

# Synthesis and Diels–Alder cycloaddition reaction of norbornadiene and benzonorbornadiene dimers

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## Full Research Paper

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Keywords:  
benzonorbornadiene; Diels–Alder reaction; norbornadiene; Stille  
coupling

Beilstein Journal of Organic Chemistry 2009, 5, No. 39.  
doi:10.3762/bjoc.5.39

Received: 12 June 2009  
Accepted: 07 August 2009  
Published: 11 August 2009

Editor-in-Chief: J. Clayden

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## Abstract

Dimeric forms of norbornadiene and benzonorbornadiene were synthesized starting with known monobromide derivatives. The Diels–Alder cycloaddition reaction of dimers with TCNE and PTAD was investigated and new norbornenoid polycyclics were obtained. All compounds were characterized properly using NMR spectroscopy.

## Introduction

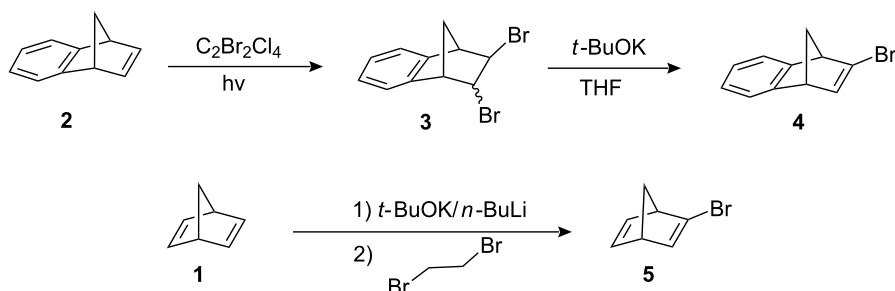
Norbornadiene (**1**) and related compounds are of great scientific interest because of their unusual geometry and high reactivity. For example, these compounds exhibit a unique behavior in the cationic Wagner–Meerwein rearrangement [1-10], in the solvolytic reactivity [11], in the photochemical di- $\pi$ -methane rearrangement [12-15], as well as in other instances [16-22]. Therefore, functionalizations of these compounds are important. In this study, we investigated the synthesis and Diels–Alder cycloaddition reaction of norbornadiene and benzonorbornadiene dimers.



## Results and Discussion

One of the starting materials, 2-bromobenzonorbornadiene **4** was synthesized using a procedure described in the literature [15,23] (Scheme 1). Photochemical bromination of benzonorbornadiene **2** with 1,2-dibromotetrachloroethane gave isomeric dibromides **3** in high yield. Dehydrobromination reaction of dibromides **3** with potassium *tert*-butoxide resulted in the formation of monobromide **4**. The other starting material **5** was obtained using the reported procedures based on the use of potassium *tert*-butoxide/*n*-butyllithium super-base by starting with commercially available norbornadiene [24-27].

When 2-bromobenzonorbornadiene **4** was treated with *n*-BuLi at  $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  and the resulting anion was quenched with trimethyltin chloride, a single trimethyltin derivative **6** was



