

Article Solvent-free Mizoroki-Heck reaction applied to the synthesis of abscisic acid and analogues

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1. Materials and Methods

1. Materials and Methods

1.1. General Methods

All reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and were used without further purification. THF was dried with a dry station GT S100 instantaneously prior to use. The reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) analysis using silica gel (60 F254) plates. Compounds were visualized by UV irradiation. Flash column chromatography was performed on silica gel 60 (230 - 400 mesh, 0.040 - 0.063 mm). Melting points (mp [°C]) were taken on samples in open capillary tubes and are uncorrected. The infrared spectra of compounds were recorded on a Thermo Scientific Nicolet iS10. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker avance II spectrometer at 250 MHz (¹³C, 62.9 MHz) and on a Bruker avance III HD nanobay 400 MHz (¹³C 100.62 MHz). Chemical shifts are given in parts per million from tetramethylsilane (TMS) or deterred solvent (MeOH-*d*₄, Chloroform-d) as internal standard. The following abbreviations are used for the proton spectra multiplicities: b : broad, s: singlet, d: doublet, t: triplet, q: quartet, p: pentuplet, m: multiplet. Coupling constants (*J*) are reported in Hertz (Hz). High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS (ESI)) were performed on a Maxis Bruker 4G by the "Federation de Recherche" ICOA/CBM (FR2708) platform.

1.2 Procedure for synthesis of 1-Ethenyl-3-methylcyclohex-2-en-1-ol

1-Ethenyl-3-methylcyclohex-2-en-1-ol 1:To a solution of vinylmagnesium bromide (22.7 mL, 22.7 mmol) 2.5 equiv) in dry THF (10 mL), was added the corresponding ketone (1.000 g, 9.1 mmol 1 equiv) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at this temperature for 2 – 3 hours. Then a saturated solution of NH₄Cl (50 mL) was added, and the reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 40 mL). The organic phases were combined, dried on MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel PE-AE: (8:2, v/v), to provide 1 (1.065 g, 85 %) as a pale yellow oil. ¹H NMR (250 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 5.93 (dd, *J* = 17.3, 10.6 Hz, 1H, Hı'), 5.29 (q, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H, H₂), 5.21 (dd, *J* = 17.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H₂), 5.06 (dd, *J* = 10.6, 1.5 Hz, 1H, H₂'), 1.97 – 1.88 (m, 2H, H₄), 1.80 – 1.59 (m, 8H, H₆, H₅, H₇, OH); ¹³C NMR (63 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 144.7 (Cı'), 138.5 (C₃), 125.6 (C₂), 112.5 (C₂), 71.4 (Cı), 36.0 (C₆), 30.0 (C₄), 23.7 (C₇), 19.3 (C₅); IR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 3355, 2966, 2866, 1669, 1638, 1436, 988; HRMS (ESI): *m*/z [M+Li]⁺ calc for C₉H₁₄LiO 145.1199, found 145.1195.

1.3 Procedures for synthesis of Methyl (2Z)-3-iodobut-2-enoate, (2Z)-3-Iodobut-2-enenitrile, Methyl (2Z)-3-iodoacrylate and 4-Nitrophenyl (2Z)-3-iodo-2-methylprop-2-enoate, Methyl (2Z,4E)-3-methyl-5-(4',4',6'-trimethyl-1',3',2'-dioxaborinan-2'-yl)penta-2,4-dienoate, Methyl (2Z,4E)-5-iodo-3-methylpenta-2,4-dienoate.

Methyl (2*Z***)-3-iodobut-2-enoate (2)**. [1]: To a solution of methyl butynoate (2.0 g, 20 mmol) in AcOH (18 mL), was added NaI (4.89 g, 33 mmol). The mixture was under reflux for 2 hours. After completion, the reaction was quenched with water (10 mL), treated with a saturated solution of sodium carbonate (100 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 20 mL). The organic phases were combined, dried with MgSO₄ then concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel PE-AE: (9:1, v/v), to provide **2** (3.8 g, 83 %) as a brown oil. ¹H NMR (250 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.30 (q, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H, H₂), 3.75 (s, 3H, H₅), 2.73 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 3H, H₄); ¹³C NMR (63 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 164.9 (C₁), 125.3 (C₂), 113.8 (C₃), 51.7 (C₅), 36.7 (C₄).

(2Z)-3-Iodobut-2-enenitrile (<u>2a</u>). [2]: To a solution of (2Z)-3-iodobut-2-enamide (537 mg; 2.5 mmol) in DCM (2mL) at 0°C, were added triethyamine (369 μ L; 3.3 mmol) and trichloroacetyle chloride (711 μ L; 5.1 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 0°C for 1.5 h. After

completion, the reaction was quenched with water (10 mL), treated with a saturated solution of sodium carbonate (100 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 20 mL). The organic phases were combined, dried with MgSO₄ then concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel PE-AE: (9:1, v/v), to provide <u>**2a**</u> (453 mg, 92 %) as a brown oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.13 (s, 1H, H₂), 2.70 (s, 3H, H₄); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 122.6 (C₃), 118.1 (C₁), 110.2 (C₂), 34.6 (C₄).

