

Catalytic Synthesis of Cyclic Guanidines via Hydrogen Atom Transfer and Radical-Polar Crossover

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ABSTRACT: A catalytic synthesis of cyclic guanidines, which are found in many biologically active compounds and natural products, was developed, wherein transition-metal hydrogen atom transfer and radical-polar crossover were employed. This mild and functional-group tolerant process enabled the cyclization of alkenyl guanidines bearing common protective groups, such as Cbz and Boc. This powerful method not only provided the common 5- and 6-membered rings but also an unusual 7-membered ring. The derivatization of the products afforded various heterocycles. We also investigated the selective cyclization of mono-protected or hetero-protected (TFA and Boc) alkenyl guanidines and their further derivatizations.

Guanidine is a biologically and chemically pivotal basic motif. For instance, the amino acid arginine, contains a guanidine motif and contributes to the expression of biological functions.¹ Moreover, its cyclic form is present in potent bioactive compounds and natural products,² such as saxioxin³ (a blocker of voltage-gated sodium channels) and teixobactin⁴ (an antibiotic for resistant bacteria) (Scheme 1). Because of the chemical and medicinal background of cyclic guanidines, the development of a useful method for their synthesis has been long-standing interest in organic synthesis.^{2,5} Therefore, protocols have been developed, such as intramolecular displacement,⁶ halocyclization,⁷ and others.⁸ Metal-catalyzed processes have been developed, including alkene hydroamination (Ag),⁹ alkene carboamination (Pd),¹⁰ alkene diamination (Pd),¹¹ alkyne hydroamination (Ag, Rh),¹² alkyne carboamination (Pd),¹³ C–H amination (Rh),¹⁴ cyclization via (π -allyl) palladium intermediate,¹⁵ carbenylative amination (Pd).¹⁶ Both traditional and metal-catalyzed methods have been used in the synthesis of complex natural products.¹⁷ Despite numerous examples, unusual and more challenging 7-membered rings formation has not been developed efficiently. To the best of our knowledge, Dodd and co-workers reported two examples of 7-membered ring guanidines synthesized via halocyclization, however, there is significant potential to further improve the yields (23% and 21%).^{7c} Herein, we show a powerful, catalytic, Markovnikov selective, and scalable hydroamination that affords cyclic guanidines via transition-metal hydrogen atom transfer (TM-HAT) and radical-polar crossover (RPC).

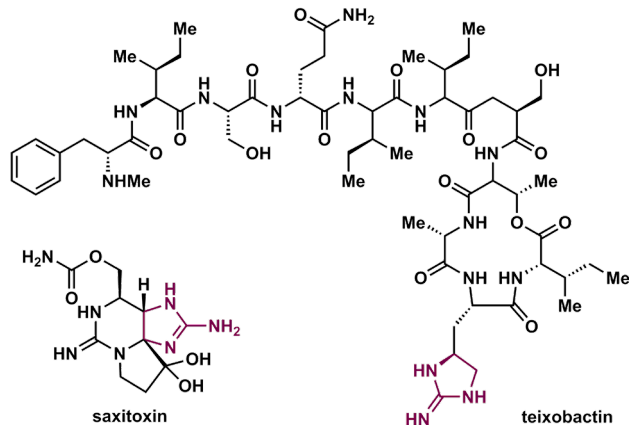
Recently, TM-HAT catalytic systems have been used by many groups as a useful concept to develop various trans-

formations of alkenes with excellent functional group tolerance.¹⁸ We have previously reported the unique effect of *N*-fluorocollidinium salt on the TM-HAT system, which enable ionic process to occur RPC mechanism, leading to further transformations developed by us¹⁹ and other groups.²⁰ Encouraged by these reports, we envisioned that an alkenyl guanidine bearing a common and easily removable protective group (carboxybenzyl (Cbz) and or *tert*-butoxycarbonyl (Boc) could be cyclized via TM-HAT and RPC approach. Employing these common protective groups was not successful for hydroaminations nor similar transformations with different catalysis.^{9-10,11c} Moreover, we assumed that the high reactivity based on TM-HAT/RPC mechanism could efficiently form cyclic guanidines with unusual ring size.