**Scheme 1:** Synthesis of starting materials **4** and **5**.

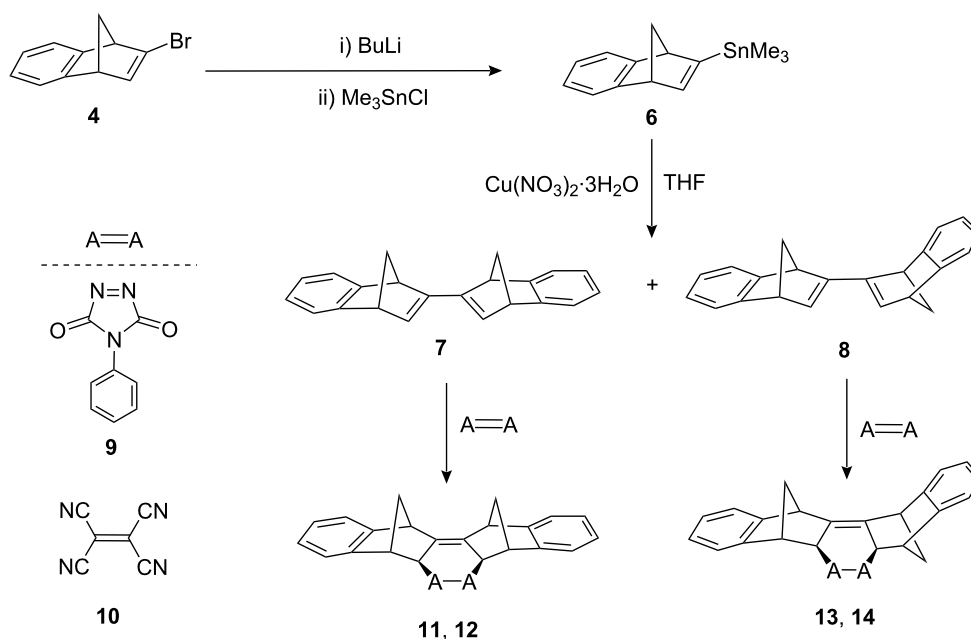
observed in the crude reaction mixture and was finally isolated in 91% yield. Copper salts have been successfully employed for Stille-type hetero-coupling between unsaturated halides and stannanes [28,29]. Treatment of **6** with  $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in dry THF at r.t. afforded the first synthesis of the expected dimers **7** and **8** in 25% yield in a 3:4 ratio, respectively, besides benzonorbornadiene **2** after column chromatography. The Diels–Alder cycloaddition of dimers **7** and **8** with PTAD (**9**) and TCNE (**10**) resulted in the formation of the corresponding products **11–14** in high yields (Scheme 2).

Similarly, tin compound **15** was synthesized by the reaction of monobromide **5** with *n*-BuLi followed by reaction with

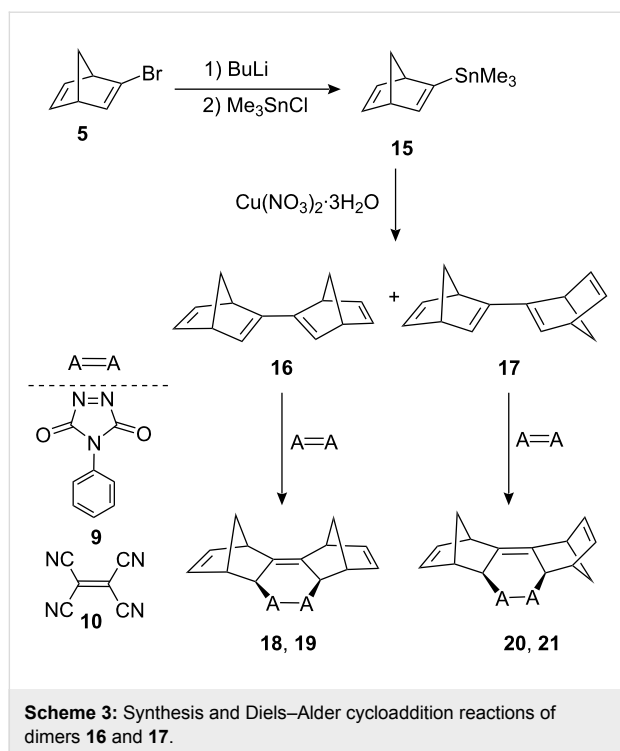
trimethyltin chloride. Reaction of **15** with  $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  resulted in the formation of dimers **16** and **17** [30]. This reaction offered an alternative synthetic route to norbornadiene dimers **16** and **17**. The isomers **16** and **17** could not be separated, but after cycloaddition reaction of the mixture, the corresponding addition products **18–21** were isolated by chromatographic methods (Scheme 3).

