# RING CLOSING ENYNE METATHESIS OF IMIDAZOLE DERIVATIVES AND SUBSEQUENT DIELS-ALDER REACTION ON

THE METATHESIS PRODUCT

by

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## ABSTRACT

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The work presented in this thesis describes the development of new synthetic routes to elaborate simple imidazole derivatives into complex imidazole molecules by the application of different sequential transformations.

The first transformation considered is the ring closing enyne metathesis (RCEYM) of imidazoles. To carry out this reaction various allyl and propargyl derivatives of imidazole have been synthesized. These enyne substrates have been

varied by changing the positions on the imidazole, as well as changing the protecting groups. All substrates contain trimethysilyl-protected propargyl derivative as the "yne" moiety.

After the successful preparation of different enyne substrates, they were subjected to the metathesis reaction using Grubbs' second generation catalyst. The majority of enyne substrates participated RCEYM smoothly to produce the expected diene derivatives in moderate yields.

The next transformation employed was the Diels-Alder (DA) reaction on the diene derivatives obtained from the RCEYM reaction. For this transformation, first *N*-phenylmaleimide has been used as the dienophile with the diene substrates and all these cycloaddition reactions provided the expected cycloadduct in good yields.

Finally, several different dienophiles have been used for the DA reaction using one of the diene produced by RCEYM of dimethylaminosulfamoyl (DMAS)-protected enyne substrate. These DA reactions also resulted in the expected cycloadducts in good yields.

Unexpected results have been observed from two of the substrates while attempting the metathesis reaction.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
LIST OF TABLES	xii
LIST OF SCHEMES	xiii

# Chapter

1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Outline and Objectives of the Research	1
1.2 Imidazole	2
1.3 Ring Closing Enyne Metathesis (RCEYM)	6
1.3.1 Intermolecular vs Intramolecular Enyne Metathesis	6
1.3.2 Catalysts for RCEYM	7
1.3.3 Mechanisms of RCEYM	10
1.3.3.1 Metal-Salt Catalyzed Mechanism	10
1.3.3.2 Metal Carbene Catalyzed Mechanisms	10
1.3.3.2.1 Yne-then-ene Mechanism	10
1.3.3.2.2 Ene-then-yne Mechanism	12

1.3.4 RCEYM of Heterocycles	14
1.4 Diels-Alder Reaction (DA)	16
1.4.1 Introduction	16
1.4.2 Diels-Alder Reactions of Imidazoles	18
1.4.3 Diels-Alder Reactions on RCEYM Products	18
1.4.3.1 Diels-Alder Reactions on Heretocyclic RCEYM Products	19
2. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	22
2.1 Preparation of Trimethysilyl- (TMS-) Protected Propargyl Bromide	22
2.2 Ring Closing Enyne Metathesis (RCEYM) followed by Diels-Alder Reaction of Dimethylaminosulfamoyl- (DMAS-) Protected Allyl-Propargyl Imidazole Derivatives	24
2.2.1 Preparation of the Enyne Substrate	24
2.2.2 Optimization of the RCEYM Reaction	25
2.2.3 The RCEYM Reaction	27
2.2.4 The Diels-Alder Reaction	28
2.3 RCEYM followed by Diels-Alder Reaction of Benzyl Protected Allyl-Propargyl Imidazole Derivatives	29
2.3.1 Preparation of the Enyne Substrate	29
2.3.2 The RCEYM Reaction	30
2.3.3 The Diels-Alder Reaction	31
2.4 Preparation of Imidazole N-1, C-4 Enyne Substrates and RCEYM followed by Diels-Alder Reaction	32

2.4.1 Preparation of the Enyne Substrate	32
2.4.2 The RCEYM Reaction	32
2.4.3 The Diels-Alder Reaction	33
2.5 Preparation of Imidazole N-1, C-2 Enyne Substrates and RCEYM followed by Diels-Alder Reaction	34
2.5.1 Preparation of the Enyne Substrate	34
2.5.2 The RCEYM Reaction	35
2.6 Employing Allyl Alcohol as the Ene Moiety of RCEYM Reactions	38
2.6.1 Preparation of the Enyne Substrate	38
2.6.2 The RCEYM Reaction	39
2.6.3 The Diels-Alder Reaction	40
2.7 Summary	41
3. EXPERIMENTAL SECTION	43
3.1 General Information	43
Appendix	
1. <sup>1</sup> H NMR and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra of 5-(3-Trimethylsilylprop- 2-ynyl)-1-dimethylsulfamoyl-4-iodo-1 <i>H</i> -imidazole ( <b>39</b> )	59
<ol> <li><sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 5-(3-Trimethylsilylprop- 2-ynyl)-1-dimethylsulfamoyl-4-(prop-2-ene)-1<i>H</i>-imidazole (40)</li> </ol>	62
3. <sup>1</sup> H NMR and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra of 4, 7-Dihydro-5- vinyl-1-dimethylsulfamoyl-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazole ( <b>42</b> )	66
4. <sup>1</sup> H NMR and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra of 1-Dimethylsulfamoyl-4,4a, 5,6,7,9-hexahydro-1- <i>H</i> -[3,4-g]-1-phenylpyrrolidine-2,5-	

dionenaphtho-[2,3-d]-imidazole (43)	70
5. <sup>1</sup> H NMR and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra of 5-(3-Trimethylsilylprop-2- ynyl)-1-benzyl-4-iodo-1 <i>H</i> -imidazole ( <b>45</b> )	74
6. <sup>1</sup> H NMR and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra of 5-(3-Trimethylsilylprop-2- ynyl)-1-benzyl-4-(prop-2-ene)-1 <i>H</i> -imidazole ( <b>46</b> )	78
7. <sup>1</sup> H NMR and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra of 4,7-Dihydro-5-vinylbenzyl- 1-1 <i>H</i> - benzimidazole ( <b>48</b> )	83
8. <sup>1</sup> H NMR and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra of 1-Benzyl-4,4a,5,6,7,9- hexahydro- 1 <i>H</i> - [3,4- <i>g</i> ]-1-phenylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione naphtha-[2,3-d]-imidazole ( <b>49</b> )	88
9. <sup>1</sup> H NMR and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra of 5-(3-Trimethylsilyl prop-2-ynyl)-1-(prop-2-ene)-4-iodo-1 <i>H</i> -imidazole ( <b>51</b> )	93
10. <sup>1</sup> H NMR and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra of 4-Iodo-5,8- dihydroimidazo-6-vinyl-[1,2- <i>a</i> ]-pyridine ( <b>52</b> )	97
11. <sup>1</sup> H NMR and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra of 4-Iodo-5,7,8,9a,10- hexahydro-[3,4-g]-1-phenylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione isoquino-[1,2-e]-imidazole ( <b>53</b> )	101
12. <sup>1</sup> H NMR and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra of 2-(3-Trimethylsilyl prop-2-ynyl)-1-(prop-2-ene)-4,5-dibromo-1 <i>H</i> -imidazole ( <b>56</b> )	105
13. <sup>1</sup> H NMR and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra of 2-(2-Tosyloxyprop- 2-ene)-1-(prop-2-ene)-4,5-dibromo-1 <i>H</i> -imidazole ( <b>58</b> )	109
14. <sup>1</sup> H NMR and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra of 2-(2-Tosyloxyprop- 1-ene)-1-(prop-2-ene)-4,5-dibromo-4-1 <i>H</i> -imidazole ( <b>59</b> )	113
15. <sup>1</sup> H NMR and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra of 2-(1-Tosyloxyprop- 1-ene)-1-(prop-2-ene)-4,5-dibromo-1 <i>H</i> -imidazole ( <b>60</b> )	117
18. <sup>1</sup> H NMR and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra of 5-(3-Trimethylsilyl prop-2-ynyl)-1-dimethylsulfamoyl-4-(prop-1-hydroxy- 2-ene)-1 <i>H</i> -imidazole ( <b>61</b> )	121

19. <sup>1</sup> H NMR and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra of 1-dimethylsulfamoyl-5-hydroxy methyl-6-trimethylsilylmethyl-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazole ( <b>64</b> )	125
20. <sup>1</sup> H NMR and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra of 4,5-di(3-trimethylsilyl- prop-2-ynyl)-1-dimethylsulfamoyl-1 <i>H</i> -imidazole ( <b>65</b> )	128
21. <sup>1</sup> H NMR and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra of 5-(3-Trimethylsilyl prop-2-ynyl)-1-dimethylsulfamoyl-4-(2-methyl-2-propene)- 1 <i>H</i> -imidazole ( <b>66</b> )	132
REFERENCES	135
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION	141

# LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1.1	Imidazole	. 3
1.2	Imidazole containing drugs	. 4
1.3	Frontier orbital interactions in Diels-Alder reaction	. 17
1.4	Diels-Alder reactions on heretocyclic RCEYM products	. 20

# LIST OF TABLES

Table

Page

# LIST OF SCHEMES

# Scheme

# Page

1.1	Project outline	2
1.2	Imidazole functionalization; first method	5
1.3	Imidazole functionalization; second method	5
1.4	Different types of metathesis reactions	6
1.5	Common ruthenium-based carbene complexes	9
1.6	Metal-salt catalyzed mechanism	10
1.7	Yne-then-ene mechanism	12
1.8	Ene-then-yne mechanism	13
1.9	Van Leusen reaction and RCEYM	16
1.10	Diels-Alder reaction	17
1.11	Stereochemistry of dienophile	17
1.12	Stereochemistry of diene	17
2.1	Preparation of TMS-protected propargyl bromide; route I	22
2.2	Preparation of TMS -protected Propargyl bromide; route II	24
2.3	Preparation of enyne substrate of dimethylaminosulfamoyl- (DMAS-) protected imidazole derivative	25

2.4	RCEYM of enyne substrate of imidazole derivative	25
2.5	RCEYM of enyne substrate of DMAS- protected imidazole derivative	27
2.6	Proton assisted desilylation	28
2.7	DA reaction of metathesis product of DMAS- protected imidazole derivative	29
2.8	Preparation of enyne substrate of benzyl- (Bn-) protected imidazole derivative	30
2.9	RCEYM of enyne substrate of Bn- protected imidazole derivative	31
2.10	DA reaction of metathesis product of Bn- protected imidazole derivative	31
2.11	Preparation of N-1, C-4 imidazole enyne substrates	32
2.12	RCEYM of N-1, C-4 imidazole enyne substrates	33
2.13	DA reaction of metathesis product of N-1, C-4 imidazole enyne substrates	33
2.14	Preparation of N-1, C-2 imidazole enyne substrates	34
2.15	RCEYM of N-1, C-2 imidazole enyne substrates	35
2.16	Products obtained from RCEYM of N-1, C-2 imidazole enyne substrates	36
2.17	Proposed mechanism for the addition reaction	37
2.18	RCEYM reaction in the absence of TsOH	38
2.19	Preparation of the enyne substrate of allyl alcohol derivative	39
2.20	RCEYM of the enyne substrate of allyl alcohol derivative	40

## CHAPTER 1

#### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Outline and Objectives of the Research

The overall goal of our work was to elaborate simple imidazole derivatives to produce complex imidazole molecules by the application of different, sequential transformations. Since there are a vast number of imidazole-containing natural products and medicinally active compounds, the transformations used in this study could be applied as potential routes to synthesize more complex molecules. Imidazole derivatives show a wide range of different biological activities. e.g. antibacterial, antifungal, anti-inflammatory, farnesyltransferase inhibitors which can act as cancer treating agents, H1 agonists, H3 agonists, H3 antagonists and cytotoxic activities.<sup>1,2</sup> Therefore, the molecules that are being synthesized during our course of study also could show these activities. Estimation of the biological activities of the synthesized imidazole derivatives and to find potential applications of these activities are some of our future plans.