Methyl (2Z)-3-iodoacrylate (2b). [3]: To a solution of methyl propynoate (500 mg; 5.9 mmol) in AcOH (5 mL), was added NaI (1.43 g; 9.4 mmol). The mixture was stirred under reflux for 2 h. After completion, the reaction was quenched with water (20 mL), treated with a saturated solution of sodium carbonate (100 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 20 mL). The organic phases were combined, dried with MgSO₄ then concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel PE-AE: (9:1, v/v), to provide <u>2b</u> (635 mg, 50 %) as a brown oil. ¹H NMR (250 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H, H₃), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H, H₂), 3.76 (s, 3H, H₄).

4-Nitrophenyl (2Z)-3-iodo-2-methylprop-2-enoate (2c). To a solution of (Z)-3-iodobut-2-enoic acid (147 mg; 0.7 mmol) in Toluene (10 mL) at 0 °C, was added SOCl₂ (251 µL; 3.5 mmol) and *p*-nitrophenol (124 mg; 1.0 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min. After completion, the reaction was quenched with water (20 mL), treated with a saturated solution of sodium carbonate (100 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 20 mL). The organic phases were combined, dried with MgSO₄ then concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel PE-AE: (9:1, v/v), to provide **2c** (159 mg, 69 %) as a yellow solid. mp: 129 - 130 °C ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.26 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H, H₂'), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H, H₃'), 6.57 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H₂), 2.85 (s, 3H, H₄); ³C RMN (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 161.7(C₁) 155.2 (C₄'), 145.4 (C_{1'}), 125.3 (C₂'), 124.1 (C₂), 122.5 (C_{3'}), 119.3 (C₃), 37.3 (C₄). HRMS (ESI): m/z [M+H]⁺ calcd. for C₁₀H₉INO₄: 333.9571, found: 333.9577.

Methyl (2Z,4E)-3-methyl-5-(4',4',6'-trimethyl-1',3',2'-dioxaborinan-2'-yl)penta-2,4-dienoate (2d). To a solution of **2** (500 mg; 0.7 mmol) in ACN (10 mL) were successively added the 2'-ethenyl-4,4,6-trimethyl-1,3,2-dioxoborinane (572 µl; 3.32 mmol), AgOAc (554 mg; 3.32 mmol), P(*o*-tolyl)₃ (741 mg; 2.43 mmol) and Pd(OAc)₂ (248 mg; 0.5 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 6 h. After completion, the reaction was quenched with water (20 mL), treated with a saturated solution of sodium carbonate (100 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 20 mL). The organic phases were combined, dried with MgSO₄ then concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel PE-AE: (9:1, v/v), to provide **2d** (464 mg, 83 %) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.26 (d, *J* = 18.2 Hz, 1H, H₄), 5.93 (d, *J* = 18.3 Hz, 1H, H₅), 5.76 (s, 1H, H₂), 4.25 (dqd, *J* = 12.2, 6.1, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H₅), 3.72 (s, 3H, H₇), 1.99 (s, 3H, H₆), 1.81 (dd, *J* = 13.9, 2.9 Hz, 1H, H₄), 1.51 (d, *J* = 13.9 Hz, 1H, H₄), 1.32 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 6H, H₇), 1.29 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 3H, H₈); ³C RMN (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.4 (C₁), 151.6 (C₃), 142.4 (C₄), 118.4 (C₂), 71.1 (C_{3'}), 64.9 (C_{5'}), 51.1 (C₇), 46.0 (C_{4'}), 31.2 (C_{7'}), 28.1 (C_{7'}), 23.1 (C_{8'}), 20.7 (C₆). HRMS (ESI): m/z [M+H]⁺ calcd. for C₁₃H₂₂BO₄: 253.1608, found: 253,1607.

