Novel conversions of a multifunctional, bio-sourced lactone carboxylic acid

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Dedicated to Professor Samir Zard in recognition of his many important contributions to organic chemistry.

Abstract

The plant-derived compounds furfuryl alcohol and itaconic anhydride are known to undergo a Diels-Alder reaction at room temperature and in bulk to efficiently give an alkene-containing lactone carboxylic acid. Reported here is the conversion of this substance to a variety of derivatives via hydrogenation, epoxidation, or halolactonization reactions. Most notable is the formation of a set of three related acrylate or methacrylate esters (see graphical abstract) produced by direct acylative ring opening of ether bonds using Sc(OTf)₃ and (meth)acrylic anhydride. These esters are viewed as promising candidates for use as biorenewable monomers in reversible addition-fragmentation chain transfer (RAFT) polymerization reactions.

Keywords: Lactone-containing acrylates/methacrylates, bio-sourced monomers, scaffolds
**Introduction**

Professor Samir Zard's impressive pioneering advances in and contributions to numerous aspects of radical chemistry (among other subjects) are renowned. Perhaps at the top of the Zard team's accomplishments are his and his coworkers' insightful contributions\(^1,2\) to the underpinnings\(^3,4\) of reversible addition-fragmentation chain transfer (RAFT) polymerization. By now, many classes of polymers can be produced using this extremely important and practical technology.\(^5-7\) Among the first examples of very effective RAFT monomers\(^1-4\) were acrylate and methacrylate esters, a class of monomers still widely used.

Efforts to produce useful polymers derived from monomers that can be readily accessed from, plant-based (ergo, renewable) substances abound.\(^8-11\) With an eye toward developing an efficient method for achieving novel bio-sourced monomers, we previously reported a method for the efficient production of the lactone acid 1 (Figure 1).\(^12,13\) Researchers at York University, carrying out concurrent independent studies, made a similar discovery.\(^14\) The process involves merely mixing furfuryl alcohol (2; sourced, e.g., from hemicelluloses) with itaconic anhydride (3; sourced, e.g., from starches) in the absence of solvent at ambient temperature. We determined that the metastable intermediates produced by a number of competing, yet reversible, Diels-Alder (DA) cycloadditions (giving the four isomeric 1:1 DA adducts 4) were driven thermodynamically to the predominant product 1 in 94% yield by its selective intramolecular anhydride ring-opening and crystallization within the bulk mixture. The strained alkene in 1, as well as in some of its derived esters and amides, has been shown to be a monomer amenable to ring-opening metathesis polymerization (ROMP).\(^12,14-16\)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{HO} & \quad \text{3} \\
\text{CO}_2\text{H} & \quad \text{1 (94\% yield)} \\
\text{CO}_2\text{H} & \quad \text{12,13}
\end{align*}
\]

**Figure 1.** The known Diels-Alder reaction of a neat mixture of itaconic anhydride (3) and furfuryl alcohol (2) at room temperature\(^12-14\) proceeds by reversible formation of the four isomeric anhydrides 4a-d, one of which selectively lactonizes to produce the crystalline lactone acid 1.\(^12,13\)
Results and Discussion

We first explored Bronsted acid-catalyzed reactions of 1 (Figure 2a). Treatment with 50 mol % of triflic acid in refluxing chloroform for 30 minutes gave rise to a mixture of the dilactone 5 and isocromanone (6). This reaction was always accompanied by formation of a considerable amount of a dark-colored resinous substance suggestive of highly conjugated oligomeric material. In contrast, purified 5 could be further (and quite cleanly) converted into 6 under the same conditions with very little darkening of the reaction mixture. Generation of 5 can be rationalized in straightforward fashion by the acid-catalyzed ring-opening of the strained allylic ether in 1 (cf. 7a) followed by dehydration of the resulting allylic alcohol 7b. The further conversion of dilactone 5 to 6 is more unusual; the elements of CO₂ are lost in the process. This can be rationalized by the acid-catalyzed opening of the protonated lactone 7c to the pentadienyl cation 7d, which can then fragment to the acylium ion 7e in an event driven by the aromatization of the benzene ring. Loss of carbon dioxide and the proton furnishes isocromanone (6).

We attempted, unsuccessfully, to achieve ring-opening transesterification polymerization (ROTEP) of 6. This is consistent with the thermodynamic reluctance of 6 to undergo methanolysis in 2 vol % methanolic chloroform, a proxy we recently reported for evaluating the suitability of any lactone to function as a ROTE monomer.¹⁷ Only 6.5% of the methyl ester 8 was formed at equilibrium; for comparison, γ-butyrolactone (another reluctant ROTE monomer) and δ-valerolactone (a competent ROTE monomer) produced their corresponding methyl esters to the extent of 18.7% and 86.8%, respectively, in the same assay.¹⁷ (Notably, radical ring-opening polymerization of the thionolactone analog of 6 was recently reported.¹⁸)

**Figure 2.** (a) Triflic acid-catalyzed conversion of 1 to a mixture of the dilactone-diene 5 and isocromanone 6 via the proposed sequence proceeding through intermediates 7a-e. (b) Triflic acid-catalyzed conversion of the dihydro derivative of 1, the saturated lactone acid 9, leads to a mixture of the two monoenes 10a and 10b.
The alkene in 1 could be smoothly hydrogenated to the saturated derivative 9 (Figure 2b); no evidence of hydrogenolysis of an allylic C–O bond was seen. Triflic acid treatment of 9 also led to formation of a dilactone followed by dehydration to produce the isomeric alkenes 10a and 10b in an equilibrium ratio of ca. 1:1. As anticipated, the rate of the ring-opening reaction of the saturated bicyclic ether 9 was considerably slower (in situ 1H NMR) than that of the allylic analog 1.

We next explored reactions of the alkene 1 with electrophilic reagents (Figure 3). Predictably, epoxidation using peracetic acid led to efficient formation of the exo-epoxide 11. We initially used in situ generated performic acid at 60 °C to effect this epoxidation, but on one occasion we observed a strong exotherm. We do not recommend use of this unstable reagent if alternative epoxidation reagents will suffice.

We also carried out the halolactonization reactions of the alkene acid 1 using NBS or NIS in acetone. In the first case, the major product was the bromovalerolactone derivative 12a, accompanied by a small amount of the (largely coeluting) seven-membered lactone 12b. These were present in a 6:1 ratio in the crude product mixture (1H NMR). Use of NIS gave 13a the iodo analog of 12a; the seven-membered isomer was not definitively identified.

![Figure 3](image)

**Figure 3.** (a) Epoxidation of 1 with peracetic acid at room temperature. (b) Halolactonizations of 1 with NBS or NIS in acetone at room temperature.

With an eye toward converting this core skeleton into an (meth)acrylate ester, we wondered whether some of the carboxylic acids 1, 9, or 11 could be transformed by an acid-catalyzed process into an isomeric dilactone alcohol by intramolecular ring-opening of a suitably reactive, cyclic, C–O ether bond by the pendant carboxylic acid (cf. 1 to 7b or the analogous ring-opening of 9 enroute to 10a/b). The hydroxyl group in the alcohol product would then be available for (meth)acrylation.