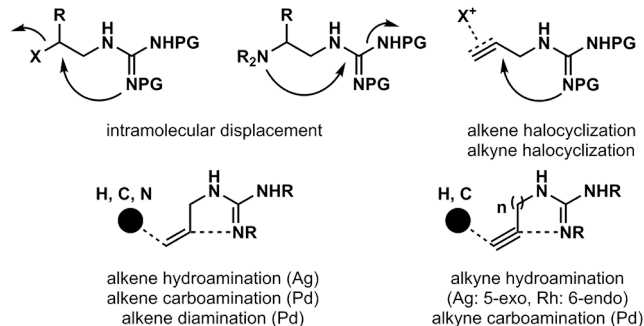
We initially elected to examine the 5-exo cyclization of alkenyl guanidine **1a** bearing two Cbz groups and gratifyingly obtained the desired cyclic guanidine **2a** in 88% yield using the reaction conditions previously developed reaction conditions: cobalt catalyst **C1**, *N*-fluoro-2,4,6-collidinium trifluoromethanesulfonate (Me₃NFPY·OTf), and 1,1,3,3-tetramethyldisiloxane (Scheme 2, entry 1). When phenylsilane was used, the yield of **2a** decreased due to the formation of cyclic urea **3a** (entry 2). Screening of various cobalt complexes (**C1** – **C3**) revealed that the four *tert*-butyl groups were essential for acceptable conversion (entries 1, 3, 4). We found that previously developed complex **C4** provided slightly better conversion than that of **C1** (entry 5). Replacing the OTf counteranion of the Me₃NFPY salt with tetrafluoroborate (BF₄) or hexafluorophosphate (PF₆) did not improve the efficiency of the reaction (entries 6 and 7). Moreover, 841 mg (2.30 mmol) of **2a** could be synthesized from 1.02 g of **1a** (82%).

Scheme 1 (a) Representative Examples of Natural Products bearing Cyclic Guanidine, (b) Representative Methods affording Cyclic Guanidine, and (c) This Work: Synthesis of Cyclic Guanidine by TM-HAT & RPC Concept

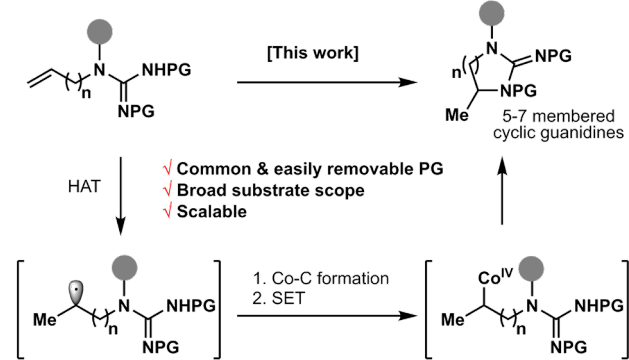
(a) Bioactive compounds bearing cyclic guanidine



(b) Representative examples of cyclic guanidine synthesis



(c) This work: synthesis of cyclic guanidines by TM-HAT & RPC concept

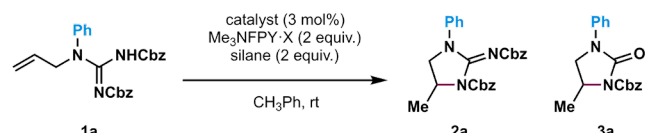


With the optimal conditions in hand, we next briefly examined the scope of substituted alkenyl guanidine forming five-membered ring products (**1b** – **1g**) (Scheme 3). The substrates bearing *p*-chloro (**1b**) or *p*-methoxy (**1c**) aniline unit gave **2b** and **2c**, respectively, in good yields. The dimethylated product **2d** was also synthesized from disubstituted alkenyl guanidine **1d** in 80% yield together with a hydroxylated compound (9%). The product yields were also excellent for the substrates, including methylamine (**1e**), benzylamine (**1f**), and phenethylamine (**1g**).