Methyl (2Z,4E)-5-iodo-3-methylpenta-2,4-dienoate (2e). To a solution of **2d** (200 mg; 0.79 mmol) in THF (10 mL) at -78 °C was added a solution of NaOMe 0.5M in MeOH (2 mL; 1 mmol). The mixture was stirred for 30 min then a solution of ICl (133 mg; 0.82 mmol) was added at – 78 °C The mixture was still stirred for 1 h then the temperature is allowed to rise to room temperature. The reaction was quenched with water (20 mL), treated with a saturated solution of sodium carbonate

(100 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 20 mL). The organic phases were combined, dried with MgSO₄ then concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel PE-AE: (9:1, v/v), to provide <u>2e</u> (464 mg, 83 %) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.61 (d, 1H, *J* = 16 Hz, H4 or H5), 5.65 (m, 1H, H2), 6.94 (d, 1H, *J* = 16 Hz, H4 or H5) , 3.71 (s, 3H, H7), 1.98 (s, 3H, H6); ³C RMN (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.3 (C1), 149.4 (C3), 142.7 (C4 or C5), 117.4 (C4 or C5), 102.9 (C3), 51.4 (C7), 20.4 (C6). HRMS (ESI): m/z [M+H]⁺ calcd. for C₇H₁₀IO₂: 252.9720, found: 252.9724.

1.4. General procedure for Mizoroki-Heck optimized reaction

Iodinated substrate (0.53 mmol), vinylic compound (0.44 mmol), silver carbonate (0.66 mmol) and palladium acetate (5 % mol) were placed in a round bottom flask, stirred at 50 °C for the corresponding time. After completion, the reaction mixture was diluted in EtOAc (5 mL) and a saturated solution of ammonium chloride (5 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc ($3 \times 10 \text{ mL}$). Then the combined organic layers were dried with MgSO4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to provide the expected product.

Methyl (2Z,4E)-5-(1-hydroxy-3-methylcyclohex-2-en-1-yl)-3-methylpenta-2,4-dienoate 3a

PE-AE: (8:2, v/v), pale yellow oil (59 mg, 63 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.73 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H, H₅), 6.18 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H, H₄), 5.69 (s, 1H, H₂), 5.36 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H, H₂), 3.70 (s, 3H, H₇), 2.01 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 3H, H₆), 1.99 – 1.93 (m, 2H, H₄'), 1.82 – 1.64 (m, 8H, H₅' H₆' H₇' OH); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.6 (C1), 150.8 (C3), 143.6 (C4), 139.1 (C3'), 125.2 (C₅, C₂'), 117.2 (C₂), 71.3 (C1'), 51.0 (C7), 36.0 (C6'), 30.0 (C4'), 23.8 (C7'), 21.1 (C6), 19.2 (C5'); IR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 3459, 2947, 1713, 1436, 1157; HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* [M+Na]⁺ calcd. for C13H18NaO3 245.1148, found 245.1145.

Methyl (2*Z*,4*E*)-5-(1-hydroxy-3,5-dimethylcyclohex-2-en-1-yl)-3-methylpenta-2,4-dienoate <u>3b</u>

PE-AE: (8:2, v/v), pale yellow oil (84 mg, 76 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.65 (dd, *J* = 16.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H, H4), 6.17 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H, H5), 5.70 (s, 1H, H2), 5.29 (q, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H, H2'), 3.71 (s, 3H, H7), 2.01 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 3H, H6), 2.00 – 1.96 (m, 1H, H6'), 1.91 (ddt, *J* = 12.5, 2.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H4'), 1.75 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 3H, H7'), 1.69 – 1.58 (m, 3H, OH, H5', H6'), 1.46 – 1.33 (m, 1H, H4'), 0.99 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H, H8'); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.7 (C1), 150.8 (C3), 142.8 (C5), 137.7 (C3'), 126.0 (C4), 125.7 (C2'), 117.6 (C2), 73.7 (C1'), 51.2 (C7), 45.4 (C4'), 39.1 (C6'), 27.3 (C5'), 23.4 (C7'), 21.9 (C8'), 21.3 (C6); IR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 3427, 2967, 1717, 1436, 1157; HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* [M+Na]⁺ calcd. for C15H22NaO3 273.1461, found 273.1458.

Methyl (2Z,4E)-5-(1-hydroxy-2-methylcyclohex-2-en-1-yl)-3-methylpenta-2,4-dienoate 3c

PE-AE: (8:2, v/v), colorless oil (84 mg, 76 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.73 (dd, *J* = 16.3, 0.9 Hz, 1H, H4), 6.12 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H, H5), 5.69 (s, 1H, H2), 5.63 (t, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H, H3'), 3.70 (s, 3H, H7), 2.07 – 2.00 (m, 5H, H6, H4'), 1.88 – 1.76 (m, 2H, H6'), 1.72 (bs, 1H, OH), 1.67 (q, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 5H, H7', H5'); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.6 (C1), 150.5 (C3), 142.4 (C4), 135.5 (C2'), 126.5 (C3'), 126.2 (C5), 117.1 (C2), 73.7 (C1'), 51.0 (C7), 37.9 (C6'), 25.5 (C4'), 21.2 (C6), 19.2 (C5'), 18.1 (C7'); IR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 3459, 2947, 1713, 1436, 1157; HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* [M+Na]⁺ calcd. for C1₄H2₀NaO₃ 259.1304, found 259.1304.