### Structural Analyses

The determination of the structures of dimers **7**, **8** and dimers **16**, **17** by spectroscopic methods was not simple because the  $C_s$  symmetry of the *syn* dimers and the  $C_2$  symmetry of the *anti* dimers and the free rotation around the central  $\sigma$  bond make



**Scheme 2:** Synthesis and Diels–Alder cycloaddition reactions of dimers **7** and **8**.



them indistinguishable. To determine which is which, cycloaddition reactions of dimers are more informative. Dimers **7** and **16** give symmetric addition products **11**, **12** and **18**, **19**, whereas the reaction of dimers **8** and **17** resulted in the formation of unsymmetrical products **13**, **14** and **20**, **21**.

For the symmetric addition products **11**, **12**, **18** and **19**, there are two possibilities: *exo* adduct or *endo* adduct (Figure 1). The coupling constants between the relevant protons in the norbornene unit are very informative to assign the correct configuration of the substituents [9,10]. The high value of  $J_{3,4}$  and  $J_{3',4'}$  (2.5–3.5 Hz) in the Diels–Alder addition products is uniquely accommodated by the *exo* orientation of the protons (*endo* orientation of -A-A- ring) at C<sup>3</sup> and C<sup>3'</sup> carbon atoms. For example, though there is coupling between the protons H<sup>3</sup> and H<sup>4</sup>, there is no measurable coupling between the protons H<sub>3'</sub> and H<sub>4'</sub> in *anti* structures (Figure 1). On the other hand, the absence of any coupling between the related protons confirms

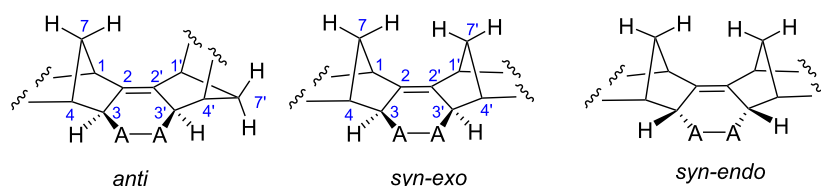
the *endo* orientation of protons at C<sup>3</sup> and C<sup>3'</sup>, which in turn proves the *exo*-orientation of the rings in adduct **11**, **12**, **18** and **19**. The coupling between the protons H<sup>3</sup> (H<sup>3'</sup>) and H<sup>7<sup>syn</sup></sup> (H<sup>7<sup>syn</sup>'</sup>) (M or W orientation) also confirms the *exo* structures for **11**, **12**, **18** and **19** (Figure 1).

In summary, the synthesis and cycloaddition reaction of norbornadiene and benzonorbornadiene dimers was investigated and new norbornanoid polycyclic compounds, which open up several synthetic and mechanical investigations, were obtained.

## Experimental

**General:** Melting points are uncorrected. Infrared spectra were obtained from solution in 0.1 mm cells or KBr pellets on a regular instrument. The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on 400 (100) and 200 (50) MHz spectrometers. Apparent splitting is given in all cases. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (60-mesh, Merck) TLC was carried out on Merck 0.2 mm silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub> analytical aluminum plates. All substances reported in this paper are *meso*-compounds or racemates.

**Synthesis of (1,4-dihydro-1,4-methano-naphthalen-2-yl)trimethylstannane (6):** A solution of *n*-BuLi in *n*-hexane (2.7 M, 3.41 mL, 9.19 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of monobromobornorbornadiene **4** (2.03 g, 9.19 mmol) in dry THF (20 mL) at –78 °C and the resulting mixture was stirred for 40 min. Trimethyltin chloride (1.83 g, 9.19 mmol) was added portionwise and then left to warm to room temperature. The mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The crude product was washed with water (15 mL) and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (2 × 50 mL) and then the combined ethereal extracts were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated in vacuo. (1,4-dihydro-1,4-methano-naphthalen-2-yl)trimethylstannane (**6**) was obtained as yellow liquid (2.55 g, 91%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.26–7.20 (m, 2H, aryl), 7.06 (d,  $J_{3,4}$  = 2.9 Hz, 1H, H<sub>3</sub>), 6.98–6.94 (m, 2H, aryl), 4.08 (m, 1H, H<sub>4</sub>), 3.98 (m, 1H, H<sub>1</sub>), 2.24 (m, 2H, H<sub>9<sup>syn</sup></sub> and H<sub>9<sup>anti</sup></sub>), 0.18 (s, 9H, 3 × CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 155.61, 153.22, 151.95, 151.92, 124.36, 124.18, 121.62, 121.58, 69.65, 55.77, 52.05, –9.70.



