

REVIEW

[View Article Online](#)  
[View Journal](#) | [View Issue](#)



Cite this: *Org. Chem. Front.*, 2024, **11**, 1824

Received 4th January 2024,  
Accepted 31st January 2024  
DOI: 10.1039/d4qo00017j  
[rsc.li/frontiers-organic](http://rsc.li/frontiers-organic)

## Recent advances in metal-free catalytic enantioselective higher-order cycloadditions

Bei Zhang<sup>b</sup> and Jian Wang <sup>\*a,c</sup>

Higher-order cycloadditions (HOCs) present notable benefits for the synthesis of complex molecules, particularly those featuring medium size and multiple rings. The research on HOCs has experienced remarkable advancements since the influential exchange between Woodward and Hoffmann. In recent decades, significant progress has been achieved in enantioselective metal-free catalytic HOCs. These methodologies have facilitated the regulation of peri- and enantioselectivity during ring formation. With the diversification of activation modes, the variety of intermediates used in HOCs has also been greatly expanded. This review focuses on strategies for metal-free catalytic construction of chiral frameworks. To our knowledge, there are still many unknowns to be discovered in enantioselective HOCs.

### 1. From classical cycloadditions to higher-order cycloadditions

Cycloaddition reactions are a class of powerful organic transformations.<sup>1</sup> These reactions involve the formation of cyclic

compounds from two or more reactants, often accompanied by the generation of multiple new carbon–carbon bonds.

Classical cycloadditions, usually referring to cyclisations with electrons less than or equal to  $6\pi$ , have been widely utilized to form cyclic products.<sup>2</sup> These reactions occur *via* the simultaneous formation of two or more new bonds, typically with the concomitant loss of one or more  $\pi$ -bonds. The most well-known classical cycloaddition is the Diels–Alder reaction,<sup>3,4</sup> which involves the reaction of a conjugated diene with an alkene or alkyne to build a six-membered ring. Other important examples include 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition (e.g., diazo compounds react with alkenes or alkynes) and [2 + 2] cycloaddition (e.g., two

<sup>a</sup>College of Chemistry and Materials Science, Anhui Normal University, Wuhu 241002, China. E-mail: wangjian2012@tsinghua.edu.cn

<sup>b</sup>School of Chemistry and Materials Science, Institute of Advanced Materials and Flexible Electronics (IAMFE), Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology, 219 Ningliu Road, Nanjing, 210044, China

<sup>c</sup>School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Tsinghua University, Beijing 100084, China



Bei Zhang

Dr Bei Zhang obtained her BSc from Dalian University of Technology in 2017. She completed her PhD study under the guidance of Professor Jian Wang at Tsinghua University in 2023. Her research interest mainly focuses on the NHC-catalyzed radical reaction and the merger of photocatalysis and organocatalysis. She is now an assistant professor at the School of Chemistry and Materials Science, Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology.



Jian Wang

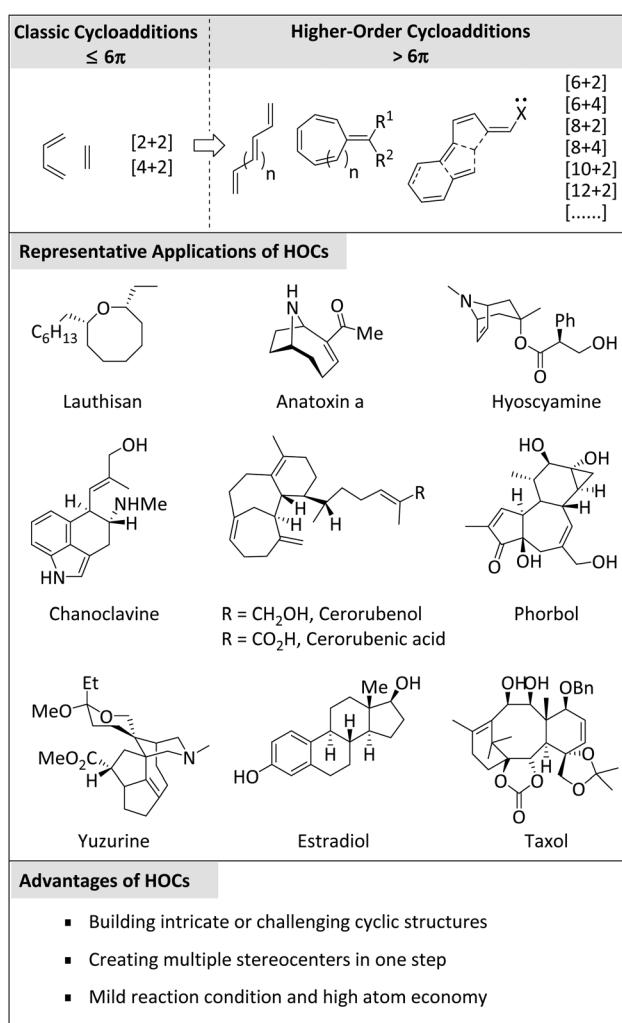
Jian Wang obtained his BSc from An Hui Normal University in China and completed his PhD studies at the University of New Mexico, USA. He did postdoctoral research at the Scripps Research Institute, then moved to the National University of Singapore (NUS) as an assistant professor, and finally joined Tsinghua University full-time, where he is now a tenured full professor. His research focuses on asymmetric carbene organocatalysis, novel synthesis methods and natural product synthesis, as well as innovative drugs in pain and neurodegenerative disorder diseases.



alkenes or alkynes react with each other to form a quaternary ring).<sup>5</sup>

In 1965, Hoffman and Woodward conducted an important academic exchange, after which Houk experimentally verified the feasibility of the [6 + 4] cycloaddition reaction.<sup>6,7</sup> Almost simultaneously, Inoue, Morrison, and their colleagues independently demonstrated the viability of this new class of cyclic reactions.<sup>8,9</sup> Thus, the concept of higher-order cycloadditions was established and subsequently developed rapidly. Higher-order cycloadditions (HOCs)<sup>10</sup> generally refer to reactions in which more than six  $\pi$ -electrons participate, such as [6 + 2], [6 + 4], [8 + 2], [8 + 4], [10 + 2], [12 + 2] cycloaddition, etc. These reactions have attracted much attention due to their ability to produce complex polycyclic structures (e.g. natural products, pharmaceuticals, or valuable intermediates)<sup>11–55</sup> (Scheme 1).

While HOCs offer many advantages, many issues, such as steric hindrance, mechanical complexity, and selective control, are often encountered in their investigation. To overcome these problems, researchers continue to uncover new solutions to further promote the field of HOCs.

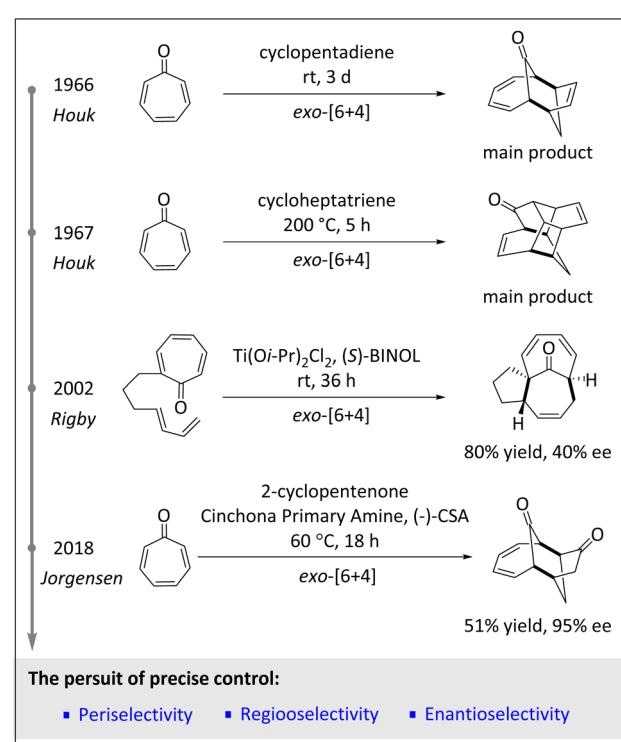


**Scheme 1** Brief introduction of higher-order cycloadditions.

## 2. From racemic HOCs to asymmetric HOCs

The development of asymmetric HOCs has always been an important topic in synthetic chemistry. Racemic HOCs typically rely on heat to drive and enable reactions. Thermal HOCs involve the reaction of three or more molecules without the use of a catalyst. While these reactions can be used to synthesize complex molecules, there are some important questions. In fact, one of the main problems with thermal HOCs is that they are often difficult to be controlled. Since reactions usually proceed at high temperatures, side reactions, decomposition, or incomplete transformations are prone to occur. Furthermore, thermal HOCs often require long reaction times or high pressures to achieve reasonable yields.<sup>9</sup> Another significant challenge for thermal HOCs is regioselective control.<sup>8</sup> In short, considering the high temperature, long reaction time and purification problem, the application of HOCs in industry is extremely challenging.<sup>56</sup> In 2002, Rigby and co-workers reported an intramolecular [6 + 4] cycloaddition of Ti (iv)-assisted diene-tethered tropones for the construction of spirocyclic oxindoles,<sup>57</sup> indicating both high peri- and diastereoselectivity. Subsequently, the same team successfully synthesized the ingenane sesquiterpene core with high peri- and diastereoselectivities as well as moderate enantioselectivities *via* the use of a chiral Lewis acid catalyst (Scheme 2).

The emergence of organocatalysis has paved an alternative way for obtaining new intermediates and achieving excellent stereoselectivities. Before chiral amino catalysts were applied



**Scheme 2** The brief history of higher-order cycloadditions.



to this field, enantioselective HOCs were very rare.<sup>57,58</sup> The Hayashi group first employed diphenylprolinol silyl ether as the organocatalyst to accomplish the asymmetric intramolecular [6 + 2] cycloaddition of fulvenes, resulting in the formation of valuable linear triquinane derivatives with high yields and exceptional enantioselectivities.<sup>59</sup> In 2018, the Jørgensen group<sup>60</sup> utilized cinchona alkaloid-derived amino catalysts to efficiently promote [6 + 4] and [8 + 2] cycloadditions, exhibiting excellent diastereo- and enantioselective control (>20 : 1 dr, ≥95% ee). Additionally, the periselectivities are well regulated by the combination of the ring size of the 2-cycloalkone and the substituents of the heptafulvenoid.

Since then, organocatalytic HOCs have entered a new stage of rapid development. With the support of catalytic modes of enamine, imine, enolate and ion-pair catalysis, high efficiency and selectivity are regularly observed. In addition, computational chemistry interventions help researchers more accurately predict and design new asymmetric HOC reactions.

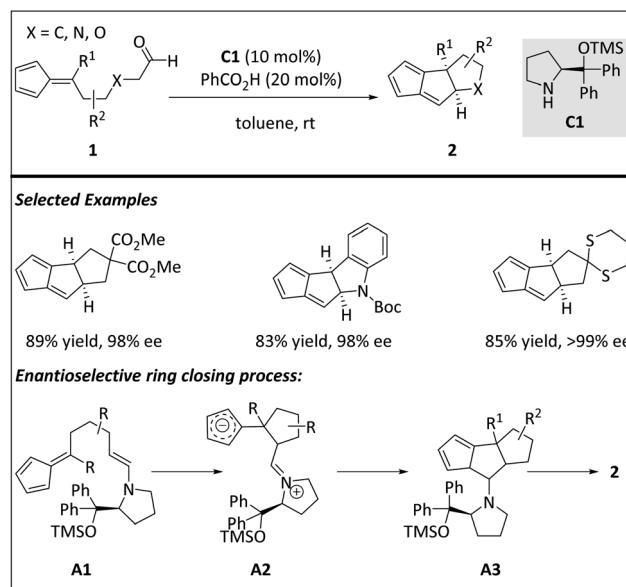
This review provides an overview of asymmetric organocatalytic HOCs. We summarize and classify HOCs according to the activation mode and discuss the fundamentals of reaction control. It also includes key advances in understanding and application, as well as challenges and opportunities for further development. Specifically, we focus on the design and formation of new synthons, the understanding of reaction pathways, and their application in natural product and drug synthesis. Overall, this review aims to provide a perspective on the current state of the art in asymmetric HOCs and highlights the exciting potential for future developments in this field.

### 3. Organocatalytic activation modes

The development of asymmetric HOCs is generally classified according to the types of intermediates formed by different catalysts.

#### 3.1 Enamine catalysis

Hayashi and co-workers reported an effective intramolecular [6 + 2] cycloaddition reaction for the synthesis of linear triquinane derivatives by employing diphenylprolinol silyl ether as the chiral organocatalyst (Scheme 3).<sup>59</sup> The combination of linear aldehyde **1** and chiral aminocatalyst **C1** offers **A1**, a HOMO-raising  $2\pi$  component. The electron rich  $2\pi$  addend then reacts with a  $6\pi$  fulvene core *via* **A2** to generate a triquinane structure **A3**. A systematic theoretical study of the reaction mechanism was carried out for a deeper understanding. DFT calculations show that the intermolecular [6 + 2] cycloaddition between the fulvene and the C=C bond of enamine is formed by the stepwise addition of the zwitterionic intermediate. In contrast, the intramolecular [6 + 2] cycloaddition to form a *cis*-fused triquinone backbone is carried out through a highly asynchronous transition state and a synergistic mechanism. The  $6\pi$  fulvene functional group and  $2\pi$  enamine moiety adapt the gauche-syn conformation during ring generation. The energy profiles also provide a plausible explanation



**Scheme 3** Enantioselective synthesis of tricyclopentanoids *via* an intramolecular [6 + 2] cycloaddition reaction.

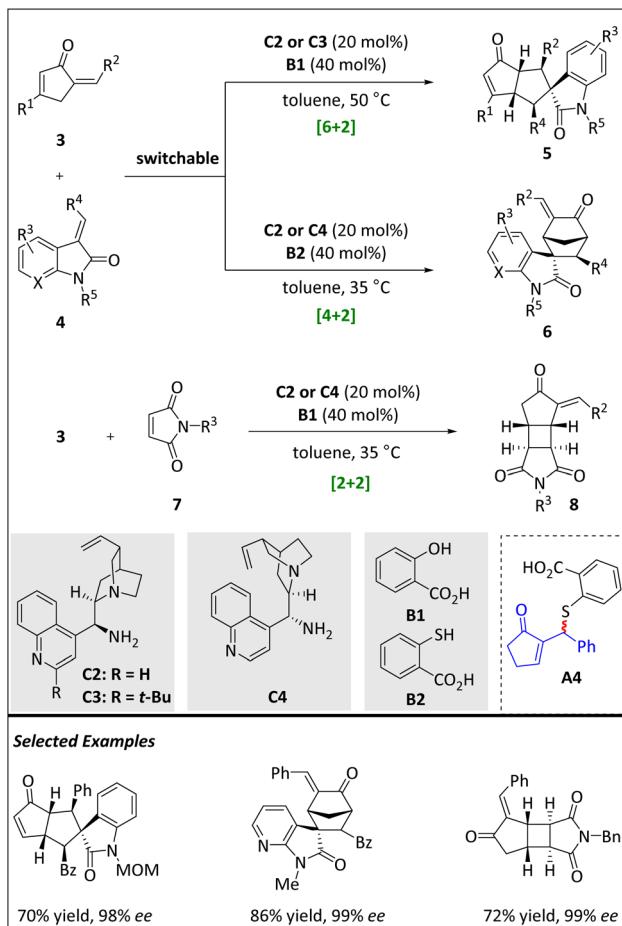
for the exclusive formation of the *cis*-fused triquinane skeleton. A detailed discussion on enantioselectivity control of this [6 + 2] process is also included.

