



# Strain-Promoted Reactions of 1,2,3-Cyclohexatriene and Its Derivatives

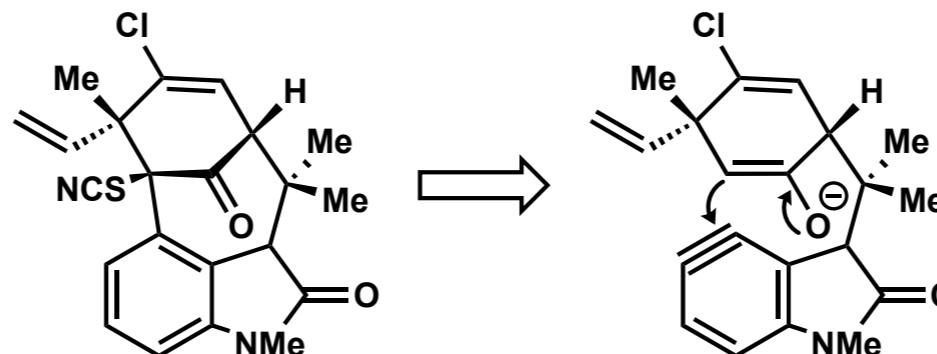
*Nature* **2023**, 618, 748-754

Samuel Tandang Kasmali G1

# A Career in Strained Intermediates

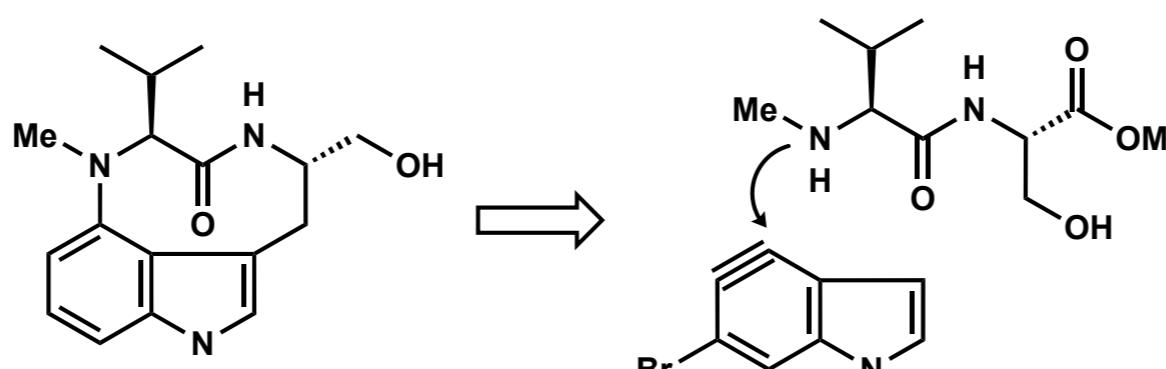


**GARG LAB**



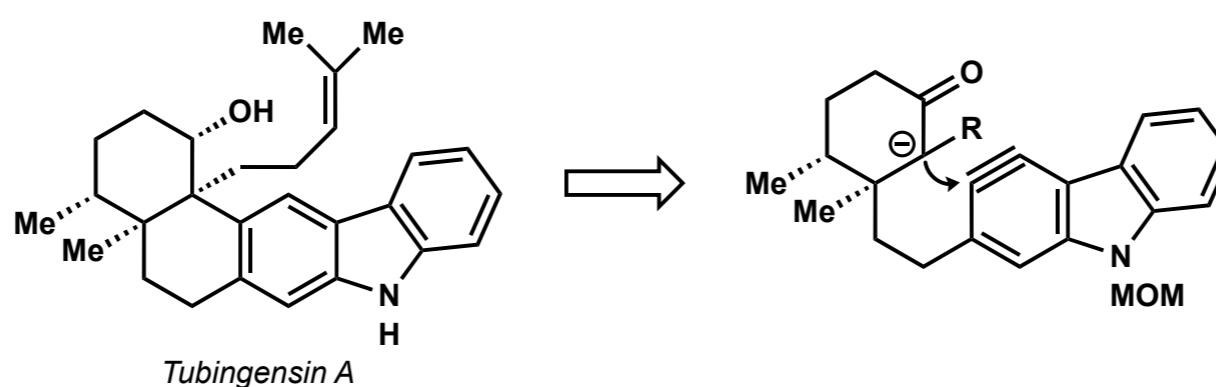
*N*-Methylwelwitindolinone C  
Isothiocyanate

*OL* **2009**, *11*, 2349–2351  
*JACS* **2011**, *133*, 15797–15799  
*JACS* **2012**, *134*, 1396–1399  
*ACIE* **2012**, *51*, 3758  
*ACIE* **2013**, *52*, 12422–12425  
*JACS* **2014**, *136*, 14710–14713



*Indolactam V*

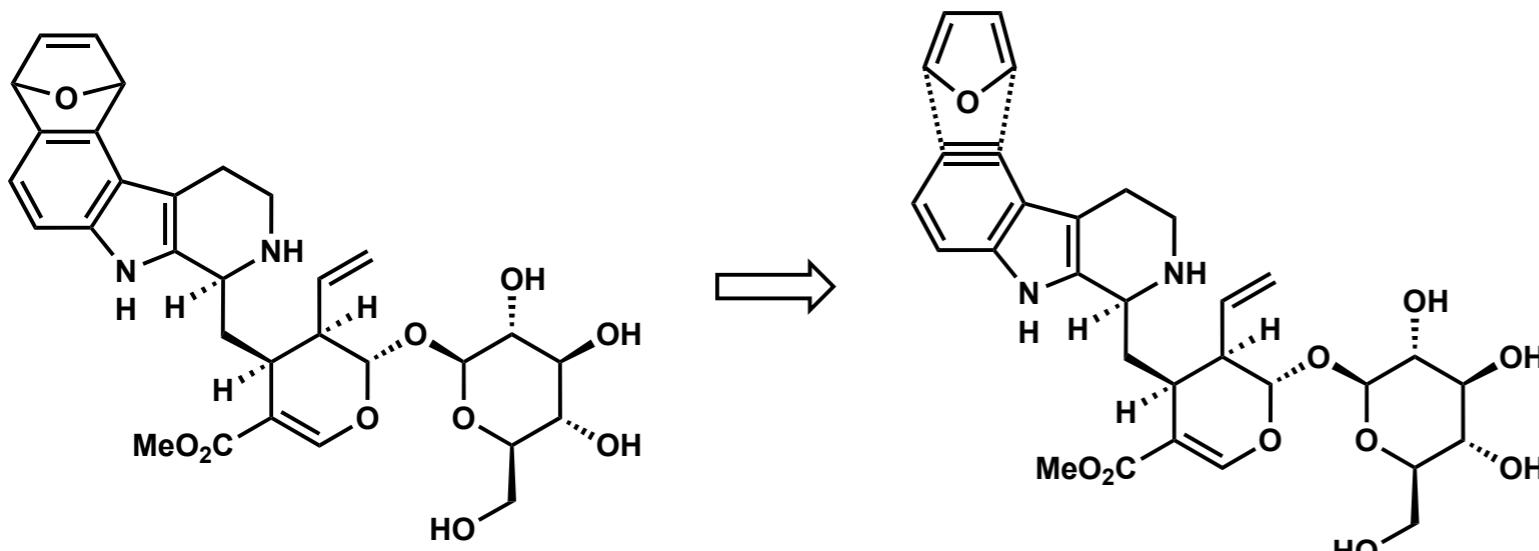
*JACS* **2011**, *133*, 3832–3835  
*Synlett* **2011**, *18*, 2599–2604



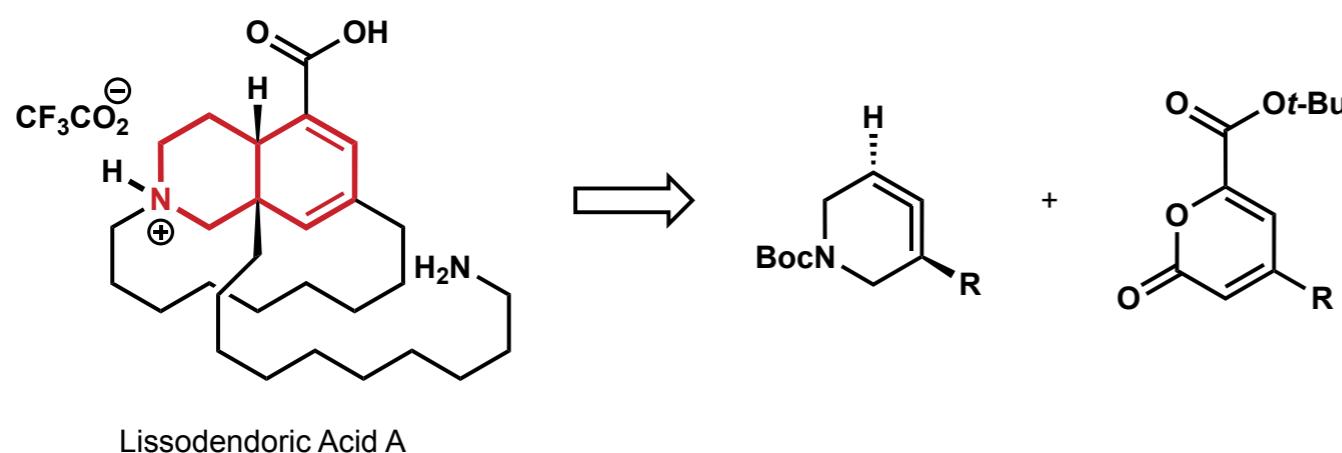
*Tubingensin A*

*JACS* **2014**, *136*, 3036–3039

# A Career in Strained Intermediates

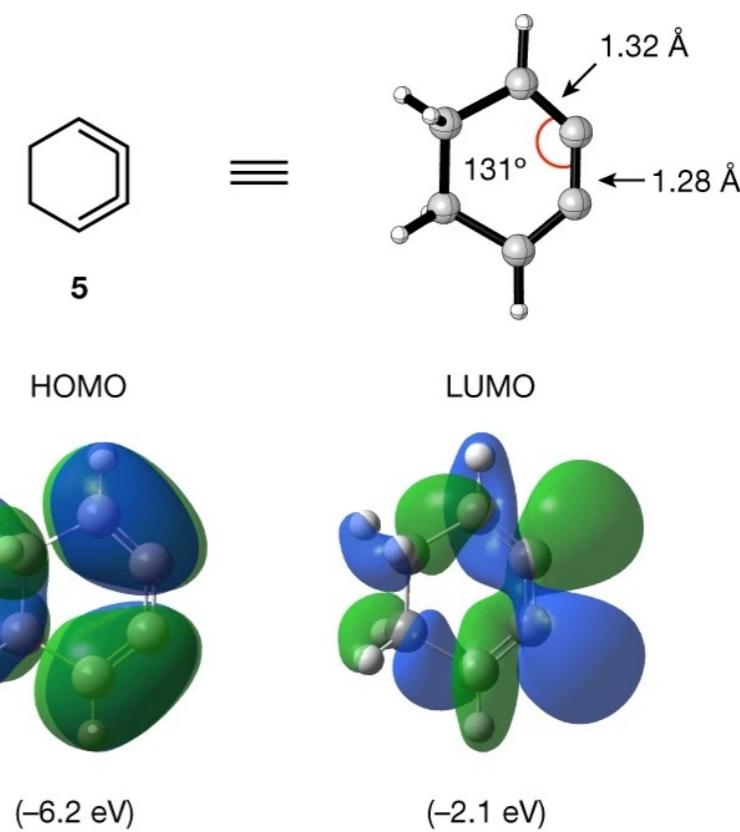
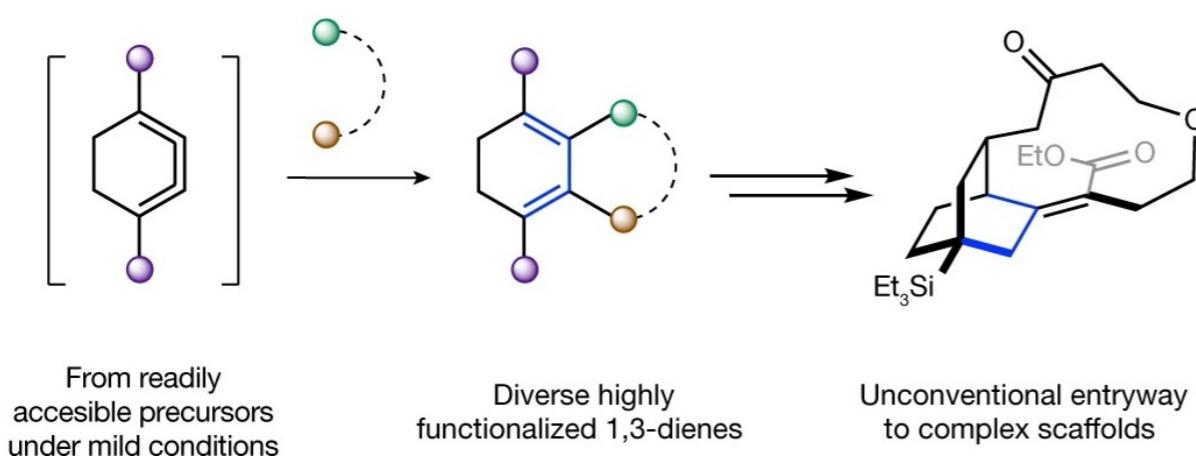


