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TANDEM [4+2] CYCLOADDITION/AROMATIZATION SEQUENCE OF ALLENYL 2-BROMO-3-VINYLCYCLOHEX-2-ENYL THIOETHER TO NAPHTHO[1,8-*bc*]THIOPHENE

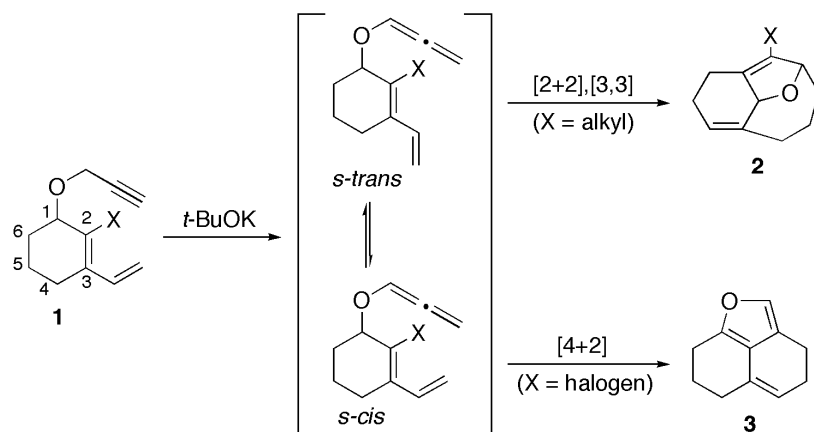
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Abstract – A concise synthetic route of tetrahydro-3*H*-naphtho[1,8-*bc*]thiophene was developed. Allenyl 2-bromo-3-vinylcyclohex-2-enyl thioether underwent a tandem [4+2] cycloaddition/aromatization sequence to produce the naphthothiophene with high yield. A density functional study for the transition and reaction enthalpies was performed to elucidate the details of the reaction.

This paper is dedicated to Professor Isao Kuwajima for his 77th birthday.

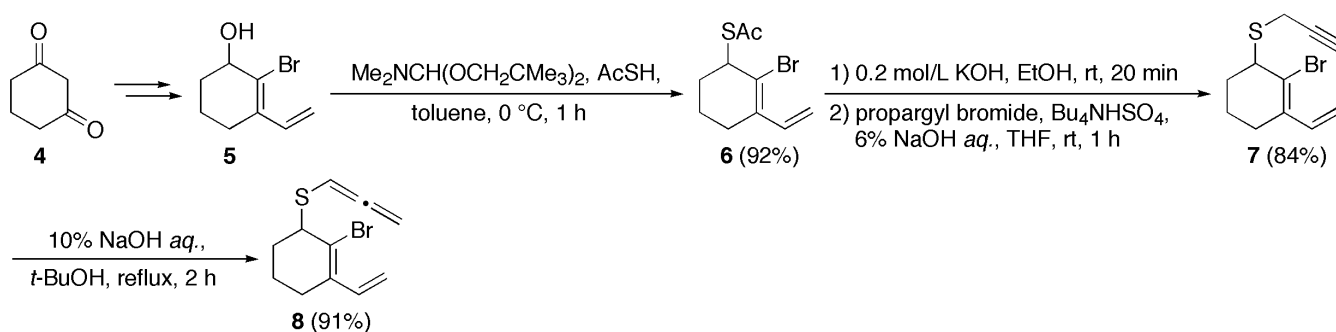
Intramolecular pericyclic reactions of diene with dienophile provide an extraordinarily versatile method for the constructing polycyclic ring systems.¹ In particular, using allenes as the dienophile in cycloaddition reactions leads to complex carbocyclic and heterocyclic frameworks, including natural products.^{2,3} Most recently, we have reported a switching of reaction pathway by C(2) substituent effects in the intramolecular cycloaddition reactions of allenyl 3-vinylcyclohex-2-enyl ethers generated *in situ* by base-catalyzed rearrangement of the corresponding propargyl ethers (Scheme 1).⁴ Steric and enthalpic effects of the C(2) substituent play an essential role in the switching of different cycloaddition processes; alkylated derivatives at the C(2) position provided [2+2] cycloaddition/[3,3]-sigmatropic rearranged products **2**,⁵ whereas halogenated derivatives at the C(2) position yielded a [4+2] cycloaddition/aromatized product **3**.⁴ It has also been reported that allenyl thioethers with or without alkyls at the C(2) position underwent intramolecular [2+2]/[3,3] or [4+2] cycloaddition reactions switched by their C(2) substituents; however, C(5) substituents were required for the reactions to progress owing to the increased stability and reactivity of the allenyl thioethers.⁶ The intramolecular cycloaddition reaction of allenyl thioether with C(2)-halogen has encouraged more detailed studies of these types of cycloaddition reactions.