For 1 it was necessary, of course, to identify conditions milder than those described in Figure 1a in which the now-desired intermediate 7b was further transformed. We found that scandium triflate served as a very good catalyst for this purpose. Treating 1 with 10 mol % Sc(OTf)₃ in acetonitrile, which provided a homogeneous reaction mixture from the outset, at 70 °C for 5 hours provided the product 7b in 49% yield. The saturated analog 9 could be rearranged under the same conditions to give the dilactone alcohol 14 in 80% yield (Figure 4a). The more labile epoxide substrate 11 was quickly opened to the six-membered lactone alcohol 15 at room temperature (Figure 4c). The use of BF₃•OEt₂ resulted in an essentially identical yield of 18c, but other than that we did perform any further screening of catalysts. All of these lactonizations can be rationalized by acid activation of the ether bond with concomitant participation by the carboxylic acid. This could be
achieved by direct activation of the ether oxygen by the Lewis acidic Sc(III) species or by the proton from a Lewis acid-activated Bronsted acid [RO(H)•Sc(III)], as depicted in the intermediate structures in Figure 4d.

![Figure 4](image_url)

**Figure 4.** Scandium triflate catalyzed ring-opening to dilactone alcohols via cleavage of strained cyclic ether bonds in (a) the alkene 1, (b) the alkane 9, and (c) the epoxide 11. (d) Depiction of two possibilities for the key step in a likely mechanism for the Sc(III)-catalyzed conversion of, for example, 11 to 15.

Although we presumed it would be a straightforward matter to esterify these three alcohols with methacrylic or acrylic anhydride or chloride, these experiments were rendered unnecessary because of the reaction shown in Figure 5a. Namely, a mixture of the alkene acid 1 and methacrylic anhydride in acetonitrile was treated with, again, 10 mol % Sc(OTf)₃. Pleasingly, the methacrylate ester 16b was smoothly formed in this telescoped, one-pot, net acylative ring-opening reaction. Not surprisingly, acrylic anhydride proceeded analogously to give the acrylate ester 16a. Furthermore, both of the substrates 9 and 11 underwent analogous processes, leading to 17a or 17b and 18a or 18b. Not surprisingly, acetate esters (from Ac₂O) were directly produced from all three of the ethers 1, 9, and 11. Finally, the benzoate (from BzCl) and pivalate esters (from PivCl) esters 17d and 17e were smoothly formed from the alkane acid 9 (the only ether we examined).
Finally, we addressed the question of whether the alcohol products in Figure 4 were intermediates in the formation of the esters in the reactions shown in Figure 5. This meant evaluating the relative rates of the two different classes of ring-opening: namely, the isomerization to the alcohol \( k_{\text{alcohol}} \) vs. the acylative opening to give the esters \( k_{\text{ester}} \). We did this for several of the reactions using in situ NMR monitoring. A solution of the ether-containing substrate in CD\(_3\)CN was split into two portions into separate NMR sample tubes. The anhydride acylating agent was added to one of the two. Finally, an equal volume of a stock solution of Sc(OTf)\(_3\) in CD\(_3\)CN was added to each tube. Using this protocol for reaction mixture preparation ensured that both of the reaction mixtures were subjected to essentially the same conditions (e.g., trace water in the acetonitrile). Reaction progress was then periodically monitored over time by in situ NMR spectroscopy.

One example of (a portion of) the data collected from this kind of study is shown in Figure 6. This is for the reaction of the epoxide acid 11 without and with acetic anhydride (2 equiv) to give either the alcohol 15 or the acetate ester 18c. After 30 minutes (panel a) and 7 hours (panel b) at ambient temperature, in the absence of the anhydride the reaction had proceeded to the alcohol 15 to the extent of 16% and 50% conversions, respectively. In contrast, in the presence of the Ac\(_2\)O, after only 30 minutes the reaction had proceeded to form the acetate ester 18c to 85% conversion (not shown) and after 7 h >99% conversion (panel c, the observable minor resonances are attributable to a mixed anhydride of 11). These types of experiments strongly suggest that the electrophilic Sc(III)-activated anhydride is more effective at promoting the ring opening compared to Sc(III) alone. Similar observations were made with the substrates 1 and 9 as well.
Figure 6. $^1$H NMR spectra for reactions of epoxide 11 with Sc(OTf)$_3$ (10 mol %) in CD$_3$CN at room temperature with no added Ac$_2$O after (a) 30 minutes and (b) 7 hours or (c) with added Ac$_2$O (2 equiv) after 7 hours.

Conclusions

A variety of transformations of the readily available lactone acid 1 are reported. These lead to interesting scaffolds with different arrays of functional groups. Most notably, the acrylate or methacrylate esters 16a and 16b are available in two steps from furfuryl alcohol and itaconic anhydride. The (meth)acrylates 17a/b and 18a/b are efficiently available in three steps from the same commodity chemicals. We are now beginning studies to explore RAFT polymerizations of these (meth)acrylate monomers.

Experimental Section

General Experimental Protocols:
Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra ($^1$H and $^{13}$C) were recorded on a Bruker HD-500 spectrometer. $^1$H chemical shifts in CDCl$_3$ samples are referenced to TMS ($\delta$ 0.00), in acetone-$d_6$ samples to residual solvent protons at 2.05, DMSO-$d_6$ to residual solvent protons at 2.50, and in CD$_3$CN to residual solvent protons at 1.94. Data are reported using the following format: chemical shift (ppm) [multiplicity, coupling constant(s) (in Hz),
integral (to the nearest whole integer), and assignment of the proton). Coupling constant values have been deduced using protocols previously described.\textsuperscript{21,22} Non-first order multiplets in a $^1$H NMR spectrum are designated by 'nfom'. Non-first order doublets in a $^1$H NMR spectrum (e.g., present in a 1,4-disubstitutedbenzene ring) are designated by 'nfod' and the apparent doublet coupling constant (actually, e.g., $J_{2,3} + J_{2,3}'$) is indicated as $J_{\text{app}}$. $^{13}$C$[^1]$H NMR chemical shifts are referenced to the carbon atom in CDCl$_3$ to 77.16 ppm, in acetone-$d_6$ to 29.8 ppm, and in DMSO-$d_6$ to 39.5 ppm. Where assigned, carbon chemical shifts were deduced from analysis of HSQC and/or HMBC data.

**Infrared (IR) spectral data** were collected on a Bruker spectrometer (model Alpha II). Samples were deposited as films on a diamond window (solids by evaporation from DCM; liquids by direct application) in the mode of attenuated total reflectance (ATR). Peaks are reported in cm$^{-1}$.

**High-resolution mass spectrometry** (HRMS) measurements were made using ESI ionization with a Thermo instrument (model Orbitrap Velos, which has a mass accuracy of ≤3). An external calibrant (Pierce\textsuperscript{TM} LTQ) was used. Samples were injected directly into the ion source.