*JACS* **2021**, 143, 7471–7479

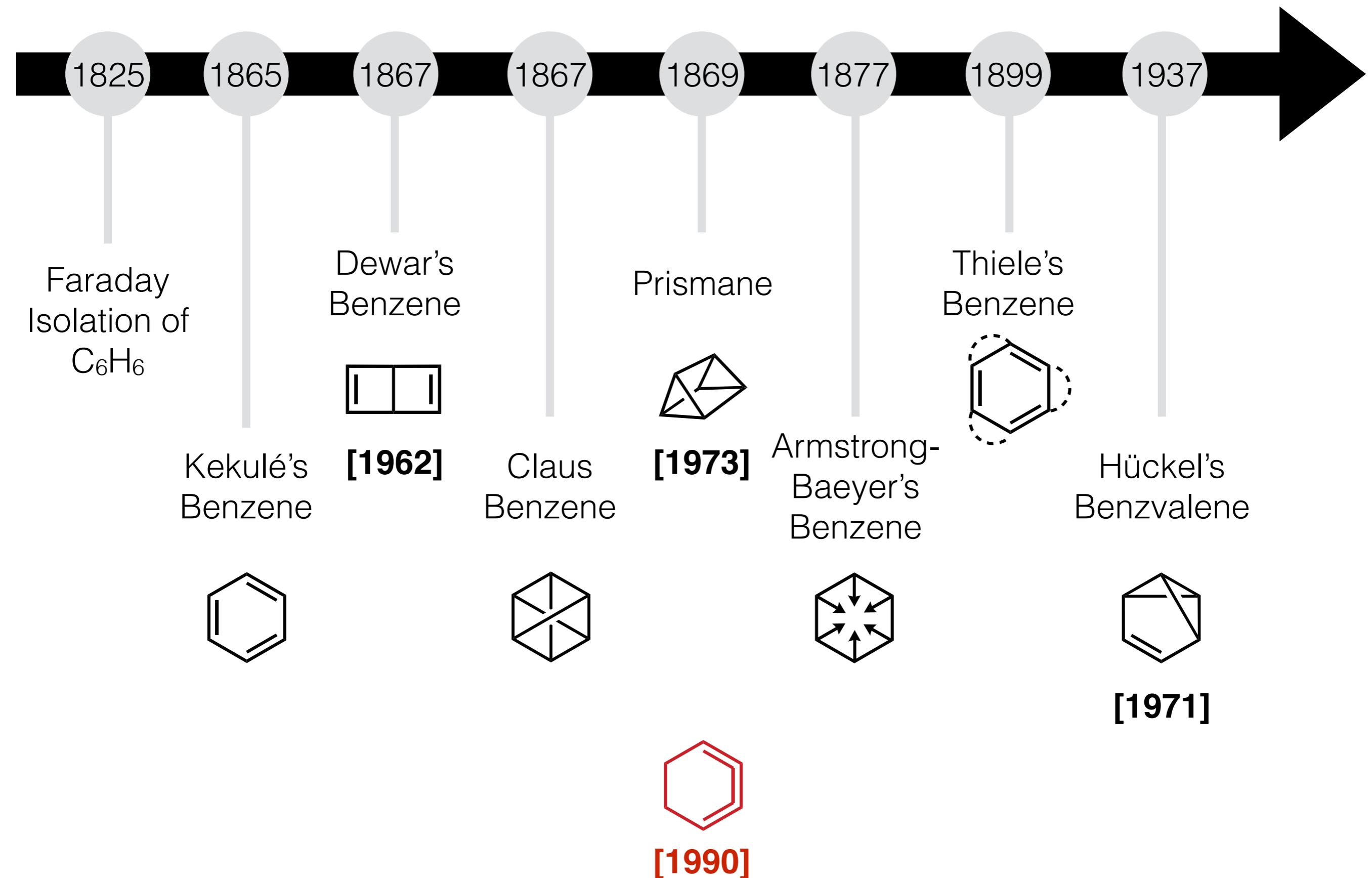


*Science* **2023**, 379, 261–265

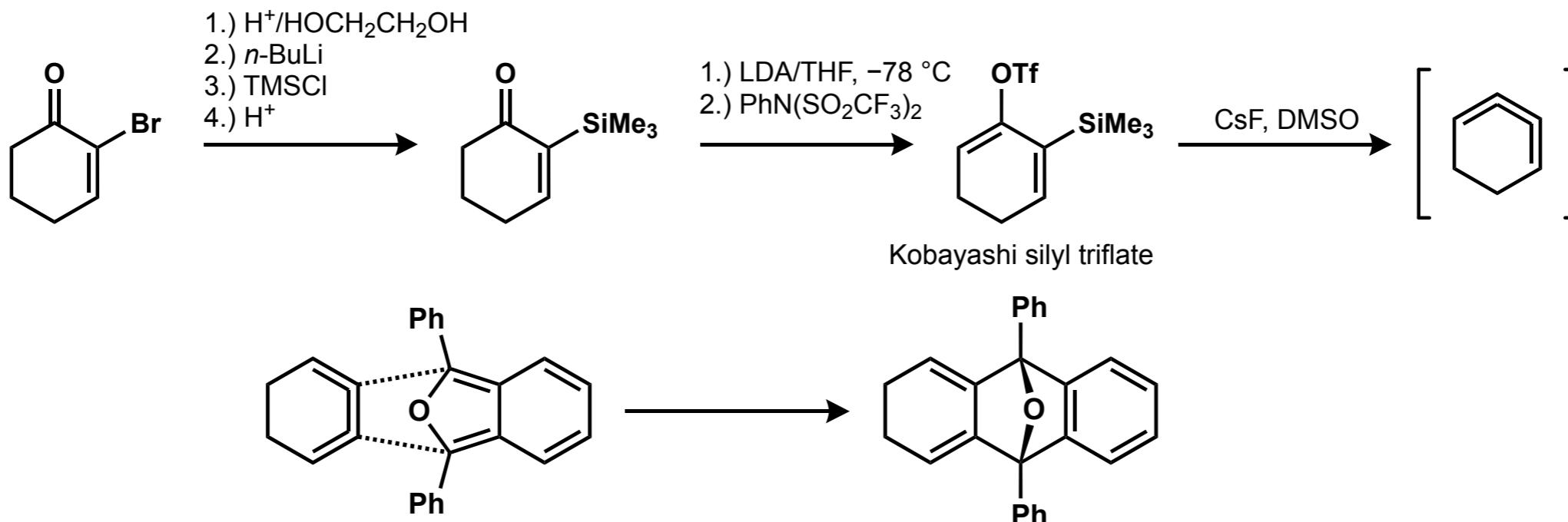
[This work]



# The Story of C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>



# 1,2,3-Cyclohexatriene Seminal Methods



The most distinct advantage of this generation method is not because it CAN generate aryne but the way how it maintains a low-level concentration of aryne species under arynophile-friendly conditions. The combination of CsF and acetonitrile solvent, sometimes with toluene as cosolvent, is a magic recipe in Kobayashi's protocol. An explanation for this is that CsF has low solubility in acetonitrile, which in turn would only activate a small portion of *o*-silylaryl triflate at any reaction stage.<sup>69</sup> In addition, DFT calculations on the fluoride-induced benzyne generation process of *o*-silylphenyl triflate revealed that the removal of the TMS group by fluoride is through a pseudo-S<sub>N</sub>2 mechanism with the formation of a pentacoordinated silicon ate complex as the rate-determining step.<sup>70</sup> Therefore, this system could provide a constant supply of a suitably low concentration of aryne intermediate. As a consequence of Kobayashi's method, the reaction efficiency can be generally enhanced with high functional group tolerance, which could also accommodate different aryne reaction modes.

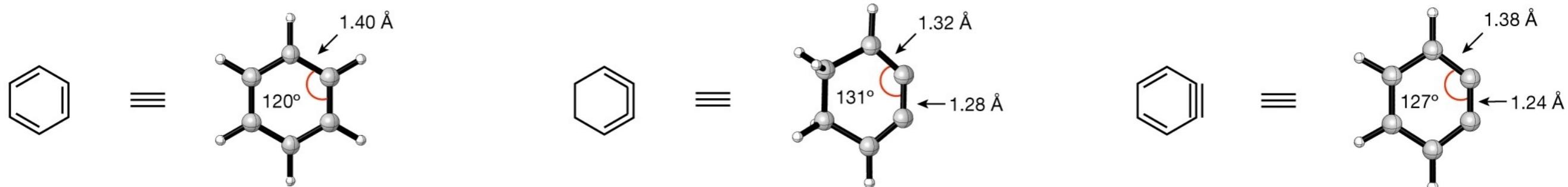
# Computational Studies

LOT B3LYP-D3/6-311+G(d,p)



(1825)      (1963)      (1966)      (1973)      (1990)

$$\Delta G_{\text{rel}} = 0 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1} \quad 83 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1} \quad 81 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1} \quad 123 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1} \quad 101 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$$



HOMO

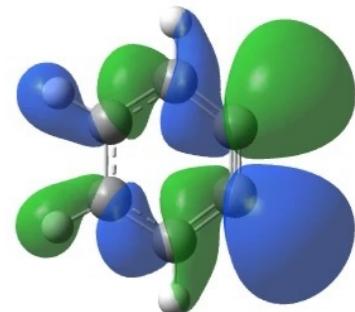
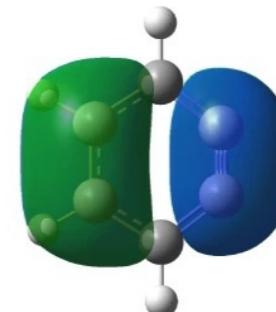
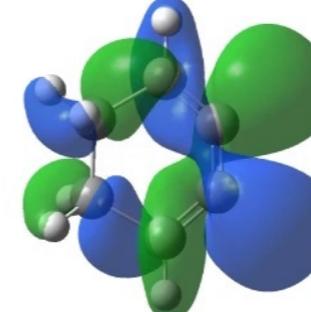
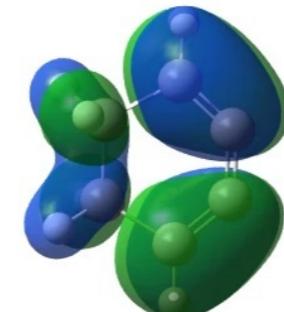
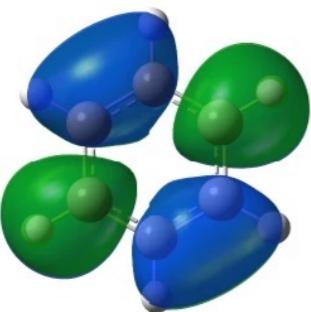
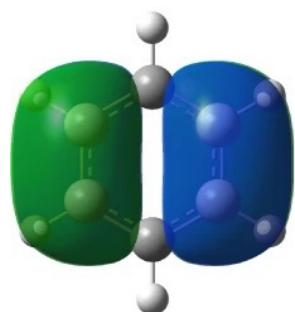
LUMO

HOMO

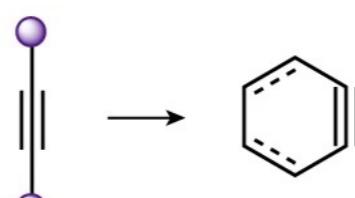
LUMO

HOMO

LUMO

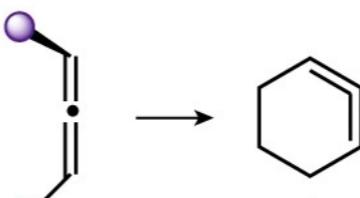


Arynes and cyclic alkynes



40–50 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>

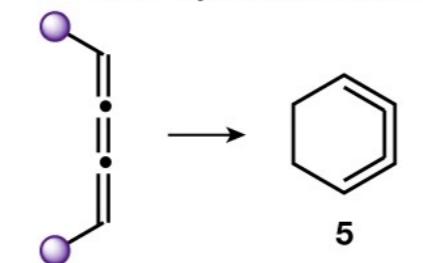
Cyclic allenes



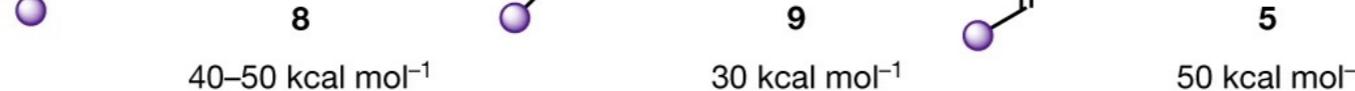
30 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>

Underexplored  
strained intermediates

1,2,3-Cyclohexatrienes

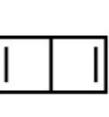


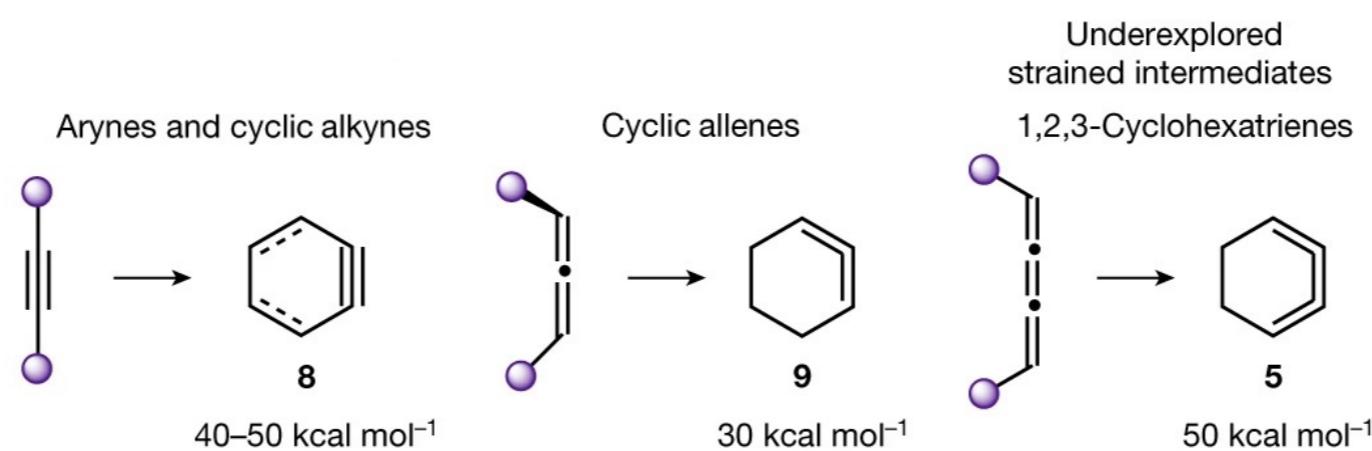
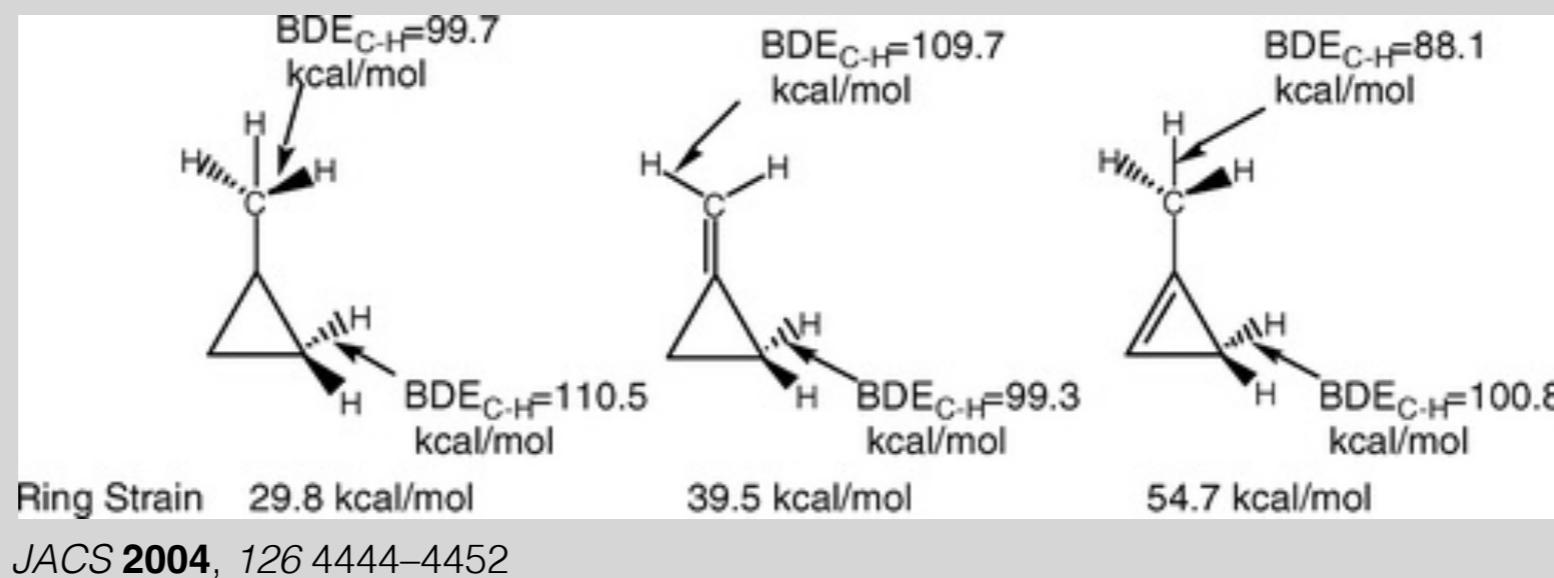
50 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>



