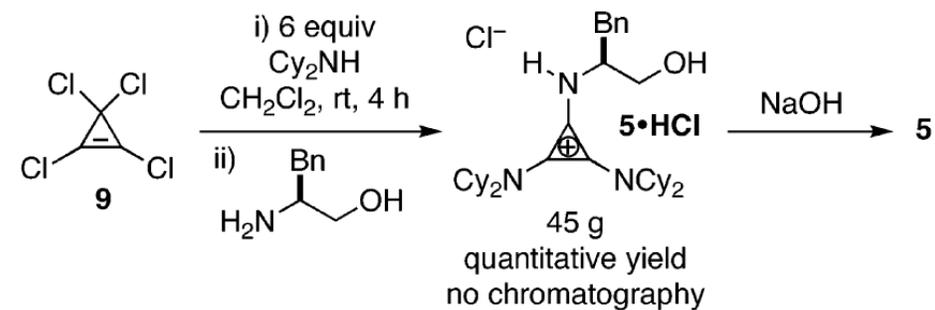
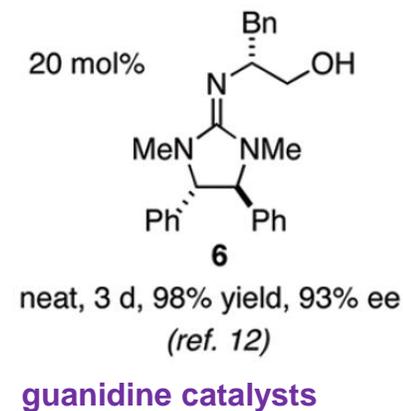
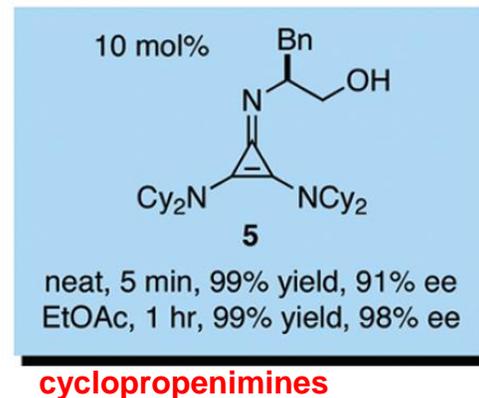


# Chiral Cyclopropenyl Cation

## Enantioselective Brønsted Base Catalysis with Chiral Cyclopropenimines



**Catalysts:**

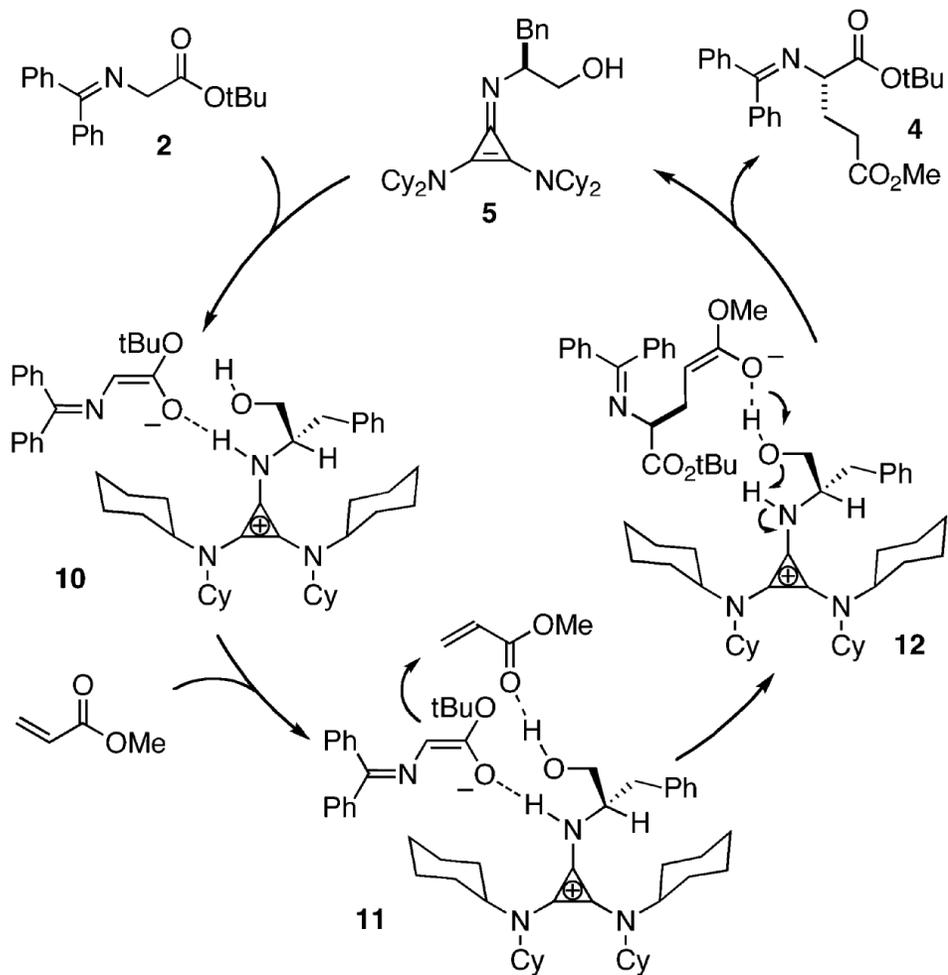


**Figure 2.** Basicity of cyclopropenimine **1** and several common strong organic bases. Bold numbers are  $\text{p}K_{\text{BH}^+}$  values in acetonitrile.

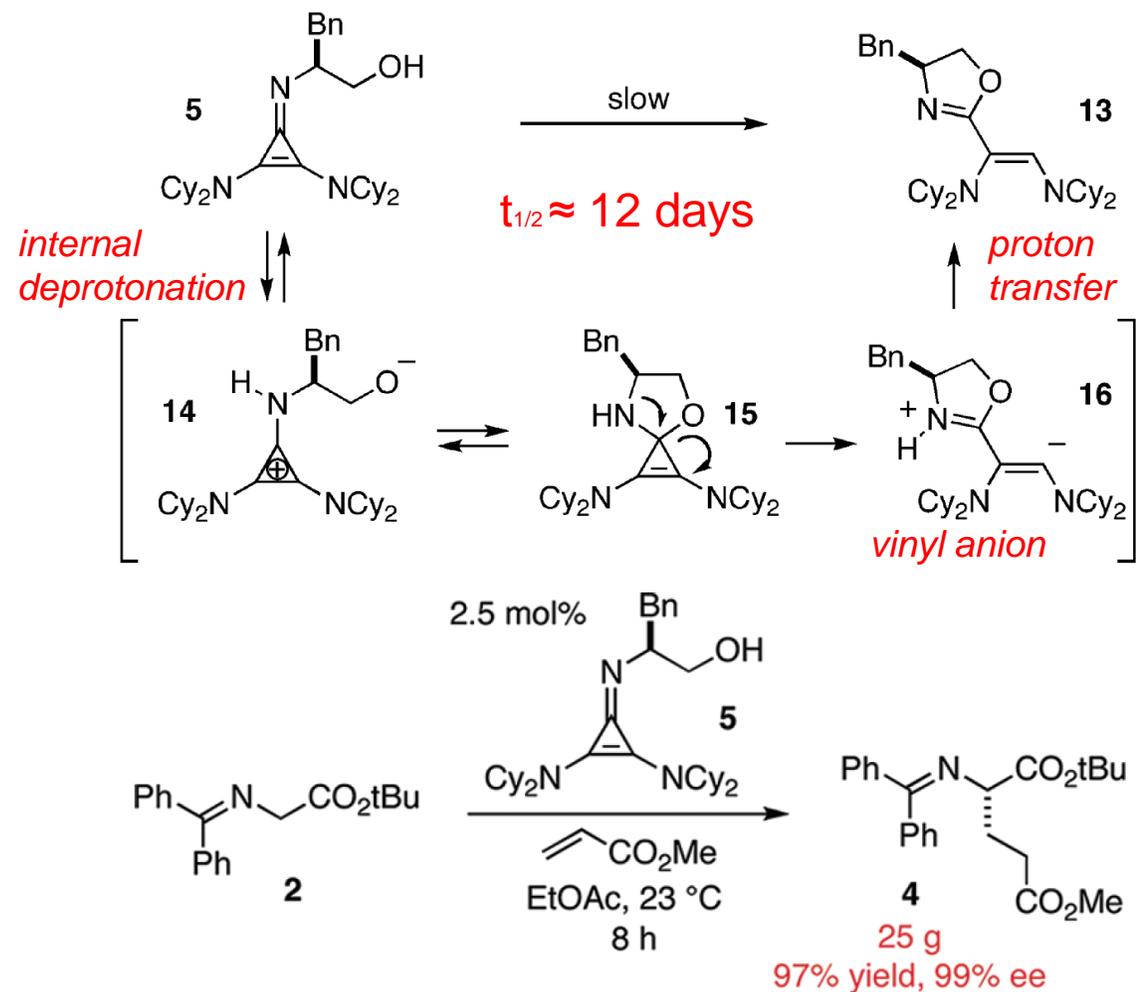
T. H. Lambert, *et al.* *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2012**, *134*, 5552.