**Figure 1:** Numbering of carbon atoms and description of possible structures for dimers **11–14** and **18–21**.

**Reaction of (1,4-dihydro-1,4-methano-naphthalen-2-yl)trimethylstannane (6) with  $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ :** Copper(II) nitrate trihydrate (345 mg, 1.4 mmol) was added portionwise to a solution of **6** (435 mg, 1.4 mmol) in THF (6 mL) at room temperature. The blue solution turned green within 1 h. The crude reaction mixture was diluted with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (100 mL) and then washed with 5%  $\text{NH}_3$  (15 mL). The organic phase was dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was chromatographed on neutral aluminum oxide (150 g) eluted with hexane. The first fraction was benzonorbornadiene (155 mg, 57%). The second fraction was *anti* isomer **8** (28 mg, 14%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.15–6.79 (m, 8H,  $\text{H}^{\text{aryl}}$ ), 6.56 (d,  $J_{3,4} = J_{3',4'} = 2.9$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{H}^3$  and  $\text{H}^{3'}$ ), 3.92 (m, 2H,  $\text{H}^4$  and  $\text{H}^{4'}$ ), 3.86 (m, 2H,  $\text{H}^1$  and  $\text{H}^{1'}$ ), 2.40 (dt, A Part of AB system,  $J_{9_{\text{syn}},9_{\text{anti}}} = J_{9'_{\text{syn}},9'_{\text{anti}}} = 7.1$  Hz,  $J_{9_{\text{syn}},1} = J_{9_{\text{syn}},4} = J_{9'_{\text{syn}},1'} = J_{9'_{\text{syn}},4'} = 1.5$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{H}^{9_{\text{syn}}}$  and  $\text{H}^{9'_{\text{syn}}}$ ), 2.25 (bd, B part of AB system,  $J_{9_{\text{anti}},9_{\text{syn}}} = J_{9'_{\text{anti}},9'_{\text{syn}}} = 7.1$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{H}^{9_{\text{anti}}}$  and  $\text{H}^{9'_{\text{anti}}}$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  151.89, 151.46, 150.65, 133.96, 124.40, 124.32, 121.67, 120.97, 68.76, 52.12, 50.89. The third fraction was the *syn*-dimer **7** (23 mg, 11%). Colorless crystals from  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/n$ -hexane (1:3). mp 152–154 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.29–6.94 (m, 8H,  $\text{H}^{\text{aryl}}$ ), 6.61 (d,  $J_{3,4} = J_{3',4'} = 2.9$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{H}^3$  and  $\text{H}^{3'}$ ), 3.90 (m, 2H,  $\text{H}^4$  and  $\text{H}^{4'}$ ), 3.80 (m, 2H,  $\text{H}^1$  and  $\text{H}^{1'}$ ), 2.21 (dt, A Part of AB system,  $J_{9_{\text{syn}},9_{\text{anti}}} = J_{9'_{\text{syn}},9'_{\text{anti}}} = 7.3$  Hz,  $J_{9_{\text{syn}},1} = J_{9_{\text{syn}},4} = J_{9'_{\text{syn}},1'} = J_{9'_{\text{syn}},4'} = 1.6$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{H}^{9_{\text{anti}}}$  and  $\text{H}^{9'_{\text{anti}}}$ ), 2.17 (bd, B Part of AB system,  $J_{9_{\text{anti}},9_{\text{syn}}} = J_{9'_{\text{anti}},9'_{\text{syn}}} = 7.3$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{H}^{9_{\text{anti}}}$  and  $\text{H}^{9'_{\text{anti}}}$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  151.88, 151.55, 151.32, 134.38, 124.59, 124.41, 121.70, 121.15, 67.71, 51.59, 50.72. IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3067, 2981, 2936, 2866, 1455, 1317, 1270, 1226, 1199, 1149, 1068, 1011, 909, 750, 735. MS (70 eV)  $m/z$ : 282.5 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 32), 267.5 (21), 239.4 (5), 202.4 (2), 178.4 (5), 167.3 (26), 165.3 (32), 141.2 (28), 117.2 (71), 115.2 (56), 89.1 (6), 63.1 (3).