# Computational Studies

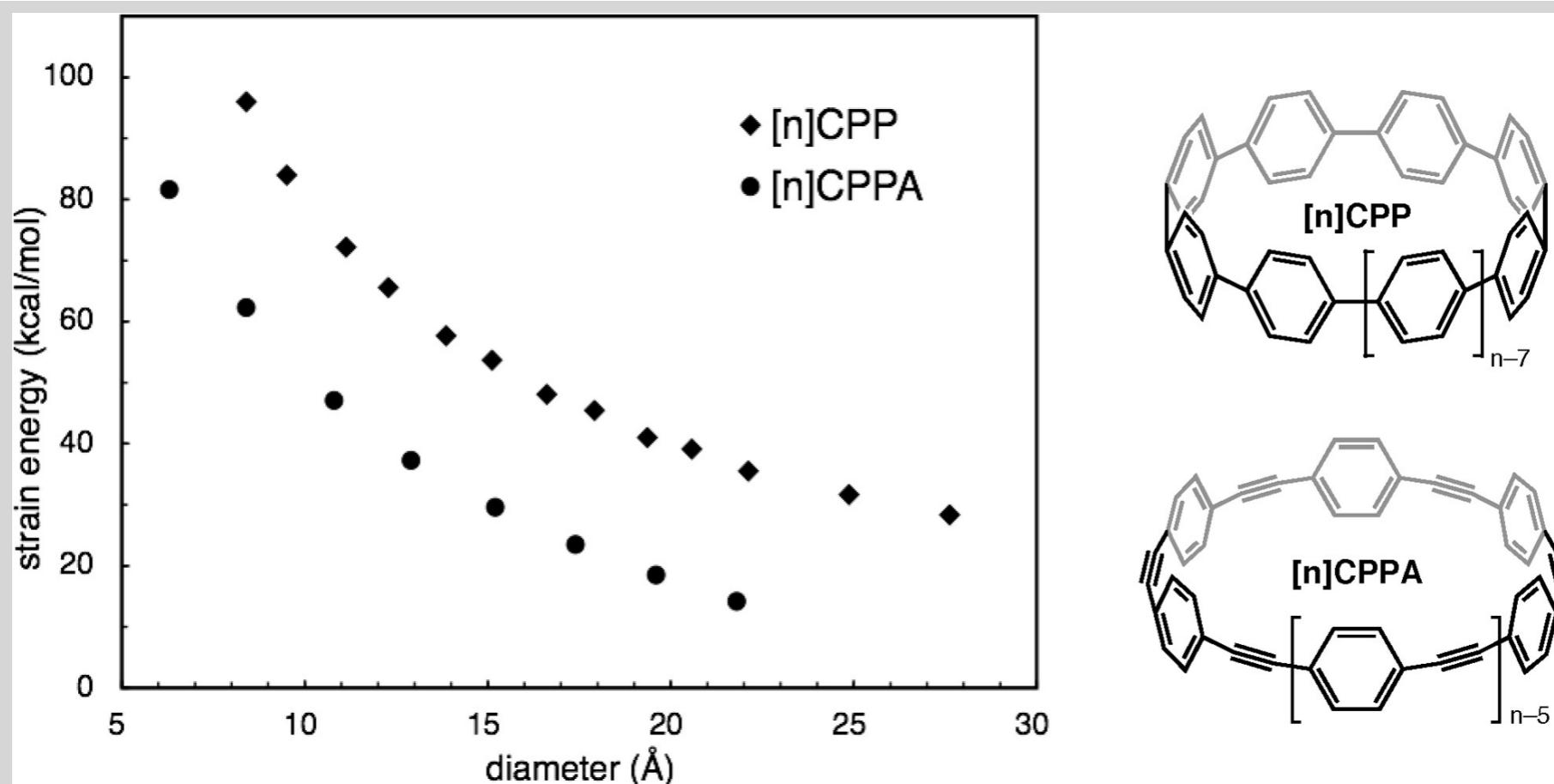
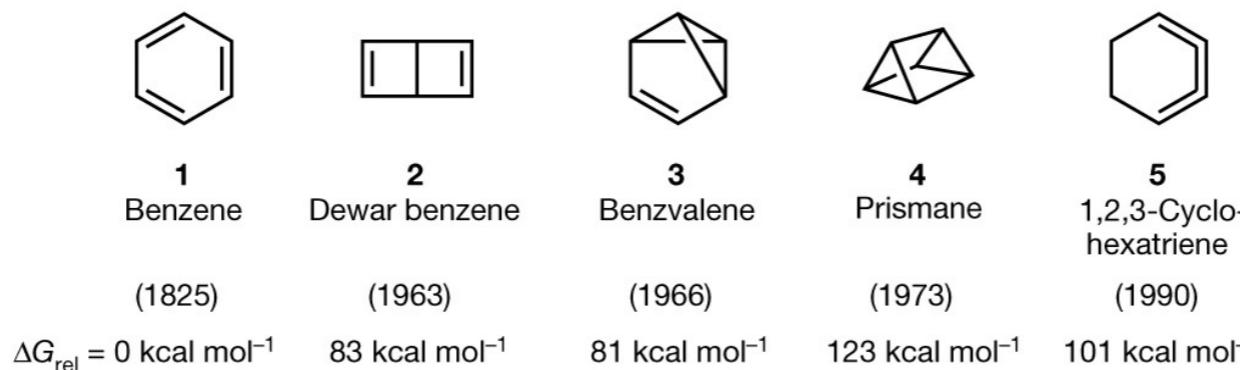
LOT B3LYP-D3/6-311+G(d,p)

				
<b>1</b> Benzene	<b>2</b> Dewar benzene	<b>3</b> Benzvalene	<b>4</b> Prismane	<b>5</b> 1,2,3-Cyclohexatriene
(1825)	(1963)	(1966)	(1973)	(1990)
$\Delta G_{\text{rel}} = 0 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$	83 kcal mol <sup>-1</sup>	81 kcal mol <sup>-1</sup>	123 kcal mol <sup>-1</sup>	101 kcal mol <sup>-1</sup>

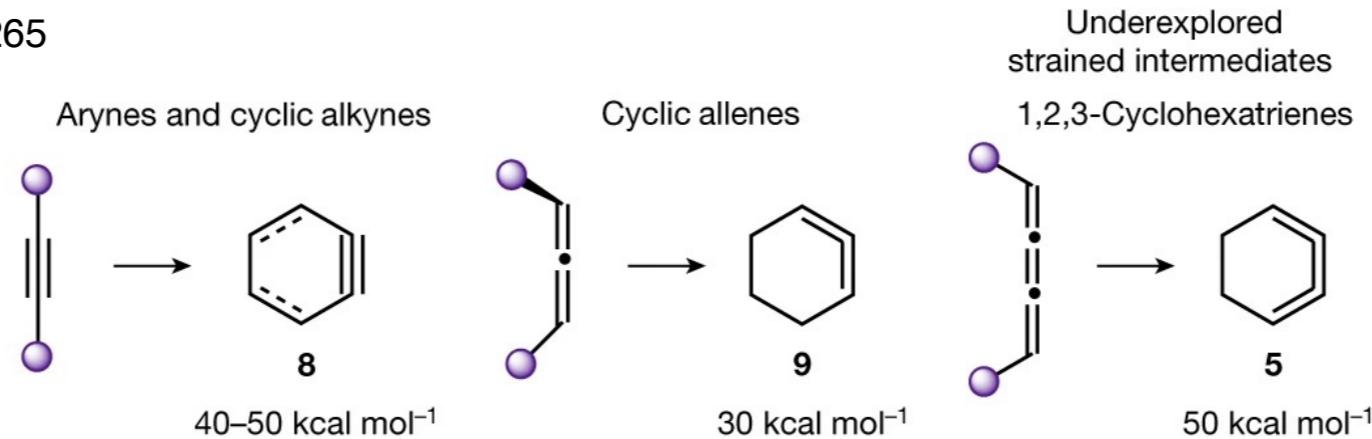


# Computational Studies

LOT B3LYP-D3/6-311+G(d,p)



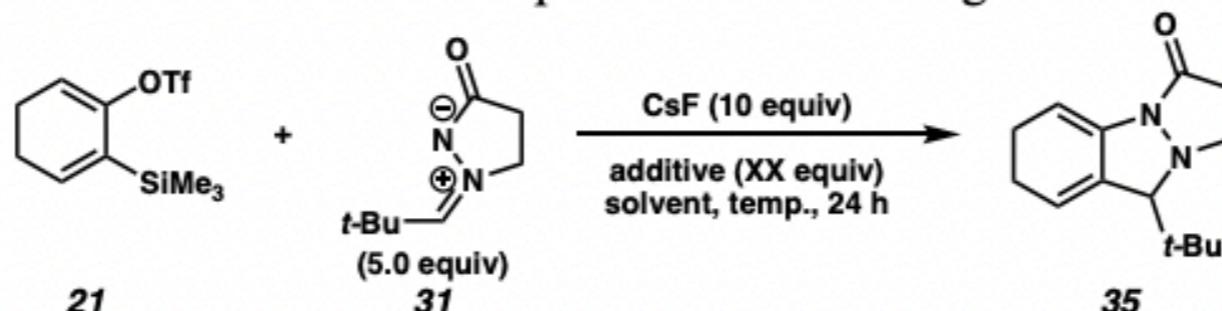
Itami, K. et al. OL 2010, 12, 2262–2265



# 1,2,3-Cyclohexatriene

Supplementary Information– S5

**Table S1.** Selected Optimization Screening Results



Entry	Conditions	$^1\text{H}$ NMR Yield <sup>a</sup>	Yield BRSM
1	DMSO, 23 °C	26%	26%
2	MeCN, 23 °C	2%	100%
3	Bu <sub>4</sub> NI (1.0 equiv), MeCN, 60 °C	24%	32%

## Solvent Screen

4	Bu <sub>4</sub> NI (1.0 equiv), DMSO, 60 °C	24%	24%
5	Bu <sub>4</sub> NI (1.0 equiv), DMF, 60 °C	28%	28%
6	Bu <sub>4</sub> NI (1.0 equiv), PhCN, 60 °C	19%	23%
7	Bu <sub>4</sub> NI (1.0 equiv), Dioxane, 60 °C	14%	61%
8	Bu <sub>4</sub> NI (1.0 equiv), DME, 60 °C	13%	25%
9	Bu <sub>4</sub> NI (1.0 equiv), PhH, 60 °C	12%	40%
10	Bu <sub>4</sub> NI (1.0 equiv), DCE, 60 °C	0%	N/A
11	Bu <sub>4</sub> NI (1.0 equiv), THF, 60 °C	38%	42%

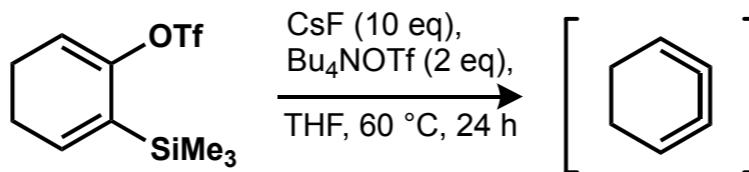
## Fluoride Source Screen

12	–CsF, +TBAF (5.0 equiv), THF, 23 °C	9%	17%
13	–CsF, +TASF (5.0 equiv), THF, 23 °C	16%	16%
14	CsF (5 equiv), Bu <sub>4</sub> NOTf (2.0 equiv), THF, 23 °C	44%	46%

## Additive Loading Screen

15	Bu <sub>4</sub> NOTf (1.0 equiv), THF, 60 °C	42%	76%
16	Bu <sub>4</sub> NOTf (2.0 equiv), THF, 60 °C	54%	54%
17 <sup>b</sup>	Bu <sub>4</sub> NOTf (2.0 equiv), THF, 60 °C	36% <sup>c</sup>	40%

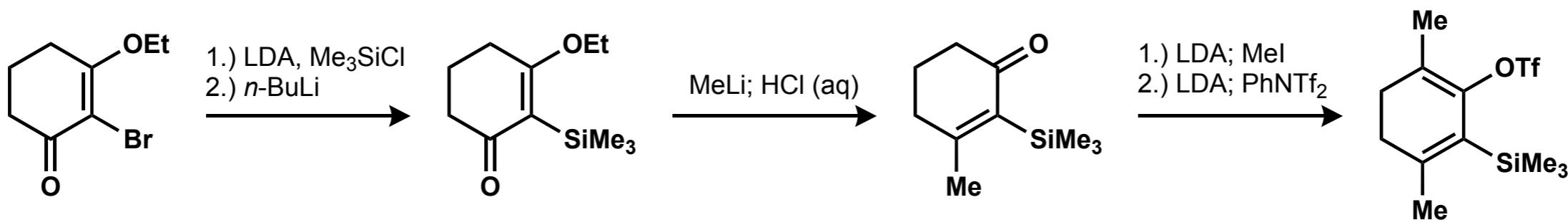
# Trapping Agent Scope (1/2)



Entry	Trapping agent	Product	Yield	Entry	Trapping agent	Product	Yield
1			65%	5			59%
2			62%	6			51%
3			72%	7			44%
4			61%	8*			51%

# Trapping Agent Scope (2/3)

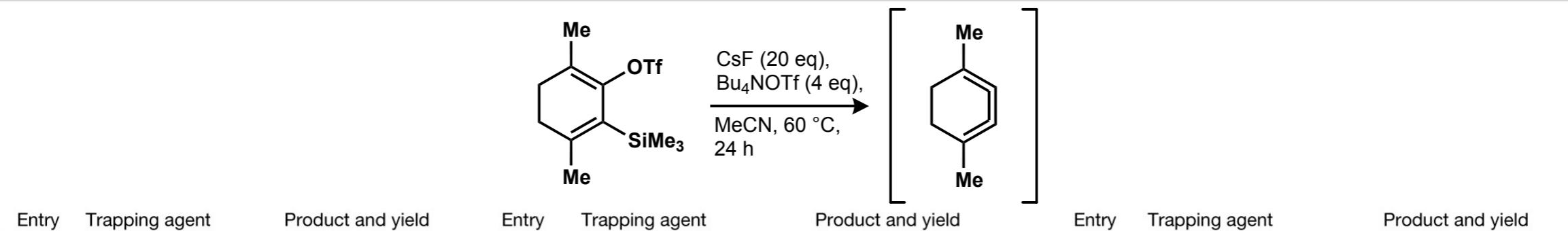
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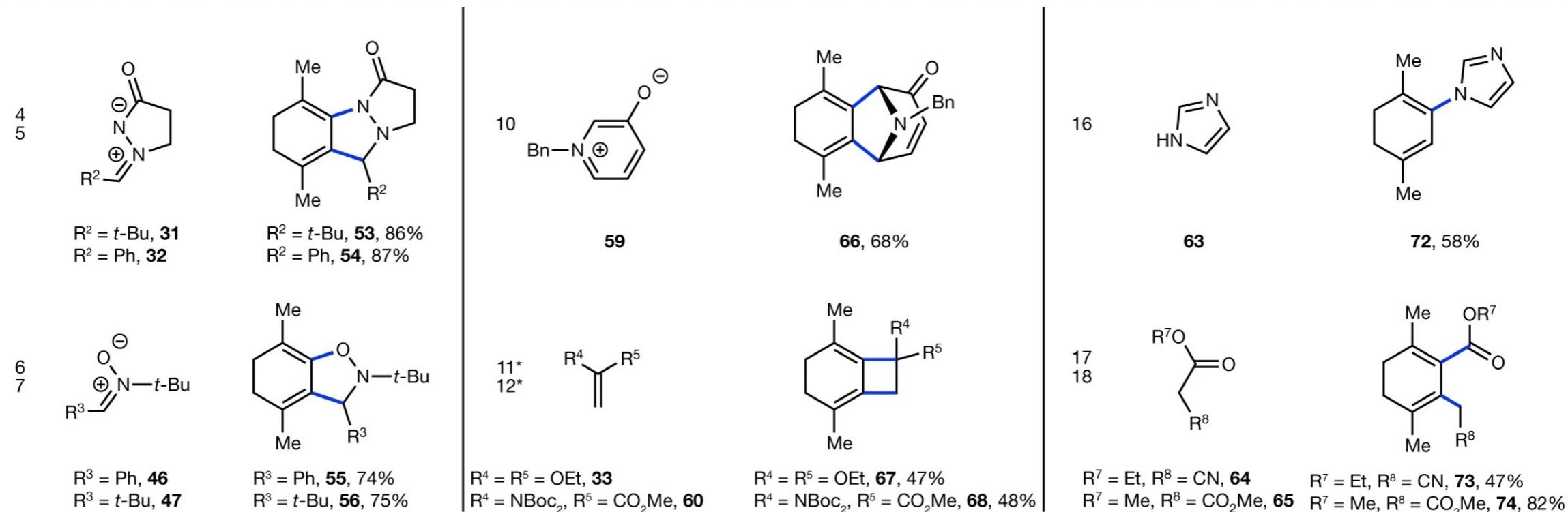
# Trapping Agent Scope (3/3)

Entry	Trapping agent	Product and yield	Entry	Trapping agent	Product and yield	Entry	Trapping agent	Product and yield
1 2			8			13		
	X = O, R1 = Me, <b>24</b> X = NBoc, R1 = H, <b>26</b>	X = O, R1 = Me, <b>50</b> , 80% X = NBoc, R1 = H, <b>51</b> , 82%						
3			9			14 15		
		<b>45</b> , 40%						Nu = NaO, R6 = NO2, <b>34</b> Nu = SH, R6 = H, <b>62</b>
4 5			10			16		
	R2 = t-Bu, <b>31</b> R2 = Ph, <b>32</b>	R2 = t-Bu, <b>53</b> , 86% R2 = Ph, <b>54</b> , 87%						X = O, R6 = NO2, <b>70</b> , 83% X = S, R6 = H, <b>71</b> , 81%
6 7			11* 12*			17 18		
	R3 = Ph, <b>46</b> R3 = t-Bu, <b>47</b>	R3 = Ph, <b>55</b> , 74% R3 = t-Bu, <b>56</b> , 75%						R7 = Et, R8 = CN, <b>64</b> R7 = Me, R8 = CO2Me, <b>65</b>
								R7 = Et, R8 = CN, <b>73</b> , 47% R7 = Me, R8 = CO2Me, <b>74</b> , 82%