# Chiral Cyclopropenyl Cation

## Mechanism and Scale-up Reaction



## Scheme 2. Decomposition Pathway of Cyclopropenimine 5



T. H. Lambert, *et al.* *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2012**, *134*, 5552.

# Chiral Cyclopropenyl Cation

## Structure-activity Relationship Studies of Cyclopropenimines

### several catalyst scaffolds

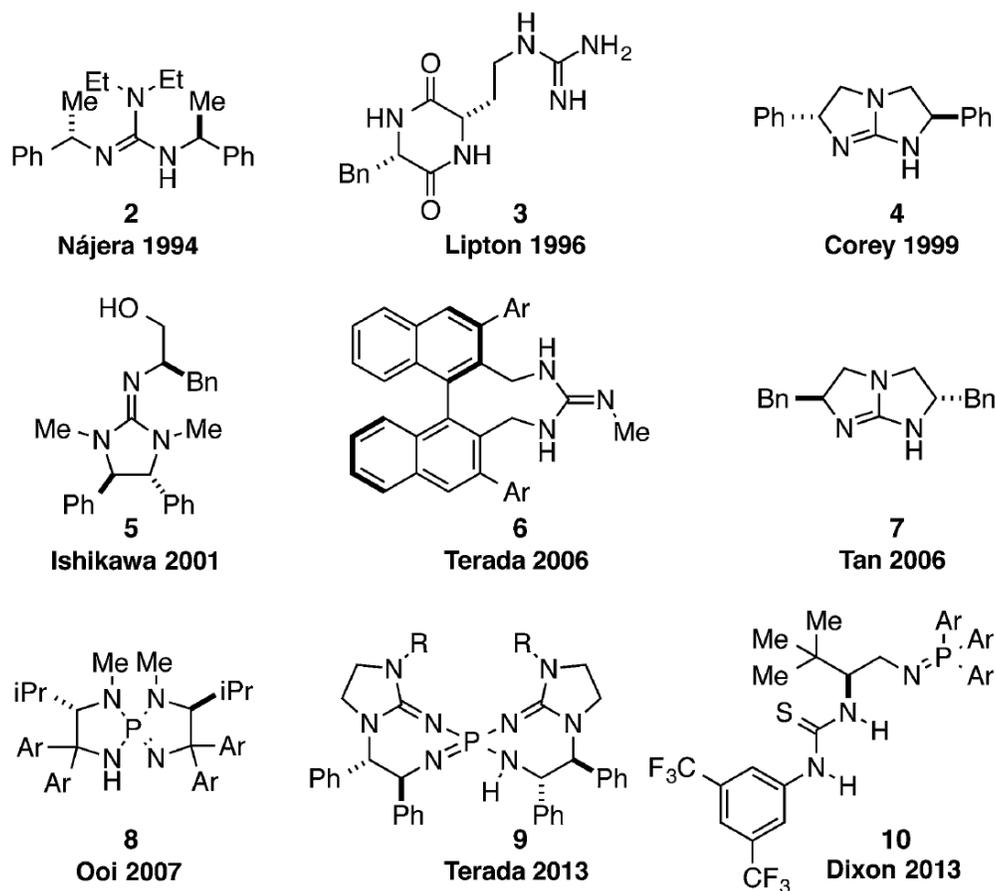
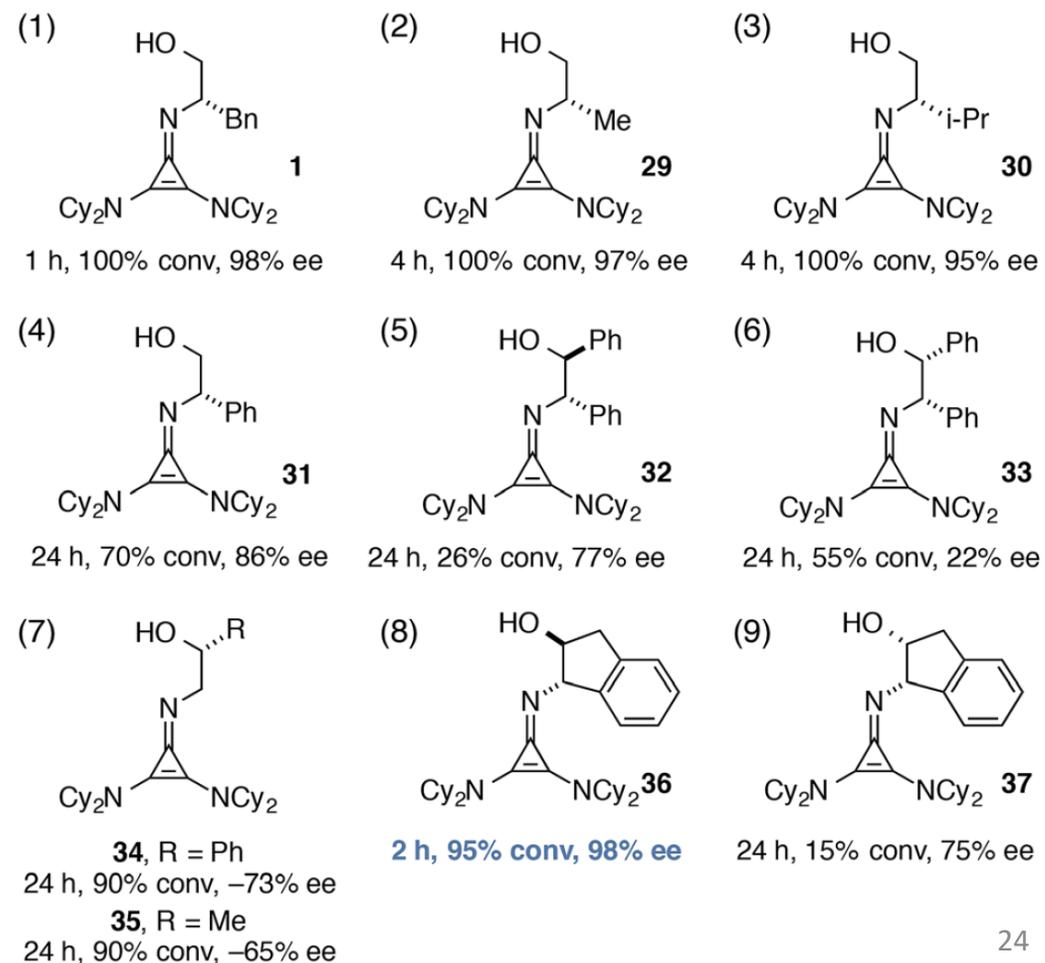
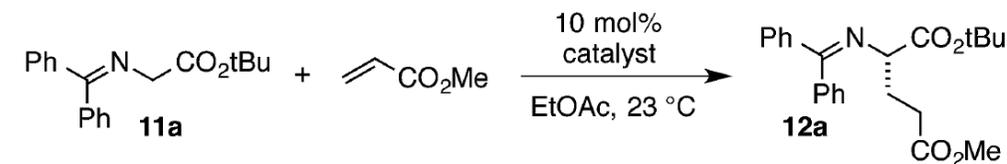


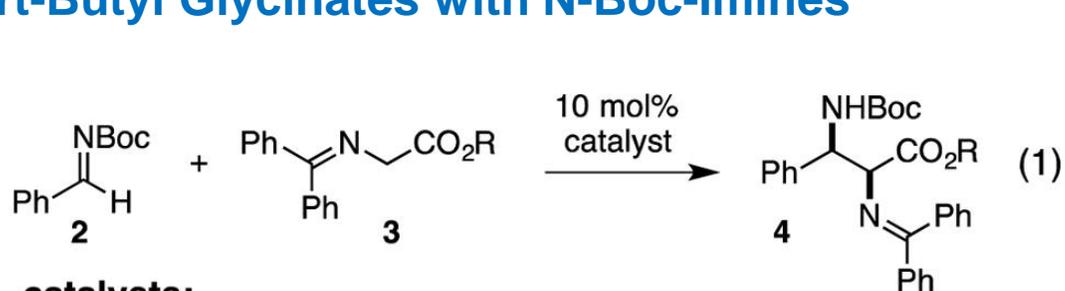
Fig. 2 Examples of chiral Brønsted base catalysts with strong basicities.

T. H. Lambert, *et al. Chem. Sci.* **2015**, *6*, 1537.

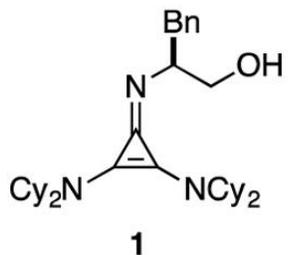


# Chiral Cyclopropenyl Cation

## Cyclopropenimine-Catalyzed Enantioselective Mannich Reactions of tert-Butyl Glycinates with N-Boc-Imines

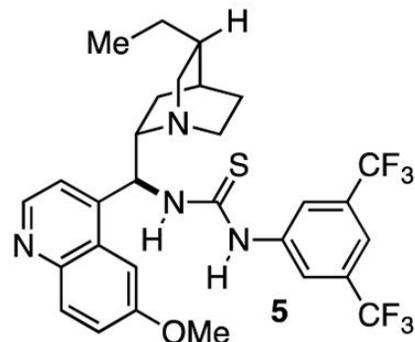


**catalysts:**



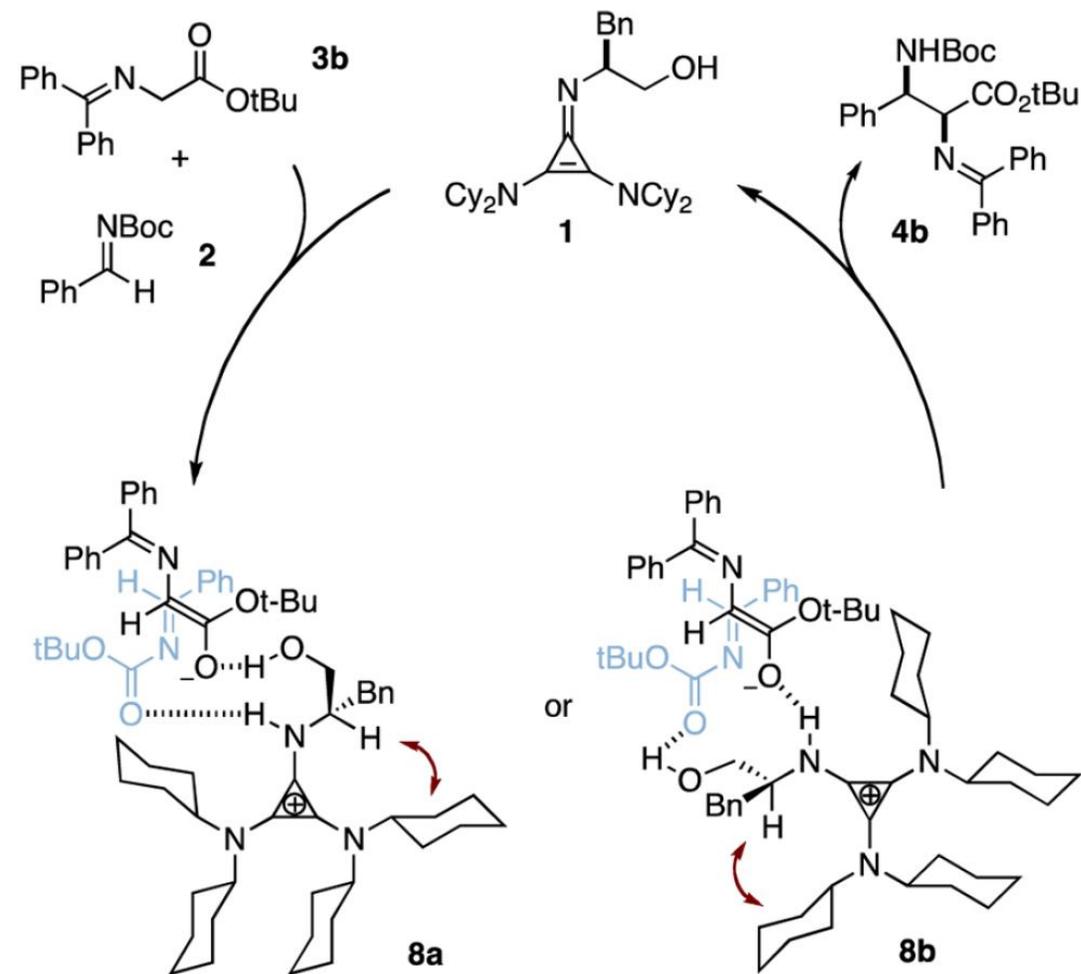
R = Me  
PhMe, rt, 15 min  
81% yield, 95:5 dr, 95% ee

