

# Protonated Cyclopropane, Hydrido-Bridged Cycloalkyl Cation and Remote Elimination

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Weijie Mao,

College of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering,

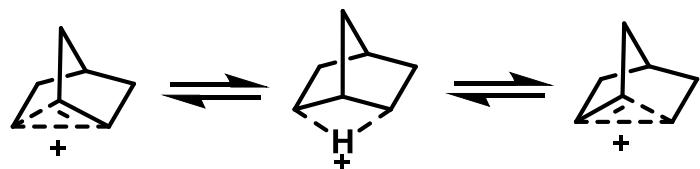
March, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

# Outline

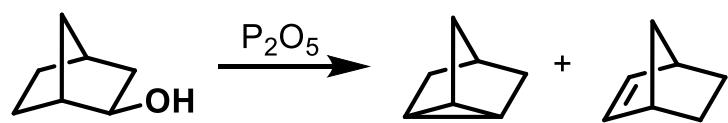
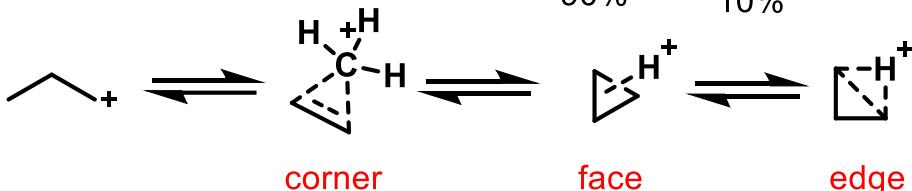
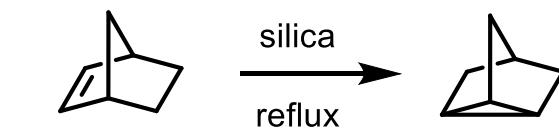
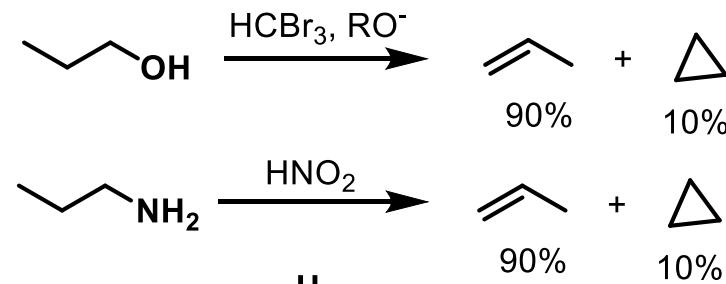
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- Protonated Cyclopropane and Cationic Cyclopropanation
  - Proposal and Determination of PCP<sup>+</sup>
  - Structure and Bonding Pattern of PCP<sup>+</sup>
  - Cationic Cyclopropanation
- Hydrido-Bridged Cycloalkyl Cation and Remote Elimination
  - Structure of Hydrido-Bridged Cycloalkyl Cation
  - Remote Elimination
- Summary and Perspective

# Proposal of Protonated Cyclopropane

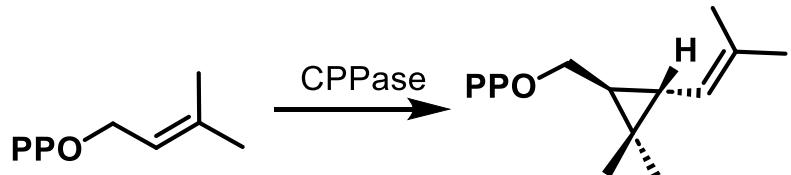


Winstein, S. et. al. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1952**, 74, 5, 1154.

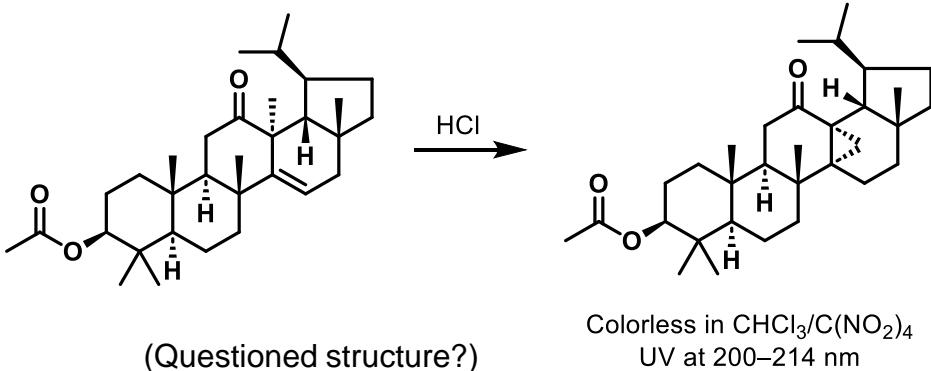


von Ragué Schleyer, P. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1958**, 80, 1700.

Skell, P. S. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1960**, 82, 2971.

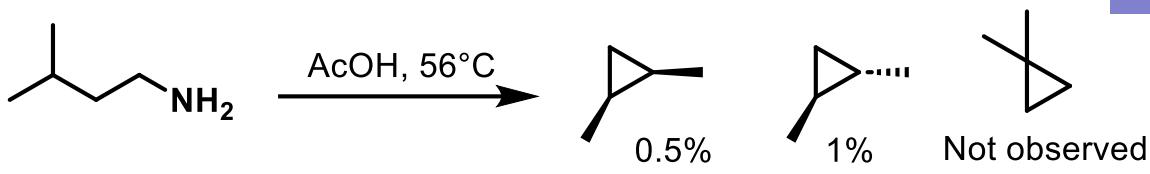
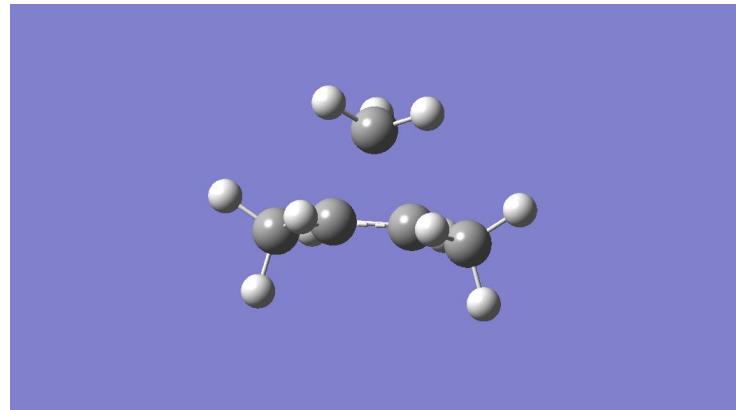
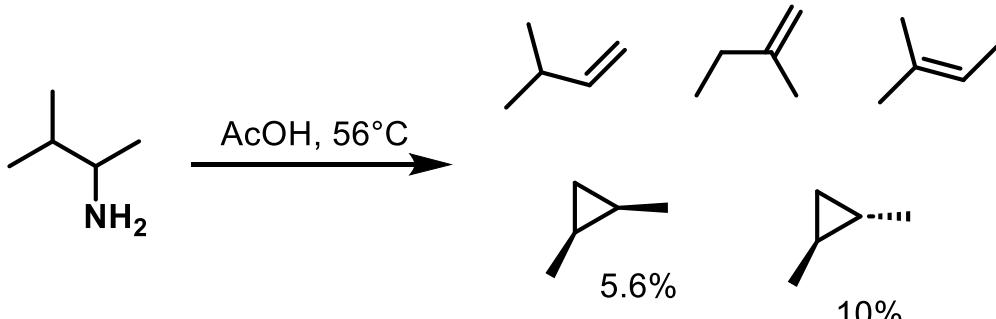


Godin, P. J.; Thain, E. M. *Proc. Chem. Soc.* **1961**, 9, 452.  
Poulter, C. D. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **1990**, 23, 70.



Beaton, J. M. et. al. *J. Chem. Soc.* **1955**, 3992.

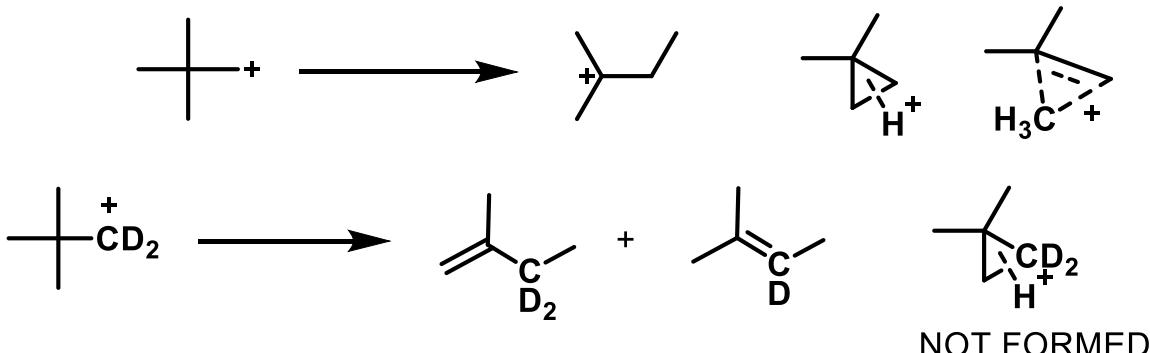
# Intermediate as Carbenium 1,2 Migration?



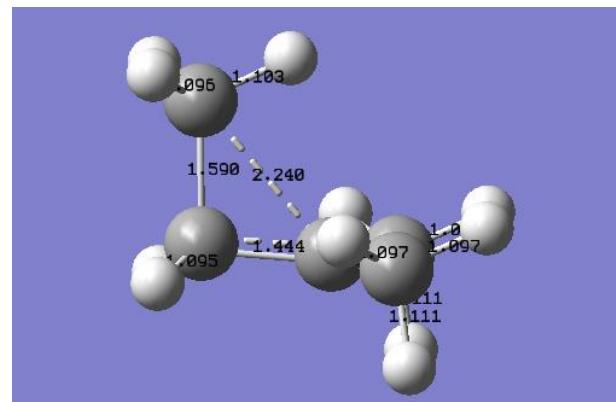
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2	2	207.43	25.8000

Silver, M. S. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1960**, 82, 2971.