Methyl (2Z,4E)-5-(1-hydroxycyclohexyl)-3-methylpenta-2,4-dienoate 3d

PE-AE: (9:1, v/v), colorless oil (47 mg, 47 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.77 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H, H4), 6.20 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H, H5), 5.70 (s, 1H, H2), 3.70 (s, 3H, H7), 2.01 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 3H, H6), 1.70 – 1.52 (m, 10H), 1.47 (s, 1H, OH), 1.35 – 1.23 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.7 (C1), 150.9 (C3), 144.8 (C5), 124.6 (C4), 117.1 (C2), 71.8 (C1'), 51.0 (C7), 37.5 (C2'), 25.5 (C4'), 21.9 (C3'), 21.0 (C6); IR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 3401, 2929, 1698, 1447, 1157; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* [M+Na]⁺ calcd. for C13H20NaO3 247.1304, found 247.1297.

Methyl (2Z,4E)-5-(1-hydroxy-3,5-dimethylcyclohexyl)-3-methylpenta-2,4-dienoate <u>3e</u>

PE-AE: (8:2, v/v), colorless oil (59.9 mg, 63 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.73 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H, H4), 6.17 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H, H5), 5.68 (s, 1H, H2), 3.70 (s, 3H, H7), 1.99 (s, 3H, H6), 1.91 – 1.79 (m, 2H, H3', H5'), 1.72 – 1.61 (m, 3H), 1.52 (s, 1H, OH), 1.08 (t, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 2H), 0.91 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 3H), 0.89 (s, 3H), 0.55 (q, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H, H4'); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.9 (C1), 151.1 (C3), 145.8 (C5), 123.9 (C4), 117.1 (C2), 73.2 (C1'), 51.2 (C7), 45.4 (C6', C2'), 43.4 (C4'), 27.7 (C3', C5'), 22.4 (C7', C8'), 21.3 (C6); IR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 3411, 2946, 1698, 1434, 1155; HRMS (ESI): *m*/z [M+Na]⁺ calcd. for C15H24NaO3 275.1617, found 275.1617.

Methyl (2Z,4E)-5-(1-hydroxy-3,3-dimethylcyclohexyl)-3-methylpenta-2,4-dienoate 3f

PE-AE: (8:2, v/v), colorless oil (70 mg, 64 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.75 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H, H4), 6.17 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H, H5), 5.71 (s, 1H, H2), 3.72 (s, 3H, H7), 2.02 (s, 3H, H6), 1.90 – 1.80 (m, 1H, H5'), 1.70 – 1.61 (m, 1H, H4'), 1.61 – 1.38 (m, 5H, H4', H6', H2'), 1.33 (s, 1H, OH), 1.23 – 1.17 (m, 1H, H6'), 1.13 (s, 3H, H7'), 0.92 (s, 3H, H7'); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.7 (C1), 150.9 (C3), 146.0 (C5), 123.8 (C4), 117.1 (C2), 72.9 (C1'), 51.0 (C7), 49.3 (C2'), 38.9 (C6'), 37.2 (C4'), 33.1 (C7'), 30.8 (C3'), 27.9 (C7'), 21.1 (C6), 18.5 (C5'); IR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 3443, 2948, 1716, 1455, 1190; HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* [M+Na]⁺ calcd. for C15H24NaO3 275.1617, found 275.1618.

Methyl (2Z,4E)-5-(1-hydroxycyclopentyl)-3-methylpenta-2,4-dienoate 3g

PE-AE: (9:1, v/v), dark yellow oil (25 mg, 27 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.80 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H, H4), 6.28 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H, H5), 5.69 (s, 1H, H2), 3.70 (s, 3H, H7), 2.02 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 3H, H6), 1.96 – 1.85 (m, 2H, H3'), 1.81 – 1.70 (m, 6H, H2', H3'); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.7 (C1), 150.7 (C3), 143.5 (C5), 124.1 (C4), 116.9 (C2), 82.2 (C1'), 51.0 (C7), 40.7 (C2'), 23.8 (C3'), 21.1 (C6); IR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 3472, 2965, 1687, 1452, 1164; HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* [M+Na]⁺ calcd. for C12H18NaO3 233.1148, found 233.1147.