**Cycloaddition reaction of the dimer 7 with PTAD (9):** A solution of the *syn* dimer **7** (40 mg, 0.14 mmol) and PTAD (25 mg, 0.14 mmol) in 4 mL of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by crystallization from  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/n$ -hexane (3:1) to give *syn* cycloadduct **11** (55 mg, 89%). Yellow crystals, mp 182–184 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.60–7.12 (m, 13H), 4.66 (s, 2H), 4.24 (s, 2H), 3.75 (d,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.21 (dq, A Part of AB system,  $J = 9.4$  Hz,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.14 (dt, B Part of AB system,  $J = 9.4$  Hz,  $J = 1.4$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  151.74, 144.59, 144.54, 132.02, 131.84, 129.27, 128.28, 127.38, 127.05, 126.04, 123.09, 121.94, 59.25, 48.73, 48.20, 47.18. IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3048, 2976, 2941, 1762, 1702, 1600, 1502, 1439, 1419, 1343, 1265, 1140. MS (70 eV)  $m/z$ : 458.4 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 3), 344.0 (5), 282.0 (10), 280.8 (7), 165.6 (24), 119.4 (43), 116.4 (100), 91.3 (43).

**Cycloaddition reaction of the dimer 7 with TCNE (10):** A solution of the *syn* dimer **7** (50 mg, 0.17 mmol) and TCNE (**10**, 23 mg, 0.17 mmol) in 5 mL of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  was stirred at room temperature for overnight. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by crystallization from  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/n$ -hexane (3:1) to give *syn* cycloadduct **12** (68 mg, 93%). White crystals, mp 230–232 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.54–7.17 (m, 8H,  $\text{H}^{\text{aryl}}$ ), 4.22 (s, 2H), 3.86 (m, 2H), 2.48 (bd, A Part of AB system, 2H,  $J = 10.3$  Hz), 2.45 (m, 2H), 2.22 (d, B Part of AB system, 2H,  $J = 10.3$  Hz).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  145.93, 144.40, 133.14, 127.76, 127.32, 122.17, 122.06, 112.08, 110.87, 50.01, 48.54, 47.81, 46.73, 45.90. IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3050, 2955, 2872, 2306, 2254, 2217, 1463, 1318, 1265, 1120, 1153, 1013, 981, 785, 704. MS (70 eV)  $m/z$ : 410.1 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 100), 394.1 (10), 370.1 (37), 345.1 (35), 319.1 (27), 295 (27), 267.1 (45), 265.0 (27), 229.0 (17), 205.0 (32), 176.9 (22), 164.9 (4), 152.9 (22), 151.9 (30).