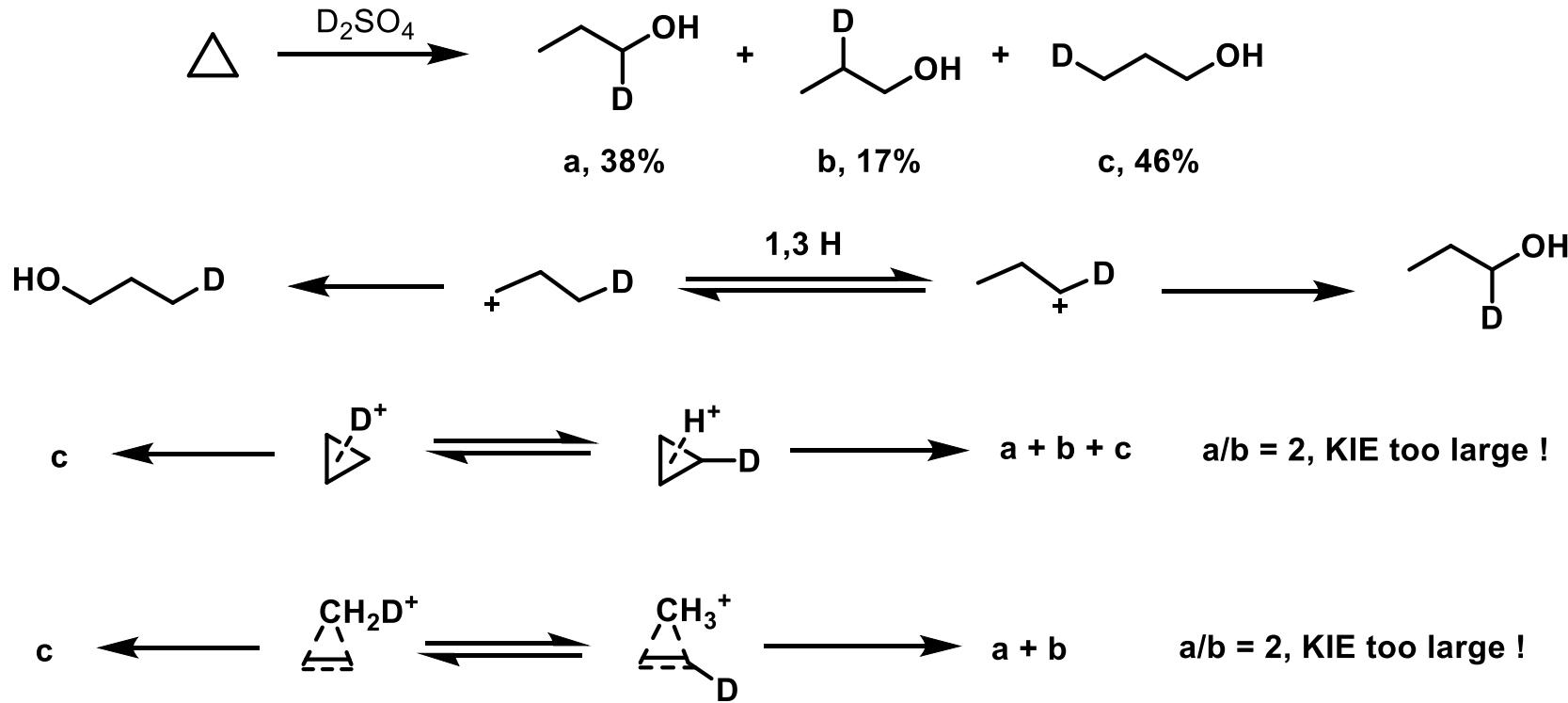
M06-2X(D3)/def2TZVP



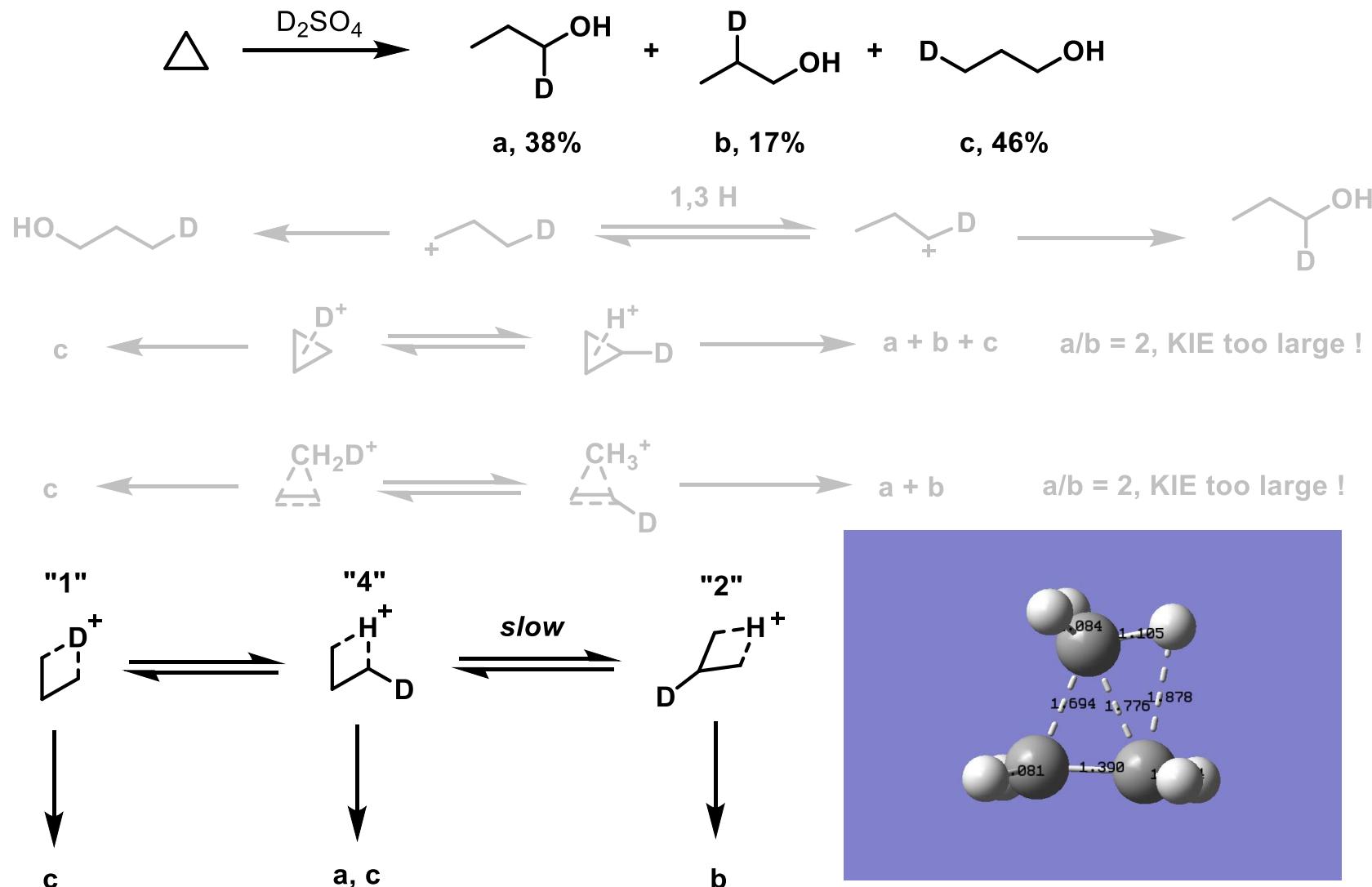
Skell, P. S. et. al. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1960**, 82, 5257.



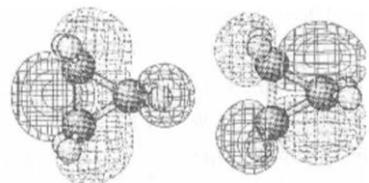
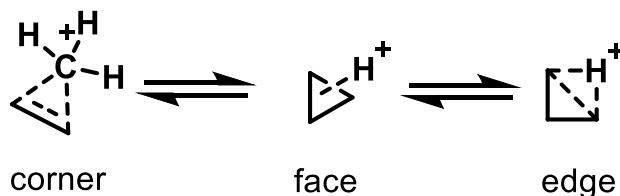
# Clues from Protonation of Cyclopropane



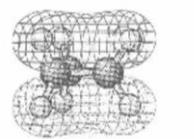
# Clues from Protonation of Cyclopropane



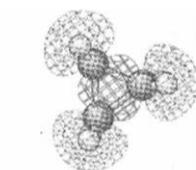
# Understanding PCP<sup>+</sup> Structure



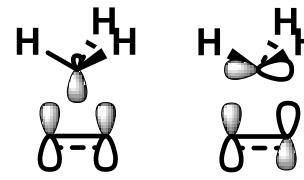
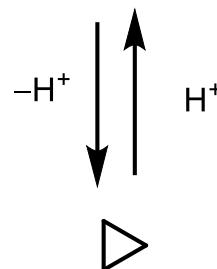
由 $\text{Cp}$ 轨道形成的Walsh轨道, 简并HOMO (F)



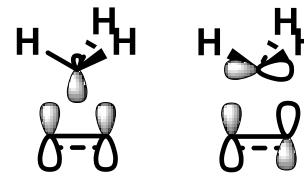
$\pi(\text{CH}_2)$ 的面内组合(C)



由 $\sigma$ (外)形成的C—C键(D)

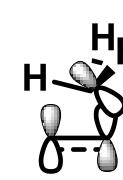


$\pi \rightarrow \text{p}$



$\pi(\text{CH}_3) \rightarrow \pi^*$

Corner



$\pi \rightarrow \text{p}$



$\pi(\text{CH}_3) \rightarrow \pi^*$

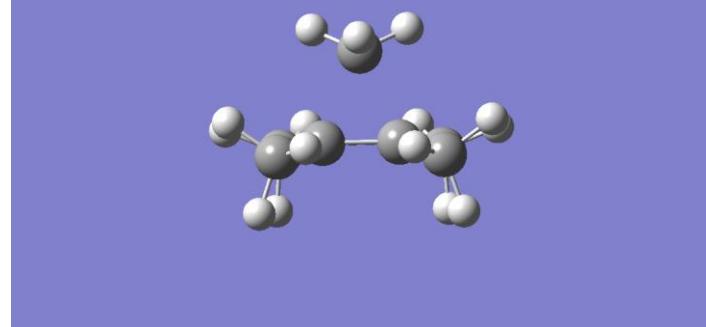
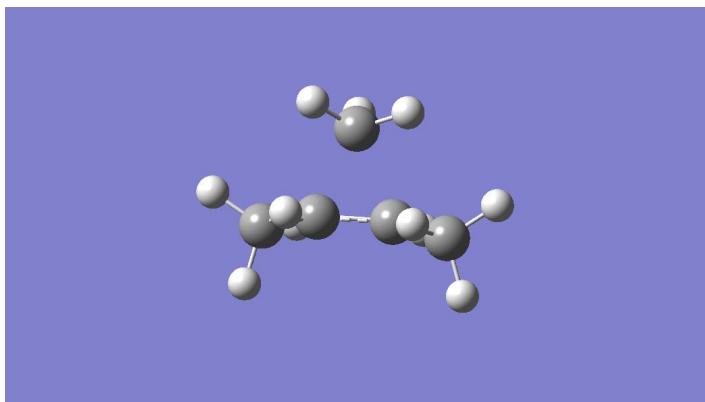
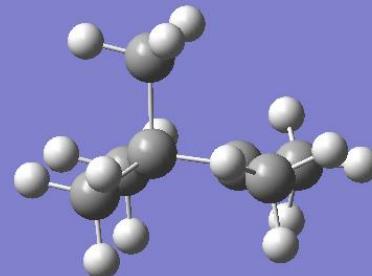
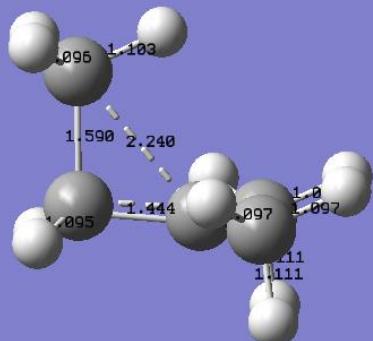
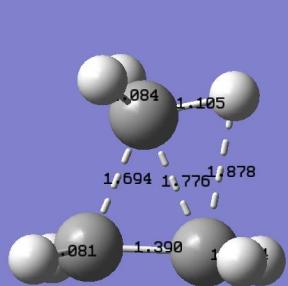
Edge

Corner PCP<sup>+</sup> has a C-C-C 3c-2e bond.  
Edge PCP<sup>+</sup> has a C-H-C 3c-2e bond.

Face PCP<sup>+</sup> is disfavored.

**Electron sufficient alkenes prefer corner structure.**  
**Symmetric alkenes prefer corner structure.**

# Understanding PCP<sup>+</sup> Structure



Electron sufficient alkenes prefer corner structure.

Symmetric alkenes prefer corner structure.

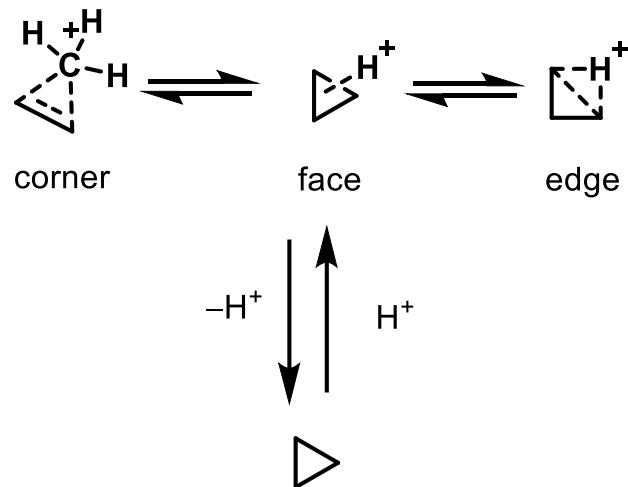
Avoid tertiary carbocation.

+ 2.89 kcal by M06-2X(D3)/def2TZVP

	Mode #	Frequency	Infrared
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2	2	91.52	3.1919

# PCP<sup>+</sup> Elimination Problem

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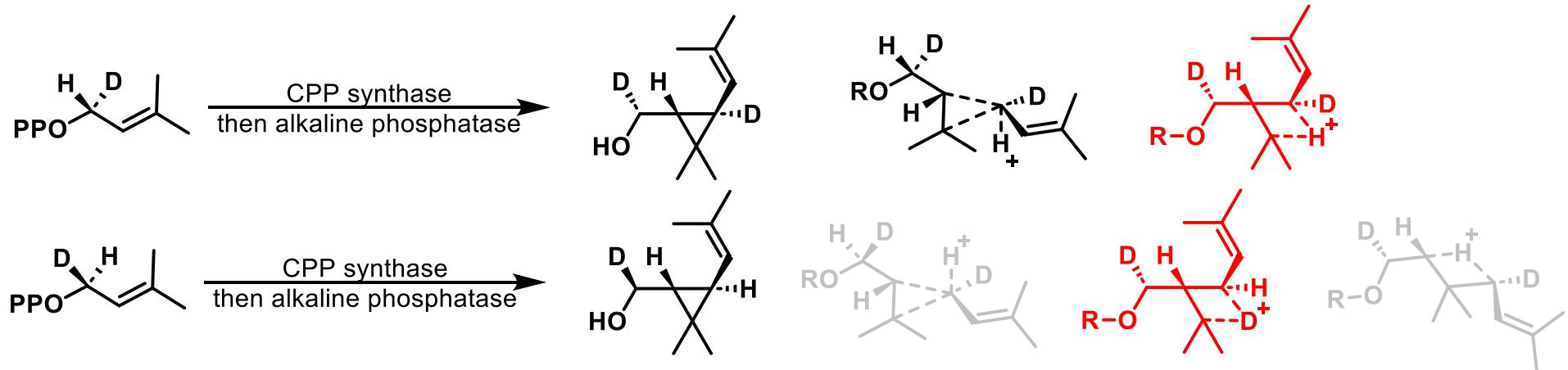
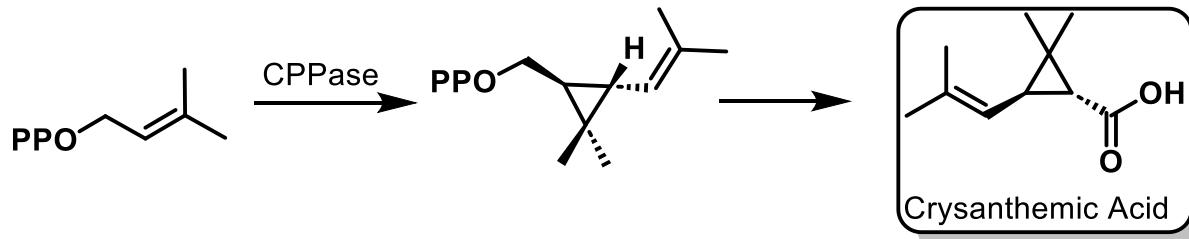
Edge PCP<sup>+</sup> or corner PCP<sup>+</sup> as TS of cyclopropane protonation?  
Could one of the PCP<sup>+</sup> become an ambimodal transition state?

**A plausible tendency:**

Symmetric alkenes prefer corner structure.

“Protonation” of “Cyclopropane” prefer edge structure.