# Trapping Agent Scope (3/3)

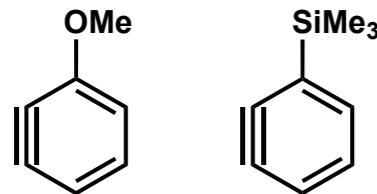


switching the solvent to acetonitrile and increasing the loading of  $\text{Bu}_4\text{N}^+\text{OTf}^-$  facilitated full conversion and good yields in trappings of **43**. More generally, we observed that trappings of disubstituted triene **43** proceeded in higher yields and with broader scope compared with trappings of the parent compound, 1,2,3-cyclohexatriene (**5**), despite **43** bearing an increased steric profile. The results indicate the engagement of disubstituted triene **43** in (a) (4 + 2)



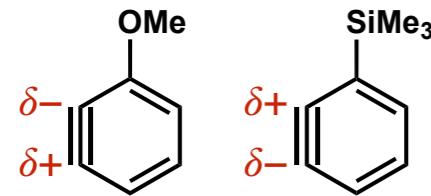
# Monosubstituted Triene Case Study

## Selectivity of Aryne Chemistry: an Analogy



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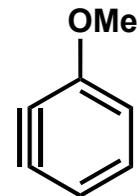
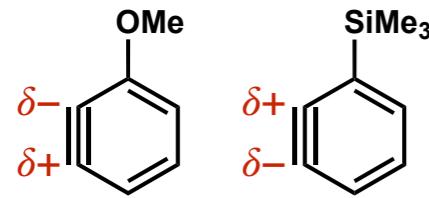


Methoxy aryne Stoltz, B. et al. *OL* **2010**, 12(6), 1224–1227

Distortion model Garg, N. et al. *JACS* **2012**, 134(34), 13966–13969; Garg, N.; Houk, K. N. et al. *JACS* **2010**, 132(4), 1267–1269

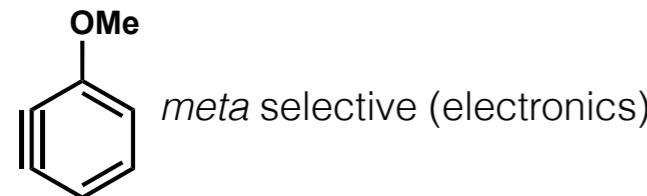
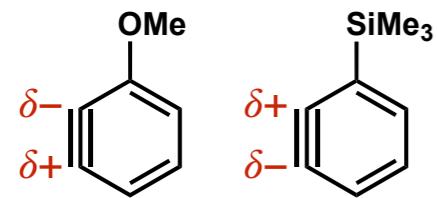
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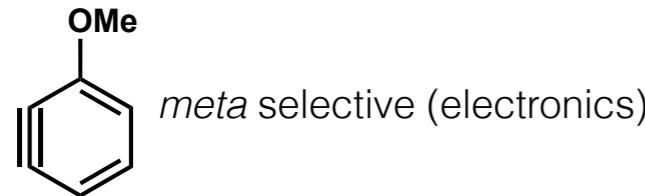
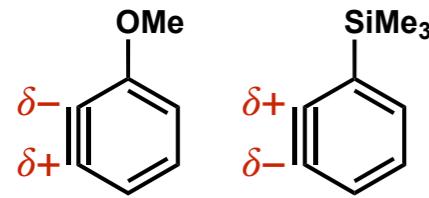
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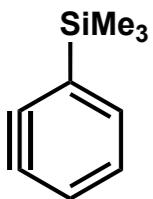


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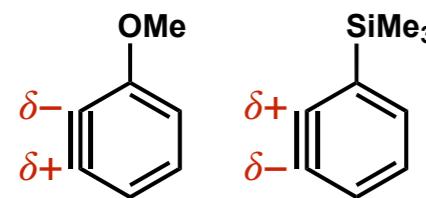


But how about?

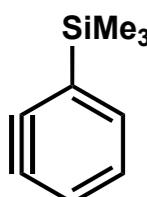


# Monosubstituted Triene Case Study

## Selectivity of Aryne Chemistry: an Analogy



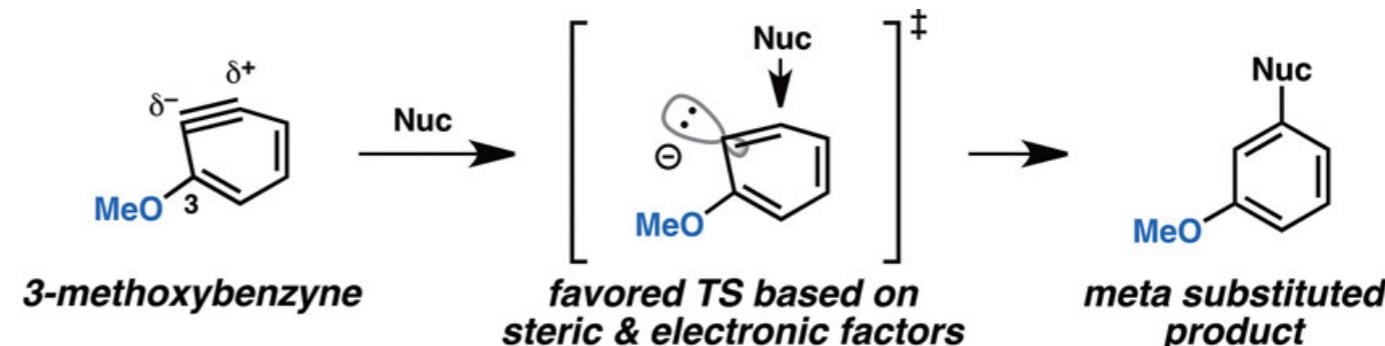
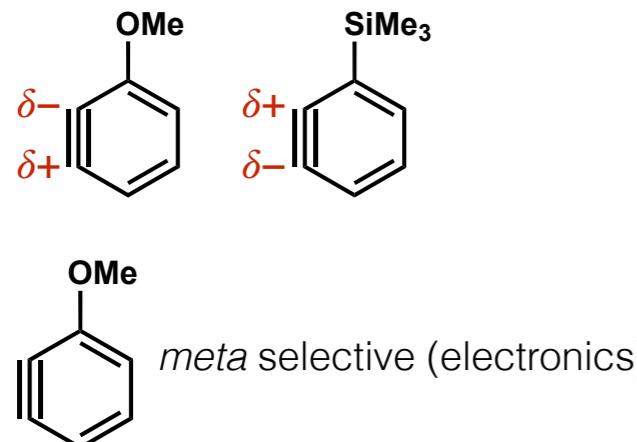
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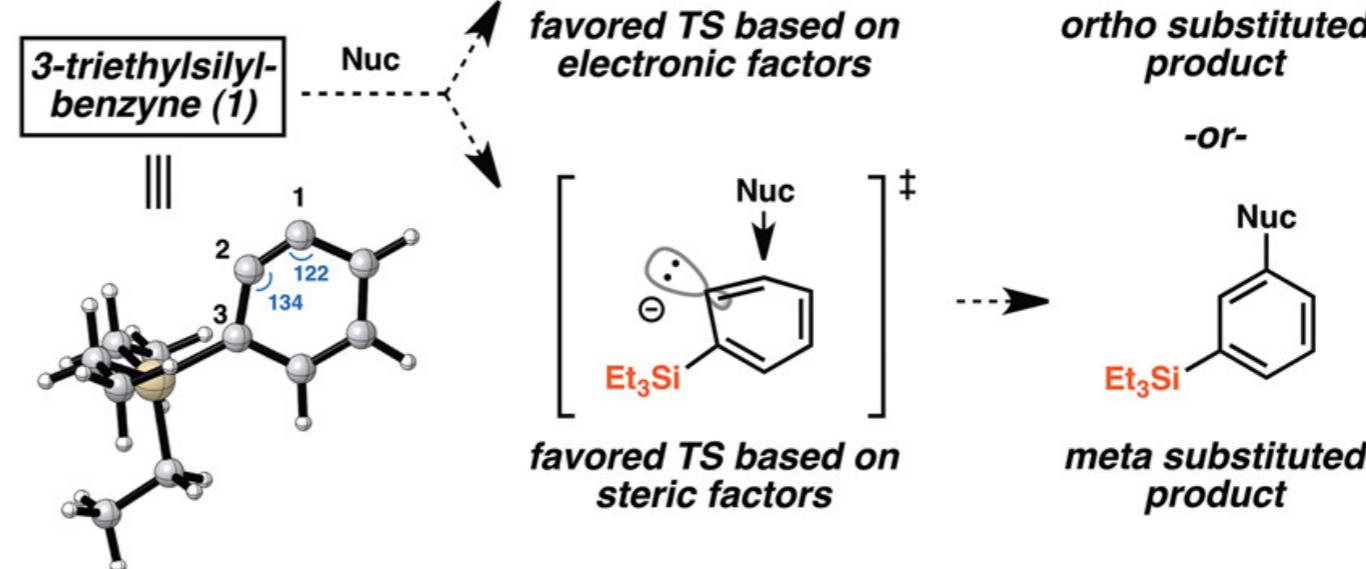
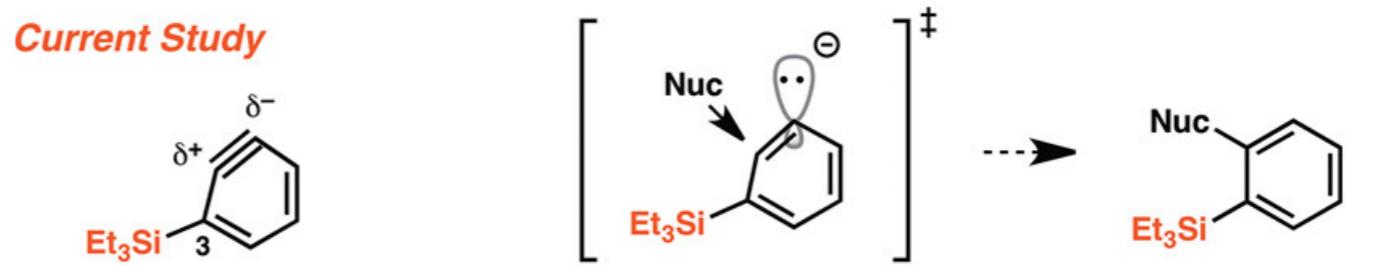
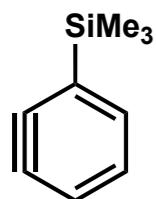
entry	trapping agent	product(s)	ratio (yield <sup>b</sup> )
1	H <sub>2</sub> N-Bn		1:2 (81% yield)
2	H <sub>2</sub> N-phenyl		2:1 (99% yield)
3	HS-phenyl-Me		4:1 (91% yield)
4	HS-CO2Me-phenyl		10:1 (77% yield)
5	H <sub>2</sub> N-cyclohex-2-en-1-one		(52% yield)
6	HO-C(=O)-phenyl-t-Bu		1:3 (53% yield)

# Monosubstituted Triene Case Study

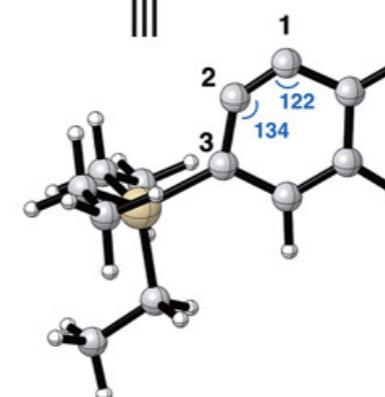
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But how about?



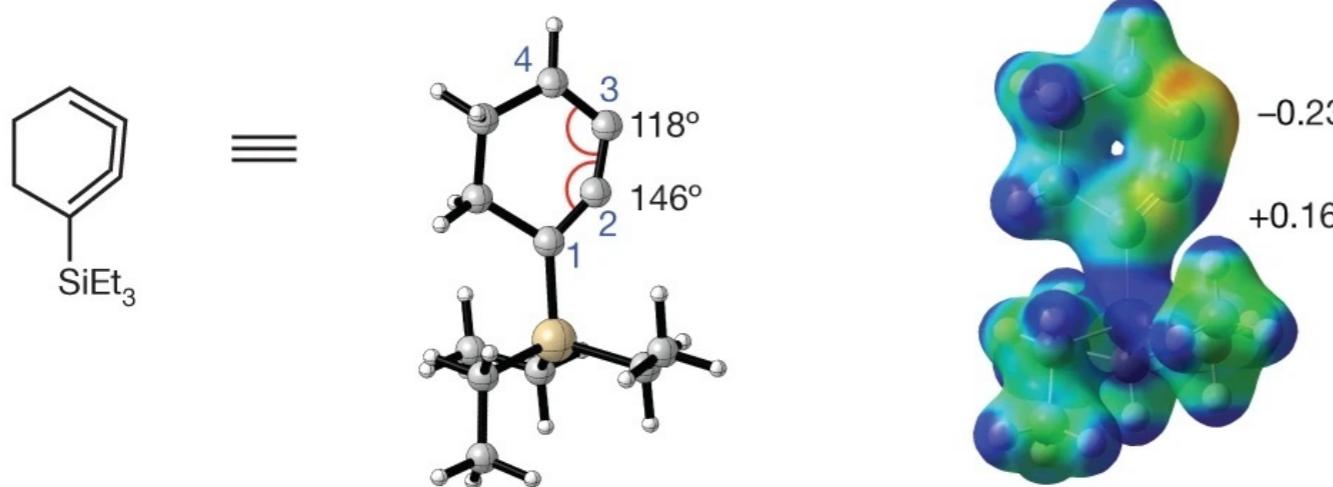
## The aryne distortion model



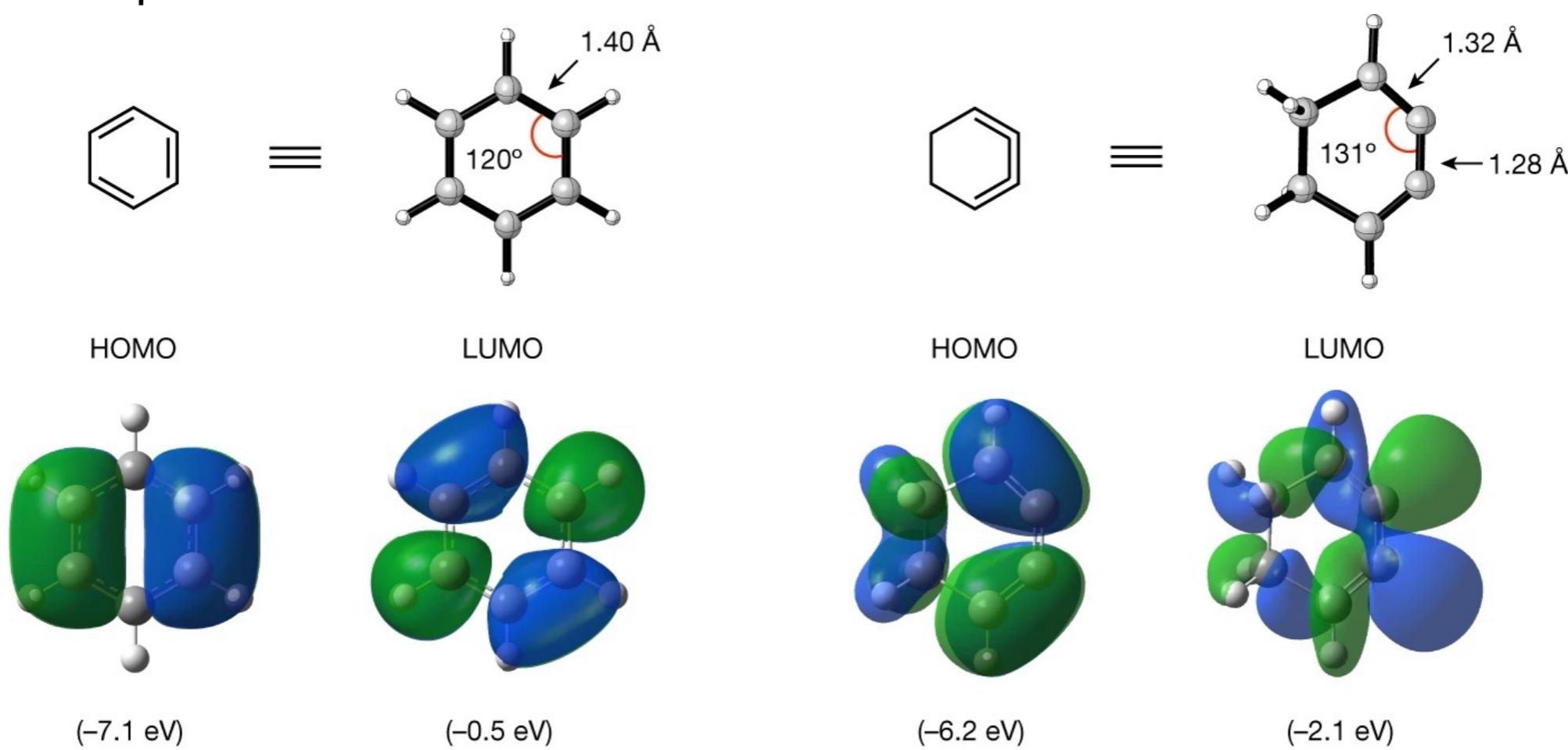
LOT B3LYP/6-311+G(d,p)