Olefin metathesis and the Diels-Alder reaction have been identified as two important reactions that can form carbon-carbon bonds and lead to a rapid enhancement of molecular complexity.<sup>3,4</sup> Both of these reactions can be carried out between different molecules (intermolecular) and also, within the same molecule (intramolecular).<sup>5</sup> Therefore, we planned to utilize these reactions for our work, due to their flexibility

towards different substrates and their general reliability. Since ring closing enyne metathesis (RCEYM) provides dienes, it was decided to employ this metathesis reaction on simple imidazoles and then, the resulting dienes were expected to function effectively in the Diels-Alder reaction to provide complex cycloadducts. For execution of this approach for elaboration of imidazoles, we have identified three distinct steps; preparation of RCEYM substrates, RCEYM reaction and Diels-Alder reaction (Scheme

1.1).



# Scheme 1.1

## 1.2 Imidazole

Imidazole is a five-membered aromatic heterocycle that contains two nitrogen atoms at the 1 and 3 positions. The two nitrogen atoms have different properties. N-1 is regarded as a "pyrrole-type" and its lone pair contributes to the aromaticity of the molecule. Therefore it has no reactivity towards Lewis acids. On the other hand, the nitrogen atom at the 3-position is a "pyridine-type" and as a result its lone pair can act as a Lewis base. Therefore, imidazole can act as a monoprotic base (figure 1.1). Also, the hydrogen atom at N-1 is acidic. Because of these characteristics imidazole has amphoteric properties.

$$3$$

$$2 \bigvee_{N}^{N} 4$$

$$5$$

$$H$$

$$1$$

#### Figure 1.1 Imidazole

This heterocycle is biologically important and it is found in several biologically significant molecules. e.g. amino acids (histidine), hormones (histamine) and vitamins (biotin). Since many synthetic imidazole derivatives show different biological activities as mentioned before, imidazole derivatives play an important role in the field of medicinal chemistry and there are many drugs available that contain imidazoles in their structures. e.g. clotrimazole and miconazole; antifungal agents, amidate; anaesthetic agent, hyzaar; treats hypertension (figure 1.2).<sup>6</sup>



Figure 1.2 Imidazole containing drugs

Functionalization of imidazole is essential and it has attracted much attention due to the change in properties it confers on the imidazole moiety. These properties can be applied in different fields including agrochemical and pharmaceutical industries to develop products with a wide range of applications.<sup>7-12</sup>

It has been shown that sequential functionalization of polyhaloimidazoles towards electrophiles can be carried out in the order of  $C-2\rightarrow C-5\rightarrow C-4$ .<sup>13-15</sup> To achieve this, first a protected trihaloimidazole **1** has been synthesized and then metal-halogen exchange reactions have been carried out sequentially, and then reacted with electrophiles providing functionalized imidazole derivative **2** (scheme 1.2).<sup>16</sup>



Scheme 1.2

Later, a more practically applicable, sequential functionalisation of imidazole has been introduced which occurs in the order of  $C-5 \rightarrow C-4 \rightarrow C-2$ .<sup>7</sup> In this approach, an N-protected 4,5-diiodoimidazole **3** has been used. To functionalize C-5 first, metalhalogen exchange was carried out with EtMgBr and then it was quenched with the desired electrophile. After that, using the same method C-4 was functionalized. Finally, *n*-BuLi can be used to functionalize C-2 *via* metallation and electrophile trap to obtain provide **6** (scheme 1.3).



Scheme 1.3

#### 1.3 Ring Closing Enyne Metathesis (RCEYM)

There are three major types of olefin metathesis reactions which differ depending on the interacting partners i.e., diene, enyne and diyne metathesis (scheme 1.4). These reactions can further sub-divided into, ring-closing, ring-opening and crossmetathesis, based on the process that occurs during the reaction.



Scheme 1.4

Ring-closing enyne metathesis is a rearrangement that occurs between two different types of unsaturated bonds, a double and a triple bond. During the course of this metathesis reaction, the terminal alkylidene moiety of alkene transfers on the alkyne carbon and a new bond formation occurs between alkynic and olefinic carbons providing a cyclic product with a diene moiety.<sup>3</sup>

## 1.3.1 Intermolecular vs Intramolecular Enyne Metathesis

Intermolecular enyne reactions lead to the formation of several products like olefins and polymers in addition to the desired diene. This is because, if intermolecular reactions are employed, there are two types of metathesis reactions can occur in addition to the intermolecular enyne metathesis; those are intermolecular diene metathesis and intermolecular alkyne metathesis. The catalyst can further react with these byproducts to provide complex mixture. Therefore intramolecular enyne metathesis is more popular than intermolecular enyne metathesis and widely used in synthetic organic chemistry.<sup>5</sup>

#### 1.3.2 Catalysts for RCEYM

Since the discovery of the metathesis process, transition metal carbenes has been used to catalyze these transformations. Initially, tungsten, molybdenum and chromium carbenes were used as catalysts.<sup>3,17</sup> However until recently, the studies of these types of reactions were limited due to poor performances of these catalysts and because their compositions were largely uncharacterized.

In olefin metathesis the catalyst has to react with the olefin, but in the presence of other functional groups either in the substrate or the solvent, the earlier-generation catalysts had poor functional group tolerance. The requirements for harsh reaction conditions and strong Lewis acids have also limited the application of these metathesis catalysts. <sup>18</sup> A very small amount of active form is generated from these catalysts and therefore, these reactions were difficult to initiate and to control.

However, after the discovery of a ruthenium alkylidene catalyst by Grubbs, many of the problems encountered with previous catalysts were eliminated. Prof. Robert H. Grubbs was awarded Nobel Prize for chemistry in 2005, shared with two other scientists, for the contribution to the metathesis chemistry. Titanium based catalysts show the least functional group tolerance, i.e. if there are functional groups like acids, alcohols, water, aldehydes, ketones, esters or amides in the molecule with an olefin, then the catalyst reacts first with these groups and therefore the metathesis does not take place. The functional group tolerance of metal carbenes increases from titanium < tungsten < molybdenum < ruthenium. Following table shows the tremendous functional group tolerance of ruthenium based catalysts compared to previous metathesis catalysts. In the following table, carbenes can tolerate only the functional groups in underneath the olefins (table 1.1).<sup>18</sup>

Titanium	Tungsten	Molybdenum	Ruthenium
Acids	Acids	Acids	Olefins
Alcohols, Water	Alcohols, Water	Alcohols, Water	Acids
Aldehydes	Aldehydes	Aldehydes	Alcohols, Water
Ketones	Ketones	Olefins	Aldehydes
Esters, Amides	Olefins	Ketones	Ketones
Olefins	Esters, Amides	Esters, Amides	Esters, Amides

**TABLE 1.** Functional Group Tolerance of Transition Metal Carbenes

Grubbs has introduced three different generations of catalyst named, Grubbs' 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation catalysts. The latter two generations can be synthesized from the 1<sup>st</sup> generation catalyst (scheme 1.5).<sup>19,20</sup> The Grubbs' 2<sup>nd</sup> generation catalyst, which is a N-heterocyclic carbene (NHC)-coordinated ruthenium benzylidene complex, has higher activity and air stability compared to the 1<sup>st</sup> generation. Introduction of the NHC

to the 1<sup>st</sup> generation is the cause for these differences. This catalyst has been used for a broad range of reactions including metathesis of sterically demanding substrates<sup>21-23</sup> and electron-deficient substrates.<sup>24-26</sup> Grubbs' 3<sup>rd</sup> generation catalyst has been demonstrated possess immense ability to catalyze cross metathesis (CM) and ring-opening-metathesis polymerization (ROMP) compared to the other two generations.<sup>20</sup> Rapid dissociation of electron deficient 3-bromopyridine ligand and/or its slow rebinding has been postulated to account for this higher activity. Later, using Grubbs' 2<sup>nd</sup> generation catalyst, Hoveyda synthesized a catalyst which is also highly active.<sup>27</sup> Unlike previous generations, this is reported as a catalyst which is both recoverable and reuseable. Recently, a ruthenium-based air-stable catalyst which exhibits excellent catalytic activity has been reported by Blechert (scheme1.5).<sup>28</sup>





#### 1.3.3 Mechanisms of RCEYM

Two different mechanisms for this metathesis reaction have been proposed.<sup>29</sup>

1.3.3.1 Metal-Salt Catalyzed Mechanism

This is one of the mechanisms proposed before the introduction of ruthenium carbenes as a catalyst. Metal salts such as Pd(II) have been used for these reactions.<sup>30</sup> According to this mechanism, first, the metal coordinates with both the olefin and alkyne position of the substrate 7 and then the complex 8 undergoes oxidative cyclization to provide metalacyclopentane 9. Reductive elimination of 9 occurs to provide cyclobutane 10. According to this mechanism, the final step is the ring opening of 10 to provide the desired diene 11 (scheme 1.6).



Scheme 1.6

#### 1.3.3.2 Metal Carbene Catalyzed Mechanism

This mechanism has been suggested after the introduction of the Grubbs' catalyst. Two different mechanisms have been discussed depending on which of the unsaturated bonds is attacked first.

# 1.3.3.2.1 Yne-then-ene Mechanism

In this mechanism, first the alkynyl moiety of the enyne **7** reacts first with the ruthenium-carbene complex **12**. In this mechanism, potentially two different pathways operate, depending on the regiochemistry of the initial combination with the ruthenium

carbene.<sup>29</sup> If the metal combines with the internal alkynyl carbon of the enyne substrate, then it proceeds *via* the "*exo*-pathway." First, a ruthenacyclobutene **13** is formed and ring opening of this strained cyclic compound provides the vinylic ruthenium carbene complex **14**. A ruthenacyclobutane **15** is formed by intramolecular [2+2] cycloaddition of **14**. The final step of this pathway, ring opening of this **15**, produces the *exo*-product **12**.