# Learning from Nature...



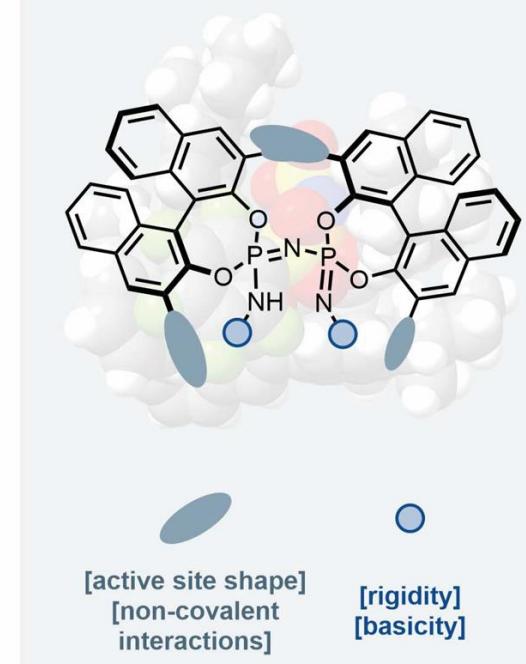
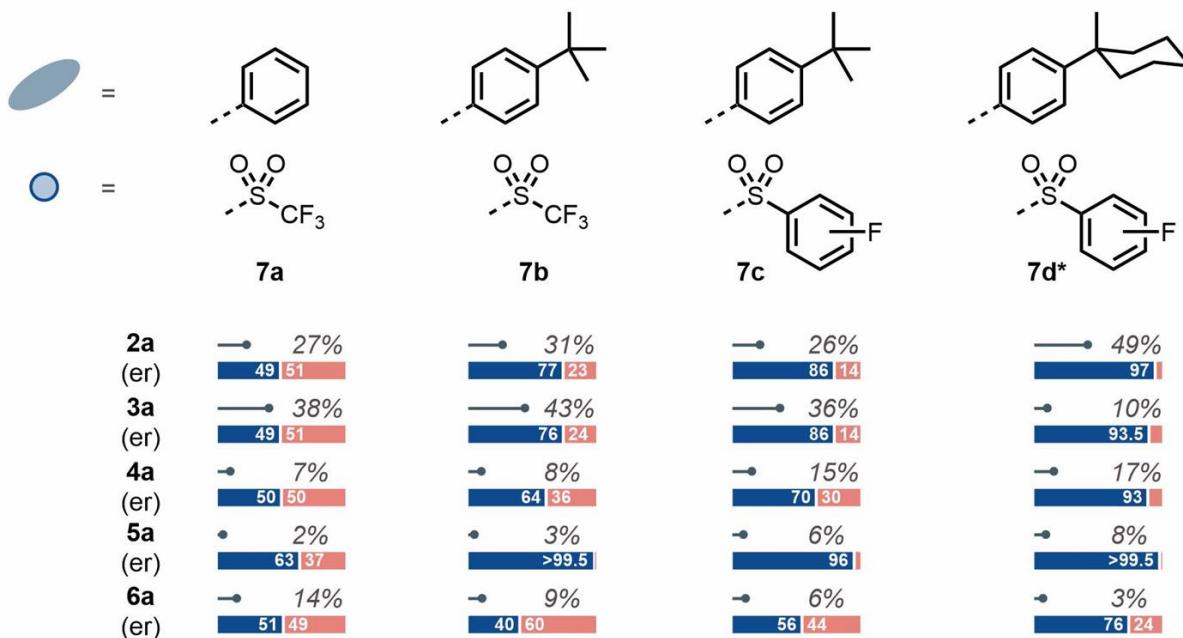
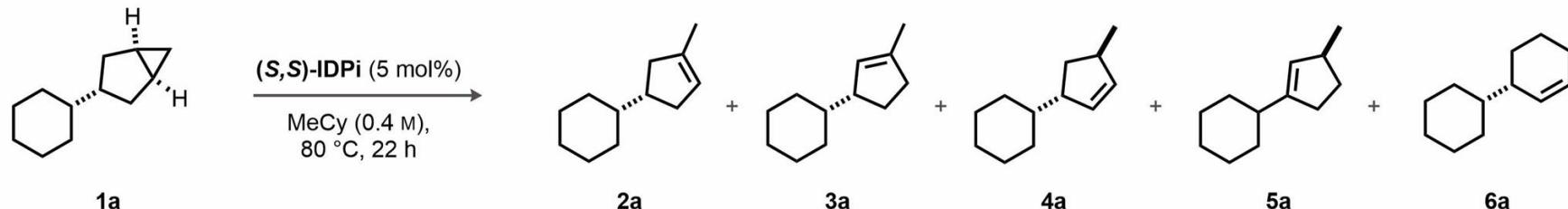
Deprotonation probably via an **edge protonated cyclopropane!**  
However, in an enzyme, the orientation of base is fixed.  
Thus Corner PCP<sup>+</sup> as TS **could not** be excluded.

Godin, P. J.; Thain, E. M. *Proc. Chem. Soc.* **1961**, 9, 452.

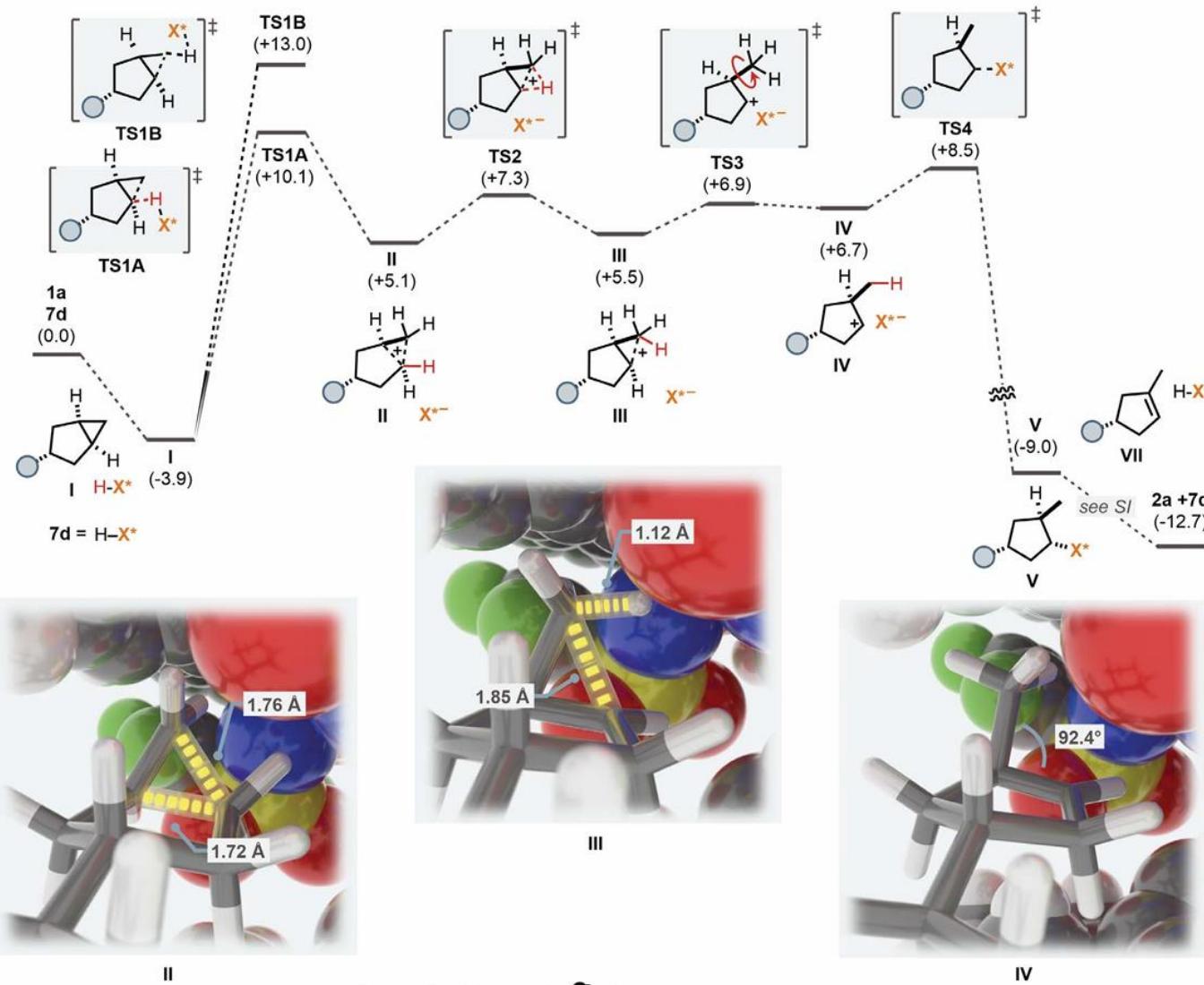
Poulter, C. D. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **1990**, 23, 70.

Thulasiram, H. V.; Erickson, H. K.; Poulter, C. D. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, 130, 1966.

# Learning from Science...

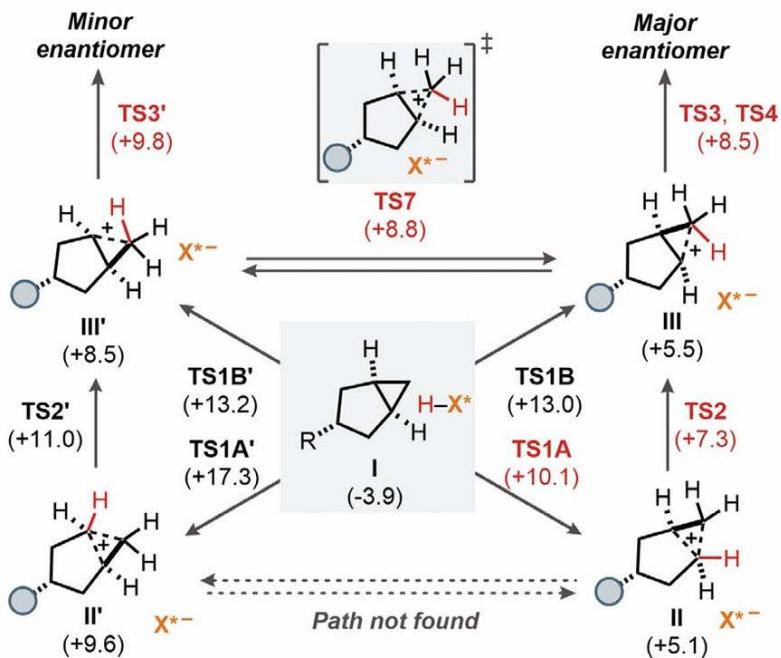
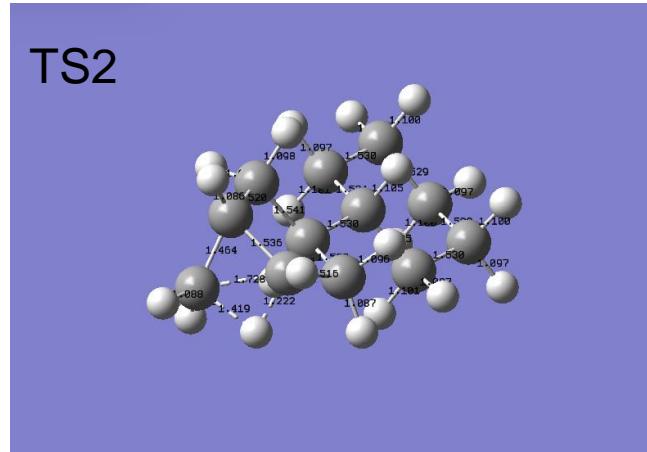
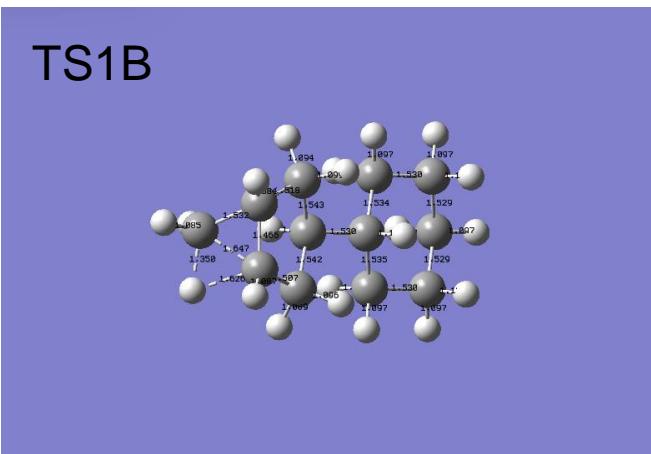
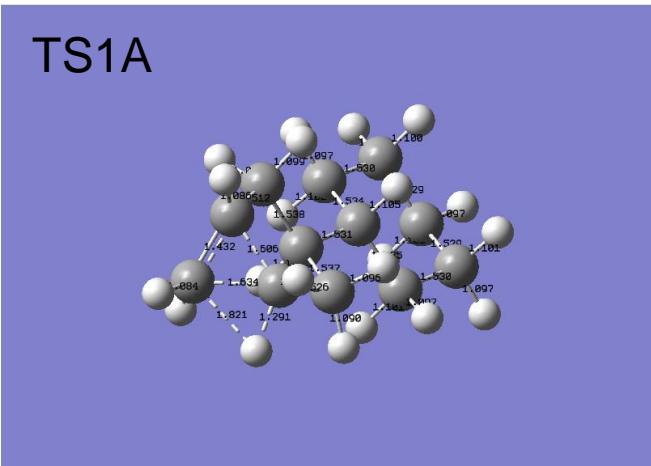


# Learning from Science...



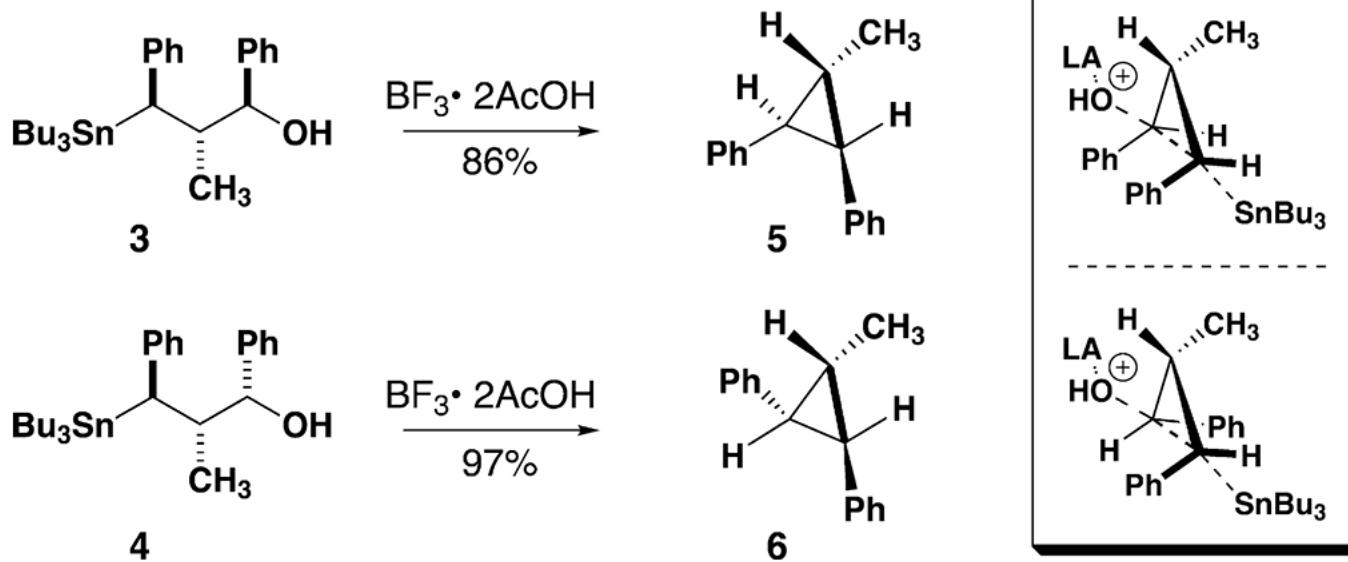
Raut R. K. et al., *Science* 2024, 386, 225–230.