**Cycloaddition reaction of the dimer 8 with PTAD (9):** A solution of the *anti* dimer (**8**, 40 mg, 0.14 mmol) and PTAD (25 mg, 0.14 mmol) in 4 mL of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by crystallization from ether/*n*-hexane (2:1) to give *anti* cycloadduct **13** (58 mg, 90%). Yellow crystals, mp 168–170 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.57–7.00 (m, 13H,  $\text{H}^{\text{aryl}}$ ), 4.94 (m, 1H), 4.52 (d,  $J = 2.3$  Hz, 1H), 4.38 (m, 1H), 4.09 (m, 1H), 3.34 (m, 1H), 2.40 (dt, A part of AB system,  $J = 7.7$  Hz,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.36 (dt, B part of AB system,  $J = 7.7$  Hz,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 1.43 (bd, A part of AB system,  $J = 10.7$  Hz, 1H), 1.25 (m, 1H), 0.46 (bd, B part of AB system,  $J = 10.7$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  155.20, 154.38, 150.70, 147.28, 147.18, 145.68, 142.93, 129.50, 129.35, 128.80, 128.53, 127.91, 127.53, 125.93, 125.85, 125.62, 125.41, 123.17, 122.43, 121.92, 69.32, 63.91, 62.90, 50.90, 49.64, 49.53, 49.27, 45.43. IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3065, 2961, 2923, 2851, 1718, 1497, 1412, 1262, 1135, 1091, 1023, 801. MS (70 eV)  $m/z$ : 410.1 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 100), 394.1 (10), 370.1 (33), 345.1 (31), 319.1 (26), 267.1 (45), 205.0 (33), 164.9 (44), 151.9 (32).

**Cycloaddition reaction of the dimer 8 with TCNE (10):** A solution of the *anti* dimer **8** (40 mg, 0.14 mmol) and TCNE (**10**, 18 mg, 0.14 mmol) in 5 mL of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  was stirred at room temperature for overnight. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by crystallization from  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/n$ -hexane (3:1) to give *anti* cycloadduct **14** (53 mg, 91%). White crystals, mp 240 °C (dec).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.55–7.17 (m, 8H), 4.15 (m, 1H), 4.13 (m, 1H), 3.92 (dd,  $J = 3.5$  Hz,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.74 (m, 1H), 3.41 (dd,  $J = 3.5$  Hz,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.52 (m, 1H), 2.31 (dt, A part of AB system,  $J = 9.5$  Hz,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.11 (dt, A part of AB system,  $J = 10.3$  Hz,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.06 (dt, B part of AB

system,  $J = 9.5$  Hz,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.02 (bd, B part of AB system,  $J = 10.3$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  146.29, 145.79, 144.63, 139.70, 132.89, 132.55, 128.80, 127.61, 127.33, 127.30, 126.60, 122.18, 121.98, 120.73, 112.40, 112.33, 109.23, 108.83, 52.93, 50.29, 49.19, 47.86, 47.71, 47.49, 47.43, 46.79, 45.12, 44.55. IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3049, 2989, 2956, 2923, 2851, 2241, 1906, 1459, 1366, 1262, 1012, 984. MS (70 eV)  $m/z$ : 410.1 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 40), 345.1 (13), 295.1 (10), 252.0 (7), 205.0 (13), 164.9 (12), 127.9 (8), 117.0 (30), 114.9 (100).

**Synthesis of (bicyclo[2.2.1]hepta-2,5-dien-2-yl)trimethylstannane (15):** A solution of *n*-BuLi in *n*-hexane (2.5 M, 1.2 mL, 2.9 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of 2-bromobicyclo[2.2.1]hepta-2,5-diene (**5**, 0.50 g, 2.9 mmol) in dry THF (5 mL) at  $-78$  °C and the resulting mixture was stirred for 1 h. Trimethyltin chloride (582 mg, 2.9 mmol) was added portionwise and then left to warm to room temperature. The mixture was stirred over night at room temperature. The crude product was washed with water (50 mL) and extracted with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (2  $\times$  50 mL) and then the combined ethereal extracts were dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated in vacuo. (Bicyclo[2.2.1]hepta-2,5-dien-2-yl)trimethylstannane (**15**) was obtained in the form of a yellow liquid (700 mg, 95%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.02 (bd,  $J_{3,4} = 2.9$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{H}^3$ ), 6.70 (m, 1H,  $\text{H}^5$  or  $\text{H}^6$ ), 6.65 (m, 1H,  $\text{H}^5$  or  $\text{H}^6$ ), 3.76 (m, 1H,  $\text{H}^1$  or  $\text{H}^4$ ), 3.63 (m, 1H,  $\text{H}^1$  or  $\text{H}^4$ ), 1.91 (m, 1H,  $\text{H}^{7\text{syn}}$  or  $\text{H}^{7\text{anti}}$ ), 1.88 (m, 1H,  $\text{H}^{7\text{syn}}$  or  $\text{H}^{7\text{anti}}$ ), 0.12 (s, 9H, 3  $\times$   $\text{CH}_3$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  155.46, 154.28, 143.12, 143.07, 74.70, 55.77, 52.15,  $-9.90$ .

