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Chemoselective and stereoselective lithium carbenoid mediated cyclopropanation of acyclic allylic alcohols

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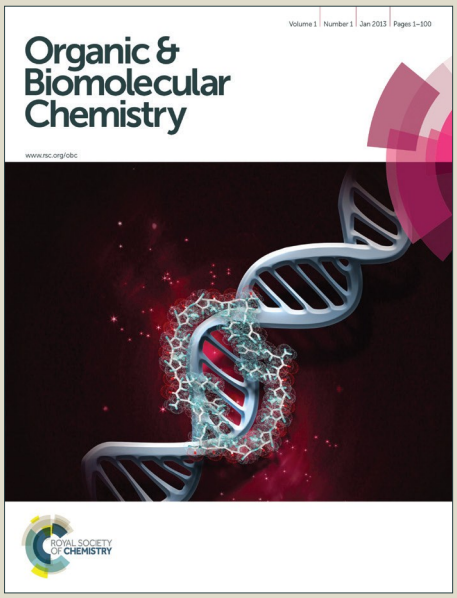

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ARTICLE

Chemoselective and stereoselective lithium carbenoid mediated cyclopropanation of acyclic allylic alcohols

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The reaction of geraniol with different lithium carbenoids generated from *n*-BuLi and the corresponding dihaloalkane has been evaluated. The reaction occurs in a chemo and stereoselective manner, which is consistent with a directing effect from the oxygen of the allylic moiety. Furthermore, a set of polyenes containing allylic hydroxyl or ether groups were chemoselectively and stereoselectively converted into the corresponding *gem*-dimethylcyclopropanes in one single step in moderate to good yields mediated by a lithium carbenoid generated *in situ* by reaction of *n*-BuLi and 2,2-dibromopropane.

Introduction

Cyclopropane-containing molecules are found in many natural and unnatural compounds exhibiting relevant biological activities[1] as enzymatic inhibitors,[2] plant growth regulators and fruit senescence regulators, insecticides, antifungals, herbicides, tumour promoters and compounds with effects on cell growth division.[3] Cyclopropane ring containing compounds have been also found useful as synthetic intermediates in the preparation of cyclic[4,5] or acyclic compounds.[6]

In general terms, cyclopropane rings can be mainly prepared either by cyclization of a three membered ring unit, or by the reaction between a two carbon and a one carbon unit. Several methods have been described such as Michael-initiated induced ring closure,[7] reaction of carbenes originated from diazoalkanes[8] and catalysed by transition metals,[9] cycloisomerizarions catalysed by transition metals,[10] Kulinkovich reaction[11] and carbene or carbenoid[12] addition to olefins. Many of these methods involve stereoselective[13] and enantioselective[14] reactions and the use of organocatalysts has also been described.[14c,15]

An example of a metal-carbenoid reagent successfully applied in the chemo- and stereoselective[16] cyclopropanation of alkenes, is the Simmons-Smith reagent,[17] where a number of modifications of the original zinc–copper couple based Simmons–Smith methodology have recently been reported.[18] This reaction has been extended to the preparation of 1,2,3-substituted halocyclopropanes involving the diastereoselective[19] and enantioselective[19c,20] transfer of carbenoids.

Lithium carbenoids[21] are recognised as organometallic compounds bearing both a lithium atom and an electronegative element X (X= halogen, OR, NR_2) on the same carbon. . Reactivity of lithium carbenoids is influenced by both their structural features and an interplay of aggregation and solvation effects, as shown by the behavior of α-lithiated styrene oxide and related compounds under different experimental conditions.[22]

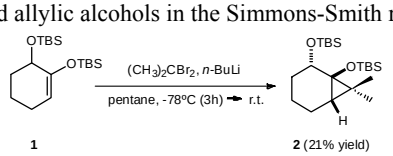
In general terms, *α*-heteroatom-substituted alkyl lithium compounds are generated in solution under inert conditions and low temperatures and used without further purification. While monohalo-substituted alkanes are not acidic enough to allow for the preparation of these compounds,[23] further halogen substitution on the same carbon increases the acidity and, for instance, *gem*-dichloroalkanes are precursors of *α*-dichloro alkyl lithium compounds.[24] Therefore, the reaction of these compounds with alkenes would lead to the preparation of chlorocyclopropanes.

Furthermore, heavier halogens undergo Wittig–Gilman halogen-lithium exchange reaction more readily and, accordingly, *gem*-dibromoalkanes can undergo Wittig–Gilman halogen-lithium exchange reaction and give rise to *α*-bromo alkyl lithium compounds.[23,25]

Interestingly, while the chemoselective and stereoselective incorporation of a methylene group in the Simmons-Smith cyclopropanation has been extensively investigated,[13a,26] selective introduction of a more elaborated moiety via intermolecular reaction has been less explored.

In this context, construction of a *gem*-dimethylcyclopropane unit is of interest, since it is a structural feature present in many natural products[3,27] and their derivatives; for instance the pyrethrins and their unnatural derivatives, the pyrethroids.[28] Several methods have been developed for the *gem*-dimethylmethylene cyclopropanation of alkenes.[29-31] Among them zinc and lithium dimethylmethylenecarbenoids have been described as efficient cyclopropanation reagents.[30,31]

In a previous study, our group studied the diastereoselective preparation of 7,7-dimethylbicyclo[4.1.0]heptan-1,2-diol via cyclopropanation of 1,2-di-*tert*-butyldimethylsilyloxycyclohexene **1** with a lithium carbenoid generated from 2,2-dibromopropane at -78ºC with a low yield (21%) (Scheme 1).[32] Facial diastereoselectivity of this reaction seems to be determined by the secondary alcohol stereochemistry, suggesting some sort of coordination between the substrate and the intermediate lithium carbenoid, in similar fashion to the situation observed between zinc carbenoids and allylic alcohols in the Simmons-Smith reaction.[33]



1 **2** (21% yield)

Scheme 1 *gem*-dimethylcyclopropanation of **1**.

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Geraniol has been used as a model in the study of the chemoselectivity in the reaction of cyclopropanation of alkenes with several reagent systems. Three membered rings can be formed either at the double bond proximal to the alcohol or at the distal one. Reagents based on Zn,[34,35] Sm,[36,37] Mg[38] and Ti[39] lead to cyclopropanation the proximal double bond. Nevertheless, aluminium based reagents lead to cyclopropane formation at the distal double bond.[40,41] There are reports on the reactivity of lithium carbenoids with allylic hydroxyl groups or related systems, but to our knowledge, there are no studies on the chemoselectivity of lithium carbenoids.[42-44]

Herein, we evaluate the chemoselectivity of the cyclopropanation of geraniol mediated by a series of lithium carbenoids, and we focus our attention on the chemoselective incorporation of a *gem*-dimethylcyclopropane unit into several allylic alcohols.

Results and Discussion

A long-standing debate on the mechanistic nature of carbenoid-mediated cyclopropanations can be found in the literature where two alternative mechanistic pathways have been proposed; namely methylene-transfer and carbometalation.[45-49]

On experimental grounds, a methylene transfer mechanism should give compounds where configurational integrity of the double bond is retained in the resulting cyclopropanation product, which might not be the case for a two step carbometalation mechanism.[50]

Some studies suggest that this mechanistic dichotomy is metal-dependent. Therefore, for zinc carbenoids, experimental[45] and theoretical studies[48,49] suggest that the methylene transfer mechanism is prevalent, as also seems to be the case for aluminium-mediated cyclopropanations.[40,51] Regarding lithium-carbenoid mediated olefin cyclopropanation, arguments for both mechanistic proposals can be found.[46,50-52]

In recent years, several theoretical studies have addressed on this topic where the aggregation state of the lithium carbenoid seems to play a key role. For instance, *n*-BuLi is a hexamer in the solid state (*n*-Bu_6Li_6), and this aggregation state is mainly retained in non-polar media; while in more polar media, such as Et_2O, dimers and tetramers predominate.[53] A common conclusion from these studies is the dominance of the methylene transfer mechanism over carbometalation when polymeric species for the halomethyl lithium carbenoids are dominant, a likely situation in non-polar solvents.[54-56]

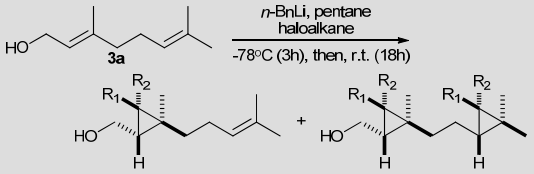
Coordination with Lewis bases, either attached to the olefin, such as with allylic alcohols, or not, as is the case in coordination with polar solvents such as Et_2O or THF is another factor needed to be taken into account to understand these reactions. This situation has been examined for lithium carbenoids on the internal cyclopropanation of a chiral carbenoid,[46] where theoretical studies support a methylene transfer mechanism,[54] as seems to be the case when coordination by polar solvents such as THF are taken in account in addition to the aggregation state of the halomethyl lithium carbenoid.[56]

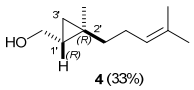
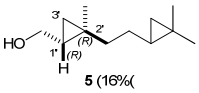
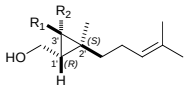
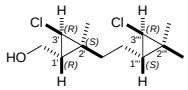
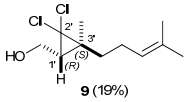
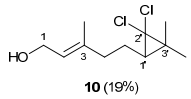
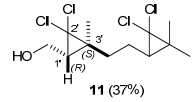
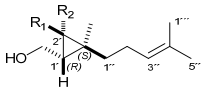
All these studies suggest a parallel behaviour of halomethyl lithium carbenoids to the one described by the Simmons-Smith reaction; although no experimental data are available for the chemoselectivity and stereoselectivity of the reaction of substituted halomethyl lithium carbenoids, thus justifying the study presented here.