**Medium pressure liquid chromatography** (MPLC) was used to purify products. Silica gel (normal-phase, 20-40 μm, 60 Å pore size, Teledyne RediSep Rf Gold\textsuperscript{1}) columns were hand-packed into Michel-Miller\textsuperscript{*} glass columns. The equipment used consisted of a Waters HPLC pump (model 510) and a Waters (R401) differential refractive index detector. Preparative flash chromatography was done on silica gel (230-400 mesh) columns. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica-gel-coated, plastic-backed plates (Machery-Nagel) that were visualized by staining with KMnO$_4$ solution.

**Heating** of reactions performed above ambient temperature was done in silicone oil baths that had been preequilibrated to the desired temperature prior to immersion of the reaction vessel.

(±)-3a,7a-(Methanoxyxymethano)benzofuran-2,10(3H)-dione (5) and 3-Isochromanone (6). The lactone acid 1 (200 mg, 0.95 mmol) was suspended in chloroform (10 mL) in a 20 mL Schlenk flask. Trifluoromethanesulfonic acid (TfOH, 40 μL, 0.45 mmol) was added to the mixture. A brown color was immediately observed and this mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 30 min. The color of the solution turned dark brown and formation of a black precipitate was observed. The chloroform supernatant was filtered through short pad of silica and then the pressure was slowly reduced to 30 psi, after which the mixture was pressurized to ca. 10 psi with H$_2$. The reactor headspace was pressurized to 30 psi of H$_2$ and the mixture was stirred for 3 h.

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at room temperature. The crude reaction mixture was filtered through a small plug of silica (eluant: 10 mL THF). The volatiles were removed under reduced pressure to provide a white crystalline solid, which was dried under vacuum to give the lactone acid 9 (4.8 g, 97%) as a white crystalline solid. 1H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone-d6) δ 4.59 (dd, J = 10.3 Hz, 1H, C3(1a)H), 4.61 (dd, J = 5.3, 5.3 Hz, 1H, H6), 4.41 (d, J = 10.3 Hz, 1H, C3(1a)H), 2.85 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H, H6), 2.60 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H, C8(2b)H), 2.22 (dd, J = 12.4, 5.0, 2.4 Hz, 1H, C7endoHexo), 2.09–2.01 (m, 1H), 1.89 (dd, J = 12.3, 9.2, 5.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 1.82 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H, C7endoHexo), and 1.77–1.66 (m, 2H). 13C(1H) NMR (126 MHz, Acetone-d6) δ 179.7, 172.1, 92.8, 76.9, 69.5, 53.8, 45.6, 39.9, 29.5, and 25.1. IR (neat): 2978, 1767, 1732, 1134, and 1005 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M + Na]+ Calcd for C10H12NaO5+ for 235.0582; Found 235.0566. mp: 163–164 °C.

(±)-4,7-Dihydro-3a,7a-(methanoxymethano)benzofuran-2,10(3H)-dione (10b) and (±)-6,7-Dihydro-3a,7a-(methanoxymethano)benzofuran-2,10(3H)-dione (10a). The lactone acid 9 (42 mg, 0.2 mmol) was suspended in chloroform (2 mL) in a 5 mL Schlenk flask. Trifluoromethanesulfonic acid (TfOH, 6 μL, 50 mmol) was added. A pale brown color was immediately observed. This solution was stirred for 2 h at 80 °C. The chloroform was concentrated in vacuo; a 1H NMR spectrum indicated a nearly 1:1 mixture of dilactone products. The residue was purified and partially separated by flash column chromatography on SiO2 (2:1 hexanes:EtOAc elution) to give the dilactones 10b (7 mg) as the faster eluting and 10a (17 mg) as the slower eluting components (24 mg, 62% total yield), each as a colorless oil. NMR Data for 10a: 1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 6.06 (dd, J = 9.8, 5.7, 2.2 Hz, 1H, H5), 5.80 (ddd, J = 9.9, 2.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H4), 4.53 (d, J = 11.2, 1H, C8(2b)H), 4.32 (d, J = 11.1 Hz, 1H, C8(2b)H), 3.21 (d, J = 18.2, 1H, C3H6H3), 2.68 (d, J = 18.3 Hz, 1H, C3H6H3), 2.40 (ddd, J = 18.7, 5.9, 5.9, 2.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H, C6(1a)H), 2.27 (ddd, J = 14.0, 5.8, 1.9, 1H, C7H6H6), 2.19-2.11 (ddd, J = 18.7, 11.8, 5.8, 2.4, 2.4 Hz 1H, C6(1a)H), and 1.79 (ddd, J = 13.8, 11.9, 6.2 Hz, 1H, C7H6H6). 13C(1H) NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 176.0, 172.2, 130.2, 122.5, 87.6, 71.4, 49.9, 38.4, 26.2, and 22.8. NMR Data for 10b: 1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 5.97–5.91 (nfom, 1H, H5 or H6), 5.91–5.87 (nfom, 1H, H5 or H6), 4.59 (d, J = 10.9 Hz, 1H, C8(2b)H), 4.20 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 1H, C8(2b)H), 3.10 (d, J = 18.3 Hz, 1H, C3H6H3), 2.74 (d, J = 18.4 Hz, 1H, C3H6H3), 2.68–2.56 (m, 2H), 2.50 (m, 2H). 13C(1H) NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 178.7, 172.4, 125.6, 124.8, 88.0, 75.0, 48.1, 38.2, 31.0, and 29.8. Data from the mixture: IR (neat): 2924, 2853, 1770, 1191,1041, and 983 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M + H]+ Calcd for C10H11O4+ for 195.0657; Found 195.0645.

(±)-2-((1aR,2R,6aR,6bR)-4-Oxotetrahydro-6H-2,6a-epoxyoxireno[2,3-e]isobenzofuran-3a(4H)-yl)acetic acid (11). The lactone acid 1 (2.28 g) was added to a 100 mL round-bottom flask. To this was added 30% H2O2 (10 mL) and formic acid (36 mL). The resulting homogenous mixture was place into a preheated (60 °C) oil bath for 2 h. The resulting colorless solution was evaporated under vacuum to obtain a white, sticky, solid material. This solid was recrystallized from ethanol (10 mL) to provide the epoxide of 11 (2.1 g, 86%) as a white crystalline solid. Caution: On one occasion, a large exotherm was observed following this similar procedure. We do not recommend using this procedure involving the in situ generation of the unstable performic acid. Therefore, we developed the following protocol. A preferred procedure for this epoxidation reaction using peroxyacetic acid: Lactone acid 1 (210 mg, 1 mmol) was added to a 20 mL glass vial. To this was added CH3CO2H in AcOH (2 mL, 32% peracid, ca. 8 mmol). The resulting homogenous mixture was stirred for 4 days at ambient temperature. To this colorless solution was added Et3O (~4 mL) followed by hexanes (~8 mL). A white precipitate appeared. The supernatant liquid phase was decanted the precipitate was washed with a small amount of Et3O. This solid was recrystallized from ethanol (2 mL) to provide the epoxide of 11 (185 mg, 82%) as a white crystalline solid. 1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d6): δ 12.64 (s, 1H, -CO2H), 4.80 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 1H, H6), 4.54 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H, H2), 4.48 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 1H, H6'), 3.78 (d, J = 3.3 Hz, 1H, H1 or H7), 3.67 (d, J = 3.3 Hz, 1H, H1 or H7), 2.68 (d, J = 15.3 Hz, 1H, CH2CO2H), 2.63 (d, J = 15.3 Hz, 1H, CH2CO2H), 2.16 (dd, J = 12.9, 5.2 Hz, 1H, H3exo), and 1.83 (d, J = 12.9 Hz, 1H, H3endo). 13C(1H) NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 177.1, 171.0, 88.4, 74.6,
The lactone acid 1 (210 mg, 1.0 mmol) was dissolved in acetonitrile (5 mL) in a 20 mL Schlenk flask. N-Bromosuccinimide (196 mg, 1.1 mmol) was added to the mixture stirred at room temperature for overnight. The reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo; a proton NMR spectrum of this crude product mixture indicated the presence of an ca. 6:1 mixture of 12a to 12b. The residue was purified by MPLC (6:4 hexanes:EtOAc elution) to give a mixture of these largely coeluting bromolactones 12a and 12b (210 mg, 73%) as a broad melting white crystalline solid. NMR Data for the mixture: IR (neat): 3010, 1778, 1750, 1707, 1375, 1190, 1062, 1009, and 585 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M + H]+ Calcd for C₁₀H₁₉BrO₅⁺ for 288.9712; Found 288.9697. mp: 188–194 °C.

