

SYNTHESIS OF CYCLIC ORGANIC COMPOUNDS AND METALLOCENES

FIELD

[0001] Synthesizing cyclic organic compounds, and substituted metallocenes therefrom.

INTRODUCTION

[0002] Metallocene complexes comprise a transition metal atom that is bonded to two ligands independently selected from an unsubstituted cyclopentadienyl (Cp) ligand (formally an anion of formula $C_5H_5^-$) and/or a substituted cyclopentadienyl ligand, which is isolobal to Cp. The transition metal is an element of any one of Groups 3 to 12 useful for catalyzing polymerizations of olefins. Examples of the transition metal are Group 4 metals such as titanium, zirconium, and hafnium. Examples of the substituted cyclopentadienyl ligands are methylcyclopentadienyl and 4,5,6,7-tetrahydroindenyl. A typical metallocene complex is a 4,5,6,7-tetrahydroindenyl-cyclopentadienyl zirconium dimethyl complex ((4,5,6,7-tetrahydroindenyl)(cyclopentadienyl)Zr(CH₃)₂). Typically, the synthesis of the complex involves numerous synthetic steps, uses expensive reagents, and/or employs a platinum-catalyzed hydrogenation step to convert an indenyl-cyclopentadienyl zirconium dichloride compound to a 4,5,6,7-tetrahydroindenyl-cyclopentadienyl zirconium dichloride compound. See, e.g., US 2004/0249096 A1 and US 5,721,185.

[0003] Uemichi, Yoshio; Kanoh, Hisao. *Kenkyu Hokoku-Asahi Garasu Kogyo Gijutsu Shoreikai*, Volume 49, Pages 225-30, 1986. CODEN:AGKGAA. ISSN:0365-2599 report that platinum is especially potent source of polyethylene degradation. Uemichi, Yoshio; Makino, Yutaka; Kanazuka, Takaji, *Degradation of polyethylene to aromatic hydrocarbons over metal-supported activated carbon catalysts*, Journal of Analytical and Applied Pyrolysis (1989), 14(4), 331-44.

[0004] See also the following. Tabatabaenian, K.; Mamaghani, M.; Neshat, A.; Masjedi, M. Synthesis and Spectroscopic Studies of New Substituted Dinuclear η^5 -4,5,6,7-Tetrahydroindenyl Ruthenium Complexes. *Russian Journal of Coordination Chemistry*. **2003**, 29, 7, 501. Austin, R. N.; Clark, T. J.; Dickson, T. E.; Killian, C. M.; Nile, T. A.; Shabacker, D. J.; McPhail, T. A. Synthesis and Properties of Novel Substituted 4,5,6,7-tetrahydroindenes and Selected Metal Complexes. *Journal of Organometallic Chemistry*. **1995**, 491, 11. Conia, J. M.; Lriverend, M. L. *Tetrahedron Letters*. **1968**, 17, 2101 (Conia et al.). L. Rand and R. J. Dolinski, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1966, 31, 3063 and L. Rand and R. J. Dolinski, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1966, 31, 4061 (collectively "Rand and Dolinski"). Yokota, K.; Kohsaka, T.; Ito, K.; Ishihara, N. Consideration of

Mechanism of Styrene/Ethylene Copolymerization with Half-Titanocene Catalysts. *Journal of Polymer Science*. **2005**, 43, 5041. JP10316694A to Tetsuya, I., et. al. Brancaccio G.; Lettieri, G.; Monforte, P.; Larizza, A. *Farmaco, Edizione Scientifica*. **1983**, 9, 702-8. Eaton, P. E.; Carlson, G. R.; Lee, J. T. Phosphorus Pentoxide-Methanesulfonic Acid. A Convenient Alternative to Polyphosphoric Acid. *J.Org. Chem*. **1978**, 38, 4071. Paquette, L. A.; Stevens, K. E., *Can. J. Chem*. **1984**, 62, 2415. Paquette, L. A.; Cheney, D. L., *J. Org. Chem*. **1989**, 54, 3334. *J.Org. Chem*. **1966**, 3065.

[0005] Conia, et al. reported that reacting cyclohexene and crotonic acid in presence of polyphosphoric acid (PPA) exclusively gave as a sole product 2,3,4,5,6,7-hexahydro-3-methyl-1H-inden-1-one (structure 1 in Conia et al.). Conia et al. reported reacting cyclopentyl crotonate or cyclohexyl crotonate in the presence of PPA gave 3-methyl-bicyclo[3.3.0]-2-octen-1-one (40% yield, Table 1 in Conia et al.) or 2,3,4,5,6,7-hexahydro-3-methyl-1H-inden-1-one (60% yield, Table 2 in Conia et al.), respectively.

[0006] Rand and Dolinski use polyphosphoric acid (PPA) or a mixture of phosphorous pentoxide (P_2O_5 or P_4O_{10}) and PPA to catalyze the reaction of a cycloheptene, cyclohexene, or cyclopentene with an alpha,beta-unsaturated carboxylic acid such as acrylic acid or crotonic acid gives a reaction mixture that contains or is free of an ester by-product such as cycloheptyl crotonate, cyclohexyl crotonate, or cyclopentyl crotonate. Relatively how much of the ester by-product is made is said to depend on the amount of phosphorous pentoxide used in the mixture with PPA or the amount of the PPA or P_2O_5 /PPA mixture relative to the amount of cycloalkene.

SUMMARY

[0007] We discovered an alternative shorter synthesis of an (unsubstituted or substituted)-bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienyl-metal dichloride complex that does not use a hydrogenation catalyst, a hydrogenation step, or a hydrogenation catalyst filtration step. The inventive (unsubstituted or substituted)-bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienyl-metal dichloride complex made thereby, and the inventive (unsubstituted or substituted)-bicyclo[5.3.0]decadienyl-metal dimethyl catalyst made therefrom, and polyolefins made therewith are beneficially free of (added) hydrogenation catalyst metals such as platinum, palladium, nickel, rhodium, and ruthenium. As discussed above, polyolefin degradation problems have been attributed to hydrogenation catalyst metals are reported in the literature, and thus the inventive polyolefin beneficially would inherently avoid any such problem(s). As such, the inventive polyolefin could have longer stability or less degradation than prior polyolefins made with a catalyst synthesized using a

hydrogenation step. The instability or degradation could appear over a long period of time as discoloration and/or a change in molecular weight distribution of the polyolefin, or some other manifestation thereof.

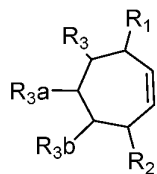
[0008] The inventive method is applied to bicyclo[5.3.0]decene systems and comprises synthesizing a cyclic organic compound via reaction of an unsubstituted or substituted cycloheptene with an unsubstituted or substituted acrylic acid in the presence of phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent to make the cyclic organic compound. Also, a method of synthesizing a ligand for a transition metal, and a related substituted ligand-metal complex and catalyst, from the unsubstituted or substituted cycloheptene and unsubstituted or substituted acrylic acid. Also, the cyclic organic compound, ligand, and substituted ligand-metal complex and catalyst synthesized thereby. Also a method of polymerizing an olefin with the catalyst to give a polyolefin, and the polyolefin made thereby.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0009] The Summary and Abstract are incorporated here by reference.

