Synthesis of Trisubstituted α,β-Unsaturated Esters through Catalytic Stereoretentive Cross-Metathesis

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A thesis

submitted to the Faculty of

the department of Chemistry

in partial fulfillment

of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Science

Boston College Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences Graduate School

July 2021

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Abstract

We have devised a broadly applicable catalytic cross-metathesis method for stereoretentive synthesis of Z- and E-trisubstituted α , β -unsaturated esters. Several new Mo-bisaryloxide complexes were prepared, and they showed superior efficiency in synthesizing the Z-trisubstituted enoates (vs. corresponding mono-aryloxide pyrrolide complexes). Synthetic utility of the method was demonstrated through several concise syntheses of bioactive triterpenoids and value-added derivatives of prenyl-containing compounds such as citronellal, citronellol, and geraniol, all of which are isolated from essential oils. This transformation offers a valuable alternative to carbonyl olefination approaches such as Wittig and Horner-Wadsworth-Emmons reactions.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my research advisor, Professor Amir H. Hoveyda, for accepting me as part of his group. I still remember the first day I met him when he was giving an introductory lecture on CHEM 5531. "Talk to the brick," he said, "if the brick wants to be an arch, don't make it a concrete lintel." This quote from Louis Kahn explained his philosophy of doing research, and it inspired me in ways that textbooks often cannot, encouraging me to join his group as an aspiring academic.

I would also like to thank Professor James P. Morken and Professor Masayuki Wasa for kindly agreeing to serve as my oral defense committee, dedicating their time to read my thesis and giving me valuable suggestions. In addition, I have learned and picked up essential knowledge in chemistry from their lectures and had the opportunity to revisit the class of CHEM 5531 as a teaching assistant in my third year. I am thankful for those experiences.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the people I met and interacted with in the past three years. My mentor, Mr. Tobias Koengeter, has equipped me with adequate fundamental knowledge and experimental techniques — I could not imagine how he managed to endure my ignorance — and instilled in me a sense of meticulousness. I owe him a lot. Special thanks to Dr. Juan del Pozo, who taught me many basics of

organometallic chemistry and helped me countless times with his wisdom and expertise. I would like to extend my gratitude to my friends Yucheng Mu and Shibo Xu, without whom my graduate studies would not have been so enjoyable.

The experience I had at Boston College is priceless, and I look forward to carrying these lasting memories as I continue my PhD adventure at the University of Strasbourg in the near future.

1.0 CHAPTER 1

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Trisubstituted α , β -unsaturated carboxylic acids and esters are prevalent in natural products and bioactive molecules (Scheme 1.1.1). Compared to disubstituted enoates, one merit of trisubstituted analogs is their ability to form α -quaternary carbon centers^{1,2}. Moreover, derivatizations such as dihydroxylation³ and sigmatropic rearrangement⁴ can lead to various synthetically useful building blocks (Scheme 1.1.2).

Scheme 1.1.1. Occurence of Trisubstituted Enoates in Natural Products and Bioactive Compounds



(1) (a) Murphy, K. E.; Hoveyda, A. H. Org. Lett. 2005, 7, 1255–1258. (b) Lee, Y; Hoveyda, A. H. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2006, 128, 15604–15605.

- (2) Zuo, Y.-J. et al. Org. Biomol. Chem., 2018, 16, 9237-9242.
- (3) Kobayashi, K. et al. J. Org. Chem. 2015, 80, 1243–1248.
- (4) Tsuzaki, S. et al. Org. Lett. 2015, 17, 1704–1707.



Scheme 1.1.2. Trisubstituted Enoates as Useful Building Blocks in Organic Synthesis

A well-established method to synthesize trisubstituted enoates is through carbonyl olefination reactions. Such transformations, however, often require stoichiometric or excess amounts of costly reagents, harsh reaction conditions, and the *Z*:*E* ratio of the products is highly substrate-dependent⁵ (Scheme 1.1.3). A case in point is the multi-step sequence in the total synthesis of transtaganolide B that converts diene **1.1** to methyl enoate **1.2**⁶ (Scheme 1.1.4). The aldehyde intermediate was obtained by oxidative **Scheme 1.1.3**. Synthesizing Trisubstituted Enoates through Carbonyl Olefination Reactions



^{(5) (}a) Still, W.C.; Gennari, C. Tetrahedron Lett. 1983, 24, 4405–4408. (b) Ando, K. J. Org. Chem. 1998, 63, 8411–8416.

⁽⁶⁾ Nelson, H. M.; Gordon, J. R.; Virgil, S. C.; Stoltz, B. M. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2013, 52, 6699-6703.

cleavage of the prenyl terminus in **1.1**, resulting in 40% loss of material. The subsequent Still-Gennari reaction requires excess amount of toxic 18-crown-6 and cryogenic conditions to ensure high Z selectivity and efficiency to yield the methyl enoate.



Scheme 1.1.4. An Example of The Olefin–Aldehyde–Olefin Sequence

In this regard, the development of a kinetically controlled catalytic cross-metathesis (CM) method that can provide access to stereodefined trisubstituted enoates, especially the higher-energy Z-isomer, is of high importance. This transformation would offer a valuable disconnection complementary to Wittig-type reactions, allowing for the direct implementation of an ester functional group, thus avoiding the intermediary of an aldehyde altogether. (Scheme 1.1.5).





1.2 DESIGN PRINCIPLES FOR STEREORETENTIVE CROSS-METATHESIS OF TRISUBSTITUTED ENOATES

Although disubstituted enoic acids and esters have been successfully prepared through catalytic CM⁷, the synthesis of trisubstituted variants still poses significant challenges. To date, there are only few reports on the synthesis of such moieties with Ru-based complexes, and only the *E*-isomers are accessible (Scheme 1.2.1)⁸.





^{(7) (}a) Chatterjee, A. K.; Morgan, J. P.; Scholl, M.; Grubbs, R. H. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2000, 122, 3783–3784. (b) Choi, T.-L.; Lee, C. W.; Chatterjee, A. K.; Grubbs, R. H. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2001, 123, 10417–10418. (c) Yu, E. C. et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2016, 55, 13210–13214. (d) Liu, Z.; Xu, C.; del Pozo, J.; Torker, S.; Hoveyda, A. H. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2019, 141, 7137–7146.

^{(8) (}a) Ref. 7a. (b) Chatterjee, A. K.; Choi, T. L.; Sanders, D. P.; Grubbs, R. H. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2003, 125, 11360–11370. (c) Aouzal, R.; Prunet, J. Org. Biomol. Chem. 2009, 7, 3594–3598. (d) Bilel, H.; Hamdi, N.; Zagrouba, F.; Fischmeister, C.; Bruneau, C. RSC Adv. 2012, 2, 9584–9589. (e) Liu, H. M.; Chang, C. Y.; Lai, Y. C.; Yang, M. D.; Chang, C. Y. Tetrahedron: Asymmetry 2014, 25, 187–192. (b) Tarantino, K. T.; Miller, D. C.; Callon, T. A.; Knowles, R. R. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2015, 137, 6440–6443.