The other pathway of this mechanism is the "*endo*-pathway." In this path the ruthenium carbene combines with the terminal carbon of the alkyne moiety. Again, a ruthenacyclobutene **16** is formed and this yields ruthenium carbene **17** due to the ring opening. Similar to the earlier pathway, this carbene undergoes an intramolecular [2+2] cycloaddition reaction to yield cyclobutane derivative **18**. Then cycloreversion of this **18** yields the *endo*-product **19**. Regeneration of the ruthenium carbene catalyst occurs in both pathways (scheme 1.7).



Scheme 1.7

1.3.3.2.2 Ene-then-yne Mechanism

In this pathway, ruthenium alkylidene 20 is produced first by the reaction of ruthenium carbene 12 with the olefinic moiety.<sup>29</sup> In this mechanism also, there are two possible pathways depending on the position of the carbon atom that binds to the metal center of the carbone (scheme 1.8).



Scheme 1.8

In the *exo*-pathway, after the combination of the metal center to the internal carbon of the olefin moiety, ring closure takes place by [2+2] cycloaddition to produce ruthenocyclobutene **21**. Similar to the previous mechanism, **21** undergoes reverse cycloaddition to yield vinyl carbene **22**. This carbene reacts with the second equivalent of the enyne substrate **7**, and this generates the *exo*-product **11** and the ruthenium alkylidene **20** is also regenerated in this step. **20** can participate for the next catalytic cycle.

On the other hand, this *endo*-pathway produces the substantially strained ruthenocyclobutene 23, by the combination of the ruthenium metal center of 20 with the internal carbon of the alkynyl moiety. Finally, the *endo*-product 19 is obtained by the

ring opening of **23**. Since the intermediate **23** is unstable due to its high strain, it is expected that obtaining the *endo*-product from this mechanism is quite unlikely.

There are examples for the yne-then-ene mechanism.<sup>5</sup> It has been explained that this is due to the higher reaction rate of the ruthenium-carbene with the alkyne moiety compared to the that with the olefin moiety. On the other hand, there is some evidence for the ene-then-yne mechanism for RCEYM.<sup>31</sup> It has been suggested that substrate concentration has an influence on the mechanism and it is beneficial to have a higher substrate and lower ruthenium carbene concentration for reactions that follow this pathway. It can be achieved by the slow addition of ruthenium carbene to the mixture.

Considering the *exo/endo* selectivity, it has been shown that for small ring formation (ring size = 5-9) *exo*-pathway is favoured while formation of macrocycles (ring size = 11-15) desires the *endo*-pathway.<sup>32</sup> This outcome can be explained by the ene-then-yne mechanism, considering the ring strains of ruthenocyclobutene intermediates.<sup>33</sup> When the length of the tether increases, the strain of the *endo*-intermediate is reduced considerably and thus could provide an explanation for these observations. But this cannot be easily explained for the yne-then-ene mechanism and *exo/endo* selectivity is still not clear.

## 1.3.4 RCEYM of Heterocycles

RCEYM is a powerful tool to synthesize 1,3-dienes and, therefore, it is an excellent transformation for use in complex molecule synthesis. So far, compared to the ring closing diene metathesis, RCEYM has been used more sparingly,<sup>29</sup> but there are still a considerable number of reports of the use of RCEYM to construct diene-

containing heterocycles. A wide variety of heterocycles have been synthesized by this metathesis approach.

Nitrogen containing heterocycles, piperidine and pyrrolidine, have been synthesized using chromium carbenes in the early 90's.<sup>34,35</sup> RCEYM reactions to obtain oxygen containing, furan, pyran, dioxepane derivatives<sup>36</sup> and siloxanes<sup>37</sup> also have been reported. This methodology has been applied successfully as one of the key steps, to synthesize a considerable number of natural products.<sup>38-44</sup>

Even though there are a couple of reported examples of annulations of imidazole enyne derivatives with Fisher carbene derivatives,<sup>45,46</sup> there is only one previous report of enyne metathesis on imidazoles.<sup>47</sup> Employing RCEYM on the imidazole substrates, 5/6, 5/7, 5/8-fused imidazole derivatives have been synthesized. In this report, several different imidazole enyne substrates **24** were synthesized by a van Leusen reaction, by the co-condensation of tosylmethyl isocyanides **25**, aldehydes **26** and primary amines **27** in DMF in the presence of a base. It has been shown previously by our group that in diene ring closing metathesis reactions of imidazoles, the lone pair at N-3 of the imidazole ring has to be "neutralized"; otherwise it can interfere with the activity of the ruthenium catalyst.<sup>48</sup> Therefore, pretreatment of imidazole with one equivalent of TsOH has been carried out before the enyne metathesis (scheme 1.9).<sup>49</sup>



Scheme 1.9

When employing this RCEYM reaction on an imidazole to produce a relevant diene derivative **28**, it has been observed that very low yields are obtained for a terminal alkynyl moiety in the enyne substrate. This low yield for terminal alkynyl substrates is consistent with previous observations.<sup>50</sup> Besides this poor yielding example, yields of the other metathesis reactions varied from moderate to good. It has been observed 5/7-fused ring systems produced diene products in better yields than from the 5/6 or 5/8-fused ring systems. In all these reported examples, the newly formed rings were fused to the 4 and 5-carbon positions of the imidazole ring.

#### 1.4 Diels-Alder Reaction (DA)

#### 1.4.1 Introduction

The Diels-Alder (DA) reaction, a [4+2] cycloaddition reaction between a conjugated diene **29** and dienophile **30** to produce six membered ring **31**, has become a very useful tool in synthetic organic chemistry since its discovery (scheme 1.10).<sup>5</sup> Its stereospecificity and the formation of two carbon-carbon bonds in a single step, have attracted the attention of synthetic chemists. Like other pericyclic reactions, the DA reaction also produces products by the interaction between the highest occupied

molecular orbital (HOMO) and the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) of the two reacting components (figure 1.3).



Figure 1.3 Frontier orbital interactions in Diels-Alder reaction

The diene must have the s-*cis* conformation to participate in this reaction. If the dienophile has electron withdrawing group/s and the diene is electron rich, it is favorable for the reaction. The reason for that is the lowering of the energy of the LUMO of the dienophile makes the energy gap between LUMO and HOMO small, and, therefore, results in good interactions between these two frontier orbitals. If there is stereochemistry in the diene or dienophile, this is reflected in the resulting cycloadduct (schemes 1.11 and 1.12).



Scheme 1.11

Scheme 1.12

#### 1.4.2 Diels-Alder Reactions of Imidazoles

It has been shown that imidazoles participate in the Diels-Alder reaction even though the examples are less common than some of other heterocycles.<sup>51</sup> For example furan has been shown to be a very good DA substrate with the greatest number of examples,<sup>52</sup> and pyrrole also has been shown to have a high potential to undergo the DA reaction with numerous dienophiles.<sup>53,54</sup>

One of the reasons we became interested in DA reactions of imidazoles is because it was believed that this reaction would serve as a critical step in synthesizing several imidazole based natural products like palau'amine, axinellamine and massadine.<sup>55,56</sup> It has been shown in our lab that vinylimidazoles participate in the intermolecular DA reaction with different dienophiles as well as with different protecting groups in N-1 position.<sup>57</sup> Also, the participation of different 4-vinylimidazole substrates in intramolecular DA reaction have been successfully illustrated.<sup>58</sup>

Our motivation is to produce diverse imidazole analogs by employing different transformations. Therefore, the utilization of the DA reaction on novel imidazole diene substrates and evaluate the feasibility of this cycloaddition also one of the objectives. RCEYM provides us a very good platform to carry out these types of reactions.

#### 1.4.3 Diels-Alder Reactions on RCEYM Products

Since enyne metathesis is an effective method to construct dienes that can access an *s*-cis conformation, scientists have realized that this metathesis product could be a potential Diels-Alder reactant and when this reaction has been carried out, they have obtained encouraging results.<sup>59</sup> Sequential combination of RCEYM and Diels-

Alder reaction have attracted attention and have been employed over the last decade. Within a period of only five months this year, there are several publications on the subject of employing these two sequential reactions as key steps, to obtain a wide range of complex molecules including different natural products,<sup>60,61</sup> natural product frameworks,<sup>62</sup> amino acid derivatives<sup>63</sup> and glycosides.<sup>64</sup>

## 1.4.3.1 Diels-Alder Reactions on Heretocyclic RCEYM Products

It is reported that sequential RCEYM/DA reactions have been employed to obtain polycyclic heterocycles.<sup>65</sup> It has been shown that norbornane derivatives have undergone enyne metathesis using ethene as the ene-moiety. A subsequent stereoselective DA reaction resulted in the formation of oxygen containing polycyclic heterocycles.<sup>65</sup> Ethylene has been used as the ene-moiety and when a terminal alkene is used, the reaction has not given the desired results. It has been shown that this type of DA reaction can be conducted *in situ*.

Six to eight membered 1,2-oxaza heterocycles has been synthesized efficiently, from the RCEYM using enynes tethered by an N-O bond, followed by DA on the metathesis product.<sup>66</sup> In these examples, metathesis products have been subjected to DA reaction with different dienophiles to obtain two or three membered polycycles.



Figure 1.4 Diels-Alder reactions on heretocyclic RCEYM products

Similar sequential reactions have been employed successfully to obtain a carbazole derivative.<sup>67</sup> Through this scheme, 2,5-pyrrolidinedione-fused carbazoles derivative, which could be an important ring system for the synthesis of some natural products, has been obtained in moderate yields.

Recently, enyne substrates of benzofuran, *N*-methylindole and benzothiophene have been synthesized and RCEYM has been carried out on them.<sup>68</sup> Isolation of the metathesis product from the reaction mixture has not been performed and the DA reaction has been employed on the crude dienes, using dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (DMAD) as the dienophile, to obtain relevant cycloadducts in moderate to poor yields (30-65%). It is reported that benzofuran derivative has resulted in a poorer yield than the other substrates (figure 1.4).

So far, the sequential RCEYM/DA reactions on imidazole derivatives have not been reported and from the beginning of our research, we wished to examine the feasibility of these types of reactions for different imidazole derivatives and different dienophiles.