# Learning from Science...



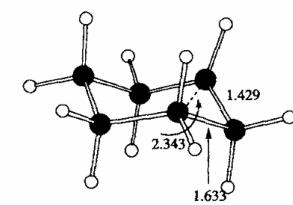
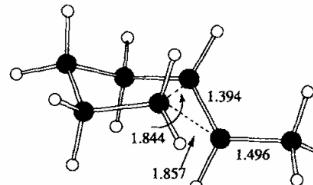
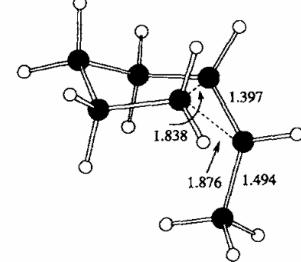
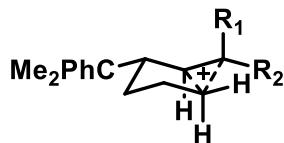
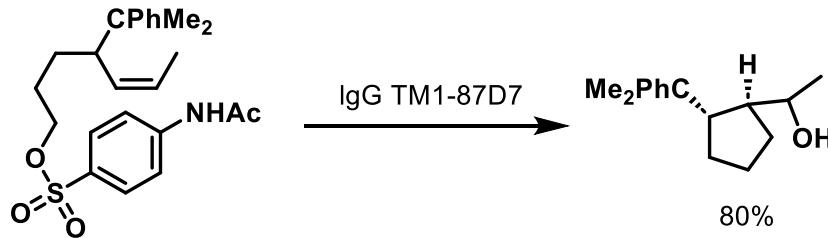
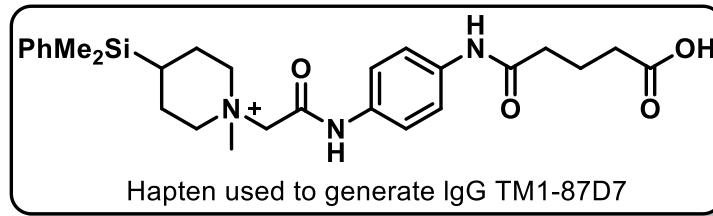
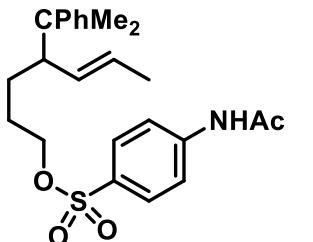
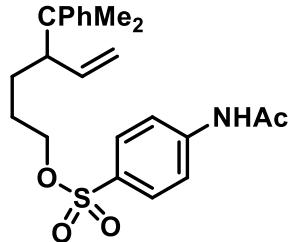
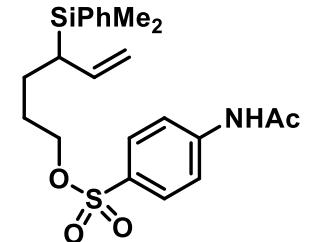
Raut R. K. et al., *Science* **2024**, 386, 225–230.

# Comparison with Sn Elimination



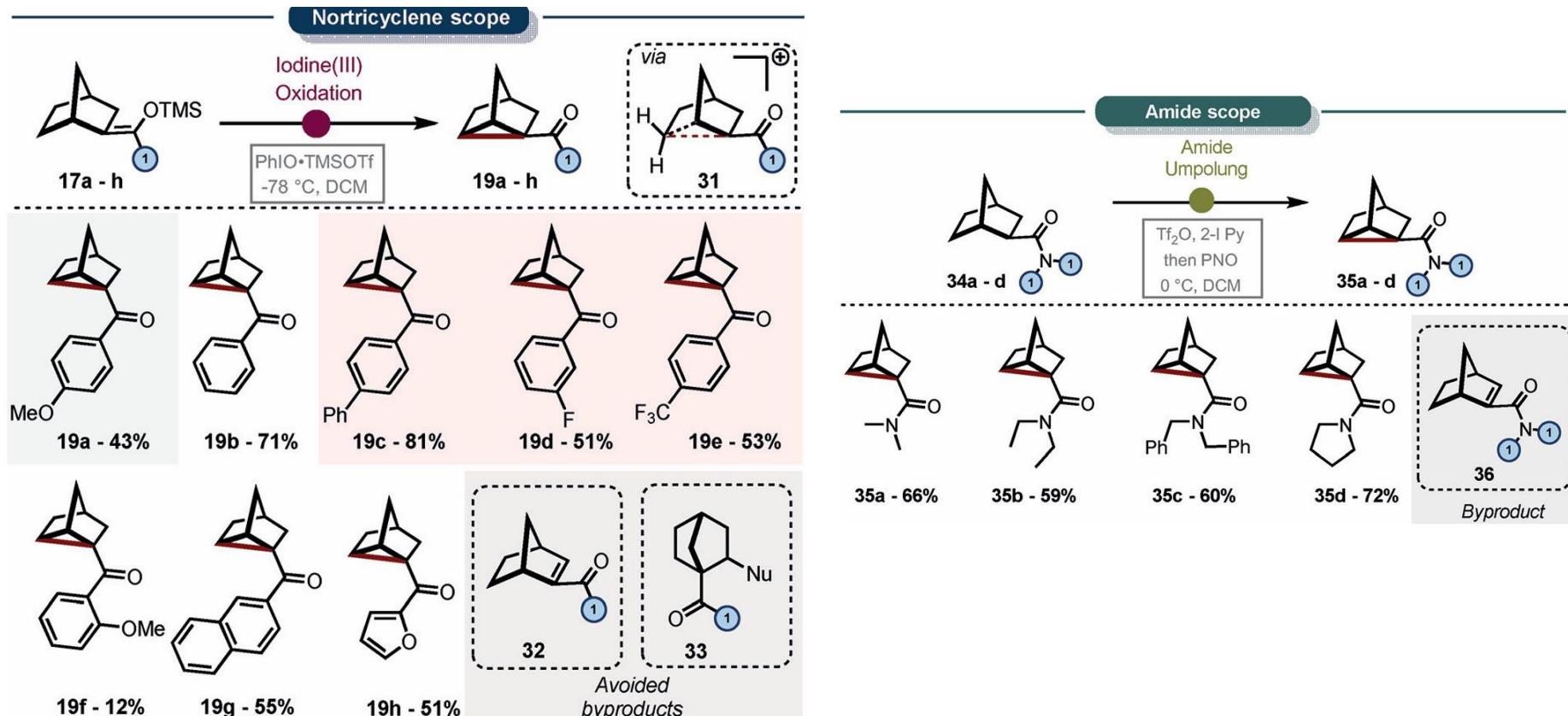
“Concerted” formation of carbenium ion and leaving of  $\text{SnBu}_3$ .  
“ $\text{SnCP}^+$ ” not formed, orbital instead of charge control?

# Cationic Cyclopropanation by Antibody Catalysis

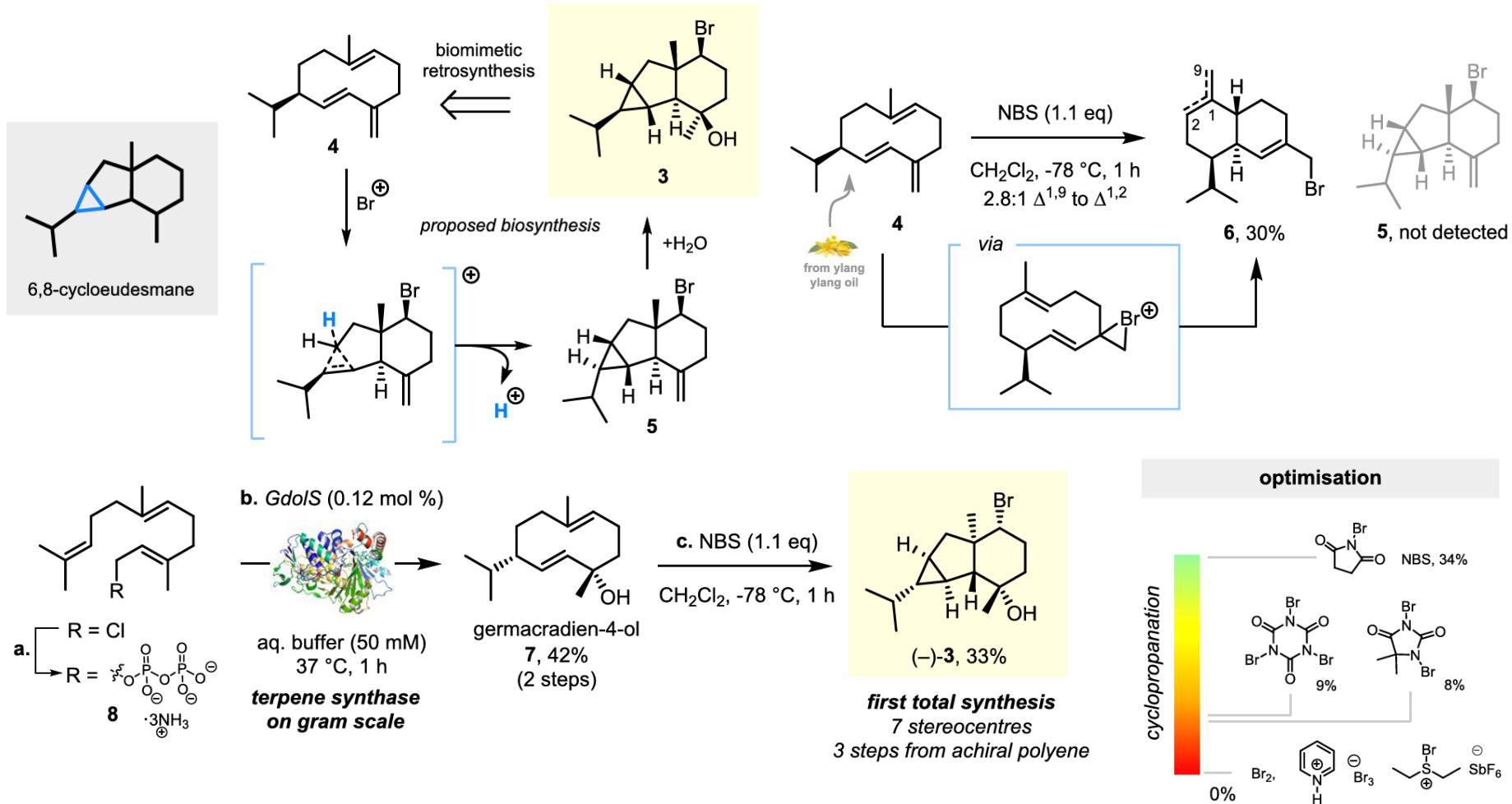


Li, T.; Janda, K. D.; Lerner, R. A. *Nature* **1996**, *379*, 326.  
Lee, J. K.; Houk, K. N. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **1997**, *36*, 1003.

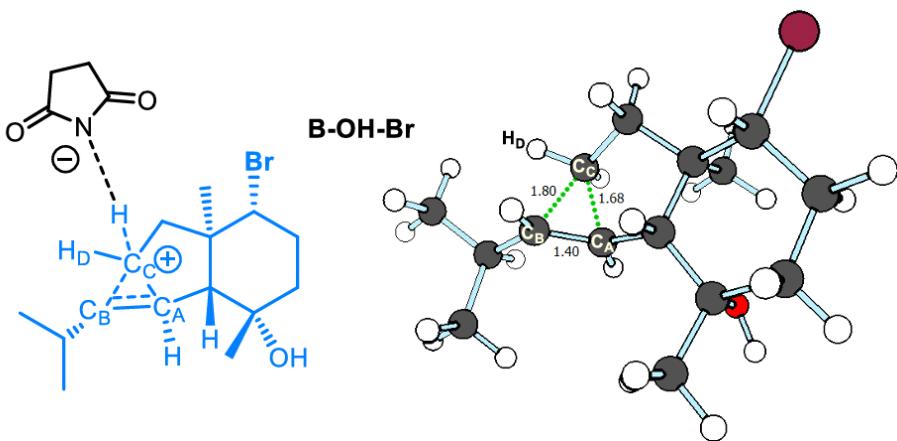
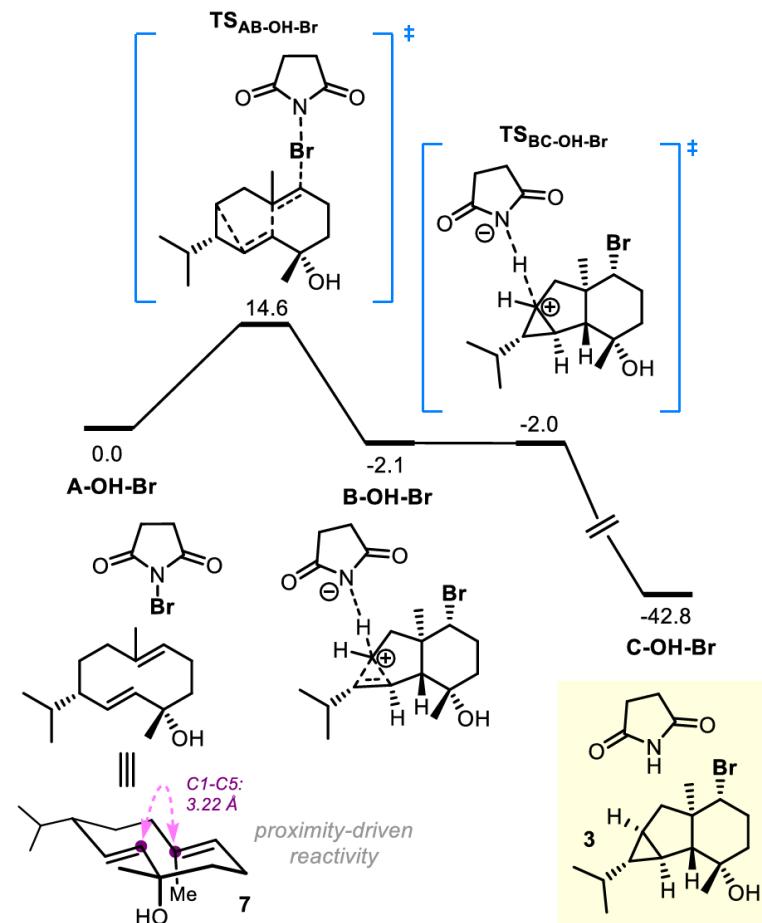
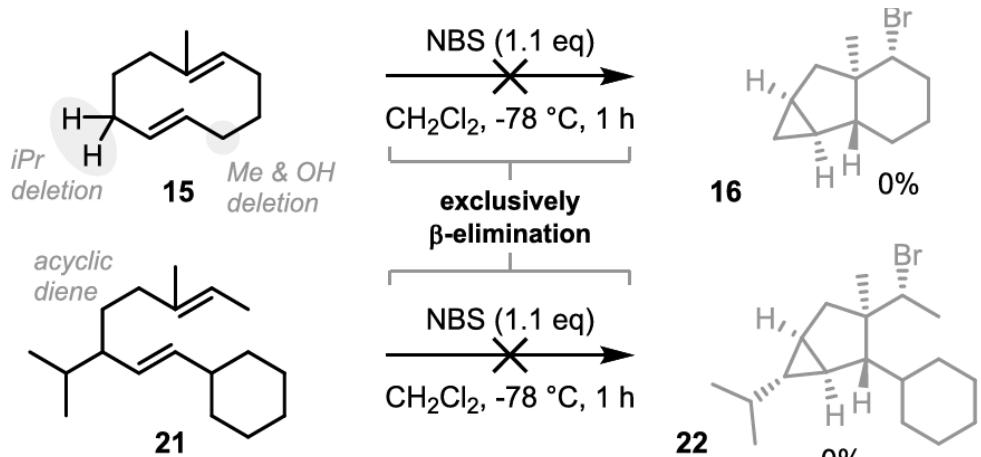
# Cyclopropanation by Oxidative Umpolung