R = tBu  
PhMe, rt, 20 hr  
97% yield, 99:1 dr, 95% ee



R = Me  
PhCF<sub>3</sub>, rt, 24-36 hr  
76% yield, 99:1 dr, 99% ee

R = tBu  
CHCl<sub>3</sub>, rt, 26 hr  
trace product



T. H. Lambert, *et al.* *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2013**, *135*, 11799.

# Outline

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1. Introduction

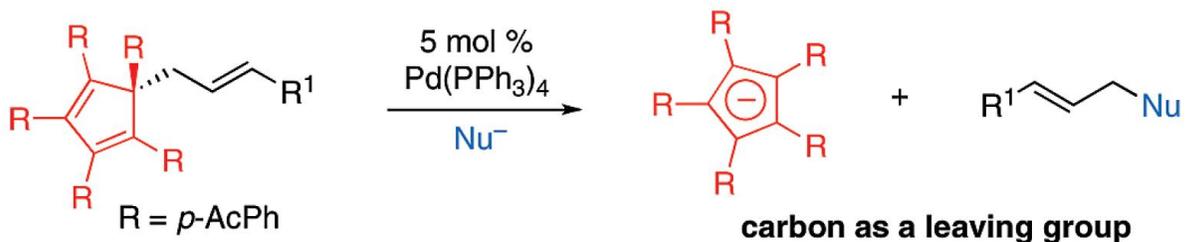
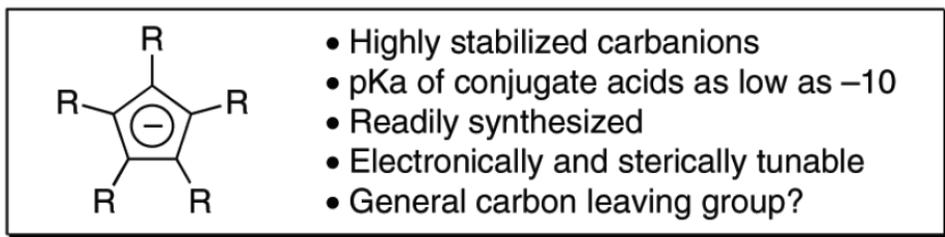
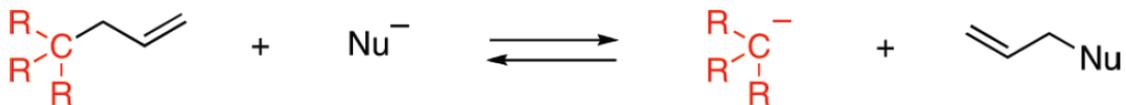
2. Aromatic cation

**3. Aromatic anion**

4. Summary and Outlook

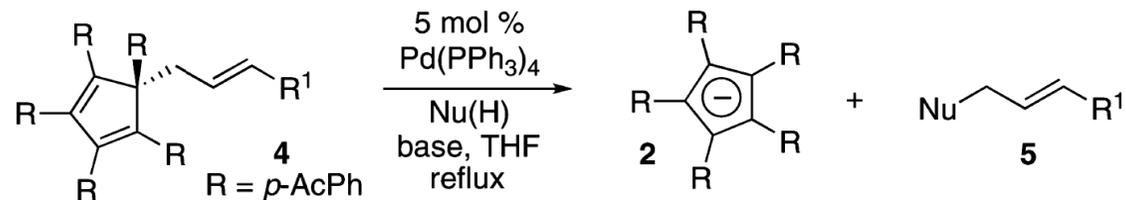
# Aromatic anion

## Leaving Group Potential of a Substituted Cyclopentadienyl Anion Toward Oxidative Addition



T. H. Lambert, *et al. Org. Lett.* **2009**, *11*, 4108.

## Selected examples

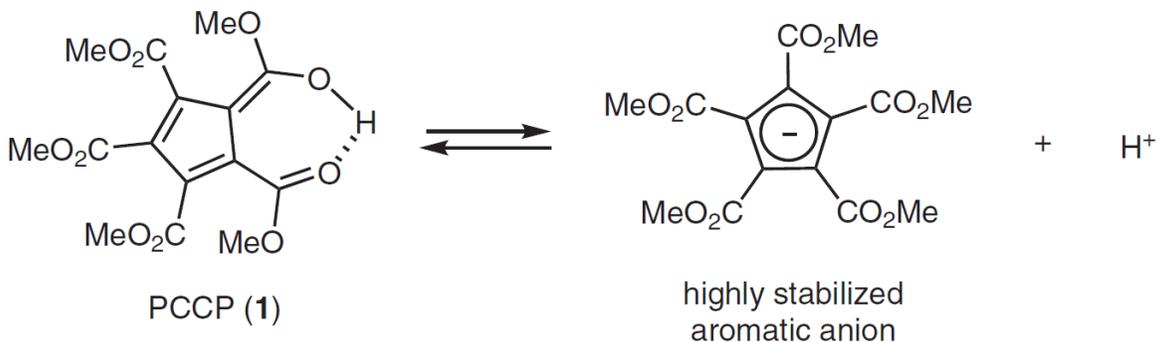


entry	substrate	Nu(H)	base	time (h)	% yield
1		(EtO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> CHMe	NaH	1.5	80
2		(EtO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> CHMe	NaH	4	71
3		(EtO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> CHMe	NaH	4	70
4		(EtO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> CHMe	NaH	> 6	0
5		(EtO <sub>2</sub> C) <sub>2</sub> CHMe	NaH	3	71
6			NaH	3	78
7		Ph <sub>5</sub> CpH	<i>n</i> -BuLi	3	77
8 <sup>[b],[c]</sup>		BnNHMe	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	3	69

# Aromatic anion

## PCCP and Its Derivatives

### A. Pentacarbomethoxycyclopentadiene (PCCP) 1



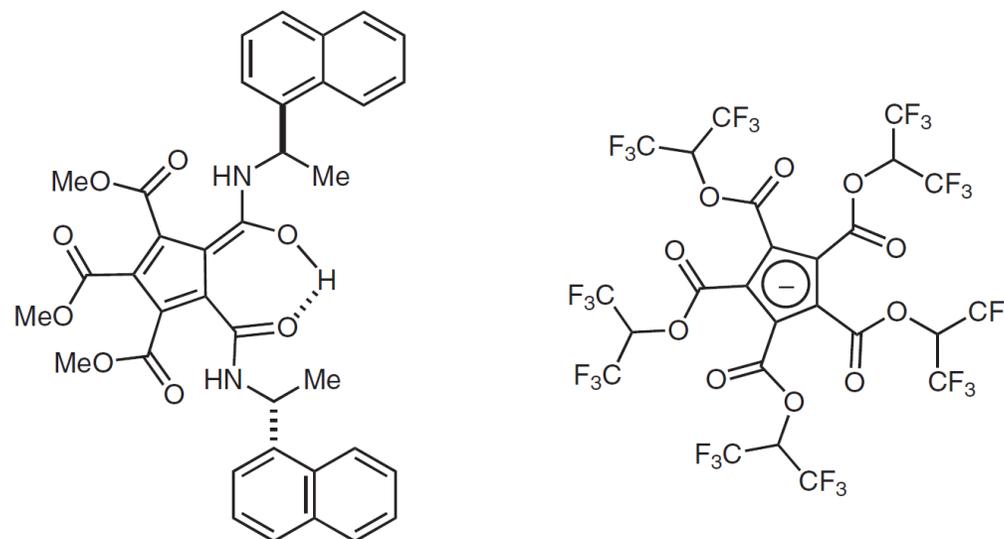
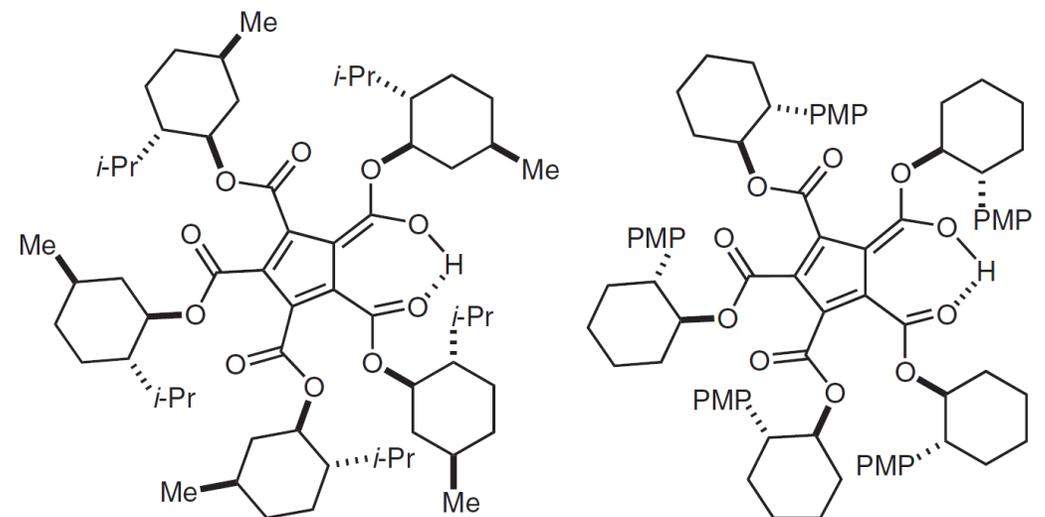
Diels, O. *Ber. Dtsch. Chem. Ges.* **1942**, 75, 1452.

a) The acidity of the cyclopentadiene can be further increased **through introduction of stabilizing groups**, such as cyano or carbonyl substituents.

b) The highly electron-deficient PCCP is approximately **as acidic as HCl**.