We consider addressing these shortcomings through a Molybdenum-alkylidenecatalyzed, kinetically controlled stereoretentive CM⁹, a powerful method that can furnish both *Z*- and *E*-olefins in high isomeric purity. The stereochemical model for the stereoselectivity of trisubstituted olefin metathesis emerges from analysis of the X-ray structure of an unsubstituted molybdacyclobutane¹⁰: As the C α of the metallacyclobutane is closer to the Mo-center than C β (2.05 vs. 2.33 Å, boxed structure in Scheme 1.2.2), we

Scheme 1.2.2. Design Principle of Stereoselective CM with Trisubstituted Olefins



surmised that the steric repulsion for substituents at the C α is likely more severe, positioned away from the larger aryloxide ligand to ensure stereoselectivity (1.5 vs. 1.6, Scheme 1.2.2). Furthermore, competing 1.7 is destabilized (albeit electronically favored) due to the steric interactions with the closer C α position in the forming mcb. Since the steric effect at C β becomes less consequential, the configuration of the alkene is retained in the CM product (1.5 and 1.8, Scheme 1.2.3).





⁽⁹⁾ Montgomery, T. P.; Ahmed, T. S.; Grubbs, R. H. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2017, 56, 11024–11036.
(10) Marinescu, S. C.; Schrock, R. R.; Müller, P.; Hoveyda, A. H. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2009, 131, 10840–10841.

1.3 IDENTIFICATION OF AN OPTIMAL COMPLEX FOR Z-SELECTIVE CROSS-METATHESIS

We began by probing the reaction between two trisubstituted olefins in order to diminish the competitive homocoupling pathway¹¹ as well as methylidene formation, which benefits catalyst longevity¹². As illustrated in Scheme 1.3.1, reaction between citronellic benzyl ether **1.9** and commercially available methyl angelate **1.10** in the presence of 5.0 mol % **Mo-1a** afforded the desired CM product **1.11** in 71% yield and 93:7 *Z:E* ratio. Mild vacuum (100 Torr) was employed to remove 2-methyl-2-butene byproduct and to





(11) Liu, Q.; Mu, Y.; Koengeter, T.; Schrock, R. R.; Hoveyda, A. H. manuscript submitted.

(12) For discussions on decomposition pathways of a methylidene complex, see: Hoveyda, A. H.; Liu, Z.; Qin, C.; Koengeter, T.; Mu, Y. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2020**, *59*, 22324–22348.

ensure maximum efficiency. Optimal yield of **1.11** and further improvement in *Z* selectivity were achieved with **Mo-1b** (83% yield, 97:3 *Z:E*). The highly reactive but comparatively short-lived Molybdenum monoaryloxide chloride (MAC) complexes¹³, however, led to either diminished *Z* selectivity (**Mo-2a**) or lower conversion (**Mo-2b-c**). An unexpected alkylidene NMR signal was observed during the preparation of MAP complex **Mo-1b** (Scheme 1.3.2). Further investigation led to the discovery of a new bisaryloxide complex **Mo-3a**; it may be formed by a second ligand exchange of residual phenol (**L1**) with in-situ generated MAP complex (**Mo-1b**). With 2.0 equivalents of **L1** added, bisaryloxide **Mo-3a** was formed exclusively after 12 hours at 70 °C.



Scheme 1.3.2. Analysis of The Molybdenum Bisaryloxide Formation

^{(13) (}a) Lam, J. K. et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2016, 138, 15774–15783. (b) Koh, M. et al. Nature 2017, 542, 80–85.

The 2,6-diisopropylphenyl imido variant of **Mo-3a** was prepared by Schrock et al. in 2014 through a different route¹⁴, although in the homo-metathesis of 1-octene, it showed lower efficiency when compared to the corresponding monoaryloxide pyrrolide complex (13% vs. 67% conversion after 6 hours). In addition, several bisaryloxide complexes with sterically congested (*ortho*-F-substituted) or electron-deficient (2,6-perfluorophenyl) phenol ligands (essential for allowing for the aforementioned second ligand exchange to occur) have been reported and used to address lower reactivity and/or selectivity issues of the MAP complexes in ring-opening metathesis polymerization (ROMP) ¹⁵ and macrocyclic ring-closing metathesis (RCM) reactions¹⁶.

Although computations by Eisenstein and co-workers¹⁷ have shown that having two different ligands (one strong σ -donor and one weak σ -donor; such as in **Mo-1** and **Mo-2**) improves the overall performance of the olefin metathesis catalyst, we surmised that the bisaryloxide could be a superior catalyst here as methylidene decomposition pathways and post-metathesis isomerization are less of concerns¹⁶. Experimental data substantiated this hypothesis (Scheme 1.3.3): reaction with 5.0 mol % **Mo-3a** indeed further increased product formation (from 83% to 91% yield) without compromising selectivity (97:3 vs. 95:5 *Z*:*E*).

⁽¹⁴⁾ Townsend E. M. et al. Organometallics 2014, 33, 5334-5341.

^{(15) (}a) Yuan, J.; Schrock, R. R.; Muller, P.; Axtell, J. C.; Dobereiner, G. E. *Organometallics* **2012**, *31*, 4650–4653. (b) Yuan, J., Schrock, R. R.; Gerber, L. C.; Muller, P.; Smith, S. *Organometallics* **2013**, *32*, 2983–2992.

^{(16) (}a) Wang, C.; Haeffner, F.; Schrock, R. R.; & Hoveyda, A. H. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2013, 52, 1939–1943. (b) Yu, M.; Schrock, R. R.; Hoveyda, A. H. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2015, 54, 215–220.

^{(17) (}a) Solans-Monfort, X.; Clot, E.; Copéret, C.; Eisenstein, O. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2005, 127, 14015–14025. (b) Poater, A.; Solans-Monfort, X.; Clot, E.; Copéret, C.; Eisenstein, O. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2007, 129, 8207–8216.

Several other bisaryloxide complexes were prepared and subjected to the CM reaction. **Mo-3b** bearing a *para*-Br substituent on the phenoxide ligand proved to be more reactive but less stereoselective. **Mo-3c** is less stable, presumably due to a lack of rigidity, and only 56% of **1.9** was consumed after 6 hours. To our surprise, **Mo-3d**^{16a}, which was used for *Z*-selective macrocyclic RCM in the synthesis of epothilone D, furnished **1.11** in a 1:1 *Z:E* ratio and isomerized methyl enoate **1.10** from >98:2 to 72:28 *Z:E* after 6 hours. It became evident that unlike macrocyclic RCM reactions in which geometric constraints force the tethered enoate into the desired orientation through substrate control, in CM, selectivity is solely governed by the size difference of the two ligands occupying the apical positions of the trigonal bipyramidal (TBP) metallacyclobutane (mcb) intermediate, namely the aryl imido group and the aryloxide. Thus, controlling the kinetic selectivity becomes more challenging in CM reactions, and, in this case, a smaller *ortho*fluorine substituent (vs. a bromide or a phenyl ring) eroded the steric bulkiness of the BINOL-derived phenoxide in **Mo-3d**, resulting in low stereo-control.





1.4 KINETICALLY CONTROLLED Z-SELECTIVE CROSS-METATHESIS TO ACCESS Z-ENOATES

As shown in Scheme 1.4.1, many *n*-alkyl-*Z*-trisubstituted methyl enoates were obtained from naturally abundant or readily available alkyl-substituted *gem*-dimethyl alkenes. These include products bearing an allylic ether (1.13), a phthalimide (1.14), a B(pin) group (pin, pinacolato; 1.16), an indole (1.17), an acetal (1.18), a Boc-protected proline (Boc, *tert*-butoxy carbonyl; 1.19), a β -aryl-substituted alkene (1.20), a tertiary amine

Scheme 1.4.1. Synthesis of Z-Enoic Acid Methyl Esters through Z-Selective CM



(1.21), or a thiol ether (1.22). A catalytic amount of Z-3-hexene was added whenever initiation of the Mo neophylidene complex was sluggish (i.e., required a long induction period; Scheme 1.4.2) to improve the reaction efficiency¹¹ (1.19–1.22).