In 2017, Zhou and Chen *et al.* reported a series of [n + 2] (n = 2, 4, 6) intermolecular cycloadditions of alkylidene-2-cyclopentenones (Scheme 4).<sup>61</sup> When 3-olefin(7-aza)oxindole is used as a raw material, the primary amine catalysts **C2–C4** derived from cinchona alkaloids work with different Brønsted acids to facilitate the occurrence of switchable [6 + 2] HOC and [4 + 2] cyclization. When **3** reacts with maleimide **7**, an intriguing,  $\gamma$ -regioselective [2 + 2] cycloaddition process produces fused cyclobutanes. As mentioned before, the peri- and stereoselectivities are difficult to control in HOCs. The switching of different ring sizes is an absolute challenge.<sup>62–65</sup>

The generated highly reactive  $6\pi$  component, 4-amino-fulvene intermediate, then reacts with activated  $2\pi$  alkene **4** to efficiently accomplish  $\alpha,\beta'$ -regioselective [6 + 2] HOCs. An array of bicyclic skeletons with five consecutive stereogenic centers is obtained through this pathway. Under the same reaction conditions, HOMO-raising trienamines react with suitable *N*-benzyl maleimide **7** to afford a number of tricyclic cyclobutanes in moderate yields but with excellent diastereo- and enantioselectivities. DFT calculations reveal that the previous regioselective [6 + 2] cycloaddition may occur through a stepwise Michael–Michael reaction mechanism, resulting in the formation of more thermodynamically stable [6 + 2] products. On the other hand, the [2 + 2] reaction is promoted through a kinetically favourable pathway by means of *ipso*,  $\gamma$ -regioselective [4 + 2] cycloaddition between maleimides and the HOMO-raised 4-aminofulvenes.

When acid **B1** is replaced by thiol acid **B2**, amine **C2** or **C4** successfully catalyzes the  $\alpha,\gamma$ -regioselective [4 + 2] cycloaddition, affording a bridged structure **6** in high yields with

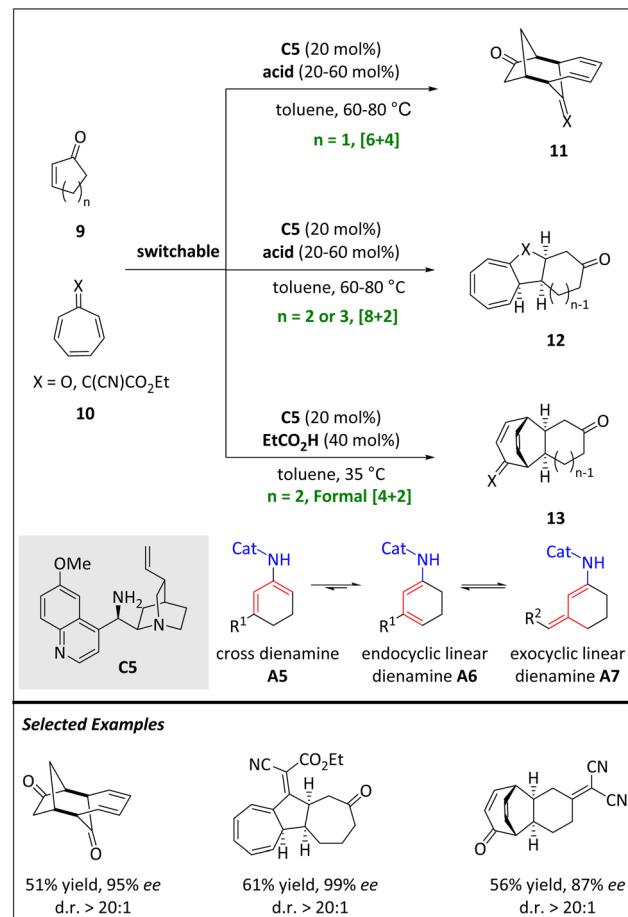




**Scheme 4** Switchable asymmetric  $[6 + 2]$ ,  $[4 + 2]$  and  $[2 + 2]$  cycloadditions.

excellent diastereo- and enantioselectivities (Scheme 4). A brief mechanistic study reveals that acid **B2** can add directly to **3** in an  $\alpha,\beta'$ -regioselective manner, leading to the formation of enone with a racemic sulfide moiety **A4**. Upon isomerization of the  $C=C$  bond, the  $[4 + 2]$  cycloaddition reaction mediated by dienamine is effectively promoted by the addition of olefin **7** and catalyst **C4**.

In the same year, the Jørgensen group developed a series of stereoselective cycloadditions (e.g.  $[6 + 4]$ ,  $[8 + 2]$  and formal  $[4 + 2]$ ) through two types of dienamine intermediates (Scheme 5).<sup>60</sup> When the catalyst cinchona alkaloid-derived primary amine **C5** activates 2-cyclic enone **9**, a mixture of dienamine species, including cross dienamine, endocyclic linear dienamine, and exocyclic linear dienamine, is formed. The kinetically generated cross-dienamine intermediates drive the occurrence of  $[6 + 4]$  HOC and exhibit excellent stereoselectivities and moderate yields. Meanwhile, the carbonyl group of tropone **10** has proven to be a necessary functionality. By replacing 2-cyclopentenone with 2-cyclohexaenone, an inverse electron demand  $[4 + 2]$  cycloadduct is obtained. Notably, catalytic  $\gamma$ -functionalization by endocyclic linear dienylamines has not been reported. The authors hypothesize that  $[4 + 2]$  cyclo-



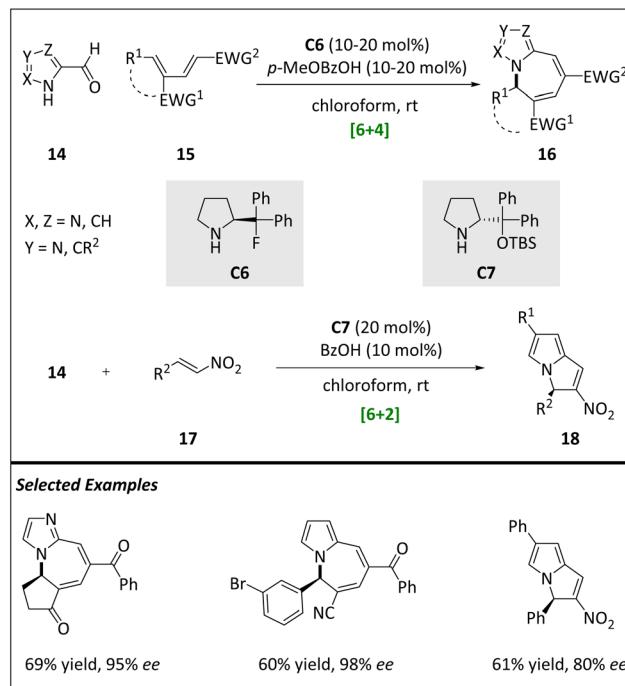
**Scheme 5** Stereoselective intermolecular  $[6 + 4]$ ,  $[8 + 2]$  and formal  $[4 + 2]$  via aminocatalysis.

adducts are made by an initial  $[8 + 2]$  cycloaddition followed by a rearrangement.

The thermodynamic distribution favours the transformation of 3-alkyl-2-cycloalkenones into endo- or exocyclic linear dienamines, while 2-cycloalkenones form endocyclic linear dienamines.<sup>66</sup> However, the cross dienamine is usually not observed in small amounts. Interestingly, the thermodynamic distribution of the dienamine mixtures is not reflected in the aminocatalytic reactions. Instead, 3-alkyl-2-cycloalkenones react through cross-dienamines or exocyclic linear-dienamines, while 2-cycloalkenones react through cross-dienamines. The control of periselectivities in cycloadditions is determined both by the ring size of 2-cycloalkenones and the substitution patterns of heptafulvenes.

In 2019, Houk and Jørgensen *et al.* presented an elegant work on asymmetric hetero- $[6 + 4]$  and  $[6 + 2]$  HOCs.<sup>67</sup>

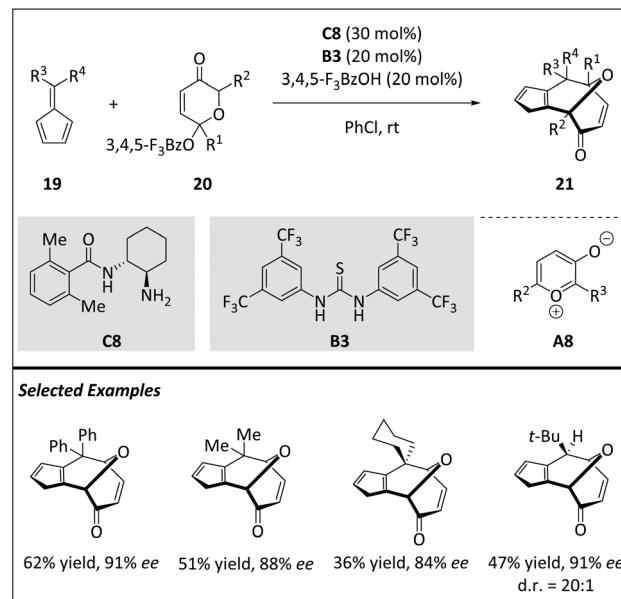
Specifically, formyl aldehydes derived from pyrroles, imidazoles, and pyrazoles can react with amino-catalyst **C6** or **C7** to generate electron-rich hetero- $6\pi$  aza- and diazafulvenes. This component then undergoes chemo-, regio-, and stereoselective cyclization of electron-deficient diene **15** and nitroalkene **17** (Scheme 6). The hetero- $[6 + 4]$  cycloaddition of pyrrole systems



**Scheme 6** Stereoselective intermolecular hetero-[6 + 4] and [6 + 2] cycloadditions.

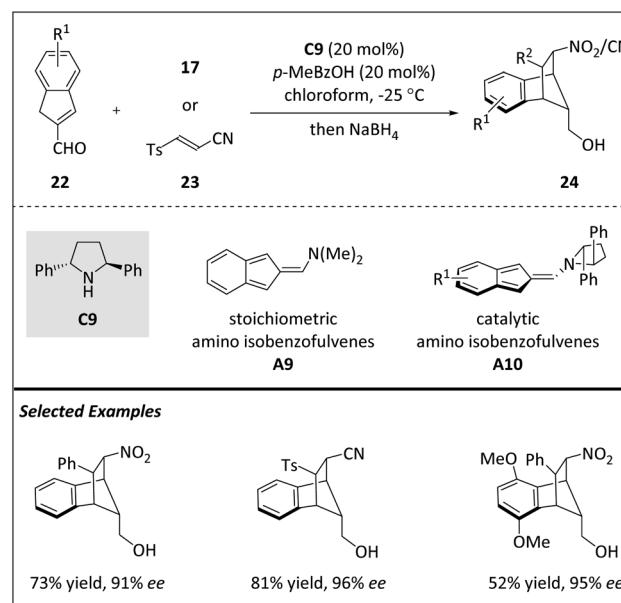
with dienes allows for a wide variation of both reaction partners, ultimately yielding pyrrolo-azepine products with high yields and excellent enantioselectivities. Importantly, the authors also extend this hetero-[6 + 4] cycloaddition protocol to imidazoles and pyrazoles, resulting in the production of imidazo- and pyrazolo-azepines. This activation mode also achieves success in hetero-[6 + 2] cycloadditions of pyrroles with nitroolefins, synthesizing pyrrolizidine alkaloid scaffolds. DFT calculations showcase that the stereoselectivity is dominated by the stepwise addition and ring closing step. Various substrates and catalysts have an effect on enantioselectivity.

Due to high ring-strain and entropy, the formation of an eight-membered ring presents a challenging task. Although cyclooctanoid terpenes are an important class of structurally diverse natural products, the total synthesis of cyclooctane scaffolds lacks general synthetic methods. McLeod and Jørgensen *et al.* reported the first enantioselective 1,3-dipolar [6 + 4] cycloaddition of pyrylium ions **A8** with fulvenes **19** *via* primary amine organocatalysis (Scheme 7).<sup>68</sup> This method enables the rapid and stereoselective production of cyclooctane rings **21**. The diverse functional groups and transannular bridges facilitate the transformation of multiple stereoselective structures into complex structures, demonstrating the versatility of the core for a range of cyclooctanoid natural products. Computational studies of both catalytic and non-catalytic reactions indicate a stepwise mechanism, which agrees with the experimental results regarding regio- and stereochemical outcomes. The reaction exhibits excellent diastereoselectivity and facilitates a set of transformations, allowing for the efficient assembly of complex scaffolds.



**Scheme 7** Asymmetric intermolecular 1,3-dipolar [6 + 4] cycloadditions via pyrylium ions.

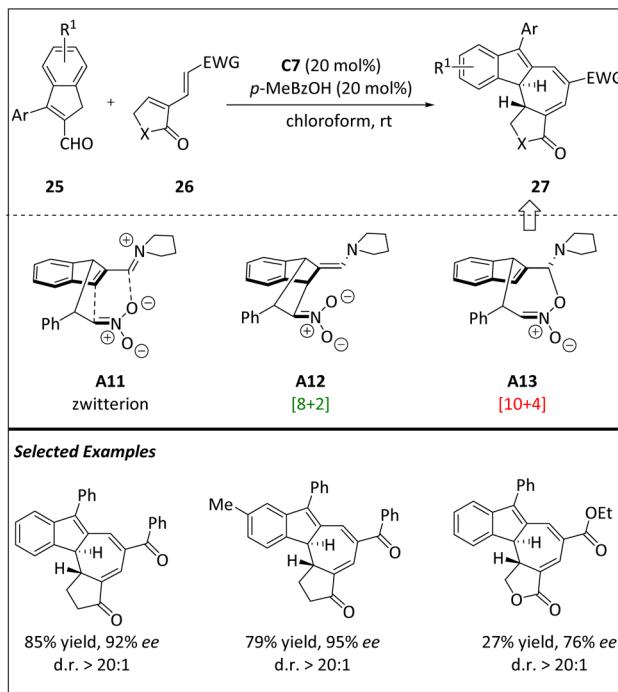
Jørgensen and co-workers also disclosed a unique [8 + 2] cycloaddition of indene-2-carbaldehydes **22** and olefins **17** or **23** through an unprecedented catalytic amino isobenzofulvene intermediate **A10** (Scheme 8).<sup>69</sup> In 1968, Hafner and Bauer first used stoichiometric isobenzofulvenes in cycloaddition.<sup>70</sup> By introducing an amino moiety into exocyclic carbon, isobenzofulvene becomes more stable. It was found that the depicted amino isobenzofulvenes **A9** produced a blend of [10 + 2] cycloadducts when they reacted with *N*-phenylmaleimides. In the



**Scheme 8** Peri- and stereoselective intermolecular [8 + 2] cycloadditions via an isobenzofulvene intermediate.

presence of chiral **A10**, a number of enantioenriched benzenobornenes, which serve as common scaffolds in commercial pesticides and neurotransmitter analogs, are generated by [8 + 2] cycloadditions. In such a highly peri-, diastereo-, and enantioselective cyclization process, the *C*<sub>2</sub>-symmetric catalyst **C9** is the key factor determining the stereochemistry of five contiguous centers. DFT analysis showed that an energetically feasible [10 + 4] cycloaddition pathway is plausible and the proposed zwitterionic structure can ultimately result in the [8 + 2] cycloaddition product.