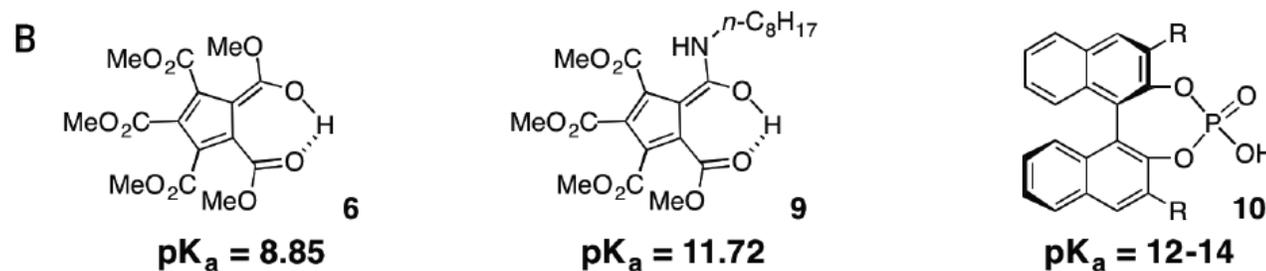
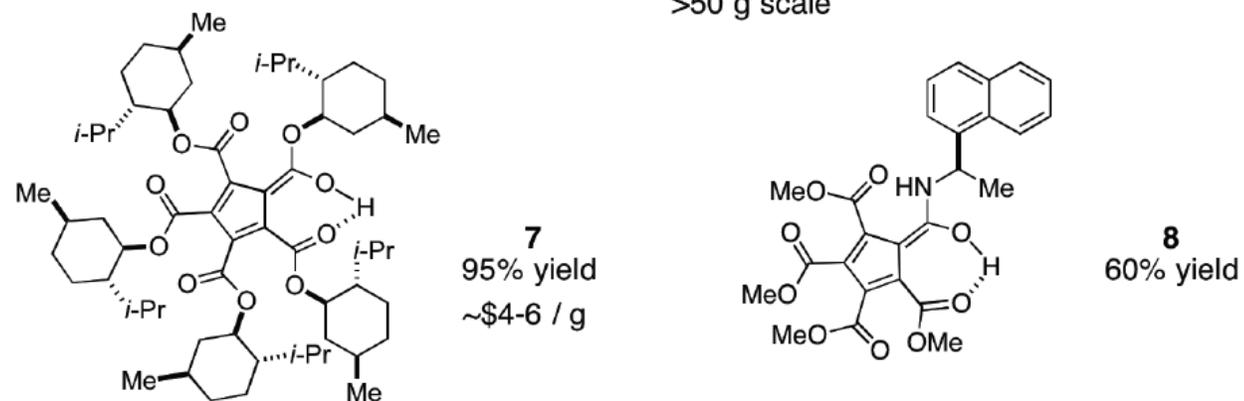
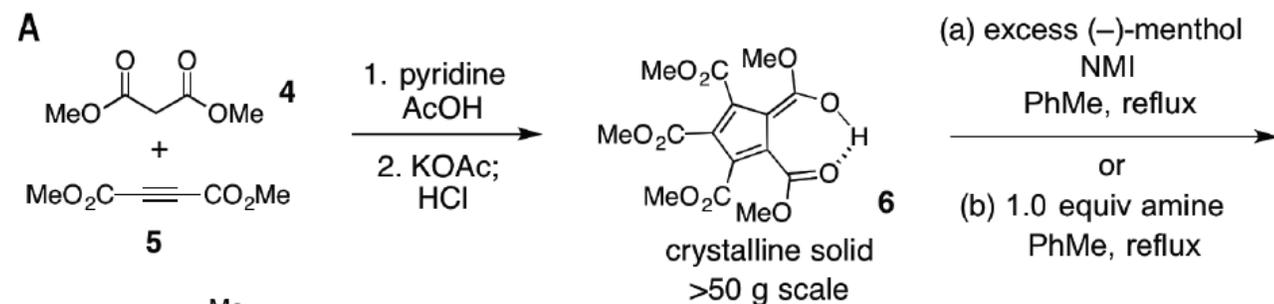
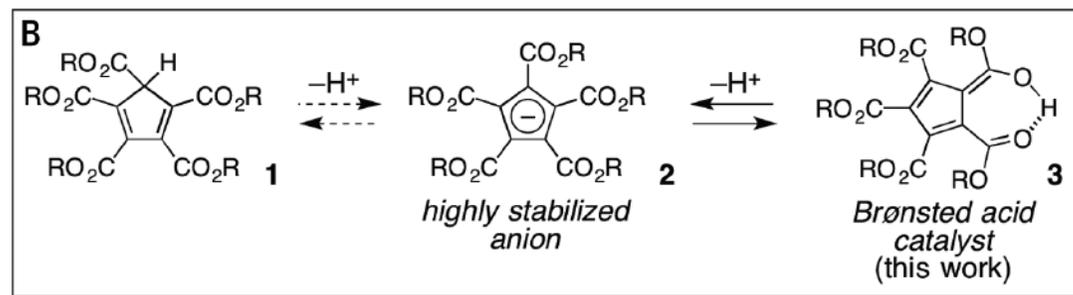
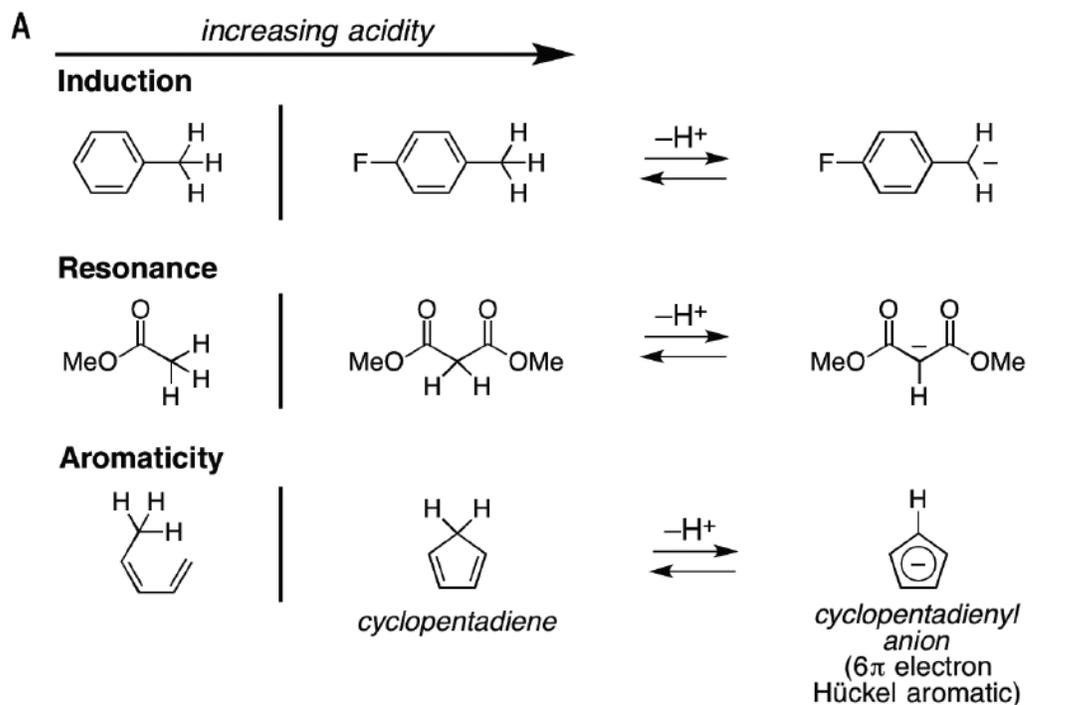
T. H. Lambert, *et al. Synthesis* **2019**, 51, 1135.

### B. Selected PCCP derivatives



# Chiral Aromatic anion

## An aromatic ion platform for enantioselective Brønsted acid catalysis



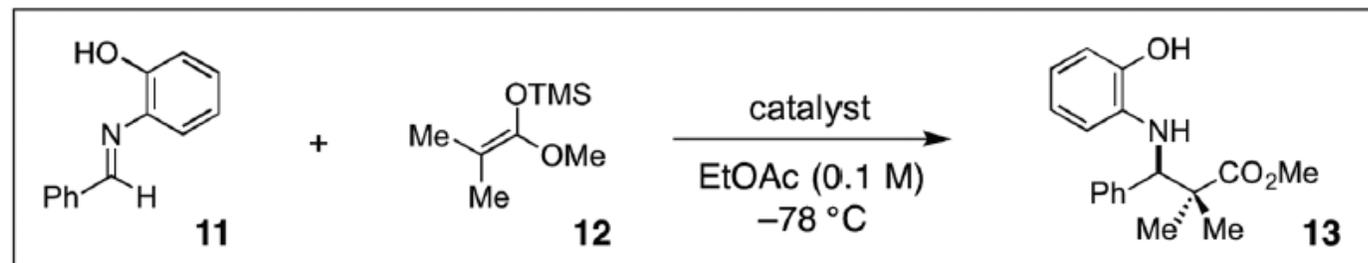
*Determined in acetonitrile*

# Chiral Aromatic anion

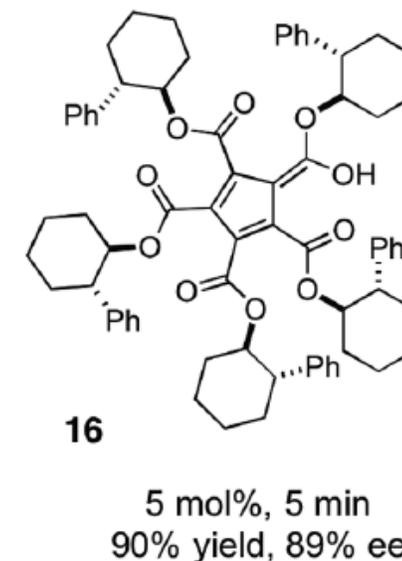
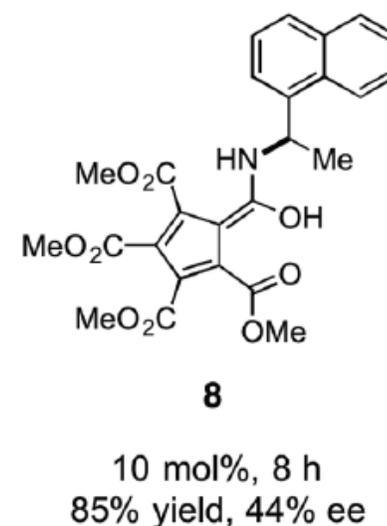
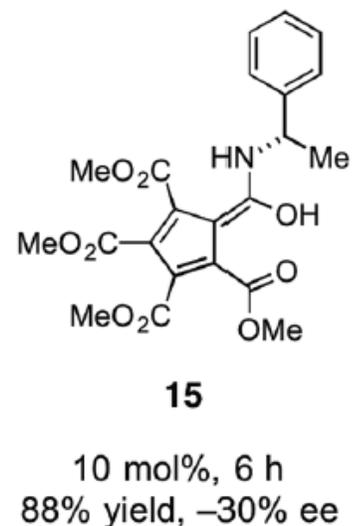
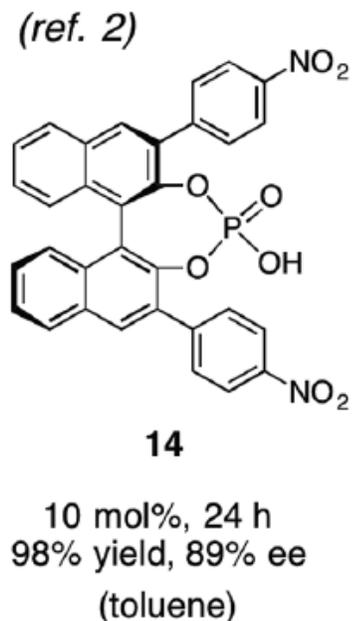
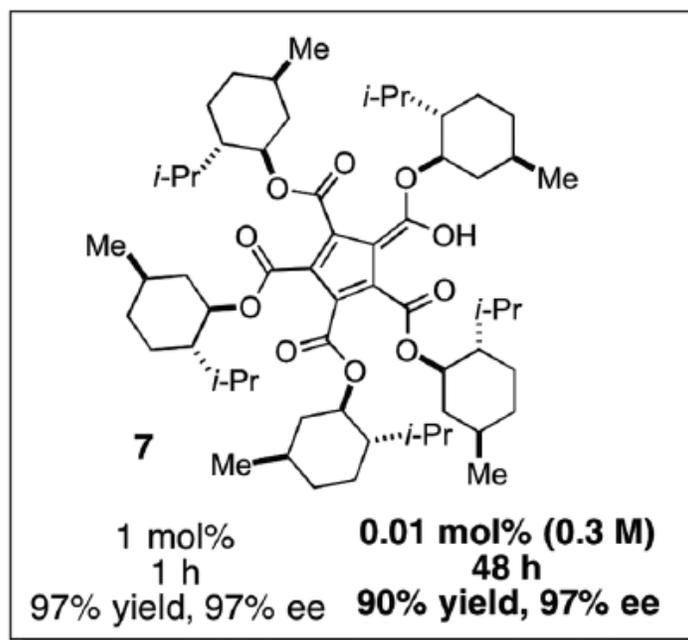
## An aromatic ion platform for enantioselective Brønsted acid catalysis

