## ANSWERS TO PROBLEMS IN BODY OF CHAPTER 4.

4.1. The numbering of the atoms is quite difficult in this problem. The number of Me groups in the product suggests that at least two equivalents of the bromide are incorporated into the product. But which ring atoms are C3 and which one is C6? And even if one of the ring carbons is arbitrarily chosen as C6, there is still the question of whether C 3 or C 2 becomes attached to C 6 . This problem is solved by noting that step 1 turns the bromide into a Grignard reagent, which is nucleophilic at C3, so it is likely to attack C6, and electrophilic atom. Make: C3-C6, C3'-C6, C2-C2́. Break: C6-O7, C6-O8, C3-Br, C3́-Br.


In the first step, the bromide is converted to a Grignard reagent. In the second step, two equivalents of the Grignard reagent react with the ester by addition-elimination-addition. (Remember, the ketone that is initially obtained from reaction of a Grignard reagent with an ester by addition-elimination is more electrophilic than the starting ester, so addition of a second Grignard reagent to the ketone to give an alcohol is faster than the original addition to give the ketone.) In the last step, addition of acid to the tertiary, doubly allylic alcohol gives a pentadienyl cation that undergoes electrocyclic ring closure. Loss of $\mathrm{H}^{+}$gives the observed product.


4.2. The product when $\alpha$-chloro- $\alpha$-phenylacetone is treated with NaOMe is methyl hydrocinnamate.


The semibenzilic acid rearrangement mechanism:


The Favorskii rearrangement mechanism:


4.3. Make: C1-C8. Break: none.


Deprotonation of C 1 gives an enolate ion, which in this compound is actually a 1,3,5-hexatriene. As such it can undergo an electrocyclic ring closing. Protonation gives the product.




You may have been tempted to draw the $\mathrm{C} 1-\mathrm{C} 8$ bond-forming reaction as a conjugate addition. However, once C 1 is deprotonated, the carbonyl group is no longer electrophilic, because it is busy stabilizing the enolate. It is much more proper to think of the bond-forming reaction as an electrocyclic ring closure. This problem illustrates why it is so important to consider all the resonance structures of any species.
4.4. Make: C2-C7. Break: C2-C5.


You may be very tempted to draw the following mechanism for the reaction:


However, this mechanism is not correct. It is a [1,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement, and for reasons which are discussed in Section 4.4.2, [1,3]-sigmatropic rearrangements are very rare under thermal conditions. A much better mechanism can be written. The C2-C5 bond is part of a cyclobutene, and cyclobutenes open very readily under thermal conditions. After the electrocyclic ring opening, a 1,3,5-hexatriene is obtained, and these compounds readily undergo electrocyclic ring closure under thermal conditions. Tautomerization then affords the product.

4.5. The product has a cis ring fusion.

4.6. The first electrocyclic ring closure involves eight electrons, so it is conrotatory under thermal conditions, and the two hydrogen atoms at the terminus of the tetraene, which are both in, become trans. The second electrocyclic ring closure involves six electrons, so it is disrotatory under thermal conditions, and the two hydrogen atoms at the terminus of the triene, which are both out, become cis. This is the arrangement observed in the natural product.

4.7. The HOMO of the pentadienyl cation is $\psi_{1}$, which is antisymmetric, so a conrotatory ring closure occurs, consistent with the four electrons involved in this reaction. The HOMO of the pentadienyl anion is $\psi_{2}$, which is symmetric, so a disrotatory ring closure occurs, consistent with the six electrons involved in this reaction.

4.8. Make: O1-C9, N2-C13, C10-C13. Break: C13-O14.


The new five-membered, heterocyclic ring clues you in to the fact that a 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition has occurred here to form bonds O1-C9 and C10-C13. Disconnect these bonds, putting a + charge on C 13 and $\mathrm{a}-$ charge on O 1 , to see the immediate precursor to the product.


When this disconnection is written in the forward direction along with some curved arrows, it is the last step in the reaction. Now all you have to do is make $\mathrm{N} 2-\mathrm{C} 13$ and break C13-O14. This is easy to do: N 2 attacks C 13 , proton transfer occurs, N 2 expels O 14 , and deprotonation gives the nitrone.