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LOT B3LYP-D3/6-311+G(d,p)

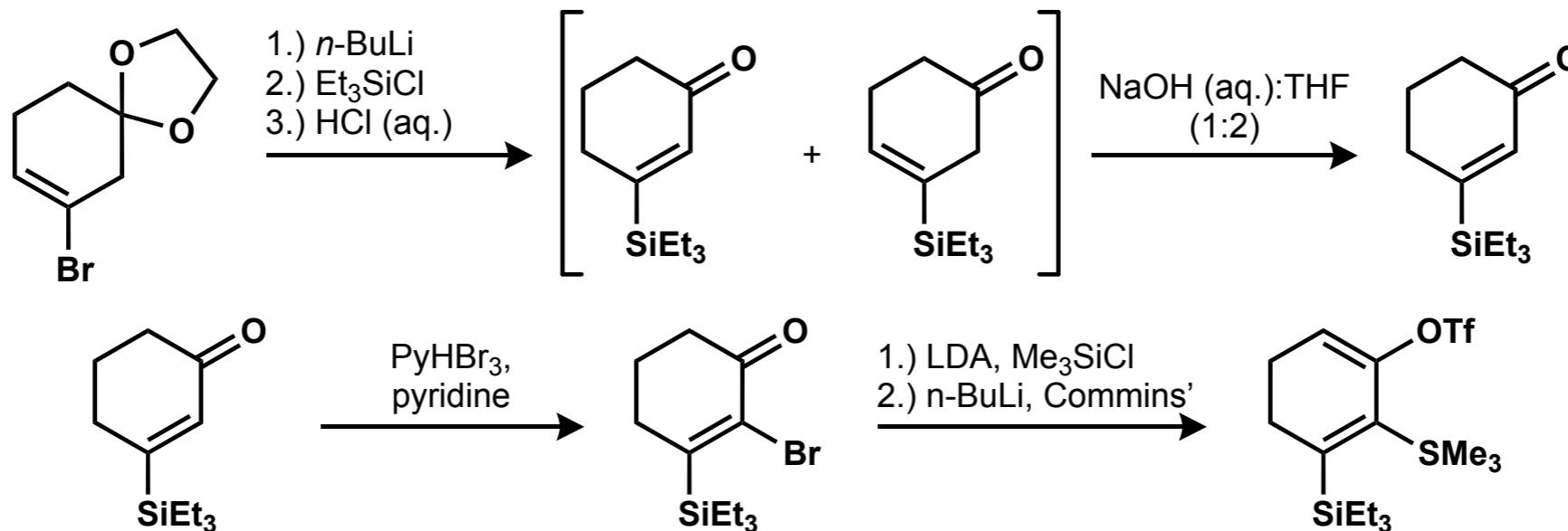
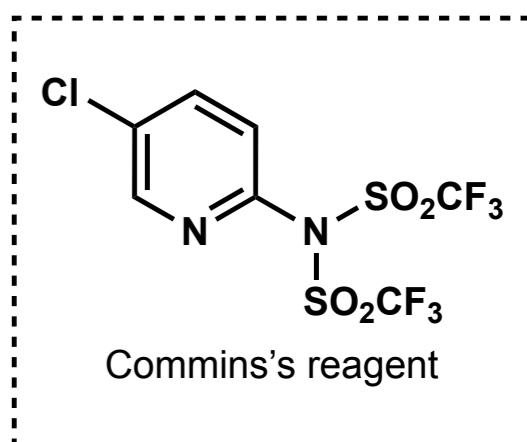
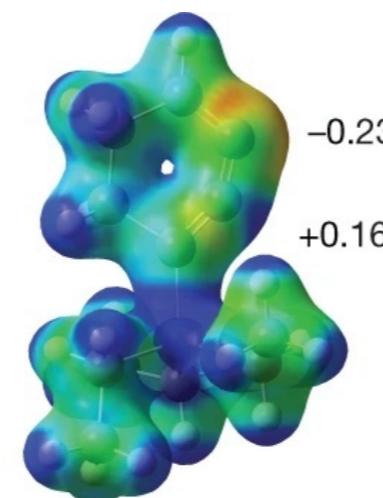
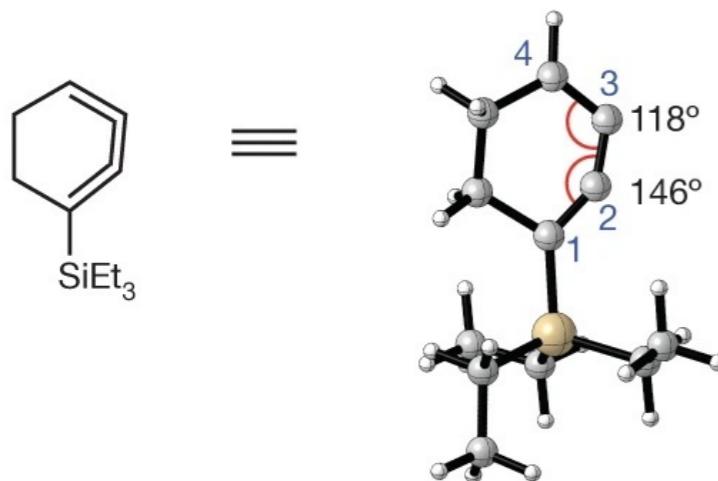


Comparison...



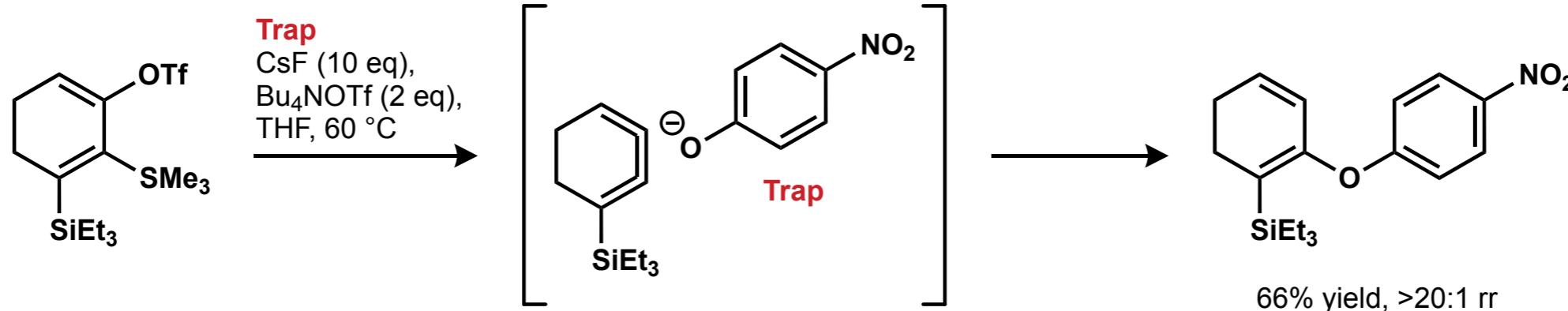
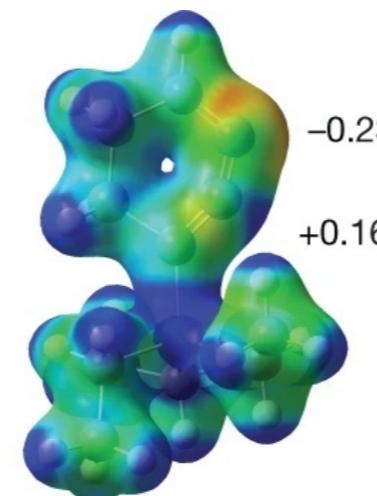
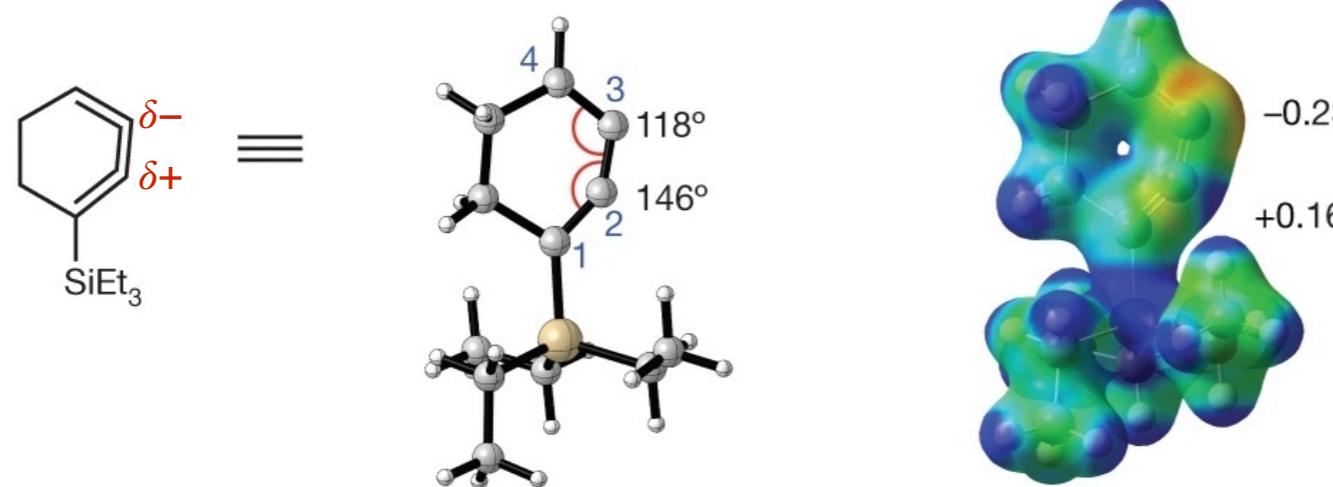
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LOT B3LYP-D3/6-311+G(d,p)



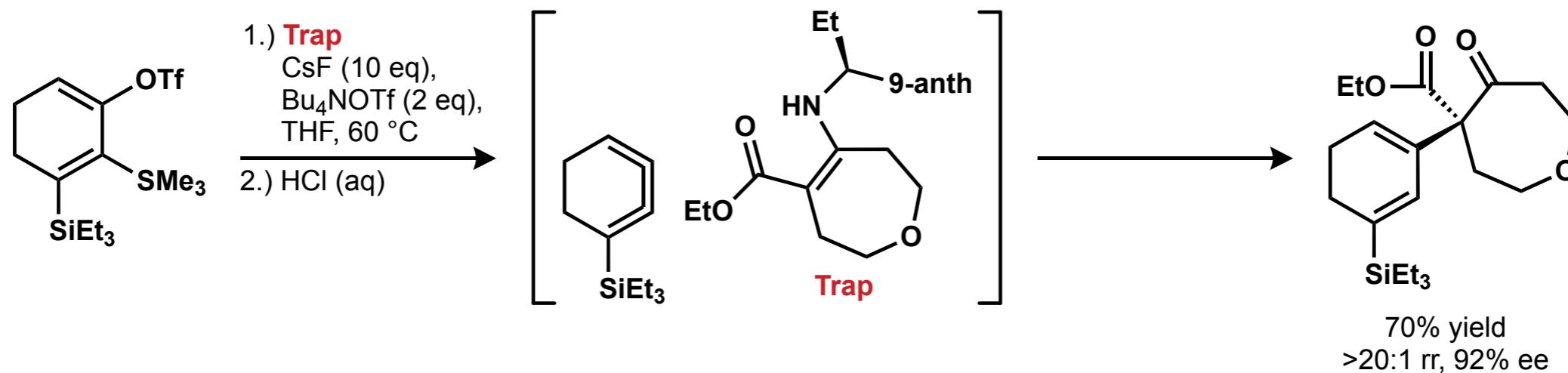
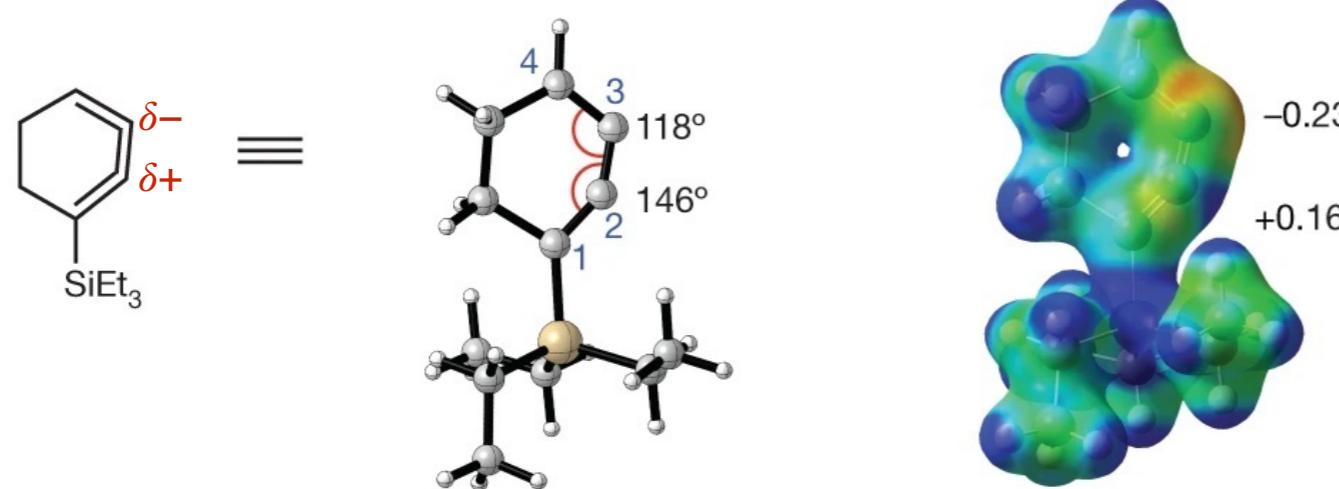
# Monosubstituted Triene Case Study and Application <sup>23</sup>

LOT B3LYP-D3/6-311+G(d,p)