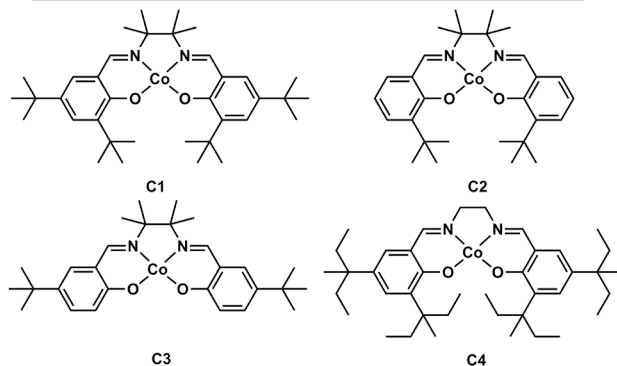
Encouraged by these results, we next applied the same concept to form larger rings. To our great delight, 6-exo and 7-exo cyclizations were possible under the same reaction conditions gave **2h** and **2i**, respectively (Scheme 4). Although the yields of **2h** using **C4** and **C1** were identical,

the superior efficiency of **C4** to that of **C1** was clarified when **C4** produced **2i** in a higher yield than that provided by **C1**. As this method was ineffective for the formation of 8-membered guanidine **2j**, we focused on the preparation of various 7-membered guanidines.

Scheme 2. Optimization of Reaction Condition

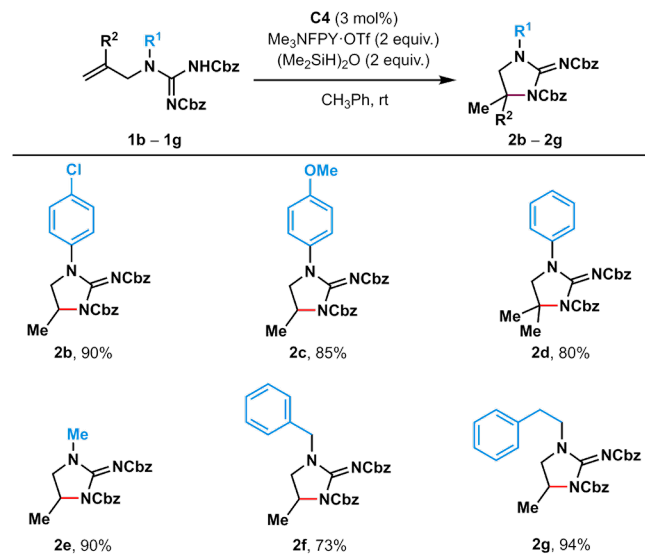


entry	cat.	X	silane	2a (%) ^a
1	C1	OTf	(Me ₂ SiH) ₂ O	88
2	C1	OTf	PhSiH ₃	59 (+25% 3a)
3	C2	OTf	(Me ₂ SiH) ₂ O	74
4	C3	OTf	(Me ₂ SiH) ₂ O	32
5	C4	OTf	(Me ₂ SiH) ₂ O	90, 84 ^b , 82 ^c
6	C4	BF ₄	(Me ₂ SiH) ₂ O	76
7	C4	PF ₆	(Me ₂ SiH) ₂ O	83