4.9. $\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{~S}$ attacks one of the O atoms involved in the $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{O}$ bond, displacing $\mathrm{O}^{-}$. Hemiacetal collapse to the carbonyl compounds then occurs.

4.10. Make: $\mathrm{C} 7-\mathrm{C}^{\prime}, \mathrm{C} 9-\mathrm{O}^{\prime}$. Break: $\mathrm{C}^{\prime}-\mathrm{O}^{\prime}$.


Making the C7-C2' and C9-O1́s suggests a [2 + 2] photocycloaddition. Then the lone pair on N3' expels O1' from C2' to give the observed product (after proton transfer).

4.11. The numbering is not straightforward in this reaction, but if you draw in the H atoms you can see that the two CH groups in the new benzene ring in the product probably come from two CH groups in norbornadiene. Atoms unaccounted for in the written product include C9 and O10 (can be lost as CO), C17 to C21 (can be lost as cyclopentadiene), and O 1 and O 4 (can be lost as $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ). Make: $\mathrm{C} 2-\mathrm{C} 8, \mathrm{C} 3-\mathrm{C} 11, \mathrm{C} 8-\mathrm{C} 16, \mathrm{C} 11-\mathrm{C} 15$. Break: O1-C2, C3-O4, C8-C9, C9-C11, C15-C19, C16-C17.


Glycine acts as an acid-base catalyst in this reaction. C8 and C11 are very acidic, and once deprotonated they are very nucleophilic, so they can attack C 2 and C 3 in an aldol reaction. Dehydration gives a key cyclopentadienone intermediate. (The mechanism of these steps is not written out below.) Cyclopentadienones are antiaromatic, so they are very prone to undergo Diels-Alder reactions. Such a reaction occurs here with norbornadiene. A retro-Diels-Alder reaction followed by a $[4+1]$ retrocycloaddition affords the product.





4.12. Make: C3-C9, C3-C14, C6-C10, C6-C13. Break: C3-N4, N5-C6.


The C3-C9 and C6-C10 bonds can be made by a Diels-Alder reaction. Then loss of $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ and cleavage of the C3-N4 and N5-C6 bonds can occur by a retro-Diels-Alder reaction. This step regenerates a diene, which can undergo another, intramolecular Diels-Alder reaction with the $\mathrm{C} 13-\mathrm{C} 14 \pi$ bond to give the product.

4.13. The $[6+4]$ cycloaddition involves five pairs of electrons (an odd number), so it is thermally allowed. The [4+3] cationic cycloaddition involves three pairs of electrons, so it is also thermally allowed.
4.14. Make: C6-C8. Break: C6-C7.



Making and breaking bonds to C6 suggests a [1, n] sigmatropic rearrangement, and a [1,5] sigmatropic rearrangement, one of the most common types, is possible here. Once the rearrangement is drawn, however, the mechanism is not complete, even though all bonds on the make \& break list have been crossed off. C8 still has one extra H and C9 has one too few. Both these problems can be taken care of by another [1,5] sigmatropic rearrangement. This step, by the way, reestablishes the aromatic ring.

4.15. Make: C1-C9. Break: C3-N8.


Deprotonation of C 9 by DBU gives an ylide (has positive and negative charges on adjacent atoms that cannot quench each other with a $\pi$ bond), a compound which is particularly prone to undergo $[2,3]$ sigmatropic rearrangements when an allyl group is attached to the cationic center, as is the case here. Esters are not normally acidic enough to be deprotonated by DBU, but in this ester the $\mathrm{N}^{+}$stabilizes the enolate by an inductive effect.


### 4.16. Make: C4-C10. Break: Cl1-N2.



The most unusual bond in this system is the $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{Cl}$ bond. The nucleophilic substitution step must involve cleavage of this bond. No base is present, but S is an excellent nucleophile, even in its neutral form, so the first step probably entails formation of an $\mathrm{S} 9-\mathrm{N} 2$ bond. Now we have to make the $\mathrm{C} 4-\mathrm{C} 10$ bond and make the $\mathrm{S} 9-\mathrm{N} 2$ bond. Deprotonation of C 4 gives an ylide, which as discussed in problem 4.15 is likely to undergo a $[2,3]$ sigmatropic rearrangement. Tautomerization to rearomatize then gives the product.