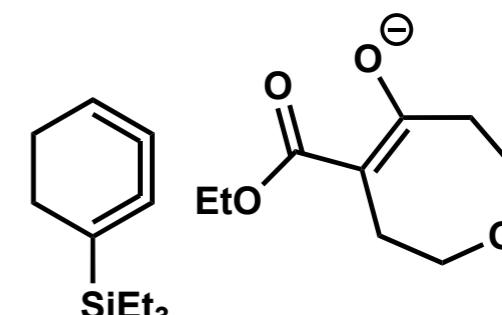
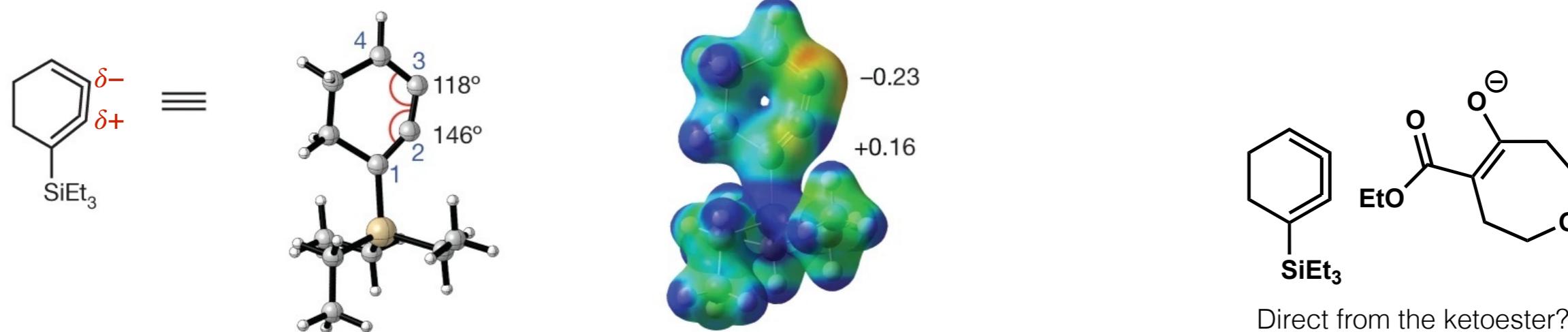
# Monosubstituted Triene Case Study and Application <sup>24</sup>

LOT B3LYP-D3/6-311+G(d,p)

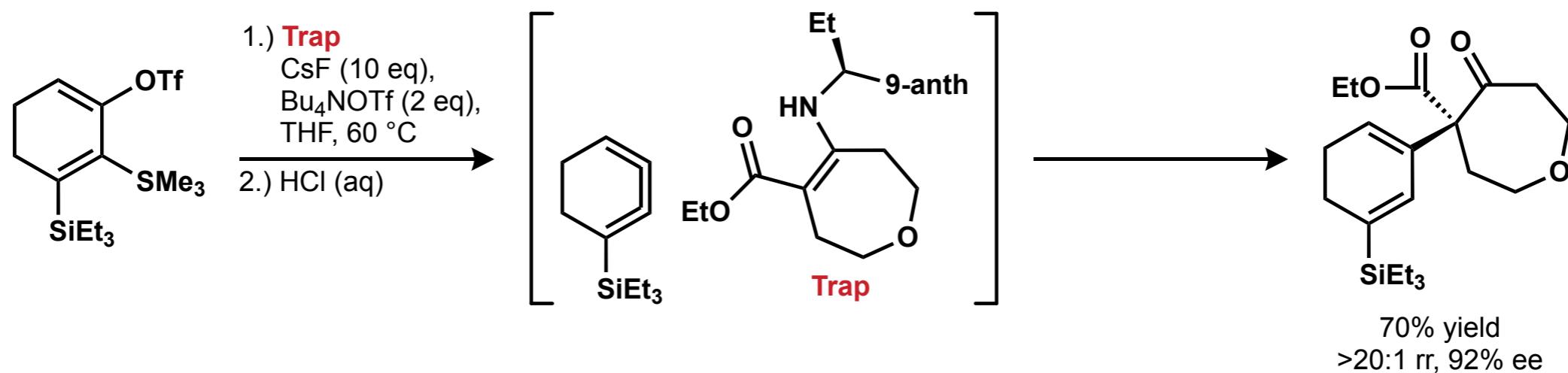


# Monosubstituted Triene Case Study and Application 25

LOT B3LYP-D3/6-311+G(d,p)

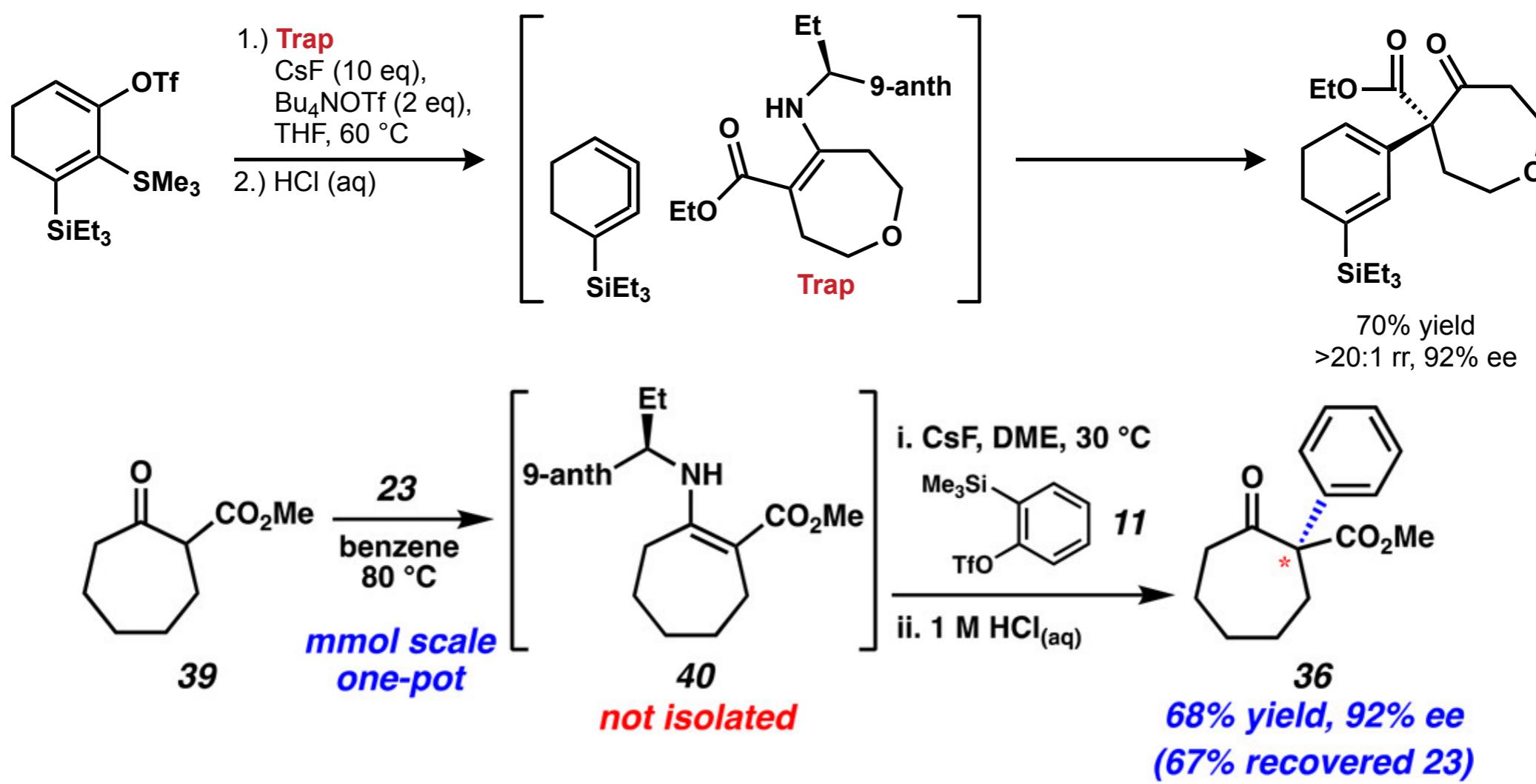
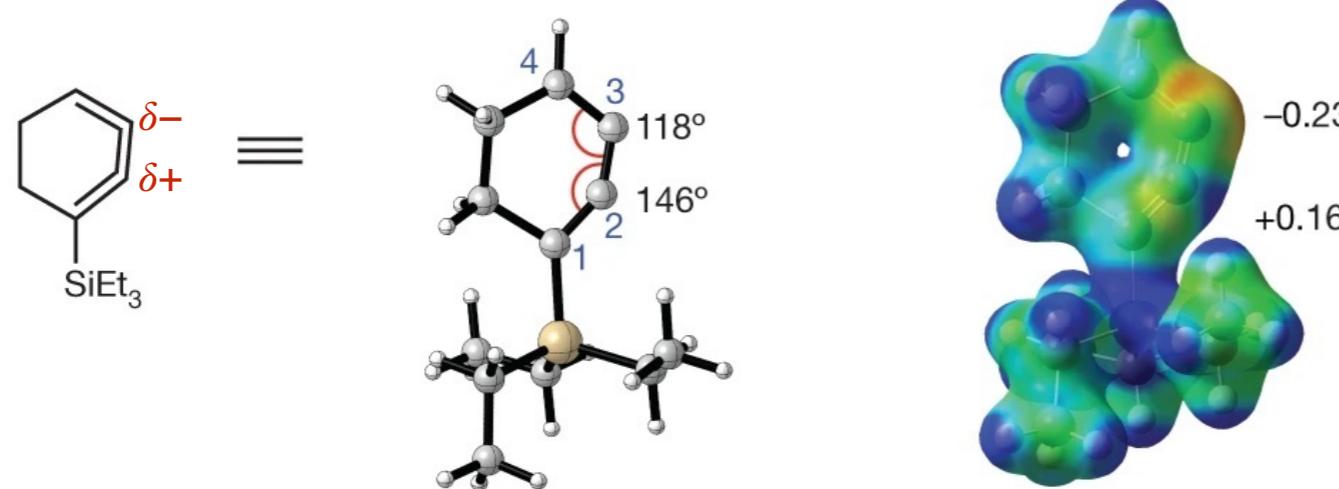


Direct from the ketoester?



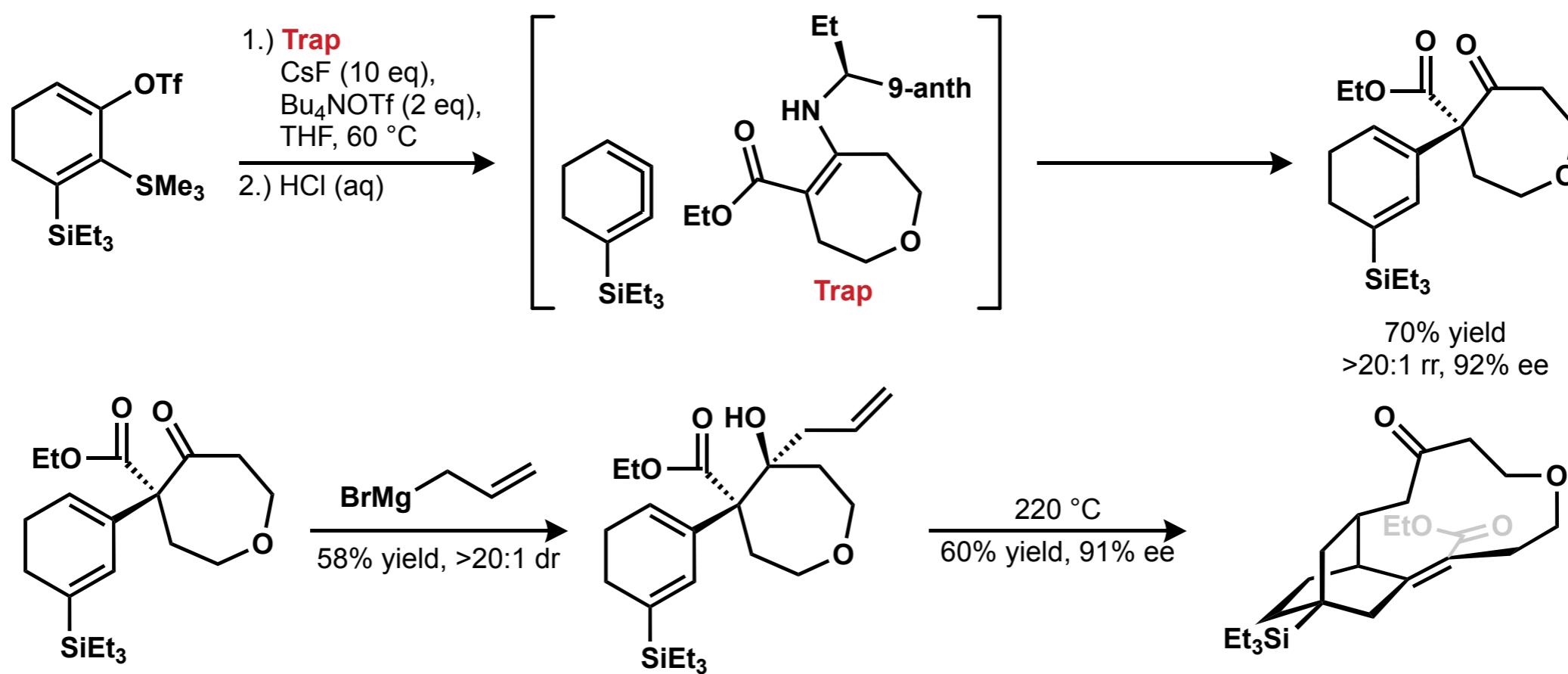
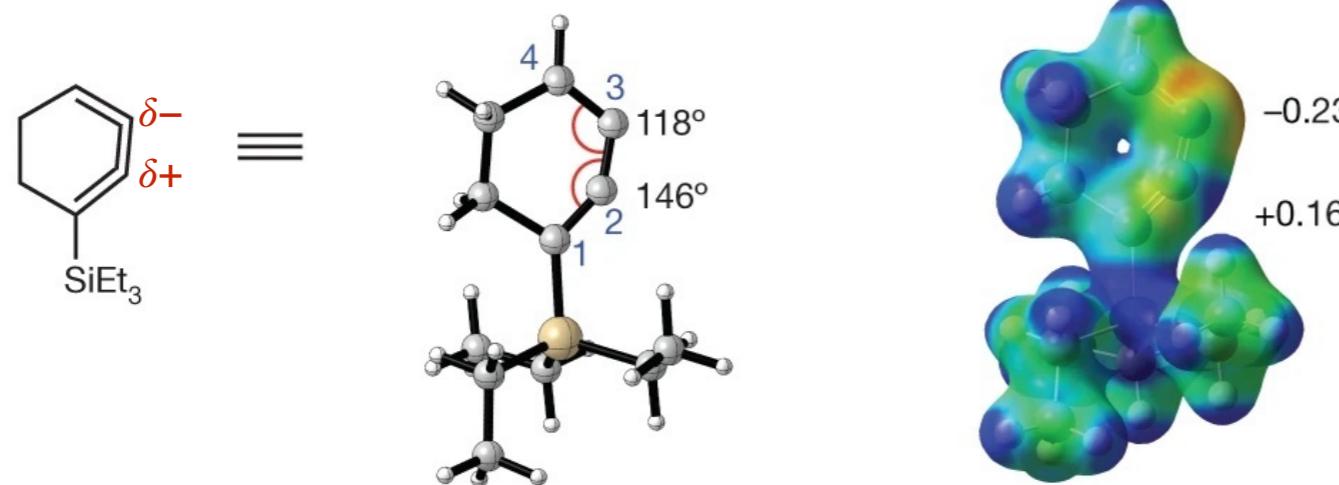
# Monosubstituted Triene Case Study and Application <sup>26</sup>

LOT B3LYP-D3/6-311+G(d,p)