Methyl (2Z,4E)-6-cyclohexyl-6-hydroxy-3-methylhexa-2,4-dienoate 3h

PE-AE: (8:2, v/v), pale yellow oil (74 mg, 70 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.67 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H, H4), 6.10 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H, H5), 5.70 (s, 1H, H2), 4.02 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H, H6), 3.70 (s, 3H, H8), 2.01 (s, 3H, H7), 1.88 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 1.80 – 1.71 (m, 2H), 1.66 (dd, *J* = 17.7, 5.6 Hz, 3H), 1.47 (tdd, *J* = 11.9, 6.4, 3.2 Hz, 1H, H1'), 1.30 – 1.11 (m, 3H), 1.08 – 0.96 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.6 (C1), 150.4 (C3), 138.8 (C5), 128.2 (C4), 117.2 (C2), 77.4 (C6), 51.1 (C8), 43.8 (C1'), 28.9 (CH2), 28.5 (CH2), 26.5 (CH2), 26.1 (CH2), 26.0 (CH2), 21.1 (C7); IR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 3399, 2923, 1714, 1449, 1157; HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* [M+Na]⁺ calcd. for C14H22NaO3 261.1461, found 261.1463.

Methyl (2Z,4E)-5-cyclohexyl-3-methylpenta-2,4-dienoate <u>3i</u>

PE-AE: (8:2, v/v), pale yellow oil (195 mg, 42 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.56 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1H, H4), 6.08 (dd, *J* = 16.0, 7.0 Hz, 1H, H5), 5.61 (s, 1H, H2), 3.69 (s, 3H, H7), 2.14 (dtt, *J* = 11.4, 7.6, 3.7 Hz, 1H, H1'), 1.98 (s, 3H, H6), 1.81 – 1.70 (m, 4H, H2'), 1.34 – 1.10 (m, 6H, H3', H4'); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.9 (C1), 152.0 (C3), 144.7 (C4), 125.3 (C5), 115.3 (C2), 50.9 (C7), 41.4 (C1'), 32.6 (C2'), 26.1 (C4'), 25.9 (C3'), 21.1 (C6); IR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 2923, 1713, 1448, 1157; HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* [M+H]⁺ calcd. for C13H21O2 209.1536, found 209.1535.

Methyl (2Z,4E)-3-methyl-5-phenylpenta-2,4-dienoate 3j [4]

PE-AE: (8:2, v/v), white solid (208 mg, 76 %). mp: 36 - 38 °C (litt 38 - 40 °C)³¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.41 (d, *J* = 16.4, 1H, H₅), 7.59 - 7.52 (m, 2H, H₂), 7.38 - 7.32 (m, 2H, H₃'), 7.31 - 7.27 (m, 1H, H₄'), 6.93 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1H, H₄), 5.77 - 5.74 (s, 1H, H₂), 3.74 (s, 3H, H₇), 2.14 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 3H, H₆); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.8 (C1), 151.1 (C3), 136.7 (C1'), 135.5 (C4), 128.7 (C3'), 128.7 (C4'), 127.4 (C2'), 125.9 (C5), 117.2 (C2), 51.1 (C7), 20.9 (C6); IR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 2999, 1706, 1619, 1598, 1457, 1148; HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* [M+H]⁺ calcd. for C1³H₁₅O₂ 203.1066, found 203.1063.

Methyl (2Z,4E)-3-methyl-5-phenylpenta-2,4-dienoate <u>3k</u>

PE-AE: (8:2, v/v), pale yellow oil (46 mg, 44 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.50 (dd, *J* = 15.5, 11.3 Hz, 1H, H₄), 6.59 (td, *J* = 11.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H, H₃), 6.12 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H, H₅),

5.69 - 5.64 (s, 1H, H₂), 5.34 (s, 1H, H₂), 3.73 (s, 3H, H₆), 2.02 - 1.88 (m, 2H, H₄'), 1.81 - 1.62 (m, 8H, H₅', H₆', H₇', OH); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.8 (C₁), 149.8 (C₅), 144.7 (C₃), 139.3 (C₃'), 124.8 (C₂'), 124.1 (C₄), 117.1 (C₂), 71.1 (C₁'), 51.2 (C₆), 35.9 (C₆'), 30.0 (C₄'), 23.8 (C₇'), 19.2 (C₅'); IR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 3436, 2950, 1716, 1437, 1173; HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* [M+Na]⁺ calcd. for C₁₃H₁₈NaO₃ 245.1148, found 245.1145.

Methyl (2Z,4E)-5-cyclohexyl-3-methylpenta-2,4-dienoate 31

PE-AE: (9:1, v/v), dark yellow oil (50 mg, 49 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.84 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H, H₅), 6.21 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H, H₄), 5.32 (s, 1H, H₂), 5.16 (s, 1H, H₂), 2.01 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 3H, H₆), 2.00 – 1.94 (m, 2H, H₄), 1.81 – 1.65 (m, 8H, H₅', H₆', H₇', OH); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 156.2 (C₃), 145.0 (C₄), 139.9 (C₃'), 125.4 (C₅), 124.6 (C₂), 116.7 (C₁), 96.6 (C₂'), 71.1 (C₁'), 36.1 (C₆'), 29.9 (C₄'), 23.8 (C₇'), 19.6 (C₆), 19.1 (C₅'); IR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 3438, 2935, 2211, 1165; HRMS (ESI): *m*/z [M+Na]⁺ calcd. for C₁₃H₁₇NNaO 226.1202, found 226.1199.