4.17. The reaction in question is:


To name the reaction, draw a dashed line where the new bond is made, draw a squiggly line across the bond that is broken, and count the number of atoms from the termini of the dashed bond to the termini of the squiggly bond.


This reaction would be a $[3,5$ ] sigmatropic rearrangement, an eight-electron reaction, and hence would require that one component be antarafacial. Not likely! A more reasonable mechanism begins with the same [3,3] sigmatropic
rearrangement that gives 2-allylphenol. However, instead of tautomerization to give the aromatic product, a second [3,3] sigmatropic rearrangement occurs. Then tautomerization gives the product.

4.18. Both the Stevens rearrangement and the nonallylic Wittig rearrangement begin with deprotonation of the C atom next to the heteroatom followed by an anionic [1,2] sigmatropic rearrangement. Both involve four electrons, an even number of electron pairs, and hence if either is concerted then one of the two components of the reaction must be antarafacial. This condition is extremely difficult to fulfill, and hence it is much more likely that both reactions are nonconcerted. Both the Stevens rearrangement and the nonallylic Wittig rearrangement are thought to proceed by homolysis of a $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{S}$ or $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{O}$ bond and recombination of the C radical with the neighboring C atom.

4.19. Make: N1-C11, C2-C8. Break: C2-C6, C11-O12.


The N1-C11 bond is easily made first. Cleavage of the C11-O12 bond gives an iminium ion that is also a 1,5(hetero)diene. The Cope rearrangement occurs to give a new iminium ion and an enol. Attack of the enol on the iminium ion (the Mannich reaction) affords the product.


Now the stereochemistry. Assume the thermodynamically more stable iminium ion forms (Me groups cis). The Cope rearrangement occurs from a chair conformation. This puts the $\mathrm{Ph}, \mathrm{H} 2$, and H 11 all pointing up both before and after the rearrangement. Assuming the Mannich reaction occurs without a change in conformation (a reasonable assumption, considering the proximity of the nucleophilic and electrophilic centers), the $\mathrm{Ph}, \mathrm{H} 2$, and H11 should all be cis in the product.

4.20. Deprotonation of one of the Me groups adjacent to $S$ gives an ylide which can undergo a retro-hetero-ene reaction to give the observed products.


If $\left(\mathrm{CD}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{SO}$ (deuterated DMSO) is used for the Swern reaction, the E 2 mechanism predicts that the sulfide product should be $\left(\mathrm{CD}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{~S}$; the retro-hetero-ene mechanism predicts that it should be $\left(\mathrm{CD}_{3}\right) \mathrm{S}\left(\mathrm{CHD}_{2}\right)$. Guess which product is actually found?

## ANSWERS TO PROBLEMS IN BODY OF CHAPTER 5.

### 5.1. Make: C2-C4. Break: C2-C3.



If this compound were not a radical, you might suspect a [1,2] sigmatropic rearrangement. However, radicals do not undergo such rearrangements. The C 4 radical can make a bond to C 2 by adding to the $\pi$ bond. Then the C3-C2 bond can break by fragmentation.

5.2. Step 1. Make: C1-C3. Break: none.




Note: This reaction involves a polar acidic mechanism, not a free-radical mechanism! It is a Friedel-Crafts alkylation, with the slight variation that the requisite carbocation is made by protonation of an alkene instead of ionization of an alkyl halide. Protonation of C4 gives a C3 carbocation. Addition to C1 and fragmentation gives the product.


Step 2. Only a C-O bond is made.


The presence of $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ clues you in that this is a free-radical mechanism, specifically a free-radical substitution. Because it is an intermolecular substitution reaction, it probably proceeds by a chain mechanism. As such it has three parts: initiation, propagation, and termination. (We do not draw termination parts in this book.) The initiation part turns one of the stoichiometric starting materials into an odd-electron radical. This can be done here by abstraction of $\mathrm{H} \cdot$ from C by $\mathrm{O}_{2}$.