Prior to studying the chemoselectivity of geraniol with a set of lithium carbenoids, the conditions reported for the cyclopropanation of substrate **1** with 2,2-dibromopropane (Scheme 1) were re-evaluated with the aim of improving the yield and/or the conversion of the *gem*-dimethylcyclopropanation. We examined the effect of the reagents and substrate ratios, solvent and the metalating agent. The use of pentane as solvent was crucial for the success of this reaction since the reaction did not take place when THF or diethyl ether were employed. Furthermore, the reaction did not occur when *t*-BuLi was used in place of *n*-BuLi. The best yield was obtained when the reaction was carried out at -78ºC using 4 equiv. of 2,2-dibromopropane and 8 equiv. of *n*-BuLi, achieving an optimal 50% of yield, an improvement on previously described conditions (21% yield) (see supporting information, Table S1, entry 4).

In a previous work, we have reported that the titanium-mediated cyclopropanation of geraniol by CH_2I_2 may proceed without previous protection of the hydroxyl group.[39] Therefore, we expected that the presence of an unprotected hydroxyl group would be compatible with the use of *n*-BuLi in pentane in combination with a methylene source for alkene cyclopropanation. Consequently, in order to gain further insight into the chemoselectivity of the reaction, we explored the effect of different lithium carbenoids, using unprotected geraniol as a model substrate (Table 1).

Table 1 Cyclopropanation of geraniol with a set of lithium carbenoids



Entry	Haloalkane	Product/s (yield %)[a]
1	CH_2I_2	 **4** (33%)
2	CH_2Br_2	**4** (46%(+  **5** (16%(
3	CH_2Cl_2	 R_1= H, R_2= Cl **6** (40%) R_1= Cl, R_2= H **7** (17%) +  **8** (7%)
4	$CHCl_3$	 **9** (19%) +  **10** (19%) +  **11** (37%)
5	$CH_3CH_2CHCl_2$	 R_1= Et, R_2= Cl **12** (32%) R_1= Cl, R_2= Et **13** (16%)

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[a]Yields were evaluated by GC.

First, the treatment of geraniol (**3a**) with either dibromomethane or diiodomethane and *n*-BuLi at -78°C (Table 1, entries 1 and 2) led to the formation of the cyclopropanation product **4** by methylene addition on the double bond closest to the hydroxyl group in moderate yield. Additionally, reaction with dibromomethane led to the double cyclopropanation product **5**. This behaviour is similar to that described for the Simmons-Smith reaction.[34,35] Spectroscopic and spectrometric data for compounds **4** and **5** are in agreement with those described in the literature.[57,58]

On the other hand, reaction between geraniol and the lithium dichlorocarbenoid generated from CH_2Cl_2 and *n*-BuLi led to the formation of chlorocyclopropanols **6** (40%), **7** (17%) and the double monochlorocyclopropanation product **8**, in low yield (7%) (Table 1, entry 3). Compounds **6** and **7** displayed similar signal patterns in their ^{13}C NMR spectra, presenting 2 quaternary carbons, 3 methine, 3 methylene and 3 methyl groups. Then main reaction product, compound **6**, showed HRMS molecular ion at *m/z*= 202.1120, consistent with molecular formula $C_{11}H_{19}OCl$, while compound **7** showed in its HRMS (APGC$^+$) an ion at *m/z*= 185.1111, consistent with molecular formula $C_{11}H_{18}Cl$, which would correspond to a loss of water from a protonated molecular ion of formula $C_{11}H_{20}OCl$. Compound **6** presented signals at δ_C 131.5 and 124.3 ppm in its ^{13}C NMR spectrum and a signal at δ_H 5.01 ppm in its ^1H NMR spectrum while compound **7** presented signals at δ_C 131.7 and 124.9 ppm in its ^{13}C NMR spectrum and a signal at δ_H 5.18 ppm in its ^1H NMR spectrum, which reveals a remaining double bond on each compound.

On the other hand, both compounds presented spin systems in their ^1H NMR spectra corresponding to protons attached to C-1, C-1' and C-3', δ_H 3.59 (CHHOH), δ_H 3.53 (CHHOH), 2.70 (CH-3´) and 0.77 (CH-1') ppm for compound **6** and δ_H 3.29 (CHHOH), 2.99 (CHHOH), 2.44 (CH-3´) and δ_H 0.96 (CH-1') ppm for compound **7**, which are consistent with the formation of a chlorocyclopropane ring at the allylic double bond.

NOESY 2D correlations between protons of the hydroxymethylene group with the proton of the methine group at C-1´, on one hand, and with protons of the methyl group attached at C-2' on the other, and between the proton of the methine group at C-3' with the proton of the methine group at C-1´, on one hand, and with protons of the methylene group at C-1-´´ on the other, allowed us to determine the stereochemistry for compound **6** as 1´*R**,2´*S**,3´*S** (Fig.1). Correspondingly, a NOESY 1D correlation between the proton of the methine group at C-3' and protons of the methyl group attached al C-2' was consistent with the proposed stereochemistry for compound **7** as 1´*R**,2´*S**,3´*R** (Fig. 2).

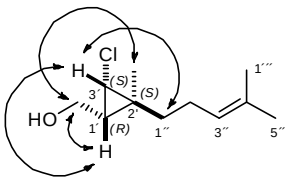

Fig. 1 Selected NOESY 2D correlations for compound **6**.

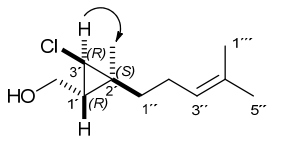

Fig. 2 Selected NOESY 1D correlation for compound **7**.

Compound **8** displayed a different signal pattern in its ^{13}C NMR spectrum, presenting 2 quaternary carbons, 4 methine, 3 methylene and 3 methyl groups. This compound showed ion peaks in its HRMS (APGC$^+$) at *m/z*= 215.1203 and 179.1431 consistent, respectively, with formulas $C_{12}H_{20}OCl$ and $C_{12}H_{19}O$, that correspond to loss of one and two molecules of HCl from a protonated molecular ion of formula $C_{12}H_{21}OCl_2$. Compound **8** lacked double bond resonance signals in its NMR spectrum, but presented a spin system in its ^1H-NMR spectrum corresponding to protons attached to C-1, C-1' and C-3' (δ_H 3.78 (CHHOH), 3.56 (CHHOH), 2.79 (CH-3´) and 1.18 (CH-1') ppm), in a similar fashion to that observed for compound **7**. This established that a chlorocyclopropanation took place at the allylic double bond. In addition, a doublet at δ_H 2.57 (H-3''') ppm confirmed further chlorocyclopropanation of the distal double bond of geraniol. NOESY 2D correlations between CHHOH and CHHOH with CH-1´, CH-3' and CH$_3$ on C-2', on one hand, and among CH-3' with CH$_3$ on C-2', CH-1''' with protons of the methyl group at C-4''' (δ_H 1.23 ppm) and CH-3''' with protons of the methyl group at C-5''' (δ_H 1.09 ppm) allowed us to determine stereochemistry for compound **8** as 1´*R**,2´*S**,3´*R**,1'''*S**,3'''*R** (Fig. 3).

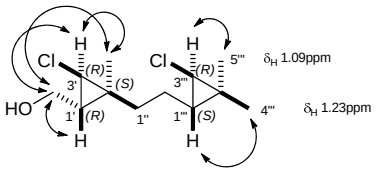

Fig. 3 Selected NOESY 2D correlations for compound **8**.