According to the computational results of [8 + 2] cycloaddition, the [10 + 4] cycloadduct has the potential to be prepared through the kinetically preferred intermediate **A13**. The Jørgensen group realized this hypothesis by choosing electron-deficient diene **26** as the 4 $\pi$  component (Scheme 9).<sup>69</sup> Initially, the diphenylproline methylsilyl ether **C7** catalyzes the reaction between indane-2-carbaldehyde **25** and diene **26**, resulting in a mixture consisting of a small amount of presumed [8 + 2] cycloadducts and a separable quantity of [10 + 4] cycloadducts. However, by blocking the 3-position of indene-2-carbaldehydes, a single diastereoisomer **27** is obtained with a higher yield and high enantioselectivity. Both experimental and computational data show that the observed stereoselectivity is dominated by the formation of aminoisobenzofulvenes under kinetic control. The high yields, along with significant peri-, diastereo-, and enantioselectivities, and a broad scope of substrates make this technique extremely useful in the construction of intricate enantioenriched frameworks.

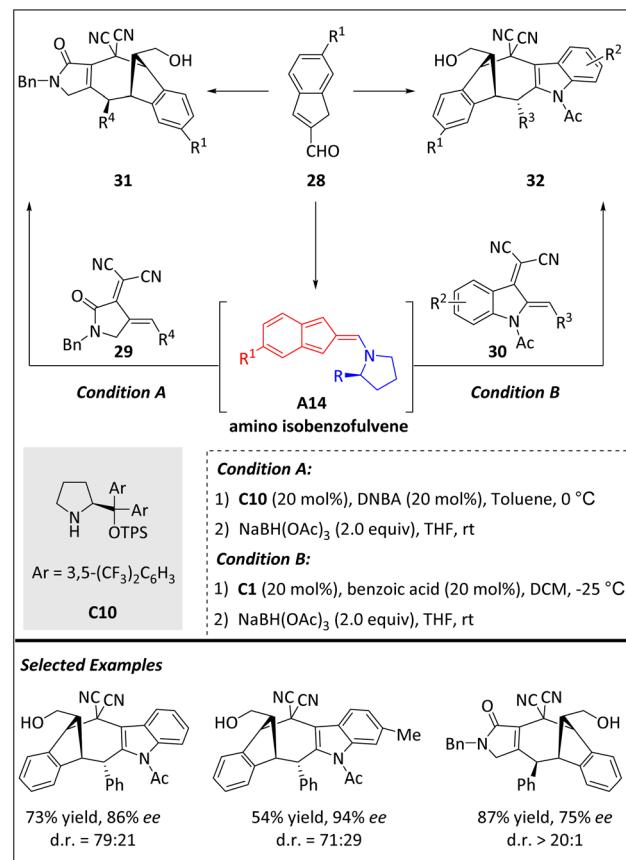


**Scheme 9** Asymmetric intermolecular [10 + 4] cycloadditions via the isobenzofulvene intermediate.

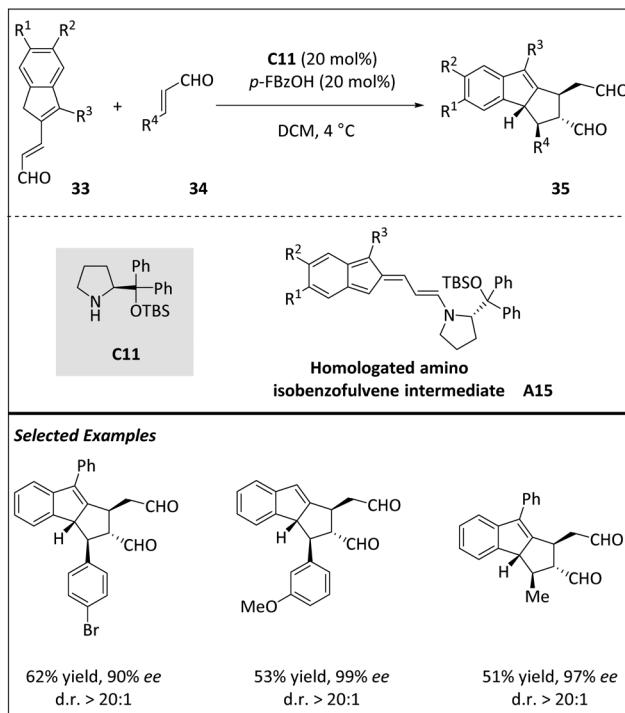
Although the asymmetric [8 + 4] cycloaddition of isobenzofurane can potentially be used for the direct construction of chiral bicyclo[4.2.1]nonane, the asymmetric version has not been achieved. Indeed, when Jørgensen *et al.* accomplished the asymmetric [8 + 4] cycloaddition reaction between indenhydrin-2-carbaldehyde and methylene oxalate, they encountered several challenges in achieving isobenzofurans.<sup>71</sup> For example, (1) how to achieve periselectivity between 8 $\pi$  and 10 $\pi$ -components of isobenzofulvene? (2) how to ensure chemoselectivity among Michael addition and [8 + 2] and [8 + 4] cycloadditions? and (3) how to control the stereochemistry?

Later on, Zhao and Deng *et al.* developed a new method for asymmetric [8 + 4] cycloaddition of isobenzofurane **A14** and electron-deficient dienes (IQDMs) with the assistance of secondary amine catalysts (Scheme 10).<sup>72</sup> This strategy efficiently offers indole cyclic bicyclo[4.2.1]nonane **32** with good yields, good enantioselectivities and moderate diastereoselectivities. In addition, the pyrrolidone-3,4-diene **29** is also well tolerated, yielding cyclic bicyclo[4.2.1]nonane **31** with good yields, high enantioselectivities and excellent diastereoselectivities.

Jørgensen and coworkers reported a novel stereoselective [10 + 2] cycloaddition between homologated indenecarbaldehydes **33** and  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated aldehydes **34**, resulting in the assembly of tetrahydro-cyclopenta[*a*]indenones (Scheme 11).<sup>73</sup>



**Scheme 10** Asymmetric intermolecular [8 + 4] cycloadditions via the amino isobenzofulvene intermediate.

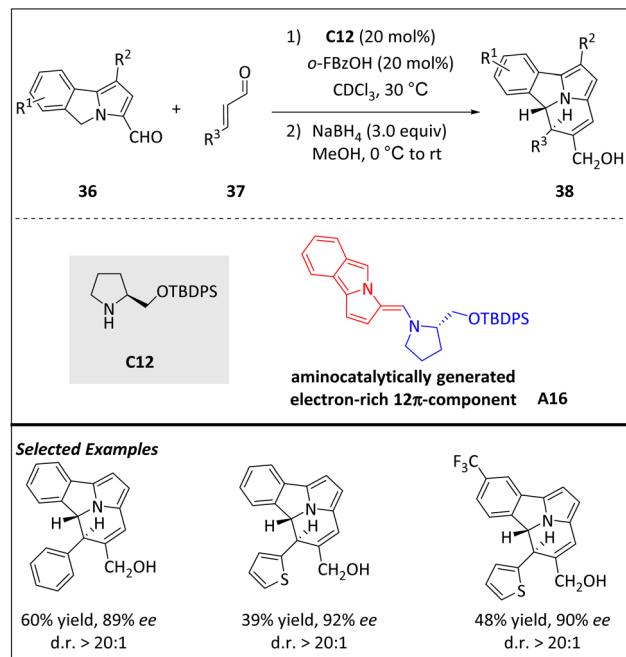


**Scheme 11** Asymmetric intermolecular  $[10 + 2]$  cycloadditions via the homologated amino isobenzofulvene intermediate.

The process involves the organocatalytic generation of homologated amino isobenzofulvene intermediate **A15**. Kinetic studies, DFT calculations, and isolation of intermediates suggest that a stepwise cycloaddition mechanism involving the Curtin–Hammett scenario is plausible. The stereo-determining step was the irreversible ring closure process, and the initial formation of precyclization intermediates is rapid and reversible. The reaction scope is thoroughly investigated, and the observed selectivity supports the mechanistic conclusions. This study contributes to the further development of cycloadditions with more than  $6\pi$ -electrons, suggesting that these reactions tend to react selectively with specific partners based on electron effects and substrates.

A one-step and direct organocatalytic process has been developed by Jessen and Jørgensen *et al.* for the enantioselective construction of a chiral cycl[3.2.2]azine core (Scheme 12).<sup>74</sup> This is the first enantioselective example of  $[12 + 2]$  cycloaddition of a tricyclic skeleton with a central ring-junction nitrogen atom. The electron-rich  $12\pi$  component intermediate **A16** can be obtained from *5H*-benzo[*a*]pyrrolizine-3-carbaldehydes **36** in the presence of aminocatalyst **C12**. Intermediate **A16** acts as a nucleophile and subsequently as an electrophile through the exocyclic position, enabling higher-order cycloadditions with electron-poor  $2\pi$ -components to construct the cycl[3.2.2]azine core. It is worth noting that even-membered ring syntheses based on higher-order cycloadditions are uncommon but can be achieved in this case.

Although partial erosion of the diastereomeric ratio occurred during purification, one-pot reduction of the formyl

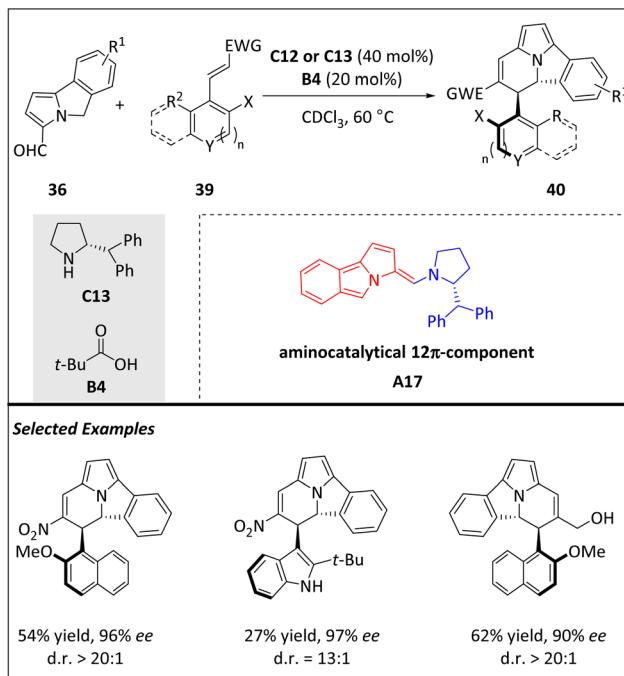


**Scheme 12** Asymmetric intermolecular  $[12 + 2]$  cycloadditions via the aminocatalytical  $12\pi$  intermediate.

group of cycloadducts preserves the stereochemical information. DFT calculations reveal that the observed high stereo-selectivity relies on the energetic barrier of ring closure. Minor modifications to the reaction conditions allow for the introduction of *trans*-benzo[*a*]cycl[3.2.2]azines from  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketoesters and nitroolefins. Fully unsaturated and photoluminescent benzo[*a*]cycl[3.2.2]azines are also obtained in the presence of vinyl sulfones.

The higher-order cycloaddition reaction is not only useful in constructing multiple asymmetric centers in complex ring systems but also enables the atroposelective establishment of  $C(sp^2)-C(sp^3)$ . Most recently, the Jørgensen group developed a novel  $[12 + 2]$  HOC to access enantioenriched atropisomeric scaffolds that exhibit a stable  $C(sp^2)-C(sp^3)$  stereogenic axis along with two chiral centers (Scheme 13).<sup>75</sup> Electron-rich aminocatalytic  $12\pi$  intermediates **A17**, which were generated from *5H*-benzo[*a*]pyrrolizine-3-carbaldehydes **36** with **C12** or **C13**, react with electron-poor olefins **39**, resulting in the formation of cycl[3.2.2]azine-based frameworks **40**. This approach is highly versatile, accommodating a wide range of substrates and producing various chiral products. The rotational barrier of parent compounds has been determined through experimentation, and both atropisomers have been separated and identified following thermal equilibration. The conformational stability of compounds with different substitution patterns is also evaluated, with a half-life of over 640 years. Additionally, the isolation of these unique compounds provides empirical evidence of the principle behind central-to-axial chirality conversions through a simple oxidative transformation. DFT calculations and the isolation of a reactive intermediate demon-





**Scheme 13** Enantioselective intermolecular [12 + 2] cycloadditions for the construction of  $\text{C}(\text{sp}^2)\text{--C}(\text{sp}^3)$  atropisomers.

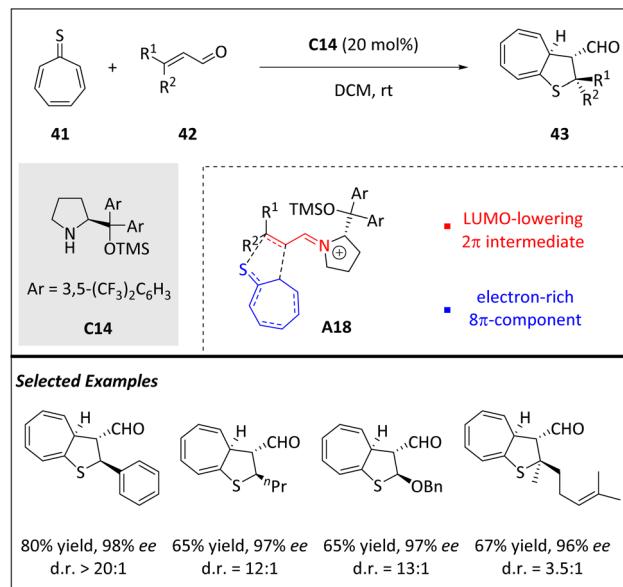
strate that the reaction's stereoselectivity is controlled by the Curtin–Hammett principle, with a single transition state (the elimination step) governing both the atropo- and enantioinduction.

### 3.2 Iminium catalysis

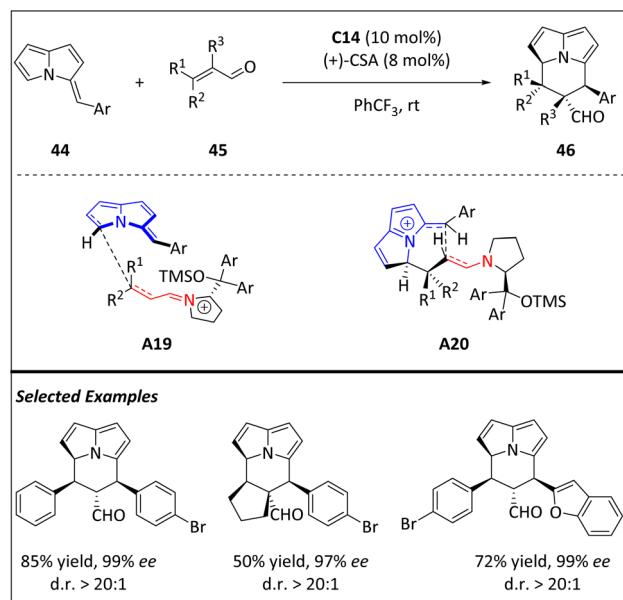
Lately, there has been growing interest in utilizing higher-order cycloadditions as a versatile platform to develop novel asymmetric transformations. Notably, organocatalytic activation strategies have gained attention in this regard. Among these, chiral amines have shown remarkable efficacies when utilizing a HOMO-raising activation pattern. The strategy of LUMO-lowering through iminium ion intermediates has greatly contributed to the development of asymmetric HOC as well.