# Biomimetic Cationic Cyclopropanation

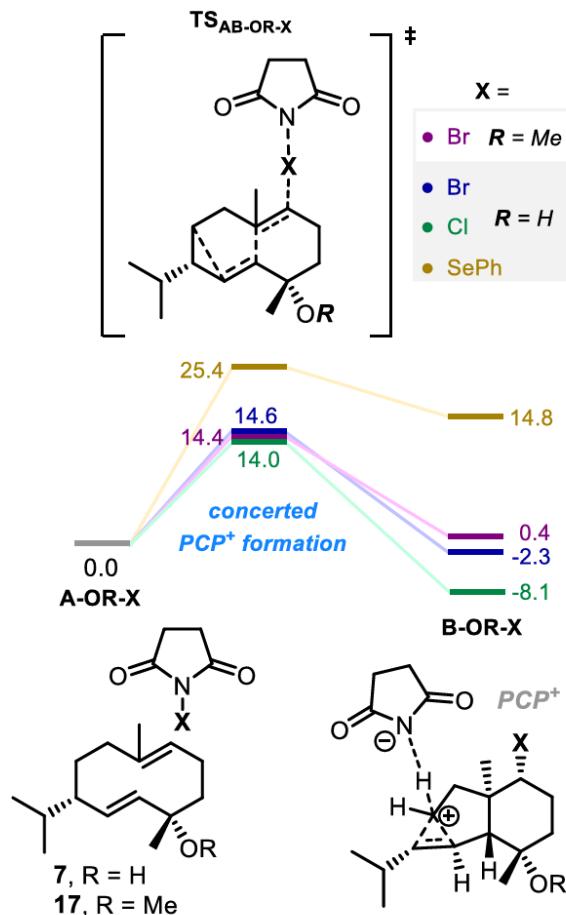


# Mechanistic Insight

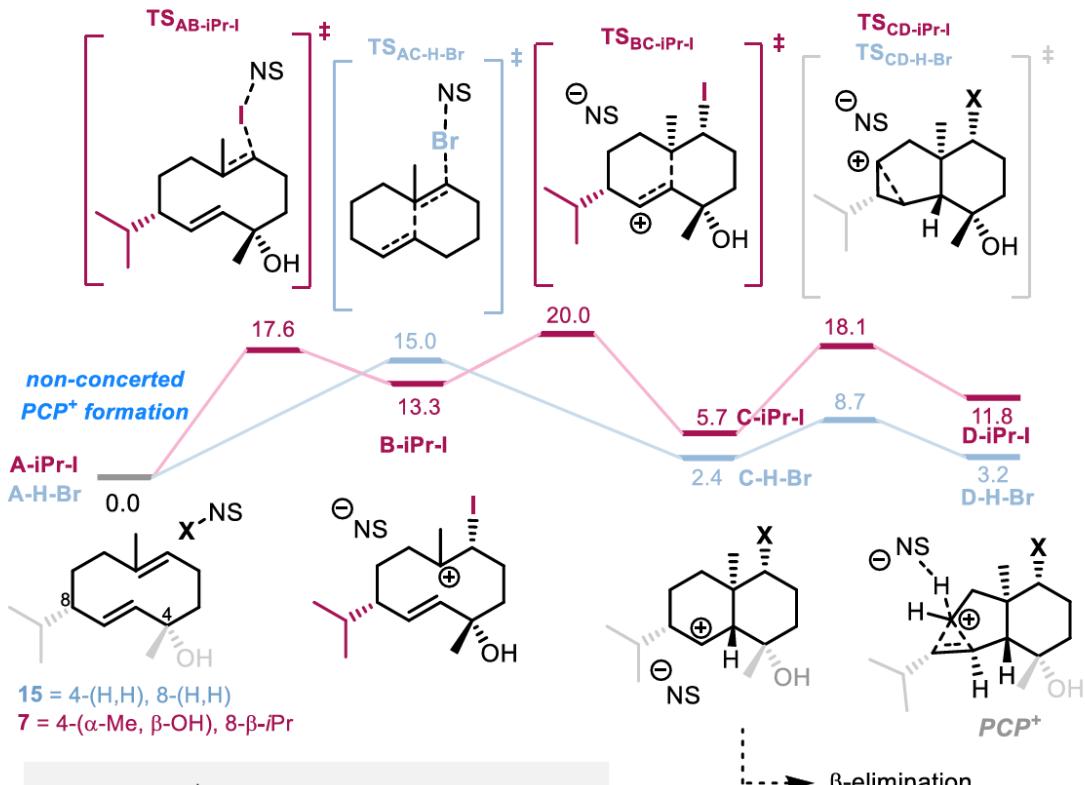


# Concerted Formation of PCP<sup>+</sup> is Essential

A. Variations of electrophile and substrate



B. Profile of 7 reacting with NIS and 15 with NBS



Stepwise  $\text{PCP}^+$  formation in examples where cationic cyclopropanion is **not** experimentally observed

# Early TS is Beneficial?

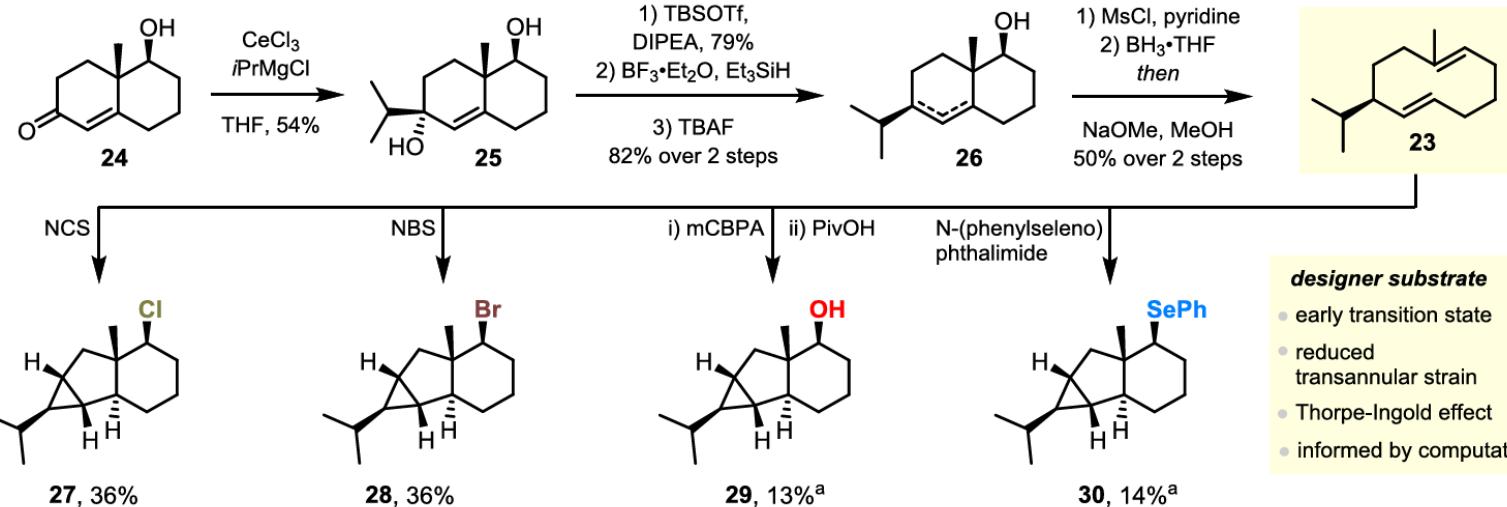
## A. Transition states for cationic cyclopropanation of hypothetical substrates

**TS<sub>AB-R1\_R2</sub>**

#	R <sub>ax</sub>	Bond Length (Å)				#	R <sub>1</sub>	$\Delta G^\ddagger$ (kcal/mol)	$\Delta G$ (kcal/mol)
		D <sub>1</sub>	D <sub>2</sub>	D <sub>3</sub>	D <sub>4</sub>				
1	H	2.22	2.50	2.04	2.42	1	H	14.6	-0.5
2	OH	2.09	2.58	2.02	2.42	2	OH	14.0	-1.9
3	Ph	2.07	2.63	2.00	2.42	3	Ph	16.0	4.4
4	OMe	2.14	2.57	2.02	2.43	4	OMe	14.8	-2.9
5	Me	-	-	-	-	5	H	13.8	-5.3
6	H	2.25	2.47	2.06	2.42	6	OH	14.6	-2.3
7	OH	2.12	2.56	2.02	2.43	7	Ph	18.0*	7.5
8	Ph	-	-	-	-	8	OMe	14.4	0.4
9	OMe	2.10	2.59	2.02	2.43				
10	Me	-	-	-	-				

*early TS*      *late TS*

PBE0-D3BJ/def2-TZVP-SMD/ SVP



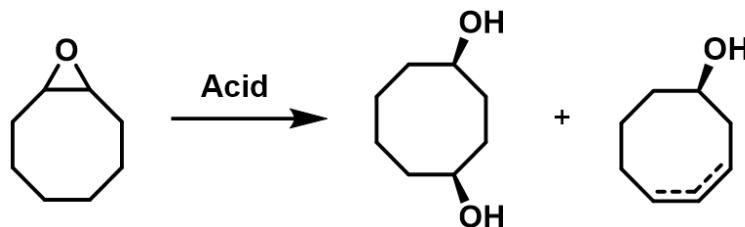
Grant, P. S.; ... Maulide, N. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2023**, 145, 5855.

# Outline

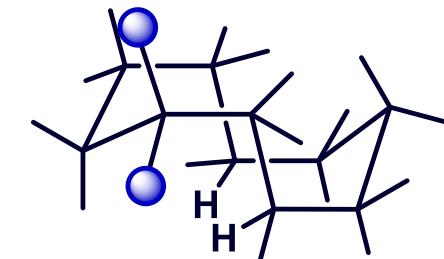
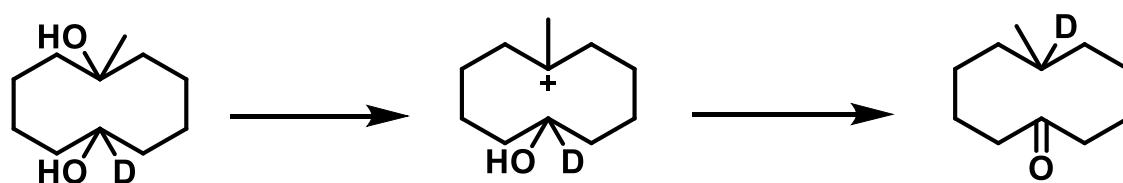
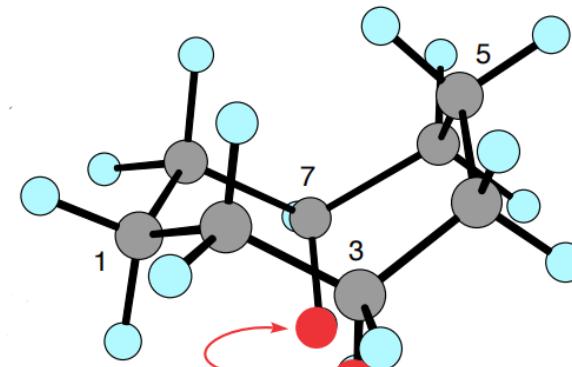
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- Protonated Cyclopropane and Cationic Cyclopropanation
  - Proposal and Determination of PCP<sup>+</sup>
  - Structure and Bonding Pattern of PCP<sup>+</sup>
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# Intramolecular Hydride Shift