The lactone acid 1 (42 mg, 0.20 mmol) N-iodosuccinimide (44 mg, 0.22 mmol) were combined in a NMR tube and acetone-d₆ (0.6 mL) was added. The pale brown homogenous mixture was allowed to stand at room temperature. After 4 days NMR analysis indicated ~40% of unreacted starting acid along with unchanged NIS. The reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo and the residue was purified by MPLC (6:4 hexanes:EtOAc elution) to give a the iodolactone 13a (35 mg, 52%) as a white crystalline solid. This sample contained ca. 4% of a contaminant with many analogous resonances in the ¹H NMR spectrum, although its structure could not be definitively identified as that of an isomeric iodolactone (cf. 12b vs. 12a). NMR Data for iodolactone 13a: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 5.25 (dd, J = 2.0, 0.6 Hz, 1H, H3a), 4.79 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 1H, H9), 4.75 (dd, J = 5.2, 0.6 Hz, 1H, H2), 4.64 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 1H, H9), 3.99 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H, H3), 3.18 (d, J = 18.7 Hz, 1H, H6), 2.734 (dd, J = 13.8, 5.4 Hz, 1H, H10exo), 2.733 (d, J = 18.7 Hz, 1H, H6), and 1.99 (d, J = 13.9 Hz, 1H, H11endo). ¹³C(¹H) NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 175.2, 163.9, 87.6, 85.3, 85.2, 65.6, 48.5, 41.5, 32.7, and 24.6. IR (neat): 3003, 1777, 1749, 1221, 1193, and 1121. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M + H]+ Calcd for C₁₀H₁₀I₂O₅⁺ for 336.9573; Found 336.9558. mp: 184–186 °C.

The mixture was placed in a preheated (70 °C) oil bath and the crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (hexanes:EtOAc 1:1) to provide a sample of 7b as a white crystalline solid, which contained an impurity that appeared to be itaconic acid (ca. 7 mol %). This material was recrystallized from ethanol to give (102 mg, 49%) of 7b. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone-d₆): δ = 6.15 (ddd, J = 10.3, 2.2, 1.1 Hz, 1H, H6), 5.91 (dd, J = 10.3, 2.1 Hz, 1H, H7), 4.65 (dd, J = 11.1, 0.6 Hz, 1H, H8), 4.64 (dddd, J = 9.6, 5.0, 2.1, 2.1 Hz, 1H, H5), 4.49 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H, H8), 3.07 (d, J = 18.4 Hz, 1H, H3), 2.82 (d, J = 18.4 Hz, 1H, H3), 2.36 (dd, J = 13.6, 5.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H4eq), and 2.21 (dd, J = 13.5, 9.4 Hz, 1H, H4ax). ¹³C(¹H) NMR (126 MHz,
Acetonitrile-d$_3$: $\delta$ 178.2, 172.7, 138.2, 123.1, 86.6, 74.7, 62.8, 49.8, 35.5 and 34.6. IR (neat): 3439, 1776, 1251, 1061, and 936 cm$^{-1}$. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M + Na]$^+$ Calcd for C$_{19}$H$_{29}$NaO$_5$ for 233.0426; Found 233.0411. mp: 144–145 °C.

$(\pm)$-(3aR,5S,7aR)-5-Hydroxytetrahydro-3a,7a-(methanoxymethano)benzofuran-2,10(3H)-dione (14). A mixture of Sc(OTf)$_3$ (5 mg, 0.01 mmol) and the lactone acid 9 (21 mg, 0.1 mmol) were taken into a screw-capped culture tube. Acetonitrile-d$_3$ (0.6 mL) was added. The resulting colorless homogenous solution was heated at 80 °C for 5 h. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum from the resulting colorless solution and the crude material was eluted through a silica gel plug with the aid of EtOAc. The eluent was concentrated and gave 14 (17 mg, 80%) as a white crystalline solid. The proton NMR spectrum of this reaction mixture showed a very clean conversion to the set of resonances for the product 14. $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, Acetonitrile-d$_6$): $\delta$ 4.64 (d, $J$ = 11.3 Hz, 1H, $H8\beta$), 4.45 (dd, $J$ = 11.3, 0.6 Hz, 1H, $H8\alpha$), 3.97 (dddd, $J$ = 10.5, 10.5, 4.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H, $H5\beta$), 3.09 (d, $J$ = 18.0 Hz, 1H, $H3\alpha$), 2.79 (dd, $J$ = 18.0, 0.7 Hz, 1H, $H3\beta$), 2.9 (br s, 1H, OH), 2.29 (ddd, $J$ = 14.2, 4.4, 3.6 Hz, 1H, $H7_{eq}$), 2.23 (ddd, $J$ = 13.8, 4.0, 2.2 Hz, 1H, $H4_{eq}$), 1.98 (ddddd, $J$ = 13.5, 4.6 3.8, 3.8, 2.2 Hz, 1H, $H6_{eq}$), 1.90 (ddd, $J$ = 14.5, 13.4, 4.7 Hz, 1H, $H7_{ax}$), 1.62 (ddd, $J$ = 13.8, 10.6, 0.4 Hz, 1H, $H4_{ax}$), and 1.50 (dddd, $J$ = 13.5, 13.5, 10.2, 2.2 Hz, 1H, $H6_{ax}$). $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, MeCN-d$_3$): $\delta$ 4.49 (d, $J$ = 11.2 Hz, 1H, $H8\beta$), 4.42 (dd, $J$ = 11.3, 0.5 Hz, $H8\alpha$), 3.80 (dddd, $J$ = 10.3, 10.3, 3.8, 3.8 Hz, 1H, $H5\beta$), 2.92 (dd, $J$ = 18.1, 0.6 Hz, 1H, $H3\beta$), 2.80 (dd, $J$ = 18.1, 0.6 Hz, 1H, $H3\alpha$), 2.22 (ddd, $J$ = 14.5, 4.3, 3.8 Hz, 1H, $H7_{eq}$), 2.15 (ddd, $J$ = 13.8, 3.9, 2.2 Hz, 1H, $H4_{eq}$), 1.91 (dddd, $J$ = 13.5, 4.8 3.7, 3.7, 2.2 Hz, 1H, $H6_{eq}$), 1.79 (ddd, $J$ = 14.4, 13.3, 4.7 Hz, 1H, $H7_{ax}$), 1.55 (ddd, $J$ = 13.9, 10.5, 0.4 Hz, 1H, $H4_{ax}$), and 1.36 (dddd, $J$ = 13.5, 13.5, 10.1, 4.1 Hz, 1H, $H6_{ax}$). $^{13}$C(1H) NMR (126 MHz, Acetonitrile-d$_6$): $\delta$ 178.2, 172.0, 87.3, 70.9, 63.7, 49.2, 35.4, 35.2, 30.4, and 27.6. IR (neat): 3052, 3001, 2952, 2899, 2835, 2228, 1702, 1156, 1113, 1020, 999, 883, and 764 cm$^{-1}$. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M + Na]$^+$ Calcd for C$_{10}$H$_{12}$NaO$_5$ for 235.0582; Found 235.0568. mp: 116–117 °C.