Initiation:


The propagation part begins with the radical generated in the initiation part, and it continues until all the starting materials are converted into products. Every individual step in the propagation part must have an odd number of electrons on each side of the arrow, and the last step must regenerate the radical that was used in the first step. Here the C radical combines with $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ to give an O radical, and this O radical abstracts $\mathrm{H} \cdot$ from starting material to give the product and to regenerate the C radical.

Propagation:



Although it is tempting to draw the following mechanism, the temptation should be resisted because it is not a chain mechanism.



Step 3. The numbering of the atoms in this polar acidic mechanism is not straightforward, because it is not clear whether C 1 ends up bound to O 3 or O 4 . However, if it ends up bound to O 3 , then we can draw a 1,2-alkyl shift (break $\mathrm{C} 1-\mathrm{C} 2$, make $\mathrm{C} 1-\mathrm{O} 3$ ) with expulsion of a leaving group (break $\mathrm{O} 3-\mathrm{O} 4$ ). Then O 4 can add to the new C 2 carbocation, and the resulting hemiacetal can collapse to phenol and acetone.


Actually, a two-step 1,2-alkyl shift has to be drawn, because Ph groups do not undergo concerted 1,2-shifts; instead their $\pi$ bonds participate in an addition-fragmentation process.

5.3. This addition reaction proceeds by a chain mechanism.


In the initiation part, one of the stoichiometric starting materials is converted into a free radical. The BzO produced from $(\mathrm{BzO})_{2}$ can abstract $\mathrm{H} \cdot$ from BuSH to give BuS .

## Initiation:




In the propagation part, $\mathrm{BuS} \cdot$ adds to the alkene to give an alkyl radical, which abstracts $\mathrm{H} \cdot$ from BuSH to give the product and to regenerate the starting radical.

Propagation:


5.4. This addition reaction proceeds by a chain mechanism.



In the initiation part, the $\mathrm{BzO} \cdot$ produced from $(\mathrm{BzO})_{2}$ can abstract $\mathrm{H} \cdot$ from $\mathrm{Bu}_{3} \mathrm{SnH}$ to give $\mathrm{Bu}_{3} \mathrm{Sn}$.
Initiation:


In the propagation part, $\mathrm{Bu}_{3} \mathrm{Sn} \cdot$ adds to the alkyne to give an alkenyl radical, which abstracts $\mathrm{H} \cdot$ from $\mathrm{Bu}_{3} \mathrm{SnH}$ to give the product and to regenerate the starting radical.

## Propagation:



5.5(a). Make: Br1-Sn14, C2-C6, C7-C12. Break: Br1-C2.


This is overall a substitution reaction - the $\mathrm{C} 2-\mathrm{Br} 1$ and $\mathrm{Sn} 14-\mathrm{H} \sigma$ bonds are swapped - so it is almost certainly a chain reaction. No initiator is listed, but it is likely that ambient air provides enough $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ to abstract $\mathrm{H} \cdot$ from Sn 14 .

## Initiation:


$\mathrm{Bu}_{3} \mathrm{Sn} \cdot$ abstracts Br 1 from C 2 . The C 2 radical then adds to C 6 to give a C 7 radical, which adds to C 12 to give a C 13 radical. The C 13 radical abstracts $\mathrm{H} \cdot$ from $\mathrm{Bu}_{3} \mathrm{SnH}$ to give the product and regenerate $\mathrm{Bu}_{3} \mathrm{Sn} \cdot$.

Propagation:


5.5(b). Make: Br1-Sn14, C2-C6, C7-C9, C7-C12, C10-C11. Break: Br1-C2.




AIBN is a very common initiator of free radical reactions. The radical derived from its fragmentation abstracts $\mathrm{H} \cdot$ from $\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{SnH}$ to give $\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{Sn}$.

Initiation:


$\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{Sn} \cdot$ abstracts Br 1 from C 2 . The C 2 radical then adds to C 6 to give a C 7 radical, which adds to C 9 to give a C10 radical. (Why not have C7 add to C 12 instead of C 9 at this point? Because addition to C 9 is intramolecular and forms a five-membered ring, making this addition very fast.) Now C10 adds to C11 to give a C12 radical,
which can then add to C 7 to give a C 6 radical. C 6 then abstracts $\mathrm{H} \cdot$ from $\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{SnH}$ to give the product and regenerate $\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{Sn}$.