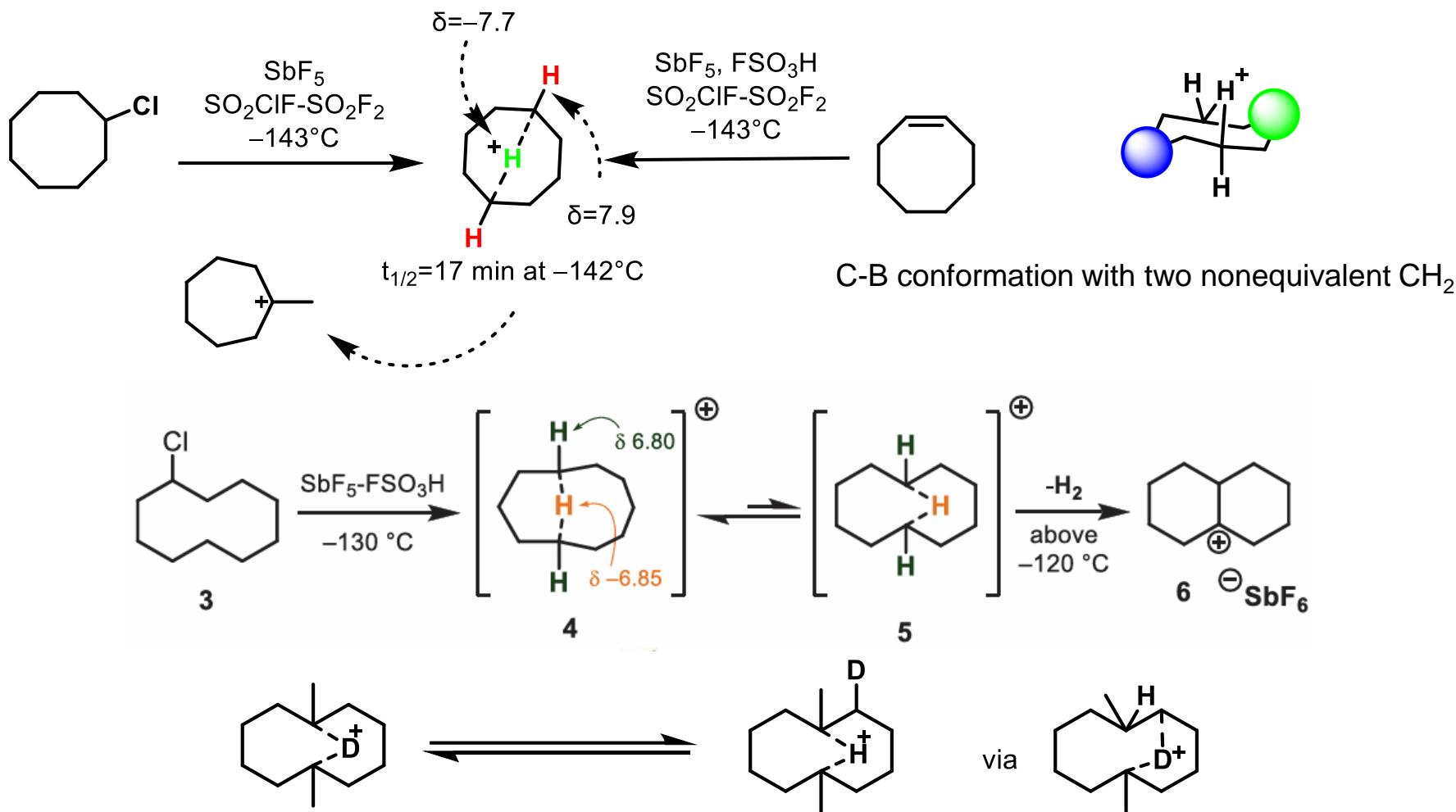


Cope, A. C.; Johnson, H. E. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1957**, 79, 3889.



Prelog, V.; Küng, W. *Helv. Chim. Acta*, **1956**, 39, 1394.

# Hydrido-Bridged Cycloalkyl Cations

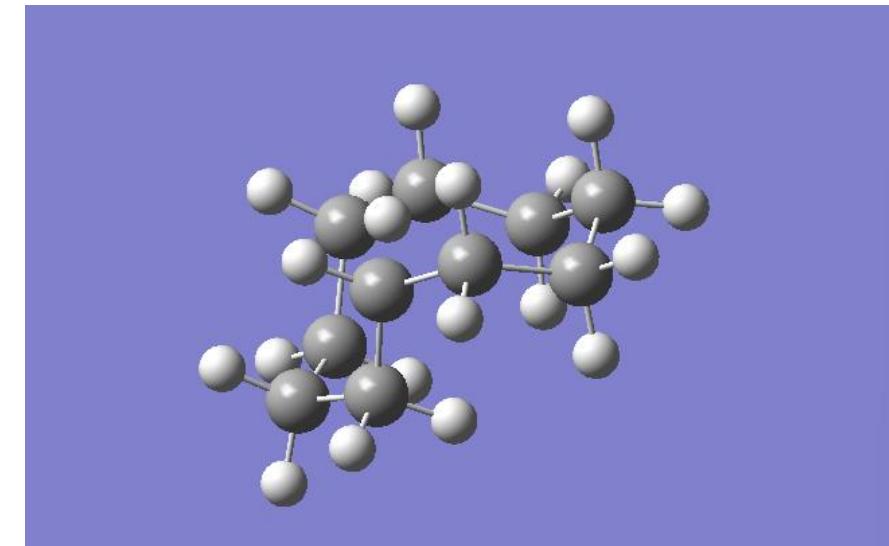
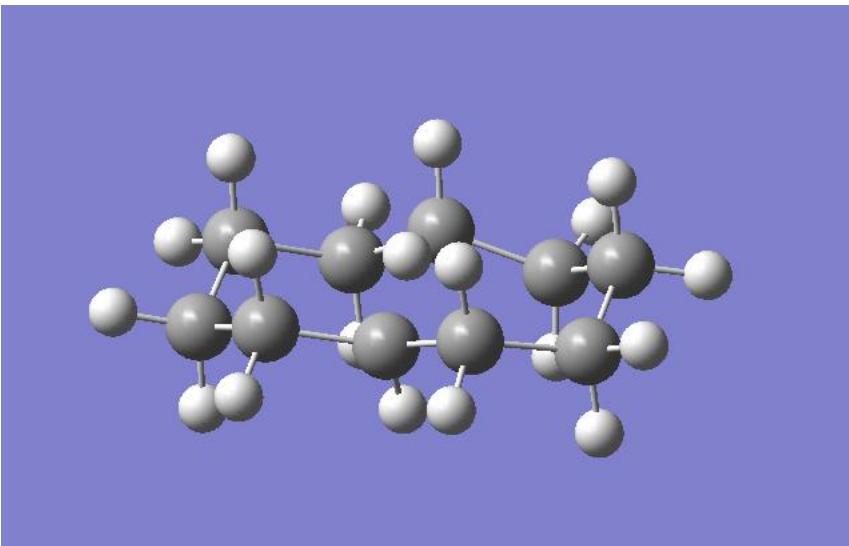


Kirchen, R. P.; Sorensen, T. S. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1979**, *101*, 3240.

Kirchen, R. P.; Sorensen, T. S. et. al. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1981**, *103*, 588.

Grant, P. S. et al., *Science* **2024**, *384*, 815.

# *cis*- or *trans*-Fused?



$$d(C-H) = 124.0 \text{ pm}$$

$$\angle C-H-C = 133^\circ$$

Mulliken Charge on H: +0.158

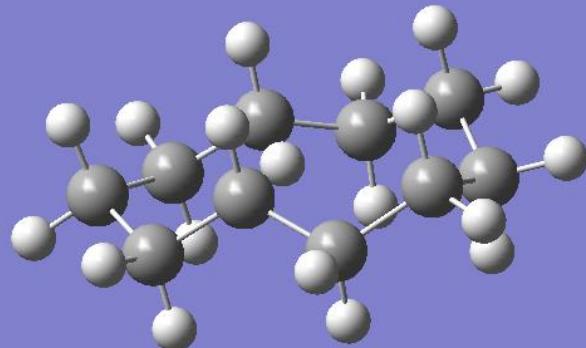
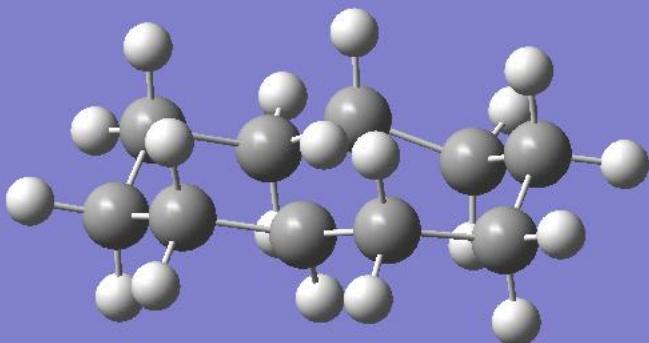
$$d(C-H) = 125.0 \text{ pm}$$

$$\angle C-H-C = 147^\circ$$

Mulliken Charge on H: +0.145

$\Delta E < 0.2 \text{ kcal by M06-2X(D3)/def2TZVP}$

# 6+6 or 5+7?



$$d(C-H) = 124.0 \text{ pm}$$

$$\angle C-H-C = 133^\circ$$

Mulliken Charge on H: +0.158

$$d(C-H) = 125.0 \text{ pm}$$

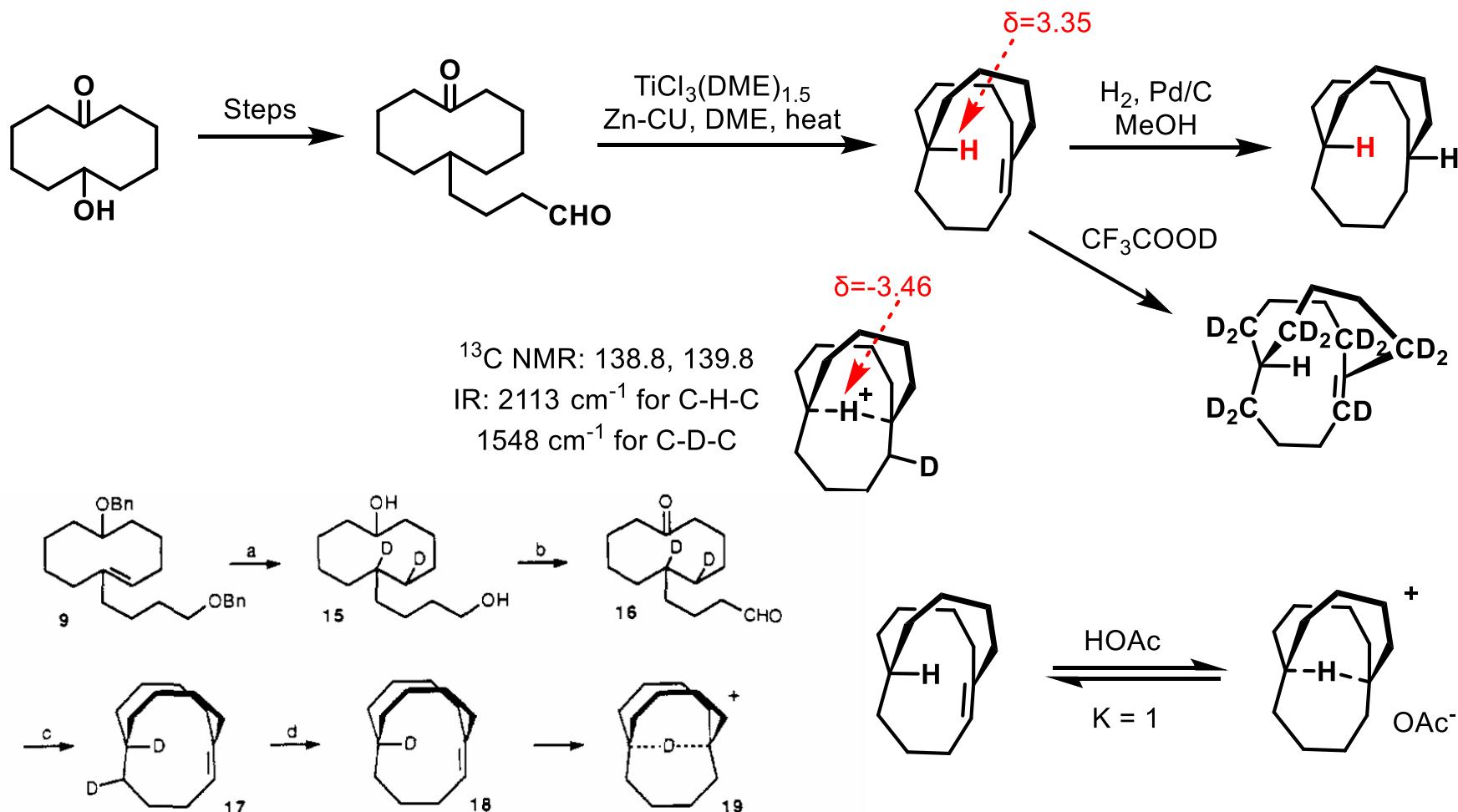
$$\angle C-H-C = 144^\circ$$

Mulliken Charge on H: +0.033

The latter is more stable for 1.5 kcal by M06-2X(D3)/def2TZVP

The result is in agreement with Grant, P. S. et al. *Science* **2024**, 384, 815.

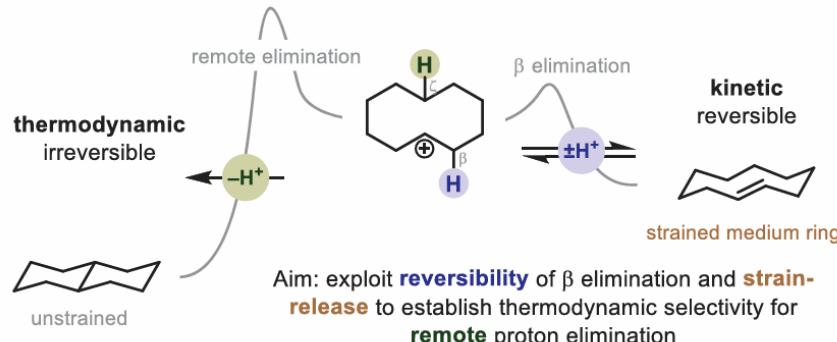
# A Stable Hydrido-Bridged Cycloalkyl Cation



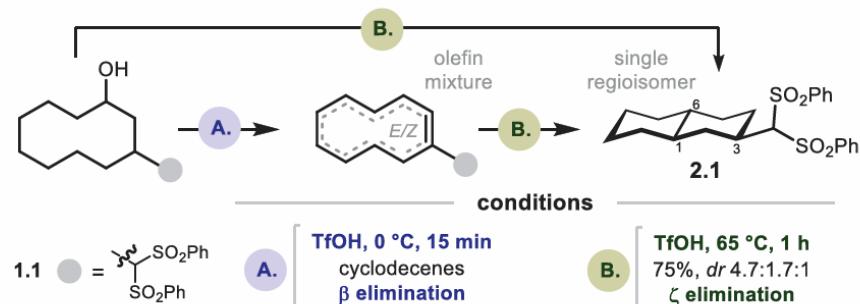
(a)  $D_2$ , Pd/C,  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ , EtOAc, HOAc; (b) PCC,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , NaOAc; (c)  $TiCl_3(\text{DME})_{1.5}$ , Zn-Cu, DME,  $\Delta$ ; (d) HCl,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