$(\pm)$-3-Hydroxydihydro-2H,7H,9H-2,6a-methanodifuro[3,2-b:3’,4’-c]pyran-5,7(6H)-dione (15). Method A: The epoxy acid 11 (1.59 g, 6.2 mmol) was added to a 250 mL round bottom flask. THF (70 mL) was added, followed by BF$_3$OEt$_2$ (0.44 mL, 3.5 mmol). This mixture was placed in a preheated (70 °C) oil bath and kept there for 12 h. The resulting colorless solution was evaporated under vacuum to obtain a white sticky solid. This solid was triturated with Et$_2$O, aided by sonication. The white solid was filtered under vacuum and washed several times with additional fresh Et$_2$O. The solid was finally recrystallized from ethanol to provide the sample of 15 (1.35 g, 85%) as a white crystalline solid.

Method B: The lactone epoxide 11 (22 mg, 0.1 mmol) and Sc(OTf)$_3$ (4.9 mg, 0.01 mmol) were combined in a screw-capped culture tube. Acetonitrile-d$_3$ (0.6 mL) was added to the NMR tube. The colorless homogenous mixture was monitored at room temperature. After full consumption of the starting epoxide (36 h), the crude material was passed through a short pad of silica and eluted with 5 mL of EtOAc. The solution was evaporated to provide the white solid material, which was then washed with several mL of EtOAc to give the sample of 15 (19 mg, 84%) as a white crystalline solid. $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, Acetonitrile-d$_6$) $\delta$ 4.92 (dd, $J$ = 11.4, 0.5 Hz, 1H, $H9\beta$), 4.66 (d, $J$ = 11.4 Hz, 1H, $H9\alpha$), 4.65 (dd, $J$ = 1.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H, $H3a$), 4.42 (dd, $J$ = 5.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H, $H2$), 4.13 (dd, $J$ = 1.2 Hz, 1H, $H3$), 3.05 (d, $J$ = 18.7 Hz, 1H, $H6\beta$), 2.94 (dd, $J$ = 18.6, 0.6 Hz, 1H, $H6\alpha$), 2.47 (dd, $J$ = 13.6, 5.9 Hz, 1H, $H1\alpha$), and 2.06 (d, $J$ = 13.7 Hz, 1H, $H1\beta$). $^{13}$C(1H) NMR (126 MHz, Acetonitrile-d$_6$) $\delta$ 177.3 (C7), 165.4 (C5), 85.9 (3a), 84.6 (9a), 84.0 (C2), 81.2 (C3), 66.9 (C9), 49.6 (6a), 38.0 (C1), and 32.5 (C6). IR (neat): 3453, 1776, 1745, 1378, 1223, 1065, and 1008 cm$^{-1}$. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M + Na]$^+$ Calcd for C$_{10}$H$_{10}$NaO$_6$ for 249.0375; Found 249.0357. mp: 196–198 °C.

$(\pm)$-(3aR,5R,7aR)-2,10-Dioxo-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-3a,7a-(methanoxymethano)benzofuran-5-yl acrylate (16a). A mixture of the lactone acid 1 (210 mg, 1.0 mmol) and Sc(OTf)$_3$ (49 mg, 0.1 mmol) were combined in a screw-capped culture tube. Acetonitrile (5.0 mL) and acrylonitrile (230 mL, 1.95 mmol) were added. The
homogenous mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 h. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the crude material was purified by MPLC (hexanes:EtOAc 4:6) to provide the sample of 16a (176 mg, 67%) as a white crystalline solid. $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d): $\delta = 6.42$ (dd, $J = 17.3, 1.5$ Hz, 1H, $H_2C=\text{C}$), 6.20 (ddd, $J = 10.3, 3.2, 0.8$ Hz, 1H, $H_6$), 6.10 (dd, $J = 10.3, 1.6$ Hz, 1H, $H_7$), 6.09 (dd, $J = 17.3, 10.5$ Hz, 1H, $=\text{CHC}=\text{O}$), 5.92 (dd, $J = 10.5, 1.3$ Hz, 1H, $H_2H_2C=\text{C}$), 5.56 (ddd, $J = 8.1, 4.7, 3.2, 1.6$ Hz, 1H, $H_5$), 4.69 (d, $J = 11.0$ Hz, 1H, $H_8$), 4.38 (d, $J = 11.0$ Hz, 1H, $H_8''$), 3.09 (d, $J = 18.6$ Hz, 1H, $H_3$), 2.84 (d, $J = 18.6$ Hz, 1H, $H_3''$), 2.40 (ddd, $J = 13.9, 4.7, 0.8$ Hz, 1H, $H_4\alpha$) and 2.21 (dd, $J = 13.9, 8.1$ Hz, 1H, $H_4\alpha$). $^{13}$C($^1$H) NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-d): $\delta$ 176.5, 171.4, 165.1, 132.6, 131.7, 127.5, 126.4, 84.7, 74.9, 64.8, 47.8, 36.2 and 31.5. IR (neat): 2989, 1781, 1721, 1634, 1189, 1051, and 941 cm$^{-1}$. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M + H]$^+$ Calcd for C$_{13}$H$_{13}$O$_6$ for 265.0712; Found 265.0696. mp: 122–123 °C.

