Construction of a Helical Exocyclic Diene Scaffold via Rh-Catalyzed Cycloisomerization of 1,6-Diynes Bearing a Cyclopropanol Moiety

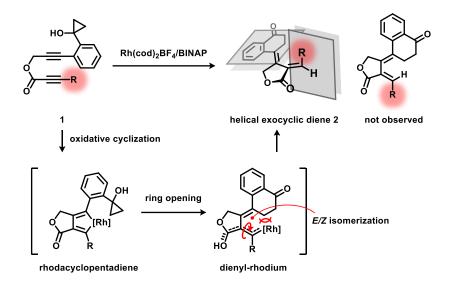
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Exocyclic dienes possessing terminal substituents oriented inside the diene moiety can create a helical motif.¹ Such helical exocyclic dienes have been used as photochromic molecules, ligands, organocatalysts.² However, the synthetic method for them has been limited due to the steric hindrance between the substituents inside the diene moiety.

Herein, we report the rhodium-catalyzed cycloisomerization of ester-tethered 1,6-diynes **1** bearing a cyclopropanol moiety.³ This reaction gave helical exocyclic dienes **2** with excellent stereoselectivity. Control experiments and density functional theory calculations indicated that oxidative cyclization of the diyne afforded a rhodacyclopentadiene species, followed by the ring-opening of the cyclopropanol moiety. We also found that the construction of thermodynamically unfavorable geometry of the diene moiety is enabled by E/Z isomerization in a dienyl-rhodium intermediate.



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