# Remote Proton Elimination

## A Promoting remote elimination over $\beta$ elimination

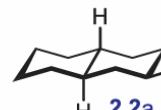
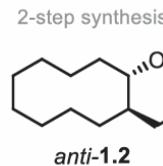
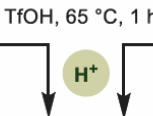
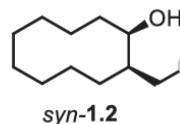


## B $\beta$ elimination is non-selective but $\zeta$ elimination is regioconvergent



## C Demonstration of regio- and stereoconvergence

2-step synthesis



from *syn*-1.2  
50%, 5.3:1:1

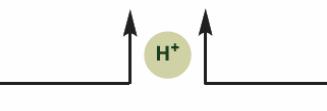
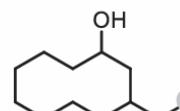


from *anti*-1.2  
52%, 5.9:1:1

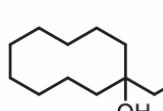


from 1.3  
58%, 5.6:1:1

from 1.4  
52%, 5.4:1:1



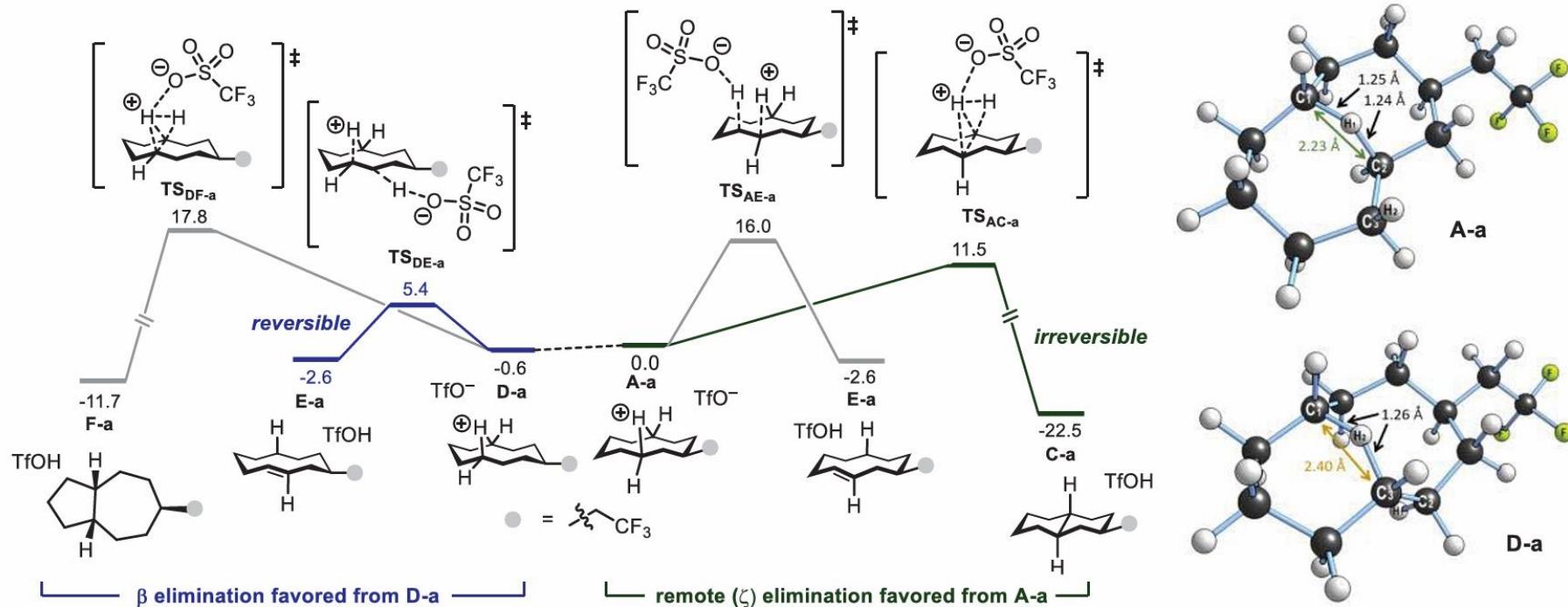
regioconvergence allows flexibility of substrate preparation



**Fig. 2. Reaction development.** (A) Mechanistic underpinning of thermodynamic  $\zeta$ -elimination selectivity. (B) Contrasting  $\beta$  elimination from the intermediate carbocation (reversible and nonselective) with regioconvergent  $\zeta$  elimination; yield and *dr* of **2.1** are given from **1.1**. (C) Experimental demonstration of regioconvergence. Conditions were as described in Fig. 3.

# Key Problems: 6+6 or 5+7, Cis or Trans?

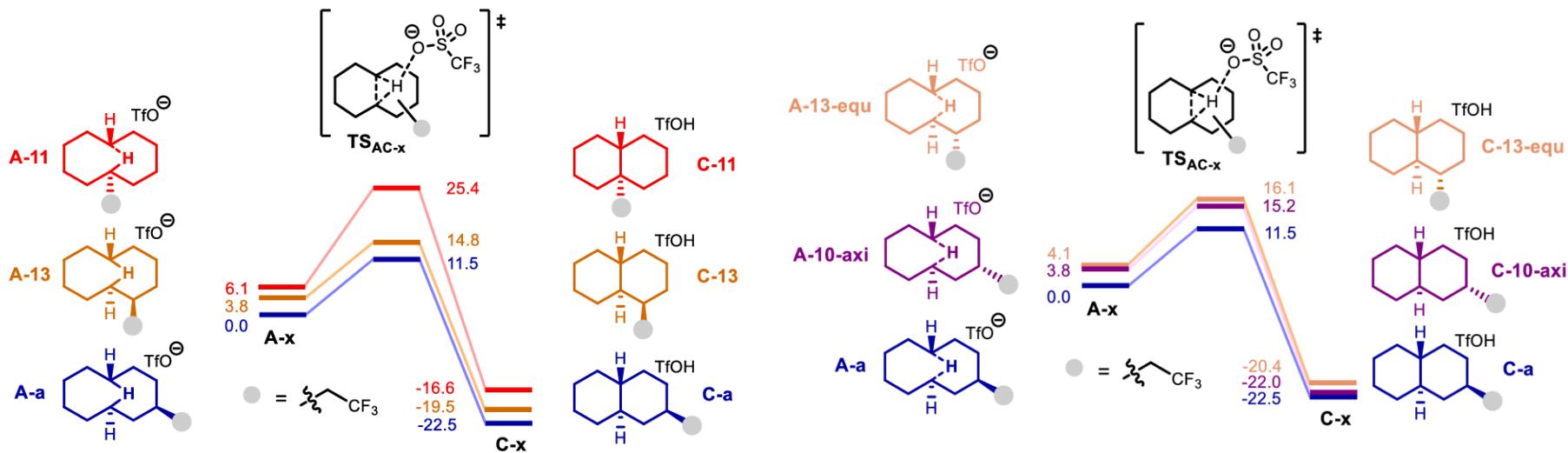
A Decalin-selective remote ( $\zeta$ ) elimination vs.  $\beta$  elimination



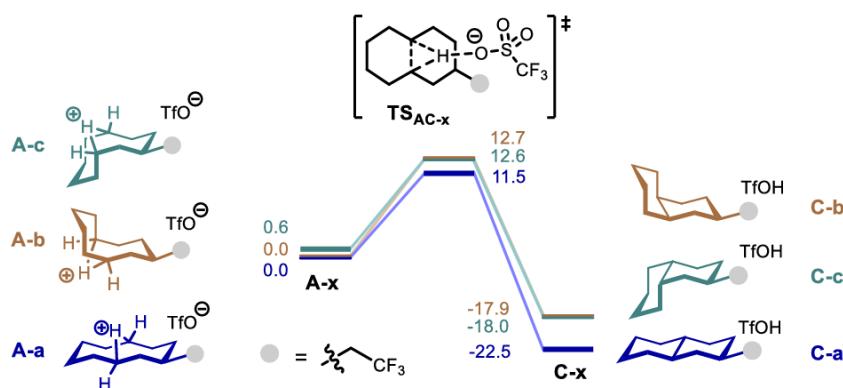
Grant, P. S.; ... Maulide, N. *Science* **2024**, 384, 815.