4-Nitrophenyl-(2*Z*,4*E*)-5-(1-hydroxy-3-methylcyclohex-2-en-1-yl)-3-methylpenta-2,4dienoate <u>3m</u>

PE-AE: (8:2, v/v), yellow oil (60 mg, 58 %). ¹H NMR (250 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.33 – 8.21 (m, 2H, H₈), 7.74 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H, H₅), 7.36 – 7.26 (m, 2H, H₉), 6.32 (d, *J* = 16.7 Hz, 1H, H₄), 5.90 (s, 1H, H₂), 5.33 (p, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H, H₂'), 2.13 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 3H, H₆), 1.99 – 1.90 (m, 2H, H₄'), 1.80 – 1.62 (m, 8H, H₅', H₆', H₇', OH); ¹³C NMR (63 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 163.1 (C₁), 155.6 (C₁₀), 155.4 (C₃), 145.7 (C₇), 145.1 (C₄), 139.5 (C₃'), 125.1 (C₈), 124.8 (C₂'), 124.8 (C₅), 122.6 (C₉), 115.2 (C₂), 71.3 (C₁'), 36.0 (C₆'), 30.0 (C₄'), 23.8 (C₇'), 21.4 (C₆), 19.1 (C₅'); IR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 3389, 2932, 1731, 1632, 1613, 1521, 1111; HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* [M+Na]⁺ calcd. for C₁₉H₂₁NNaO₅ 366.1311, found 366.113.

Methyl (2*Z*,4*E*,6*E*)-7-(1-hydroxy-3-methylcyclohex-2-en-1-yl)-3-methylhepta-2,4,6-trienoate <u>3n</u>

PE-AE: (85:15, v/v), yellow oil (64 mg, 56 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.74 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H, H4), 6.60 (dd, *J* = 15.6, 10.6 Hz, 1H, H5), 6.40 (dd, *J* = 15.3, 10.6 Hz, 1H, H6), 5.97 (d, *J* = 15.3 Hz, 1H, H7), 5.66 (s, 1H, H2), 5.31 (q, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H, H2'), 3.70 (s, 3H, H9), 2.02 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 3H, H8), 1.94 (dt, *J* = 10.8, 5.8 Hz, 2H, H4'), 1.81 – 1.57 (m, 8H, H5', H6', H7', OH); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.7 (C1), 151.0 (C3), 143.8 (C4), 138.9 (C3'), 135.6 (C6), 129.6 (C7), 129.0 (C5), 125.3 (C2), 116.7 (C2'), 71.4 (C1'), 51.0 (C9), 36.3 (C6'), 30.0 (C4'), 23.7 (C7'), 20.8 (C8), 19.3 (C5'); IR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 3391, 2932, 1711, 1609, 1613, 1450, 1378, 1155, 993; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* [M+Na]⁺ calcd. for C16H22NaO3 285.1461, found 285.1462.

Methyl (2Z,4E)-5-(3-hydroxy-3-methylcyclohex-1-en-1-yl)-3-methylpenta-2,4-dienoate 4

PE-AE: (8:2, v/v), yellow oil (17.0 mg, 20 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.83 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H, H₅), 6.56 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H, H₄), 5.81 (s, 1H, H₂), 5.68 (s, 1H, H₂), 3.70 (s, 3H, H₇), 2.40 – 2.30 (m, 1H, H₄'), 2.24 – 2.16 (m, 1H, H₄'), 2.04 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 3H, H₆), 1.85 – 1.64 (m, 5H, H₅', H₆', OH), 1.33 (s, 3H, H₇); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.8 (C₁), 151.3 (C₃), 138.2 (C₄), 138.0 (C₂'), 137.5 (C₁'), 125.5 (C₅), 116.8 (C₂), 68.8 (C₃'), 51.0 (C₇), 37.8 (C₇'), 29.2 (C₆'), 24.5 (C₄'), 20.8 (C₆), 19.4 (C₅'); IR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 3459, 2950, 1717, 1445, 1157; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* [M+Na]⁺ calcd. for C₁₄H₂₀NaO₃ 259.1304, found 259.1302.