In 2019, Albrecht and coworkers successfully utilized LUMO-activated iminium ions to react with tropothione **41** through an efficient [8 + 2] cycloaddition (Scheme 14).<sup>76</sup> In this finding, **41** has proven to be a highly stable and valuable reactant that readily engages in enantioselective higher-order cycloadditions. Unlike tropone and derivatives, which behaved as  $8\pi$  or  $6\pi$ -components and participate through their LUMOs as electron-poor systems, tropothiones act as electron-rich  $8\pi$ -components based on their HOMOs. The stereochemistry is controlled by aminocatalytic LUMO-activation of the carbonyl reactant.

A rational design utilizing novel (*E*)-3-benzylidene-3*H*-pyrrolizines in iminium-ion-catalyzed [8 + 2] cycloaddition reactions proposed by Jessen and Jørgensen has facilitated the efficient and highly stereoselective synthesis of chiral cycl[3.2.2]azines (Scheme 15).<sup>77</sup> The protocol is capable of diverse enals, enoliz-



**Scheme 14** Asymmetric intermolecular [8 + 2] cycloadditions via the LUMO-lowering strategy.



**Scheme 15** Asymmetric intermolecular [8 + 2] cycloadditions via iminium-ion catalysis.

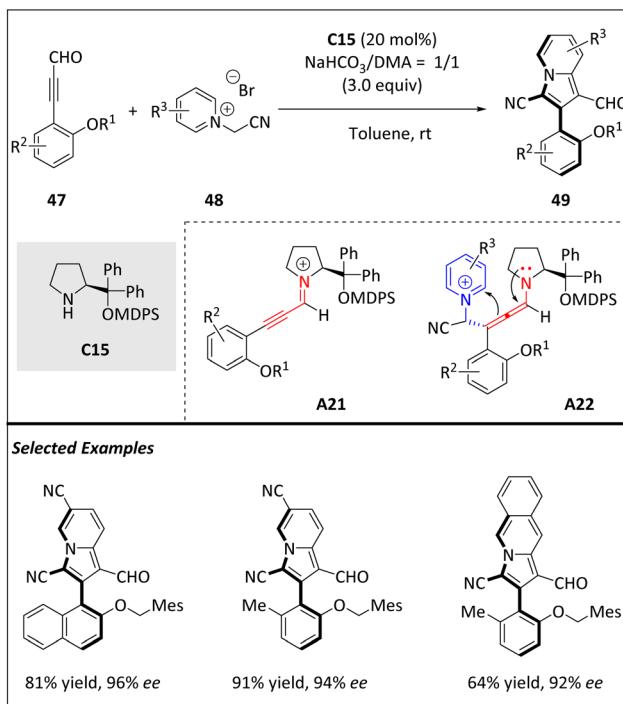
able aldehydes, and substrates with extended conjugation. The resulting product has an electron-rich alkenylpyrrole and an electron-deficient carbonaldehyde moiety, both of which can be selectively modified without altering the stereochemical information in the [8 + 2] cycloaddition. The addition of electron-rich substrate **44** at its 5-position to the nonshielded face of iminium-ion substrates results in the formation of the first two stereocenters (**A19**). The tetrahydrocycl[3.2.2]azine scaffold, which contains four consecutive stereocenters (**A20**),

is then completed by ring closure through nucleophilic addition to the electrophilic pyrrolizine moiety. The aminocatalyst is then liberated through hydrolysis. The investigation of the acid-catalyzed isomerization pathway of cycloadducts emphasizes the importance of maintaining the balance between the loading of amino catalysts and acid additives.

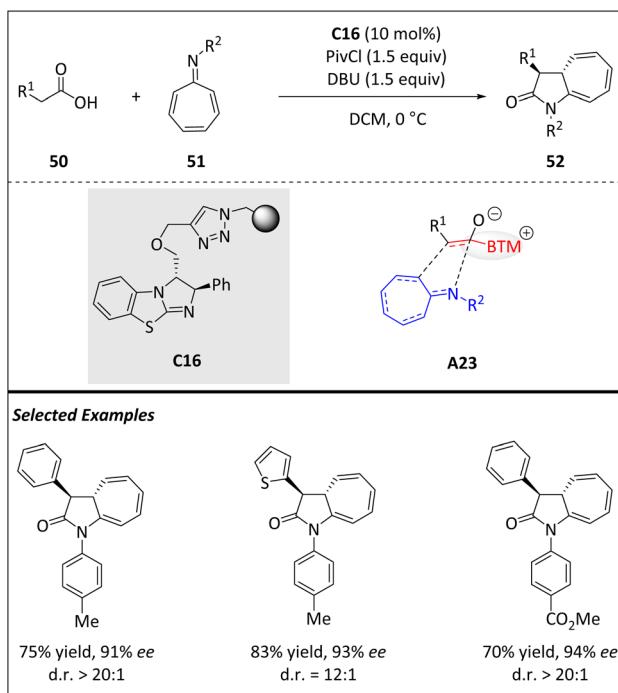
Yang and Wang *et al.* uncovered a new atroposelective [8 + 2] cycloaddition between pyridinium/isoquinolinium ylides and ynals (Scheme 16).<sup>78</sup> Significantly, this approach demonstrates a fresh illustration of the organocatalyzed atropoenantioselective higher-order cycloaddition, furnishing diverse axially chiral 3-aryllindolizines **49** with exceptional yields and enantioselectivities. Due to their valuable photochemical properties and diverse therapeutic indications, 3-aryllindolizines are recognized as one of the most significant heterocyclics. It is proposed that the chiral amine catalyst **C15** first reacts with alkynaldehyde **47** to the alkynylamine cationic intermediate **A21** through dehydration. Subsequently, the Michael addition of **A21** with **48** builds axially chiral allenamine **A22**. Next, intramolecular cyclization of **A22** leads to the formation of axial chiral heterodiaryl intermediates, which are then hydrolyzed into product **49** and release catalyst **C15** for the next catalytic cycle. The axially chiral **49** derivatives obtained in this reaction offer a wide range of functional groups, providing numerous opportunities for chemical transformations and drug discovery.

### 3.3 Enolate catalysis

In 2017, Pericàs and colleagues presented a nice approach to produce cycloheptatriene fused pyrrolidone rings **50** with high



**Scheme 16** Atroposelective intermolecular [8 + 2] cycloadditions via iminium-ion catalysis.

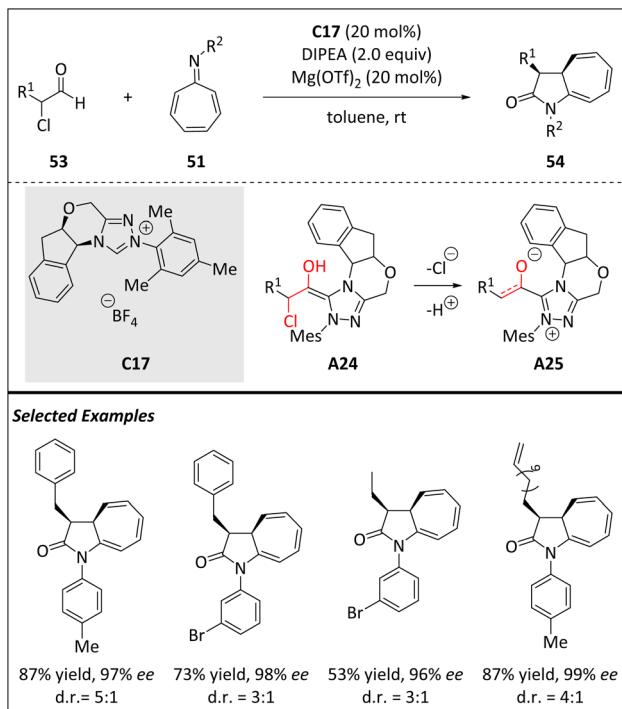


**Scheme 17** Stereoselective intermolecular [8 + 2] cycloadditions via isothiourea catalysis.

enantioselectivities (Scheme 17).<sup>79</sup> It involves an isothiourea-catalyzed periselective [8 + 2] cycloaddition of chiral ammonium enolates **A23**, which are *in situ* generated from carboxylic acids **50** and azaheptafulvene **51**. This straightforward process yields architecturally polycyclic structures.

In terms of practicality, the ability to recycle the immobilized isothiourea catalyst **C16** is highly desirable as it reduces costs and improves overall efficiency. In order to achieve this goal, catalyst **C16** is recovered through simple filtration and reused by adding fresh reactants after every single run. Surprisingly, no significant decrease in stereoselectivity is observed and only a slight yield decreases over the first four runs. The recycling experiments showcase an accumulated turnover number (TON = 44.7). Mechanistically, the mixed anhydride is produced *in situ* by the reaction of **50** with pivaloyl chloride. The corresponding acyl ammonium species is generated from the anhydride and isothiourea **C16**.

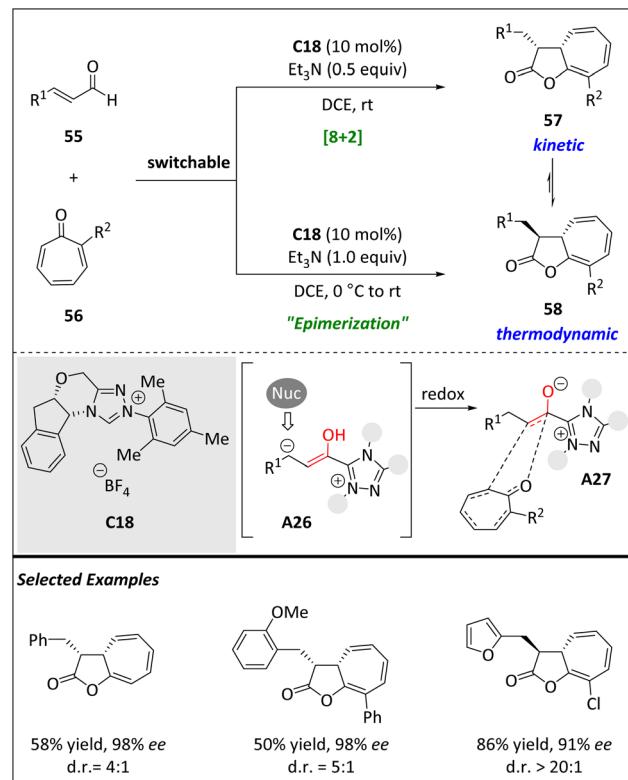
In 2019, a similar asymmetric [8 + 2] NHC-catalyzed cycloaddition reaction of azaheptafulvene **51** with  $\alpha$ -chloro aliphatic aldehydes **53** has been developed by Xu and coworkers (Scheme 18).<sup>80</sup> This reaction yields *cis*-cycloheptatriene-fused  $\gamma$ -lactams **54** with excellent enantioselectivities, moderate to good diastereoselectivities, and good yields. The resulting cycloadducts can easily transform into valuable structures under mild reaction conditions. In contrast to Pericas's method, the  $\alpha$ -alkyl substituted reactants are well tolerated and a series of diastereocycloadducts are obtained. The proposed mechanism involves the formation of the Breslow intermediate **A24** *via* the addition of NHC catalyst **C17** to aldehyde



**Scheme 18** Stereoselective intermolecular [8 + 2] cycloadditions via NHC catalysis.

53. Intermediate A24 is then dechlorinated and deprotonated to produce NHC-bound enolate intermediate A25. Next, Mg (OTf)<sub>2</sub> coordinates with the oxygen atom of intermediate A25 and the nitrogen atom of azapeptafulvene 51 to form a transition state. Finally, intramolecular lactamization produces cycloheptatriene-fused  $\gamma$ -lactam 54 and regenerates catalyst C17.

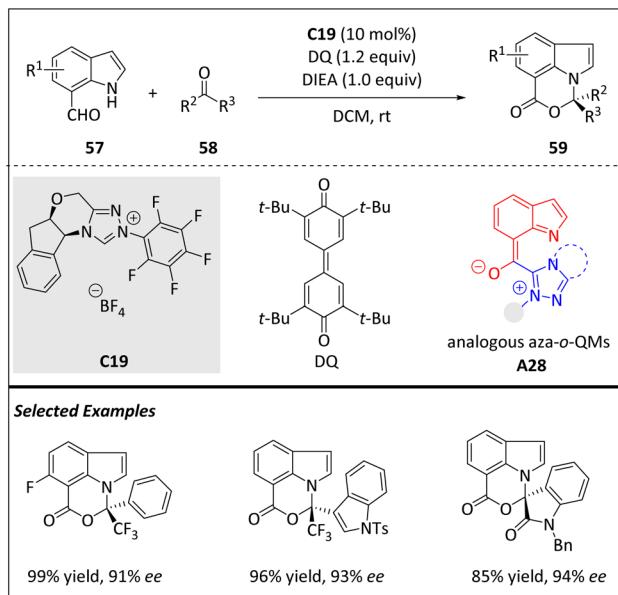
The development of chiral catalysts has led to an expanding toolbox capable of covering various chemical spaces through numerous transformations. However, the emphasis is usually placed on selectivity rather than versatility. The Pericas group utilized the NHC catalyst to exploit the distinctive reactivity of enals compared to tropones, resulting in high enantiomeric purity of cyclohepta[*b*]furan-2-ones *via* higher order cycloadditions (Scheme 19).<sup>81</sup> In fact, the same group has recently published findings that demonstrate the ability of isothiourea catalysts to facilitate highly stereo- and periselective [8 + 2] annulations of azapeptafulvenes, producing [5.3.0] bicyclic products. However, a certain number of restrictions remained, such as the ineffectiveness of tropones and the tolerance solely of arylacetic acids as the 2 $\pi$  component. Consequently, they began to explore whether NHC catalysts could also facilitate these higher order cycloadditions. In this case, the Breslow intermediate A26 smoothly yields azolium enolate A27, which acts as the 2 $\pi$  component in a redox-neutral process. Moreover, the reaction can be directed towards different diastereomers by modifying the reaction conditions, resulting in a shift from kinetic to thermodynamic control. The process is well tolerated with substituted tropones and the resulting cycloaddition pro-



**Scheme 19** Diastereodivergent asymmetric intermolecular [8 + 2] cycloadditions via NHC catalysis.

ducts can be modified *via* hydrogenation or methanolysis. DFT computational kinetic modelling has provided strong support for the experimental results in terms of periselectivity and stereoselectivity.