### CHAPTER 2

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### 2.1 Preparation of Trimethysilyl- (TMS-) Protected Propargyl Bromide

The TMS-protected propargyl bromide **32** was needed to start the synthesis. For that first, lithium diisopropylamide (LDA) was prepared *in situ* from dry diisopropylamine and *n*-butyllithium. Then freshly distilled propargyl bromide and TMS-Cl were added sequentially, at -85  $^{\circ}$ C. Finally, hexamethylphosphoramide (HMPA) was added to the mixture (scheme 2.1).<sup>69</sup>





When this reaction was performed using the commercially available material, propargyl bromide in toluene, the desired product was not obtained; neat propargyl bromide is a must for this reaction. However, this synthetic procedure was abandoned due to the inconvenience of obtaining neat propargyl bromide commercially and problems with controlling the temperature between -85 and -90 °C. In addition, HMPA
is a carcinogenic chemical that has the ability to get into the body through the skin, mouth and by respiration. This factor was also taken into the consideration for this decision.

An alternate method to synthesize this salme precursor was attempted using propargyl alcohol **33** as the starting material.<sup>70</sup> In this three-step preparation, the first step was protection of propargyl alcohol as the tetrahydropyranyl ether. To accomplish this *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (TsOH), propargyl alcohol and 3,4-dihydro-2H-pyran were stirred for 2 hours at 15 °C to yield **34** as a colorless liquid in 74% yield after distillation under reduced preassure.<sup>71</sup> The second step of the preparation of 32 was to substitute the acetylenic proton with a TMS group. For that, **34** in THF was treated with n-butyl lithium at -78 °C. Then TMS-chloride was added dropwise and then it was stirred overnight at room temperature. After work-up and vacuum distillation of the mixture, 35 was obtained in 54% yield. The TMSCl used was not freshly distilled and this could be the reason for the low yield in this step. The last step of this three-step sequence was substitute tetrahydropyranyl ether moiety with bromine. to the Then dibromotriphenylphosphorane was prepared by adding Br<sub>2</sub> to a solution of triphenylphosphine in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at -10 °C. Then, compound 35 was added dropwise and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 8 hours. Finally, compound 32 was isolated as a colorless liquid in 72% yield, after purification by distillation at reduced pressure (scheme 2.2).

23



#### Scheme 2.2

## 2.2 Ring Closing Enyne Metathesis (RCEYM) followed by Diels-Alder Reaction of Dimethylaminosulfamoyl- (DMAS-) Protected Allyl-Propargyl Imidazole Derivatives

### 2.2.1 Preparation of the Enyne Substrate

Diiodoimidazole **37** was prepared in 62% yield by Carver's method of treating imidazole **36** with I<sub>2</sub>/KI and NaOH.<sup>4</sup> Then N-1 was protected by treating **37** with N, N-dimethylaminosulfamoyl chloride (DMAS-CI) in the presence of triethylamine and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP) to obtain **38** in 76% yield.<sup>4</sup> (Scheme 2.3). The ynemoiety was introduced to **38** using TMS-protected propargyl bromide **32**. To accomplish this, **38** was treated with EtMgBr to initiate iodine-magnesium exchange, then transmetallation was carried out with CuCN by adding 1 M CuCN.2LiCl in THF to the mixture at -30 °C. Then **32** was added dropwise and stirring was carried out at 0 °C for 4 hours. The reaction was monitored by TLC. One major product, that was less polar than the starting material **38**, and few minor byproducts were observed. After purification by flash column chromatography, **39** was obtained in 66% yield. One of the minor products was identified as **41**. The ene-moiety was introduced by a similar

procedure. In this step allyl bromide was used as the "ene" source and major product was appeared to be more polar than the starting substrate. Finally, the enyne substrate **40** was obtained as a white solid in 71% yield (scheme 2.3).



Scheme 2.3

2.2.2 Optimization of the RCEYM Reaction



Scheme 2.4

After the preparation of the key envne substrate **40**, the metathesis reaction was investigated using different reaction conditions. Concentration of the reaction mixture,

solvent, effect of ethylene, and type and the amount of catalyst were the major factors taken into consideration. Also it has been shown by our group that the basicity of the N-3 atom of imidazole can affect the ruthenium catalyst and make less active for RCM reactions. Therefore, TsOH was used to prevent interference of N-3 to metathesis reactions through formation of the imidazolium ion.<sup>48</sup> For that reason it was decided to use this strategy for enyne metathesis as well.

First, the metathesis reaction was attempted with enyne substrate **40** using Grubbs' first generation catalyst (Grubbs' I). A new more polar product by TLC was obtained, however it was a very low yielding reaction. The yield was considerably higher with Grubbs' second generation catalyst (Grubbs' II). When the concentration was reduced two fold from the reported diene metathesis reaction, an increase in yield was observed.<sup>48</sup> On the other hand, too much dilution resulted in an increase in reaction time and a substantial amount of unreacted starting material was observed. Also, if the amount of catalyst is 5 mol% then the reaction produced a minute amount of product, leaving starting material in the reaction mixture. Also, it was observed that when the amount of catalyst was increased, the time taken to complete the reaction was reduced considerably.

After optimization it was found that 15 mol% of catalyst was needed for the ring closing enyne metathesis reaction. It has been reported that carrying out the reaction under the ethylene atmosphere can affect the reaction, desirably.<sup>31,32,49</sup> Therefore this reaction was carried out in an ethylene atmosphere and it was observed that ethylene did not have a substantial effect on the type or the amount of product. The only difference

was the appearance of much clearer TLC pattern compared to nitrogen atmosphere. Also, in the absence of TsOH, a complex TLC pattern was observed with the product formation appearing less prominant.

#### 2.2.3 The RCEYM Reaction

Considering all these factors, the enyne metathesis was carried out again, with 40 in  $CH_2Cl_2$  using Grubbs'II after the pretreatment of substrate with TsOH. The metathesis product 42 was obtained in moderate 55% yield (scheme 2.5).



Scheme 2.5

It has been reported in enyne metathesis of imidazoles, that when the size of the ring increased the yield also was increased.<sup>46</sup> Therefore, this was a satisfying yield that encouraged us to proceed. Desilylation of the TMS group was observed during the metathesis reaction. The occurrence of desilylation has been observed previously during an enyne metathesis reaction in the presence of Grubbs'II, upon heating in  $CH_2Cl_2$  under argon.<sup>72</sup> The exact reason for this desilylation was not clear. But desilylation does not appear to be general in the presence of only Grubbs' II and the TMS group can remain unaffected as a component of the diene product after the metathesis reaction.<sup>73</sup>

the imidazolium salt is in the reaction mixture, proton assisted desilylation appears to be the most acceptable explanation for this desilylation (scheme 2.6).



#### Scheme 2.6

Several methods have been discovered to remove ruthenium byproducts formed from methathesis reactions.<sup>74-76</sup> Since some color was observed in the metathesis product we attempted to remove the color using DMSO in a duplicate reaction.<sup>76</sup> Basically, after the completion of the reaction, the mixture was stirred for 12 hours with DMSO (50 equivalents relative to the catalyst) and DMSO was removed during the purification using flash chromatography. By using this procedure much of the original coloration was removed.

#### 2.2.4 The Diels-Alder Reaction

The next step of our work was to study the feasibility of the Diels-Alder reaction of the metathesis product. *N*-phenylmaleimide (NPM) has been identified as a potential dienophile for this cycloaddition.<sup>77</sup> The reaction of the metathesis product **42** and NPM was performed in a sealed tube using  $CH_2Cl_2$  as the solvent. One major product, which is more polar than the starting material, was observed in TLC. Later, it was identified as the desired cycloadduct **43** and was obtained in 86% yield (scheme 2.7).



Scheme 2.7

Considering the N-dimethylsulfamoylimidazole derivatives, the complete pathway of preparation of enyne substrate, enyne metathesis and the Diels-Alder reaction, it was observed that all these reactions worked reasonably well.

## 2.3 <u>RCEYM followed by Diels-Alder Reaction of Benzyl Protected Allyl-Propargyl</u> <u>Imidazole Derivatives.</u>

#### 2.3.1 Preparation of the Enyne Substrate

To investigate the ring-closing envne metathesis of substrates containing electron donating protecting groups, the benzyl group was recognized as a potential group that is widely applicable and used extensively by our group. To prepare the benzyl-protected enyne substrate, first N-1 was protected by treatment with NaH and benzyl chloride to obtain 1-benzyl-4,5-diiodoimidazole 44 in 82%.<sup>78</sup> The same reagents and similar reaction conditions that were employed to make 39, were used with 44 to synthesize the benzyl protected propargyl imidazole derivative 45. When monitoring the reaction by TLC, a new product was observed which was slightly less polar than the starting material. Purification by column chromatography, spectroscopic characterization revealed that is the expected product 45 was formed, in 52% yield. Also, one of the minor products, **47** was isolated. To make the substrate for enyne metathesis, iodine-magnesium exchange, transmetallation followed by the addition of **32** was carried out on substrate **45**. This reaction was not as clean in comparison to the corresponding reaction of the DMAS-protected substrate. A fairly complex mixture of products was observed and a product that is slightly more polar than **45** was isolated in 48% yield and later it was identified as **46** (scheme 2.8). This is a significant difference in yield compared to the corresponding reaction with the substrate containing the electron withdrawing DMAS group. This difference in yield was reproducible.





#### 2.3.2 The RCEYM Reaction

After obtaining the enyne substrate, the metathesis reaction was carried out on **46** with Grubbs' II using  $CH_2Cl_2$  as the solvent. When monitoring this reaction, after 4 hours some starting material remained unreacted and even after 8 hours that amount was nearly the same. This reaction led to the construction of the expected diene **48** in 52% in yield (scheme 2.9).



Scheme 2.9

There was no significant difference in yield or conditions observed in this step compared with the corresponding step with the DMAS-protected derivative. Also, desilylation was observed, again similar to the previous metathesis reaction with **40**.

## 2.3.3 The Diels-Alder Reaction

Finally, the Diels-Alder reaction was conducted with **48** with NPM in a sealed tube in  $CH_2Cl_2$ . The major product was more polar than the starting material and flash column purification produced the expected cycloadduct **49**, as a reddish solid in 74% yield. A slightly lower yield and longer reaction time were observed compared with the step of obtaining **43** (Scheme 2.10).



**Scheme 2.10** 

## 2.4 Preparation of Imidazole N-1, C-4 Enyne Substrates and RCEYM Followed by Diels-Alder Reaction

#### 2.4.1 Preparation of the Enyne Substrate

After successful construction of rings in C-4 and C-5 positions of imidazole derivatives containing either electron withdrawing or donating groups, the next task was to study the ability to construct similar rings linked through other atoms of the imidazole. To accomplish this, formation of a ring between N-1 and C-5 of the imidazole was taken into the consideration. For this pathway, again diiodoimidazole was a used as the starting material. Introduction of the allyl moiety was carried out by treating compound **37** with NaH and allyl bromide in THF to produce **50** in 70% yield.<sup>78</sup> Then substrate **51** for RCEYM was prepared in 61% yield by employing a halogen-metal exchange followed by a transmetallation reaction to introduce the propargyl moiety (scheme 2.11).