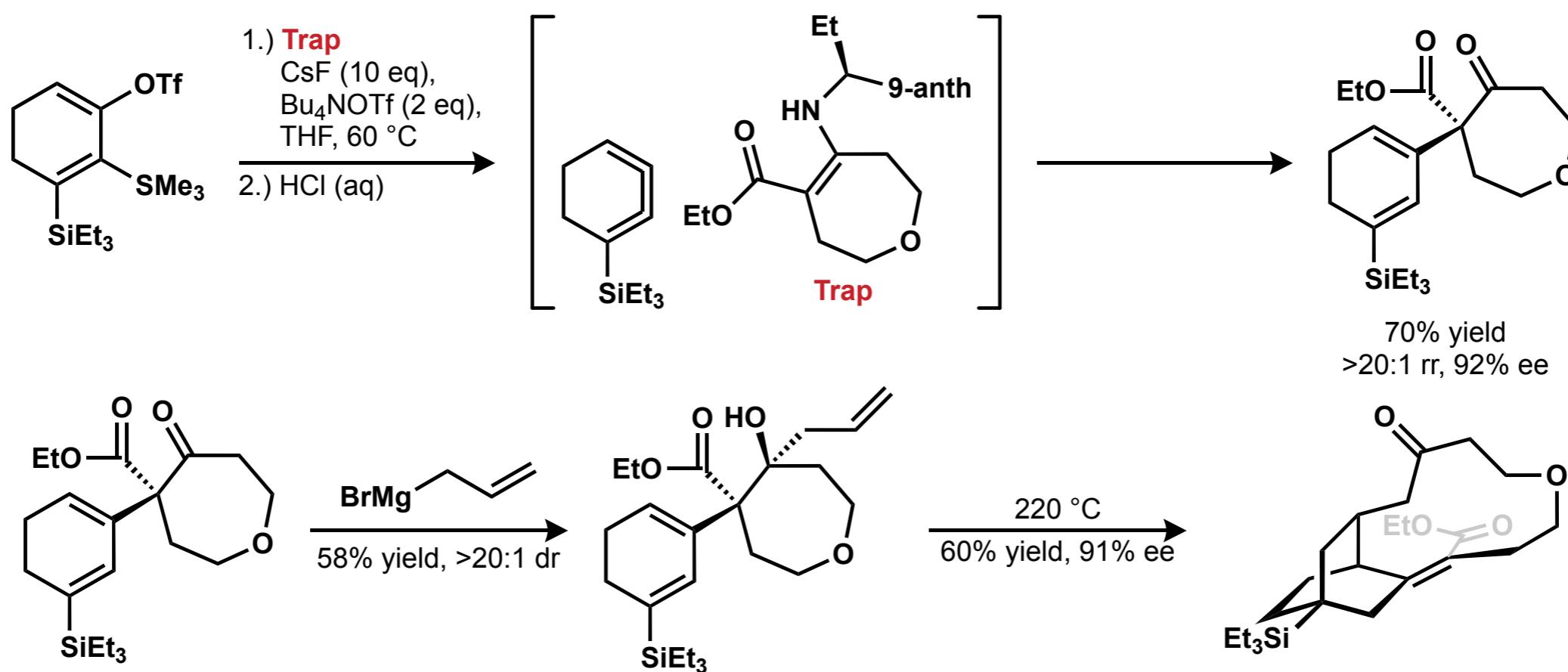
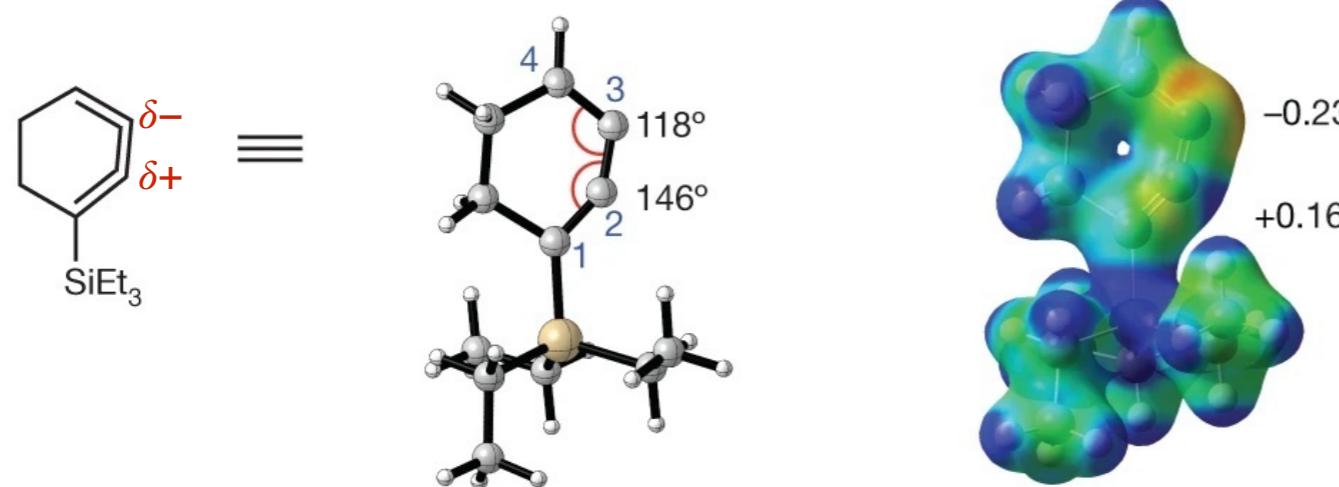
# Monosubstituted Triene Case Study and Application 27

LOT B3LYP-D3/6-311+G(d,p)



# Monosubstituted Triene Case Study and Application <sup>28</sup>

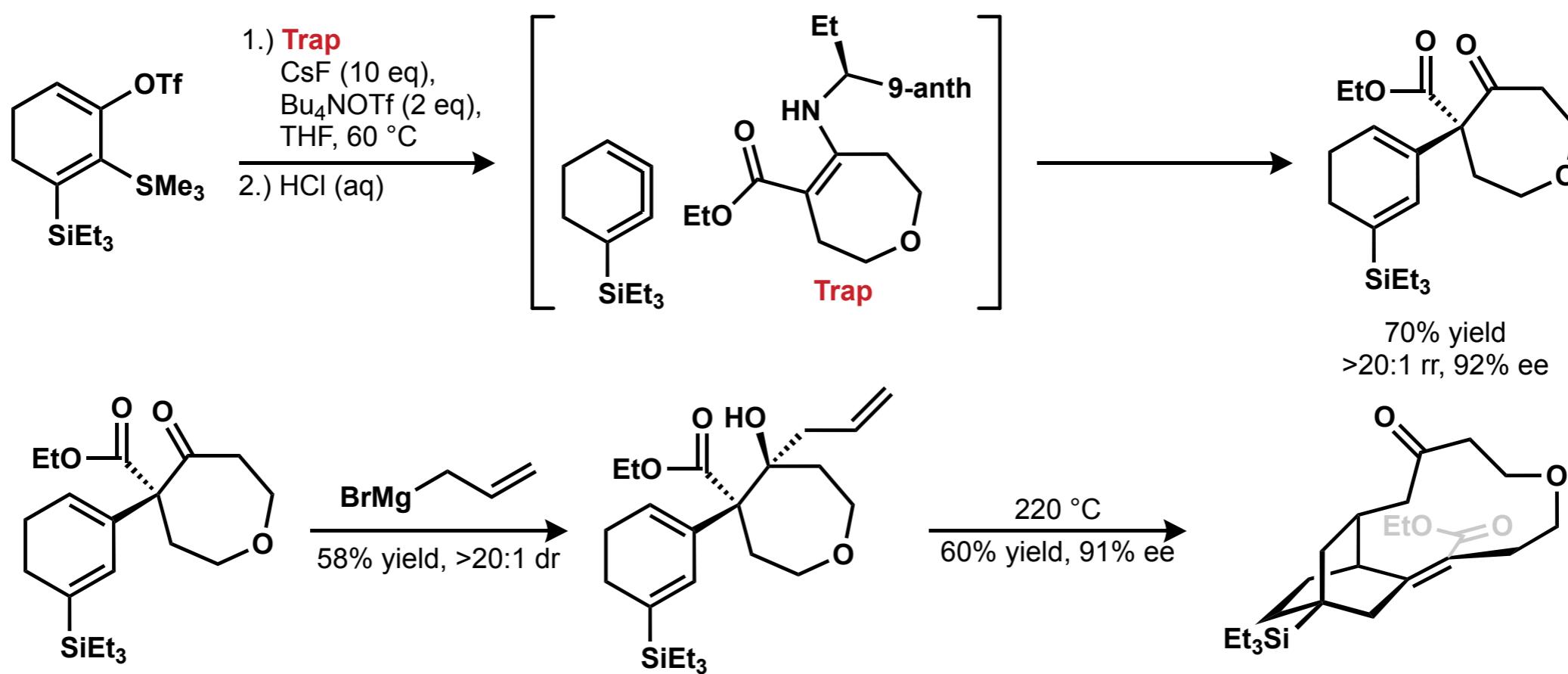
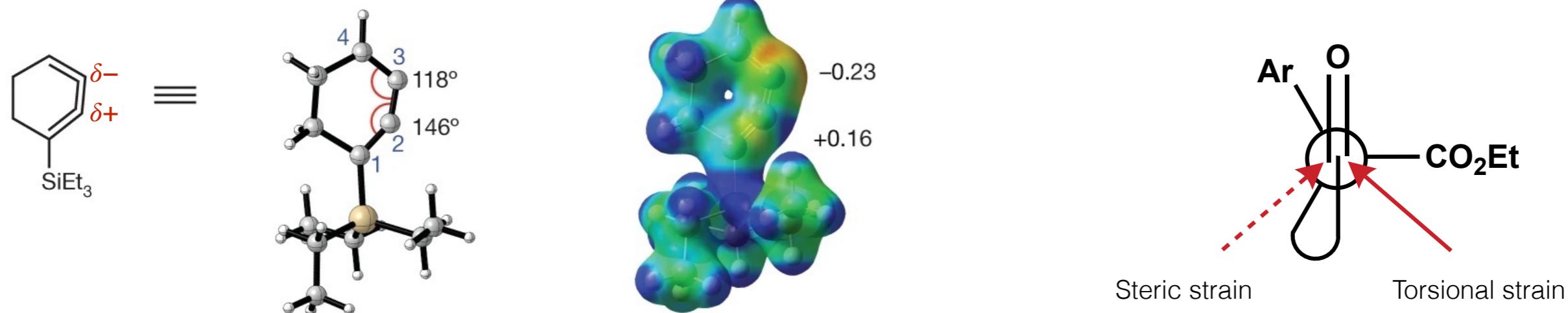
LOT B3LYP-D3/6-311+G(d,p)



Felkin-Anh??

# Monosubstituted Triene Case Study and Application <sup>29</sup>

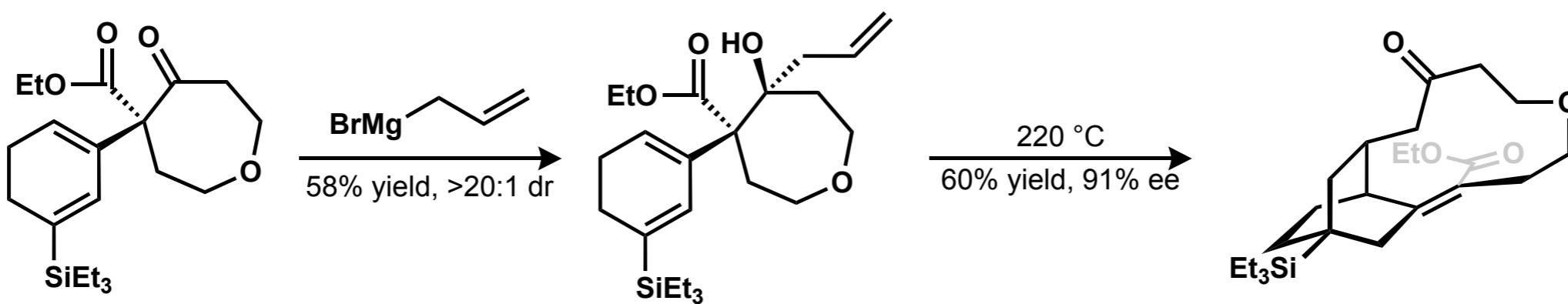
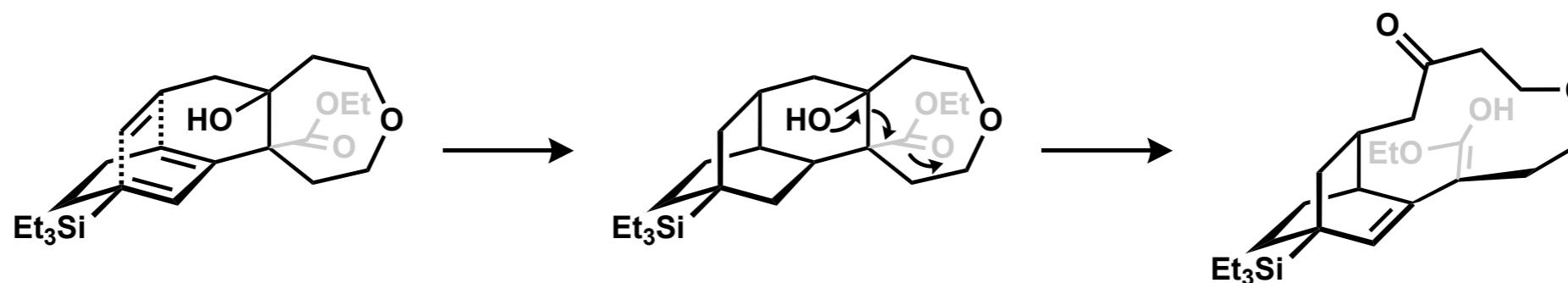
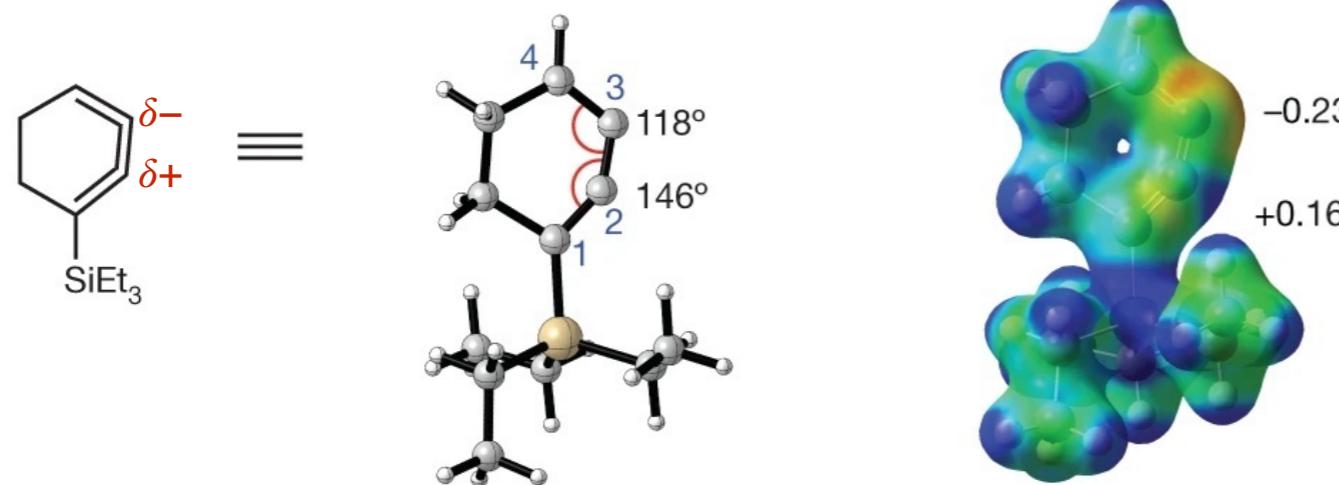
LOT B3LYP-D3/6-311+G(d,p)



Felkin-Anh??