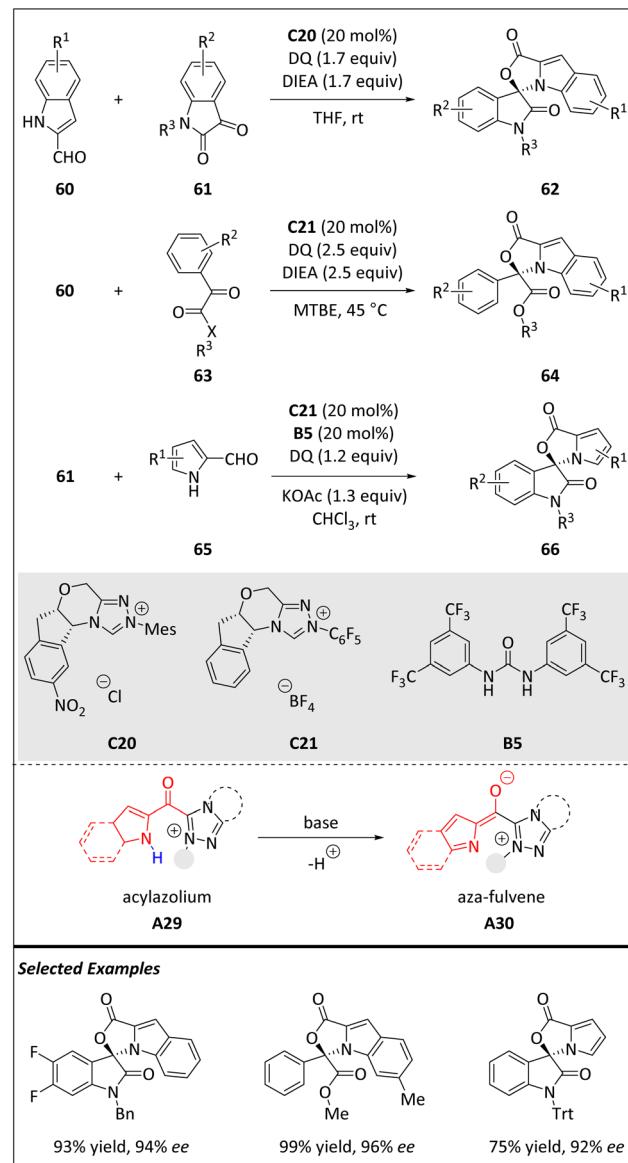
In 2019, Chi and co-workers disclosed an enantioselective [10 + 2] cycloaddition by employing indole-7-carbaldehyde as the 10 $\pi$  electron component with the aid of chiral NHC catalysts (Scheme 20).<sup>82</sup> The process involves the formation of an acyl azolium ester intermediate, which then transforms into an aza-*o*-quinone methides (aza-*o*-QMs)-containing intermediate A28 through proton transfer. The subsequent procedure entails a [10 + 2] annulation between A28 and a reactive ketone substrate 58, yielding acetal product 59 with good yield and favourable enantiomeric ratios. The products obtained through this method contain pyrroloquinazoline or oxazinoindole scaffolds that are commonly found in bioactive molecules. The method demonstrates the ability of NHCs to activate the aldehyde group at a remote site of the indole molecule and control the stereoselectivity. Unlike previous studies where nitrogen or oxygen atoms are attached to benzene as reaction sites, the reactive nitrogen atom is located within the aldehyde substrate's aromatic ring in this method. To expand the versatility and practicality of this protocol, isatin derivatives for the assembling of spiro-cyclics are disclosed. The asymmetric aminals and *N*,*O*-acetal units in the cycloadducts hold significant synthetic values.



**Scheme 20** Enantioselective intermolecular  $[10 + 2]$  cycloadditions *via* the  $10\pi$  aza- $\alpha$ -QM intermediate.

Zhang and Wang carried out a theoretical investigation on such an asymmetric  $[10 + 2]$  HOC process.<sup>83</sup> According to the computational results, the stereoselectivity is primarily influenced by the ring-forming step between the aza- $\alpha$ -QMs intermediate A28 and ketone 58, resulting in a predominantly *R*-configured product. The researchers identify a weak interaction, which is analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively as LP $\cdots\pi$ , C-H $\cdots$ F, C-F $\cdots$ O, and C-F $\cdots$ F interactions in terms of NCI and AIM analyses.

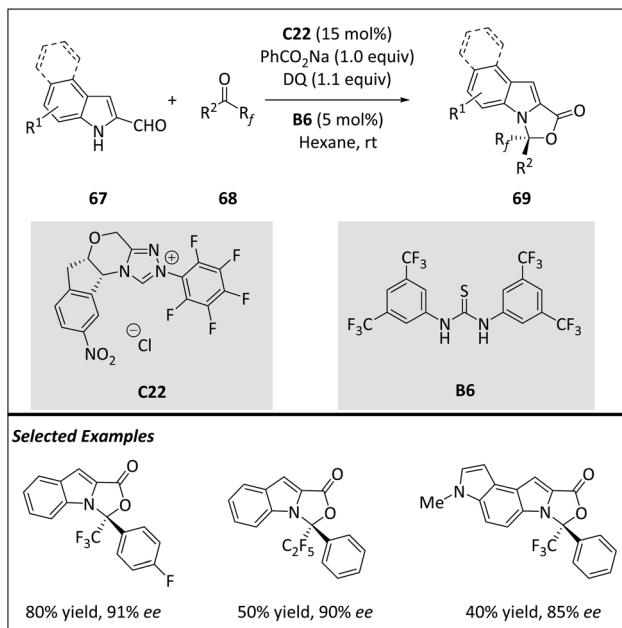
Simultaneously, Chi and coworkers uncovered a novel method to activate nitrogen atoms in heteroarenes for achieving enantioselective  $[10 + 2]$  HOCs (Scheme 21).<sup>84</sup> The acylazolium intermediate A29 is generated through the carbene-addition step under an oxidant. This oxidation step eliminates the electron density from the indole (or pyrrole), resulting in a less nucleophilic overall  $\pi$ -system in contrast to the arylaldehyde substrate. For example, the carbon, located in the 2- or 3-position, is a possible nucleophilic center. Conversely, the nitrogen atom is selectively activated and serves as the reactive center through A29 deprotonation, resulting in the formation of the azafulvene intermediate A30. The activation achieved *via* carbene catalysis leads to the creation of novel aza-fulvene acylazolium intermediates that selectively react with ketones, forming *N,O*-acetals with exceptional yields and enantiomeric ratios. The chiral *N,O*-acetal products display promising antibacterial properties against *Ralstonia solanacearum* and hold significance in the advancement of novel chiral agrochemicals for safeguarding plants. This study marks the initial NHC-catalyzed activation of nitrogen atoms incorporated into aromatic  $\pi$ -rings, thereby expanding the potential of carbene catalysis in accomplishing asymmetric reactions associated with aromatic skeletons. The  $[10 + 2]$  cycloaddition of 60 with indoline-2,3-dione 61 was also reported by the Hui group.<sup>85</sup>



**Scheme 21** Enantioselective intermolecular  $[10 + 2]$  cycloadditions *via* the  $10\pi$  aza-fulvene intermediate.

Peng and Wang *et al.* independently reported a novel catalytic and enantioselective  $[10 + 2]$  higher-order cycloaddition of trifluoromethyl ketone derivatives with indole-2-carbaldehydes (Scheme 22), highlighting the potential of synthesized molecules due to the significance of polycyclic structures and the incorporation of "F"-containing fragments.<sup>86</sup>

The Wang group efficiently constructed enantioenriched polycycles with fluorinated substituents *via* an NHC-bound aza-benzofulvene intermediate A30, marking the first use of NHC-bound aza-arylfulvene intermediates in catalytic and enantioselective  $[10 + 2]$  or  $[14 + 2]$  reactions. Kinetic studies reveal that the reaction shows nearly first-order depending on catalyst C22 and zero-order relying on substrates 67, 68, and 3,3',5,5'-tetra-*tert*-butyl diphenoquinone (DQ). An intrinsic

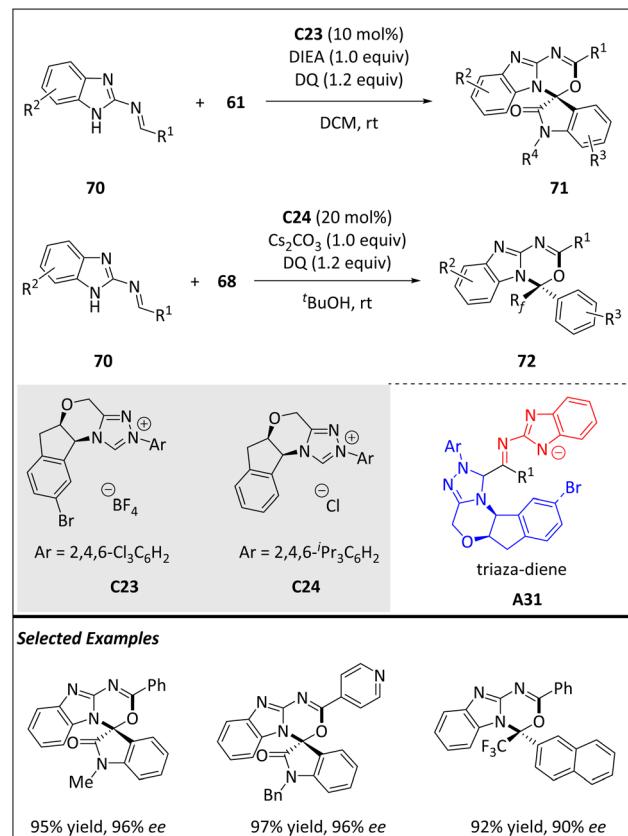


**Scheme 22** Asymmetric intermolecular  $[12 + 2]$  cycloadditions via the aminocatalytical  $12\pi$  intermediate.

reaction coordinate calculation (IRC) of the transition state is conducted, indicating a concerted asynchronous process where the covalent bond between the C1 of trifluoroacetophenone and the N1 of indole is formed first. Additionally, DFT calculations enable accurate prediction of and a thorough understanding of enantio- and stereo-control. Similar HOC reactions were also discovered by the Biju group.<sup>87</sup>

In 2021, Yang and Chi *et al.* reported a process that utilizes carbene catalysis to activate nitrogen atoms through covalent interactions (Scheme 23).<sup>88</sup> This approach enables the asymmetric synthesis of heterocycles, (benz)imidazole-derived imines **70** and activated ketones **61** or **68** *via* a highly enantioselective HOC manner. The process requires the use of the chiral **C23** or **C24** catalyst and an oxidant (DQ or  $\text{MnO}_2$ ) to obtain the desired skeletons. At the onset of the reaction, catalyst **C23** or **C24** is introduced to an aldimine substrate derived from (benz)imidazole. The following steps involve oxidation and proton transfer, forming triaza-diene intermediate **A31**. In a previous report, the reactive nucleophilic heteroatoms are situated at the  $\gamma$ -position relative to the carbonyl groups of the substrates. These intermediates (*e.g.* *o*-QMs,<sup>89,90</sup> aza-*o*-QMs **A28**<sup>91,92</sup> and aza-fulvene **A30**) are comparable to vinyl enolate intermediates, bearing a heteroatom at the  $\gamma$ -position. This is the first success in applying a triaza-diene intermediate for asymmetric HOCs. Building upon a relaxed 2D potential energy surface (PES) scan, the concerted synchronous  $[10 + 2]$  cycloaddition pathway is ruled out. Alternatively, a highly asynchronous concerted mechanism is identified with the aid of DFT calculations.

Most recently, the enantio- and diastereoselective  $[12 + 2]$  higher-order cycloaddition between 5*H*-benzo[*a*]pyrrolizine-3-carbaldehydes **73** and isatine-derivatives **61** has been devel-

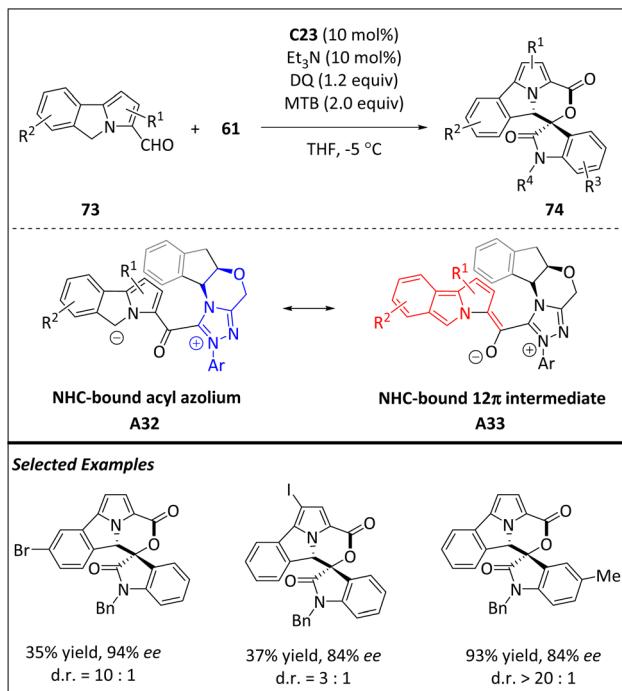


**Scheme 23** Enantioselective hetero- $[10 + 2]$  cycloadditions via the triaza-diene intermediate.

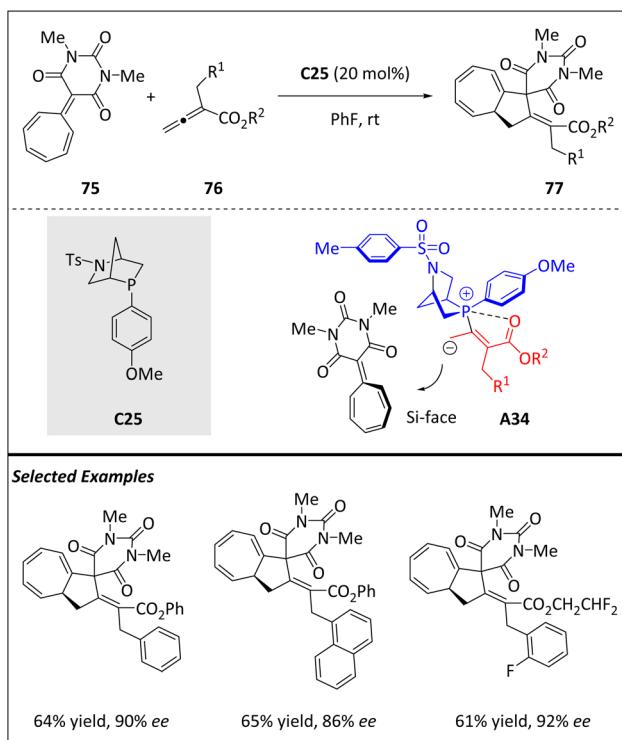
oped by Chi *et al.* *via* NHC-catalyzed remote  $\text{C}(\text{sp}^3)\text{-H}$  activation (Scheme 24).<sup>93</sup> The reaction allows the rapid construction of a sophisticated tricyclic core bearing a morpholine moiety under mild conditions and easily accessible starting materials. Specifically, aldehydes **73** react with carbene catalyst **C23** to generate the Breslow intermediate. Then, the NHC-bound acyl azolium intermediate **A32** is obtained from the Breslow intermediate *via* oxidation. Deprotonation of intermediate **A32** gives rise to a carbon anion, which then undergoes tautomerization to form  $12\pi$  species **A33**. Upon addition of **A33** to  $2\pi$  electrophile **61**, the target product is formed.