Scheme 2.11

#### 2.4.2 The RCEYM Reaction

After preparation of the desired substrate **51**, RCEYM was employed under similar conditions to the previous reactions. As expected this produced the diene **52** in

52% yield which appeared to be more polar than the enyne substrate (scheme 2.12). Again, some unreacted starting material was observed even after 32 hours.



Scheme 2.12

#### 2.4.3 The Diels-Alder Reaction

After construction of the desired 5-6 ring system, the feasibility of the Diels-Alder reaction was studied with 52 with NPM in a sealed tube using  $CH_2Cl_2$  as the solvent under a nitrogen atmosphere. After 15 hours a solid formed on the wall of the tube. Assuming solid may char due to the heat, a few drops of acetonitrile were added to the reaction mixture to solublize this precipitated material. The major product was prominent and appeared to be more polar than the metathesis product. After the cycloaddition reaction, the cycloadduct 53 was obtained in 71% yield (scheme 2.13).





## 2.5 Preparation of Imidazole N-1, C-2 Enyne Substrates and RCEYM followed by Diels-Alder Reaction

#### 2.5.1 Preparation of the Enyne Substrate

After successful construction of the 5/6 fused ring systems in different positions of imidazole derivatives followed by further elaboration by Diels-Akler reaction, our next target was to construct enyne substrates substituted on N-1 and C-2 atoms of imidazoles with allyl and propargyl groups. From our experience of diene metathesis, 2,3,5-tribromoimidazole **54** was identified as a potential starting material for this type of transformation.<sup>48</sup> Preparation of 2,3,5- tribromoimidazole was achieved by the treatment of imidazole with Br<sub>2</sub> using CHCl<sub>3</sub> as the solvent, generating **54**, which was recrystallized with 95% ethanol to yield 54% of the product.<sup>79</sup> The allyl group was introduced at N-1 using allyl bromide and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> in acetone, producing 2,4,5-tribromo-1-allylimidazole **55** in 84% yield.<sup>80</sup> Again, using TMS-protected propargyl bromide, the alkynyl-moiety was introduced to the C-2 position of the imidazole to obtain enyne substrate **56**, via metallation 61% in yield (scheme 2.14).



Scheme 2.14

#### 2.5.2 The RCEYM Reaction

After successfully constructing the enyne substrate, the RCEYM reaction was carried out using Grubbs' II catalyst in  $CH_2Cl_2$ . Even after refluxing this mixture for 8 hours, mostly unreacted starting material was observed by TLC and very small amount of a (presumed) product was observed. Therefore an additional 5 mol% of catalyst was added to the mixture and it was heated at reflux for a further 6 hours. Unfortunately, the expected diene was not obtained and the starting material was recovered (85%) after the flash column (scheme 2.15).





In some cases it has been found that elevated temperature can improve metathesis reactions therefore, it was performed at 80 °C. This time, after only 2 hours, all of starting material was consumed and three different products were observed. The products were more polar than the starting material. Also, some other components were detected under long range UV light. Separation of the three compounds by column chromatography was difficult since two of the compounds were similar in polarity. After separating the three compounds, it was observed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy that none of the products contained a TMS group, which was expected, but surprisingly, it was observed that all three compounds showed the presence of peaks consistent with the incorporation of a Ts fragment. i.e.  $\delta = 7.80$  (2H), 7.34 (2H), 2.45 (3H). Also <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy of two of the products showed the presence of an additional methyl group and one product appeared to be like the TsOH salt of the starting material. Therefore, these products were washed with NaOH where the strength ranged from 3-25%, but no change observed indicating that these compounds were not salts. Analysis of these compounds by mass spectrometry revealed that molecular weight of all these compounds are the same (476.13 g/mol), therefore it was confirmed that all three products are isomeric and they are TsOH adduct (scheme 2.16). After interpreting observations from <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, DEPT, COSY and HETCOR, the following structures were elucidated for the resulting products (scheme 2.16).



**Scheme 2.16** 

The following mechanisms are proposed for these observations. The obtained product yields can be easily explained by this mechanism (scheme 2.17).



**Scheme 2.17** 

To evaluate if there is any effect Grubbs' II catalyst for this reaction, the same reaction was carried out in the absence of the catalyst. As expected, the same three products **58**, **59** and **60** were isolated by flash chromatography in the same yields. This supports the notion that there is no effect of the catalyst on the addition of TsOH to the alkyne bond and acid-catalyzed alkyne bond isomerization.

In the enyne substrate **56**, there can be a possibility of lowering the basicity of the N-3 atom by bromine atoms due to its electronegativity. If it occurs, then the necessity of TsOH is less important and RCEYM could take place without TsOH. Under this assumption, the same reaction was carried out without TsOH, however after 3 hours, no reaction was observed (scheme 2.18).



Scheme 2.18

#### 2.6 Employing Allyl Alcohol as the Ene Moiety of RCEYM Reactions

#### 2.6.1 Preparation of the Enyne Substrate

Previous work has been done in our group concerning the effect of a hydroxyl group on the preparation of diene substrates and diene metathesis reactions of imidazole derivatives. In both cases it was shown that both of these reactions result in modest yields.<sup>48</sup> Elimination of the OH group as a water molecule to provide the aromatized derivative has been observed in this diene metathesis reaction. Aware of these facts, it was decided to evaluate similar reactions for the RCEYM. First the allyl alcohol moiety was introduced to **39** by an exchange reaction followed by quenching the resulting Grignard with acrolein to generate **61** (scheme 2.19). As expected from studies of diene metathesis, this was a relatively low yielding reaction. During work up of this reaction a large amount of a brown colored product was formed, which was insoluble in common solvents and could not be characterized. The major product was considerably more polar than the starting substrate by TLC.



**Scheme 2.19** 

#### 2.6.2 The RCEYM Reaction

After obtaining the envne substrate 61, it was exposed to the RCEYM conditions that have been employed for other substrates, using Grubbs' II. After purification of the reaction mixture, NMR spectroscopy indicated that the desired diene 62 was not formed. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum showed two additional peaks, in the aromatic region i.e.  $\delta = 7.58$  (s, 1H), 7.49 (s, 1H), in addition the peak for the C-2 hydrogen of the imidazole. However there were no signals in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum for a vinylic substrate which the expected aromatic compound 63 that should have been obtained after the elimination of a water molecule from the substrate (scheme 2.20). Again, using different NMR spectra, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup> C NMR, DEPT and COSY, the compound 64 was proposed as one of the possible compounds as the major product, interestingly, this product retained the TMS-moiety. It was suspected that this product could be obtained without the catalyst in the reaction mixture. To investigate this, the same reaction was carried out in the absence of Grubbs' II catalyst, but the formation of 64 was not observed and three other major products were observed by TLC. Therefore the necessity of the catalyst was confirmed to obtain 64. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the

crude reaction mixture showed the peaks consistent with the tosylate adduct and therefore it was suspected that the products observed in this reaction were formed by the addition of TsOH to the alkyne moiety. However the products from this reaction were not purified and identified.



Scheme 2.20

#### 2.6.3 The Diels-Alder Reaction

The product obtained from the metathesis reaction was subjected to the Diels-Alder reaction to provide additional support for the structure of the metathesis product. After heating in a sealed tube with NPM in toluene at 110 °C for 4 days, no reaction observed. Therefore, it was confirmed that **62** has not been synthesized form the metathesis reaction.

#### 2.7 Summary

The ring-closing enyne metathesis has attracted the attention of many chemists especially during past ten years or so. We have been able to demonstrate the feasibility of this metathesis for different imidazole analogues and have constructed the relevant diene in two different positions fused to imidazole ring. Also, two types of N-1 protecting groups, DMAS and benzyl, have been used and both provided the desired metathesis product without a significant difference in efficiency. But preparation of the enyne substrate of benzyl protected derivative is relatively low yielding compared to the other variant. Since the substrates were pretreated with tosic acid, proton-assisted desilylation of TMS-substituted derivatives was observed during metathesis reaction.

Efforts to construct benzimidazole derivative fused to N-1 and C-2 positions were unsuccessful and the desired diene was not obtained even in low yield. In this reaction the addition of tosic acid to the alkyne moiety was observed. The expected metathesis reaction did not occur without the pretreatment of the enyne substrate with tosic acid. This reaction produced three different products all containing tosic acid. Even though the metathesis did not work, this addition reaction can be considered as an interesting result that warrants study further. This could be an important reaction for different transformations to elaborate diverse simple molecules.

Also, metathesis reaction of the enyne substrate of the allyl alcohol derivative did not give the expected diene or a benzimidazole derivative. A product was obtained that appeared to contain a benzimidazole with two substituted methylene was proporsed. Since the structure of this product is not confirmed, a mechanism has not been proposed.

After obtaining the diene derivatives from RCEYM, these products were subjected to Diels-Alder reaction with *N*-phenylmaleimide. Three cycloadducts have been constructed in good yields, in which the protecting group and the ring positions are different from each other.

## **CHAPTER 3**

#### EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

#### 3.1 General Information

All the reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and were used without purification unless otherwise specified. Reactions involving air- or watersensitive compounds were conducted in oven dried (overnight) glassware under an atmosphere of dry nitrogen. Tetrahedrofuran, toluene and dichloromethane used were purified using Innovative Technologies Inc Pure Solv SPS-400-05 solvent purification system.

<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR ( $\delta$  in ppm) spectra were recorded using JEOL Eclipse 300 spectrometer in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 300 and 75 MHz respectively (except for compound **43**). For <sup>1</sup>H NMR residual CHCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta$  = 7.26) was used as reference and for <sup>13</sup>C NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta$  = 77.0) used as the internal reference.

Melting points were recorded on a MEL-TEMP II melting point apparatus of Laboratory Devices Inc, USA and are uncorrected. Infrared (IR) spectra were obtained on Bruker Vector 22 FT-IR spectrometer using KBr pellets or as a neat film.

High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained from Dr. Powell's lab in University of Florida, Gainsville, Florida. All mass spectral data are reported as m/z(relative intensity). Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Whatman silica gel  $60F_{254}$  aluminium precoated plates (0.25mm layer). All liquid chromatographic purifications were carried out using ICN silica gel (200-400 mesh).