Propagation:




5.6. Make: C1-C7́, C2-C7, C5-C7, I6-Sn9. Break: C5-I6.


The initiation is the same as for $5.5(\mathrm{~b})$. In the propagation part, $\mathrm{Sn} \cdot$ abstracts $\mathrm{I} \cdot$ from C 5 . The C 5 radical then adds to C 7 of CO to make a new C 7 radical. The C 7 radical adds to C 2 to make a C 1 radical, which adds to $\mathrm{C} 7{ }^{\prime}$ of a second equivalent of CO to make a $\mathrm{C}^{\prime}$ radical. $\mathrm{C}^{\prime}$ then abstracts $\mathrm{H} \cdot$ from $\mathrm{Bu}_{3} \mathrm{SnH}$ to give the product and regenerate $\mathrm{Bu}_{3} \mathrm{Sn} \cdot$.

Propagation:



5.7(a). One $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ bond is made, and no bonds are broken.


The $t$ - $\mathrm{BuO} \cdot$ abstracts $\mathrm{H} \cdot$ from malonate in the initiation part. A free radical addition mechanism like the one in problem 5.3 ensues.

## Initiation:

$$
t-\mathrm{BuO} \underset{\bigcup}{\Omega} \mathrm{O} t-\mathrm{Bu} \xrightarrow[\rightarrow]{\Delta} \quad 2 \quad \bullet \mathrm{O} t-\mathrm{Bu}
$$



Propagation:


5.7(b). Again, one $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ bond is made, and no bonds are broken.


Intermolecular free-radical addition reactions almost always proceed by chain mechanisms. Here light photoexcites acetone, and $\mathrm{O} \cdot$ then abstracts $\mathrm{H} \cdot$ from the $\alpha$-position of another molecule of acetone to complete the initiation.

## Initiation:



Propagation proceeds as in problem 5.7(a).
Propagation:


5.8. Make: $\mathrm{C} 2-\mathrm{O}$. Break: $\mathrm{O} 1-\mathrm{C} 2, \mathrm{~N} 5-\mathrm{O} 7$. Note that O 6 and O 7 are equivalent.



Unimolecular photochemical eliminations usually proceed by nonchain mechanisms. Photoexcitation gives an N5-O6 1,2-diradical. Abstraction of H• from C2 by O6 then gives a 1,4-diradical, which can collapse to an $o$ xylylene type of compound. Electrocyclic ring closure forms the O7-C2 bond and reestablishes aromaticity. Cleavage of the N5-O7 bond then gives a hemiacetal, which undergoes cleavage by the usual acid- or basecatalyzed mechanism to give the observed products.


5.9. Addition of one electron to the ketone gives a ketyl $\left(\cdot \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{O}^{-}\right)$, and addition of another electron gives a carbanion, which is protonated by EtOH. Workup then gives the reduced compound. Note how curved arrows are not used to show the movement of electrons in electron transfer steps.


5.10. Only the $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{O}$ bond is cleaved, but several $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ bonds are made.


First the ketone is reduced to the alkoxide according to the mechanism shown in problem 5.9. This alkoxide is in equilibrium with the corresponding alcohol. Addition of another electron to the benzene $\pi$ system gives a radical anion, which expels - OH to give a radical. This radical is reduced again and then protonated to give ethylbenzene. Another electron is added, protonation occurs again, another electron is added, and protonation occurs once more to give the observed product.


5.10. Make: C1-C3, C4-C6. Break: S2-C3, C4-S5.


Deprotonation of C6 gives an ylide, which undergoes a 1,2-shift (break C4-S5, make C4-C6). This 1,2-shift occurs in two steps: the C4-S5 bond homolyzes to give a radical and a radical cation, and recombination of C 4 and C6 occurs to give an intermediate ring-contracted by one atom. The same process is repeated on the other side to give the observed product. Whether one or the other regioisoemr is obtained depends on whether C 1 or C 3 is deprotonated for the second ring contraction.