The observed stereochemistries of the monochlorocyclopropanes **6** and **7**, and the chemoselectivity showed that the preferential formation of the chlorocyclopropane rings on the proximal olefin of geraniol are consistent for a *syn* addition reaction of the lithium chlorocarbenoid and thus a mechanism involving methylene transfer (Table 1, entry 3).

On the other hand, the treatment of geraniol with $CHCl_3$ and *n*-BuLi gave a 1:1:2 mixture of the dichlorocyclopropanes proximal (**9**), distal (**10**)[59] and double cyclopropyl derivative (**11**)[60] (Table 1, entry 4). Dichlorocyclopropanation compound **9** showed ions at its HRMS (APGC$^+$) analysis at *m/z*= 219.0712, 201.1046 and 183.0947, consistent, respectively with formulas $C_{11}H_{17}Cl_2$, $C_{11}H_{18}OCl$ and $C_{11}H_{16}Cl$, that correspond to the loss of one molecule of water, the loss of a molecule of HCl and the loss of a molecule of water and another of HCl from a protonated ion of molecular formula $C_{11}H_{19}OCl_2$ respectively. The presence of two chlorine atoms in the compound **9** was confirmed by a quaternary carbon resonance at δ_C 71.1 (C-2') ppm in its ^{13}C NMR spectrum. Furthermore, gHMBC correlations from this latter carbon with signals at δ_H (C_6D_6) 0.96 ((CH$_3$)C-3´), 1.26 (H-1'), 1.50 (CH$_2$-1'') and 3.31 (CHHOH) ppm together the NOESY 1D effects shown in Fig. 4 were consistent with a *syn* dichlorocyclopropanation at the proximal olefin.

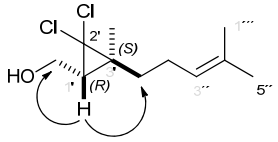

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Fig. 4 Selected NOESY 1D correlations for compound **9**.

The use of $CHCl_3$ did not show any chemoselectivity, in contrast to the lithium carbenoid generated from CH_2Cl_2 (Table 1, entry 4). The formation of a mixture of the monocyclopropanation products **9** and **10** and the double cyclopropanation product **11** can be explained with a competition of mechanisms, both by lithium carbenoid and free carbene. A free carbene mechanism would lead to distal dichlorocyclopropanation or double dichlorocyclopropanation, as shown by Zlotin *et al.* in the cyclopropanation of acetylgeraniol with KOH and $CHCl_3$ in benzene.[61]

On the other hand, when 1,1-dichloropropane was used as the cyclopropanation reagent, we only obtained the corresponding *syn* monochloroethylcyclopropanation products on the proximal olefin of geraniol, **12** and **13**, in a 2:1 ratio (Table 1, entry 5). Cyclopropanation on the distal olefin or double cyclopropanation products were not observed. Both compounds showed ions at their HRMS mass spectra (CI^+) at *m/z*= 229.1358 and 229.1354, respectively, which correspond to a loss of molecular hydrogen from a protonated molecular ion of formula $C_{13}H_{24}OCl$. COSY *vicinal* correlations between signals corresponding to C$\underline{H}_2$OH and C$\underline{H}$-1' and between C$\underline{H}$-3'' and C$\underline{H}_2$-2" and long range correlations among C$\underline{H}$-3" and C$\underline{H}_3$-1''' and C$\underline{H}_3$-5'' were consistent with the above mentioned cyclopropanation pattern for both compounds. For compound **12**, NOESY 1D effects between signal at δ_H 0.59 (C$\underline{H}$-1') ppm and signals at δ_H 3.64 (C$\underline{H}_2$OH), 1.70 ($CH_3C\underline{H}HCCl$), 1.57 ($CH_3CH\underline{H}CCl$), 1.28 (C$\underline{H}$H-1'') and 1.14 (CH$\underline{H}$-1'') ppm led to the assignment of its structure as ((1*R**,2*S**,3*S**)-2-chloro-2-ethyl-3-methyl-3-(4-methylpent-3-en-1-yl)cyclopropyl)methanol (Fig. 5). This, in turn, allows the assignment of the relative stereochemistry of compound **13** as (1'*R**,2'*R**,3'*S**).

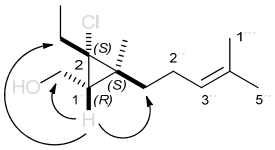

Fig. 5 Selected NOESY 1D correlations for compound **12**

As shown in Table 1, dichloroalkyl reagents led to *syn* monochlorocyclopropanation products and some level of chemoselectivity was observed. This chemoselectivity was lost when $CHCl_3$ is employed. Chemoselectivity increased with alkyl substitution as shown for cyclopropanation products using 1,1-dichloropropane as starting material. An increased level of chemoselectivity was also observed for CH_2Br_2 and especially for CH_2I_2. Therefore, as cyclopropanation using CH_2Br_2 already led to some degree of chemoselectivity, increasing alkyl substitution on the α-dibromoalkyl reagent should lead to an increased level of chemoselectivity.

On the other hand, use of 2,2-dibromopropane as a lithium carbenoid precursor would prevent a carbolithiation mechanism, as the resulting open intermediate, would have to evolve through the attack of a lithium carbanion on a tertiary bromide, which would be too hindered for an S_N2 process. Therefore, the reactions should proceed in a stereoselective and chemoselective manner, provided a Lewis base assisted concerted mechanism is involved. Influence of steric hindrance and protection of the hydroxyl group on the course of the reaction was also evaluated.

Reaction of geraniol (**3a**) and its silylated and benzyl derivatives (compounds **3b** and **3c**) with 2,2-dibromopropane and *n*-BuLi in pentane led, in every single case, to a single product (**14a-c**) in yields ranging 45-81% (Table 2, entry 1). When compared with starting material, compounds **14a-c** presented the lack of an olefin signal in their ^1H NMR spectra together with the presence of two new singlet methyl groups. On the other hand, COSY correlations between H-1' protons and each C$\underline{H}_2$OH group, confirmed the cyclopropanation in the proximal olefin.

NOESY-1D effects, evaluated on silyl derivative **14b**, between signal at δ_H 0.46 (C$\underline{H}$-1') ppm and signals at δ_H 3.64 (C$\underline{H}$HOH), 3.59 (CH$\underline{H}$OH), 1.37 (C$\underline{H}_2$-1'') and 1.11 ((C$\underline{H}_3$)(CH$_3$)C-2') ppm allowed us to establish the relative stereochemistry of compound **14b**, and in turn of compounds **14a** and **14c**, as 1'*R**,3'*S** (Fig. 6).

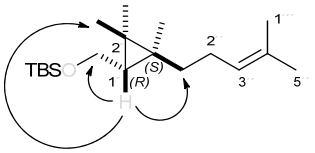

Fig. 6. Selected NOESY 1D correlations for compound **14b**.

Extension of this methodology to farnesol (**15a**), (*E*)-2,6-dimethylhepta-2,6-dien-1-ol[62] (**16a**) and their silyl and benzyl derivatives (**15b-c**, **16b-c**) led to single cyclopropanation products in every case (Table 2, entries 2 and 3). On the other hand, treatment of linalool (**17**) and its silyl derivative **17b** under the same reaction conditions did only led to recovery of starting materials (Table 2, entry 4).

In a similar fashion to geraniol cyclopropanation products **14a-c**, compounds **18a-c** and **19a-c**, compared with their starting materials, presented the lack of an olefin signal in their ^1H NMR spectra, together with the presence of two new singlet methyl groups. For compounds **18a-c**, COSY correlations between each proton frommethyne group at position C-1' and each C$\underline{H}_2$OH group, confirmed the cyclopropanation in the proximal olefin. For compounds **19a-c**, COSY correlations between each proton from methyne group at position C-3' and C$\underline{H}_2$-1" protons, confirmed the cyclopropanation in the proximal olefin.

NOESY-1D effects, evaluated on silyl derivative **18b**, between signal at δ_H 0.46 (C$\underline{H}$-1') ppm and signals at δ_H 3.64 (C$\underline{H}$HOH), 3.59 (CH$\underline{H}$OH), 1.24-1.42 (C$\underline{H}_2$-1'') and 1.10 ((C$\underline{H}_3$)(CH$_3$)C-3') ppm allowed us to establish the relative stereochemistry of compound **18b**, and, then in turn the one of compounds **18a** and **18c**, as 1'*R**,2'*S** (Fig. 7).

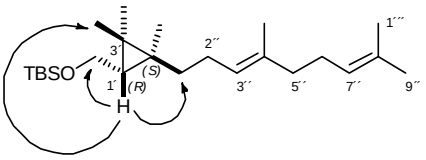

Fig. 7 Selected NOESY 1D correlations for compound **18b**.