(25,35)-7,9,9-trimethyl-2,3-diphenyl-1,4-dioxaspiro[4.5]dec-6-en-8-one 6

To a solution of (*S*,*S*)-(-)-hydrobenzoin (2.000 g, 9.3 mmol, 1 equiv) in cyclohexane (50 mL), was added the 2,6,6-trimethyl-2-cyclohexene-1,4-dione (3.552 g, 23.3 mmol, 2.5 equiv) and pyridinium p-toluensulfonate (258 mg, 1.0 mmol, 0.11 equiv). Then, the reaction mixture was heated under reflux overnight using a *Dean Stark* trap to remove water. The reaction was cooled, diluted with EtOAc/H₂O (30 mL/ 20 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (2 x 30 mL). The organic phases were combined, dried with MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel PE-AE: (9:1, v/v), to provide **6** (3.130 g, 96 %) as a pale yellow oil. ¹H NMR (250 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.35 – 7.31 (m, 6H, H₃', H₄'), 7.25 – 7.20 (m, 4H, H₂'), 6.63 (t, *J* = 1.2, 1H, H2'), 4.78 (m, 2H, H₂, H₃), 2.45 (d, *J* = 14.0 Hz, 1H, H₁₀), 2.36 (dd, *J* = 14.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H₁₀), 1.89 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 3H,

H₁₁), 1.30 (s, 3H, H₁₂), 1.28 (s, 3H, H₁₂); ¹³C NMR (63 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 204.2 (C₈), 140.4 (C₆), 136.1 (C₇), 135.9 (C_{1'}), 135.9 (C_{1'}), 128.5 (C_{3'}, C_{4'}), 126.7 (C_{2'}), 126.7 (C_{2'}), 104.4 (C₅), 85.2 (CH), 85.2 (CH), 47.4 (C₁₀), 42.3 (C₉), 27.0 (C₁₂), 26.3 (C₁₂), 16.4 (C₁₁); IR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 3032, 2922, 1674, 1094, 896; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* [M+Na]⁺ calcd. for C₂₃H₂₄NaO₃ 371.1618, found 371.1617.

(25,35)-8-ethenyl-7,9,9-trimethyl-2,3-diphenyl-1,4-dioxaspiro[4.5]dec-6-en-8-ol 7

To a solution of 1M vinylmagnesium bromide (4.3 mL, 4.3 mmol 5 equiv) in dry THF (10, mL) at 0 °C, was added 6 (300 mg, 0.86 mmol, 1 equiv). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 hour under inert atmosphere. Then a saturated solution of NH4Cl (50 mL) was added, and the reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 40 mL). The organic phases were combined, dried with MgSO4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel PE-AE: (8:2, v/v), to provide 7 (316 mg, 100 %) as a colorless gum. ¹H NMR (250 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 7.34 – 7.30 (m, 6H, $H_{3'}, H_{4'}, 7.25 - 7.20$ (m, 4H, $H_{2'}$), 5.94 (dd, J = 17.3, 10.7 Hz, 1H, H_{11}), 5.78 - 5.73 (m, 1H, H_{6}), 5.40 - 5.23 (m, 2H, H12), 4.84 - 4.69 (m, 2H, H2, H3), 2.31 - 1.97 (m, 2H, H10), 1.77 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3H, H14), 1.58 (s, 1H, OH), 1.18 (s, 3H, H13), 1.01 (s, 3H, H13); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroformd) δ 141.8 (C7), 138.9 (C11), 136.8 (C1'), 136.6 (C1'), 128.6 (CHAr), 128.5 (CHAr), 128.5 (CHAr), 128.4 (CHAr), 128.4 (CHAr), 128.3 (CHAr), 127.0 (CHAr), 127.0 (CHAr), 126.9 (CHAr), 126.8 (CHAr), 125.0 (C₆), 114.8 (C₁₂), 105.7 (C₅), 85.0 (CH), 84.7 (CH), 79.5 (C₈), 46.1 (C₁₀), 38.9 (C₉), 24.8 (C₁₃), 23.2 (C13), 17.9 (C14); IR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 3499, 2969, 2875, 1666, 1604, 1439, 1093, 972; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* [M+Na]⁺ calcd. for C₂₅H₂₈NaO₃ 399.1930, found 399.1928. HLPC: Hitachi Chiralpack IA+precolomn 250X4.6 mm; det DAD 254 nm; Mobile phase: 95% acetonitrile, 5% Ethanol, flow: 0,9 mLmin⁻¹; T = 30 °C; P = 40 bar; sample preparation: conc. 0.5 mgmL⁻¹ in Acetonitrile/Ethanol (95/5), 10 μL injected. Retention time: t1 = 4.096 min for 66.88 %, t2 = 4.338 min for 33.12 %.