Scheme 1. Effect of C(2) halogen substituent on reaction pathway switching

Potent bioactive furanosteroids, such as wortmannin, viridine, halenaquinone, and xestoquinone⁷ with a naphtho[1,8-*bc*]furan scaffold and the ergoline alkaloids, such as ergotamine and lysergic acid,⁸ containing benzo[*cd*]indole have been reported. Furans and pyrroles have been reported to be less aromatic and higher reactivity than thiophene in five-membered heterocycles.⁹ Replacement of the oxygen in the naphthofuran and the nitrogen in the benzoindole with sulfur could change the pharmacological actions of the furanosteroids and ergoline alkaloids and, in some cases, produce isosters with useful biological properties.¹⁰ However, a synthetic route of naphtho[1,8-*bc*]thiophene has been reported only by Clark and co-workers.¹¹ A concise synthetic route of the naphtho[1,8-*bc*]thiophene ring system is required for the development of furanosteroid analogs and ergoline alkaloid analogs with good bioactivities. The aim of this work is to synthesize 4,6,7,8-tetrahydro-3*H*-naphtho[1,8-*bc*]thiophene (**9**) employing a tandem [4+2] cycloaddition/aromatization sequence of allenyl 2-bromo-3-vinylcyclohex-2-enyl thioether and to analyze the reaction mechanism in detail.

The synthetic route for allenyl 2-bromo-3-vinylcyclohex-2-enyl thioether (**8**) is shown in Scheme 2. The alcohol **5**, which was prepared by a previously reported route,⁴ was treated with thioacetic acid in the presence of *N,N*-dimethylformamide diethyl acetal in toluene to give thioester **6** in 92% yield.¹² Thioester **6** was subjected to ethanolsysis in 0.2 mol/L KOH ethanolic solution, and then the propargylation

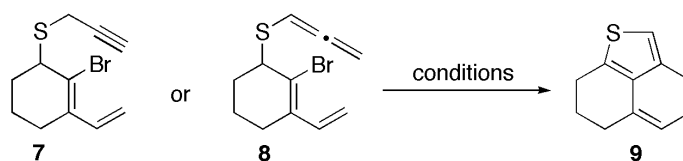


Scheme 2. Synthetic route for allenyl thioether **8**

of crude thiol provided the requisite propargyl 2-bromo-3-vinylcyclohex-2-enyl thioether (**7**). Propargyl thioether **7** treated with aqueous NaOH (1 equiv.) in *t*-BuOH at 83 °C was isomerized to allenyl thioether **8**, which was stably isolated without being hydrolyzed.

Upon treatment with *t*-BuOK in *t*-BuOH or THF, propargyl thioether **7** provided naphtho[1,8-*bc*]thiophene **9**, which could be a cycloadduct of the corresponding allenyl thioether, with extremely low yield and was primarily recovered as unreacted propargyl thioethers (entries 1-4 in Table 1). The *t*-BuOK-mediated rearrangements of propargyl ethers to allenyl ethers have been reported to accelerate using THF as a solvent at room temperature,^{4,13} whereas propargyl thioether was hardly rearranged by *t*-BuOK in THF (entries 1 and 4 in Table 1). Refluxed propargyl thioether with aqueous NaOH in *t*-BuOH was able to rearrange quickly, corresponding to allenyl thioether **8** (Scheme 2).^{6,14} Using allenyl thioether **8** as starting material resulted in the synthesis of naphtho[1,8-*bc*]thiophene **9**, whose chemical yields increased compared with the use of propargyl thioethers as starting materials (entries 5-7 in Table 1). Propargyl thioether did not undergo the cycloaddition reaction without a base (data not shown); the reaction occurred through an allenyl thioether intermediate. Apparently, the allenyl thioether under reflux conditions in toluene (110 °C) cyclized to tricyclic thiophene with high yield,¹⁵ although the chemical yield decreased significantly when refluxed in *t*-BuOH (83 °C). The cyclization reaction, which was conducted at 83 °C in toluene, gave only a 52% yield of thiophen (entry 6 in Table 1). Toluene might be better as a reaction solvent, but it is unclear about the effect of solvents in the reaction. Under all cyclization conditions, the reaction of allenyl 2-bromo-3-vinylcyclohex-2-enyl thioether led to a tandem [4+2] cycloaddition/aromatization reaction but not to a [2+2]/[3,3] reaction. These data were in

