

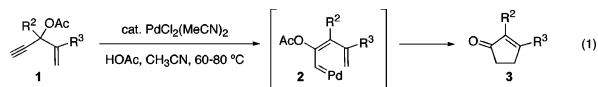
Synthesis of 2-Cyclopentenones by Gold(I)-Catalyzed Rautenstrauch Rearrangement

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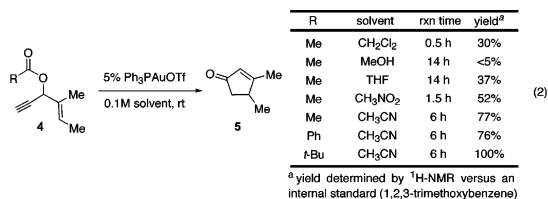
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The importance of cyclopentenones as building blocks for organic synthesis continues to inspire the development of general methods for their stereoselective preparation.^{1–3} In 1984, Rautenstrauch reported that palladium(II) complexes catalyzed the isomerization of 1-ethynyl-2-propenyl acetates (**1**) to cyclopentenones (eq 1).⁴ This reaction and related rearrangements⁵ are proposed to proceed through a metal carbene intermediate, such as **2**, arising from a 1,2-acetate migration. While the Rautenstrauch rearrangement provided an efficient route to cyclopentenones, it was limited to the preparation of achiral cyclopentenones substituted at the 2 and 3 positions (eq 1). On the basis of recent examples of gold(I)-catalyzed cyclizations of enynes,⁶ we hypothesized that these catalysts might afford an increase in the scope of this reaction and allow the preparation of chiral cyclopentenones.



In light of our previous success employing Ph_3PAuOTf in methylene chloride for carbon–carbon bond formation,^{6b,7} we chose this catalyst system in preliminary studies of the rearrangement (eq 2). To develop catalysts that would permit the synthesis of chiral cyclopentenones, we initiated our investigation with a substrate (**4**) containing a trisubstituted olefin. We were pleased to find that rearrangement of **4**, catalyzed by 5 mol % Ph_3PAuOTf in methylene chloride, did afford desired cyclopentenone **5**, however, in only 30% yield. Examination of the effect of solvent on the reaction revealed that acetonitrile produced the desired adduct with a marked improvement in yield. The yield was further improved by changing the ester from acetate to pivaloate.⁸



With optimized reaction conditions in hand, we set out to define the scope of the cyclopentenone synthesis. The reaction is highly tolerant of substitution at the acetylenic position of the 1-ethynyl-2-propenyl pivaloates (Table 1). In addition to unsubstituted alkynes, the gold(I)-catalyzed reaction proceeded smoothly with substrates containing aryl- (entry 2), alkyl- (entry 3), and vinyl-substituted alkynes (entry 4). Cyclization of the latter produced *exo*-methylene cyclopentenone **13** after isomerization of the *iso*-propenyl group into conjugation with the ketone. The reaction also showed excellent scope with respect to substitution on the olefin. Specifically, 1,1-disubstituted (entries 1–4), 1,2-disubstituted (entry 5), and cyclic (entries 6 and 7) alkenes participated in the cyclization. Rearrangement of styrenyl substrates **14** and **18** afforded 3-phenylcyclopentenones

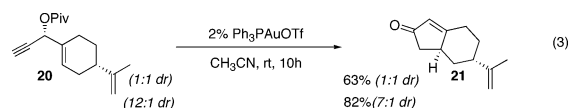
Table 1. Au(I)-Catalyzed Cyclopentenone Synthesis

entry	substrate	product	rxn time	yield ^a
1	6	7	8 h	80%
2 ^b	8	9	20 h	73%
3 ^b	10	11	20 h	85%
4 ^b	12	13	20 h	81%
5	14	15	8 h	68%
6	16	17	14 h	45%
7	18	19	10 h	48%

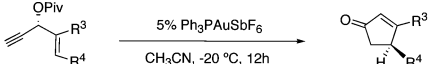
^a Isolated yield after column chromatography. ^b With 5 mol % PPh_3AuOTf employed.











tenones **15** and **19** as a result of olefin isomerization into conjugation with the aryl group.

A 1:1 diastereomeric mixture of **20**, derived from (*S*)-(-)-perillaldehyde, underwent Au-catalyzed isomerization to produce bicyclic enone **21** as a 1:1 mixture of diastereomers (eq 3). We envisioned two scenarios to account for this diastereoselectivity: the stereochemistry of the starting ester is lost in generating a carbene-like intermediate (such as **2**) that undergoes subsequent cyclization with no selectivity, or the stereochemistry of the starting pivaloate influences that of the product. To probe this question, diastereoenriched **20** was subjected to the reaction condition furnishing **21** as a 7:1 mixture of diastereomers, strongly suggesting that stereochemistry of the starting ester influences that of the product cyclopentenone.