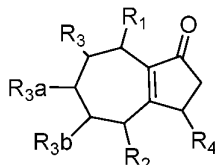
[0010] Certain inventive embodiments are described below as numbered aspects for easy cross-referencing. Additional embodiments are described elsewhere herein.

[0011] Aspect 1. A method of synthesizing a bicyclo[5.3.0]decene compound, the method comprising (A) contacting a compound of formula (1) ("compound (1)"):



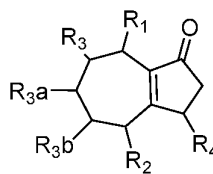
(1), wherein R1, R2, R3, R3a and R3b are independently H or (C₁-C₄)alkyl, or any two adjacent R1 to R3b groups are bonded together to form a (C₁-C₄)alkylene and the remaining two R1 to R3b groups independently are H or (C₁-C₄)alkyl, with a compound of formula (2) ("compound (2)"):

R₄-CH=CH-COOH (2), wherein R₄ is H or (C₁-C₄)alkyl, in the presence of an effective amount of a phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent and under reaction conditions sufficient to make a compound of

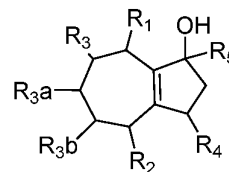


formula (3) ("compound (3)"): (3) and/or its oxo/R₄ regioisomer; wherein R1 to R4 are as defined above; and with the proviso that when each of R1 to

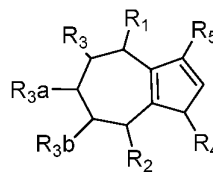
R3b is H and R4 is methyl, the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent and contacting step (A) are free of a polyphosphoric acid (PPA). In some aspects, the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent and contacting step (A) are free of PPA. The “/” in “oxo/R4 regioisomer” indicates the groups that are in different positions in the oxo/R4 regioisomer relative to the compound (3). That is, the positions of the oxo (=O) and R4 substituents are switched with each other relative to their positions in the compound (3). Functional groups that are in different positions in other regioisomers described below may be designated using “group/group” (e.g., R5/R4) in a similar manner. In some aspects when each of R1 to R3b is H and R4 is methyl, the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent and contacting step (A) are free of a polyphosphoric acid (PPA).
[0012] Aspect 2. A method of synthesizing a ligand for a transition metal, the method



comprising: (A) synthesizing the compound (3):
 oxo/R4 regioisomer, according to step (A) of aspect 1, wherein R1 to R4 are as defined above; (B) contacting the compound (3) and/or its oxo/R4 regioisomer with either a hydride-functional reducing agent or a (C₁-C₄)alkyl lithium, under reaction conditions



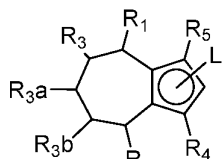
sufficient to make a compound of formula (4) (“compound (4)”):
 (4) and/or its (HO,R5)/R4 regioisomer, respectively, wherein R1 to R4 are as defined above and R5 is either H or (C₁-C₄)alkyl, respectively; and (C) contacting the compound (4) and/or its (HO,R5)/R4 regioisomer with dehydration reaction conditions



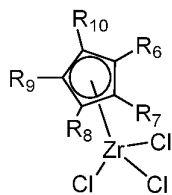
to make a compound of formula (5) (“compound (5)”):
 its R5/R4 regioisomer, respectively; wherein R1 to R5 are as defined above. The “/” identifies the groups that are in different positions in the respective regioisomers relative to compound (4) or (5). In some aspects the method further comprises a separation step between steps (A) and (B), the separation step comprising separating the compound (3) from its oxo/R4 regioisomer to give a purified compound (3) and/or

a purified oxo/R4 regioisomer. Alternatively, in some aspects the method further comprises a separation step between steps (B) and (C), the separation step comprising separating the compound (4) from its (HO,R5)/R4 regioisomer to give a purified compound (4) and/or a purified (HO,R5)/R4 regioisomer. Alternatively, in some aspects the method further comprises a separation step after step (C), the separation step comprising separating the compound (5) from its R5/R4 regioisomer to give a purified compound (5) and/or a purified R5/R4 regioisomer. Method steps downstream from one of the separation steps may be free of either the separated compound or its regioisomer, as the case may be and ultimately make the compound (5) that is free of its R5/R4 regioisomer or make the R5/R4 regioisomer that is free of the compound (5). The separation steps may comprise fractional distillation, fractional crystallization, or chromatography such as gas chromatography or liquid chromatography. E.g., room pressure, medium pressure or high pressure liquid chromatography on a silica gel column using one or more organic solvents as eluent.

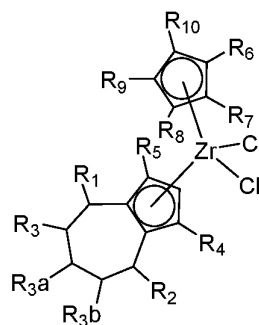
[0013] Aspect 3. A method of synthesizing a zirconocene dichloride complex, the method comprising synthesizing the compound (5) and/or its R5/R4 regioisomer according to steps (A) to (C) of aspect 2; (D) contacting the compound (5) and/or its R5/R4 regioisomer with an alkyl lithium under reaction conditions sufficient to make a



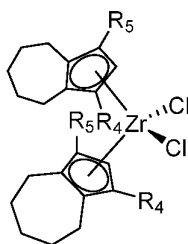
compound of formula (6) ("compound (6)"): (6) and/or its R5/R4 regioisomer, wherein R1 to R5 are as defined above (in aspect 2); and (E) contacting the compound (6) and/or its R5/R4 regioisomer with a compound of formula (7)



("compound (7)"): (7), wherein R6 to R8 independently are H or (C₁-C₄)alkyl and R9 and R10 independently are H, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, or R9 and R10 are bonded together and are a (C₃-C₅)alkylene, under reaction conditions sufficient to

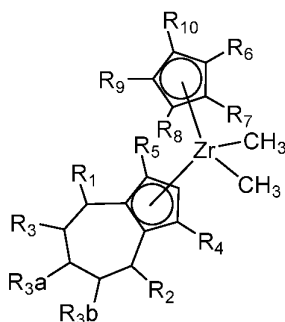


make a compound of formula (8) ("compound (8)"): (8) and/or its R5/R4 regioisomer, wherein R1 to R10 are as defined above. Method steps downstream from one of the separation steps described previously may be free of either the separated compound or its regioisomer, as the case may be and ultimately make the compound (8) that is free of its R5/R4 regioisomer or make the R5/R4 regioisomer that is free of the compound (8). The compound (7) may be made by contacting a R6 to R10-functional cyclopentadiene with an alkyl lithium under reaction conditions sufficient to make a R6 to R10-functional cyclopentadienyl lithium, and contacting the R6 to R10-functional cyclopentadienyl lithium with zirconium tetrachloride under reaction conditions sufficient to make the compound (7), wherein R6 to R10 are as defined above. The R6 to R10-functional cyclopentadiene may be synthesized by known methods or obtained from a commercial source. In some aspects R6 to R10 are H. In some aspects R6 is methyl and R7 to R10 are H. In some aspects R6 to R8 are H and R9 and R10 are bonded together and are a (C₃-C₅)alkylene. In some aspects the (C₃-C₅)alkylene is a 1,3-propane-diyl; alternatively a 1,4-butanediyl; alternatively a 1,5-pentanedyl. The compounds (7) and (8) wherein R9 and R10 are bonded together and are a (C₃-C₅)alkylene may be made by the inventive method starting from cyclopentene for R9 and R10 together being 1,3-propane-diyl; cyclohexene for R9 and R10 together being 1,4-butanediyl; or cycloheptene for R9 and R10 together being 1,5-pentanedyl. Alternatively, the compounds (7) and (8) wherein R9 and R10 are bonded together and are a (C₃-C₅)alkylene may be made by a conventional synthetic route. In some aspects



compound (8) is of formula (8a): (8a), wherein R4 and R5 are independently as H or (C₁-C₄)alkyl.