### 3.4 Ion-pairing catalysis

Gao and Guo *et al.* reported the phosphine-catalyzed  $[8 + 2]$ -annulation of heptafulvene **75** with allenotes **76**, yielding bicyclo[5.3.0]decane-fused spirobarbiturates **77** in moderate to excellent yields (Scheme 25).<sup>94</sup> By using chiral Kwon's phosphine catalyst **C25**, enantioenriched products are obtained in moderate to high yields and with excellent enantioselectivities. The reaction involves the formation of the  $\beta$ -phosphonium dienolate intermediate **A34**, which is generated from the conjugate addition of phosphine to allenote **76**. This intermediate then attacks heptafulvene-barbiturate **75**, which has never been used as an  $8\pi$  component in an  $[8 + 2]$  cycloaddition before. A subsequent intramolecular Michael addition leads to



**Scheme 24** Enantioselective  $[12 + 2]$  cycloadditions via the NHC-bound  $12\pi$  intermediate.

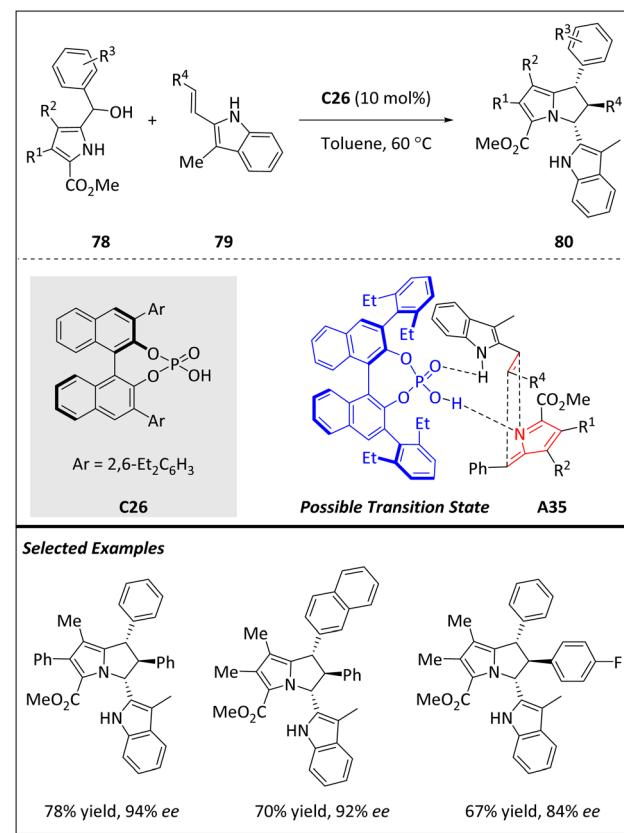


**Scheme 25** Enantioselective  $[8 + 2]$  cycloadditions via the phosphine-bound  $2\pi$  intermediate.

product 77. In addition, the  $\beta$ -phosphonium dienolate intermediate A34 undergoes *Si*-face attack to form 75, ultimately generating (*S*)-tricyclic products.

Kallweit and Schneider have developed a one-step process (Scheme 26) for synthesizing densely substituted 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolizines 80, which are often found in many biologically active natural products.<sup>95</sup> The process involves an organocatalytic  $[6 + 2]$ -cycloaddition between 1*H*-pyrrole-2-yl carbinols 78 and 2-vinylindoles 79, catalyzed by a BINOL-derived phosphoric acid C26. The reaction proceeds *via* the formation of chiral hydrogen-bonded 2-methide-2*H*-pyrroles A35 and results in the formation of single diastereomers with excellent enantioselectivity and good yields. The resulting 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolizines bear three contiguous stereogenic centers, making them highly valuable synthetic targets for developing new biologically active compounds.

In the presence of chiral C26, carbinols 78 can be successfully dehydrated to form chiral hydrogen-bonded 2-methide-1*H*-indoles, which subsequently react with various nucleophiles to produce both open-chain and annulated indole-based heterocycles. The intermediate 2-methide-2*H*-pyrroles A35 plays a vital role in the biosynthesis of porphyrines, myrmicarin alkaloids and (+)-roseophilin. However, their applications in synthetic chemistry have been restricted due to the instability of pyrrol-2-yl-carbinols and the high reactivity of the



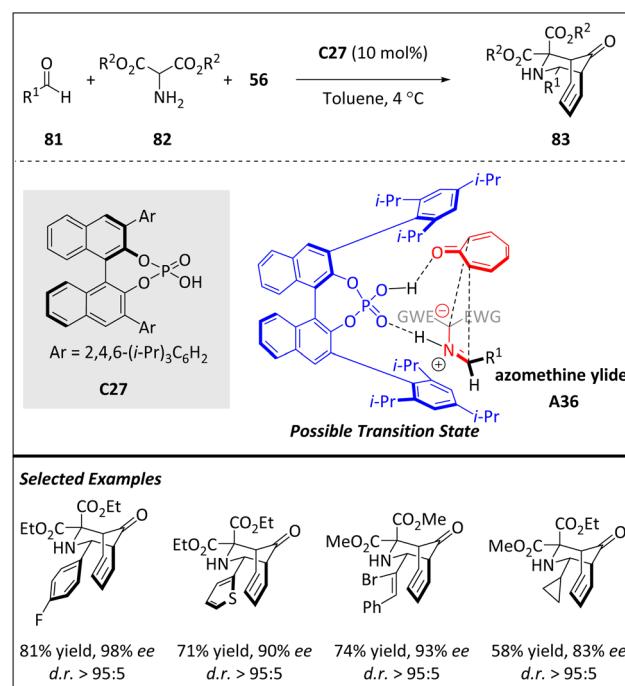
**Scheme 26** Enantioselective  $[6 + 2]$  cycloadditions catalyzed by phosphoric acid via 2-methide-2*H*-pyrroles.

pyrrole nucleus towards electrophilic attack. To address these challenges, the authors hypothesize that introducing an electron-withdrawing group at the C5 position of the pyrrole nucleus would effectively block this site and prevent oligomerization through electronic deactivation. By attenuating the reactivity of pyrrole, the full synthetic potential of 2-methide-2*H*-pyrroles can be realized.

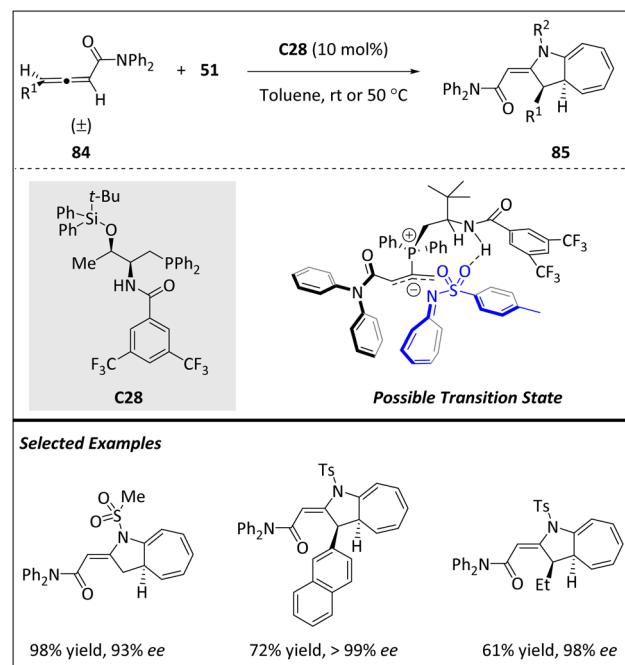
In the control experiment, no conversion is observed when subjected to the reaction with **78**, indicating the crucial role of the free N-H moiety for double hydrogen bonding as described previously. A plausible transition state is also proposed to explain the observed diastereo- and enantioselectivity (Scheme 26). In fact, the lower 3-aryl group in the BINOL backbone shields the bottom side of the **A36** effectively and the incoming dienophile is guided to the top face.

As mentioned above, the ability of tropone **56** to serve as a  $2\pi$ ,  $4\pi$ ,  $6\pi$ , or  $8\pi$  component makes it a fascinating and challenging cyclic polyene.<sup>96</sup> By reacting with 1,3-dipoles, a variety of fused or bridged polycycles can be prepared smoothly. Enantioselective transition metal catalysis has been reported to facilitate stereoselective 1,3-dipolar higher-order cycloadditions of tropone (or heptafulvene derivatives).<sup>97–102</sup> However, there is a noticeable lack of organocatalytic 1,3-dipolar higher-order cycloadditions of tropones in the literature. Using chiral phosphoric acids as catalysts for 1,3-dipolar cycloadditions of azomethine ylides **A36** with electron-deficient  $2\pi$  components provides a reliable protocol for the preparation of enantio-enriched pyrrolidines. In 2020, Jørgensen and coworkers reported the first example of chiral phosphoric acid (CPA)-catalyzed 1,3-dipolar [6 + 4] cycloaddition of **56** with **A36** (Scheme 27).<sup>103</sup> This approach relies on the distinctive reactivity of iminomalonate esters, which are obtained through the condensation of aldehydes **81** with 2-aminomalonates **82**. The desired dipoles **A36** are produced through a CPA-facilitated prototropic shift. The resulting structural motif forms the central core of bioactive *Lycopodium* and *Daphniphyllum* alkaloids. A proposed transition state explained the relative and absolute configuration of compound **83**. The CPA catalyst **C27** plays multiple roles in the reaction.

In 2020, Vicario and Manzano *et al.* reported a phosphine-catalyzed enantioselective [8 + 2] HOC reaction using racemic  $\gamma$ -substituted allenes **84** and azaheptafulvenes **51** (Scheme 28).<sup>104</sup> This reaction offers a direct and straightforward approach for synthesizing aza-azulenoid scaffolds. By optimizing the reaction conditions, a wide range of mono- and disubstituted cycloadducts with good yields and precise control over peri-, regio-, diastereo-, and enantioselectivity were successfully afforded. In contrast to previous reports regarding **84** as the C4-component, in this study, they demonstrated the exceptional role of these allenes as excellent  $2\pi$  components. The suggested mechanism entails a nucleophilic assault by catalyst **C28** on allenic amides **84**, leading to the generation of an intermediate known as an allyl phosphonium ylide. This intermediate undergoes a selective reaction guided by a three-dimensional distribution, facilitated by an H-bond association, ultimately determining the stereochemical outcome.



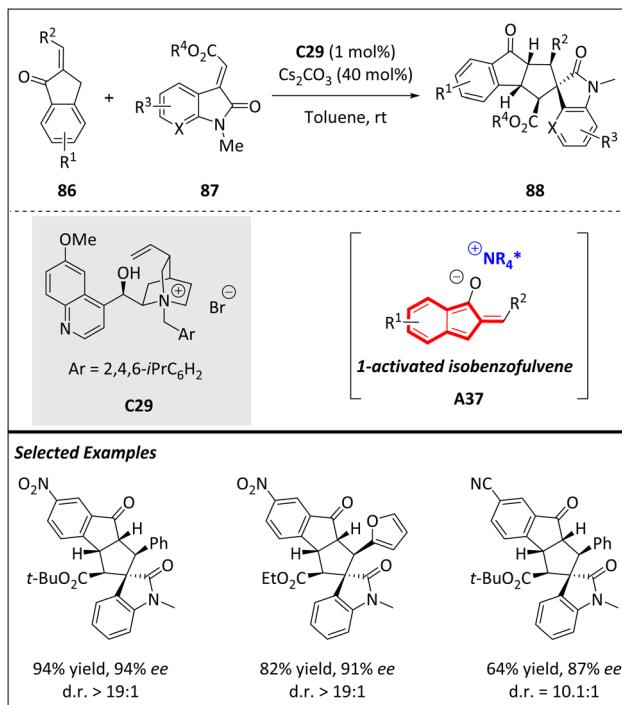
**Scheme 27** Enantioselective 1,3-dipolar [6 + 4] cycloadditions catalyzed by phosphoric acid.



**Scheme 28** Enantioselective [8 + 2] cycloadditions catalyzed by phosphine.

The Chen group has developed an asymmetric higher order [10 + 2] cycloaddition by employing 2-alkyl-1-indanones and electron-deficient alkenes (Scheme 29). Previously, 2-benzylidene-1-indanone could transform into a 1-hydroxyl isobenzofulvene anion intermediate, and subsequently carried out a [10 + 2]





**Scheme 29** Enantioselective  $[8 + 2]$  cycloadditions catalyzed by phosphine.

cycloaddition with alkenes. By introducing chiral phase-transfer catalysis, they successfully generated a novel 1-activated isobenzofulvene, enabling the realization of an asymmetric version of this transformation. The incorporation of various alkenes, such as **86**, 2-alkyl-*idene*-benzofuran-3(2*H*)-one, 2-alkyl-*idene*-1,3-dione, and  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketones, significantly enhanced the structural diversity and versatility of the resulting products.<sup>105</sup>

To address the challenges of diastereo- and enantioselectivity issues, a newly designed cinchona-based ammonium salt with a bulky substituent was disclosed. Surprisingly, this catalyst indicates high efficiency even at low loadings (1 mol%), even if the reactive site is physically distant from the chiral ion pair complex. This finding represents a rare instance of achieving asymmetric higher-order cycloaddition using an isobenzofulvene-based  $10\pi$  intermediate.

In a recent study, Zhao and Yuan along with their colleagues developed a dearomatic higher-order  $[10 + 2]$  cycloaddition of 2-alkylidene-1-indanones and 3-nitroindoles.<sup>106</sup> Utilizing benzyl triethyl ammonium chloride (TEBA) as the phase-transfer catalyst under basic conditions, a broad array of polycyclic cyclopenta[b]indoline derivatives were prepared under mild conditions, achieving excellent results (up to 99% yield and  $>20:1$  dr).

## 4. Summary and outlook

Higher order cycloadditions (HOCs) offer distinct advantages in the synthesis of complex molecules, particularly those with

medium size and multiple rings. The field of asymmetric HOC has witnessed significant progress since the influential exchange between Woodward and Hoffmann. In the last few decades, significant advancements have been made in the field of asymmetric HOC, particularly through the utilization of organocatalysis. These approaches have facilitated the control of peri- and enantioselectivity in the ring formation process. Diverse optically pure functional structures were smoothly prepared, showcasing attractive applications in synthetic chemistry and biological studies. This review highlights various activation strategies employed in constructing chiral skeletons in the presence of organocatalysts. However, novel activation modes, including radical-type cycloaddition<sup>107</sup> and transition metal/organocatalyst dual systems, have limited progress. Additionally, the control of axial, planar, spiro, and other forms of chirality through asymmetric HOCs remains very rare. In summary, there is ample room for future development in the field of asymmetric higher order cycloadditions. Advancements in this area would greatly enhance the value of precise control and efficient assembly in synthetic chemistry.

## Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

## Acknowledgements

Generous financial support for this work was provided by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (21871160, 21672121, and 22071130), the Bayer Investigator Fellowship, and the Fellowship of Tsinghua-Peking Center for Life Sciences (CLS).