#### 5-(3-Trimethylsilylprop-2-ynyl)-1-dimethylsulfamoyl-4-iodo-1*H*-imidazole (39)



A 3.0 M solution of EtMgBr in ether (4.3 mL, 12.9 mmol) was added to a solution of 4,5-diiodo-1-dimethylsulfamoyl-1*H*imidazole (5.00 g, 11.7 mmol) in dry  $CH_2Cl_2$  (50 mL) at room temperature. The resulting suspension was stirred at room

temperature for 30 minutes and then a 1.0 M solution of CuCN.2LiCl in dry THF (11.7 mL, 11.7 mmol) was added. Then the reaction mixture was cooled to -30 °C and TMSprotected propargyl bromide **32** (2.45 g, 12.8 mmol) was added. The temperature was allowed to increase to 0 °C and then stirred for an additional 4 h. Then half saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution containing 2% concentrated NH<sub>3</sub> (50 mL) was added to the reaction mixture and stirred for 20 minutes. The color of the mixture changed to blue and the organic layer was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 x 25 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (30/70 EtOAc/hexanes) to yield **39** (3.17 g, 66%) as a pale yellow solid: mp: 100-101 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  = 7.87 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 2H), 2.99 (s, 6H), 0.13 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  = 139.5, 128.2, 100.5, 89.3, 86.3, 38.2, 17.1, 0.0; IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3129, 2959, 2179, 1536, 1459, 1251, 1150, 1099; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>18</sub>IN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>SSiNa<sup>+</sup> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> *m/z*, 433.9826, found, 433.9826.

## 5-(3-Trimethylsilylprop-2-ynyl)-1-dimethylsulfamoyl-4-(prop-2-ene)-1H-imidazole (40)

TMS O=S=O

A 3.0 M solution of EtMgBr in ether (0.86 mL, 2.57 mmol) was added to a solution of 39 (0.96 g, 2.34 mmol) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) at room temperature. The resulting suspension was stirred at room temperature for 30 minutes and then a 1.0 M solution of CuCN.2LiCl in dry THF (2.34 mL, 2.34 mmol) was added. Then the reaction mixture was cooled to -30 °C and allyl bromide (0.41 mL, 4.68 mmol) was added. The temperature was allowed to increase to 0 °C and then stirred for an additional 4 hours. Then half saturated aqueous  $NH_4Cl$  solution containing 2% concentrated  $NH_3$  (10 mL) was added to the reaction mixture and stirred for 20 minutes. The color of the mixture changed to blue and the organic layer was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (2 x 5 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried ( $Na_2SO_4$ ) and evaporated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (60/40

EtOAc/hexanes) to yield 40 (540 mg, 71%) as a pale yellow solid: mp: 39-41 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta = 7.85$  (s, 1H), 5.97 (ddt, J = 17.0, 10.0, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 5.14 (dq, J = 17.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 5.09 (dq, J = 10.1, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 2H), 3.38 (dt J = 6.5, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 2.95 (s, 6H), 0.12 (s, 9H);  ${}^{13}$ C NMR:  $\delta$  = 139.9, 137.5, 134.7, 121.5, 116.3, 101.8, 85.9, 38.0, 31.9, 14.8, 0.0; IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3081, 2960, 2178, 1640, 1476, 3991, 1251, 1178; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for  $C_{14}H_{24}N_3O_2SSi^+$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> m/z, 326.1353, found 326.1353.

#### 4, 7-Dihydro-5-vinyl-1-dimethylsulfamoyl-1*H*-benzimidazole (42)

Compound 40 (500 mg, 1.54 mmol) and p-TsOH (322 mg, 1.69 mmol) were dissolved in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (30.8 mL) and heated at reflux for 30 min. Then the solution was cooled to room temperature and Grubbs' second generation catalyst (185 mg, 0.218 mmol) was added and the mixture again heated to reflux for 2 hours. After that NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution followed by  $K_2CO_3$  was added to the reaction mixture till the solution was basic. After separating the layers, the aqueous solution was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (2 x 20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried  $(Na_2SO_4)$  and evaporated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (50/50 EtOAc/hexanes) to yield 42 (215 mg, 55%) as a brownish solid: mp: 122-124 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  = 7.87 (s, 1H), 6.53 (dd, J = 17.5, 11.0 Hz, 1H), 5.96 (broad s, 1H), 5.19 (d, J = 17.5 Hz, 1H), 5.08 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1H), 3.53 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.41 (dd, J =6.3, 3.6 Hz, 2H), 2.91 (s, 6H);  ${}^{13}$ C NMR:  $\delta$  = 138.7, 137.0, 136.0, 132.2, 126.7, 123.2, 111.9, 38.2, 26.7, 23.6; IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2892, 2360, 1615, 1472, 1390, 1274, 1182, 1145, 965; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> m/z, 254.0958, found 254.0959.

# 1-Dimethyls ulfamoyl-4,4a,5,6,7,9-hexahydro-1H-[3,4-g]-1-phenylpyrrolidine-2,5-dionenaphtho-[2,3-d]-imidazole (43)



Compound 42 (100 mg, 0.395 mmol) and *N*-phenylmaleimide (137 mg, 0.791 mmol) in dry  $CH_2Cl_2$  (3.9 mL) were placed in a thick-walled resealable tube. Then the solvent was purged with nitrogen and heated to 50 °C for 22 hours. Then the  $CH_2Cl_2$  was evaporated and the residue was purified by flash chromatography (75/25 EtOAc/hexanes) to yield **43** (144 mg, 86%) as a white solid: mp: 159-161 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz):  $\delta = 7.72$  (s, 1H), 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.25 (m, 2H), 5.81 (broad t, J = 5 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (d, J = 17.4, 1H), 3.44 (d, J = 17.4, 1H), 3.39 (dd, J = 9.15, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.28 (td, J = 9.4, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (dd, 14.2, 5.95 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (m, 1H), 2.82 (broad S, 6+1H), 2.78 (m, 1H), 2.44 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz):  $\delta = 178.6$ , 177.3, 138.3, 136.6, 134.6, 131.8, 129.3, 128.7, 126.4, 124.3, 121.4, 42.1, 38.1, 38.0, 33.9, 31.0, 27.2, 22.3; IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2930, 2360, 1709, 1499, 1390, 1184, 1142, 964; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub>SNa<sup>+</sup> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> m/z, 449.1254, found 449.1253.

#### 5-(3-Trimethylsilylprop-2-ynyl)-1-benzyl-4-iodo-1*H*-imidazole (45)

A 3.0 M solution of EtMgBr in ether (4.3 mL, 12.9 mmol) was added to a solution of 4,5-diiodo-1-benzyl-1*H*-imidazole (4.80 g, 11.7 mmol) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (50 mL) at room temperature. The resulting suspension was stirred at room temperature for 30 minutes and then a 1.0 M solution of CuCN.2LiCl in dry THF (11.7 mL, 11.7 mmol) was added. Then the reaction mixture was cooled to -30 °C and TMS-protected propargyl bromide (2.45 g, 12.8 mmol) was added. The temperature was allowed to increase to 0 °C and then stirred for an additional 6 hours. Then half saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution containing 2% concentrated NH<sub>3</sub> (50 mL) was added to the reaction mixture and stirred for 20 minutes. The color of the mixture changed to blue and the organic layer was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 x 25 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (30/70 ether/hexanes) to yield **45** (2.40 g, 52%) as a pale yellow solid: mp: 119-120 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  = 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.35 (m, 3H), 7.14 (m, 2H), 5.28 (s, 2H), 3.43 (s, 2H), 0.14 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  = 139.6, 135.3, 129.2, 128.7, 128.5, 127.3, 100.2, 87.1, 84.7, 49.8, 17.2, 0.0; IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2360, 2341, 2171, 1488, 1229, 1020, 843, 759; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub>IN<sub>2</sub>Si<sup>+</sup> [M+ H]<sup>+</sup> *m/z*, 395.0435, found 395.0434.

#### 5-(3-Trimethylsilylprop-2-ynyl)-1-benzyl-4-(prop-2-ene)-1*H*-imidazole (46)



A 3.0 M solution of EtMgBr in ether (0.86 mL, 2.57 mmol) was added to a solution of **45** (0.92 g, 2.34 mmol) in dry  $CH_2Cl_2$  (10 mL) at room temperature. The resulting suspension was stirred at room temperature for 30 minutes and then a 1.0 M solution of

CuCN.2LiCl in dry THF (2.34 mL, 2.34 mmol) was added. Then the reaction mixture was cooled to -30 °C and allyl bromide (0.41 mL, 4.68 mmol) was added. The temperature was allowed to increase to 0 °C and then stirred for an additional 4 hours. Then half saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution containing 2% concentrated NH<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) was added to the reaction mixture and stirred for 20 minutes. The color of the mixture changed to blue and the organic layer was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 x 5 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. The TLC revealed this is a relative complex reaction mixture. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (75/25 ether/hexanes) to yield **46** (346 mg, 48%) as a pale yellow oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta = 7.33$  (s, 1H), 7.22 (m, 3H), 7.03 (m, 2H),

5.90 (ddt, J = 16.7, 10.2, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 5.10 (s, 2H), 4.99 (m, 2H), 3.26 (s, 2H), 3.25 (m, 2H), 0.01 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR: 137.0, 136.8, 136.4, 136.2, 129.0, 128.1, 127.1, 121.6, 115.5, 101.6, 86.2, 48.9, 32.1, 15.0, 0.0; IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2958, 2360, 1671, 1498, 1360, 1250, 846; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for  $C_{19}H_{25}N_2Si^+$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> m/z, 309.1782, found 309.1804.

Compound 46 (474 mg, 1.54 mmol) and p-TsOH (322 mg, 1.69

### 4, 7-Dihydro-5-vinyl-1-benzyl-1*H*-benzimidazole (48)



mmol) were dissolved in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (30.8 mL) and heated at reflux for 30 min. Then the solution was cooled to room temperature and Grubbs' second generation catalyst (185 mg, 0.218 mmol) was added and the mixture again heated to reflux for an additional 4 hours. After that NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution followed by K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> was added to the reaction mixture till solution was basic. After separating the layers, the aqueous solution was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 x 20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (70/30 EtOAc/hexanes) to yield 48 (220 mg, 52%) as a white solid: mp: 152-153 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  = 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.12 (m, 2H), 6.50 (dd, J = 17.5, 10.7 Hz 1H), 5.99 (broad s, 1H), 5.09 (s, 2H), 5.00 (d, J = 17.5 Hz 1H), 4.98 (d, J = 10.8 Hz 1H), 3.44 (dt, J = 6.8, 3.8 Hz, 2H), 3.17 (t, J = 6.7 Hz 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta =$ 139.2, 136.4, 131.9, 129.1, 128.5, 128.1, 126.9, 111.0, 48.8, 27.1, 21.9; IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2831, 2360, 1611, 1497, 1440, 1228, 1776, 992, 859; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for  $C_{16}H_{17}N_2^+$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> *m/z*, 237.1386, found 237.1404.