NOESY-1D effects, evaluated on silyl derivative **19b**, between signal at δ_H 0.25 (C$\underline{H}$-3') ppm and signals at δ_H 3.53 (C$\underline{H}$HOH), 3.40 (CH$\underline{H}$OH), 2.01 (C$\underline{H}_2$-2''), 1.37 (C$\underline{H}_2$-1'') and 1.08 ((C$\underline{H}_3$)(CH$_3$)C-2') ppm allowed us to establish the relative stereochemistry of compound **19b**, then in turn the one of compounds **19a** and **19c**, as 1'*R**,3'*S** (Figure 8). Therefore, stereochemistry observed for compounds **14a-c**, **18a-c** and **19a-**

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c is consistent with a chemoselective, *syn gem*-dimethylcyclopropanation, on the proximal double bond on parent compounds.

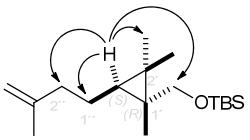
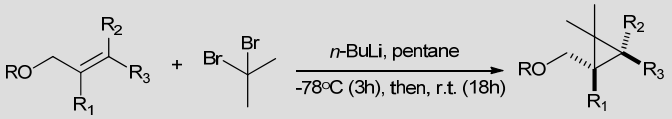
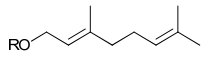
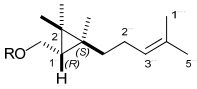
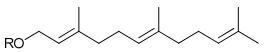
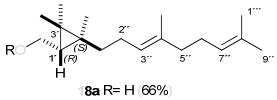
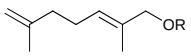
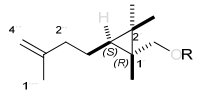
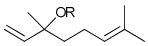


Fig. 8 Selected NOESY 1D correlations for compound **19b**.

Table 2 Cyclopropanation of geraniol and related compounds with 2,2-dibromopropane



Entry	Substrate	Products (yield %)[a]
1	 **3a** R= H **3b** R= TBS **3c** R= Bn	 **14a** R= H (58%) **14b** R= TBS (45%) **14c** R= Bn (81%)
2	 **15a** R= H **15b** R= TBS **15c** R= Bn	 **18a** R= H (66%) **18b** R= TBS (45%) **18c** R= Bn (50%)
3	 **16a** R= H **16b** R= TBS **16c** R= Bn	 **19a** R= H (43%) **19b** R= TBS (29%) **19c** R= Bn (50%)
4	 **17a** R= H **17b** R= TBS	-

[a]Yields were evaluated by GC.

Results shown in Table 2 indicate a consistent chemoselectivity and stereoselectivity for the cyclopropanation of polyenols on the proximal double bond to the oxygen atom. On the other hand, relatively lower yields are observed for the *gem*-dimethylcyclopropanation of the TBS derivatives of the trisubstituted allylic alcohols **3b**, **15b** and **16b**, compared to unprotected (compounds **3a**, **15a**, and **16a**) or benzylated derivatives (compounds **3c**, **15c**, and **16c**). Furthermore, compounds **17a** and **17b**, that present a tertiary alcohol or silyl ether moiety, do not lead to cyclopropanation products. These observations are consistent with a Lewis base assisted (oxygen) concerted mechanism, where steric hindrance in the environment of the oxygen atom would hamper coordination with the *gem*-dimethyl lithium carbenoid that would react with the allylic double bond.

Conclusions

We have investigated the chemoselectivity of the cyclopropanation of geraniol with a series of lithium carbenoids. We found variable levels of chemoselectivity when we generated the carbenoid from dihalomethanes (CH_2Cl_2, CH_2Br_2, CH_2I_2), obtaining mainly the cyclopropyl derivative at the proximal olefin to the hydroxyl group (Table 1, entries 1-3). However, chemoselectivity was not observed when the reaction was carried out with $CHCl_3$ (Table 1, entry 4). On the other hand, the use of 1,1-dichloropropane and 2,2-dibromopropane led to the chemoselective cyclopropanation of the proximal olefin on the substrates examined.

Furthermore, we have obtained the chemoselective incorporation of a *gem*-dimethyl cyclopropane unit into several terpenols from moderate to good yields where the presence of an allylic hydroxyl group directs the course of the reaction.

These results are consistent with a directing effect from the oxygen in the functionality to the allylic position, which would be involved in a Lewis base assisted concerted cyclopropanation mechanism. Preservation of the stereochemistry of the starting double bond in the cyclopropanation process, was found with all the lithium carbenoids tested, and the chemoselectivity observed are consistent with a methylene transfer mechanism that is reminiscent of that described for the Simmons-Smith reaction.

Experimental

General procedures

Unless otherwise noted, materials and reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and were used without further purification. Dried solvents were obtained from PureSolv® equipment, tetrahydrofuran was freshly distilled from Na and dichloromethane was freshly distilled from CaH_2. Air- and moisture-sensitive reactions were performed under an argon atmosphere. Purification by semipreparative HPLC was performed with a Hitachi/Merck L-6270 apparatus equipped with a differential refractometer detector (RI-7490). A LiChrospher® Si 60 (10μm) LiChroCart® (250 mm × 10 mm) column was used in isolation experiments. Silica gel (Merck) was used for column chromatography. TLC was performed on Merck Kiesegel 60 F254, 0.25 mm thick. Infrared spectra were recorded on a FT-IR spectrophotometer and reported as wavenumbers (cm $^{-1}$). ^{1}H and ^{13}C NMR measurements were obtained on 400, 500 or 600 MHz spectrometers with $SiMe_4$ as the internal reference. Chemical shifts were referenced to $CDCl_3$ (δ_H 7.25, δ_C 77.0), or C_6D_6 (δ_H 7.16, δ_C 128.1). NMR assignments were made by a combination of 1D and 2D techniques. Multiplicities are described using the following abbreviations: s=singlet, d=doublet, t=triplet, q=quartet, m=multiplet, br=broad. High-Resolution Mass Spectroscopy (HRMS) was recorded either with a double-focusing magnetic sector mass spectrometer in chemical ionization positive ion mode, using methane as reactant gas, or in a QTOF mass spectrometer in positive ion ESI or APCI modes (APGC$^+$ for samples analysed by GC chromatography).

Synthesis of the substrates

Preparation of compound 16a. This compound was obtained by the procedure described in the literature and spectroscopic data were identical to those described in the literature.[62]

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General procedure for the preparation of silyl ethers 3b, 15b and 16b. A solution of *tert*-butylchlorodimethylsilane (2 mmol) in dry THF (1.5 mL) was added to a solution of imidazole (10.6 mmol) and the corresponding alcohol (1.3 mmol) in dry THF (2.2 mL) at 0ºC under inert atmosphere conditions. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and when TLC monitoring indicated completion of the reaction (12 h), diethyl ether was added (20 mL). The organic layer was washed with brine (3 x 80 mL), dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography to yield quantitatively the corresponding silylated derivative **3b, 15b** and **16b**.

(*E*)-1-(*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-3,7-dimethylocta-2,6-diene (3b). (98% yield). Colourless oil; IR (film) ν_{max} 2928, 2857, 1670, 1254 cm^{-1}; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 5.29 (1H, m), 5.08 (1H, m), 4.18 (1H, d, *J* 6.3 Hz), 2.08 (2H, m), 2.00 (2H, m), 1.67 (3H, d, *J* 1.1 Hz), 1.61 (3H, s), 1.59 (3H, s), 0.88 (9H, s), 0.06 (6H, s); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 136.8, 131.4, 124.4, 124.1, 60.3, 39.5, 26.4, 26.0 (3C), 25.6, 18.4, 17.6, 16.3, -5.1 (2C); HRMS (CI^+) calcd. for $C_{16}H_{32}OSi$ $[M]^+$ 268.2222, found 268.2206.

(2*E*,6*E*)-1-(*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-3,7,11-trimethyldodeca-2,6,10-triene (15b). (99% yield). Colourless oil; IR (film) ν_{max} 2928, 2864, 1462, 1433, 1376, 1251, 1107, 1062, 835, 771 cm^{-1}; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 5.30 (1Hm), 5.09 (2H, m), 4.18 (2H, d, *J* 6.6 Hz), 2.12-1.95 (8H, m), 1.67 (3H, s), 1.62 (3H, s), 1.59 (6H, s), 0.90 (9H, s), 0.06 (6H, s); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 136.9, 135.1, 131.2, 124.4, 124.3, 124.0, 60.3, 39.7, 39.6, 26.7, 26.3, 26.0 (3C), 25.7, 18.4, 17.7, 16.4, 16.0, -5.0 (2C); HRMS (CI^+) calcd. for $C_{21}H_{39}OSi$ $[M-H]^+$ 335.2770, found 335.2761.