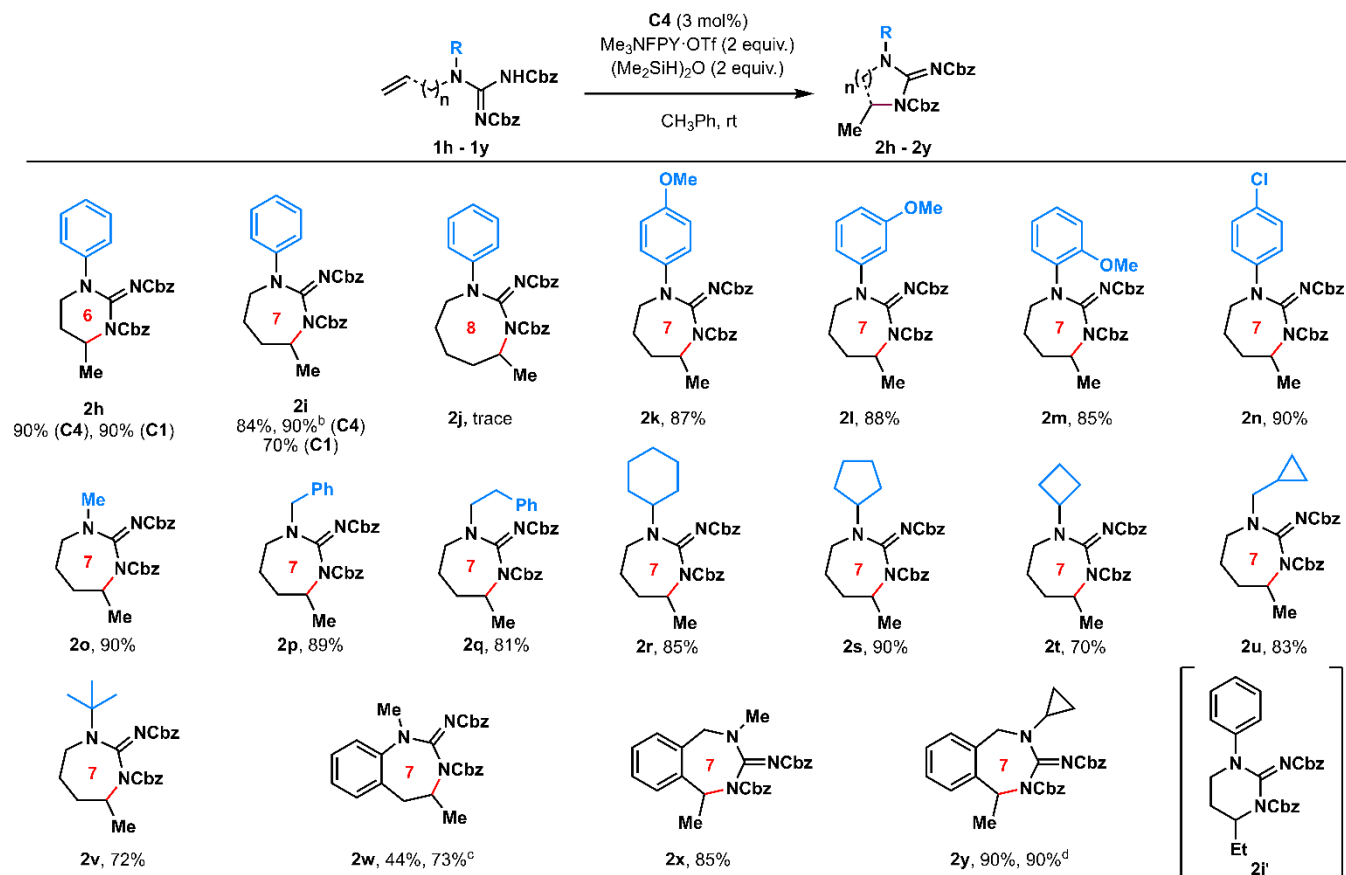
Conditions: alkenyl guanidine (0.1 mmol), catalyst (0.003 mmol), Me₃NFPY-X (0.2 mmol), silane (0.2 mmol), CH₃Ph (1.0 mL), room temperature, 20 h. ^aNMR yield using 1,4-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzene as the internal standard. ^bisolation yield ^c2.30 mmol scale

Scheme 3. Scope of Alkenyl Guanidines Affording 5-Membered Ring Products^a



Conditions: alkenyl guanidine (0.1 mmol), catalyst (0.003 mmol), *N*-fluorocollidinium trifluoromethanesulfonate (0.2 mmol), 1,1,3,3-tetramethyldisiloxane (0.2 mmol), CH₃Ph (1.0 mL), room temperature, 20 h. ^aisolation yield

Scheme 4. Scope of Alkenyl Guanidines Affording Products of 6- and 7-Membered Rings^a