**Reaction of (bicyclo[2.2.1]hepta-2,5-dien-2-yl)trimethylstannane (15) with  $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ :** Copper(II) nitrate trihydrate (1.13 g, 4.69 mmol) was added portionwise to a solution of **15** (1.2 g, 4.69 mmol) in THF (10 mL) at room temperature. The blue solution turned green within 40 min. The crude reaction mixture was diluted with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (100 mL) and then washed with 5%  $\text{NH}_3$  (15 mL). The organic phase was dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated in vacuo. The *syn*-dimer **16** and *anti*-dimer **17** (in a 46:54 ratio) were obtained as a mixture (130 mg, 30%). The isomeric dimers **16** [30] and **17** [30] could not be separated and were used as the mixture for the following step.

**Cycloaddition reaction of *syn*-16 and *anti*-17 mixture with PTAD:** A solution of mixture of *syn*-**16** and *anti*-**17** (120 mg, 0.66 mmol) and PTAD (116 mg, 0.66 mmol) in 10 mL of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel (30 g) column eluted with  $\text{EtOAc}/n$ -hexane (1:9).

The first fraction was *anti*-cycloadduct **20** (89 mg, 70% based on *anti* dimer **17**). Yellowish crystals from  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/n$ -hexane

(2:1), mp: 174–176 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.53–7.25 (m, 5H, H), 6.33–6.27 (m, 3H), 6.06 (dd,  $J = 5.5$  Hz,  $J = 2.9$  Hz, 1H), 4.33 (d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.09 (m, 1H), 3.93 (m, 1H), 3.68 (d,  $J = 1.7$ , 1H), 3.54 (m, 2H), 1.88 (dt, A part of AB system,  $J = 9.2$  Hz,  $J = 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 1.77 (bd, A part of AB system,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 1.68 (bd, B part of AB system,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1H), 1.54 (bd, B part of AB system,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  151.07, 149.85, 136.64, 136.55, 135.80, 133.12, 131.90, 131.61, 131.34, 129.20, 128.05, 125.87, 58.26, 56.54, 48.04, 47.57, 46.72, 46.37, 45.59, 45.38. IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3060, 2925, 2852, 1760, 1698, 1502, 1419, 1130, 1028, 721. MS (70 eV)  $m/z$ : 357.3 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 19), 315.8 (16), 291.2 (93), 250.9 (21), 239.2 (41), 195.1 (22), 182.1 (82), 118.8 (90), 91.0 (77), 77.0 (44). The second fraction was *syn*-cycloadduct **18** (75 mg, 69% based on *syn* dimer **16**) Yellowish crystals from  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/n$ -hexane (2:1), mp: 194–196 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.54–7.34 (m, 5H,  $\text{H}_{\text{aryl}}$ ), 6.28 (m, 4H), 4.10 (m 2H), 3.73 (m, 2H), 3.64 (m, 2H), 1.84 (bd, A Part of AB system,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 2H), 1.69 (bd, B part of AB system,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  151.47, 136.83, 135.82, 131.83, 131.05, 129.25, 128.19, 126.06, 57.94, 48.10, 46.20, 45.66. IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3060, 2962, 2929, 2863, 1760, 1700, 1502, 1422, 1279, 1139, 761, 729. MS (70 eV)  $m/z$ : 357.4 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 4), 316.4 (4), 291.3 (54), 280.1 (3), 252.0 (4), 239.0 (7), 210.3 (9), 182.1 (25), 165.1 (35), 144.0 (71), 120.0 (16), 115.0 (40), 102.0 (9), 90.7 (65), 66.1 (23).