## References

- 1 W. C. Herndon, Theory of Cycloaddition Reactions, *Chem. Rev.*, 1972, **72**, 157–179.
- 2 N. I. Jessen, D. McLeod and K. A. Jørgensen, Higher-Order Cycloadditions in the Age of Catalysis, *Chem.*, 2022, **8**, 20–30.
- 3 K. C. Nicolaou, S. A. Snyder, T. Montagnon and G. Vassilikogiannakis, The Diels–Alder Reaction in Total Synthesis, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2002, **41**, 1668–1698.
- 4 J.-A. Funel and S. Abele, Industrial Applications of the Diels–Alder Reaction, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2013, **52**, 3822–3863.
- 5 T. Hashimoto and K. Maruoka, Recent Advances of Catalytic Asymmetric 1,3-Dipolar Cycloadditions, *Chem. Rev.*, 2015, **115**, 5366–5412.
- 6 K. N. Houk, L. J. Luskus and N. S. Bhacca, Novel Double  $[6 + 4]$  Cycloaddition of Tropone to Dimethylfulvene, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1970, **92**, 6392–6394.
- 7 K. N. Houk and R. B. Woodward, Cycloaddition Reactions of Cycloheptatriene and 2,5-Dimethyl-3,4-



- Diphenylcyclopentadienone, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1970, **92**, 4143–4145.
- 8 S. Itô, Y. Fujise, T. Okuda and Y. Inoue, Reaction of Tropone with Cyclopentadiene, *Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.*, 1966, **39**, 1351–1351.
- 9 R. C. Cookson, B. V. Drake, J. Hudec and A. Morrison, The Adduct of Tropone and Cyclopentadiene: A New Type of Cyclic Reaction, *Chem. Commun.*, 1966, **1**, 15–16.
- 10 D. McLeod, M. K. Thøgersen, N. I. Jessen, K. A. Jørgensen, C. S. Jamieson, X.-S. Xue, K. N. Houk, F. Liu and R. Hoffmann, Expanding the Frontiers of Higher-Order Cycloadditions, *Acc. Chem. Res.*, 2019, **52**, 3488–3501.
- 11 W. Oppolzer, Regio- and Stereo-Selective Syntheses of Cyclic Natural Products by Intramolecular Cycloaddition- and Ene-Reactions, *Pure Appl. Chem.*, 1981, **53**, 1181–1201.
- 12 H. S. Ateeq, Higher-Order Cycloaddition Reactions in Natural Product Synthesis, *Pure Appl. Chem.*, 1994, **66**, 2029–2032.
- 13 S. M. Sieburth and N. T. Cunard, The [4 + 4] Cycloaddition and Its Strategic Application in Natural Product Synthesis, *Tetrahedron*, 1996, **52**, 6251–6282.
- 14 J. H. Rigby, N. C. Warshakoon and A. J. Payen, Studies on Chromium(0)-Promoted Higher-Order Cycloaddition-Based Benzannulation. Total Synthesis of (+)-Estradiol, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1999, **121**, 8237–8245.
- 15 B. Zhang, K. B. Wang, W. Wang, X. Wang, F. Liu, J. Zhu, J. Shi, L. Y. Li, H. Han, K. Xu, H. Y. Qiao, X. Zhang, R. H. Jiao, K. N. Houk, Y. Liang, R. X. Tan and H. M. Ge, Enzyme-Catalysed [6 + 4] Cycloadditions in the Biosynthesis of Natural Products, *Nature*, 2019, **568**, 122–126.
- 16 Y.-Y. Cao, Z. Wang, Z.-H. Wang, X.-G. Jiang and W.-H. Lu, Inhibition of miR-155 Alleviates Sepsis-Induced Inflammation and Intestinal Barrier Dysfunction by Inactivating NF-κB Signaling, *Int. Immunopharmacol.*, 2021, **90**, 107218.
- 17 X. Wang, D. Zhou, W. Zhou, J. Liu, Q. Xue, Y. Huang, C. Cheng, Y. Wang, J. Chang, P. Wang and C. Miao, Clematicininenoside AR Inhibits the Pathology of Rheumatoid Arthritis by Blocking the circPTN/miR-145-5p/FZD4 Signal Axis, *Int. Immunopharmacol.*, 2022, **113**, 109376.
- 18 W.-G. Chen, S.-S. Zhang, S. Pan, Z.-F. Wang, J.-Y. Xu, X.-H. Sheng, Q. Yin and Y.-J. Wu, α-Mangostin Treats Early-Stage Adjuvant-Induced Arthritis of Rat by Regulating the CAP-SIRT1 Pathway in Macrophages, *Drug Des. Dev. Ther.*, 2022, **16**, 509–520.
- 19 S.-P. Sun, Y.-Y. Du, Q. Sun, L.-J. He, E. Zhu and J.-R. Li, Oxidative Stress-Mediated Hepatotoxicity in Rats Induced by Ethanol Extracts of Different Parts of Chloranthus Serratus, *Pharm. Biol.*, 2020, **58**, 1286–1298.
- 20 G. Wang, H. Zhang, J. Sun, Y. Zhang, F. He and J. Zou, Cyclosporin A Impairs Neurogenesis and Cognitive Abilities in Brain Development via the IFN-γ-Shh-BDNF Pathway, *Int. Immunopharmacol.*, 2021, **96**, 107744.
- 21 Y. Jiang, W. Li, J. Wang and G.-G. Wang, Cardiac Dysfunction Is Attenuated by Ginkgolide B via Reducing Oxidative Stress and Fibrosis in Diabetic Rats, *Iran. J. Basic Med. Sci.*, 2020, **23**, 1078–1084.
- 22 Y. Li, M. Dai, L. Wang and G. Wang, Polysaccharides and Glycosides from Aralia Echinocaulis Protect Rats from Arthritis by Modulating the Gut Microbiota Composition, *J. Ethnopharmacol.*, 2021, **269**, 113749.
- 23 J. Chen, D. Cao, S. Jiang, X. Liu, W. Pan, H. Cui, W. Yang, Z. Liu, J. Jin and Z. Zhao, Triterpenoid Saponins from Ilex Pubescens Promote Blood Circulation in Blood Stasis Syndrome by Regulating Sphingolipid Metabolism and the PI3K/AKT/eNOS Signaling Pathway, *Phytomedicine*, 2022, **104**, 154242.
- 24 L. H. Zhou Hua and W. Haihua, Potential Protective Effects of the Water-Soluble Chinese Propolis on Experimental Ulcerative Colitis, *J. Tradit. Chin. Med.*, 2023, **43**, 925–933.
- 25 S. Wang, S. Gao, W. Ye, Y. Li, J. Luan and X. Lv, The Emerging Importance Role of m6A Modification in Liver Disease, *Biomed. Pharmacother.*, 2023, **162**, 114669.
- 26 H. W. Li Cheng, Z. Wang, H. Huang, D. Zhuo and J. Lin, Leflunomide Inhibits Proliferation and Induces Apoptosis via Suppressing Autophagy and PI3K/Akt Signaling Pathway in Human Bladder Cancer Cells, *Drug Des. Dev. Ther.*, 2020, **14**, 1897–1908.
- 27 Z.-S. Tao, T.-L. Li and S. Wei, Silymarin Prevents Iron Overload Induced Bone Loss by Inhibiting Oxidative Stress in an Ovariectomized Animal Model, *Chem.-Biol. Interact.*, 2022, **366**, 110168.
- 28 X. He, G. Liu, X. Chen, Y. Wang, R. Liu, C. Wang, Y. Huang, J. Shen and Y. Jia, Pharmacokinetic and Pharmacodynamic Interactions between Henagliiflozin, a Novel Selective SGLT-2 Inhibitor, and Warfarin in Healthy Chinese Subjects, *Clin. Ther.*, 2023, **45**, 655–661.
- 29 Y. Wang, H. Wu, Z. Han, H. Sheng, Y. Wu, Y. Wang, X. Guo, Y. Zhu, X. Li and Y. Wang, Guhong Injection Promotes Post-Stroke Functional Recovery via Attenuating Cortical Inflammation and Apoptosis in Subacute Stage of Ischemic Stroke, *Phytomedicine*, 2022, **99**, 154034.
- 30 L. Wang, P. Wang, D. Wang, M. Tao, W. Xu and O. J. Olatunji, Anti-Inflammatory Activities of Kukoamine A from the Root Bark of Lycium Chinense Miller, *Nat. Prod. Commun.*, 2020, **15**, 20912088.
- 31 L. Zang, H. Xu, C. Huang, C. Wang, R. Wang, Y. Chen, L. Wang and H. Wang, A Link between Chemical Structure and Biological Activity in Triterpenoids, *Recent Pat. Anticancer Drug Discov.*, 2022, **17**, 145–161.
- 32 Y. Li, H. Xu, H. Wang, K. Yang, J. Luan and S. Wang, TREM2: Potential Therapeutic Targeting of Microglia for Alzheimer's Disease, *Biomed. Pharmacother.*, 2023, **165**, 115218.
- 33 H. Hong, Q. Zou, Y. Liu, S. Wang, G. Shen and X. Yan, Supramolecular Nanodrugs Based on Covalent Assembly of Therapeutic Peptides toward in Vitro Synergistic Anticancer Therapy, *ChemMedChem*, 2021, **16**, 2381–2385.
- 34 A. Song, T. Ding, N. Wei, J. Yang, M. Ma, S. Zheng and H. Jin, Schisandrin B Induces HepG2 Cells Pyroptosis by



- Activating NK Cells Mediated Anti-Tumor Immunity, *Toxicol. Appl. Pharmacol.*, 2023, **472**, 116574.
- 35 Y. Huang, R. Liu, Y. Wang, G. Liu, C. Wang, X. Chen, Y. Jia and J. Shen, Evaluation of Pharmacokinetic Interactions between the New SGLT2 Inhibitor SHR3824 and Valsartan in Healthy Chinese Volunteers, *Clin. Ther.*, 2022, **44**, 945–956.
- 36 D. Ding, X. Shen, L. Yu, Y. Zheng, Y. Liu, W. Wang, L. Liu, Z. Zhao, S. Nian and L. Liu, Timosaponin BII Inhibits TGF- $\beta$  Mediated Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition through Smad-Dependent Pathway During Pulmonary Fibrosis, *Phytother. Res.*, 2023, **37**, 2787–2799.
- 37 J. Hao, J. Bei, Z. Li, M. Han, B. Ma, P. Ma and X. Zhou, Qing'E Pill Inhibits Osteoblast Ferroptosis via ATM Serine/Threonine Kinase (ATM) and the PI3K/AKT Pathway in Primary Osteoporosis, *Front. Pharmacol.*, 2022, **13**, 902102.
- 38 D. Wang, X. Li, G. Gong, Y. Lu, Z. Guo, R. Chen, H. Huang, Z. Li and J. Bian, An Updated Patent Review of Glutaminase Inhibitors (2019–2022), *Expert Opin. Ther. Pat.*, 2023, **33**, 17–28.
- 39 X. Wang, C. Shen, X. Wang, J. Tang, Z. Wu, Y. Huang, W. Shao, K. Geng, H. Xie and Z. Pu, Schisandrin Protects against Ulcerative Colitis by Inhibiting the SGK1/NLRP3 Signaling Pathway and Reshaping Gut Microbiota in Mice, *Chinese Med.*, 2023, **18**, 112.
- 40 Y.-Y. Chen, X.-Z. Wang, Q.-Y. Hu and L.Y. Zhou, Self-Emulsifying System Co-Loaded with Paclitaxel and Coix Seed Oil Deeply Penetrated to Enhance Efficacy in Cervical Cancer, *Curr. Drug Deliv.*, 2023, **20**, 919–926.
- 41 Z.-S. Tao, W.-S. Zhou, H.-G. Xu and M. Yang, Simvastatin Can Enhance the Osseointegration of Titanium Rods in Ovariectomized Rats Maintenance Treatment with Valproic Acid, *Biomed. Pharmacother.*, 2020, **132**, 110745.
- 42 T. Tang, S.-N. Wang, T.-Y. Cai, H. Tao, Q. Zhang, S.-M. Qi and Z.-L. Qi, Aloin Inhibits the Proliferation and Migration of Gastric Cancer Cells by Regulating NOX2-ROS-Mediated Pro-Survival Signal Pathways, *Drug Des. Dev. Ther.*, 2020, **14**, 145–155.
- 43 Y.-J. Xing, B.-H. Liu, S.-J. Wan, Y. Cheng, S.-M. Zhou, Y. Sun, X.-M. Yao, Q. Hua, X.-J. Meng, J.-H. Cheng, M. Zhong, Y. Zhang, K. Lv and X. Kong, A SGLT2 Inhibitor Dapagliflozin Alleviates Diabetic Cardiomyopathy by Suppressing High Glucose-Induced Oxidative Stress in vivo and in vitro, *Front. Pharmacol.*, 2021, **12**, 708177.
- 44 S. Sun, S. Li, Y. Du, C. Wu, M. Zhang, J. Li and X. Zhang, Anti-Inflammatory Effects of the Root, Stem and Leaf Extracts of Chloranthus Serratus on Adjuvant-Induced Arthritis in Rats, *Pharm. Biol.*, 2020, **58**, 528–537.
- 45 J. Zhang, W. Zhou, Y. Chen, Y. Wang, Z. Guo, W. Hu, Y. Li, X. Han and S. Si, Small Molecules Targeting Pin1 as Potent Anticancer Drugs, *Front. Pharmacol.*, 2023, **14**, 1073037.
- 46 H. Hong, Q. Zou, Y. Liu, S. Wang, G. Shen and X. Yan, Supramolecular Nanodrugs Based on Covalent Assembly of Therapeutic Peptides toward in vitro Synergistic Anticancer Therapy, *ChemMedChem*, 2021, **16**, 2381–2385.
- 47 S. Zhao, L. Ma, Z. Chu, H. Xu, W. Wu and F. Liu, Regulation of Microglial Activation in Stroke, *Acta Pharm. Sin.*, 2017, **38**, 445–458.
- 48 X.-F. Wang, W. Lei, C.-M. Liu, J. Yang and Y.-H. Zhu, BOLA3 is a Prognostic-Related Biomarker and Correlated with Immune Infiltrates in Lung Adenocarcinoma, *Int. Immunopharmacol.*, 2022, **107**, 108652.
- 49 J. Liu, X. Zhao, F. Qin, J. Zhou, F. Ding, G. Zhou, X. Zhang, Z. Zhang and Z. Li, Isoliquiritigenin Mitigates Oxidative Damage after Ssubarachnoid Hemorrhage in vivo and in vitro by Regulating Nrf2-Dependent Signaling Pathway via Targeting of SIRT1, *Phytomedicine*, 2022, **105**, 154262.
- 50 X. Wang, X. Wang, H. Yao, C. Shen, K. Geng and H. Xie, A Comprehensive Review on Schisandrin and Its Pharmacological Features, *Naunyn-Schmiedeberg's Arch. Pharmacol.*, 2024, **397**, 783–794.
- 51 L. Zha, L. Pan, J. Guo, N. French, E.V. Villanueva and B. Tefsen, Effectiveness and Safety of High Dose Tigecycline for the Treatment of Severe Infections: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis, *Adv. Ther.*, 2020, **37**, 1049–1064.
- 52 W. Zhou, K. Yang, J. Zeng, X. Lai, X. Wang, C. Ji, Y. Li, P. Zhang and S. Li, FordNet: Recommending Traditional Chinese Medicine Formula via Deep Neural Network Integrating Phenotype and Molecule, *Pharmacol. Res.*, 2021, **173**, 105752.
- 53 D. Liang, J. Shen, Y. Jia, M. Dai, X. Li, L. Zhou, W. Wang, B. Yang, J. Shao, Y. Jiang, H. Xie and H. Sun, Pharmacokinetic Properties of S-oxiracetam after Single and Multiple Intravenous Infusions in Healthy Volunteers, *Eur. J. Drug Metab. Pharmacokinet.*, 2021, **46**, 793–805.
- 54 Y. Chen, S. Wang, Q. Hu and L. Zhou, Self-Emulsifying System Co-Loaded with Paclitaxel and Coix Seed Oil Deeply Penetrated to Enhance Efficacy in Cervical Cancer, *Curr. Drug Deliv.*, 2023, **20**, 919–926.
- 55 H. Wang, Y. Chen, L. Wang, Q. Liu, S. Yang and C. Wang, Advancing Herbal Medicine: Enhancing Product Quality and Safety through Robust Quality Control Practices, *Front. Pharmacol.*, 2023, **14**, 1265178.
- 56 T. A. Palazzo, R. Mose and K. A. Jørgensen, Cycloaddition Reactions: Why Is It So Challenging to Move from Six to Ten Electrons?, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2017, **56**, 10033–10038.
- 57 J. H. Rigby and M. Fleming, Construction of the Ingenane Core Using an Fe(III) or Ti(IV) Lewis Acid-Catalyzed Intramolecular [6 + 4] Cycloaddition, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 2002, **43**, 8643–8646.
- 58 M. Xie, X. Liu, X. Wu, Y. Cai, L. Lin and X. Feng, Catalytic Asymmetric [8 + 2] Cycloaddition: Synthesis of Cycloheptatriene-Fused Pyrrole Derivatives, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2013, **52**, 5604–5607.
- 59 Y. Hayashi, H. Gotoh, M. Honma, K. Sankar, I. Kumar, H. Ishikawa, K. Konno, H. Yui, S. Tsuzuki and T. Uchimaru, Organocatalytic, Enantioselective