A

### Mukaiyama-Mannich

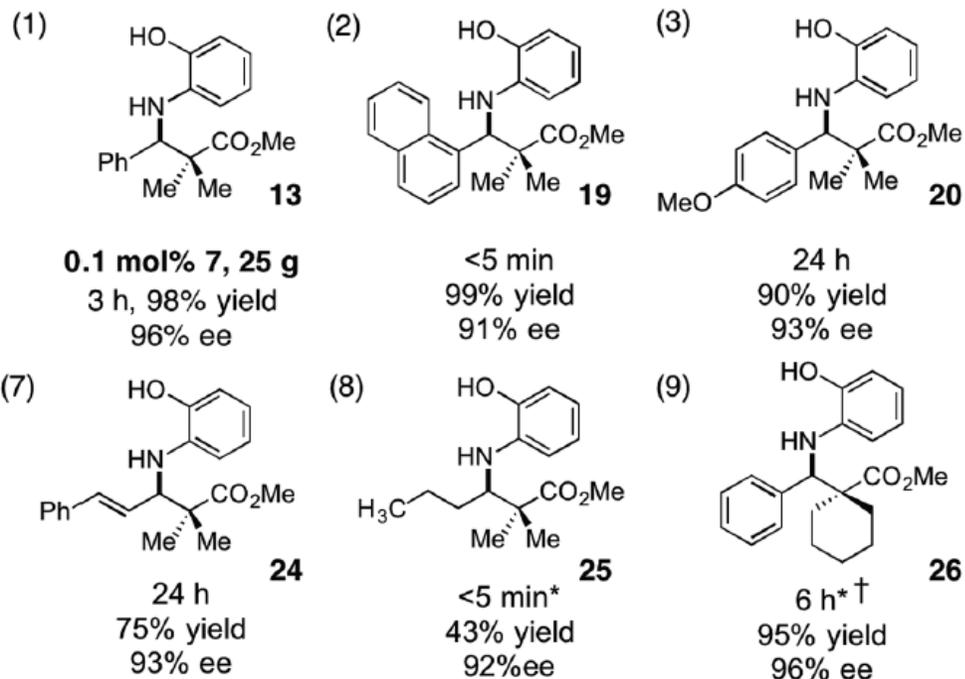
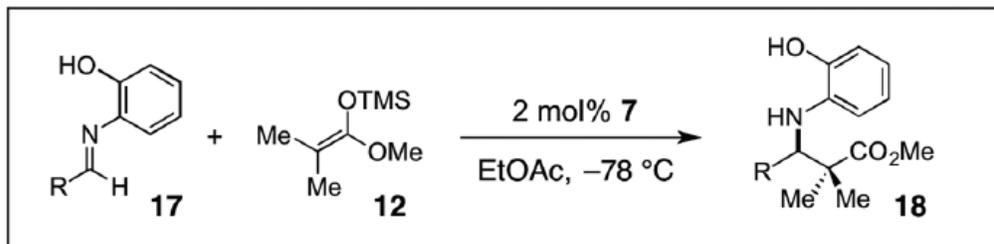


### Catalysts

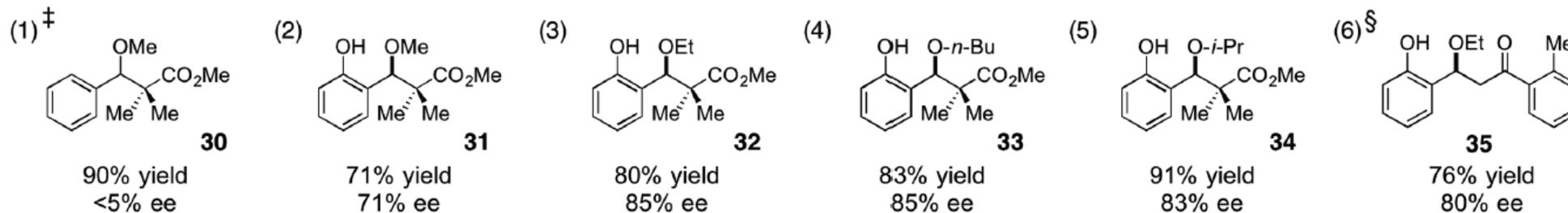
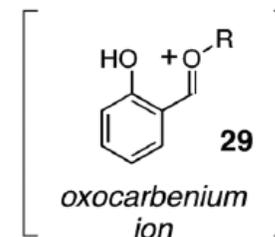
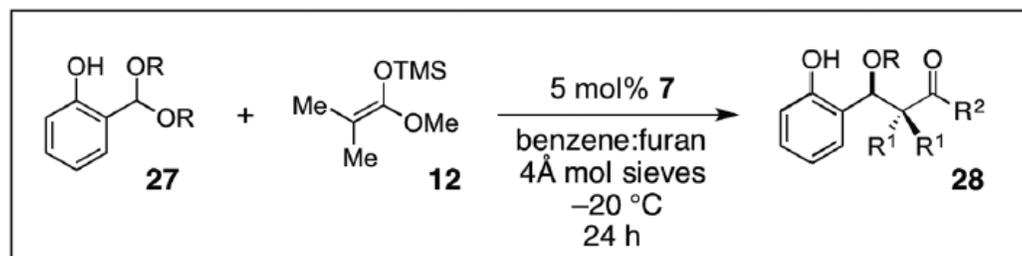


T. H. Lambert, *et al.* *Science* **2016**, 351, 961.

B

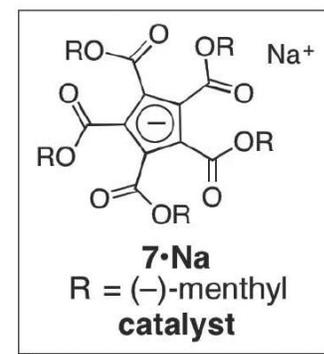
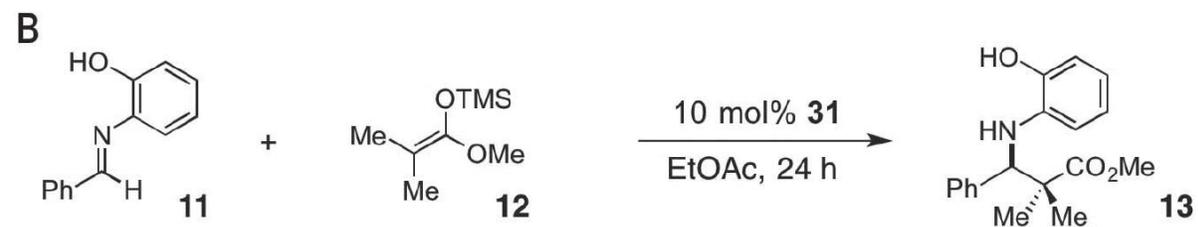
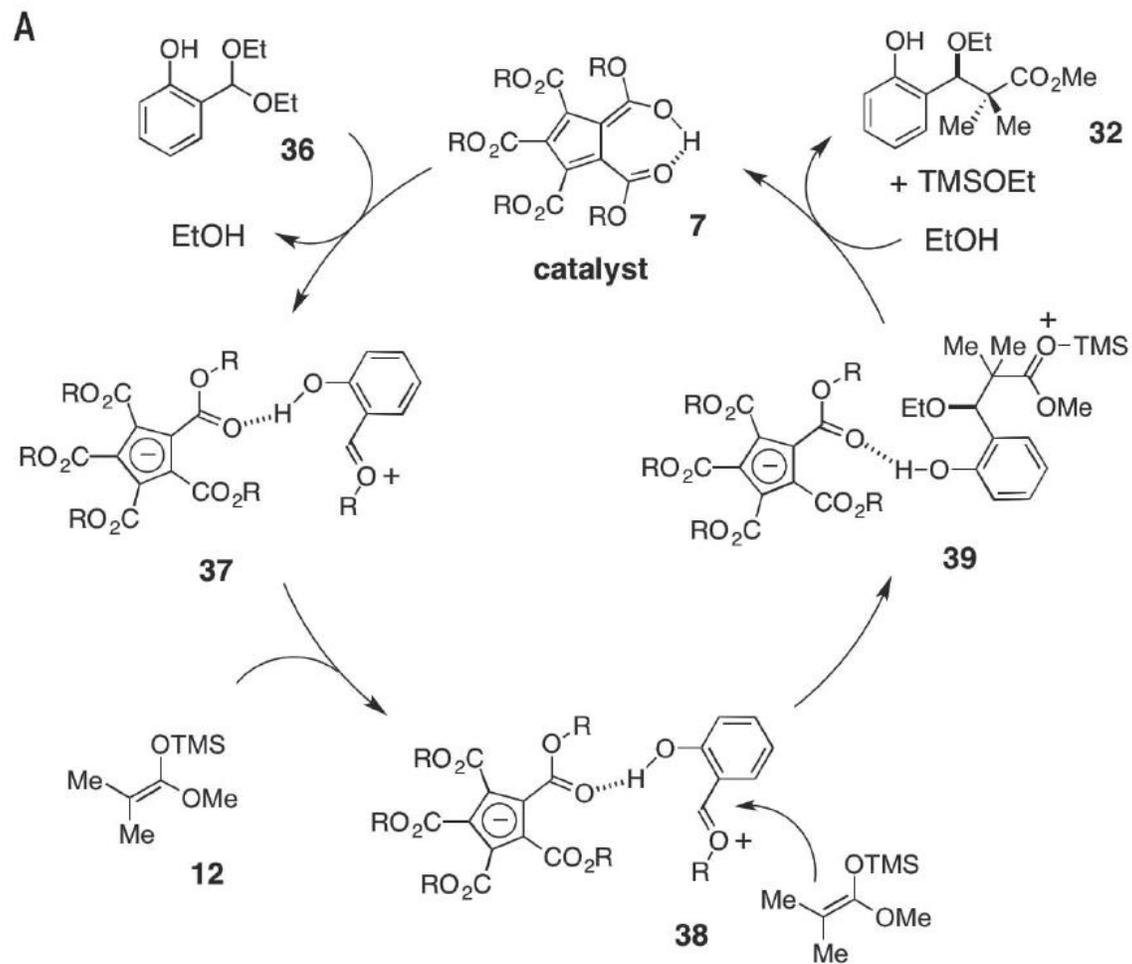