[0014] Aspect 4. A method of synthesizing a zirconocene dimethyl complex, the method comprising synthesizing the compound (8) and/or its R5/R4 regioisomer according to steps (A) to (E) of aspect 3; and (F) contacting the compound (8) and/or its R5/R4 regioisomer with an effective amount of methyl magnesium bromide under reaction conditions sufficient to make a compound of formula (9) ("compound (9)"):



(9) and/or its R5/R4 regioisomer, wherein R1 to R10 are as

defined above (in aspect 3). Method steps downstream from one of the separation steps described previously may be free of either the separated compound or its regioisomer, as the case may be and ultimately make the compound (9) that is free of its R5/R4 regioisomer or make the R5/R4 regioisomer that is free of the compound (9). In some aspects R6 to R10 are H. In some aspects R6 is methyl and R7 to R10 are H. In some aspects R6 to R8 are H and R9 and R10 are bonded together and are a (C₃-C₅)alkylene. In some aspects the (C₃-C₅)alkylene is a 1,3-propane-diyl; alternatively a 1,4-butanediyl; alternatively a 1,5-pentanedyl. The compound (9) wherein R9 and R10 are bonded together and are a (C₃-C₅)alkylene may be made by the inventive method, alternatively by a conventional synthetic route. In some aspects compound (9) is of formula (8a) as defined above except wherein each Cl is replaced by methyl.

[0015] Aspect 5. The method of any one of aspects 1 to 4, wherein the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent is a polyphosphoric acid (PPA); a mixture of a phosphorous pentoxide and methanesulfonic acid ("P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H mixture"), or a reaction product thereof; or a combination of a PPA and a P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H mixture,

or a reaction product of thereof; with the proviso that when each of R1 to R3b is H and R4 is methyl, the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent and the contacting step (A) are free of the PPA.

[0016] Aspect 6. The method of any one of aspects 1 to 5 wherein the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent is a polyphosphoric acid (PPA); with the proviso that at least one of R1 to R3b is (C₁-C₄)alkyl or R4 is H.

[0017] Aspect 7. The method of any one of aspects 1 to 5, wherein the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent is, or consists essentially of, the P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H mixture, or a reaction product thereof. Alternatively the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent may consist essentially of an alkylsulfonic acid such as a (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonic acid such as methanesulfonic acid. The expression "consist essentially of" means the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent and step (A) are free of PPA. In some aspects the P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H mixture is a 0.1/1 (weight/weight) P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H mixture, known as Eaton's reagent.

[0018] Aspect 8. The method of any one of aspects 1 to 5, wherein the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent is the combination of the PPA and the P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H mixture, or a reaction product thereof. In some aspects the P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H mixture is a 0.1/1 (weight/weight) P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H mixture, known as Eaton's reagent.

[0019] Aspect 9. The method of any one of aspects 1 to 8, characterized by any one of limitations (i) to (ix): (i) wherein at least one of R1 to R3b is a (C₁-C₄)alkyl or R4 is H; (ii) wherein each of R1 to R4 is H; (iii) wherein each of R1 to R3b is H and R4 is methyl; (iv) wherein in compound (1) each of R1, R2, R3a and R3b is H and R3 is methyl; in compound (2) R4 is methyl; and in compound (3) each of R1, R2, R3a and R3b is H and each of R3 and R4 is methyl; and in its oxo/R4 regioisomer each of R1, R2, R3a and R3 is H and each of R3b and R4 is each methyl; (v) wherein R1 and/or R2 is methyl and R3, R3a and R3b is H; (vi) wherein R1 is methyl, R2 is 1-methylethyl (i.e., isopropyl), and R3, R3a and R3b are H; (vii) wherein R1 is 1-methylethyl (i.e., isopropyl), R2 is methyl, and R3, R3a and R3b are H; (viii) wherein R1 and R2 independently are (C₁-C₄)alkyl, R3, R3a and R3b are H, and the stereochemistry of the carbon atom bonded to R1 is (R) and the stereochemistry to the carbon atom bonded to R2 is (S); and (ix) wherein R1 and R2 independently are (C₁-C₄)alkyl, R3, R3a and R3b are H, and the stereochemistry of the carbon atom bonded to R1 is (S) and the stereochemistry to the carbon atom bonded to R2 is (R). Alternatively any one of limitations (x) to (xxiii): (x) both (vi) and (viii); (xi) both (vi) and (ix); (xii) both (vii) and

(viii); (xiii) both (vii) and (ix); (xiv) wherein R5 is H; (xv) wherein R5 is methyl; (xvi) both (i) and (xiv) or (xv); (xvii) both (ii) and (xiv) or (xv); (xviii) both (iii) and (xiv) or (xv); (xix) both (iv) and (xiv) or (xv); (xx) both (v) and (xiv) or (xv); (xxi) wherein R9 and R10 are bonded together and are a (C₃-C₅)alkylene; (xxii) both (xxi) and any one of (i) to (xx); and (xxiii) any two adjacent R1 to R3b groups are bonded together to form a (C₁-C₄)alkylene and the remaining two R1 to R3b groups independently are H or (C₁-C₄)alkyl.

[0020] Aspect 10. The compound (3) or its oxo/R4 regioisomer made by the method of aspect 1, the compound (4) or its (HO,R5)/R4 regioisomer made by the method of aspect 2, the compound (5) or its R5/R4 regioisomer made by the method of aspect 2, the compound (6) or (8), or their respective R5/R4 regioisomer made by the method of aspect 3, or the compound (9) or its R5/R4 regioisomer made by the method of aspect 4; wherein the compound or its regioisomer is free of platinum, palladium, nickel, rhodium, and ruthenium. The term "free of" means contains no detectable presence of. In some aspects the compound is any one of compounds (8-1), (8-2), and (8-3) described later in the Examples; alternatively compound (9-1) described later in the Examples.

[0021] Aspect 11. A method of polymerizing an olefin, the method comprising contacting ethylene and/or an alpha-olefin with a catalyst made by contacting the compound (8) or (9), or its R5/R4 regioisomer, made by the method of aspect 4, with an activator, under conditions sufficient to make a polyolefin polymer comprising a polyethylene homopolymer, an ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer, or a poly(alpha-olefin) homopolymer. In some aspects the catalyst is made from compound (8); alternatively from any one of compounds (8-1), (8-2), and (8-3) described later in the Examples; alternatively from compound (9); alternatively from compound (9-1) described later in the Examples.

[0022] Aspect 12. The polyolefin polymer made by the method of aspect 11 and being free of platinum, palladium, nickel, rhodium, and ruthenium. In some aspects the polyolefin polymer is characterized by a butyl branch frequency (BBF) of 0.45 to less than 1.5, alternatively 0.5 to less than 1.2, alternatively 0.50 to < 1.0, measured according to the Butyl Branch Frequency (BBF) Test Method, described later.