Scheme 1.4.2. Alkene-Assisted Initiation Promotes CM Between Two Trisubstituted Olefins



The concept of facilitating catalyst initiation proved successful. Addition of 10 mol % Z-3-hexene to the reaction of **1.23** after 6 hours (Scheme 1.4.3) resulted in an increase of product formation from 32% to 69%, indicating that a majority of **Mo-3a** remained inert until Z-3-hexene was added. In another example, **1.9** and **1.23** were mixed in a 1:1 ratio and subjected to standard reaction conditions. Both CM products **1.11** and **1.19** were formed, and addition of 10 mol % Z-3-hexene in the beginning did not drastically change the conversion (73% vs. 79% conversion to products). This is probably because in the first catalytic cycle, most of **Mo-3a** was initiated by the more reactive substrate **1.9**, and

Scheme	1.4.3.	Further	Proof-of	-Principle



subsequent CM with **1.23** generated an ethylidene complex, reacting with both of the remaining substrates. The overall outcome is the same: to provide a less hindered and thus more active alkylidene species (either methyl- or ethyl substituted alkylidene).

We then investigated different carboxylic acid derivatives to extend the scope of this method (Scheme 1.4.4). Neither steric bulkiness nor electronic bias impacted the reaction efficiency. Silyl-containing esters (1.27 and 1.28) are amenable to standard conditions, which are known to hydrolyze easily. Phenyl ester (1.25) and ethyl thiol ester (1.29), precursors to ketones and aldehydes, were also successfully synthesized.





1.5 KINETICALLY CONTROLLED *E*-SELECTIVE CROSS-METATHESIS TO ACCESS *E*-ENOATES

In contrast to what we had predicted in Scheme 1.2.3, CM between **1.9** and the *E*-enoate **1.30** resulted in minimal formation of **1.32** (Scheme 1.5.1). This could be attributed to the increased steric repulsion between the carboxyl group and the aryloxide ligand in **1.31**. Molybdenum MAC complex **Mo-2b**, bearing a smaller chloride ligand, rather than 2,5-dimethyl pyrrolide in **Mo-1b** or aryloxide in **Mo-3a**, indeed promoted the reaction to afford 16% of the desired product with complete stereoretention ($B(C_6F_5)_3$ was added to scavenge the pyridyl ligand; Scheme 1.5.1). Following the same trend, **Mo-2a**, bearing a more spacious tetra-*tert*-butyl terphenyloxide ligand showed higher efficiency, furnishing **1.32** in 85% yield and 97:3 *E:Z* ratio (Scheme 1.5.2).

Substrates with an allylic B(pin) (1.33) or a thiol ester (1.34), functional groups that are not compatible with Wittig-type reaction conditions, showed appreciable yield and

Scheme 1.5.1. Identification of an Effective Catalyst for E-Enoates



selectivity. The method, however, owing to the use of a highly reactive and thus shortlived molybdenum chloride complex and a strong Lewis acid such as tris(pentafluorophenyl)borane, is not as broadly applicable as the Z-selective variant. Reaction with PMB ether (1.35) is less efficient (vs. 1.15), and acid-sensitive acetals (1.36 and 1.37) only afforded minimal to no product formation.





1.6 APPLICATION TO SYNTHESIS OF BIOACTIVE COMPOUNDS

Concise and stereorententive syntheses of bioactive triterpenoids were demonstrated (Scheme 1.6.1 and 1.6.2). Carboxylic acid **1.40**, a precursor to bioactive anwuweizonic acid and manwuweizic acid¹⁸, was obtained through reaction of lanosterol acetate **1.38** and methyl angelate, followed by a one-pot hydrolysis, in 72% yield and 94:6 *Z*:*E* ratio. Compared to the previous method (from **1.39**, Scheme 1.6.1)¹⁹, synthesizing **1.40** through CM circumvents preparation of the aldehyde intermediate through multi-step oxidations and tedious purifications (72% yield in one step vs. 40% yield over five steps). The corresponding *E*-isomer ganoderic acid Z **1.41**, a bioactive triterpenoid isolated from

Scheme 1.6.1. Formal Synthesis of Manwuweizic acid



⁽¹⁸⁾ Liu, J-S.; Huang, M-F.; Tao, Y. Can. J. Chem. 1988, 66, 414-415.

⁽¹⁹⁾ Liu, J-S.; Tao, Y. Tetrahedron 1992, 48, 6793-6798.

*Ganoderma lucidum*²⁰, was prepared by CM between **1.38** and methyl tiglate in 66% yield and 94:6 *E*:*Z* ratio (Scheme 1.6.2) and can be derived to ganodermanontriol by a reported procedure²¹.

The present advance enables a direct functionalization of naturally occurring prenyl termini. As demonstrated in Scheme 1.6.3, enoate **1.18** was prepared from citronellal in 89% yield and 97:3 *Z*:*E*; synthesizing the *E*-isomer was unsuccessful due to functional group incompatibility. Citronellol furnished both *Z*- and *E*-isomer **1.42** and **1.43** over two steps, which are precursors to important food additives mintlactone and isomintlactone²² and can be transformed to the bioactive compound menthofuran²³. Diene **1.44**, an





⁽²⁰⁾ Toth, J. O.; Luu, B.; Ourisson, G. Tetrahedron Lett. 1983, 24, 1081-1084

^{(21) (}a) El-Mekkawy, S. et al. Phytochemistry 1998, 49, 1651–1657. (b) Kennedy, E. M.; P'Pool, S. J.;

Jiang, J.; Sliva, D.; Minto, R. E. J. Nat. Prod. 2011, 74, 2332–2337.

⁽²²⁾ Wang, X. et al. Synlett 2017, 28, 1660–1662.

⁽²³⁾ Tsuboi, S.; Shimozuma, K.; Takeda, A. J. Org. Chem. 1980, 45, 1517-1520.

intermediate en route to hennoxazole A²⁴, was also successfully synthesized from geraniol. The low yield is due to competitive formation of the trisubstituted allylic silyl ether, generated by reaction of the internal trisubstituted double bond with methyl angelate.





⁽²⁴⁾ Yokokawa, F.; Asano, T.; Shioiri, T. Tetrahedron 2001, 59, 6311-6327.

1.7 CONCLUSIONS

Trisubstituted enoates exist in various natural products and bioactive molecules and serve as an important scaffold in organic synthesis (Scheme 1.1.1 and 1.1.2). A common approach to this moiety is carbonyl olefination, typically a Horner-Wadsworth-Emmons reaction and Z-selective modifications (Scheme 1.1.3). However, these methods require stoichiometric amounts of toxic reagents and harsh reaction conditions. What is more, the use of an aldehyde, which is often obtained from an alkene through multi-step oxidation procedures, as intermediate is inevitable (Scheme 1.1.4) and can be problematic.

To address these issues, herein, we have devised a broadly applicable catalytic crossmetathesis procedure for the stereoretentive synthesis of trisubstituted methyl enoates (Scheme 1.4.1 and 1.5.2). Both Z- and E-isomers can be furnished from naturally abundant or readily available prenyl groups under mild conditions. In addition, we have prepared a new bisaryloxide complex **Mo-3a**, and it has shown superior efficiency (vs. MAP **Mo-2b**, Scheme 1.3.3) in synthesizing Z-trisubstituted enoates. The distinct reactivity of this complex could be attributed to decreased HOMO–LUMO gap in the alkene–alkylidene coordination and increased stability of the metallacyclobutane, resulting in a lower transition state energy²⁵.