C



# Chiral Aromatic anion

## An aromatic ion platform for enantioselective Brønsted acid catalysis

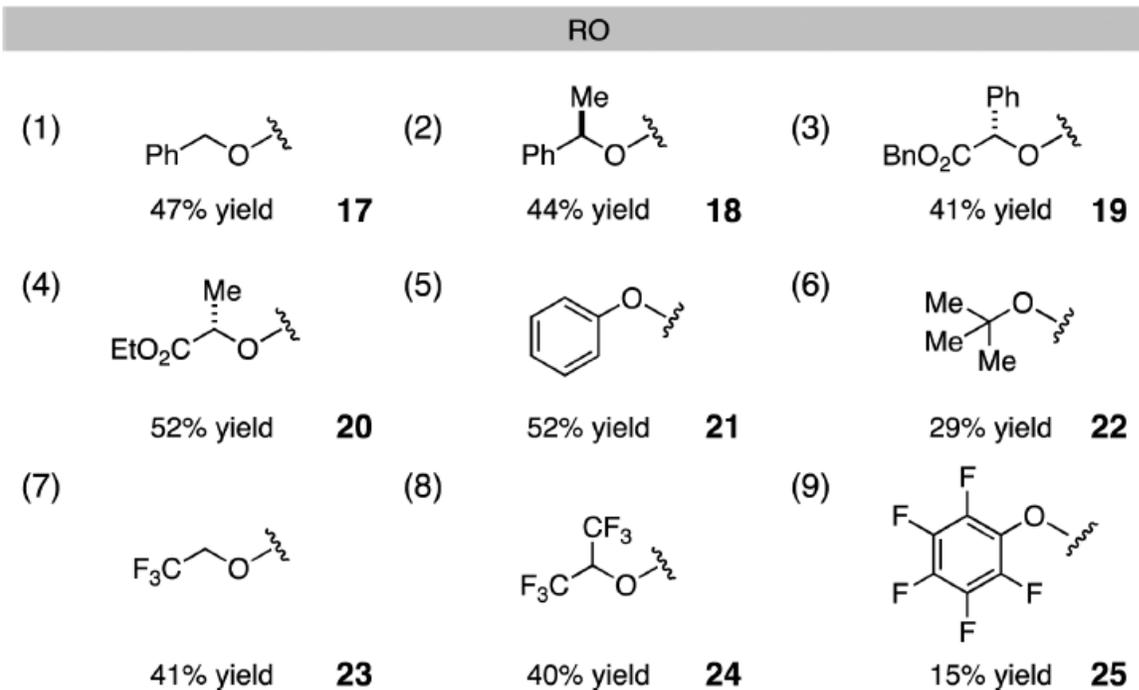
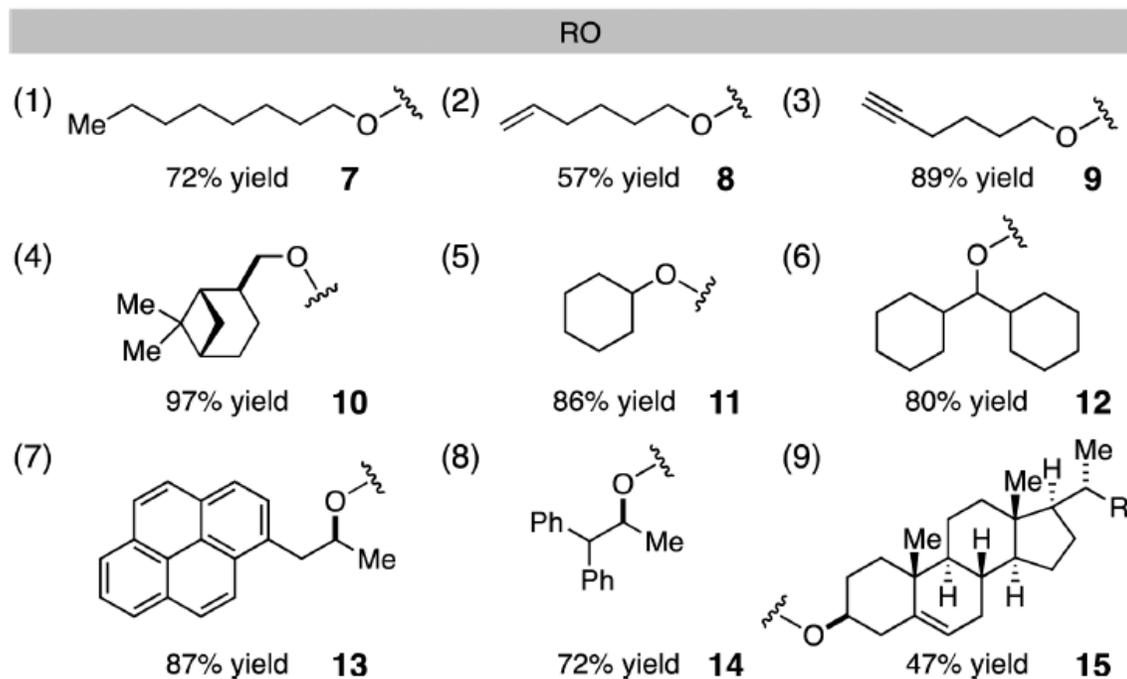
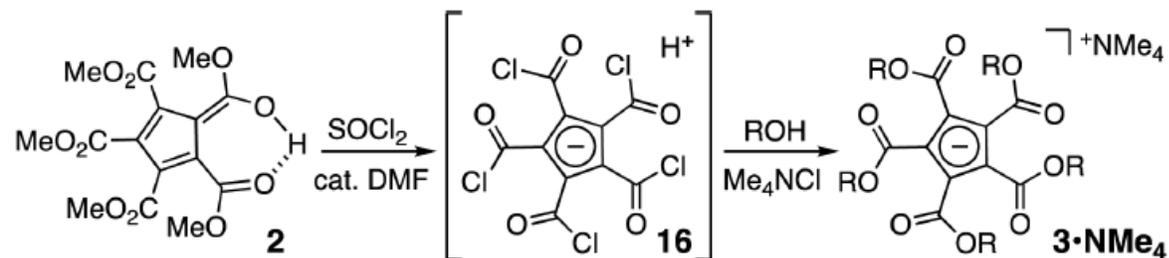
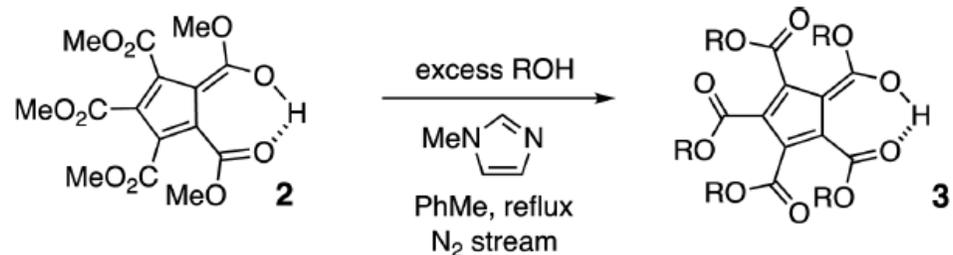


entry	temp (°C)	additive	conv (%)	ee (%)
1	-78	--	0	–
2	rt	--	79	47
3	rt	2,6- <i>t</i> -Bu <sub>2</sub> -4-Me-pyridine	80	48

T. H. Lambert, *et al. Science* **2016**, 351, 961.

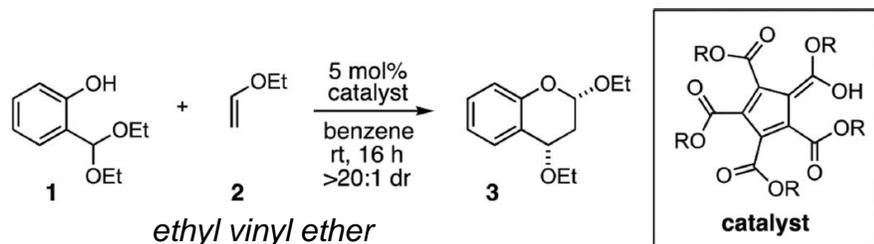
# Chiral Aromatic anion

## Methods for the Synthesis of Functionalized Pentacarboxycyclopentadienes

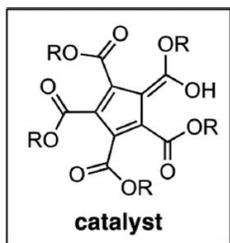


# Chiral Aromatic anion

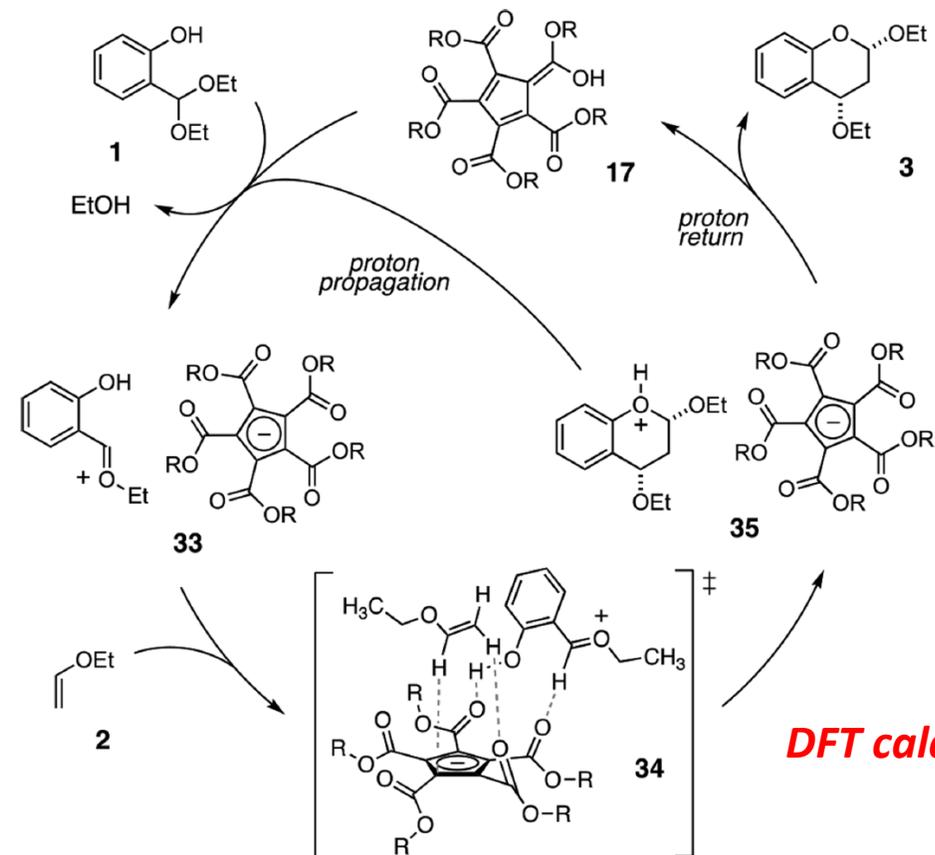
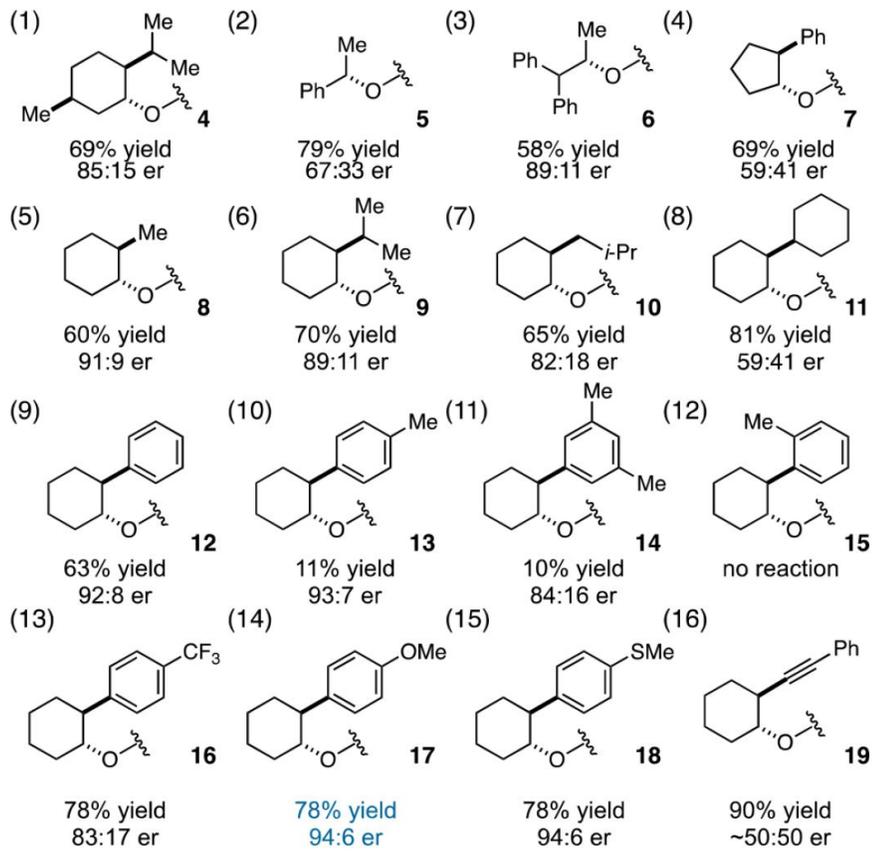
## Enantioselective PCCP-Catalyzed Diels–Alder Cycloaddition of Oxocarbenium Ions



ethyl vinyl ether



Catalyst –OR Group



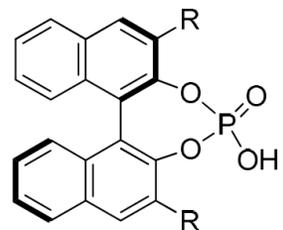
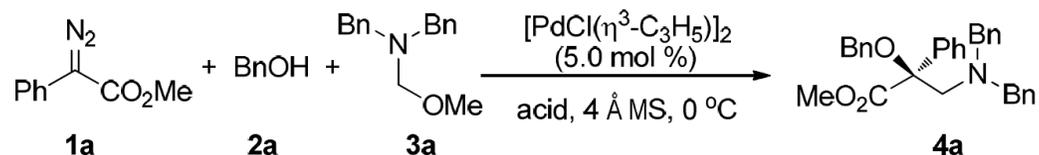
**DFT calculation study**

**A strong CH– $\pi$  interaction between the polarized internal vinylic C–H of 2 and the cyclopentadienyl anion was involved.**

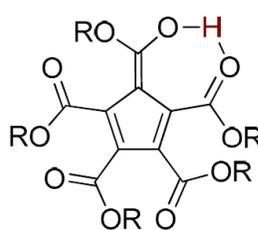
T. H. Lambert, *et al.* *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2018**, *140*, 3523.