(*E*)-1-(*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-2,6-dimethylhepta-2,6-diene (16b). (98.5% yield). Colourless oil; IR (film) ν_{max} 2956, 2929, 2857, 1650, 1462, 1253, 1110, 886, 775 cm^{-1}; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 5.39 (1H, m), 4.70 (1H, br s), 4.68 (1H, br s), 4.00 (2H, s), 2. 16 (2H, m), 2.05 (2H, m), 1.72 (3H, s), 1.60 (3H, s), 0.90 (9H, s), 0.05 (6H, s); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 145.7, 134.5, 124.1, 110.0, 68.6, 37.5, 26.0 (3C), 25.8, 22.4, 18.4, 13.4, -5.3 (2C); HRMS (CI^+) calcd. for $C_{11}H_{21}OSi$ $[M-C(CH_3)_3]^+$197.1362, found 197.1361.

Preparation of compound 17b. To a stirred solution of linalool (**16a**) (200 mg, 1.3 mmol) and DIPEA (0.23 mL, 1.56 mmol) in anhydrous dichloromethane (21 mL) was added dropwise *tert*-butyldimethylsilyltrifluoromethane sulfonate (TBSOTf, 0.33 mL, 1.43 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 hours and then diluted with dichloromethane (20 mL). The solution was washed with brine and the organic layer was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. Filtration followed by evaporation of solvent led to the crude product that was purified by silica gel column chromatography to yield the corresponding silyl derivative **17b** (342.8 mg; 98.5%). Spectroscopic data of the compound **17b**, were identical to those described in the literature.[63]

General procedure for the preparation of benzyl ethers 3c, 15c and 16c. Sodium hydride (60% in oil, 184.8 mg, 4.62 mmol) was washed twice with hexane and suspended in dry dimethylformamide (7.9 mL). A solution of the requisite alcohol (2.57 mmol) dissolved in dry *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (0.5 mL) was added and the mixture stirred for 10 min. Then, a solution of benzyl chloride (0.45 mL, 3.85 mmol) was added and the mixture was allowed to warm for 8h. The mixture was poured into water, the layers separated and the aqueous layer extracted three times with diethyl ether (3x50mL). The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated. The crude mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography to yield the corresponding benzyl derivatives **3c** (73%), **15c** (70%) and **16c** (68%). Spectroscopic data of compound **3c** were identical to those described in the literature.[64]

(2*E*,6*E*)-1-Benzyloxy-3,7,11-trimethyldodeca-2,6,10-triene (15c). (70% yield). Yellow oil; IR (film) ν_{max} 2967, 2921, 2854, 1453, 1382, 1090, 1070, 735, 697 cm^{-1}; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.26-7.22 (5H, m), 5.32 (1H, t, *J* 6.8 Hz), 5.01 (2H, m), 4.41 (2H, s), 3.95 (2H, d, *J* 6.8 Hz), 2.06-1.86 (8H, m), 1.58 (3H, s), 1.55 (3H, s), 1.50 (6H, s); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 140.4, 138.6, 135.2, 131.2, 128.3 (2C), 127.8 (2C), 127.4, 124.3, 123.8, 120.8, 71.9, 66.6, 39.7, 39.6, 26.7, 26.3, 25.7, 17.6, 16.5, 16.0; HRMS (CI^+) calcd. for $C_{22}H_{32}O$ 312.2453 $[M]^+$, found 312.2443.

(*E*)-1-Benzyloxy-2,6-dimethylhepta-2,6-diene (16c). (68% yield). Colourless oil; IR (film) ν_{max} 3068, 3030, 2918, 1650, 1454, 1374, 1090, 1072, 887, 735, 697 cm^{-1}; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.33-7.24 (5H, m), 5.42 (1H, m), 4.71 (1H, br s), 4.68 (1H, br s), 4.43 (2H, s), 3.89 (2H, s), 2.18 (2H, m), 2.06 (2H, m), 1.72 (3H, s), 1.68 (3H, s); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 145.4, 138.6, 132.2, 128.3 (2C), 128.0 (2C), 127.7, 127.4, 110.0, 76.2, 71.3, 37.4, 25.9, 22.4, 13.9; HRMS (CI^+) calcd. for $C_{16}H_{23}O$ 231.1742 $[M+H]^+$, found 231.1749.

General procedure for lithium carbenoid mediated cyclopropanation. Preparation of compounds 4-13, 14a-c, 18a-c and 19a-19c. *n*-BuLi (2.5 M in hexane, 3.2 mL, 8.0 mmol) was added dropwise at -78ºC to a solution of the corresponding allylic alcohol (1.0 mmol) and the corresponding dihaloalkane (4.0 mmol) in dry pentane (1.6 mL) under argon atmosphere. The mixture was stirred for 3 hours at -78ºC, and then was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred overnight. Then, water was added (10 mL), the layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with pentane (3x50mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. Filtration and evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure yielded the crude material that was purified by silica gel chromatography and HPLC to give the corresponding cyclopropane derivative in the yields and Ratio showed in Tables 1 and 2. Yields were evaluated by GC.

((1*R,2*R**)-2-Methyl-2-(4-methylpent-3-en-1-yl)cyclopropyl)methanol (4).** (33% yield from CH_2I_2, 49% yield from CH_2Br_2). Spectroscopic data of the compound **4** were identical to those described in the literature.[57]

((1*R,2*R**)-2-(2-(2,2-Dimethylcyclopropyl)ethyl)-2-methylcyclopropyl)methanol (5).** (16% yield). Spectroscopic data of the compound **5** were identical to those described in the literature.[58]

((1*R,2*S**,3*S**)-3-Chloro-2-methyl-2-(4-methylpent-3-en-1-yl)cyclopropyl)methanol (6).** (40% yield). Colourless oil; t_R = 47.0 min, petroleum ether: ethyl acetate (90:10), flow = 3.0 mL/min; IR (film) ν_{max} 3372, 2925, 1452, 1383, 1282, 1026,

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832, 718 cm^{-1}; ^{1}H NMR (600 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 5.01 (1H, m, CH-3''), 3.59 (1H, dd, J 11.6, 7.8 Hz, CHHOH), 3.53 (1H, dd, J 11.6, 6.7 Hz, CHHOH), 2.70 (1H, d, J 7.6 Hz, CH-3'), 1.91 (2H, q, J 7.4 Hz, CH_2-2''), 1.63 (3H, br s, CH_3-5''), 1.48 (3H, s, CH_3-1'''), 1.05 (1H, m, CHH-1''), 0.99 (3H, s, (CH_3)C-2´), 0.87 (1H, m, CHH -1''), 0.77 (1H, ddd, J 7.8, 7.6, 6.7 Hz, H-1'); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 131.5, 124.3, 59.2, 43.2, 40.8, 28.9, 25.8, 25.0, 24.1, 17.6, 12.4; HRMS (CI$^+$) calcd. for $C_{11}H_{19}OCl$ [M]$^+$ 202.1124, found 202.1120.

((1*R,2*S**,3*R**)-3-Chloro-2-methyl-2-(4-methylpent-3-en-1-yl)cyclopropyl)methanol (7).** (17% yield). Colourless oil; t_R = 55.6 min, petroleum ether: ethyl acetate (90:10), flow = 3.0 mL/min; IR (film) ν_{max} 3367, 2919, 1458, 1377, 1028, 758 cm^{-1}; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 5.19 (1H, m, CH-3''), 3.28 (1H, m, CHHOH), 3.00 (1H, m, CHHOH), 2.45 (1H, d, J 4.0 Hz, CH-3'), 2.19 (1H, m, CHH -2''), 2.07 (1H, m, CHH -2''), 1.67 (3H, s), 1.56 (3H, s), 1.59-1.54 (2H, CH_2-1''), 0.97 (1H, ddd, J 8.5, 6.2, 4.0 Hz, CH-1'), 0.76 (3H, s, (CH_3)C-2´); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 131.5, 124.8, 60.9, 44.1, 36.5, 35.5, 26.0, 25.8, 25.5, 17.7, 16.6; HRMS (APGC$^+$) calcd. for $C_{11}H_{18}Cl$ [M+H-H_2O]$^+$ 185.1097, found 185.1111.