We have demonstrated the synthetic utility of this method through concise syntheses of 3-*epi*-anwuweizic acid **1.40**, a precursor to anwuweizonic acid and manwuweizic acid (Scheme 1.6.1), and ganoderic acid Z **1.41** (Scheme 1.6.2). Compared to previously

⁽²⁵⁾ For related DFT computations, see Ref. 13b and 16a.

reported syntheses, the CM reactions are carried out under milder conditions and do not require a series of functional group manipulations (Scheme 1.1.4 and 1.6.1). Finally, citronellal, citronellol, and geraniol (main components in various essential oils) were utilized to furnish the corresponding methyl enoates, which serve as valuable building blocks in syntheses of several natural products (Scheme 1.6.3). The approach presented here offers a valuable disconnection that is complementary to Wittig-type reactions, and it enables the direct functionalization of naturally occurring prenyl termini to value-added enoic esters and acids.

1.8 EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

1.8.1 General

Unless otherwise noted, transformations were performed with distilled and degassed solvents under an atmosphere of dry N2, in oven- (135 °C) or flame-dried glassware with standard glovebox or Schlenk techniques. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker FTIR Alpha (ATR Mode) spectrometer, v_{max} in cm⁻¹. Bands are characterized as broad (br), strong (s), medium (m), and weak (w). ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Unity INOVA 400 (400 MHz), 500 (500 MHz) or 600 (600 MHz) spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane with the solvent resonance as the internal standard (CDCl₃: δ 7.26 ppm, C₆D₆: δ 7.16 ppm). Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, integration, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q =quartet, br = broad, m = multiplet), and coupling constants (Hz). ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Unity INOVA 400 (100 MHz), 500 (125MHz), or 600 (151 MHz) spectrometers with complete proton decoupling. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane with the solvent resonance as the internal standard (CDCl₃: δ 77.16 ppm, C_6D_6 : δ 128.00 ppm). ¹¹B NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Unity INOVA 400 (128 MHz), 500 (160 MHz) or 600 (192 MHz) spectrometer with complete proton decoupling. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm with BF₃•Et₂O (10% in CDCl₃) as reference. High-resolution mass spectrometry was performed on a Micromass LCT ESI-MS and JEOL AccuTOF DART (positive mode) at the Boston College Mass Spectrometry Facility. Values for *E*:*Z* ratios of products were determined by analysis of 1H NMR spectra.

Solvents:

Solvents were purified under a positive pressure of dry argon by a modified Innovative Technologies purification system: toluene, benzene, and hexanes were purified through a copper oxide column and an alumina column; CH₂Cl₂ and Et₂O were purged with argon and purified by passage through two alumina columns. Tetrahydrofuran (THF; Fisher Scientific) was purified by distillation from sodium benzophenone ketyl immediately prior to use. Work-up and purification procedures involved the use of reagent grade solvents (Fisher Scientific) in air.

Reagents:

Methyl (*Z*)-2-methylbut-2-enoate (TCI), isobutyl (*Z*)-2-methylbut-2-enoate, methyl (*E*)-2-methylbut-2-enoate (TCI), 3-methyl-2-butenylboronic acid pinacol ester (Aldrich) were either distilled from CaH_2 under vacuum prior to use.

Citronellol (Aldrich), citronellal (AK Scientific), geraniol (Aldrich), angelic acid (TCI), (2*S*)-1-[(*tert*-butoxy)carbonyl]pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid (Synthonix), methyl 1H-Indole-3-carbaldehyde (Oakwood) were used as received.

phenyl (*Z*)-2-methylbut-2-enoate, 4-methoxybenzyl (*Z*)-2-methylbut-2-enoate, *tert*butyldiphenylsilyl (*Z*)-2-methylbut-2-enoate, (2-(trimethylsilyl)ethoxy)methyl (*Z*)-2methylbut-2-enoate, *S*-ethyl (*Z*)-2-methylbut-2-enethioate were prepared from angelic acid (TCI) according to reported procedures²⁶.

⁽²⁶⁾ Liu, Z.; Xu, C.; del Pozo, J.; Torker, S.; Hoveyda, A. H. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2019, 141, 7137-7146.

1.8.2 Preparation of Organometallic Complexes

Mo monoaryloxide pyrrolide (MAP) complexes **Mo-1a–1c**, were prepared according to previously reported procedure²⁷. Mo monoaryloxide chloride (MAC) complexes **Mo-2a– 2c** were synthesized according to previously reported procedure²⁸. Mo bisaryloxide complexes **Mo-3d** were prepared according to previously reported procedure¹⁶. Mo complexes were manipulated under an atmosphere of N₂ in a glove box.

General procedure for in situ preparation of Mo-3a for NMR analysis: In a N₂-filled Glove box, an oven-dried 1-dram vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with pentafluorophenylimido Mo bispyrrolide complex Mo-0 (15.0 mg, 0.0251 mmol), phenol ligand L1 (20.0 mg, 0.0502 mmol) and C₆D₆ (1 mL), generating a dark-red suspension. The vial was capped and the mixture was allowed to stir for 12 h at 70 °C, after which it was transferred to a screw cap NMR tube by pipette. The NMR tube was capped and sealed with Teflon tape. Diagnostic NMR data for Mo-3a: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆): δ 10.55 (1H, s). Mo-3b: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆): δ 10.65 (1H, s). Mo-3c: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆): δ 10.50 (1H, s).

General procedure for in situ preparation of Mo-3a: In a N_2 -filled glove box, an oven-dried 4 mL vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with pentafluorophenylimido Mo bispyrrolide complex Mo-0 (59.8 mg, 0.100 mmol), phenol

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ligand L1 (79.7 mg, 0.200 mmol) and C_6H_6 (1 mL), resulting in a dark red suspension. The vial was capped and the mixture was allowed to stir for 12 h at 70 °C, after which time the solution was transferred to the reaction mixture by syringe (dried at 65 °C).

1.8.3 Cross-Metathesis with Z-Enoates

General CM Procedure: In a N₂-filled glovebox, an oven-dried 1-dram vial containing a magnetic stir bar was charged with alkene substrate (0.10 mmol) and enoate (0.20 mmol). To this mixture was added a solution of **Mo-3a** (0.1 M in benzene, 50.0 μ L, 5.0 μ mol) through a syringe. The vial was then connected to the vacuum pump through a needlepierced septum, and the mixture was allowed to stir under 100 torr pressure, at 22 °C for 6 h, after which the solution was exposed to air and the volatiles were removed in vacuo to afford a dark-brown oil residue which was purified by silica gel chromatography. Conversion and the ratio of alkene isomers was determined by analysis of the ¹H NMR spectrum of the unpurified mixture.