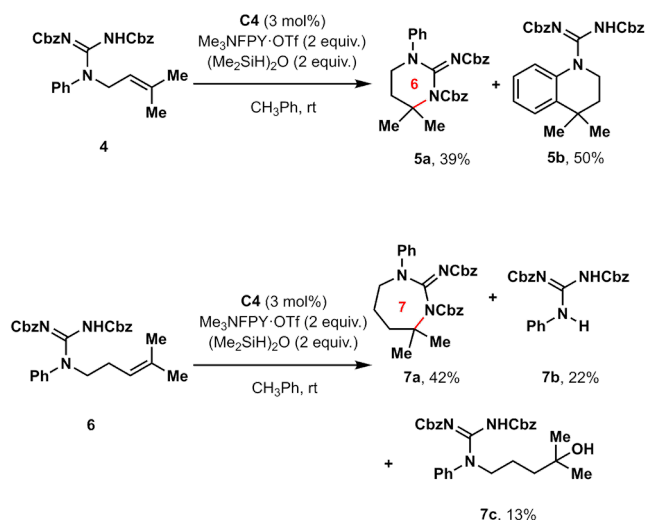


Conditions: alkenyl guanidine (0.1 mmol), **C4** (0.003 mmol), *N*-fluorocollidinium trifluoromethanesulfonate (0.2 mmol), 1,1,3,3-tetramethyldisiloxane (0.2 mmol), CH_3Ph (1.0 mL), room temperature, 20 h. ^aisolation yield ^b3.00 mmol scale ^c9 mol% of **C4** was used. ^d4.13 mmol scale

We next examined the electronic and steric effects using substrates with aniline units bearing electron-donating or electron-withdrawing groups in different positions on the aniline ring. We found no significant differences when using substrates **1k** – **1n** that gave the corresponding 4-methoxy (**2k**), 3-methoxy (**2l**), 2-methoxy (**2m**), and 4-chloro (**2n**) products. Replacing the aniline unit with aliphatic amines such as methylamine, benzylamine, and phenethylamine, resulted in comparable yields (**2o** – **2q**). Products bearing more hindered amine such as cyclohexylamine (**2r**), cyclopentylamine (**2s**), and *tert*-butylamine (**2v**), were prepared in good yields. Substrates bearing strained carbocycles such as cyclobutyl and cyclopropylmethyl group were also tolerated under these reaction condition and gave their respective products, **2t** and **2u**. Moreover, we could prepare benzocyclic guanidines (**2w** – **2y**) in good yields using the same method. We reinvestigated the scalability of this reaction using 1.42 g (3.00 mmol) of **1i** and obtained **2i** in 90% isolation yield. This scale-up experiment enabled the isolation and structural-determination of the small amount of byproduct **2i'** (6%), which was likely produced via a 1,2-H shift of the alkylCo(IV) intermediate. We also prepared 1.80 g of benzocyclic **2y** in 90% yield, together with a small amount of complex byproduct mixtures, from 2.00 g (4.13 mmol) of **1y**.

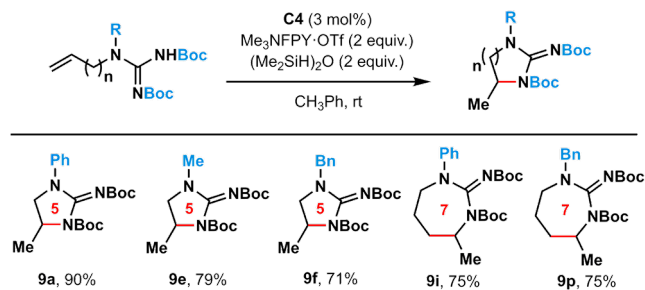
We also examined cyclizations using tri-substituted alkenyl guanidines (Scheme 5). Although the formation of 6-membered cyclic guanidine **5a** was amenable, the yield was less than moderate due to a side reaction, hydroarylation affording **5b**, which had also been observed in a previous study of ours.^{19d} Additionally, the use of **C1** did not improve the yield of **5a** (14%). 7-membered cyclic guanidine **7a** was also obtained, however, the byproducts **7b** and **7c** were also formed in small amounts.