((1*R,2*S**,3*R**)-3-Chloro-2-(2-((1*S**,3*R**)-3-chloro-2,2-dimethylcyclopropyl)ethyl)-2-methylcyclopropyl)methanol (8).** (7% yield). Colourless oil; t_R = 63.5 min, petroleum ether: ethyl acetate (90:10), flow = 3.0 mL/min; IR (film) ν_{max} 3375, 2928, 1455, 1283, 1019, 725 cm^{-1}; ^{1}H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 3.78 (1H, dd, J 11.6, 6.6 Hz, CHHOH), 3.56 (1H, dd, J 11.6, 8.3 Hz, CHHOH), 2.79 (1H, d, J 4.0 Hz, CH-3'), 2.57 (1H, d, J 3.8 Hz, CH-3''') 1.63-1.56 (3H, CHH-1'' and CH_2-2''), 1.47 (1H, m, CHH-1´´), 1.23 (3H, s, CH_3-4'''), 1.18 (1H, ddd, J 8.3, 6.6, 4.0, CH-1´), 1.11 (3H, s, (CH_3)C-2'), 1.09 (3H, s, CH_3-5'''), 0.79 (1H, ddd, J 7.7, 6.3, 4.0, CH-1´´´); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 61.4, 45.8, 43.8, 35.8, 35.1, 33.6, 25.9, 24.9, 22.6, 22.0, 19.5, 16.9; HRMS (APGC$^+$) calcd. for $C_{12}H_{19}ClO$ [M+H-HCl]$^+$ 215.1203, found 215.1203; calcd. for $C_{12}H_{18}O$ [M+H-2HCl]$^+$ 179.1430, found 179.1431.

((1*R,3*S**)-2,2-Dichloro-3-methyl-3-(4-methylpent-3-en-1-yl)cyclopropyl)methanol (9).** (19% yield). Colourless oil; t_R = 41.0 min, petroleum ether: ethyl acetate (90:10), flow = 3.0 mL/min; IR (film) ν_{max} 3389, 2964, 2929, 1720, 1456, 1385, 1032, 832 cm^{-1}; ^{1}H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 5.10 (1H, m, CH-3''), 3.78 (1H, m, CHHOH), 3.73 (1H, m, CHHOH), 2.19 (1H, m, CHH-2''), 2.11 (1H, m, CHH-2''), 1.69 (3H, s, CH_3-5''), 1.64-1.61 (2H, CH_2-1''), 1.62 (3H, s, CH_3-1'''), 1.51 (1H, dd, J 8.0, 6.6 Hz, CH-1'), 1.22 (3H, s, (CH_3)C-3´); ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 5.08 (1H, m, CH-3''), 3.44 (1H, m, CHHOH), 3.31 (1H, m, CHHOH), 2.12 (1H, m, CHH-2''), 1.98 (1H, m, CHH-2''), 1.64 (3H, s, CH_3-5''), 1.51 (3H, s, CH_3-1'''), 1.50 (2H, CH_2-1''), 1.26 (1H, t, J 7.2 Hz, CH-1'), 0.96 (3H, s, (CH_3)C-3´); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 132.0, 124.0, 71.1, 59.4, 39.8, 38.6, 32.8, 25.8, 25.4, 17.7, 14.2; HRMS (APGC$^+$) calcd. for $C_{11}H_{17}Cl_2$ [M+H-H_2O]$^+$ 219.0707, found 219.0712; calcd. for $C_{11}H_8OCl$ [M+H-HCl]$^+$ 201.1046, found 201.1046; calcd. for $C_{11}H_{16}Cl$ [M+H-H_2O-HCl]$^+$ 183.0941, found 183.0947.

(*E*)-5-(2,2-Dichloro-3,3-dimethylcyclopropyl)-3-methylpent-2-en-1-ol (10).[59] (19% yield). Colourless oil; t_R = 51.9 min, petroleum ether: ethyl acetate (90:10), flow = 3.0 mL/min; IR (film) ν_{max} 3345, 2988, 2957, 2870, 1735, 1670, 1453, 1376, 999, 830 cm^{-1}; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 5.45 (1H, t, J 7.0 Hz, CH-2), 4.16 (2H, d, J 7.0 Hz, CH_2-1), 2.16 (1H, m, CHH-4), 2.11 (1H, m, CHH-4), 1.69 (3H, s, (CH_3)C-3), 1.57 (2H, CH_2-5), 1.33 (3H, s, (CH_3)(CH_3)C-3'), 1.15 (3H, s, (CH_3)(CH_3)C-3'), 1.10 (1H, m, CH-1'); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 138.7, 124.3, 72.0, 59.4, 38.3, 38.2, 28.4, 24.9, 24.1, 17.2, 16.3; HRMS (APGC$^+$) calcd. for $C_{11}H_{19}OCl_2$ [M+H]$^+$ 237.0813, found 237.0809; calcd. for $C_{11}H_{17}Cl_2$ [M+H-H_2O]$^+$ 219.0707, found 219.0710; calcd. for $C_{11}H_8OCl$ [M+H-HCl]$^+$ 201.1046, found 201.1050; calcd. for $C_{11}H_{16}Cl$ [M+H-H_2O-HCl]$^+$ 183.0941, found 183.0929.

((1*R,3*S**)-2,2-Dichloro-3-(2-((*S**)-2,2-dichloro-3,3-dimethylcyclopropyl)ethyl)-3-methylcyclopropyl)methanol (11)**[60] (37% yield). Colourless oil; t_R = 54.4 min, petroleum ether: ethyl acetate (90:10), flow = 3.0 mL/min; IR (film) ν_{max} 3342, 2928, 1458, 1038, 834 cm^{-1}; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 3.78 (2H, m, CH_2-1), 1.85 (1H, m, CHH-1''), 1.68-1.53 (4H, H-1', CHH-1´´ and CH_2-2´´), 1.34 (3H, s, CH_3-4'''), 1.23 (3H, s, (CH_3)C-3´), 1.18 (3H, s, CH_3-5'''), 1.13 (1H, t, J 7.0 Hz, CH-1'''); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 71.7, 70.1, 59.7, 39.4, 38.2, 37.3, 32.7, 28.5, 24.9, 22.5, 17.2, 14.4; HRMS (APGC$^+$) calcd. for $C_{12}H_{16}Cl_3$ 265.0318 [M+H-H_2O-HCl]$^+$, found 265.0302; calcd. for $C_{12}H_{17}OCl_2$ [M+H-2HCl]$^+$ 247.0619, found 247.0611; calcd. for $C_{12}H_{15}Cl_2$ [M+H-H_2O-2HCl]$^+$ 229.0551, found 229.0539.

(1*R,2*S**,3*S**)-2-Chloro-2-ethyl-3-methyl-3-(4-methylpent-3-en-1-yl)cyclopropyl)methanol (12).** (32% yield). Colourless oil; t_R = 12.0 min, petroleum ether: ethyl acetate (90:10), flow = 3.0 mL/min; IR (film) ν_{max} 3376, 2966, 2930, 1716, 1456, 1378, 1262, 1106, 1020, 870 cm^{-1}; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 5.08 (1H, t, J 7.3 Hz, CH-3''), 3.64 (2H, d, J 7.4 Hz, CH_2OH), 2.00 (2H, q, J 7.3 Hz, CH_2-2''), 1.70 (1H, m, CH_3CHHCCl), 1.66 (3H, s, CH_3-1'''), 1.57 (1H, m, CH_3CHHCCl), 1.52 (3H, s, CH_3-5''), 1.28 (1H, m, CHH-1''), 1.14 (1H, m, CHH-1''), 1.14 (3H, s, (CH_3)C-3´), 1.07 (3H, t, J 7.2 Hz, CH_3CHHCCl), 0.57 (1H, t, J 7.4 Hz, CH-1'); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 131.5, 124.6, 60.6, 60.5, 37.2, 34.7, 31.4, 29.4, 25.8, 25.8, 17.7, 15.4, 11.6; HRMS (CI$^+$) calcd. for $C_{13}H_{22}OCl$ [M+H-H_2]$^+$ 229.1359, found 229.1358.

(1*R,2*R**,3*S**)-2-Chloro-2-ethyl-3-methyl-3-(4-methylpent-3-en-1-yl)cyclopropyl)methanol (13).** (16% yield). Colourless oil; t_R = 15.8 min, petroleum ether: ethyl acetate (90:10), flow = 3.0 mL/min; IR (film) ν_{max} 3387, 2967, 2929, 1718, 1458, 1378, 1105, 866 cm^{-1}; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 5.13 (1H, t, J 7.2 Hz, CH-3''), 3.77 (1H, dd, J 11.6, 7.2 Hz, CHHOH), 3.57 (1H, dd, J 11.6, 8.2 Hz, CHHOH), 2.13 (2H, m, CH_2-2''), 1.86 (1H, dq, J 14.6, 7.3 Hz, CH_3CHHCCl), 1.75 (1H, m, CH_3CHHCCl), 1.71-1.66 (1H, m, CHH-1''), 1.68 (3H, s, CH_3-1'''), 1.62 (3H, s, CH_3-5''), 1.62-1.56 (1H, m, CHH-1´´), 1.28 (1H, dd, J 8.2, 7.2 Hz, CH-1'), 1.09 (3H, s, (CH_3)C-3´), 1.09 (3H, t, J 7.3, CH_3CHHCCl); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 131.7, 124.2, 59.4, 58.5, 39.0, 38.0, 29.0, 26.5, 25.7, 25.3, 17.7, 13.1, 11.2; HRMS (CI$^+$) calcd. for $C_{13}H_{22}OCl$ [M+H-H_2]$^+$ 229.1359, found 229.1354.