Methyl (*Z*)-8-(benzyloxy)-2,6-dimethyloct-2-enoate (1.11). Colorless oil; IR (neat): 2949 (m), 2922 (m), 2853 (w), 1714 (s), 1453 (m), 1433 (m), 1363 (m), 1221 (m), 1196 (m), 1143 (m), 1096 (s), 1077 (m), 735 (m), 697 (m) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.36–7.31 (m, 4H), 7.31–7.26 (m, 1H), 5.92 (tq, J = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.50 (d, J = 1.5Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.56–3.45 (m, 2H), 2.56–2.39 (m, 2H), 1.92–1.85 (m, 3H), 1.73– 1.57 (m, 2H), 1.49–1.38 (m, 2H), 1.31–1.18 (m, 1H), 0.90 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.6, 143.8, 138.8, 128.5, 127.7, 127.6, 126.8, 73.0, 68.7, 51.3, 36.8, 36.8, 29.8, 27.2, 20.8, 19.6; HRMS[M+H]⁺: Calcd for C₁₈H₂₇O₃: 291.1955, found: 291.1959. **Dimethyl (Z)-2-methyldodec-2-enedioate (1.12).** Yellowish oil; **IR (neat):** 2924 (m), 2852 (m), 1736 (s), 1716 (s), 1455 (w), 1434 (m), 1363 (w), 1227 (m), 1193 (s), 1165 (s), 1124 (m), 1097 (w), 1077 (w) cm⁻¹; ¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ 5.92 (tq, *J* = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 2.47–2.39 (m, 2H), 2.29 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.90– 1.86 (m, 3H), 1.64–1.55 (m, 2H), 1.43–1.34 (m, 2H), 1.28 (s, 8H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.4, 168.7, 143.8, 126.8, 51.5, 51.3, 34.2, 34.2, 29.7, 29.5, 29.4, 29.3, 29.2, 25.1, 20.8; **HRMS**[**M+H**]⁺: Calcd for C₁₅H₂₇O₄: 271.1904, found: 271.1903.

Methyl (Z)-4-(benzyloxy)-2-methylbut-2-enoate (1.13). Colorless oil; **IR (neat):** 3027 (w), 2949 (w), 2850 (w), 1714 (s), 1453 (m), 1434 (m), 1356 (w), 1226 (s), 1141 (s), 1106 (m), 1072 (m), 736 (m), 698 (m) cm⁻¹; ¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ 7.39–7.26 (m, 5H), 6.18 (tq, *J* = 5.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (s, 2H), 4.51–4.45 (m, 2H), 3.72 (s, 2H), 1.95–1.90 (m, 3H); ¹³**C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ 167.8, 142.2, 138.3, 128.6, 127.9, 127.8, 127.4, 72.9, 69.0, 51.7, 20.0; **HRMS[M+H]**⁺: Calcd for C₁₃H₁₇O₃: 221.1172, found: 221.1183.

Methyl (*Z*)-7-(1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)-2-methylhept-2-enoate (1.14). Colorless oil; IR (neat): 2943 (w), 2856 (w), 1770 (w), 1701 (s), 1434 (w), 1394 (m), 1368 (m), 1220 (m), 1143 (m), 1103 (m), 1037 (m), 876 (w), 719 (m), 529 (w) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.87–7.80 (m, 2H), 7.74–7.66 (m, 2H), 5.89 (tq, *J* = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.68 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.55–2.43 (m, 2H), 1.91–1.84 (m, 3H), 1.74–1.65 (m, 2H), 1.51–1.40 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.5, 168.5, 142.6, 134.0, 132.3, 127.5, 123.3, 51.3, 38.0, 29.2, 28.4, 26.8, 20.8; HRMS[M+H]⁺: Calcd for C₁₇H₂₀NO₄: 302.1387, found: 302.1383. Methyl (*Z*)-7-((4-methoxybenzyl)oxy)-2-methylhept-2-enoate (1.15). Colorless oil; IR (neat): 2929 (m), 2854 (m), 1714 (s), 1611 (m), 1511 (s), 1455 (m), 1434 (m), 1363 (m), 1300 (m), 1243 (s), 1214 (m), 1194 (m), 1179 (m), 1138 (m), 1097 (s), 1035 (m), 820 (m) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.28–7.23 (m, 2H), 6.91–6.84 (m, 2H), 5.92 (tq, *J* = 7.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (s, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.44 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.51– 2.43 (m, 2H), 1.89 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 3H), 1.66–1.60 (m, 2H), 1.53–1.45 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.6, 159.3, 143.4, 130.9, 129.3, 127.1, 113.9, 72.7, 70.0, 55.4, 51.3, 29.5, 29.4, 26.2, 20.8; HRMS[M+H]⁺: Calcd for C₁₇H₂₃O₄: 291.1591, found: 291.1597.

Methyl (*Z*)-2-methyl-5-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)pent-2-enoate (1.16). Colorless oil; IR (neat): 2975 (m), 2949 (w), 2926 (w), 1716 (s), 1455 (w), 1434 (w), 1405 (w), 1369 (s), 1324 (m), 1234 (s), 1192 (m), 1165 (m), 1143 (s), 1114 (m), 1081 (m), 967 (m), 870 (w), 846 (w) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.93 (tq, *J* = 7.4, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 2.58–2.49 (m, 2H), 1.88–1.85 (m, 3H), 1.22 (s, 12H), 0.95–0.82 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.7, 145.3, 126.1, 83.2, 51.3, 24.9, 24.2, 20.7, 11.4; ¹¹B NMR (160 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 34.70; HRMS[M+H]⁺: Calcd for C₁₃H₂₄BO₄: 255.1762, found: 255.1772.

Methyl (*Z*)-1-(6-methoxy-5-methyl-6-oxohex-4-en-1-yl)-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (1.17). Colorless oil; IR (neat): 2947 (w), 1700 (s), 1533 (m), 1466 (m), 1434 (m), 1396 (w), 1380 (m), 1224 (m), 1192 (m), 1170 (m), 1136 (m), 1118 (w), 1094 (m), 1032 (m), 776 (w), 750 (m) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.23–8.14 (m, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.39–7.33 (m, 1H), 7.31–7.24 (m, 2H), 5.85 (tq, *J* = 7.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 2.57–2.47 (m, 2H), 2.03–1.95 (m, 2H), 1.90–1.82 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.2, 165.6, 140.9, 136.6, 134.3, 128.6, 126.9, 122.8, 121.9, 121.9, 110.1, 107.1, 51.4, 51.0, 46.7, 29.5, 27.0, 20.7; HRMS[M+H]⁺: Calcd for C₁₈H₂₂NO₄: 316.1543, found: 316.1531.

Methyl (*Z*)-7-(1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)-2,6-dimethylhept-2-enoate (1.18). Colorless oil; IR (neat): 2949 (m), 2923 (m), 2879 (w), 1714 (s), 1455 (w), 1433 (w), 1363 (w), 1222 (m), 1195 (m), 1143 (s), 1074 (w), 1036 (m), 945 (w) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.93 (tq, J = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (dd, J = 5.4, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 4.01–3.91 (m, 2H), 3.89– 3.78 (m, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.55–2.11 (m, 2H), 1.92–1.85 (m, 3H), 1.77–1.62 (m, 2H), 1.55–1.43 (m, 2H), 1.33–1.22 (m, 1H), 0.96 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.6, 143.5, 126.9, 103.9, 64.9, 64.8, 51.3, 41.0, 37.0, 29.3, 27.1, 20.8, 19.8; HRMS[M+H]⁺: Calcd for C₁₃H₂₃O₄: 243.1590, found: 243.1597.