Scheme 5. Cyclization of Trisubstituted Alkenyl Guanidines



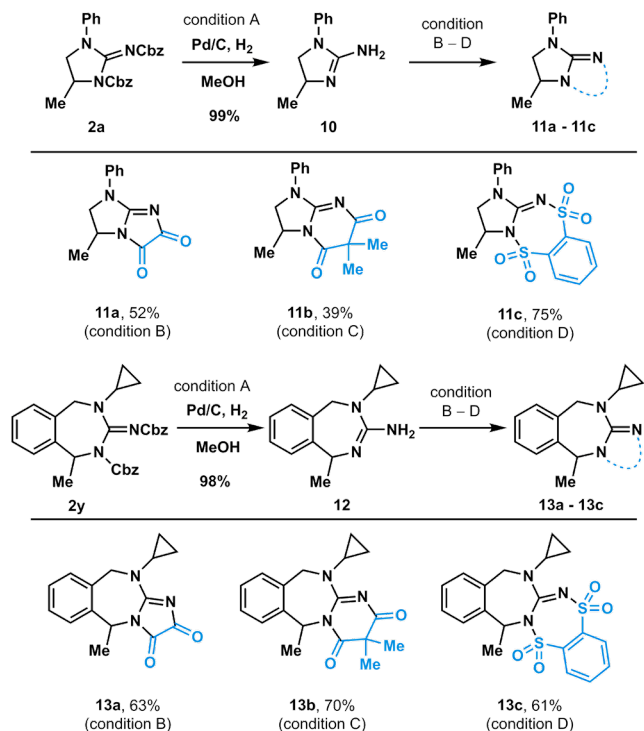
As expected, replacing the two Cbz groups of **1a** with Boc groups, another common protective group, resulted in a 90% yield of the 5-membered cyclic guanidine **9a** (Scheme 6). The products containing methylamine **9e** and benzylamine **9f** were also synthesized in good yields. It should be noted that **9e** could not be synthesized by the previously reported hydroamination method.⁹ 7-membered cyclic guanidine **9i** was obtained in 75% yield together with an alkene-isomerized byproduct and 6-membered cyclic guanidine similar to **2i'**. Moreover, the product **9p** bearing a benzylamine unit was obtained in comparable yield.

Scheme 6. Cyclization of Alkenyl Guanidines Bearing Boc group^a



Conditions: alkenyl guanidine (0.5 mmol), catalyst (0.015 mmol), *N*-fluorocollidinium trifluoromethanesulfonate (1.0 mmol), 1,1,3,3-tetramethyldisiloxane (1.0 mmol), CH₃Ph (5.0 mL), room temperature, 20 h. ^aisolation yield

Scheme 7. Derivatization of Cyclic Guanidines^a

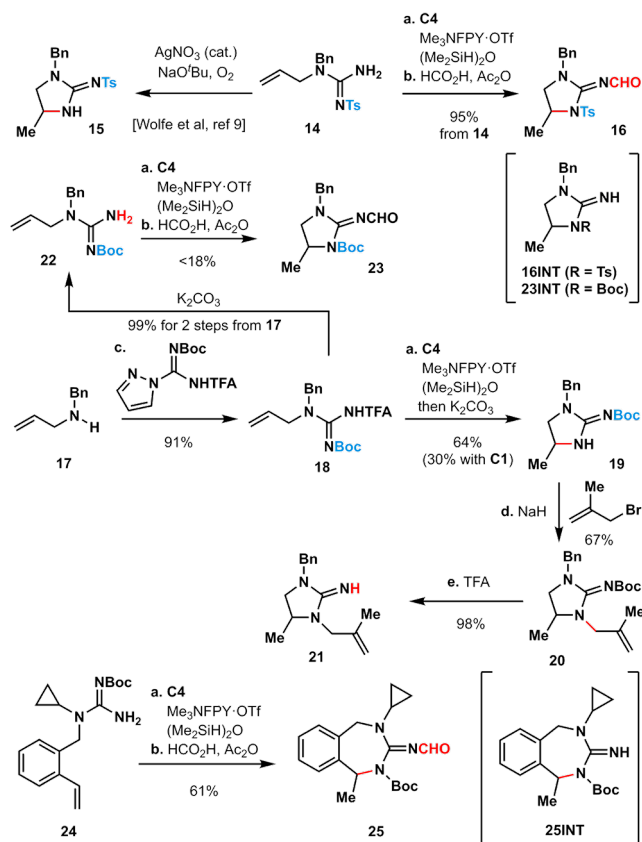


(A) Pd/C, H₂, MeOH, rt, 1 h (B) oxalyl chloride (2.0 equiv.), NEt₃ (5.0 equiv.), CH₂Cl₂ (0.03 M), rt, 12 h (C) dimethylmalonyl dichloride (2.0 equiv.), NEt₃ (5.0 equiv.), CH₂Cl₂ (0.03 M), rt, 12 h (D) 1,2-benzenedisulfonyl dichloride (2.0 equiv.), NEt₃ (5.0 equiv.), CH₂Cl₂ (0.03 M), rt, 12 h