**Cycloaddition reaction of *syn*-16 and *anti*-17 mixture with TCNE (10):** A solution of mixture of *syn*-**16** and *anti*-**17** (103 mg, 0.56 mmol) and TCNE (**10**, 72 mg, 0.56 mmol) in 10 mL of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  was stirred at room temperature overnight. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel (30 g) eluted with  $\text{EtOAc}/n$ -hexane (1:32). The first fraction was *anti*-1,4,5,8,8a,10a-hexahydro-1,4:5,8-dimethanophenanthrene-9,9,10,10-tetracarbonitrile (**21**) (82 mg, 87% based on *anti* dimer **17**). Yellowish crystals from  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/n$ -hexane (3:1), mp: 160–162 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  6.46–6.35 (m, 4H), 3.61 (m, 2H), 3.49 (m, 1H), 3.36–3.33 (m, 2H), 2.36 (m, 1H), 2.16 (d, A part of AB system,  $J = 9.9$  Hz, 1H), 1.95 (d, B Part of AB system,  $J = 9.9$  Hz, 1H), 1.74–1.71 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  138.63, 138.37, 138.27, 132.47, 131.96, 130.76, 113.25, 112.03, 110.50, 110.47, 51.40, 51.32, 48.01, 46.74, 46.47, 46.43, 45.63, 45.62, 44.79, 44.75. IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2934, 2896, 2868, 2352, 2093, 1457, 1235, 1043, 960. MS (70 eV)  $m/z$ : 310.1 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 83), 295.0 (17), 282.1 (70), 268.0 (57), 243.0 (73), 229.0 (55), 218.1 (80), 203.0 (48), 190.0 (52), 179.0 (40), 167.0 (100), 151.9 (53). The second fraction was *syn*-1,4,5,8,8a,10a-hexahydro-1,4:5,8-dimethanophenanthrene-9,9,10,10-tetracarbonitrile (**19**) (75 mg, 93% based on *syn* dimer **16**). Colorless crystals from  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/n$ -hexane (2:1), mp: 136–138 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$

6.43 (dd,  $J = 5.5$  Hz,  $J = 3.3$  Hz, 2H), 6.30 (dd,  $J = 5.5$  Hz,  $J = 2.9$  Hz, 2H), 3.66 (s, 2H), 3.36 (d,  $J = 1.3$  Hz, 2H), 2.48 (d,  $J = 1.3$  Hz, 2H), 2.10 (d, A Part of AB system,  $J_i = 9.5$  Hz, 2H), 1.89 (d, B Part of AB system,  $J = 9.5$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  138.25, 137.78, 132.26, 112.39, 110.79, 49.49, 47.90, 46.52, 45.95, 45.30. IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3066, 2995, 2951, 2874, 2247, 1454, 1317, 1007, 727. MS (70 eV)  $m/z$ : 310.1 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 35), 282.1 (24), 268.1 (25), 242.1 (27), 228.1 (25), 217.1 (35), 204.1 (18), 189.0 (24), 178.1 (19), 167.1 (38), 126.9 (20), 115.2 (30), 101.3 (14), 91.0 (18), 88.1 (22), 76.1 (18), 65.5 (100).

## Acknowledgments

This work has been supported by TUBITAK (project no 106T082), TUBA (Turkish Academy of Sciences, under the Young Scientist Award Program (AD/TUBA-GEBIP/2001-1-3)) and Atatürk University. We are indebted for their financial support.

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