Methyl(2Z,4E)-5-[(2S,3S)-8-hydroxy-7,9,9-trimethyl-2,3-diphenyl-1,4-dioxaspiro[4.5]dec-6-en-8-yl]-3-methylpenta-2,4-dienoate <u>8</u>

2 (100 mg, 0.44 mmol), 7 (250 mg, 0.53 mmol), silver carbonate (153 mg, 0.55 mmol) and palladium acetate (10 mg, 5 % mmol) were placed in a round bottom flask, stirred at 50 °C for 17 h. After completion, the reaction mixture was diluted in EtOAc (5 mL) and in a saturated solution of ammonium chloride (5 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (3 \times 10 mL). Then the combined organic layers were dried with MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel PE-EA: (8:2, v/v), to provide 8 (88 mg, 96 %) as a pale yellow gum. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.84 (dd, J = 16.0, 11.8 Hz, 1H, H₅), 7.36 – 7.27 (m, 5H, H_{Ar}), 7.28 - 7.18 (m, 5H, H_{Ar}), 6.16 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H, H_4), 5.80 - 5.68 (m, 2H, H_2 , H_6), 4.85 - 4.68 (m, 2H, H2, H3), 3.68 (s, 3H, H7), 2.33 - 2.01 (m, 2H, H10), 2.00 (s, 3H, H6), 1.78 (s, 3H, H12'), 1.19 (s, 3H, H11'), 1.01 (s, 3H, H11'); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 166.7 (C1), 150.2 (C7'), 141.9 (C3), 138.4 (C4), 136.9 (CAr), 136.7 (CAr), 128.6 (CHAr), 128.6 (CHAr), 128.5 (CHAr), 128.5 (CHAr), 128.4 (CHAr), 127.3 (CHAr), 127.0 (CHAr), 127.0 (CHAr), 126.9 (CHAr), 126.7 (CHAr), 125.1 (C2), 117.4 (C6'), 105.7 (C5'), 85.1 (CH), 84.8 (CH), 79.3 (C8'), 51.2 (C7), 46.4 (C10'), 39.6 (C9'), 25.3 (C11'), 23.6 (C11'), 21.5 (C6), 18.0 (C12'); IR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 3460, 2969, 2875, 1717, 1666, 1604, 1439, 1157, 1093, 972; HRMS (ESI): m/z [M+Na]+ calcd. for C30H24NaO5 497.2298, found 497.2292.

(2Z,4E)-5-(1-hydroxy-2,6,6-trimethyl-4-oxocyclohex-2-en-1-yl)-3-methylpenta-2,4-dienoic acid (abscisic acid, ABA). [5,6]

To **8** (178.3 mg, 0.38 mmol, 1 eq) in THF (2 ml), was added a 1N solution of sodium hydroxide (300 μ L, 4 equiv) and tetrabutylammonium chloride (2 drops). The mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 2 hours. After completion the reaction was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was placed at 0 °C and a 1N solution of HCl (4 mL, 10 equiv) was added. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour. Next, the reaction mixture was diluted in EtOAc (5 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). Then the combined organic layers were dried with MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel PE-EA-AcOH: (7:2.9:0.1, v/v/v) to provide **ABA** as a grey solid, which was recrystallized in a mixture of

heptane-EA: (9:1, v/v) to provide **ABA** (62 mg, 62 %) as a white solid. mp: 159 – 162 °C (Litt 161 – 163 °C);^{25b} ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Methanol-*d*4) δ 7.77 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H, H4), 6.23 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H, H5), 5.92 (s, 1H, H3'), 5.75 (s, 1H, H2), 2.53 (d, *J* = 17.0 Hz, 1H, H5'), 2.26 (s, 1H, OH), 2.18 (d, *J* = 16.9 Hz, 1H, H5'), 2.03 (s, 3H, H6), 1.92 (s, 3H, H7'), 1.06 (s, 3H, H8'), 1.03 (s, 3H, H8'); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Methanol-*d*4) δ 201.0 (C4'), 169.7 (C1), 166.6 (C2'), 150.6 (C3), 137.7 (C5), 129.5 (C4), 127.5 (C3'), 120.0 (C2), 80.6 (C1'), 50.7 (C5'), 42.8 (C6'), 24.7 (C8'), 23.6 (C8'), 21.2 (C6), 19.6 (C7'). IR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 3389, 2957, 1676, 1643, 1597, 1196, 1023, 979; HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* [M+Na]⁺ calcd. for C15H20NaO4 287.1253, found 287.1254. HLPC: Hitachi Chiralpack IA+pre-colomn 250X4.6 mm; det DAD max plot; Mobile phase: 90% heptane, 10% Ethanol, flow: 1 mLmin⁻¹; T = 30 °C; P = 40 bar; sample preparation: conc. 0.5 mgmL⁻¹ in Heptane/Ethanol (90/10), 20 μL injected. Retention time: t1 = 10.713 min for 35.69 %, t2 = 23.773 min for 61.79 %.

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1.5 ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR Spectra of all Products

NMR Spectra – Iodine compounds <u>Compound 2</u>:



0.5

0.0











Compound 2c :



















































Compound 3c :









































Compound 3k :









Compound 3m :













1H

NMR spectra – Synthesis of ABA

Compound 6 :













Compound 7 :









Compound 8 :



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