To demonstrate the synthetic potential of the cyclic guanidines prepared by this method, 5-membered cyclic guanidine **2a** was subjected to deprotection and diversification (Scheme 7). The conventional palladium-catalyzed hydrogenation of **2a** produced free cyclic guanidine **10** almost quantitatively, which was further transformed into bicyclic guanidine **11a** and **11b**, and tricyclic guanidine **11c** in moderate yields. We also derivatized 7-membered guanidine **2y** in the same way to produce tricyclic guanidines **13a** and **13b** and tetracyclic **13c** in moderate yields.

For comparison, we performed cobalt catalysis with mono-Ts guanidine **14**, which had been successfully used in hydroamination reactions (Scheme 8). To our surprise, we found that the product selectivity was clearly complementary. It was reported that **15** was selectively obtained under Wolfe's conditions,⁹ whereas we observed highly polar compound (assumed as **16INT**), that could not be purified by silica gel chromatography. Formylation of this crude mixture enabled the isolation and structural determination to be **16**. Thus, this result indicates that the reactive nitrogen atom of the guanidine moiety used in Wolfe's conditions is different from ours.

Scheme 8. Selective Cyclization of Mono-protected or Hetero-protected (TFA and Boc) Alkenyl Guanidine and Further Derivatizations.



(a) **C4**, $\text{Me}_3\text{NFPY}\cdot\text{OTf}$, $(\text{Me}_2\text{SiH})_2\text{O}$, CH_3Ph , rt, 20 h (b) HCO_2H , Ac_2O , NEt_3 , CH_2Cl_2 , rt 3h (c) N -Boc- N' -TFA-pyrazole-1-carboxamide, THF, rt, 3h (d) NaH, 3-bromo-2-methylpropene, DMF, rt, 1h (e) TFA, CH_2Cl_2 , rt 3h

Toward further examination of guanidine scope, we prepared alkenyl guanidines **18** and **22** by Baran's method.^{17h} The cyclization of Boc-TFA (trifluoroacetyl) guanidine **18**, followed by treatment with potassium carbonate (to remove remaining TFA group), selectively produced **19** in 64% yield. This yield was not improved using **C1** instead of **C4**. The alkylation of cyclic guanidine **19** and its Boc deprotection affording **21** were both amenable by conventional methods. On the other hand, the cyclization of mono-Boc guanidine **22** gave highly polar compound (assumed as **23INT**). This structure was clearly elucidated by the formylation to be **23**. Unfortunately, the yield of Boc-guanidine **23** was significantly worse than that of Ts-guanidine **16**. This cyclization/formylation sequence also afforded **25** in 61% yield, although the cyclization of corresponding Boc-TFA guanidine resulted in a complex product mixture.

In summary, we developed a catalytic, Markovnikov-selective, scalable method for synthesizing cyclic guanidines using a TM-HAT/RPC approach. We efficiently constructed 5, 6, 7-membered cyclic guanidines bearing common and easily removable Cbz or Boc under mild condition. At present, this is a unique and powerful method enabled to expand the chemical space of unusual 7-membered cyclic guanidines. Further diversifications of products through cobalt catalysis led to various heterocy-

cles. Investigations and further transformations of alkenyl guanidines bearing mono-Boc or Boc-TFA protective groups revealed selective product formation and expansion of accessible cyclic guanidine by further transformations. We are currently investigating enantioselective variants using a chiral cobalt catalyst.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Experimental procedures and analytical data (^1H and ^{13}C NMR) for all new compounds. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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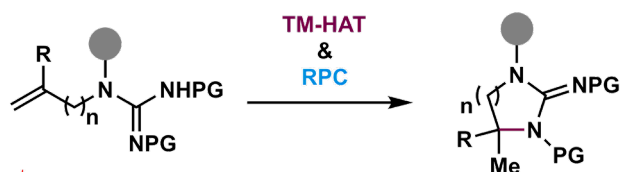
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- ✓ 5 – 7 membered rings
- ✓ Common PG (Cbz & Boc)
- ✓ Broad substrate scope
- ✓ Scalable

cyclic guanidines
[31 examples]