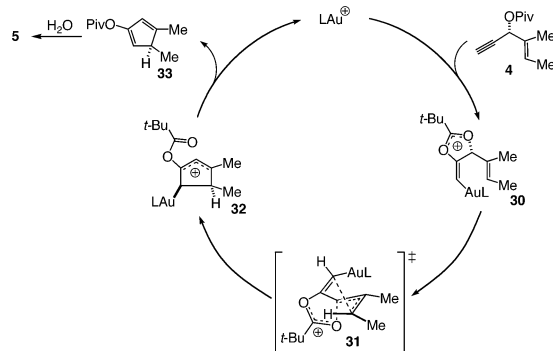


On the basis of this observation, a series of enantioenriched propargyl pivaloates⁹ were prepared in order to examine the chirality transfer in the cyclization. Rearrangement of enantioenriched **24** (93% ee) under the standard conditions (Ph_3PAuOTf , CH_3CN , rt) cleanly afforded **25**, however, with only 68% ee. Switching the counterion from triflate to hexafluoroantimonate and lowering the temperature to -20 °C allowed for isolation of **25** in 86% yield

Table 2. Enantioselective Cyclopentenone Synthesis


entry	substrate (%ee)	product	yield(%ee) ^a
1	 4 88% ee	 5	84%(82% ee)
2	 22 79% ee	 23	80%(77% ee)
3	 24 93% ee	 25	86%(91% ee)
4	 26 98% ee	 27	88%(96% ee)
5	 28 92% ee	 29	82%(83% ee)

^a Isolated yield after column chromatography; % ee determined using chiral HPLC or GC (see Supporting Information for details).

Scheme 1. Proposed Mechanism for the Au(I)-Catalyzed Cyclopentenone Synthesis

and with 91% ee (Table 2, entry 3). Under these conditions, Au(I)-catalyzed rearrangement of enantioenriched propargyl pivaloates delivered cyclopentenones with excellent chirality transfer (Table 2).¹⁰

A mechanistic hypothesis that accounts for the stereochemical course of the Au(I)-catalyzed rearrangement is shown in Scheme 1. Intramolecular 1,2-addition of the ester onto the alkyne, induced by coordination of the alkyne to a cationic gold(I) complex, affords vinyl gold species **30**. The stereoselectivity of the gold(I)-catalyzed cyclization can be accounted for by an intramolecular cyclization that proceeds through a transition state (**31**) in which the leaving group occupies a position orthogonal to the plane of the olefin.¹¹ This cyclization produces cationic intermediate **32**, which upon elimination of cationic gold(I), affords diene **33**.¹² Finally, cyclopentadiene **33** is hydrolyzed to cyclopentenone **5**.

In conclusion, we have developed a Au(I) catalyst for the rearrangement of 1-ethynyl-2-propenyl pivaloates to cyclopentenones. The gold(I)-catalyzed reactions are tolerant of substitution at the acetylenic and olefinic positions (except for *Z*-olefins), thus providing access to a wide range of cyclopentenones under exceptionally mild conditions. Additionally, enantioenriched cyclopentenones can be prepared by the gold(I)-catalyzed cyclization of enantioenriched propargyl alcohols. The high degree of chirality transfer in these rearrangements suggests that, in this case, a mechanism involving

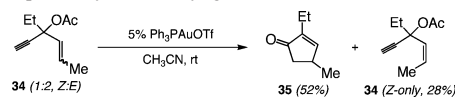
C–C bond formation prior to scission of the stereogenic C–O bond is operative. Efforts aimed at utilizing Au(I) complexes as catalysts for other rearrangements are ongoing in our laboratories.

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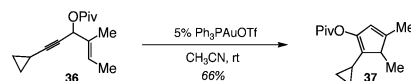
Supporting Information Available: Experimental procedures and compound characterization data (PDF). This material is available free of charge on the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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- (8) Under these conditions (5% catalysts, 0.1 M acetonitrile, rt, 14 h), other metal complexes produced the following results: AgOTf (100% recovered **4**, 0% **5**); AuCl₃ (0% **4**, 50% **5**); PdCl₂(MeCN)₂ (62% **4**, 0% **5**); PtCl₂ (100% **4**, 0% **5**); CuBr (100% **4**, 0% **5**).
- (9) Enantioenriched propargyl alcohols were prepared by reduction of the corresponding ketone with *R*-Alpine–Borane and the absolute stereochemistry assigned according to Midland, M. M.; McDowell, D. C.; Hatch, R. L.; Tramontano, A. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1980**, *102*, 867.
- (10) The absolute stereochemistry of cyclopentenone **23** ($[\alpha]_D = -174$ (c 1.25, CHCl₃)) was assigned by comparison of optical rotation to that reported in the literature ($[\alpha]_D = -141$ (c 0.14, CHCl₃)). Hua, D. H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1986**, *108*, 3835. The stereochemistry of the remaining cyclopentenones was assigned by analogy.
- (11) This transition state also accounts for the observation that rearrangement of a 1:2 mixture of *Z:E* olefin isomers (**34**) returned the *Z*-isomer unreacted. Cyclization of the *Z*-isomer would require that the olefin substituent come into close proximity to the vinyl gold.



- (12) In accord with this proposed intermediate, diene **37** was isolated from cycloisomerization of **36**.



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