(*Z*)-1-(*tert*-Butyl) 2-(7-methoxy-6-methyl-7-oxohept-5-en-1-yl) (*S*)-pyrrolidine-1,2dicarboxylate (1.19). Colorless oil; IR (neat): 2971 (w), 2951 (w), 2877 (w), 1742 (m), 1695 (s), 1453 (w), 1389 (s), 1363 (m), 1240 (m), 1157 (s), 1120 (m), 1086 (m), 770 (w) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 25 °C): δ 5.98 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.19–4.11 (m, 1H), 4.11–3.94 (m, 2H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.42–3.23 (m, 2H), 2.46–2.34 (m, 2H), 2.28–2.09 (m, 1H), 1.93–1.73 (m, 6H), 1.64–1.51 (m, 2H), 1.50–1.28 (m, 11H); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 85 °C): δ 5.95 (tq, *J* = 7.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 4.22–4.13 (m, 1H), 4.07 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.43–3.27 (m, 2H), 2.45–2.34 (m, 2H), 2.29–2.13 (m, 1H), 1.91–1.77 (m, 6H), 1.67–1.55 (m, 2H), 1.50–1.40 (m, 2H), 1.38 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 85 °C): δ 172.9, 168.1, 141.8, 127.6, 79.3, 64.5, 59.2, 51.4, 46.7, 30.5, 28.9, 28.5, 28.3, 25.5, 23.8, 20.5; signal for carbonyl carbon on the Boc– group was not visible at 85 °C, but was found at 25 °C as a pair of rotamers (153.4 and 152.9 ppm in DMSO-d₆); **HRMS**[**M**+**H**]⁺: Calcd for $C_{19}H_{32}NO_6$: 370.2224, found: 370.2218.

Methyl (*Z*)-5-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-methylpent-2-enoate (1.20). Colorless oil; IR (neat): 2947 (m), 2922 (m), 1713 (s), 1599 (m), 1583 (m), 1487 (m), 1453 (m), 1433 (m), 1364 (w), 1256 (s), 1213 (m), 1193 (m), 1164 (m), 1151 (s), 1120 (s), 1051 (w), 1024 (m), 776 (m), 695 (m) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.23–7.18 (m, 1H), 6.83–6.78 (m, 1H), 6.78–6.72 (m, 2H), 5.97 (tq, J = 7.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.83– 2.75 (m, 2H), 2.74–2.67 (m, 2H), 1.93–1.85 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.5, 159.8, 143.3, 142.2, 129.4, 127.7, 121.0, 114.4, 111.4, 77.4, 77.2, 76.9, 55.3, 51.4, 35.7, 31.2, 20.8; HRMS[M+H]⁺: Calcd for C₁₄H₁₉O₃: 235.1329, found: 235.1332.

Methyl (*Z*)-7-(dibenzylamino)-2-methylhept-2-enoate (1.21). Colorless oil; IR (neat): 3020 (w), 2925 (m), 2791 (w), 1714 (s), 1492 (m), 1451 (w), 1433 (w), 1364 (m), 1236 (m), 1213 (m), 1193 (m), 1142 (m), 1107 (w), 1071 (w), 743 (m), 697 (s) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.39–7.34 (m, 4H), 7.33–7.28 (m, 4H), 7.25–7.21 (m, 2H), 5.89 (tq, J = 7.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 4H), 2.46–2.36 (m, 4H), 1.92–1.87 (m, 3H), 1.58–1.50 (m, 2H), 1.44–1.36 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.6, 143.6, 140.1, 128.9, 128.2, 126.9, 126.8, 58.4, 53.4, 51.3, 29.6, 27.2, 26.9, 20.8; HRMS[M+H]⁺: Calcd for C₂₃H₃₀NO₂: 352.2271, found: 352.2268.

Methyl (Z)-2,6-dimethyl-8-(2-(phenylthio)acetoxy)oct-2-enoate (1.22). Colorless oil; IR (neat): 2951 (m), 2921 (m), 2849 (w), 1714 (s), 1455 (m), 1436 (m), 1267 (s), 1222 (m), 1196 (m), 1141 (s), 1077 (w), 739 (m), 689 (m) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.42–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.32–7.27 (m, 2H), 7.25–7.18 (m, 1H), 5.90 (tq, *J* = 7.4, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.22–4.02 (m, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 2H), 2.56–2.34 (m, 2H), 1.93–1.84 (m, 3H), 1.69–1.57 (m, 1H), 1.56–1.46 (m, 1H), 1.46–1.34 (m, 2H), 1.34–1.16 (m, 3H), 0.88 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.9, 168.5, 143.4, 135.2, 130.0, 129.2, 129.2, 127.0, 64.1, 51.3, 36.8, 36.5, 35.3, 29.6, 27.1, 20.8, 19.3; HRMS[M+H]⁺: Calcd for C₁₉H₂₇O₄S: 351.1627, found: 351.1621.

Isobutyl (Z)-8-(benzyloxy)-2,6-dimethyloct-2-enoate (1.24). Colorless oil; **IR (neat):** 3027 (m), 2955(m), 2924 (m), 2869 (m), 1713 (s), 1643 (w), 1453 (m), 1377 (m), 1365 (m), 1220 (m), 1192 (m), 1144 (s), 1097 (s), 1075 (m), 1027 (m), 998 (w), 944 (w), 734 (m), 696 (m) cm⁻¹; ¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3):** δ 7.38–7.31 (m, 4H), 7.30–7.24 (m, 1H), 5.91 (tq, *J* = 7.4, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 4.50 (d, *J* = 0.7 Hz, 2H), 3.95–3.90 (m, 2H), 3.56–3.46 (m, 2H), 2.59–2.39 (m, 2H), 2.11–1.92 (m, 1H), 1.92–1.88 (m, 3H), 1.77–1.56 (m, 2H), 1.51–1.38 (m, 2H), 1.32–1.19 (m, 1H), 0.96 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H), 0.90 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³**C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl3):** δ 168.3, 143.4, 138.8, 128.5, 127.7, 127.6, 127.2, 73.0, 70.5, 68.7, 36.9, 36.8, 29.9, 27.9, 27.3, 20.9, 19.5, 19.4; **HRMS[M+H]+:** Calcd for C₂₁H₃₃O₃: 333.2424, found: 333.2429.

Phenyl (*Z*)-8-(benzyloxy)-2,6-dimethyloct-2-enoate (1.25). Colorless oil; IR (neat): 3027 (m), 2951 (m), 2922 (m), 2852 (m), 1732 (s), 1642 (w), 1590 (w), 1491 (m), 1453 (m), 1363 (w), 1194 (s), 1161 (m), 1129 (s), 1091 (m), 1070 (m), 1025 (w), 741 (s), 689 (m) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.44–7.37 (m, 2H), 7.37–7.32 (m, 4H), 7.31– 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.26–7.22 (m, 1H), 7.16–7.10 (m, 2H), 6.13 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.13 (t, *J* = 7.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.50 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 3.58–3.46 (m, 2H), 2.68–2.51 (m, 2H), 2.06 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 3H), 1.76–1.62 (m, 2H), 1.56–1.42 (m, 2H), 1.37–1.25 (m, 1H), 0.91 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 166.3, 150.9, 146.4, 138.8, 129.5, 128.5, 128.5z, 126.3, 125.8, 121.9, 73.0, 68.7, 36.8, 36.7, 29.8, 27.5, 20.9, 19.6; **HRMS[M+H]**⁺: Calcd for C₂₃H₂₉O₃: 353.2111, found: 353.2094.