[0023] In another embodiment of any one of the foregoing aspects, except wherein 3,3-dimethyl-1-cycloheptene is used in place of the compound (1). The 3,3-dimethyl-1-cycloheptene is a geminal-dimethyl analog of cycloheptene and is a derivative of compound (1) wherein R2, R3, R3a and R3b are H, R1 is methyl, and the carbon atom

bearing R1 is substituted with a second methyl. The embodiments yield analogs of compounds (3) to (6), (8) and (9) wherein R2, R3, R3a and R3b are H, R1 is methyl, and the carbon atom bearing R1 is substituted with a second methyl.

[0024] Compound: a molecule or a collection of same molecules.

[0025] Contacting: physically touching. In synthesizing context, contacting may be facilitated by a solvent that dissolves the compounds or materials being contacted.

[0026] Copolymer: macromolecular compound containing, in the same molecular entity or molecule, constitutional units derived from polymerizing a monomer and units derived from polymerizing at least one different monomer (comonomer).

[0027] Free of a polyphosphoric acid: no added polyphosphoric acid (PPA), alternatively no added, or *in situ* generated, PPA.

[0028] Homopolymer: macromolecular compound containing, in the same molecular entity or molecule, constitutional units, each of which is derived from polymerizing the same monomer.

[0029] Independently: without regard to or dependence on another.

[0030] Mixture: intimate blend of two or more compounds or materials.

[0031] Oxo: =O. E.g., as bonded to carbon atom in a carbonyl group (C=O).

[0032] Reaction product: different molecular entity than that from which it is made via a chemical reaction. The difference may be oxidation state and/or covalent bond(s).

[0033] Reagent, in the context of a reaction (e.g., step (A)): compound or mixture added to a reaction system to cause or enhance a desired chemical reaction.

[0034] Regioisomer: a positional isomer without any differences in bond multiplicities.

[0035] "R#" and "R#", wherein # means number, mean the same. E.g., R₁ and R1 are the same and mean a first R group; R₂ and R2 are the same and mean a second R group; and so on.

[0036] Step, in the context of the method of synthesizing: distinct chemical reaction, often with distinct reaction conditions and/or physical manipulations.

[0037] Stereochemistry: isomerism due to differences in spatial arrangement of atoms without any differences in connectivity or bond multiplicities between isomers.

[0038] Synthesizing: purposeful execution of one or more distinct chemical reactions or steps to manufacture a reaction product.

[0039] Zirconocene: complex comprising a zirconium atom bonded to one or two unsubstituted or substituted cyclopentadienyl-type groups, and optionally other ligands (e.g., CH₃, Cl).

[0040] Activator (for activating compound (9) and/or its R5/R4 regioisomer to form a catalyst). Also known as co-catalyst. Any metal containing compound, material or combination of compounds and/or substances, whether unsupported or supported on a support material, that can activate compound (9) and/or its R5/R4 regioisomer to give a catalyst and an activator species. The activating may comprise, for example, abstracting at least one leaving group (e.g., at least one methyl) from the Zr of compound (9) or its R5/R4 regioisomer to give the catalyst. The activator may be a Lewis acid, a non-coordinating ionic activator, or an ionizing activator, or a Lewis base, an alkylaluminum, or an alkylaluminumoxane. The alkylaluminum may be a trialkylaluminum, alkylaluminum halide, or alkylaluminum alkoxide (diethylaluminum ethoxide). The trialkylaluminum may be trimethylaluminum, triethylaluminum ("TEAL"), tripropylaluminum, triisobutylaluminum, and the like. The alkylaluminum halide may be diethylaluminum chloride. The alkylaluminumoxane may be a methyl aluminumoxane (MAO), ethyl aluminumoxane, or isobutylaluminumoxane. The activator may be a MAO that is a modified methylaluminumoxane (MMAO). The corresponding activator species may be a derivative of the Lewis acid, non-coordinating ionic activator, ionizing activator, Lewis base, alkylaluminum, or alkylaluminumoxane, respectively. The activator species may have a different structure or composition than the activator from which it is derived and may be a by-product of the activation reaction. The metal of the activator typically is different than zirconium. The molar ratio of metal content of the activator to zirconium content of compound (9) and/or its R5/R4 regioisomer may be from 1000:1 to 0.5:1, alternatively 300:1 to 1:1, alternatively 150:1 to 1:1.

[0041] Alkyl means an unsubstituted univalent saturated acyclic hydrocarbon that is straight chain (1 or more carbon atoms), branched chain (if 3 or more carbon atoms), or cyclic (if 3 or more carbon atoms). Each (C₁-C₄)alkyl is independently methyl, ethyl, propyl, 1-methylethyl, butyl, 1-methylpropyl, 2-methylpropyl, or 1,1-dimethylethyl. Alternatively each (C₁-C₄)alkyl is independently a (C₁-C₃)alkyl; alternatively a (C₂-C₄)alkyl; alternatively (C₁-C₂)alkyl; alternatively (C₂-C₃)alkyl; alternatively (C₃-C₄)alkyl; alternatively methyl or (C₃)alkyl. In some aspects each (C₁-C₄)alkyl is independently a (C₁-C₃)alkyl and each (C₁-C₃)alkyl is independently methyl, ethyl, propyl, or 1-methylethyl; alternatively methyl, propyl, or 1-methylethyl; alternatively methyl; alternatively ethyl; alternatively propyl; alternatively 1-methylethyl. Substituted alkyl is an alkyl as defined above except wherein one or more hydrogen atoms is formally replaced by a substituent such as unsubstituted alkyl, halogen, or alkylcarboxylic ester.

[0042] Alkyl lithium is a compound of formula alkyl-Li. Examples of alkyl lithium are methyl lithium, ethyl lithium, propyl lithium, n-butyl lithium, sec-butyl lithium, t-butyl lithium, and pentyl lithium. The (C₁-C₄)alkyl lithium is an alkyl lithium wherein the alkyl is methyl, ethyl, propyl, 1-methyl ethyl, butyl, 1-methylpropyl, 2-methylpropyl (sec-butyl), or 1,1-dimethylethyl (t-butyl).

[0043] Alkylene is unsubstituted divalent saturated acyclic hydrocarbon that is straight chain (1 or more carbon atoms), branched chain (if 3 or more carbon atoms), or cyclic (if 3 or more carbon atoms). Each (C₁-C₄)alkylene is independently methylene (CH₂), ethylene (CH₂CH₂), propylene (CH₂CH₂CH₂), 1-methylethylene (CH(CH₃)CH₂), butylene ((CH₂)₄), 1-methylpropylene (CH(CH₃)CH₂CH₂), 2-methylpropylene (CH₂CH(CH₃)CH₂), or 1,1-dimethylethylene (C(CH₃)₂CH₂). Substituted alkylene is an alkylene as defined above except wherein one or more hydrogen atoms is formally replaced by a substituent such as unsubstituted alkyl, halogen, or alkylcarboxylic ester.