((1*R,3*S**)-2,2,3-Trimethyl-3-(4-methylpent-3-en-1-yl)cyclopropyl)methanol (14a).** (58% yield). Colourless oil; t_R = 25 min, petroleum ether: ethyl acetate (85:15), flow = 3.0 mL/min; IR (film) ν_{max} 3444, 2922, 1645, 1010 cm^{-1}; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 5.10 (1H, t, J 6.6 Hz, CH-3''), 3.65 (1H, dd, J 11.4, 7.7 Hz, CHHOH), 3.63 (1H, dd, J 11.4, 7.4 Hz, CHHOH), 2.05 (2H, m, CH_2-2´´), 1.67 (3H, s, CH_3-1´´), 1.60 (3H, s, CH_3-5´´), 1.36 (2H, m, CH_2-1´´), 1.12 (3H, s,

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($C\underline{H}_3$)(CH_3)C-2´), 1.02 (3H, s, ($C\underline{H}_3$)C-3´), 1.00 (3H, s, (CH_3)($C\underline{H}_3$)C-2´), 0.54 (1H, t, *J* 7.7 Hz, C<u>H</u>-1'); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 131.2, 124.8, 60.9, 37.6, 35.2, 26.1, 25.8, 25.7, 23.6, 22.7, 17.6, 17.3, 13.7; HRMS (CI^+) calcd. for $C_{13}H_{23}O$ $[M-H]^+$ 195.1749, found 195.1754.

***tert*-Butyldimethyl(((1*R**,3*S**)-2,2,3-trimethyl-3-(4-methylpent-3-en-1-yl)cyclopropyl)methoxy)silane (14b).** (45% yield). Colourless oil; t_R = 11 min, petroleum ether: ethyl acetate (100:0), flow = 3.0 mL/min; IR (film) ν_{max} 2928, 1253, 835 cm^{-1}; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 5.10 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>-3''), 3.64 (1H, dd, *J* 11.0, 7.4 Hz, C<u>H</u>HOH), 3.59 (1H, dd, *J* 11.0, 7.4 Hz, CH<u>H</u>OH), 2.01 (2H, m, C<u>H</u>$_2$-2´´), 1.67 (3H, d, *J* 1.2 Hz, C<u>H</u>$_3$-1´´´), 1.60 (3H, s, C<u>H</u>$_3$-5´´), 1.32 (2H, m, C<u>H</u>$_2$-1´´), 1.09 (3H, s, ($C\underline{H}_3$)(CH_3)C-2´), 0.97 (3H, s, ($C\underline{H}_3$)C-3´), 0.96 (3H, s, (CH_3)($C\underline{H}_3$)C-2´), 0.88 (9H, s, SiC($C\underline{H}_3$)$_3$), 0.46 (1H, t, *J* 7.4 Hz, C<u>H</u>-1´), 0.03 (6H, s, Si($C\underline{H}_3$)$_2$); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 130.9, 125.1, 60.8, 38.0, 34.9, 26.0 (3C), 25.80, 25.75, 25.71, 23.6, 22.2, 18.2, 17.6, 17.4, 13.8, -5.0, -5.1; HRMS (CI^+) calcd. for $C_{19}H_{38}OSi$ $[M]^+$ 310.2692, found 310.2674.

((((1*R,3*S**)-2,2,3-Trimethyl-3-(4-methylpent-3-en-1-yl)cyclopropyl)methoxy)methyl)benzene (14c).** (81% yield). Yellow oil; t_R = 9.0 min, petroleum ether: ethyl acetate (100:0), flow = 3.0 mL/min; IR (film) ν_{max} 2928, 2867, 1454, 1377, 734, 698 cm^{-1}; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.34-7.25 (5H, m, H_{arom}), 5.11 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>-3''), 4.50 (2H, s, C<u>H</u>$_2$Ph), 3.50 (1H, dd, *J* 10.4, 7.2 Hz, C<u>H</u>HOH), 3.46 (1H, dd, *J* 10.4, 7.2 Hz, CH<u>H</u>OH), 2.04 (2H, m, C<u>H</u>$_2$-2''), 1.68 (3H, s, C<u>H</u>$_3$-1´´´), 1.61 (3H, s, C<u>H</u>$_3$-5''), 1.45 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>H-1''), 1.32 (1H, m, CH<u>H</u>-1''), 1.13 (3H, s, ($C\underline{H}_3$)(CH_3)C-2´), 0.98 (3H, s, ($C\underline{H}_3$)C-3´), 0.96 (3H, s, (CH_3)($C\underline{H}_3$)C-2´), 0.57 (1H, t, *J* 7.2 Hz, C<u>H</u>-1'); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 138.9, 130.9, 128.3 (2C), 127.6 (2C), 127.4, 124.9, 72.4, 68.0, 38.0, 32.2, 25.9, 25.72, 25.70, 23.5, 22.4, 17.6, 17.4, 13.9; HRMS (CI^+) calcd. for $C_{20}H_{30}O$ $[M]^+$ 286.2297, found 286.2297.

((1*R,2*S**)-2'-((*E*)-4,8-Dimethylnona-3,7-dien-1-yl)-2,3,3-trimethylcyclopropyl)methanol (18a).** (66% yield). Yellow oil; t_R = 30 min, petroleum ether: ethyl acetate (90:10), flow = 3.0 mL/min; IR (film) ν_{max} 3339, 2926, 1656, 1445, 1376, 1012 cm^{-1}; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 5.09 (2H, m, C<u>H</u>-3'' and C<u>H</u>-7''), 3.66 (1H, dd, *J* 11.4, 7.6 Hz, C<u>H</u>HOH), 3.62 (1H, dd, *J* 11.4, 7.6 Hz, CH<u>H</u>OH), 2.09-1.94 (4H, m, C<u>H</u>$_2$-2'' and C<u>H</u>$_2$-6''), 1.67 (3H, s, C<u>H</u>$_3$-9''), 1.60 (3H, s, C<u>H</u>$_3$-1'''), 1.59 (3H, s, ($C\underline{H}_3$)C-4''), 1.44-1.29 (2H, m, C<u>H</u>$_2$-1'' and C<u>H</u>$_2$-5''), 1.10 (3H, s, ($C\underline{H}_3$)(CH_3)C-3'), 1.02 (3H, s, ($C\underline{H}_3$)C-2'), 1.00 (3H, s, (CH_3)($C\underline{H}_3$)C-3'), 0.54 (1H, t, *J* 7.6 Hz, C<u>H</u>-1'); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 134.8, 131.3, 124.6, 124.3, 60.9, 39.7, 37.6, 35.2, 26.7, 26.2, 25.7 (2C), 23.6, 22.7, 17.7, 17.3, 15.9, 13.7; HRMS (CI^+) calcd. for $C_{18}H_{32}O$ $[M]^+$ 264.2453, found 264.2449.

***tert*-Butyl(((1*R**,2*S**)-2-((*E*)-4,8-dimethylnona-3,7-dien-1-yl)-2,3,3-trimethylcyclopropyl)methoxy)dimethylsilane (18b)**. (45% yield). Yellow oil; t_R = 15 min, petroleum ether: ethyl acetate (100:0), flow = 3.0 mL/min; IR (film) ν_{max} 2928, 1647**,** 1255, 837 cm^{-1}; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 5.12 (2H, m, C<u>H</u>-3'' and C<u>H</u>-7''), 3.64 (1H, dd, *J* 11.1, 7.3 Hz, C<u>H</u>HOH), 3.59 (1H, dd, *J* 11.1, 7.3 Hz, CH<u>H</u>OH), 2.08-1.94 (4H, m, C<u>H</u>$_2$-2'' and C<u>H</u>$_2$-6''), 1.68 (3H, s, C<u>H</u>$_3$-9''), 1.59 (6H, s, C<u>H</u>$_3$-1''' and ($C\underline{H}_3$)C-4´´), 1.39-1.26 (4H, m, C<u>H</u>$_2$-1'' and C<u>H</u>$_2$-5''), 1.10 (3H, s, ($C\underline{H}_3$)(CH_3)C-3'), 0.97 (3H, s, ($C\underline{H}_3$)C-2´), 0.96 (3H, s, (CH_3)($C\underline{H}_3$)C-3'), 0.88 (9H, s, SiC($C\underline{H}_3$)$_3$), 0.46 (1H, t, *J* 7.3 Hz, C<u>H</u>-1'), 0.03 (6H, s, Si($C\underline{H}_3$)$_2$); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 134.5, 131.3, 124.9, 124.4, 60.8, 39.7, 37.6, 34.9, 31.6, 26.8, 26.0 (3C), 25.7, 23.7, 22.6, 22.3, 18.2, 17.7, 17.4, 15.9, 13.8, -5.11, -5.14; HRMS (CI^+) calcd. for $C_{24}H_{46}OSi$ $[M]^+$ 378.3318, found 378.3309.