# Regioselectivity?

## D. Kinetic regioselectivity

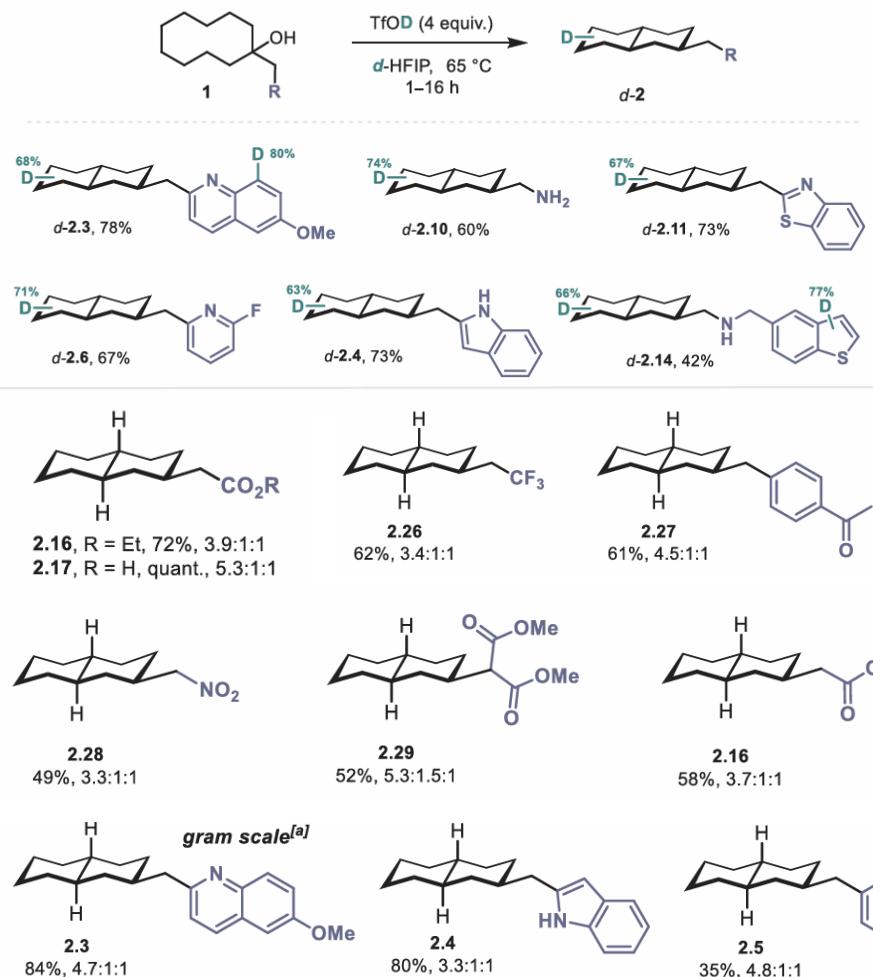


## C. Kinetic diastereoselectivity

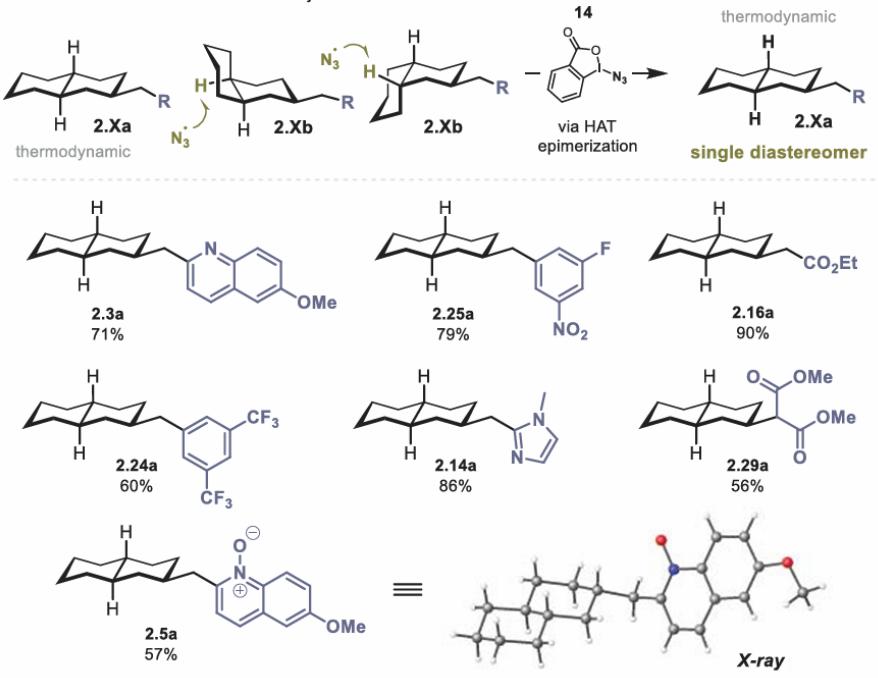


# Substrate Scope and Epimerization

## A Synthesis of deuterated decalins



## B HAT-mediated enrichment of major diastereomer



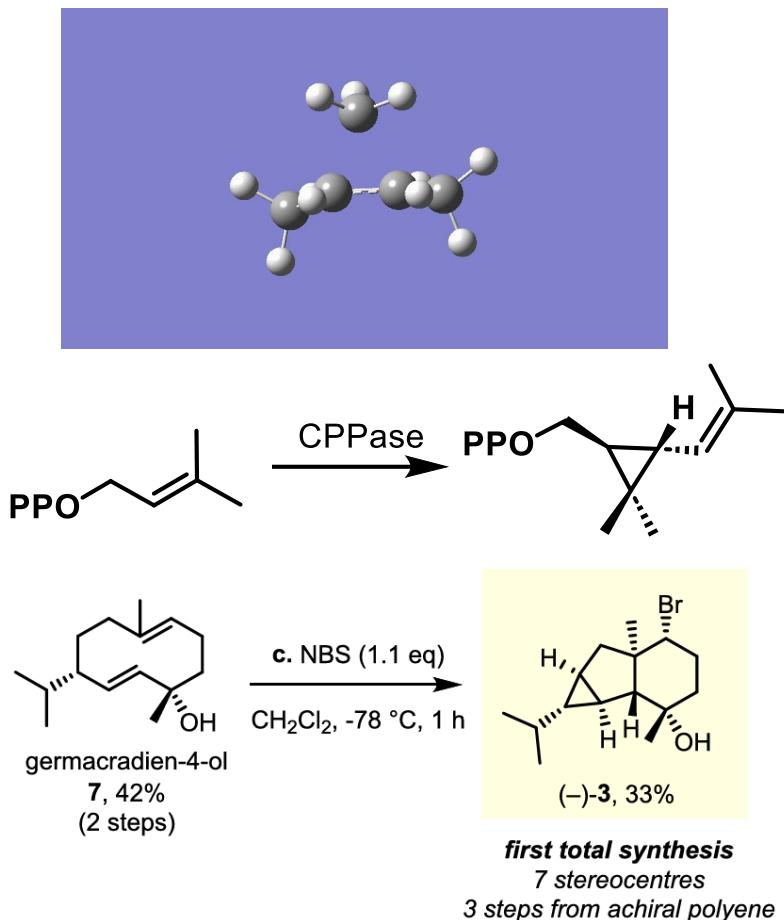
# Outline

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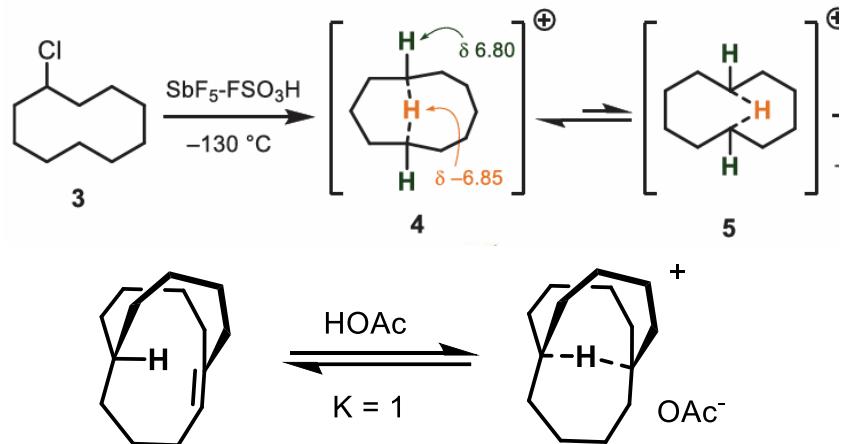
- Protonated Cyclopropane and Cationic Cyclopropanation
  - Proposal and Determination of PCP<sup>+</sup>
  - Structure and Bonding Pattern of PCP<sup>+</sup>
  - Cationic Cyclopropanation
- Hydrido-Bridged Cycloalkyl Cation and Remote Elimination
  - Structure of Hydrido-Bridged Cycloalkyl Cation
  - Remote Elimination
- Summary and Perspective

# Conclusion

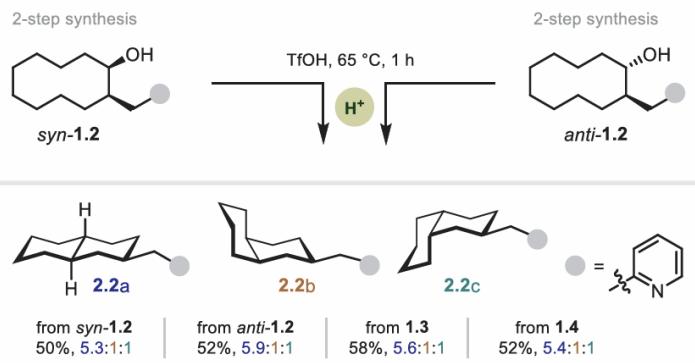
## Protonated Cyclopropane and Cationic Cyclopropanation



## Hydrido-Bridged Cycloalkyl Cation and Remote Elimination

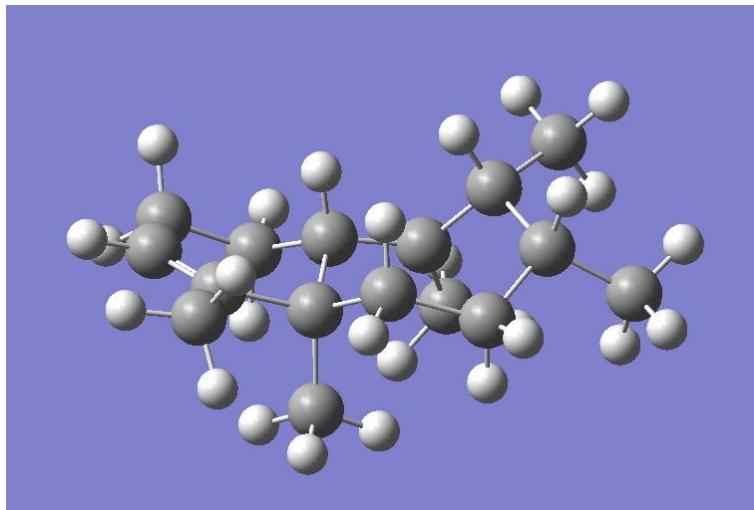
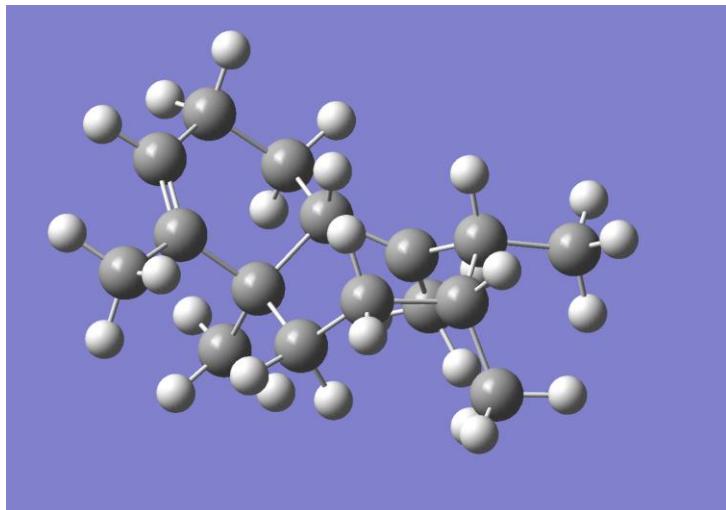
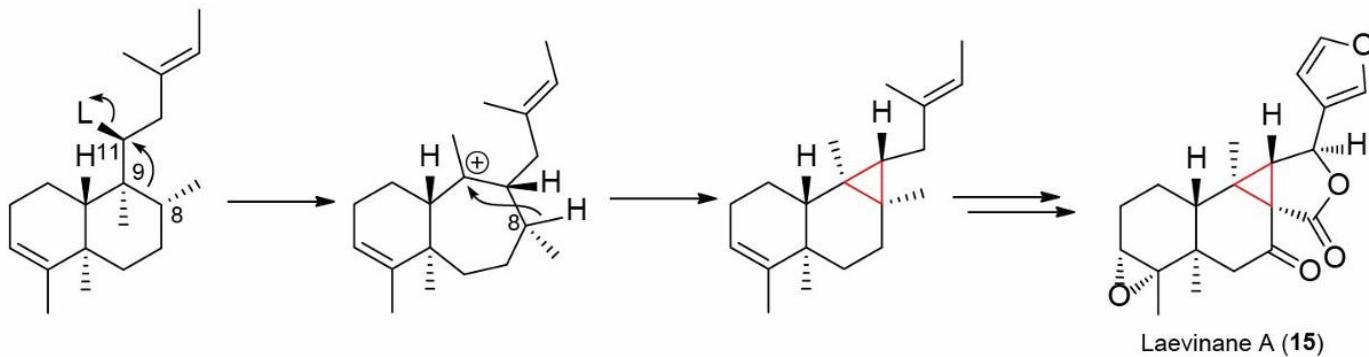


### C Demonstration of regio- and stereoconvergence

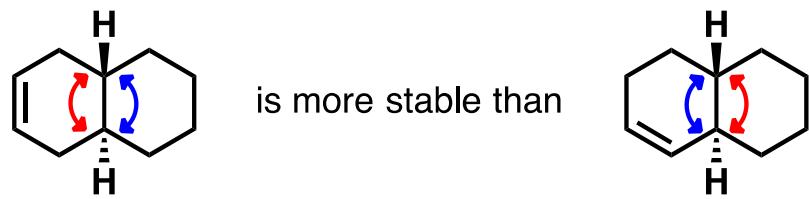
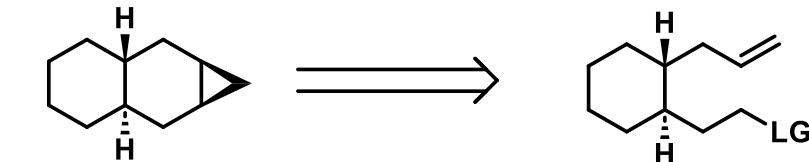


# PCP<sup>+</sup> Elimination for 6 fused 3?

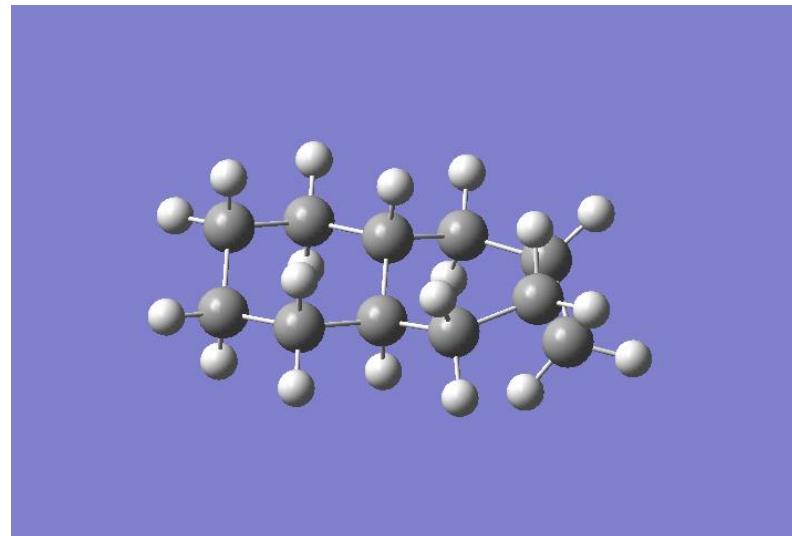
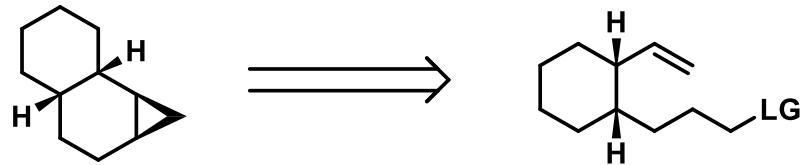
Proposed Biosynthesis of Laevinane A



# Construction of 6 fused 3?

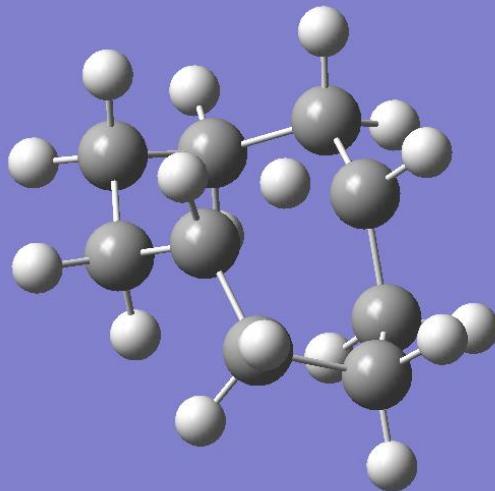


Similarly,

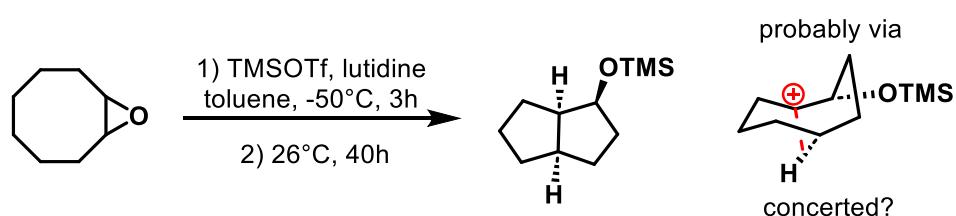
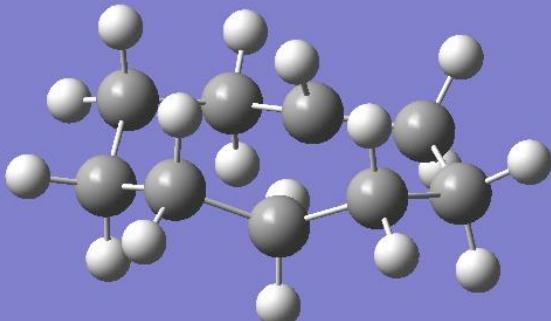
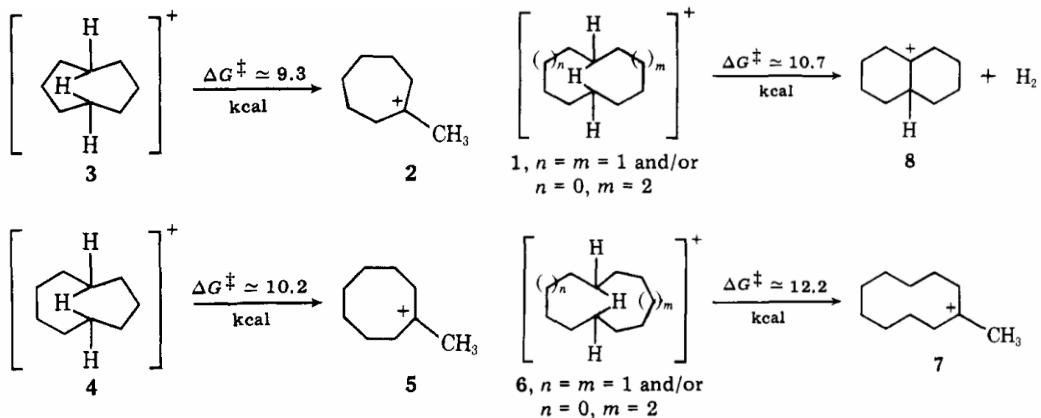


Moreover: Utilizing biomacromolecule to limit the structure of SM for a better cyclopropanation configuration? Molecular evolution to obtain those desired biomacromolecules?

# Remote Elimination for 6 fused 5?



*cis* structure is more stable by 6.4 kcal/mol  
Concern:



Murata S. et. al. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1979**, *101*, 2738–2739.