[0044] Bicyclo[5.3.0]decene compounds are molecules having a seven-membered carbocyclic ring fused to a five-membered carbocyclic ring. The five-membered carbocyclic ring may contain a carbon-carbon double bond, which may be shared at the fusion point with the seven-membered carbocyclic ring. Examples are (3), its oxo/R₄ regioisomer, (3a), (3b), (4), its (HO,R₅)/R₄ regioisomer, (5), its R₅/R₄ regioisomer, (6), its R₅/R₄ regioisomer, (8), its R₅/R₄ regioisomer, (9), and its R₅/R₄ regioisomer.

[0045] Combination of polyphosphoric acid (PPA) and a mixture of a phosphorous pentoxide and methanesulfonic acid ("P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H mixture") is a physical blend of PPA and a preformed P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H mixture or a physical blend of PPA, P₂O₅, and H₃CSO₃H. In some aspects the method further comprises limitation (i) or (ii): (i) a step of preforming the combination of PPA and P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H mixture before the contacting step (A) and in the absence of at least one, alternatively each of the compounds (1) to (3) and the oxo/R₄ regioisomer; or (ii) wherein the contacting step (A) further comprises contacting PPA and the P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H mixture together in the presence of at least one, alternatively each of the compounds (1) and (2) to form the combination of PPA and P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H mixture *in situ*.

[0046] Compound means a molecule or collection of molecules. When R₁ to R_{3a} is H, compound (1) is cycloheptene. When at least one of R₁ to R_{3a} is (C₁-C₄)alkyl, compound (1) is a substituted cycloheptene. When R₄ is H, the compound (2) has CAS number 79-10-7 and is known as acrylic acid. When R₄ is methyl, the compound

(2) has CAS number 107-93-7 and is known as (E)-2-butenic acid, crotonic acid, or (trans) 3-methylacrylic acid. Compounds (1) and (2) are widely available from commercial suppliers.

[0047] Dehydration reaction conditions include temperature and reagents effective for enhancing rate of loss of water from compound (4) and/or its (HO,R5)/R4 regioisomer. Example of such reagents are 1 Molar (M) or higher hydrochloric acid (aqueous HCl) or anhydrous HCl or Amberlyst 15 solid acid catalyst in an organic solvent such as diethyl ether, ethanol, tetrahydrofuran or toluene. The hydrochloric acid may be from 1 M to 8 M, alternatively from 2 M to 6 M.

[0048] Effective amount is a quantity sufficient for enabling the making of a detectable amount of intended product. An effective amount of the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent is a quantity thereof sufficient for enabling the making of a detectable amount of compound (3) and/or its oxo/R4 regioisomer. Detectable amounts may be detected, and optionally characterized, by any suitable analytical method such as ¹H-nuclear magnetic resonance (¹H-NMR), high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC, versus a known standard), gas chromatography (GC, versus a known standard), or mass spectrometry; typically ¹H-NMR. The effective amount of the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent used in step (A) may vary depending upon its composition, reaction conditions, and costs. A skilled person may determine an optimal effective amount thereof by starting with an initial reaction mixture of (1), (2), and 95 wt% of the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent, and thereafter systematically try reaction mixtures containing lower wt% of the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent until an optimal result under the reaction conditions is found. When the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent is PPA, the P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H mixture, or the combination of PPA and P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H mixture, the effective amount may be from 50 to 95 wt%, alternatively from 50 to 80 wt% based on total weight of (1), (2), and the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent. Alternatively, the effective amount of the P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H mixture may be from 1 to 10 mole equivalents, alternatively 1 to 5 mole equivalents, alternatively 1 to 3 mole equivalents thereof relative to the number of moles of compound (1). For example, if 1.0 mole of compound (1) is used in the contacting step (A), then the effective amount of the P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H mixture may be from 1 to 10 moles, alternatively from 1 to 5 moles, alternatively from 1 to 3 moles.

[0049] Hydride-functional reducing agent means a compound having a metal-H bond capable of adding to an oxo group of a ketone to give a tertiary alcohol. Suitable metals include Al and B. Suitable hydride-functional reducing agents are lithium aluminum

hydride (LiAlH_4), diisobutyl aluminum hydride ($\text{i-Bu}_2\text{AlH}$), and sodium borohydride (NaBH_4).

[0050] Methanesulfonic acid is a compound of formula $\text{H}_3\text{CSO}_3\text{H}$ and has CAS number 75-75-2 and is widely available from commercial suppliers.

[0051] Mixture of a phosphorous pentoxide and methanesulfonic acid or $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5/\text{H}_3\text{CSO}_3\text{H}$ mixture is a blend or reaction product of phosphorous pentoxide and methane sulfonic acid. The weight/weight ratio of $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5/\text{H}_3\text{CSO}_3\text{H}$ in the mixture may be from 0.1 to 1 alternatively 0.15 to 1, alternatively 0.2 to 1. The 0.1/1 (wt/wt) $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5/\text{H}_3\text{CSO}_3\text{H}$ mixture is commercially available and may be referred to as Eaton's reagent. The mixture of P_2O_5 and $\text{CH}_3\text{SO}_3\text{H}$ may be formed *in situ* in the presence of the compound (1) and/or (2), such as prior to or during the contacting step (A). Alternatively, the mixture of P_2O_5 and $\text{CH}_3\text{SO}_3\text{H}$ may be preformed before contacting step (A). It is convenient to preform the $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5/\text{CH}_3\text{SO}_3\text{H}$ mixture before contacting step (A), and store the resulting preformed mixture for later use in embodiments of the contacting step (A). In some aspects the method further comprises limitation (i) or (ii): (i) a step of preforming the $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5/\text{H}_3\text{CSO}_3\text{H}$ mixture before the contacting step (A) and in the absence of at least one, alternatively each of the compounds (1) and (2); or (ii) wherein the contacting step further comprises contacting a phosphorous pentoxide and methanesulfonic acid together in the presence of at least one, alternatively each of the compounds (1) and (2) to form the $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5/\text{H}_3\text{CSO}_3\text{H}$ mixture *in situ*.

[0052] Phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent is an acidic material having O-P(O)-OH acid groups and/or C-S(O)₂-OH acid groups, or an acidic reaction product thereof. The phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent may be, or may consist essentially of, a mixture of a phosphorous pentoxide and methanesulfonic acid (" $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5/\text{H}_3\text{CSO}_3\text{H}$ mixture"), or a reaction product thereof; alternatively a polyphosphoric acid (PPA); alternatively a combination of a $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5/\text{H}_3\text{CSO}_3\text{H}$ mixture and a PPA, or a reaction product thereof. In some embodiments the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent consists essentially of the $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5/\text{H}_3\text{CSO}_3\text{H}$ mixture. Alternatively the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent may consist essentially of an alkylsulfonic acid such as a (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonic acid such as methanesulfonic acid. The expression "consist essentially of" means the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent and step (A) are free of PPA.

[0053] Polyphosphoric acid or PPA has CAS no. 8017-16-1 and is a compound generally of formula $\text{HO}[\text{P}(=\text{O})(\text{OH})]_n\text{H}$, wherein subscript n indicates degree of polymerization. PPAs are widely available from commercial suppliers.

[0054] Phosphorous pentoxide is a compound of formula P_2O_5 and has CAS number 1314-56-3 and is widely available from commercial suppliers.

[0055] In some aspects each reactant, reagent, solvent, or other material used in the inventive methods, and each product thereof, is free of Pt, Ni, Pd, Rh, and Ru.