(±)-(3aR,5R,7aR)-2,10-Dioxo-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-3a,7a-(methanooxymethano)benzofuran-5-yl methacrylate (16b). A mixture of the lactone acid 1 (2.2 g, 10.5 mmol) and Sc(OTf)$_3$ (515 mg, 1.05 mmol) were combined in a screw-capped culture tube. Acetonitrile (30 mL) and methacryloyl anhydride (2.2 mL, 15.7 mmol) were added. The homogenous mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (hexanes:EtOAc 4:6) to provide the sample of 16b (1.9 gm, 65%) as a white crystalline solid. $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d): δ 6.24 (ddd, J = 10.2, 3.4, 0.6 Hz, 1H, H6), 6.12 (dd, J = 10.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H7), 6.09 (dq, J = 1.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H, H2H2C=), 5.65 (dq, J = 1.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H, H2H2C=), 5.53 (ddd, J = 7.5, 4.8, 3.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H5), 4.69 (d, J = 10.9 Hz, 1H, H8), 4.38 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1H, H8''), 3.11 (d, J = 18.6 Hz, 1H, H3), 2.85 (d, J = 18.6 Hz, 1H, H3''), 2.35 (ddd, J = 14.0, 4.7, 0.6 Hz, 1H, H4), 2.29 (dd, J = 14.0, 7.5 Hz, 1H, H4'), and 1.94 (dd, J = 1.7, 1.0 Hz, 3H, -CH$_3$). $^{13}$C($^1$H) NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-d): δ 176.6, 171.5, 166.4, 135.5, 131.6, 127.2, 126.7, 84.7, 75.3, 64.8, 47.6, 36.7, 31.8, and 18.3. IR (neat): 2981, 1713, 1635, and 1168 cm$^{-1}$. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M + H]$^+$ Calcd for C$_{14}$H$_{15}$O$_6$ for 279.0869; Found 279.0851. mp: 105–106 °C.

(±)-(3aR,5R,7aR)-2,10-Dioxo-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-3a,7a-(methanooxymethano)benzofuran-5-yl Acetate (16c). A mixture of Sc(OTf)$_3$ (49 mg, 0.1mmol) and the lactone acid 1 (210 mg, 1 mmol) were taken into a screw-capped culture tube. Acetonitrile (5 mL) and acetic anhydride (190 µL, 2.0 mmol) were added. The dark green-colored homogenous mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (hexanes:EtOAc, 1:1) to provide the sample of 16c (130 mg, 51%) as a sticky oil. $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ 6.13 (ddd, J = 10.4, 3.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H, H6), 6.07 (ddd, J = 10.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H7), 5.49 (ddd, J = 8.1, 4.7, 3.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H5), 4.67 (dd, J = 11.0, 0.5 Hz, 1H, H8), 4.37 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1H, H8''), 3.06 (d, J = 18.6 Hz, 1H, H3), 2.82 (d, J = 18.5 Hz, 1H, H3''), 2.38 (ddd, J = 14.0, 4.8, 0.8 Hz, 1H, H4), 2.12 (dd, J = 14.0, 8.3 Hz, 1H, H4'), and 2.07 (s, 3H).$^{13}$C($^1$H) NMR (126 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ 176.5 (C10), 171.4 (C2), 170.1 (CH$_3$CO), 131.8 (C6), 126.1 (C7), 84.7 (C7a), 74.7 (C8), 64.6 (C5), 47.9 (C3a), 36.0 (C3), 31.2 (C4), and 20.9 (CH$_3$CO). IR (neat): 3023, 2937, 1775, 1732, 1373, 1224, 1009, and 938 cm$^{-1}$. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M + Na]$^+$ Calcd for C$_{12}$H$_{12}$NaO$_6$ for 275.0532; Found 275.0515.

(3aR,5S,7aR)-2,10-Dioxoheaxhydro-3a,7a-(methanooxymethano)benzofuran-5-yl acrylate (17a). A mixture of Sc(OTf)$_3$ (38 mg, 0.094 mmol) and the lactone acid 9 (200 mg, 0.94 mmol) was taken into a screw-capped culture tube. Acetonitrile (2 mL) was added followed by acrylic anhydride (178 mL 1.9 mmol). The colorless homogeneous mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (hexanes:EtOAc, 2:3) to provide the sample of 17a (186 mg, 0.70 mmol 75%) as a white crystalline solid. $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone-$d_6$): δ = 6.35 (dd, J= 17.2, 1.5 Hz, 1H, H2H2C=), 6.11 (dd, J= 17.2, 10.5 Hz, 1H, CHCOCO), 5.90 (dd, J= 10.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H, H2H2C=), 5.11 (ddd, J= 9.9, 9.9, 3.9, 3.9, 1H, H5), 4.70 (d, J = 11.3 Hz, 1H, H8), 4.50 (d, J = 11.3, 0.5 Hz, 1H, H8''), 3.20 (d, J =18.0 Hz, 1H, H3') , 2.89 (dd, J =18.0, 0.6 Hz, 1H, H3'''), 2.39–2.34 (nfom, 1H, H6exo), 2.13–2.06
(two nmol, 2H, H6endo and H7), 2.34 (ddd, J = 13.8, 4.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H, H4exo), 1.95 (ddd, J = 13.9, 9.9, 0.4 Hz, 1H, H4endo), and 1.84–1.70 (nmol, 1H, H7). 13C NMR (126 MHz, Acetone-d6): δ = 178.3, 172.6, 165.5, 131.6, 129.3, 87.5, 72.2, 68.2, 49.3, 36.4, 32.5, 27.8, and 27.2. IR (neat): 2949, 2874, 1779, 1719, 1409, 1190, and 764 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M + H]+ Calcd for C13H15O6 for 267.0869; Found 267.0851. mp: 138–140 °C.

(1S)-3aR,5S,7aR)-2,10-Dioxohexahydro-3a,7a-(methanooxymethano)benzofuran-5-yl acetate (17c). A mixture of Sc(OTf)3 (215 mg, 0.47 mmol) and the lactone acid 9 (1 g, 4.7 mmol) were taken into a screw-capped culture tube. Acetonitrile (8 mL) followed by acetic anhydride (1.1 mL, 9.4 mmol) was added. The colorless homogenous mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (hexanes:EtOAc, 4:6) to provide the sample of 17c (980 mg, 82%) as a white crystalline solid. 1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3): 4.91 (ddd, J = 9.3, 8.9, 3.9, 3.9 Hz, 1H, H5), 4.48 (dd, J = 11.1, 0.7 Hz, 1H, H8), 4.38 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1H, H8′), 3.03 (dd, J = 18.3, 0.7 Hz, 1H, H3), 2.78 (d, J = 18.3 Hz, 1H, H3′), 2.28 (ddd, J = 14.9, 4.7, 4.4 Hz, 1H, H7), 2.21 (ddd, J = 14.3, 3.9, 1.9 Hz, 1H, H4), 2.08 (dddd, J = 14.0, 4.9, 4.9, 3.9, 1.9 Hz, 1H, H6), 2.03 (s, 3H, COCH3), 1.90 (dd, J = 14.1, 9.2 Hz, 1H, H4′), 1.89 (dd, J = 14.9, 12.1, 5.0 Hz, 1H, H7′), and 1.54 (ddd, J = 13.9, 11.9, 8.8, 4.5 Hz, 1H, H6′). 13C(1H) NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 176.8 (C10), 171.6 (C2), 170.1 (CH2CO), 86.2 (C7a), 71.9 (C8), 66.5 (C5), 48.0 (C3a), 36.4 (C3), 32.5 (C4), 27.7 (C7), 26.6 (C6), and 21.1 (CH3CO). IR (neat): 1780, 1750, 1727, 1185, and 1063 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M + Na]+ Calcd for C12H14NaO6 for 277.0688; Found 277.0672. mp: 125–127 °C.