- Intramolecular [6 + 2] Cycloaddition Reaction for the Formation of Tricyclopentanoids and Insight on Its Mechanism from a Computational Study, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2011, **133**, 20175–20185.
- 60 P. Yu, C. Q. He, A. Simon, W. Li, R. Mose, M. K. Thøgersen, K. A. Jørgensen and K. N. Houk, Organocatalytic [6 + 4] Cycloadditions Via Zwitterionic Intermediates: Chemo-, Regio-, and Stereoselectivities, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2018, **140**, 13726–13735.
- 61 Z. Zhou, Z.-X. Wang, Y.-C. Zhou, W. Xiao, Q. Ouyang, W. Du and Y.-C. Chen, Switchable Regioselectivity in Amine-Catalysed Asymmetric Cycloadditions, *Nat. Chem.*, 2017, **9**, 590–594.
- 62 L. Dell'Amico, G. Rassu, V. Zambrano, A. Sartori, C. Curti, L. Battistini, G. Pelosi, G. Casiraghi and F. Zanardi, Exploring the Vinylogous Reactivity of Cyclohexenylidene Malononitriles: Switchable Regioselectivity in the Organocatalytic Asymmetric Addition to Enals Giving Highly Enantioenriched Carbabicyclic Structures, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2014, **136**, 11107–11114.
- 63 C. Guo, B. Sahoo, C. G. Daniliuc and F. Glorius, N-Heterocyclic Carbene Catalyzed Switchable Reactions of Enals with Azoalkenes: Formal [4 + 3] and [4 + 1] Annulations for the Synthesis of 1,2-Diazepines and Pyrazoles, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2014, **136**, 17402–17405.
- 64 C. Guo, M. Fleige, D. Janssen-Müller, C. G. Daniliuc and F. Glorius, Switchable Selectivity in an NHC-Catalysed Dearomatizing Annulation Reaction, *Nat. Chem.*, 2015, **7**, 842–847.
- 65 R. Mose, G. Preegel, J. Larsen, S. Jakobsen, E. H. Iversen and K. A. Jørgensen, Organocatalytic Stereoselective [8 + 2] and [6 + 4] Cycloadditions, *Nat. Chem.*, 2017, **9**, 487–492.
- 66 N. F. Firrell and P. W. Hickmott, Enamine Chemistry. Part VI. Structure and Proton Magnetic Resonance Spectra of Dienamines, *J. Chem. Soc. B*, 1969, 293–298, DOI: [10.1039/j29690000293](https://doi.org/10.1039/j29690000293).
- 67 G. Bertuzzi, M. K. Thøgersen, M. Giardinetti, A. Vidal-Albalat, A. Simon, K. N. Houk and K. A. Jørgensen, Catalytic Enantioselective Hetero-[6 + 4] and -[6 + 2] Cycloadditions for the Construction of Condensed Polycyclic Pyrroles, Imidazoles, and Pyrazoles, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2019, **141**, 3288–3297.
- 68 D. McLeod, A. Cherubini-Celli, N. Sivasothirajah, C. H. McCulley, M. L. Christensen and K. A. Jørgensen, Enantioselective 1,3-Dipolar [6 + 4] Cycloaddition of Pyrylium Ions and Fulvenes Towards Cyclooctanoids, *Chem. – Eur. J.*, 2020, **26**, 11417–11422.
- 69 B. S. Donslund, A. Monleón, T. A. Palazzo, M. L. Christensen, A. Dahlgaard, J. D. Erickson and K. A. Jørgensen, Organocatalytic Enantioselective Higher-Order Cycloadditions of in Situ Generated Amino Isobenzofulvenes, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2018, **57**, 1246–1250.
- 70 K. Hafner and W. Bauer, Isobenzofulvenes, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.*, 1968, **7**, 297–299.
- 71 B. S. Donslund, N. I. Jessen, G. Bertuzzi, M. Giardinetti, T. A. Palazzo, M. L. Christensen and K. A. Jørgensen, Catalytic Enantioselective [10 + 4] Cycloadditions, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2018, **57**, 13182–13186.
- 72 J. Zhao, X. Zheng, Y.-S. Gao, J. Mao, S.-X. Wu, W.-L. Yang, X. Luo and W.-P. Deng, Organocatalytic Enantioselective [8 + 4] Cycloadditions of Isobenzofulvenes for the Construction of Bicyclo[4.2.1]Nonanes, *Chin. J. Chem.*, 2021, **39**, 3219–3224.
- 73 D. McLeod, J. A. Izzo, D. K. B. Jørgensen, R. F. Lauridsen and K. A. Jørgensen, Development and Investigation of an Organocatalytic Enantioselective [10 + 2] Cycloaddition, *ACS Catal.*, 2020, **10**, 10784–10793.
- 74 N. I. Jessen, G. Bertuzzi, M. Bura, M. L. Skipper and K. A. Jørgensen, Enantioselective Construction of the Cycl [3.2.2]Aazine Core via Organocatalytic [12 + 2] Cycloadditions, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2021, **143**, 6140–6151.
- 75 G. Bertuzzi, V. Corti, J. A. Izzo, S. Ričko, N. I. Jessen and K. A. Jørgensen, Organocatalytic Enantioselective Construction of Conformationally Stable C(Sp<sub>2</sub>)-C(Sp<sub>3</sub>) Atropisomers, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2022, **144**, 1056–1065.
- 76 S. Frankowski, A. Skrzynska and Ł. Albrecht, Inverting the Reactivity of Troponoid Systems in Enantioselective Higher-Order Cycloaddition, *Chem. Commun.*, 2019, **55**, 11675–11678.
- 77 N. I. Jessen, M. Bura, G. Bertuzzi and K. A. Jørgensen, Aminocatalytic [8 + 2] Cycloaddition Reactions toward Chiral Cyclazines, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2021, **60**, 18527–18531.
- 78 G. Yang, Z. Li, Y. Liu, D. Guo, X. Sheng and J. Wang, Organocatalytic Higher-Order [8 + 2] Cycloaddition for the Assembly of Atropoenantiomeric 3-Arylindolizines, *Org. Lett.*, 2021, **23**, 8109–8113.
- 79 S. Wang, C. Rodríguez-Escrich and M. A. Pericàs, Catalytic Asymmetric [8 + 2] Annulation Reactions Promoted by a Recyclable Immobilized Isothiourea, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2017, **56**, 15068–15072.
- 80 C. He, Z. Li, H. Zhou and J. Xu, Stereoselective [8 + 2] Cycloaddition Reaction of Azaheptafulvenes with  $\alpha$ -Chloro Aldehydes via N-Heterocyclic Carbene Catalysis, *Org. Lett.*, 2019, **21**, 8022–8026.
- 81 S. Wang, C. Rodríguez-Escrich, M. Fianchini, F. Maseras and M. A. Pericàs, Diastereodivergent Enantioselective [8 + 2] Annulation of Tropones and Enals Catalyzed by N-Heterocyclic Carbenes, *Org. Lett.*, 2019, **21**, 3187–3192.
- 82 X. Yang, G. Luo, L. Zhou, B. Liu, X. Zhang, H. Gao, Z. Jin and Y. R. Chi, Enantioselective Indole N-H Functionalization Enabled by Addition of Carbene Catalyst to Indole Aldehyde at Remote Site, *ACS Catal.*, 2019, **9**, 10971–10976.
- 83 L. Zhang and Y. Wang, NHC-Catalyzed NH Functionalization/Cycloaddition Reaction of Indole Aldehyde and Ketone: A Dft Perspective, *Comput. Theor. Chem.*, 2023, **1220**, 114007.
- 84 Y. Liu, G. Luo, X. Yang, S. Jiang, W. Xue, Y. R. Chi and Z. Jin, Carbene-Catalyzed Enantioselective Aromatic N-Nucleophilic Addition of Heteroarenes to Ketones, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2020, **59**, 442–448.



- 85 C. Wang, Z. Li, J. Zhang and X.-P. Hui, Asymmetric N-Alkylation of Indoles with Isatins Catalyzed by N-Heterocyclic Carbene: Efficient Synthesis of Functionalized Cyclic N,O-Aminal Indole Derivatives, *Org. Chem. Front.*, 2020, **7**, 1647–1652.
- 86 Q. Peng, S. J. Li, B. Zhang, D. Guo, Y. Lan and J. Wang, N-Heterocyclic Carbene-Catalyzed Enantioselective Hetero-[10 + 2] Annulation, *Commun. Chem.*, 2020, **3**, 177.
- 87 K. Balanna, K. Madica, S. Mukherjee, A. Ghosh, T. Poisson, T. Basset, G. Jindal and A. T. Biju, N-Heterocyclic Carbene-Catalyzed Formal [6 + 2] Annulation Reaction via Cross-Conjugated Aza-Trienoate Intermediates, *Chem. – Eur. J.*, 2020, **26**, 818–822.
- 88 X. Yang, Y. Xie, J. Xu, S. Ren, B. Mondal, L. Zhou, W. Tian, X. Zhang, L. Hao, Z. Jin and Y. R. Chi, Carbene-Catalyzed Activation of Remote Nitrogen Atoms of (Benz)Imidazole-Derived Aldimines for Enantioselective Synthesis of Heterocycles, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2021, **60**, 7906–7912.
- 89 X. Chen, S. Yang, B.-A. Song and Y. R. Chi, Functionalization of Benzylic C(Sp<sup>3</sup>)-H Bonds of Heteroaryl Aldehydes through N-Heterocyclic Carbene Organocatalysis, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2013, **52**, 11134–11137.
- 90 D. Janssen-Müller, S. Singha, T. Olyschläger, C. G. Daniliuc and F. Glorius, Annulation of o-Quinodimethanes through N-Heterocyclic Carbene Catalysis for the Synthesis of 1-Isochromanones, *Org. Lett.*, 2016, **18**, 4444–4447.
- 91 X. Chen, H. Wang, K. Doitomi, C. Y. Ooi, P. Zheng, W. Liu, H. Guo, S. Yang, B.-A. Song, H. Hirao and Y. R. Chi, A Reaction Mode of Carbene-Catalysed Aryl Aldehyde Activation and Induced Phenol OH Functionalization, *Nat. Commun.*, 2017, **8**, 15598.
- 92 A. Lee, J. L. Zhu, T. Feoktistova, A. C. Brueckner, P. H. Y. Cheong and K. A. Scheidt, Carbene-Catalyzed Enantioselective Decarboxylative Annulations to Access Dihydrobenzoxazinones and Quinolones, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2019, **58**, 5941–5945.
- 93 H. Ji, C. Mou, J. Zou, Y. Liu, S.-C. Ren and Y. R. Chi, NHC-Catalyzed [12 + 2] Reaction of Polycyclic Arylaldehydes for Access to Indole Derivatives, *Chem. Commun.*, 2023, **59**, 6351–6354.
- 94 Z.-Z. Gao, C. Wang, L.-J. Zhou, C.-H. Yuan, Y.-M. Xiao and H.-C. Guo, Allenoates and Its Asymmetric Variant: Construction of Bicyclo[5.3.0]decane Scaffold, *Org. Lett.*, 2018, **20**, 4302–4305.
- 95 I. Kallweit and C. Schneider, Brønsted Acid Catalyzed [6 + 2]-Cycloaddition of 2-Vinyliindoles with in Situ Generated 2-Methide-2H-Pyrroles: Direct, Catalytic, and Enantioselective Synthesis of 2,3-Dihydro-1H-Pyrrolizines, *Org. Lett.*, 2019, **21**, 519–523.
- 96 V. Nair and K. G. Abhilash, [8 + 2] Cycloaddition Reactions in Organic Synthesis, *Synlett*, 2008, 301–312.
- 97 B. M. Trost, P. J. McDougall, O. Hartmann and P. T. Wathen, Asymmetric Synthesis of Bicyclo[4.3.1]Decadienes and Bicyclo[3.3.2]Decadienes via [6 + 3] Trimethylenemethane Cycloaddition with Tropones, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2008, **130**, 14960–14961.
- 98 B. M. Trost and P. J. McDougall, Access to a Welwitindolinone Core Using Sequential Cycloadditions, *Org. Lett.*, 2009, **11**, 3782–3785.
- 99 R. Tejero, A. Ponce, J. Adrio and J. C. Carretero, Ni-Catalyzed [8 + 3] Cycloaddition of Tropones with 1,1-Cyclopropanediesters, *Chem. Commun.*, 2013, **49**, 10406–10408.
- 100 H. Liu, Y. Wu, Y. Zhao, Z. Li, L. Zhang, W. Yang, H. Jiang, C. Jing, H. Yu, B. Wang, Y. Xiao and H. Guo, Metal-Catalyzed [6 + 3] Cycloaddition of Tropone with Azomethine Ylides: A Practical Access to Piperidine-Fused Bicyclic Heterocycles, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2014, **136**, 2625–2629.
- 101 H.-L. Teng, L. Yao and C.-J. Wang, Cu(I)-Catalyzed Regio- and Stereoselective [6 + 3] Cycloaddition of Azomethine Ylides with Tropone: An Efficient Asymmetric Access to Bridged Azabicyclo[4.3.1]Decadienes, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2014, **136**, 4075–4080.
- 102 J. Zhang, W. Xiao, H. Hu, L. Lin, X. Liu and X. Feng, Catalytic Asymmetric [8 + 3] Annulation Reactions of Tropones or Azaheptafulvenes with Meso-Aziridines, *Chem. – Eur. J.*, 2018, **24**, 13428–13431.
- 103 G. Bertuzzi, D. McLeod, L.-M. Mohr and K. A. Jørgensen, Organocatalytic Enantioselective 1,3-Dipolar [6 + 4] Cycloadditions of Tropone, *Chem. – Eur. J.*, 2020, **26**, 15491–15496.
- 104 R. Manzano, A. Romaniega, L. Prieto, E. Díaz, E. Reyes, U. Uria, L. Carrillo and J. L. Vicario,  $\gamma$ -Substituted Allenic Amides in the Phosphine-Catalyzed Enantioselective Higher Order Cycloaddition with Azaheptafulvenes, *Org. Lett.*, 2020, **22**, 4721–4725.
- 105 Y. Yang, Y. Jiang, W. Du and Y.-C. Chen, Asymmetric Cross [10 + 2] Cycloadditions of 2-Alkylidene-1-Indanones and Activated Alkenes under Phase-Transfer Catalysis, *Chem. – Eur. J.*, 2020, **26**, 1754–1758.
- 106 J.-Q. Zhao, S. Zhou, H.-L. Qian, Z.-H. Wang, Y.-P. Zhang, Y. You and W.-C. Yuan, Higher-Order [10 + 2] Cycloaddition of 2-Alkylidene-1-Indanones Enables the Dearomatization of 3-Nitroindoles: Access to Polycyclic Cyclopenta[b]Indoline Derivatives, *Org. Chem. Front.*, 2022, **9**, 3322–3327.
- 107 X.-C. Yu, C.-C. Zhang, L.-T. Wang, J.-Z. Li, T. Li and W.-T. Wei, The Synthesis of Seven- and Eight-Membered Rings by Radical Strategies, *Org. Chem. Front.*, 2022, **9**, 4757–4781.