[0056] The "reaction conditions sufficient to make" mean appropriate for the desired chemical transformation, as is well understood in the art, and include reaction temperature; reaction pressure; reaction atmosphere; reaction solvent, if any; reactant and reagent concentrations; molar ratios of reactants to each other and to reagents; and absence of negating compounds. Reaction pressure is typically room pressure (e.g., 101 kilopascals (kPa), except higher for olefin polymerization reactions. If desired reactions (e.g., steps (A) to (F)) may be carried out in a fume hood under an anhydrous molecular nitrogen gas atmosphere or using Schlenck line techniques and conditions.

[0057] Reaction temperatures under reaction conditions sufficient to make may vary from step to step. For example, in step (A) (cyclocondensation) when the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent is PPA, the under reaction conditions sufficient to make compound (3) and/or its oxo/R4 regioisomer may include a reaction temperature of at least 40° C., alternatively at least 50° C., alternatively at least 65° C.; and at most 100° C., alternatively at most 95° C., alternatively at most 90° C., alternatively at most 80° C. In step (A) when using the $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5/\text{H}_3\text{CSO}_3\text{H}$ mixture the reaction temperature may be from -78° to 30° C., alternatively from -30° to 25° C., alternatively from 0° to 25° C. In steps (B) (hydride reduction or alkyl lithium addition), (D) (deprotonation of a cyclopentadiene), (E) (forming a zirconocene dichloride) and (F) (forming a zirconocene dimethyl) the reaction temperatures may be independently from -30° to 110° C., alternatively from 0° to 50° C., alternatively from 10° to 30° C. In step (C) (dehydration) the reaction temperature may be from 0° C. to 120° C., alternatively from 20° to 110° C., alternatively from 30° to 100° C.

[0058] The use or not of solvent and the type of solvent if used under reaction conditions sufficient to make may vary from step to step. Step (A) may be free of solvent or may employ a solvent. When the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent is PPA, a solvent may be omitted. When the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent is the $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5/\text{H}_3\text{CSO}_3\text{H}$ mixture, a polar aprotic solvent may be employed. The polar aprotic solvent may be selected from sulfolane, 1,2-dimethoxyethane, 1-methoxy-2-(2-

methoxyethoxy)ethane, and mixtures of any two or more thereof. The amount of polar aprotic solvent employed is not particularly important. The foregoing polar aprotic solvents may serve to solubilize the compounds (1) and (2) and/or the P_2O_5/H_3CSO_3H mixture. The amount of solvent employed may be sufficient to prepare a starting solution of that is from 0.5 Molar (M) to 5 M, or 1 M to 2.5 M of P_2O_5/H_3CSO_3H mixture in the compound (2). The polar aprotic solvent may allow the contacting step (A) to be performed at lower temperatures within the ranges given above therefor. A polar aprotic solvent is used for the P_2O_5/H_3CSO_3H mixture because a protic solvent is expected to undesirably react with the P_2O_5/H_3CSO_3H mixture, which is a powerful dehydrating agent. The polar aprotic solvent may be of intermediate polarity in order to co-solubilize the compounds (1) and (2) and P_2O_5/H_3CSO_3H mixture. The polar aprotic solvent may be capable of producing a homogeneous solution of the compounds (1) and (2) at 25° C., alternatively at 10° C., alternatively at 0° C. A homogeneous solution is not required for successful reaction of compounds (1) and (2) in the presence of the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent. In steps (B) (hydride reduction or alkyl lithium addition), (D) (deprotonation of a cyclopentadiene), (E) (forming a zirconocene dichloride) and (F) (forming a zirconocene dimethyl) an anhydrous, non-polar aprotic solvent such as an alkyl ether such as diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran, or dioxane may be used. In step (B) when the hydride-functional reducing agent is used and is lithium aluminum hydride or diisobutyl aluminum hydride, the anhydrous, non-polar solvent is used. In step (B) when the hydride-functional reducing agent is used and is sodium borohydride, a polar protic solvent may be used such as methanol, ethanol, 2-propanol, or 1-methoxy-2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethane. The alkyl lithium reagent may be dissolved in anhydrous alkane solvent such as hexanes, hexane, or heptane. Grignard reagents such as methyl magnesium bromide may be dissolved in an alkyl ether such as dialkyl ether.

[0059] Reaction atmosphere included under reaction conditions sufficient to make may be anhydrous molecular nitrogen gas or Schlenck line conditions for step (A) (cyclocondensation) and air for step (C) (dehydrating). Reaction atmosphere for step (B) (hydride reduction or alkyl lithium addition), (D) (deprotonation of a cyclopentadiene), (E) (forming a zirconocene dichloride) and (F) (forming a zirconocene dimethyl) may be an inert gas such as anhydrous nitrogen, argon or helium gas, or a mixture of any two or more thereof.

[0060] Reaction concentrations of reactants and reagents included under reaction conditions sufficient to make may be independently in the range from 0.1 to 1.4 M, alternatively 0.25 to 1 Molar (M), alternatively 0.4 to 1 M.

[0061] Molar ratios of reactants to each other and to reagents included under reaction conditions sufficient to make may vary from 0.25 times to 1.5 times theoretical reaction stoichiometry, alternatively from 0.99 times to 1.2 times theoretical reaction stoichiometry, alternatively from 1.0 to 1.1 times theoretical reaction stoichiometry, depending upon the reactants and reagents used. In step (A) (cyclocondensation) the theoretical reaction stoichiometry of compound (1) to compound (2) is 1.0 to 1.0. In step (B) (hydride reduction or alkyl lithium addition), the theoretical reaction stoichiometry of the hydride-functional reducing agent to compound (3) (or its regioisomer) is 0.25 LiAlH₄ or NaBH₄ to 1.0 compound (3) and 0.5 i-BuAlH to 1.0 compound (3) and 1.0 (C₁-C₄)alkyl lithium to 1.0 compound (3) (or its regioisomer). The theoretical reaction stoichiometry for step (C) (dehydration) is catalytic in acid catalyst up to, typically, 1:1. The theoretical reaction stoichiometry for each of steps (D) (deprotonation of a cyclopentadiene), or (E) (forming a zirconocene dichloride) is typically 1:1. The theoretical reaction stoichiometry for step (F) (forming a zirconocene dimethyl) is 2.0 methyl magnesium bromide to 1.0 compound (8) (or its R⁵/R⁴ regioisomer).

[0062] Negating agents should not be included under reaction conditions sufficient to make. In step (A) (cyclocondensation), a negating agent may be a quantify of a basic compound that would neutralize the acidity of the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent or otherwise render it ineffective; or a negating agent may be an unsaturated aliphatic compound that would react with compound (2) before compound (2) could react with compound (1). In steps (B) (hydride reduction or alkyl lithium addition), (D) (deprotonation of a cyclopentadiene), (E) (forming a zirconocene dichloride) and (F) (forming a zirconocene dimethyl), a negating agent would be a protic compound (e.g., a NH functional, OH functional, and/or SH functional compound) or an oxidizing agent. Examples of NH functional compounds are primary and secondary amines and amides. Examples of OH functional compounds are alcohols, carboxylic acids, and oximes. Examples of SH functional compounds are thiols (mercaptans). Examples of NH and OH functional compounds are primary and secondary amino alcohols and amino acids. In step (C) (dehydrating), a negating agent would be added water (not counting water formed as a by-product of the dehydrating step) or a quantity of a basic compound that would neutralize an acid dehydration catalyst used therein.