4-Methoxybenzyl (Z)-8-(benzyloxy)-2,6-dimethyloct-2-enoate (1.26). Colorless oil; IR (neat): 2950 (m), 2922 (m), 2856 (m), 1710 (s), 1612 (m), 1513 (s), 1453 (m), 1359 (w), 1301 (w), 1246 (s), 1174 (m), 1141 (s), 1095 (s), 1075 (m), 1033 (m), 824 (m), 735 (m), 697 (m) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.49–7.19 (m, 8H), 6.97–6.81 (m, 2H), 5.92 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.12 (s, 2H), 4.49 (s, 2H), 3.87–3.72 (m, 3H), 3.55–3.43 (m, 2H), 2.55–2.37 (m, 2H), 1.96–1.86 (m, 3H), 1.70–1.52 (m, 2H), 1.50–1.35 (m, 2H), 1.26–1.17 (m, 1H), 0.86 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.1, 159.6, 143.8, 138.8, 130.1, 128.5, 128.5, 127.7, 127.6, 126.9, 114.0, 73.0, 68.8, 65.8, 55.4, 36.8, 36.7, 29.8, 27.3, 20.8, 19.5; **HRMS**[**M**+**H**]⁺: Calcd for C₂₅H₃₃O₄: 397.2373, found: 397.2369. tert-Butyldiphenylsilyl (Z)-8-(benzyloxy)-2,6-dimethyloct-2-enoate (1.27). Colorless oil; IR (neat): 2952 (w), 2926 (w), 2855 (w), 1702 (m), 1453 (w), 1426 (m), 1362 (m), 1220 (m), 1190 (m), 1146 (s), 1112 (s), 1074 (m), 820 (m), 737 (s), 696 (s), 608 (m), 504 (s), 487 (m) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.77–7.66 (m, 3H), 7.47–7.25 (m, 12H), 5.98 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (s, 2H), 3.57–3.43 (m, 2H), 2.51 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 1.72–1.52 (m, 2H), 1.51–1.36 (m, 2H), 1.32–1.19 (m, 1H), 1.16–1.07 (m, 9H), 0.88–0.80 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 167.0, 144.9, 138.8, 135.4, 134.9, 132.3, 130.1, 129.8, 128.5, 128.0, 127.9, 127.8, 127.7, 127.6, 73.0, 68.7, 36.9, 36.8, 29.8, 27.3, 27.1, 26.7, 21.5, 19.5, 19.3; **HRMS**[**M**+**H**]⁺: Calcd for C₃₃H₄₃O₃Si: 515.2976, found: 515.2988.

(2-(Trimethylsilyl)ethoxy)methyl (Z)-8-(benzyloxy)-2,6-dimethyloct-2-enoate (1.28). Colorless oil; IR (neat): 2950 (m), 2922 (m), 2854 (m), 1715 (s), 1453 (w), 1363 (w), 1247 (s), 1196 (w), 1143 (m), 1111 (s), 1069 (s), 939 (m), 858 (s), 835 (s), 734 (w), 696 (m) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.37–7.32 (m, 4H), 7.31–7.24 (m, 1H), 5.97 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 5.36 (s, 2H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 3.78–3.69 (m, 2H), 3.56–3.45 (m, 2H), 2.60–2.40 (m, 2H), 1.95–1.82 (m, 3H), 1.73–1.59 (m, 2H), 1.50–1.39 (m, 2H), 1.32–1.20 (m, 1H), 1.00–0.95 (m, 2H), 0.90 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.09–0.02 (m, 9H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 167.5, 144.7, 138.8, 128.5, 127.7, 127.6, 126.7, 88.9, 73.0, 68.7, 67.9, 36.8, 36.8, 29.8, 27.3, 20.8, 19.5, 18.2, -1.3; HRMS[M+NH4]⁺: Calcd for C₂₃H₄₂ONO₄Si: 424.2878, found: 424.2879.

S-Ethyl (*Z*)-8-(benzyloxy)-2,6-dimethyloct-2-enethioate (1.29). Colorless oil; IR (neat): 2955 (m), 2923 (m), 2852 (m), 1662 (s), 1620 (w), 1451 (m), 1363 (w), 1098 (s), 1040 (w), 1026 (w), 962 (s), 903 (m), 861 (w), 733 (s), 695 (s), 645 (w) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.38–7.31 (m, 4H), 7.31–7.25 (m, 1H), 5.67 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 3.58–3.44 (m, 2H), 2.92 (qd, *J* = 7.5, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 2.48–2.30 (m, 2H), 2.02– 1.93 (m, 3H), 1.72–1.56 (m, 2H), 1.50–1.38 (m, 2H), 1.32–1.19 (m, 4H), 0.89 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 194.6, 138.9, 138.8, 134.0, 128.5, 127.7, 127.6, 73.0, 68.7, 36.9, 36.8, 29.8, 27.2, 23.3, 20.9, 19.6, 14.8; HRMS[M+H]⁺: Calcd for C₁₉H₂₉O₂S: 321.1883, found: 321.1892.

1.8.4 Cross-Metathesis with *E*-Enoates

General CM Procedure: In a N₂-filled glovebox, an oven-dried 1-dram vial containing a magnetic stir bar was charged with alkene substrate (0.10 mmol) and enoate (0.20 mmol). To this mixture was added a solution of **Mo-2a** (0.1 M in benzene, 50.0 μ L, 5.0 μ mol) and tris(pentafluorophenyl)borane (0.1 M in benzene, 60.0 μ L, 6.0 μ mol) through
syringes. The vial was then connected to the vacuum pump through a needle-pierced septum, and the mixture was allowed to stir under 100 torr pressure, at 22 °C for 4 h, after which the solution was exposed to air and the volatiles were removed in vacuo to afford a dark-brown oil residue, which was purified by silica gel chromatography. Conversion and the ratio of alkene isomers was determined by analysis of the ¹H NMR spectrum of the unpurified mixture.

Methyl (*E*)-8-(benzyloxy)-2,6-dimethyloct-2-enoate (1.32). Colorless oil; IR (neat): 2948 (m), 2922 (m), 2852 (m), 1711 (s), 1648 (w), 1452 (m), 1433 (m), 1362 (w), 1264 (s), 1194 (m), 1138 (m), 1095 (s), 1026 (w), 737 (m), 697 (m) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.39–7.31 (m, 4H), 7.31–7.26 (m, 1H), 6.75 (tq, J = 7.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 3.73 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 3H), 3.56–3.45 (m, 2H), 2.26–2.09 (m, 2H), 1.87–1.78 (m, 3H), 1.73–1.55 (m, 2H), 1.53–1.40 (m, 2H), 1.34–1.23 (m, 1H), 0.91 (dd, J = 6.7, 1.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.8, 142.8, 138.7, 128.5, 127.7, 127.6, 127.5, 73.1, 68.6, 51.8, 36.7, 35.9, 29.8, 26.3, 19.5, 12.5; HRMS[M+H]⁺: Calcd for C₁₈H₂₇O₃: 291.1955, found: 291.1943.