Table 1. Base-catalyzed cycloaddition of propargyl and allenyl thioethers

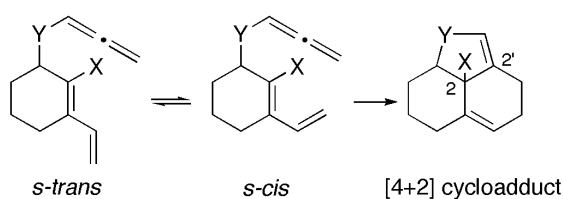


entry	starting material	base (equiv)	solvent	temperature	time	product
1	7	<i>t</i> -BuOK (1.2)	THF	rt	2 h	9 (8%)
2	7	<i>t</i> -BuOK (1.2)	<i>t</i> -BuOH	rt	20 h	9 (7%)
3	7	<i>t</i> -BuOK (1.2)	<i>t</i> -BuOH	reflux	20 h	9 (10%)
4	7	<i>t</i> -BuOK (1.2)	THF	reflux	20 h	9 (10%)
5	8	pyridine (1.2)	<i>t</i> -BuOH	reflux	20 h	9 (16%)
6	8	pyridine (1.2)	toluene	83 °C	20 h	9 (52%)
7	8	pyridine (1.2)	toluene	reflux	20 h	9 (94%)

good agreement with Padwa and co-workers report that intramolecular [4+2] cycloaddition of halogenated furanyl amides proceeded at higher rates and increased chemical yields than the unsubstituted derivative.¹⁶ The tandem [4+2] cycloaddition/aromatization reaction of allenyl thioether required a higher temperature condition compared with allenyl ether reaction.

The potentials for compounds during cycloaddition were calculated using a density functional theory method at B3LYP/6-31G(d) level in Spartan 10.^{17,18} The results are shown in Table 2. Bromo-substituted analogs at the C(2) position increased the energy differences (ΔE) between *s-cis* and *s-trans* conformation and decreased the reaction enthalpies ($\Delta_r H$) for intramolecular [4+2] cycloaddition. For a Diels-Alder reaction of chlorofuran with ethylene, a decrease in reaction enthalpy by the induction of chlorine has been reported to increase reaction rates and yields due to stabilization of the resulting [4+2] cycloadducts.¹⁹ In the current cycloaddition of C(2) bromo substituted allenyl thioether, decrease of reaction enthalpy afforded the [4+2] cycloadduct but not the [2+2]/[3,3] product. A little shortening of the bond lengths between C(2) and C(2') in bromo-substituted derivatives were observed for the [4+2] cycloadducts. One possible reason for the greater stabilization of the [4+2] cycloadducts of C(2) bromo derivatives with decreased reaction enthalpies could involve increased bond formation between bromo dienes and allenes as the dienophile. Furthermore, the higher transition state enthalpy of C(2) bromo allenyl thioether might require a higher reaction temperature relative to corresponding allenyl ethers.

Table 2. B3LYP/6-31G(d)-calculated energies and enthalpies for intramolecular [4+2] cycloaddition reactions



compound	ΔE (kcal/mol)	ΔH (kcal/mol)		bond length (Å)
	(<i>s-cis</i>) - (<i>s-trans</i>)	$\Delta_{TS}H^{a)}$	$\Delta_r H^{b)}$	C2 - C2'
X = H, Y = O	3.23	18.38	-44.17	1.51
X = Me, Y = O	3.84	24.85	-43.82	1.52
X = Br, Y = O	5.18	24.64	-49.26	1.49
X = Br, Y = S	5.40	31.86	-46.17	1.50

^{a)} $\Delta_{TS}H$; transition state enthalpies for [4+2] cycloaddition reaction

^{b)} $\Delta_r H$; reaction enthalpies for [4+2] cycloaddition

In conclusion, 4,6,7,8-tetrahydro-3*H*-naphtho[1,8-*bc*]thiophene (**9**) was synthesized by a tandem [4+2] cycloaddition/aromatization sequence of allenyl 2-bromo-3-vinylcyclohex-2-enyl thioether (**8**). The bond formation between the bromo diene and allene could lead to decrease reaction enthalpy and promote the yield of the [4+2] cycloadduct.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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4,6,7,8-tetrahydro-3*H*-naphtho[1,8-*bc*]furan (**9**) as a colorless oil in 94% yield.

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