# Chiral Aromatic anion

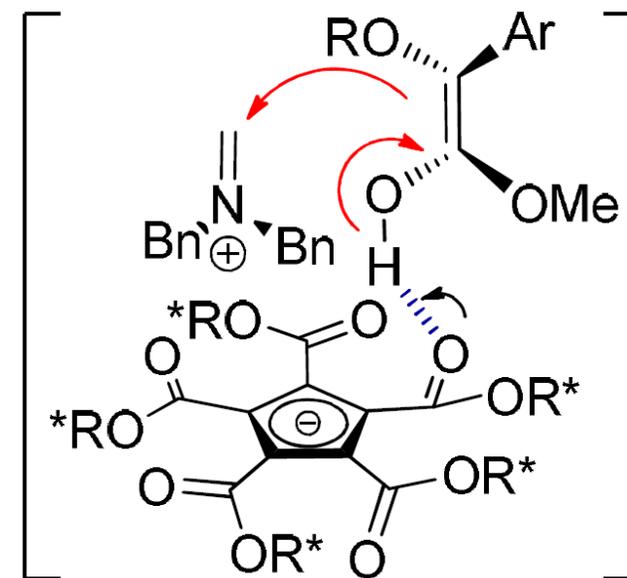
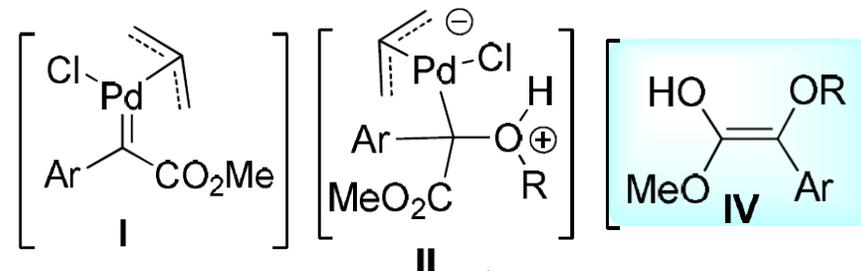
## Asymmetric Counter-Anion-Directed Aminomethylation: Synthesis of Chiral $\beta$ -Amino Acids via Trapping of an Enol Intermediate



**5a:** R = 9-Phenanthryl  
**5b:** R = 3,5-Cl<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>  
**5c:** R = 2,4,6-*i*-Pr<sub>3</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>  
**5d:** R = SiPh<sub>3</sub>  
**5e:** R = 4-OMeC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>  
**5f:** R = 3,5-(CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>



**6a,** R =   
**6b,** R =   
**6c,** R = Me

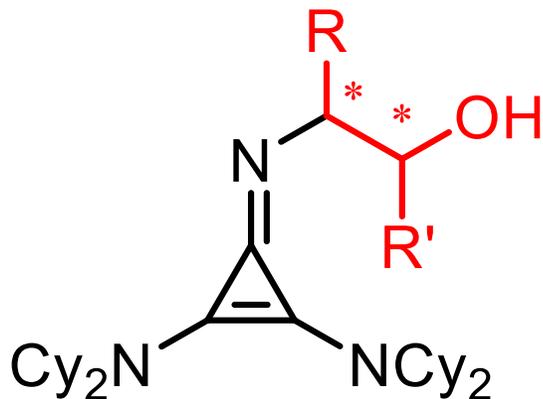


entry	solvent	acid	yield (%) <sup>b</sup>	ee (%) <sup>c</sup>
1	DCM	5a	93	<5
2	DCM	5b	89	5
3	DCM	5c	95	51
4	DCM	5d	92	27
5	DCM	5e	90	<5
6	DCM	5f	89	15
7	DCM	6c	90	—
8	DCM	6a	90	88
9	DCM	6b	88	84
10	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	6a	92	96

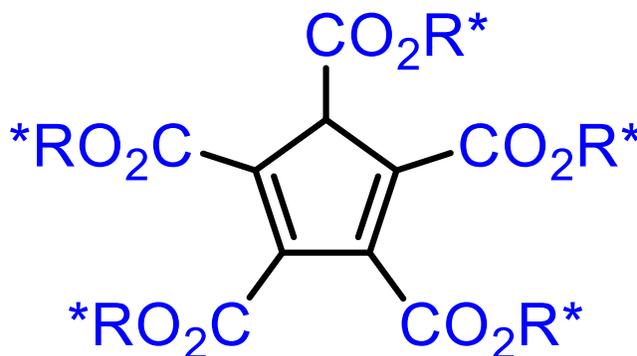
W.-H. Hu, *et al.* *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2019**, *141*, 1473.

# Summary and Outlook

*Aromatic ions have been attracted more and more attention.*



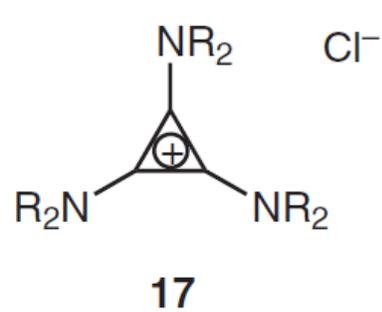
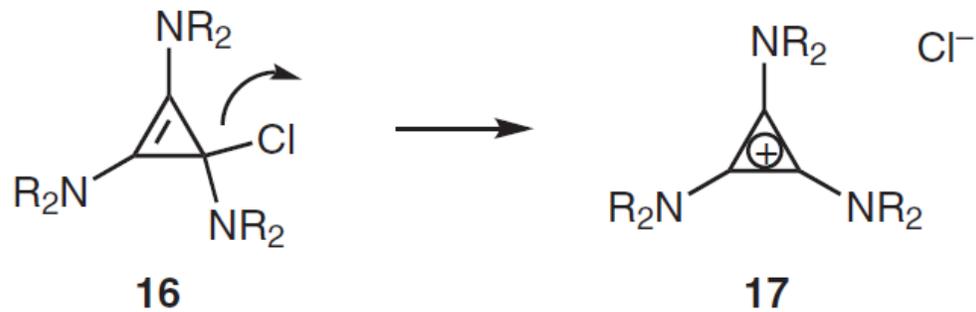
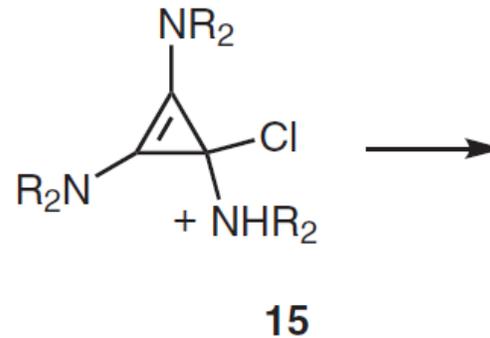
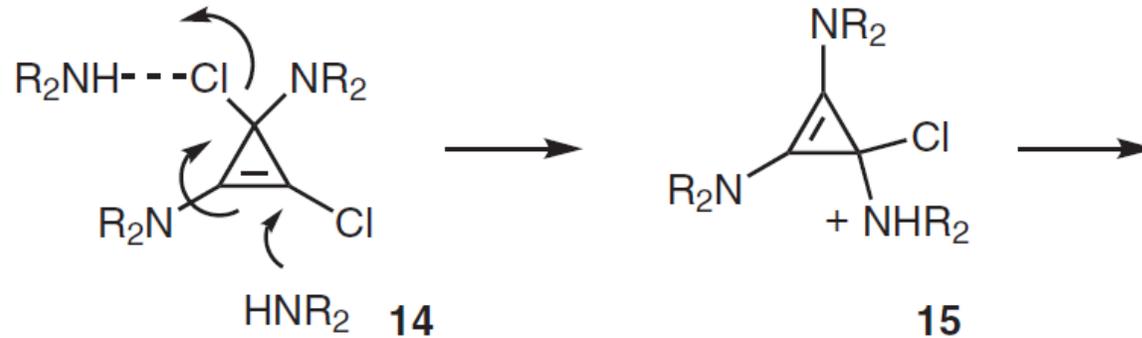
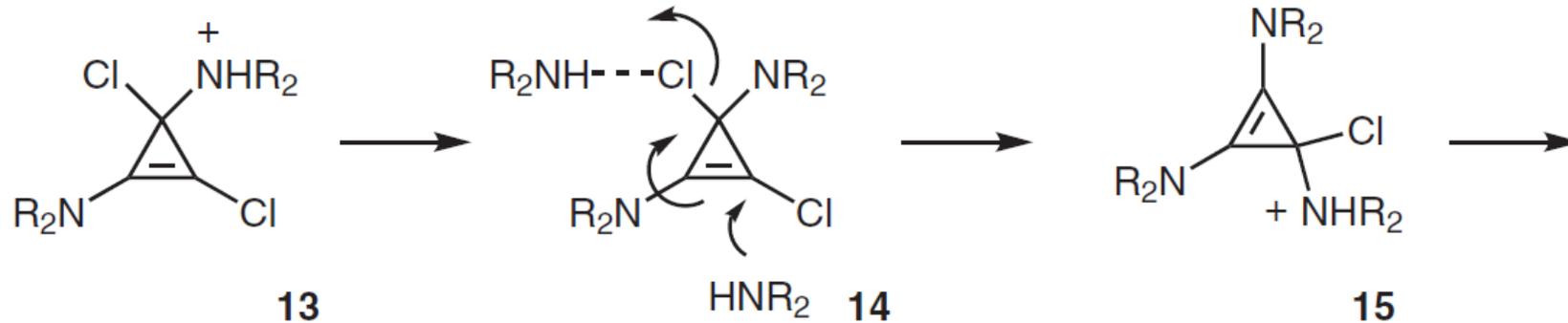
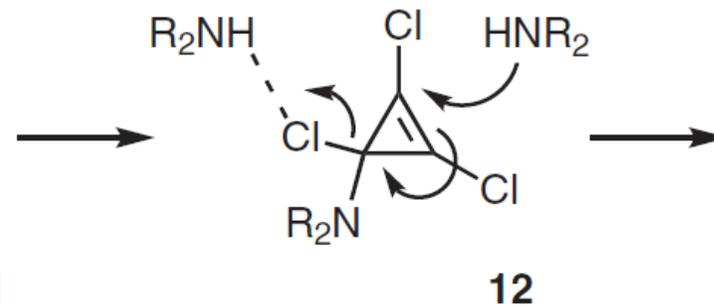
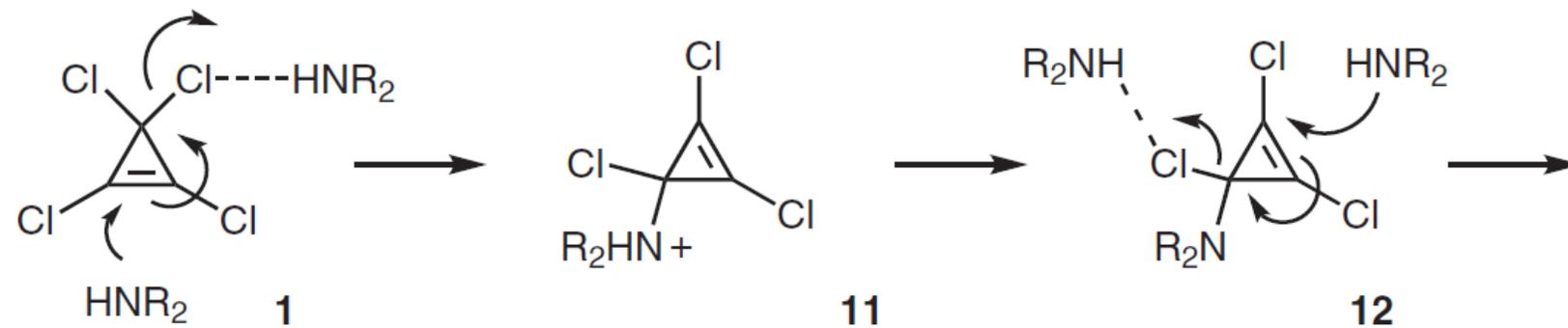
*chiral cyclopropenyl cation*