((((1*R,2*S**)-2-((*E*)-4,8-Dimethylnona-3,7-dien-1-yl)-2,3,3-trimethylcyclopropyl)methoxy)methyl)benzene (18c).** (50% yield). Colourless oil; t_R = 5.7 min, petroleum ether: ethyl acetate (95:5), flow = 3.0 mL/min; IR (film) ν_{max} 2927, 2361, 1453, 1377, 1090, 1073, 733, 697 cm^{-1}; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.33-7.24 (5H, m, H_{arom}), 5.10 (2H, m, C<u>H</u>-3'' and C<u>H</u>-7''), 4.49 (2H, s, CH_2Ph), 3.50 (1H, dd, *J* 10.5, 7.4 Hz, C<u>H</u>HOH), 3.45 (1H, dd, *J* 10.5, 7.4 Hz, CH<u>H</u>OH), 2.08-1.94 (4H, m, C<u>H</u>$_2$-2'' and C<u>H</u>$_2$-6''), 1.67 (3H, s, C<u>H</u>$_3$-9''), 1.59 (6H, s, C<u>H</u>$_3$-1''' and ($C\underline{H}_3$)C-4´´), 1.48-1.41 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>H-1''), 1.33-1.25 (3H, m, CH<u>H</u>-1'' and C<u>H</u>$_2$-5''), 1.13 (3H, s, ($C\underline{H}_3$)(CH_3)C-3'), 0.97 (3H, s, ($C\underline{H}_3$)C-2´), 0.95 (3H, s, (CH_3)($C\underline{H}_3$)C-3'), 0.56 (1H, t, *J* 7.4 Hz, C<u>H</u>-1'); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 138.9, 134.6, 131.3, 128.3 (2C), 127.6 (2C), 127.4, 124.7, 124.4, 72.4, 68.0, 39.7, 38.0, 32.2, 26.7, 25.9, 25.7, 25.6, 23.6, 22.4, 17.7, 17.4, 15.9, 13.9; HRMS (CI^+) calcd. for $C_{25}H_{39}O$ $[M+H]^+$ 355.3001, found 355.3006.

((1*R,3*S**)-1,2,2-Trimethyl-3-(3-methylbut-3-en-1-yl)cyclopropyl)methanol (19a).** (43% yield). Colourless oil; t_R = 39 min, petroleum ether: ethyl acetate (85:15), flow = 3.0 mL/min; IR (film) ν_{max} 3337, 2929, 1646, 1444, 1378 cm^{-1}; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 4.70 (1H, br s, C<u>H</u>H-4''), 4.66 (1H, br s, CH<u>H</u>-4''), 3.59 (1H, d, *J* 11.2 Hz, C<u>H</u>HOH), 3.45 (1H, d, *J* 11.2 Hz, CH<u>H</u>OH), 2.01 (2H, t, *J* 7.8 Hz, C<u>H</u>$_2$-2''), 1.71 (3H, s, C<u>H</u>$_3$-1'''), 1.44 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>H-1''), 1.35 (1H, m, CH<u>H</u>-1''), 1.14 (3H, s, ($C\underline{H}_3$)(CH_3)C-2'), 1.05 (3H, s, ($C\underline{H}_3$)C-1´), 0.97 (3H, s, (CH_3)($C\underline{H}_3$)C-2'), 0.31 (1H, t, *J* 6.8 Hz, C<u>H</u>-3'); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 146.1, 109.9, 70.6, 38.2, 31.2, 28.0, 23.4, 22.7, 22.4, 21.6, 17.2, 12.2; HRMS (ESI^+) calcd. for $C_{12}H_{22}ONa$ $[M+Na]^+$ 205.1568, found 205.1582.

***tert*-Butyldimethyl(((1*R**,3*S**)-1,2,2-trimethyl-3-(3-methylbut-3-en-1-yl)cyclopropyl)methoxy)silane (19b).** (29% yield). Colourless oil; t_R = 10 min, petroleum ether: ethyl acetate (100:0), flow = 3.0 mL/min; IR (film) ν_{max} 2923, 1644, 1254, 836 cm^{-1}; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 4.68 (1H, br s, C<u>H</u>H-4''), 4.65 (1H, br s, CH<u>H</u>-4''), 3.53 (1H, d, *J* 10.0 Hz, C<u>H</u>HOH), 3.40 (1H, d, *J* 10.0 Hz, CH<u>H</u>OH), 1.99 (2H, t, *J* 7.6 Hz, C<u>H</u>$_2$-2''), 1.71 (3H, s, C<u>H</u>$_3$-1'''), 1.37 (2H, m, C<u>H</u>$_2$-1''), 1.08 (3H, s, ($C\underline{H}_3$)(CH_3)C-2'), 0.97 (3H, s, ($C\underline{H}_3$)C-1´), 0.93 (3H, s, (CH_3)($C\underline{H}_3$)C-2'), 0.25 (1H, t, *J* 7.0 Hz, C<u>H</u>-3'), 0.02 (3H, s, SiC<u>H</u>$_3$), 0.00 (3H, s, SiC<u>H</u>$_3$); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 146.3, 109.6, 70.0, 38.3, 31.0, 27.5, 25.9 (3C), 23.4, 23.1, 22.5, 21.2, 18.3, 17.3, 12.3, -5.3, -5.4; HRMS (CI^+) calcd. for $C_{18}H_{35}OSi$ $[M-H]^+$ 295.2457, found 295.2449.

((((1*R,3*S**)-1,2,2-Trimethyl-3-(3-methylbut-3-en-1-yl)cyclopropyl)methoxy)methyl)benzene (19c).** (50% yield). Colourless oil; t_R = 10.6 min, petroleum ether: ethyl acetate (99:1), flow = 3.0 mL/min; IR (film) ν_{max} 2932, 2870, 1649, 1495, 736, 698 cm^{-1}; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.34-7.26 (5H, m, H_{arom}), 4.68 (1H, br s, C<u>H</u>H-4''), 4.65 (1H, br s, CH<u>H</u>-4''), 4.49 (1H, d, *J* 12.2 Hz, C<u>H</u>HPh), 4.47 (1H, d, *J* 12.2 Hz, CH<u>H</u>Ph), 3.43 (1H, d, *J* 9.8 Hz, C<u>H</u>HOH), 3.26 (1H, d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, CH<u>H</u>OH), 2.00 (2H, m, C<u>H</u>$_2$-2''), 1.71 (3H, s, C<u>H</u>$_3$-1'''), 1.39 (2H, m, C<u>H</u>$_2$-1''), 1.09 (3H, s, ($C\underline{H}_3$)(CH_3)C-2'), 1.05 (3H,

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s, (CH_3)C-1′), 0.97 (3H, s, (CH_3)(CH_3)C-2'), 0.26 (1H, t, *J* 7.2 Hz, C<u>H</u>-3'); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 146.1, 139.0, 128.2 (2C), 127.6 (2C), 127.3, 109.7, 77.6, 72.6, 38.2, 31.2, 25.7, 23.6, 22.9, 22.5, 21.4, 17.0, 12.7; HRMS (APCI$^+$) calcd. for $C_{19}H_{29}O$ $[M+H]^+$ 273.2218, found 273.2230.

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Notes and references

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Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) available: [Copies of ^{1}H and ^{13}C NMR spectra for all new compounds appearing in the schemes (compounds **3b**, **6-13**, **14a-c**, **15b-c**, **16b-c**, **18a-c**, **19a-c**), copies of selected 2D NMR experiments for compounds **9**, **10**, copies of ^{1}H NMR spectra for known compounds prepared by the general procedure of cyclopropanation (compounds **4** and **5**), together with copies of NOESY 2D NMR experiments for compounds **6**, **8** and **11** and copies of NOESY 1D NMR experiments for compounds **7, 9, 12, 14b, 18b** and **19b**]. See DOI: 10.1039/b000000x/

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