In a separate experiment, this transformation was monitored over time by in situ 1H NMR spectroscopy in CD3CN at ambient temperature. Sc(OTf)3 (10 mol %), Ac2O (18 µl), and acid 1 were used. The reaction was very selective for formation of the acetate 17c. A copy of the spectrum of the reaction mixture sample is included at the end of this SI. The following spectral data were taken from a NMR sample of purified 17c in CD3CN. 1H NMR (500 MHz, CD3CN): δ 4.91 (ddd, J = 9.8, 9.8, 4.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H, H5), 4.51 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H, H8), 4.38 (dd, J = 11.4, 0.8 Hz, 1H, H8′), 2.96 (d, J = 18.2 Hz, 1H, H3), 2.78 (dd, J = 18.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H, H3′), 2.26 (ddd, J = 14.6, 4.2, 4.2 Hz, 1H, H7), 2.20 (ddd, J = 14.0, 4.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H, H4), 2.00 (dddd, J = 13.5, 4.9, 4.2, 2.1 Hz, 1H, H6), 1.97 (s, 3H, COCH3), 1.91 (ddd, J = 14.7, 12.6, 4.9 Hz, 1H, H7′), 1.83 (dd, J = 14.0, 10.0 Hz, 1H, H4′), and 1.54 (dddd, J = 13.7, 12.7, 9.5, 4.3 Hz, 1H, H6′).

(1S)-3aR,5S,7aR)-2,10-Dioxohexahydro-3a,7a-(methanooxymethano)benzofuran-5-yl methacrylate (17b). A mixture of the lactone acid 9 (5.0 g, 23.6 mmol) and Sc(OTf)3 (580 mg, 1.18 mmol) were combined in a screw-capped culture tube. Acetonitrile (50 mL) and methacrylic anhydride (5.3 mL, 35.3 mmol) were added. The homogenous mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (hexanes:EtOAc 4:6) to provide the sample of 17b (5.1 gm, 76%) as a white crystalline solid. 1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d): δ 6.08 (dq, J = 1.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H, H2H6C=C), 5.61 (dq, J = 1.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H, H2H6C=C), 5.01 (dddd, J = 8.7, 8.7, 3.9, 3.9 Hz, 1H, H5), 4.49 (dd, J = 11.0, 0.4 Hz, 1H, H8), 4.40 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1H, H8′), 3.06 (dd, J = 18.3, 0.6 Hz, 1H, H3), 2.81 (d, J = 18.3 Hz, 1H, H3′), 2.29 (ddd, J = 14.8, 5.5, 4.5 Hz, 1H, H7_eq), 2.24 (ddd, J = 14.4, 3.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H4_eq), 2.13 (dddd, J = 14.1, 5.2, 5.1, 4.1, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H6_eq), 2.03 (dd, J = 14.3, 8.8 Hz, 1H, H4_ax), 1.96 (ddd, J = 14.9, 11.5, 4.8 Hz, 1H, H7_ax), 1.92 (dd, J = 1.0, 1.5 Hz, 3H, -CH3), and 1.63 (dddd, J = 14.2, 11.5, 8.5, 4.5 Hz, 1H, H6′). 13C(1H) NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-d): δ 176.7 (C10), 171.7 (C2), 166.4 (–COO), 135.8 (–COO), 126.7 (–CH3), 86.2 (C7a), 72.1 (C8), 66.8 (C5), 47.9 (C3a), 36.7 (C3), 32.7 (C4), 27.6 (C7), 26.4 (C6), and 18.3 (CH3). IR (neat): 2957, 1781, 1714, 1635, and 1168 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M + H]+ Calcd for C14H17O7 for 281.1025; Found 281.1006. mp: 155–157 °C.

(1S)-3aR,5S,7aR)-2,10-Dioxohexahydro-3a,7a-(methanooxymethano)benzofuran-5-yl Benzoate (17d). A mixture of Sc(OTf)3 (25 mg, 0.05 mmol) and the lactone acid 9 (106 mg, 0.5 mmol) were taken into a screw-capped culture tube. Acetonitrile (3 mL) and benzoyl chloride (116 µL, 1.0 mmol) were added. The colorless
homogenous mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (hexanes:EtOAc, 1:1) to provide the 17d (128 mg, 81%) as a white crystalline solid. $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ 7.98 (nfom, 2H, $Ph_p$), 7.42 (nfom, 2H, $Ph_{m,m'}$), 5.19 (dddd, J = 9.0, 9.0, 3.9, 3.9 Hz, 1H, H5), 4.52 (dd, J = 11.0, 0.6 Hz, 1H, H8), 4.44 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1H, H8'), 3.09 (dd, J = 18.2, 0.6 Hz, 1H, H3), 2.78 (d, J = 18.3 Hz, 1H, H3'), 2.36 (ddd, J = 14.3, 4.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H, H4$_{eq}$), 2.33 (ddd, J = 14.9, 5.1, 4.4 Hz, 1H, H7$_{eq}$), 2.23 (dddd, J = 14.0, 4.9, 4.9, 3.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H, H6$_{eq}$), 2.10 (dd, J = 14.3, 9.1 Hz, 1H, H4$_{ax}$), 2.0 (dd, J = 14.9, 11.9, 4.9 Hz, 1H, H7$_{ax}$), and 1.72 (ddd, J = 14.1, 11.8, 8.7, 4.4 Hz, 1H, H6$_{ax}$).$^{13}$C(1H) NMR (126 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ 176.8, 171.7, 165.7, 133.6, 129.8, 129.5, 128.7, 86.3, 72.0, 67.2, 48.0, 36.6, 32.8, 27.7 and 26.7. IR (neat): 1780, 1714, 1274, 1113, and 714 cm$^{-1}$. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M + Na]$^+$ Calcd for C$_{27}$H$_{16}$NaO$_6^+$ for 339.0845; Found 339.0823. mp: 143–144 °C.

(±)-3aR,5S,7aR)-2,10-Dioxohexahydro-3a,7a-(methanoxyxymethano)benzofuran-5-yl Pivalate (17e). A mixture of Sc(OTf)$_3$ (25 mg, 0.05 mmol) and the lactone acid 9 (106 mg, 0.5 mmol) were taken into a screw-capped culture tube. Acetonitrile (3 mL) and pivaloyl chloride (123 µL, 1.0 mmol) were added. The colorless homogenous mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 h. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (hexanes:EtOAc, 1:1) to provide the pivalate 17e (105 mg, 71%) as a white crystalline solid. $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ 5.0 (dddd, J = 9.3, 9.3, 4.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H, H5), 4.68 (dd, J = 11.2, 0.5 Hz, 1H, H8), 4.50 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H, H8'), 3.13 (dd, J = 18.1, 0.5 Hz, 1H, H3), 2.90 (d, J = 18.1 Hz, 1H, H3'), 2.32 (ddd, J = 14.2, 4.5, 1.9 Hz, 1H, H4$_{eq}$), 2.25 (ddd, J = 14.0, 4.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H, H7$_{eq}$), 2.08 (dd, J = 14.4, 12.1, 4.7 Hz, 1H, H7$_{ax}$), 2.03 (ddd, J = 13.7, 4.9, 3.9, 1.9 Hz, 1H, H6$_{eq}$), 1.95 (dd, J = 14.1, 9.5 Hz, 1H, H4$_{ax}$), and 1.70 (dd, J = 13.7, 11.9, 9.1, 5.3 Hz, 1H, H6$_{ax}$).$^{13}$C(1H) NMR (126 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ 177.3, 176.7, 171.8, 86.5, 71.5, 66.7, 48.1, 38.3, 35.9, 31.7, 26.8, 26.4, and 26.1. IR (neat): 2971, 1780, 1721, 1281, and 1154 cm$^{-1}$. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M + Na]$^+$ Calcd for C$_{15}$H$_{20}$NaO$_6^+$ for 319.1158; Found 319.1133. mp: 86–88 °C.