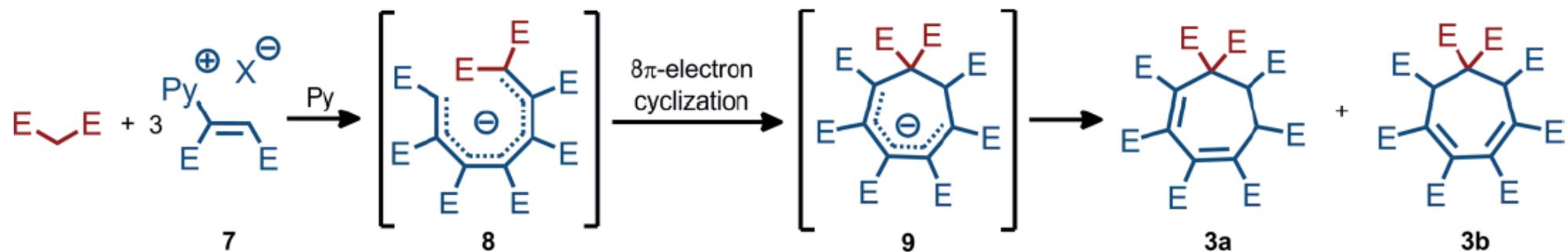
*Cyclopentadienyl anion  
(PCCP)*

- Old chemistry but turned out to be **a new research area**.
- Novel organic base: **TDACs**; Novel organic Brønsted acid: **PCCPs**
- Exploitation of **PCCP-Metal** is on the way.
- Great potential in organic synthesis by chiral aromatic ion catalysis.

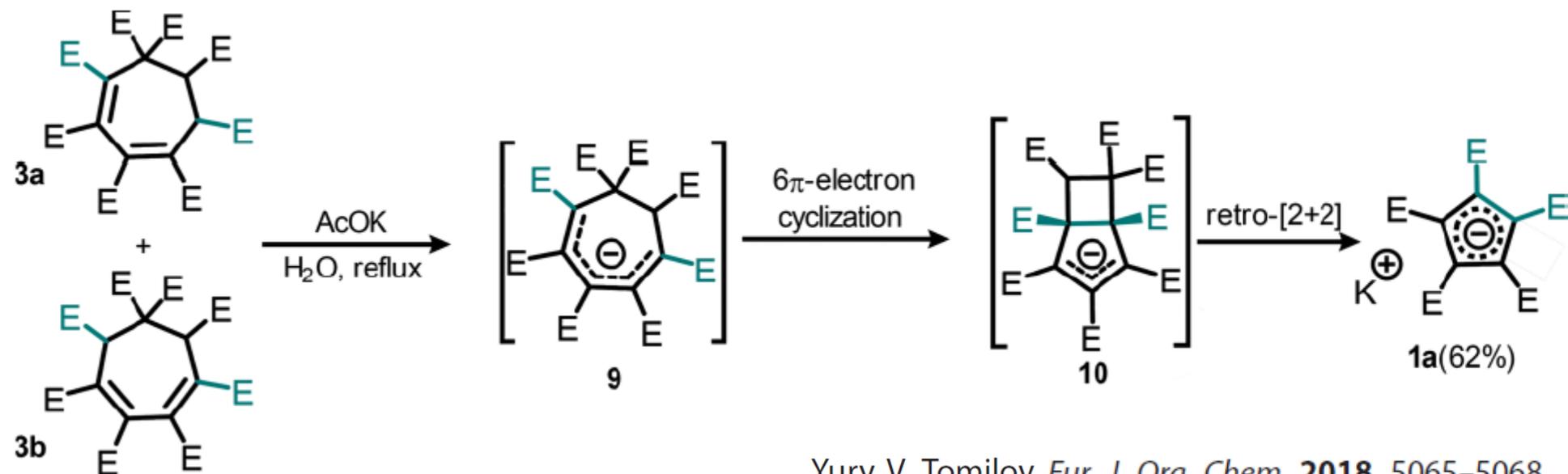
**Thanks for your attention !**  
**Any questions ?**



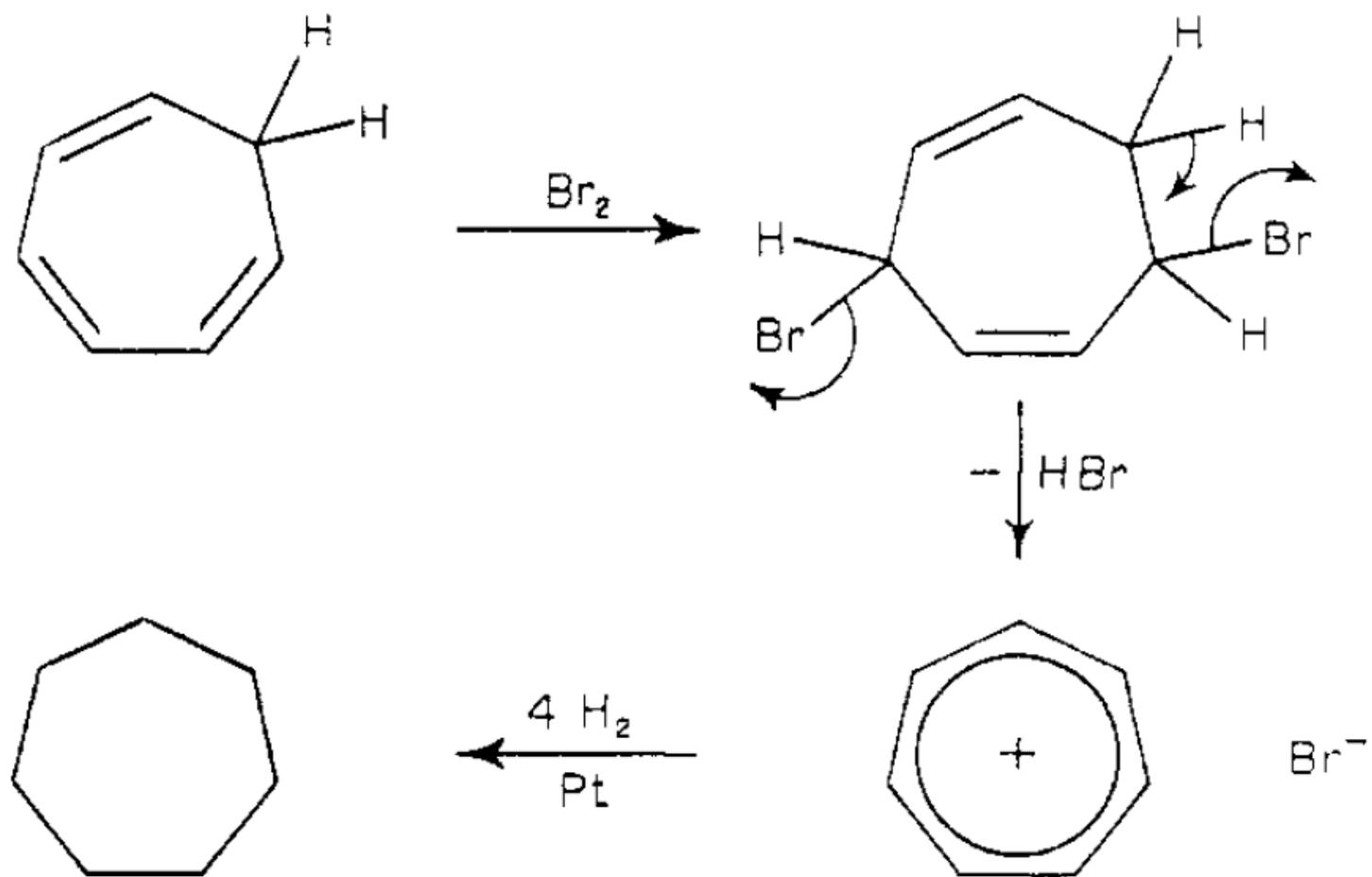
# Synthesis of 1,2,3,4,5-Penta(methoxycarbonyl)cyclopentadienides through Electrocyclic Ring Closure and Ring Contraction Reactions



E = CO<sub>2</sub>Me



Yury V. Tomilov *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2018**, 5065–5068



BY W. VON E. DOERING<sup>1</sup> AND L. H. KNOX

**$pK_{BH^+}$  Measurements.** Stock solutions of the HX salt of the “substrate” superbase being studied (0.0667 M, 0.60 mL, 0.040 mmol) and a reference free base (0.200 M, 0.20 mL, 0.040 mmol) were mixed in NMR tubes under inert atmosphere.  $CD_3CN$  was employed for all experiments, which were performed using a dual manifold, except for the  $GC_2$  (**6**) and  $GP_2$  (**10**) bases, which employed  $d_8$ -THF and were performed in a glovebox. The mixture was analyzed by  $^1H$  NMR spectroscopy (as well as by  $^{13}C$  NMR for measurements in  $d_8$ -THF).

The extents of protonation of both the substrate superbase and the reference base were determined by comparison to the spectra of the HX salt and the free base of each component. These data were used to calculate the relative basicities of the substrate superbase and the reference base, and this value was compared to the known  $pK_{BH^+}$  value of the reference base to obtain the  $pK_{BH^+}$  value of the substrate. Measurements were performed in triplicate. Corrections were made for the observed relative NMR integrations and to convert THF data to the acetonitrile scale.

The reference bases used were DBU ( $pK_{BH^+} = 24.34$ , MeCN)<sup>24</sup> for  $G_1$  (**16**);  $P_1$ -*t*Bu(pyrr)<sub>3</sub> ( $pK_{BH^+} = 28.35$ , MeCN)<sup>19</sup> for  $C_1$  (**17**),  $P_1$  (**18**),  $G_3$  (**11**),  $CG_2$  (**4**),  $C_3$  (**2**), and  $PC_1$  (**14**); and  $P_2$ -Et ( $pK_{BH^+} = 32.94$ , MeCN)<sup>6c</sup> for  $GC_2$  (**6**), and  $GP_2$  (**10**). The remaining superbases