Methyl (*E*)-2-methyl-4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)but-2-enoate (1.33). Colorless oil; IR (neat): 2985 (m), 2944 (w), 2926 (w), 1710 (s), 1453 (w), 1366 (s), 1324 (m), 1235 (s), 1192 (m), 1165 (m), 1143 (s), 1114 (m), 1072 (m), 855 (w) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.92 (tq, J = 8.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 1.94–1.76 (m, 5H), 1.24 (s, 12H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.8, 138.7, 127.4, 83.7, 51.7, 24.9, 14.3, 12.3; ¹¹B NMR (160 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 33.37; HRMS[M+H]⁺: Calcd for C₁₂H₂₂BO₄: 241.1606, found: 241.1608. Methyl (*E*)-8-(ethylthio)-2,6-dimethyl-8-oxooct-2-enoate (1.34). Colorless oil; IR (neat): 2950 (m), 2927 (m), 2871 (w), 1712 (s), 1685 (s), 1648 (w), 1433 (m), 1379 (w), 1351 (w), 1265 (s), 1191 (m), 1141 (m), 1092 (m), 1059 (m), 1010 (m), 969 (w), 938 (w), 744 (w) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.72 (tq, J = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.87 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.52 (dd, J = 14.6, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (dd, J = 14.5, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 2.25–2.11 (m, 2H), 2.10–2.00 (m, 1H), 1.82 (s, 3H), 1.54–1.44 (m, 1H), 1.37–1.28 (m, 1H), 1.24 (td, J = 7.4, 1.3 Hz, 3H), 0.96 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 199.0, 168.7, 142.0, 127.9, 51.8, 51.2, 35.3, 30.9, 26.2, 23.5, 19.5, 14.9, 12.5; HRMS[M+H]⁺: Calcd for C₁₃H₂₃O₃S: 259.1362, found: 259.1372.

1.8.5 Application to Naturally Occurring Prenyl Termini

(*R*,*Z*)-6-((3*S*,5*R*,10*S*,13*R*,14*R*,17*R*)-3-hydroxy-4,4,10,13,14-pentamethyl-2,3,4,5,6,7,

10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-tetradecahydro-1*H*-cyclopenta[a]phenanthren-17-yl)-2-

methylhept-2-enoic acid (1.40). In a N₂-filled glovebox, an oven-dried 2-dram vial containing a magnetic stir bar was charged with lanosterol acetate (**1.38**, 46.9 mg, 0.10 mmol), methyl (*Z*)-2-methylbut-2-enoate (25.0 μ L, 0.20 mmol), and benzene (0.2 mL). To this mixture was added a solution of **Mo-3a** (0.1 M in benzene, 50.0 μ L, 5.0 μ mol) through a syringe. The vial was then connected to the vacuum pump through a needle-pierced septum, and the mixture was allowed to stir under 100 torr pressure, 22 °C for 6 h, after which the solution was exposed to air and the volatiles were removed in vacuo to afford a dark-brown solid residue. 5% KOH in EtOH (4 mL) was added and the vial was capped and allowed to stir at 80 °C for 4 hours, after which it was allowed to cool to room temperature. The reaction was quenched by addition of 1 M HCl aqueous solution

(4 mL), extracted by DCM (3x4 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (4 mL), then dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo to afford yellow solid, which was purified by silica gel chromatography (5% to 20% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 1.40 (0.330 g, 0.072 mmol, 72% yield) as white solid. The ratio of alkene isomers was determined by analysis of the ¹H NMR spectrum (94:6 *Z:E*). The spectral data for this compound were identical to those reported previously¹⁹.

(R,E)-6-((3S,5R,10S,13R,14R,17R)-3-hydroxy-4,4,10,13,14-pentamethyl-2,3,4,5,6,7,

10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-tetradecahydro-1*H*-cyclopenta[a]phenanthren-17-yl)-2-

methylhept-2-enoic acid (1.41). In a N₂-filled glovebox, an oven-dried 2-dram vial containing a magnetic stir bar was charged with lanosterol acetate (1.38, 46.9 mg, 0.10 mmol), methyl (E)-2-methylbut-2-enoate (25.0 μ L, 0.20 mmol), and benzene (0.2 mL). To this mixture was added a solution of Mo-2a (0.1 M in benzene, 50.0 μ L, 5.0 μ mol) and tris(pentafluorophenyl)borane (0.1 M in benzene, 60.0 μ L, 6.0 μ mol) through syringes. The vial was then connected to the vacuum pump through a needle-pierced septum, and the mixture was allowed to stir under 100 torr pressure, 22 °C for 4 h, after which the solution was exposed to air and the volatiles were removed in vacuo to afford a dark-brown solid residue. 5% KOH in EtOH (4 mL) was added and the vial was capped and allowed to stir at 80 °C for 4 hours, after which it was allowed to cool to room temperature. The reaction was quenched by addition of 1 M HCl aqueous solution (4 mL), extracted by DCM (3x4 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (4 mL), then dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo to afford yellow solid, which was purified by silica gel chromatography (5% to 20% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 1.40 (0.301 g, 0.066 mmol, 66% yield) as white solid. The ratio of alkene isomers was determined by analysis of the ¹H NMR spectrum (94:6 *E:Z*). The spectral data for this compound were identical to those reported previously²⁰.

methyl (*S*,*Z*)-8-((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-2,6-dimethyloct-2-enoate (1.42). In a N₂filled glovebox, an oven-dried 5-dram vial containing a magnetic stir bar was charged with TBS-protected citronellol (2.00 g, 7.4 mmol) and methyl (*Z*)-2-methylbut-2-enoate (1.70 g, 14.8 mmol). To this mixture was added a solution of **Mo-3a** (0.1 M in benzene, 740 μ L, 0.074 mmol) through a syringe. The vial was then connected to the vacuum pump through a needle-pierced septum, and the mixture was allowed to stir under 100 torr pressure, 22 °C for 8 h, after which the solution was exposed to air and the volatiles were removed in vacuo to afford a dark-brown oil residue which was purified by silica gel chromatography (1% to 3% EtOAc in hexanes) as a single isomer. The spectral data for this compound were identical to those reported previously²².

methyl (*S,E*)-8-((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-2,6-dimethyloct-2-enoate (1.43). In a N₂-filled glovebox, an oven-dried 5-dram vial containing a magnetic stir bar was charged with TBS-protected citronellol (273 mg, 1.0 mmol) and methyl (*E*)-2-methylbut-2-enoate (228 mg, 2.0 mmol). To this mixture was added a solution of **Mo-2a** (0.1 M in benzene, 500 μ L, 0.05 mmol) and tris(pentafluorophenyl)borane (0.1 M in benzene, 600 μ L, 0.06 mmol) through syringes. The vial was then connected to the vacuum pump through a needle-pierced septum, and the mixture was allowed to stir under 100 torr pressure, 22 °C for 4 h, after which the solution was exposed to air and the volatiles were removed in vacuo to afford a dark-brown oil residue which was purified by silica gel chromatography (1% to 3% EtOAc in hexanes) as a single isomer. The spectral data for this compound were identical to those reported previously²².

methyl (2*Z*,6*E*)-8-((tert-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)-2,6-dimethylocta-2,6-dienoate (1.44). In a N₂-filled glovebox, an oven-dried 1-dram vial containing a magnetic stir bar was charged with TBDPS-protected geraniol (39.2 mg, 0.1 mmol) and methyl (*Z*)-2methylbut-2-enoate (25 μ L, 0.2 mmol). To this mixture was added a solution of **Mo-3a** (0.1 M in benzene, 50 μ L, 5.0 μ mol) and tris(pentafluorophenyl)borane (0.1 M in benzene, 60 μ L, 6.0 μ mol) through syringes. The vial was then connected to the vacuum pump through a needle-pierced septum, and the mixture was allowed to stir under 100 torr pressure, 22 °C for 6 h, after which the solution was exposed to air and the volatiles were removed in vacuo to afford a dark-brown oil residue which was purified by silica gel chromatography (1% to 3% EtOAc in hexanes) as a single isomer. The spectral data for this compound were identical to those reported previously²⁴.

1.8.6 NMR Spectra





































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