# **1-Benzyl-4,4a,5,6,7,9-hexahydro-1***H***-**[**3,4***-g*]**-1-phenylpyrrolidine-2,5-ionenaphtho**-[**2,3***-d*]**-imidazole** (**49**)

N N Bn Compound **48** (70 mg, 0.297 mmol) and *N*-phenylmaleimide (72 mg, 0.415 mmol) in dry  $CH_2Cl_2$  (3.0 mL) were placed in a thick-walled resealable tube. Then the solvent was purged with nitrogen and heated to 60 °C for 32 h. Then the  $CH_2Cl_2$  was

evaporated and residue was purified by flash chromatography (70/30 EtOAc/hexanes) to yield **49** (90 mg, 74%) as a solid: mp: 129-130 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  = 7.39 (m, 4H), 7.29 (m, 7H), 7.05, (m, 2H), 5.69 (t, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 4.98 (s, 2H), 6.88 (dd *J* = 8.9, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.26 (td, *J* = 9.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (m, 2H), 2.97 (m, 2H), 2.76 (m, 2H), 2.44 (m, 1H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  = 178.8, 177.5, 136.3, 136.2, 136.0, 135.1, 131.9, 129.3, 129.1, 128.7, 128.2, 126.9, 126.5, 124.9, 120.6, 48.9, 42.1, 37.9, 34.4, 29.9, 27.4, 22.0; IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3062, 2926, 2360, 1710, 1598, 1498, 1455, 1384, 1268, 1185, 735; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> *m/z*, 410.1863, found 410.1904.

#### 5-(3-Trimethylsilylprop-2-ynyl)-1-(prop-2-ene)-4-iodo-1*H*-imidazole (51)

A 3.0 M solution of EtMgBr in ether (2.8 mL, 8.3 mmol) was added to a  $N \rightarrow I$  solution of 1-allyl-4,5-diiodo-1*H*-imidazole (2.50 g, 6.94 mmol) in dry  $CH_2Cl_2$  (30 mL) at room temperature. The resulting suspension was stirred at room temperature for 30 minutes and then a 1.0 M solution of CuCN.2LiCl in dry THF (6.94 mL, 6.94 mmol) was added. Then the reaction mixture was cooled to -30 °C and TMS-protected propargyl bromide (1.46 g, 7.63 mmol) was added. The temperature was allowed to increase to 0 °C and then stirred for an additional 4 h. The initial orange color changed to black over the time. Then half saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution containing 2% concentrated aqueous NH<sub>3</sub> (30 mL) was added to the reaction mixture and stirred for 20 minutes. The color of the mixture changed to blue and the organic layer was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic extracts were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (35/65 EtOAc/hexanes) to yield **51** (1.46 g, 61%) as a brown solid: mp: 34-35 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  = 7.38 (s, 1H), 5.87 (ddt, *J* = 17.0, 10.2, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 5.22 (d, *J* = 10.3 Hz, 1H), 5.01 (d, *J* = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 4.63 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 3.50 (s, 2H), 0.08 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  = 139.2, 132.2, 128.7, 118.9, 100.3, 87.0, 84.3, 48.5, 17.0, 0.0; IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2959, 2360, 2178, 1610, 1490, 1229, 1021, 845, 760; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>18</sub>IN<sub>2</sub>Si<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> *m/z*, 345.0279, found 345.0277.

#### 4-Iodo-5,8-dihydroimidazo-6-vinyl-[1,2-*a*]-pyridine (52)

N  $\stackrel{I}{\longrightarrow}$  Compound **51** (884 mg, 2.57 mmol) and *p*-TsOH (538 mg, 2.82 mmol) were dissolved in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (51.4 mL) and heated at reflux for 30 min. Then the solution was cooled to room temperature and Grubbs' second generation catalyst (305 mg, 0.360 mmol) was added and the mixture again heated to reflux for an additional 3 h. After that NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution followed by K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> was added to the reaction mixture till solution was basic. After separating the layers, the aqueous solution was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 x 30 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (40/60 EtOAc/hexanes) to yield **52** (364 mg, 52%) as a dark brown solid mp: 137-138 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta = 7.47$ , (s, 1H) 6.51 (dd, J = 17.5, 11.0 Hz 1H), 5.84 (broad s, 1H), 5.34 (d, J = 17.2 Hz 1H), 5.19 (d, J = 11.0 Hz 1H), 4.68 (m, 2H), 3.30 (m, 2H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta = 136.9$ , 136.2, 132.3, 128.3, 119.9, 114.1, 79.3, 43.6, 21.8; IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2361, 2342, 1734, 1685, 1560, 1542, 1508, 1419, 1229, 1039, 844; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for  $C_9H_{10}IN_2^+[M+H]^+ m/z$ , 272.9883, found 272.9908.

## 4-Iodo-5,7,8,9a,10-hexahydro-[3,4-g]-1-phenylpyrrolidine-2,5-dioneisoquino-[1,2e]-imidazole (53)

N I Compound 52 (100 mg, 0.368 mmol) and *N*-phenyl maleimide (69 mg, 0.74 mmol) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3.6 mL) were placed in a thick-walled resealable tube. Then the solvent was purged with nitrogen and heated to 50 °C for 26 h. Then the CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was evaporated and residue was purified by flash chromatography (80/20 EtOAc/hexanes) to yield 53 (116 mg, 71%) as a white solid: mp: 190-192 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  = 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.02 (m, 2H), 5.97 (broad s, 1H), 4.81 (dd, *J* = 13.2, 8.3 Hz 1H), 4.37 (dd *J* = 13.4, 6.5 Hz 1H), 3.39 (dd *J* = 18.7, 14.8 Hz 4H), 2.88 (m, 2H), 2.22 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  = 178.1, 176.3, 137.0, 134.7, 131.5, 130.6, 129.3, 129.0, 126.4, 123.2, 60.5, 43.7, 42.2, 40.3, 36.1, 28.3, 24.7; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2347, 2187, 1727, 1662, 1604, 1409, 1111, 847; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>17</sub>IN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>[M+H]<sup>+</sup> *m/z*, 446.0360, found 446.0357.

#### 2-(3-Trimethylsilylprop-2-ynyl)-1-(prop-2-ene)-4,5-dibromo-1*H*-imidazole (56)

Br A 3.0 M solution of EtMgBr in ether (2.9 mL, 8.7 mmol) was added N Br to a solution of 1-allyl-4,5-dibromo-1*H*-imidazole (2.50 g, 7.25 mmol) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (25 mL) at room temperature. The resulting suspension was stirred at room temperature for 30 minutes and then a 1.0 M solution of CuCN.2LiCl in dry THF (7.25 mL, 7.25 mmol) was added. Then the reaction mixture was cooled to -30 °C and TMS protected propargyl bromide (1.52 g, 7.98 mmol) was added. The temperature was allowed to increase to 0 °C and then stirred for an additional 3.5 h. Then half saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution containing 2% concentrated aqueous NH<sub>3</sub> solution (30 mL) was added to the reaction mixture and stirred for 20 minutes. The color of the mixture changed to blue and the organic layer was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic extracts were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (7.5/92.5 EtOAc/hexanes) to yield 56 (1.67 g, 61%) as a vellow solid: mp: 40-41 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  = 5.86 (ddt, J = 17.2, 10.3, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 5.25 (d, J = 10.3 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (dt, J = 17.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 4.71 (dt, J = 5.2, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 3.69 (s, 2H), 0.13 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR;  $\delta = 143.4$ , 131.0, 118.3, 115.6, 104.3, 98.6, 88.5, 48.3, 20.7, -0.1; IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2960, 1637, 1408, 1250, 979, 845, 760; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for  $C_{12}H_{16}(Br^{79})_2N_2SiNa^+[M+Na]^+ m/z$ , 396.9342, found 396.9342.

#### **Tosic Acid Addition Reaction with 56**

Compound **56** (914 mg, 2.43 mmol) and *p*-TsOH (556 mg, 2.91 mmol) were dissolved in dry toluene (48.2 mL) and heated at 80 °C for 2 h. After that NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution followed by  $K_2CO_3$  added to the reaction mixture till solution was basic. After separating the layers, aqueous solution was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 x 20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. The residue was purified

by flash chromatography (15/85 EtOAc/hexanes) to yield **58**; 474 mg (41%), **59**; 278 mg (24%) and **60**; 220 mg (19%).

## 2-(2-Tosyloxyprop-2-ene)-1-(prop-2-ene)-4,5-dibromo-1*H*-imidazole (58)

Yellow oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta = 7.72$  (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 5.80 (ddt, J = 17.0, 10.3, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 5.24 (dt, J = 11.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 4.95 (dt, J = 16.9, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (m, 1H), 4.56 (dt, J = 4.9, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 3.60 (s, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta = 150.3$ , 145.7, 143.3, 132.3, 131.0, 130.0, 128.3, 118.2, 116.1, 105.5, 104.2, 48.2, 33.5, 21.9; IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2925, 1661, 1597, 1504, 1368, 1179, 1092, 960, 816, 712; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>(Br<sup>79</sup>)<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>SNa<sup>+</sup>[M+Na]<sup>+</sup> m/z, 496.9141, found 496.9211.

## 2-(2-Tosyloxyprop-1-ene)-1-(prop-2-ene)-4,5-dibromo-1*H*-imidazole (59)

Brown solid: mp: 79-80 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  = 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.00 (m, 1H), 5.74 (ddt, *J* = 17.2, 10.4, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 5.22 (m, 1H), 4.91 (m, 1H), 4.45 (dt, *J* = 5.2, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  = 153.5, 145.6, 142.5, 133.1, 130.7, 130.0, 128.5, 118.3, 117.1, 106.9, 104.8, 48.0, 21.8, 18.7; IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3421, 2360, 1663, 1371, 1192, 1179, 1090, 994, 902, 749, 660; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>(Br<sup>79</sup>)<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>SNa<sup>+</sup> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> *m/z*, 496.9141, found 498.9214.

## 2-(2-Tosyloxyprop-1-ene)-1-(prop-2-ene)-4,5-dibromo-1*H*-imidazole (60)

Br Yellow solid: mp: 62-63 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  = 7.72 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), N Br 7.35 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 5.79-5.67 (m, 2H), 5.20 (m, 1H), 4.36 (m, 1H), 4.45 (dt, J = 5.2, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta = 150.8$ , 145.3, 141.2, 132.9, 130.9, 129.5, 128.2, 118.1, 117.1, 106.2, 104.0, 48.3, 22.2; 22.0; IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3421, 2360, 1679, 1497, 1368, 1179, 1132, 1091, 988, 906, 814, 736; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>(Br<sup>79</sup>)<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>SNa<sup>+</sup> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> *m/z*, 496.9141, found 498.9211.