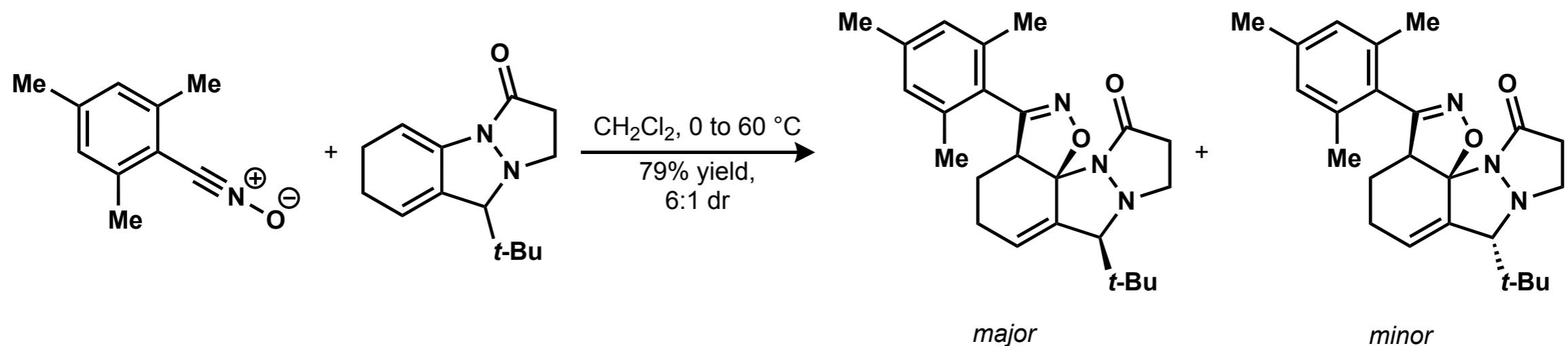
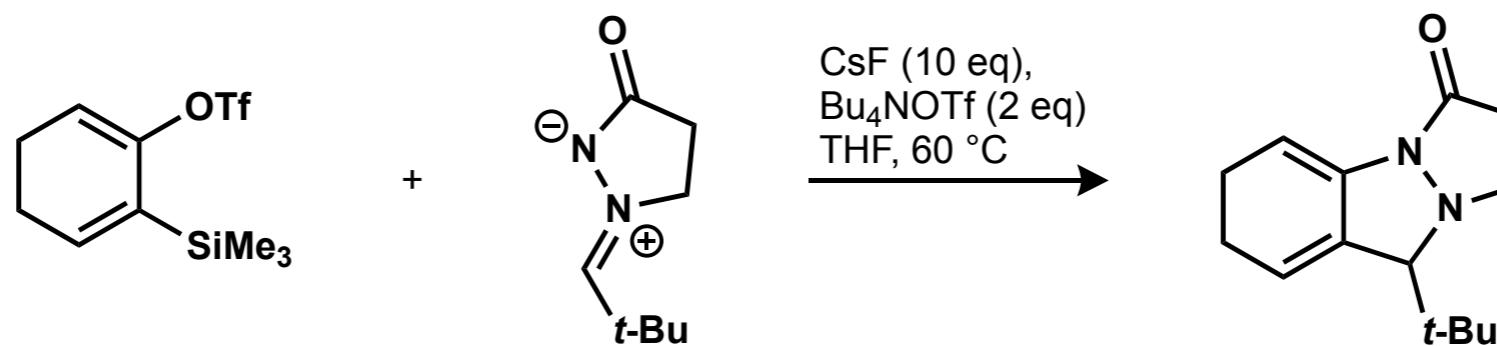
# Monosubstituted Triene Case Study and Application <sup>30</sup>

LOT B3LYP-D3/6-311+G(d,p)



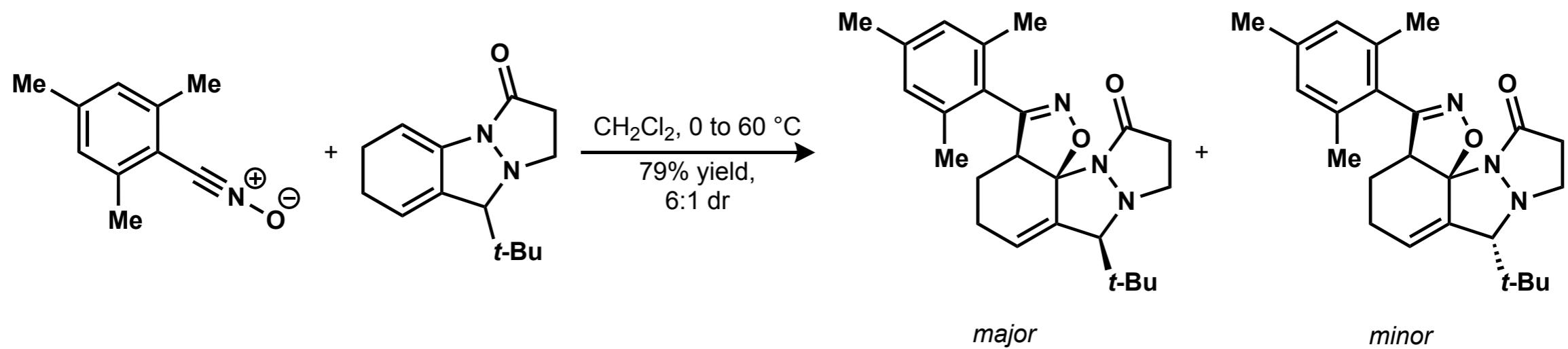
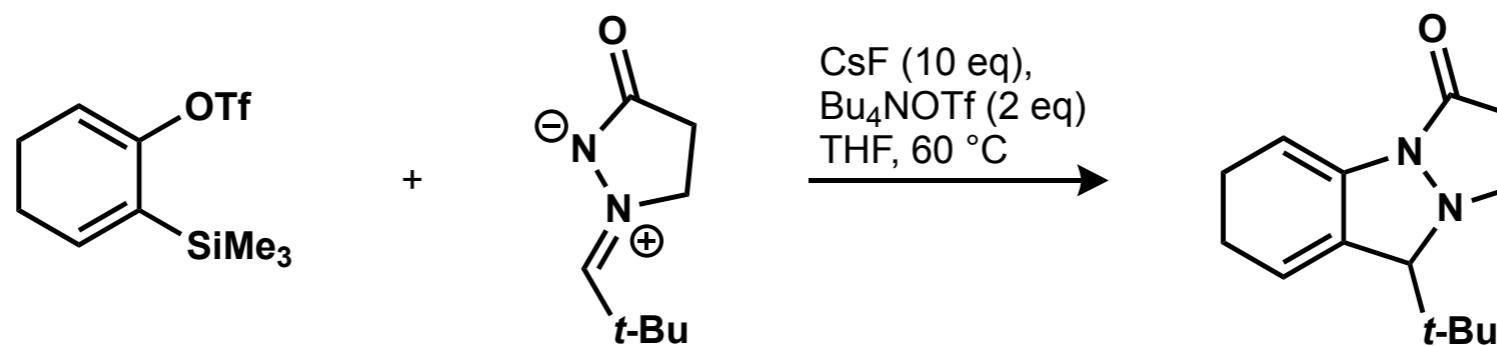
# Further Application

31



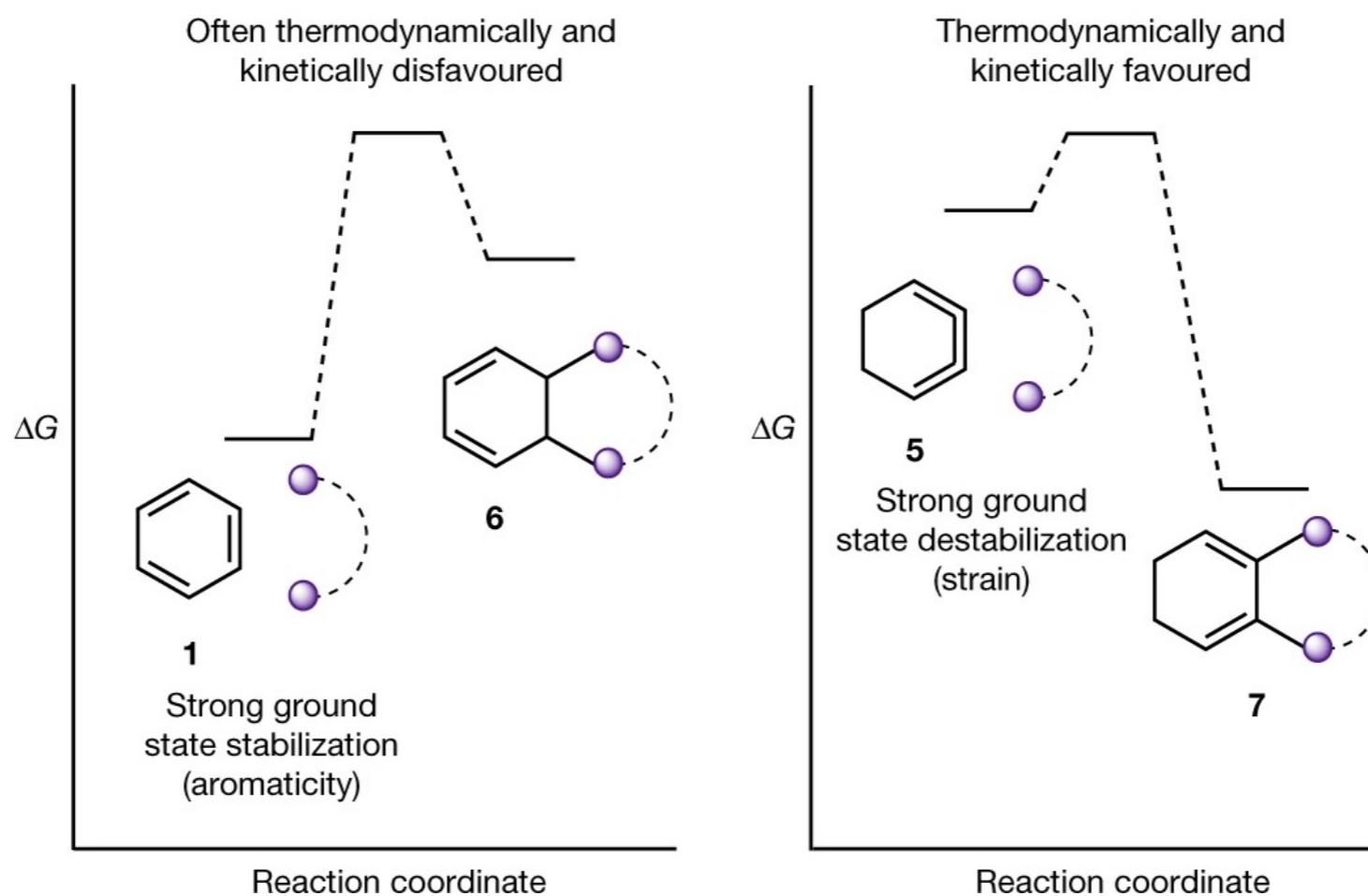
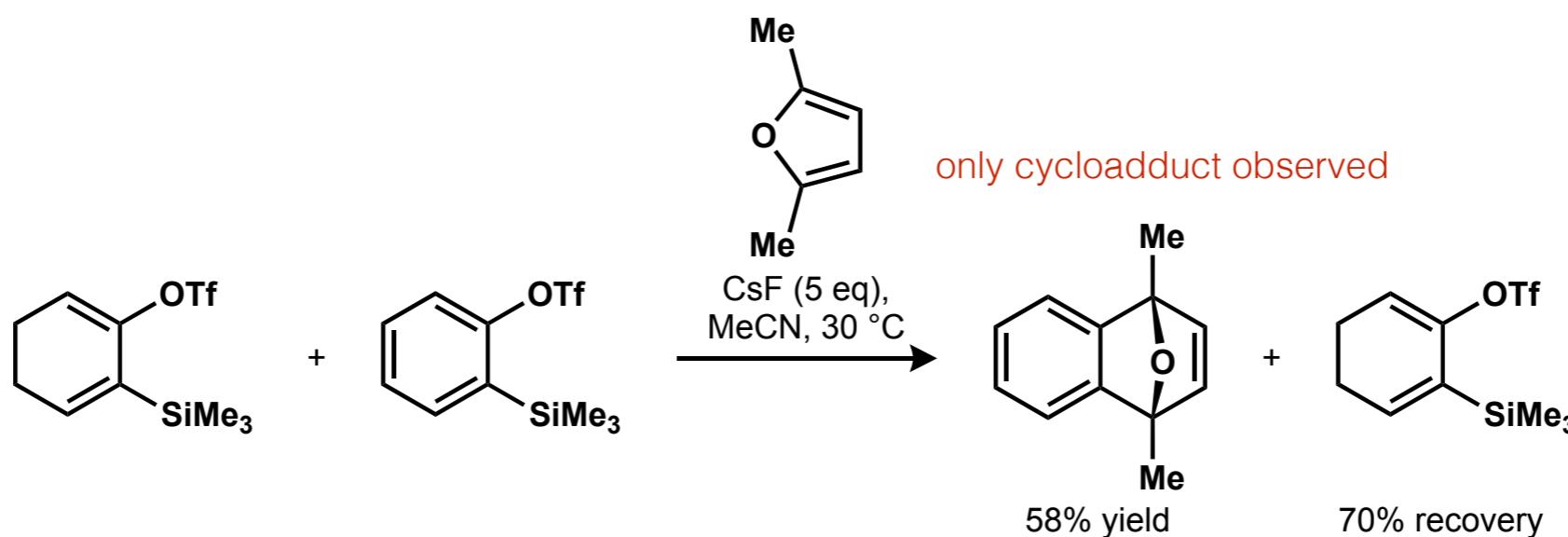
# Further Application

32



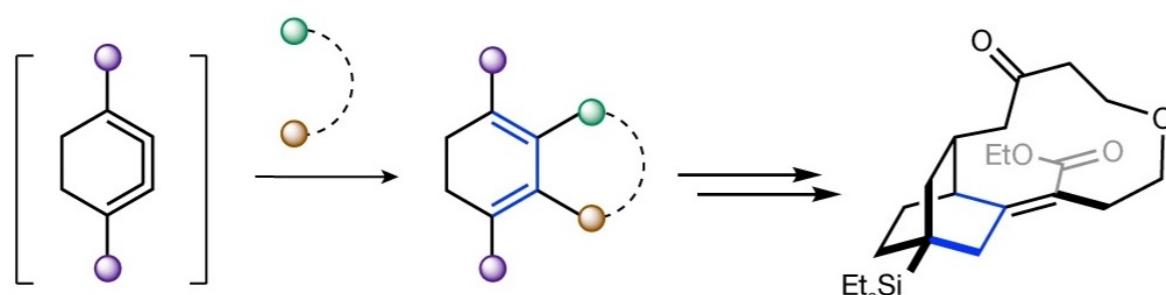
Diastereoselectivity?

# Competition Experiment



# Summary and Evaluation

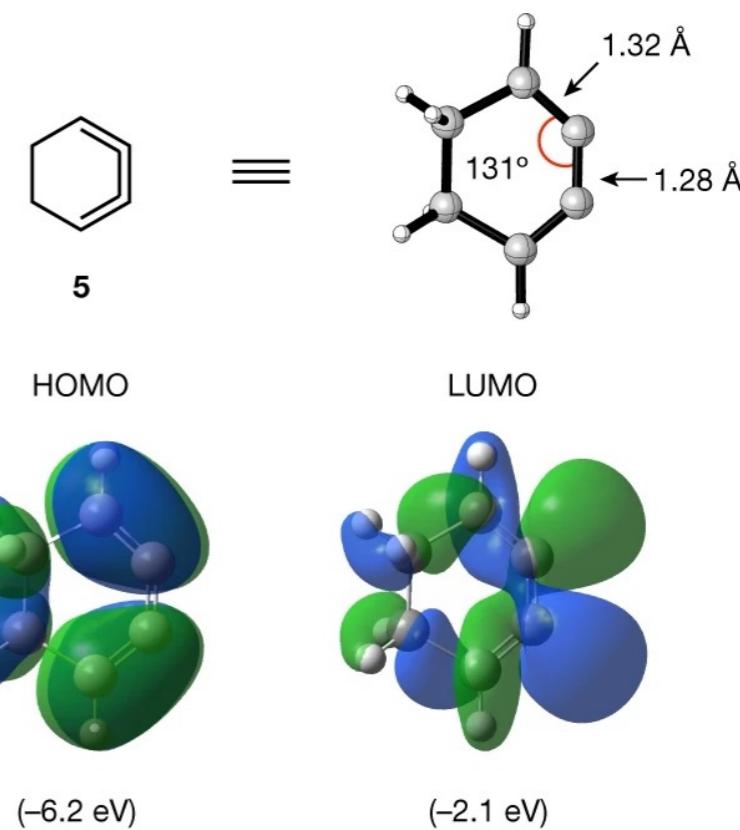
## Strain-promoted reactions of 1,2,3-cyclohexatriene and its derivatives



From readily  
accessible precursors  
under mild conditions

Diverse highly  
functionalized 1,3-dienes

Unconventional entryway  
to complex scaffolds



## Synthetic elaboration

- [4+2] Cycloadditions
- [3+2] Cycloadditions
- [2+2] Cycloadditions
- Nu trapping
- symmetrical and unsymmetrical triene**