(±)-5,7-Dioxotetrahydro-2H,7H,9H-2,6a-methanodifuro[3,2-b:3',4'-c]pyran-3-yl acrylate (18a). A mixture of the lactone epoxide 11 (252 mg, 2 mmol) and Sc(OTf)$_3$ (98 mg, 0.2 mmol) was placed into a screw-capped culture tube. Acetonitrile (8 mL) and acrylic anhydride (400 µL, 3.4 mmol) were added. The homogenous mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (hexanes:EtOAc 4:6) to provide 18a (354 mg, 63%) as a white crystalline solid. $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone-$d_6$) δ = 6.43 (dd, J = 17.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H, H$_2$H$_2$C=O), 6.21 (dd, J = 17.3, 10.4 Hz, 1H, CHCOO), 5.98 (dd, J = 10.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H, H$_2$H$_2$C=C), 5.12 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H, H3), 5.00 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H, H9), 4.98 (dd, J = 1.3, 1.3 Hz, 1H, H3a), 4.72 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 1H, H9'), 4.67 (dd, J = 5.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H2), 3.17 (d, J = 18.8 Hz, 1H, H6), 3.01 (d, J = 18.8 Hz, 1H, H6'), 2.59 (dd, J = 13.8, 6.0 Hz, 1H, H1$_{endo}$), and 2.34 (d, J = 13.8 Hz, 1H, H1$_{exo}$).$^{13}$C(1H) NMR (126 MHz, Acetone-$d_6$) δ 177.0, 165.6, 165.0, 132.6, 128.6, 85.0, 82.7, 82.6, 81.7, 66.7, 49.6, 37.8, and 32.3. IR (neat): 1779, 1749, 1725, 1633, 1184, and 1063 cm$^{-1}$. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M + H]$^+$ Calcd for C$_{13}$H$_{13}$O$_4$ for 281.0661; Found 281.0645. mp: 197–199 °C.

(±)-5,7-Dioxotetrahydro-2H,7H,9H-2,6a-methanodifuro[3,2-b:3',4'-c]pyran-3-yl methacrylate (18b). Smaller scale (with chromatography): A mixture of lactone epoxide 11 (226 mg, 1 mmol) and Sc(OTf)$_3$ (49 mg, 0.1 mmol) was placed into a screw-capped culture tube. Acetonitrile (6 mL) and methacrylic anhydride (220 µL, 1.5 mmol) were added. The homogenous mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (hexanes:EtOAc 4:6) to provide the sample of 18b (220 mg, 75%) as a white crystalline solid. Larger scale (with recrystallization): A mixture of the lactone epoxide 11 (4.0 g, 17.7 mmol) and Sc(OTf)$_3$ (712 mg, 1.8 mmol) was placed into a screw-capped culture tube. Acetonitrile (120 mL) and methacrylic anhydride (4.0 mL, 35.4 mmol) were added. The homogenous mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. The
solvent was evaporated under vacuum to obtain a white solid. This solid was washed several times with Et₂O (these washing contained largely methacrylic acid and anhydride; ¹H NMR). The solid was recrystallized from hexane and methanol to provide the sample of 18b (4.3 g, 82%) as a white crystalline solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone-d₆) δ 6.14 (dq, J = 1.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H, H₂H₂C=C), 5.72 (dq, J = 1.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H₂H₂C=C), 5.09 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H, H₃), 5.00 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 1H, H₉), 4.98 (dd, J = 1.3, 1.3 Hz, 1H, H₃α), 4.72 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 1H, H₉α), 4.67 (dd, J = 5.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H, H₂), 3.18 (d, J = 18.8 Hz, 1H, H₆), 3.01 (d, J = 18.8 Hz, 1H, H₆α), 2.59 (dd, J = 13.8, 5.9 Hz, 1H, H₁exo), 2.34 (d, J = 13.7 Hz, 1H, H₁endo), and 1.93 (dd, J = 1.6, 1.0 Hz, 3H, -CH₃). ¹³C¹H NMR (126 MHz, Acetone-d₆) δ 177.0, 166.8, 165.0, 136.7, 126.8, 85.0, 82.8, 82.6, 81.7, 66.7, 49.6, 37.9, 32.3, and 18.2. IR (neat): 3052, 3001, 2952, 2899, 2835, 1783, 1719, 1702, 1156, 1113, 1020, 999, 883, and 764 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₄H₁₅O₇⁺ for 295.0818; Found 295.0800. mp: 169–170 °C.

(±)-5,7-Dioxotetrahydro-2H,7H,9H-2,6a-methanodifuro[3,2-b:3’,4’-c]pyran-3-yl acetate (18c). A mixture of Sc(OTf)₃ (36 mg, 0.07 mmol) and epoxy lactone acid 11 (163 mg, 0.73 mmol) were combined in a screw-capped culture tube. Acetonitrile (1.5 mL) and acetic anhydride (140 µL, 1.48 mmol) were added. The colorless homogenous mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (hexanes:EtOAc, 4:6) to provide the sample of 18c (165 mg, 84%) as a white crystalline solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone-d₆) δ 5.01 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H, H₃), 4.98 (dd, J = 11.5, 0.5 Hz, 1H, H₉β), 4.89 (dd, J = 1.3, 1.3 Hz, 1H, H₃α), 4.70 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H, H₉α), 4.60 (dd, J = 5.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H, H₂), 3.15 (d, J = 18.8 Hz, 1H, H₆α), 3.00 (dd, J = 18.8, 0.5 Hz, 1H, H₆β), 2.56 (dd, J = 13.7, 5.9 Hz, 1H, H₁α), 2.30 (d, J = 13.7 Hz, 1H, H₁β), and 2.08 (s, 3H). ¹³C¹H NMR (126 MHz, Acetone-d₆) δ 177.0 (C7), 170.4 (MeCO), 165.0 (C5), 84.9 (9α), 82.7(C3a), 82.4 (C3), 81.8 (C2), 66.7 (C9), 49.6 (6a), 37.9 (C1), 32.3 (C6), and 20.7 (CH₃). IR (neat): 2990, 1780, 1750, 1374, and 1237 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₁₂H₁₂NaO₇⁺ for 291.0481; Found 291.0462. mp: 197–198 °C.

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Supplementary Material

Experimental details and procedures for all reactions containing structure graphics and structure atom numbering. Full spectroscopic characterization data for all new compounds (including indication of HMBC, HSQC, and NOESY data used to guide NMR assignments). Melting point ranges for all crystalline samples. Copies of the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra used for structure assignments.
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