## 5-(3-Trimethylsilylprop-2-ynyl)-1-dimethylsulfamoyl-4-(1-hydroxy-2propene)-1*H*-imidazole (61)



A 3.0 M solution of EtMgBr in ether (2.9 mL, 8.8 mmol) was added to a solution of compound **39** (3.00 g, 7.31 mmol) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (50 mL). The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 30 minutes and the acrolein (1.5 mL, 21.9 mmol)

in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mL) was added. The solution was stirred at room temperature for additional 2 h. Then it was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and poured into half saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution. At this time a brown colored solid formed, which was extremely insolubile. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic extracts were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (35/65 EtOAc/hexanes) to yield **61** (1.00 g, 40%) as a pale yellow solid: mp: 63-64 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  = 7.79 (s, 1H), 6.07 (ddd, *J* = 16.9, 10.8, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 5.27 (m, 2H), 5.11 (d, *J* = 10.3 Hz, 1H), 4.04 (broad s, 1H), 3.80 (ABq, *J* = 18.6 Hz,  $\Delta v$  = 17.3 Hz, 2H), 2.88 (s, 6H), 0.03 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  = 142.6, 139.8, 137.5, 122.0, 112.3, 101.8, 85.8, 38.0, 35.9, 22.4, 14.8, -0.1; IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2961, 2178, 1390, 1251, 1172, 1144, 1015, 970, 844, 724; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>SSiNa<sup>+</sup> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> *m/z*, 364.1122, found 364.1126.

**1-dimethylsulfamoyl-5-hydroxymethyl-6-trimethylsilylmethyl-1***H***-benzimidazole** (64)

Compound 61 (423 mg, 1.24 mmol) and *p*-TsOH (258 mg, 1.35 OH TMS mmol) were dissolved in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Ch (24.6 mL) and heated at O=S=Oreflux for 30 min. Then the solution was cooled to room temperature and Grubbs' second generation catalyst (148 mg, 0.174 mmol) was added and the mixture again heated to reflux for 2 hours. After that NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution followed by  $K_2CO_3$  was added to the reaction mixture till the solution was basic. After separating the layers, the aqueous solution was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (2 x 20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (50/50 EtOAc/hexanes) to yield 64 (178 mg, 42%) as a colorless solid: mp: 74-75 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  = 8.14 (s, 1H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 4.67 (s, 2H), 2.91 (s, 6H), 2.41 (s, 2H), 0.03 (s, 9H),  ${}^{13}$ C NMR:  $\delta = 141.6$ , 141.0, 137.9, 132.3, 131.2, 122.5, 112.8, 45.6, 38.4, 24.0, -1.3; IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3734, 3628, 2360, 2341, 1683, 1507, 1456, 1392, 1172, 855, 669.

#### 4,5-di(3-Trimethylsilylprop-2-ynyl)-1-dimethylsulfamoyl-1*H*-imidazole (65)



added. Then the reaction mixture was cooled to -30 °C and TMS protected propargyl bromide (0.75 g, 3.94 mmol) was added. The temperature was allowed to increase to 0

°C and then stirred for an additional 3 h. Then half saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution containing 2% concentrated NH<sub>3</sub> solution (14 mL) was added to the reaction mixture and stirred for 20 minutes. The color of the mixture changed to blue and the organic layer was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 x 10 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (15/85 EtOAc/hexanes) to yield **65** (701 mg, 54%) as a yellow solid: mp: 49-50 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  = 7.83 (s, 1H), 3.88 (s, 2H), 3.64 (s, 2H), 2.94 (s, 6H), 0.15 (s, 9H), 0.12 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz):  $\delta$  = 137.4, 136.4, 121.9, 101.8, 101.4, 86.2, 86.1, 30.0, 19.4, 14.9, 0.1, 0.0; IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2960, 2179, 1392, 1251, 1175, 845, 761, 594; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>SSi<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> *m/z*, 418.1411, found 418.1424.

## 5-(3-Trimethylsilylprop-2-ynyl)-1-dimethylsulfamoyl-4-(2-methyl-2-propene)-1*H*imidazole (66)



A 3.0 M solution of EtMgBr in ether (0.69 mL, 2.06 mmol) was added to a solution of **39** (0.77 g, 1.87 mmol) in dry  $CH_2Cl_2$  (8 mL) at room temperature. The resulting suspension was stirred at room temperature for 30 minutes and then a 1.0 M solution of

CuCN.2LiCl in dry THF (1.87 mL, 1.87 mmol) was added. Then the reaction mixture was cooled to -30 °C and methallyl bromide (0.26 mL, 2.62 mmol) was added. The temperature was allowed to increase to 0 °C and then stirred for an additional 4 h. Then half saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution containing 2% concentrated NH<sub>3</sub> solution (10 mL) was added to the reaction mixture and stirred for 20 minutes. The color of the

mixture changed to blue and the organic layer was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 x 5 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (40/60% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield **66** (432 mg, 68%) as a pale yellow solid: mp: 41-42 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  = 7.73 (s, 1H), 4.69 (s, 1H), 4.63 (s, 1H), 3.63 (s, 2H), 3.19 (s, 2H), 2.81 (s, 6H), 1.60 (s, 3H), -0.02 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $\delta$  = 142.6, 139.8, 137.5, 122.0, 112.3, 101.8, 85.8, 38.0, 35.9, 22.4, 14.8, -0.1; IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2961, 2178, 1390, 1251, 1172, 1144, 1015, 970, 844, 724; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>SSi<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> *m/z*, 340.1510, found 340.1541.
## APPENDIX 1 <sup>1</sup>H AND <sup>13</sup>C NMR SPECTRA OF 5-(3-TRIMETHYLSILYLPROP-2-YNYL)-1-DIMETHYLSULFAMOYL-4-IODO-1*H*-IMIDAZOLE (39)





## APPENDIX 2 <sup>1</sup>H AND <sup>13</sup>C NMR SPECTRA OF 5-(3-TRIMETHYLSILYLPROP-2-YNYL)-1-DIMETHYLSULFAMOYL-4-(PROP-2-ENE)-1*H*-IMIDAZOLE (40)







# APPENDIX 3 <sup>1</sup>H AND <sup>13</sup>C NMR SPECTRA OF4, 7-DIHYDRO-5-VINYL-1-DIMETHYLSULFAMOYL-1*H*-BENZIMIDAZOLE (42)







#### APPENDIX 4 <sup>1</sup>H AND <sup>13</sup>C NMR SPECTRA OF 1-DIMETHYLSULFAMOYL-4,4A,5,6,7,9-HEXAHYDRO-1*H*-[3,4-*G*]-1-PHENYLPYRROLIDINE-2,5-DIONENAPHTHO-[2,3-*D*]-IMIDAZOLE (43)







APPENDIX 5 <sup>1</sup>H AND <sup>13</sup>C NMR SPECTRA OF5-(3-TRIMETHYLSILYLPROP-2-YNYL)-1-BEN ZYL-4-IODO-1*H*-IMIDAZOLE (45)







#### APPENDIX 6 <sup>1</sup>H AND <sup>13</sup>C NMR SPECTRA OF5-(3-TRIMETHYL SILYLPROP-2-YNYL)-1-BENZYL-4-(PROP-2-ENE)-1*H*-IMIDAZOLE (46)









# APPENDIX 7 <sup>1</sup>H AND <sup>13</sup>C NMR SPECTRA OF 4, 7-DIHYDRO-5-VINYL-1-BENZYL-1*H*-BENZIMIDAZOLE (48)









#### APPENDIX 8 <sup>1</sup>H AND <sup>13</sup>C NMR SPECTRA OF 1-BEN ZYL-4,4A,5,6,7,9-HEXAHYDRO-1*H*-[3,4-*G*]-1-PHEN YLPYRROLIDINE-2,5-DION ENAPHTHO-[2,3-*D*]-IMIDAZOLE (49)









# APPENNDIX 9 <sup>1</sup>H AND <sup>13</sup>C NMR SPECTRA OF 5-(3-TRIMETHYLSILYLPROP-2 -YNYL)-1-(PROP-2-ENE)-4-IODO-1*H*-IMIDAZOLE (51)






# APPENDIX 10 <sup>1</sup>H AND <sup>13</sup>C NMR SPECTRA OF 4-IODO-5,8-DIHYDROIMIDAZO-6-VINYL-[1,2-A]-PYRIDINE (52)







# APPENDIX 11 <sup>1</sup>H AND <sup>13</sup>C NMR SPECTRA OF 4-IODO-5,7,8,9A,10-HEXAHYDRO[3,4-G]-1-PHEN YLPYRROLIDINE-2,5-DIONEISOQUINO-[1,2-*E*]-IMIDAZOLE (53)







# APPENDIX 12 <sup>1</sup>H AND <sup>13</sup>C NMR SPECTRA OF 2-(3-TRIMETHYLSILYLPROP-2-YNYL)-1-(PROP-2-ENE)-4,5-DIBROMO-1*H*-IMIDAZOLE (56)







## APPENDIX 13 <sup>1</sup>H AND <sup>13</sup>C NMR SPECTRA OF 2-(2-TOS YLOX YPROP- 2-ENE)-1-(PROP-2-ENE)-4,5-DIBROMO-1*H*-IMIDAZOLE (58)







## APPENDIX 14 <sup>1</sup>H AND <sup>13</sup>C NMR SPECTRA OF 2-(2-TOSYLOXYPROP-1-ENE)-1-(PROP-2-ENE)-4,5-DIBROMO-1*H*-IMIDAZOLE (59)







## APPENDIX 15 <sup>1</sup>H AND <sup>13</sup>C NMR SPECTRA OF 2-(1-TOSYLOXYPROP-1-ENE)-1-(PROP-2-ENE)-4,5-DIBROMO-1*H*-IMIDAZOLE (60)







#### APPENDIX 18 <sup>1</sup>H AND <sup>13</sup>C NMR SPECTRA OF 5-(3-TRIMETHYLSILYLPROP-2-YN YL)-1-DIMETHYL SULFAMOYL-4-(1-HYDROXY-2-PROPENE)-1*H*-IMIDAZOLE (61)







#### APPENDIX 19 <sup>1</sup>H AND <sup>13</sup>C NMR SPECTRA OF 1-DIMETHYLSULFAMOYL-5-HYDROXY METHYL-6-TRIMETHYLSILYLMETHYL-1*H*-ENZIMIDAZOLE (64)





## APPENDIX 19 <sup>1</sup>H AND <sup>13</sup>C NMR SPECTRA OF 4,5-DI(3-TRIMETHYLSILYLPROP-2-YNYL)-1-DIMETHYLSULFAMOYL-1*H*-IMIDAZOLE (65)






## APPENDIX 20 <sup>1</sup>H AND <sup>13</sup>C NMR SPECTRA OF 5-(3-TRIMETHYLSILYLPROP-2-YNYL)-1-DIMETHYLSULFAMOYL-4-(2-METHYL-2-PROPENE)-1*H*-IMIDAZOLE (66)





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## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

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