[0063] A compound includes all its isotopes and natural abundance and isotopically-enriched forms. The enriched forms may have medical or anti-counterfeiting uses.

[0064] In some aspects any compound, composition, formulation, mixture, or reaction product herein may be free of any one of the chemical elements selected from the group consisting of: H, Li, Be, B, C, N, O, F, Na, Mg, Al, Si, P, S, Cl, K, Ca, Sc, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Ga, Ge, As, Se, Br, Rb, Sr, Y, Zr, Nb, Mo, Tc, Ru, Rh, Pd, Ag, Cd, In, Sn, Sb, Te, I, Cs, Ba, Hf, Ta, W, Re, Os, Ir, Pt, Au, Hg, Tl, Pb, Bi, lanthanoids, and actinoids; with the proviso that chemical elements required by the compound, composition, formulation, mixture, or reaction product (e.g., C and H required by a polyolefin or C, H, and O required by an alcohol) are not excluded.

[0065] The following apply unless indicated otherwise. Alternatively precedes a distinct embodiment. ASTM means the standards organization, ASTM International, West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, USA. Any comparative example is used for illustration purposes only and shall not be prior art. Free of or lacks means a complete absence of; alternatively not detectable. May confers a permitted choice, not an imperative. Operative means functionally capable or effective. Optional(ly) means is absent (or excluded), alternatively is present (or included). Properties are measured using a standard test method and conditions for the measuring (e.g., viscosity: 23° C and 101.3 kPa). Ranges include endpoints, subranges, and whole and/or fractional values subsumed therein, except a range of integers does not include fractional values. Room temperature: 23° C. $\pm$ 1° C. Substituted when referring to a compound means having, in place of hydrogen, one or more substituents, up to and including per substitution.

EXAMPLES

[0066] Unless noted otherwise herein, use the following preparations for characterizations. Carry out syntheses under an atmosphere of dry nitrogen in a glovebox when indicated. Perform reactions requiring anhydrous conditions under an atmosphere of dry nitrogen in oven-dried glassware cooled under a stream of dry nitrogen. Anhydrous toluene, hexanes, tetrahydrofuran, diethyl ether and 1,2-dimethoxyethane are from Sigma-Aldrich. Solvents that are used for experiments performed in a nitrogen-filled glovebox are further dried by storage over activated 4 Angstrom (Å) molecular sieves. Purchase cyclopentadienylzirconium (IV) chloride (compound (7) wherein R6-R10 is H, "(Cp)ZrCl₃") from Boulder Scientific and use as received. Methylcyclopentadienylzirconium (IV) chloride (compound (7) wherein R6-R9 is H and R10 is methyl, "(MeCp)ZrCl₃") is purchased as a complex with

dimethoxyether (DME) from Boulder Scientific and is used as received. Propylcyclopentadienylzirconium (IV) chloride (compound (7) wherein R6-R9 is H and R10 is propyl, "(PrCp)ZrCl₃") is purchased as a complex with DME from Boulder Scientific and is used as received. Purchase all other reagents from Sigma-Aldrich and use as received. E.g., P₂O₅/CH₃SO₃H (0.1/1 wt/wt) mixture may be purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, CAS# 39394-84-8).

[0067] ¹H-NMR (proton nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy) chemical shift data are reported in parts per million (ppm) down field relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS), δ scale, using residual protons in deuterated solvent as references. The ¹H-NMR chemical shift data measured in CDCl₃ are referenced to 7.26 ppm, data measured in benzene-*d*₆ (C₆D₆) to 7.16 ppm, data measured in tetrahydrofuran-*d*₈ (THF-*d*₈) to 3.58 ppm. ¹H-NMR chemical shift data are reported in the format: chemical shift in ppm (multiplicity, coupling constant(s) in Hertz (Hz), and integration value. Multiplicities are abbreviated s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), pent (pentet), m (multiplet), and br (broad).

[0068] GC/MS (EI) means gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (electron ionization).

[0069] Butyl Branch Frequency (BBF) Test Method: Butyl Branching Frequency is number of butyl branches per 1000 main chain carbon atoms of a poly(ethylene-*co*-1-hexene) copolymer. To prepare test sample, add approximately 2.74 g of a 50/50 mixture of tetrachloroethane-*d*₂/orthodichlorobenzene containing 0.025 M Cr(AcAc)₃ to 0.15 g of test sample of the copolymer in a 10 mm NMR tube (Norell 1001-7). Remove oxygen manually by purging tube with nitrogen using a Pasteur pipette for 1 minute. Dissolve and homogenize test sample by heating the tube and its contents to 150° C. in a heating block. Visually inspect heated test sample to ensure homogeneity (thorough mixing). Without allowing heated test sample to cool, insert it into a heated (120° C.) NMR probe. Allow inserted sample to thermally equilibrate at the probe temperature for seven minutes. Then acquire NMR data using a Bruker 400 MHz spectrometer, equipped with a Bruker CryoProbe using 320 transient scans, and a six second pulse repetition delay. Make all measurements on a non-spinning sample in locked mode. Internally reference ¹³C NMR chemical shifts to the EEE triad at 30 ppm. Determine short chain branches (SCB) derived from 1-hexene (C₄ branches) comonomeric units by setting the integral value for the entire spectrum (from ~40 to 10 ppm) to 1,000, and then calculate BBF according to the following formula: BBF = (a +

$b/2 + c + d/2 + e)/5$, wherein a, b, c, d, and e are the integrated regions of the ^{13}C NMR signals at 38.2, 34.6, 34.2, 27.3 and 23.4 ppm, respectively.

[0070] Melt Temperature Test Method: melt temperature of a polymer is determined by Differential Scanning Calorimetry according to ASTM D 3418-08. For instance, using a scan rate of 10°C./minute on a sample of 10 mg and using the second heating cycle.

[0071] Molecular Weights Test Method: determine molecular weights (MW) including weight-average molecular weight (Mw), number average molecular weight (Mn), and z-average molecular weight (Mz), and calculate molecular weight distribution (Mw/Mn or MWD) by using a High Temperature Gel Permeation Chromatography (Polymer Laboratories), equipped with a differential refractive index detector (DRI). Use three Polymer Laboratories PLgel 10 μm Mixed-B columns, nominal flow rate 1.0 milliliter per minute (mL/min.), and nominal injection volume 300 microliters (μL). House transfer lines, columns, and differential refractometer (the DRI detector) in an oven maintained at 160°C . Measure all quantities gravimetrically. Prepare solvent by dissolving 6 grams of butylated hydroxytoluene (antioxidant) in 4 liters of reagent grade 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene (TCB). Filter the TCB mixture through a 0.1 micrometer (μm) Teflon filter. Degas the filtrate with an in-line degasser before it enters the GPC instrument. Prepare test polymer solutions by placing test sample of dry polymer in glass vials, adding an amount of TCB sufficient to give an injection concentration from 0.5 to 2.0 mg/mL, using lower concentrations for higher molecular weight samples. Then heat the mixture at 160°C . with continuous shaking for 2 hours to give a ready test sample. Prior to running each ready test sample, purge the DRI detector. Before injecting each ready test sample, increase flow rate in the apparatus to 1.0 mL/min., and allow the DRI detector to stabilize for 8 hours. Determine molecular weights (MW) by combining universal calibration relationship with the column calibration, which is performed with a series of monodispersed polystyrene (PS) standards. Calculate MW at each elution volume with following equation:

$$\log M_X = \frac{\log(K_X / K_{PS})}{a_X + 1} + \frac{a_{PS} + 1}{a_X + 1} \log M_{PS}, \text{ wherein subscript "X" indicates test sample}$$

and subscript "PS" indicates PS standard. In this method, $a_{PS} = 0.67$ and $K_{PS} = 0.000175$ and obtain a_X and K_X from published literature. Specifically, $a/K = 0.695/0.000579$ for polyethylenes (PE) and $0.705/0.0002288$ for polypropylenes (PP). Calculate concentration, c, at each point in the chromatogram from the baseline-

subtracted DRI signal, I_{DRI} , using the following equation: $c = K_{DRI} I_{DRI} / (dn/dc)$, where K_{DRI} is a constant determined by calibrating the DRI, and (dn/dc) is the refractive index increment for the system. Specifically, $dn/dc = 0.109$ for polyethylene. Calculate mass recovery from the ratio of the integrated area of the concentration chromatography over elution volume and the injection mass, which is equal to the pre-determined concentration multiplied by injection loop volume. Report all molecular weights in g/mol unless otherwise noted. In event of conflict between the GPC-DRI procedure and the "Rapid GPC," the GPC-DRI procedure immediately above shall be used. If desired, see US 2006/0173123 A1, pages 24-25, paragraphs [0334] to [0341], for further details on determining M_w , M_n , M_z , MWD.

[0072] Inventive Example 1: synthesis of compound (3-1) using P_2O_5/H_3CSO_3H mixture: compound (3) wherein R1 to R3b is H and R4 is methyl. In the fume hood, in a round bottom flask equipped with a stir bar, under a nitrogen atmosphere (E)-2-butenic acid (compound (2) wherein R4 is methyl, 0.40 g, 4.64 mmol) was added followed by cycloheptene (compound (1) wherein R1 to R3b is H, 0.542 mL, 4.64 mmol). Next, sulfolane was added (2.2 mL). The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C. Next, added Eaton's reagent dropwise (2.21 mL, 13.94 mmol) at 0 °C. The reaction was warmed up to room temperature and stirred for 18 hours. The crude product was diluted into 20 mL of water and 20 mL of diethyl ether. Added solid $NaHCO_3$ until bubbling subsided. The liquid layer was decanted and the aqueous and organic layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted twice with diethyl ether (2 × 5 mL). The combined organic layers were combined and washed with saturated $NaHCO_3$ (10 mL). The organic layer was washed with brine (15 mL), dried over magnesium sulfate and filtered. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* to afford a light brown oil product (0.64 g) in 84 % yield. The product was characterized by 1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR and GC/MS (EI). 1H -NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) 2.69 -1.17 (broad multiplets), 1.14 (d, 3H). GC/MS (EI) 164 (mass), 149.

[0073] Inventive Example 2 (prophetic): synthesis of compound (4-1): compound (4) wherein R1 to R3b is H and R4 and R5 are methyl. Under an atmosphere of dry nitrogen, the compound (3-1) of Inventive Example 1 (135.6 mmol) is weighed out in a 500 mL round bottom flask and is dissolved in anhydrous diethyl ether (245 mL). The reaction mixture is cooled to -78 °C. Methyl lithium (1.6 M, 110 mL, 176.3 mmol) is added dropwise and the solution is stirred for 15 minutes at -78° C. The reaction mixture is stirred for 20 hours at room temperature to give a reaction mixture containing compound (4-1).

[0074] Inventive Example 2a (actual): synthesis of compound (4-1): compound (4) wherein R1 to R3b is H and R4 and R5 are methyl. Under an atmosphere of dry nitrogen, weighed compound (3-1) of Inventive Example 1 (16.63 g, 101.24 mmol) in a 1 L round bottom flask, and dissolved in anhydrous diethyl ether (185 mL). Cooled the reaction mixture to -78° C. Added dropwise methyl lithium (1.6 M, 82.3 mL, 131.62 mmol), and stirred the resulting mixture for 15 minutes at -78° C. Allowed mixture to warm, and stirred for 20 hours at ambient temperature to give a reaction mixture containing compound (4-1). Compound (4-1) was not isolated or characterized.

[0075] Inventive Example 3 (prophetic): synthesis of compound (5-1): compound (5) wherein R1 to R3b is H and R4 and R5 are methyl. Hydrolyze the reaction mixture containing compound (4-1) in Inventive Example 2 with aqueous 6 M HCL (67 mL) and stirring for 20 hours at room temperature. The organic phase is separated and the aqueous layer is extracted with diethyl ether (2 x 50 mL). The combined organic layers are washed with water (80 mL), followed saturated NaHCO₃ (80 mL) and brine (80 mL). The organic layers are dried over magnesium sulfate and filtered, and the solvent is removed in vacuo to give compound (5-1).

[0076] Inventive Example 3a (actual): synthesis of compound (5-1): compound (5) wherein R1 to R3b is H and R4 and R5 are methyl. Added aqueous 6 M HCL (50 mL) at 0 °C to the mixture containing compound (4-1) of Inventive Example 2a, and hydrolyzed with stirring for 5 hours at room temperature. Separated the organic phase. Extracted the aqueous layer with diethyl ether (3 x 100 mL). Combined organic layers, and washed with water (100 mL), then saturated NaHCO₃ (80 mL), then brine (100 mL). Dried the combined organic layers over magnesium sulfate, filtered, and removed solvent in vacuo. Refined the obtained product by passing it through a silica gel plug and eluting it with diethyl ether/hexane to give 13.3 g (81% yield) of compound (5-1) as a mixture of double bond regioisomers. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 5.92 – 5.68 (m, 1H), 2.85 – 0.42 (m, 17 H). GC/MS (EI) 162 (mass), 147.

[0077] Inventive Example 4 (prophetic): synthesis of compound (6-1): compound (6) wherein R1 to R3b is H and R4 and R5 are methyl. In a glove box, in a 480 mL glass jar, compound (5-1) (49.7 mmol) is dissolved in hexanes (140 mL). To the stirred solution is added dropwise a solution of n-butyl lithium in hexanes (1.6 M, 46.6 mL, 74.5 mmol). The reaction mixture is stirred for 20 hours. The compound (6-1) is collected by vacuum filtration, and the resulting solid product is washed with hexanes and dried under vacuum to give compound (6-1).

[0078] Inventive Example 4a (actual): synthesis of compound (6-1): compound (6) wherein R1 to R3b is H and R4 and R5 are methyl. In a glove box, in a 240 mL glass jar, dissolved compound (5-1) (3.45 g, 21.26 mmol) of Inventive Example 3a in hexanes (60 mL). Stirred the solution and added dropwise a solution of n-butyl lithium in hexanes (1.6 M, 15.9 mL, 25.51 mmol). Stirred the resulting mixture for 20 hours. Collected compound (6-1) by vacuum filtration, and washed the collected solid product with hexanes. Dried product under vacuum to give 1.26 g (35% yield) of compound (6-1) as a beige solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, THF-*d*₈) δ 4.98 (s, 1H), 2.52 – 2.44 (m, 4), 1.94 (s, 6H), 1.56 – 1.47 (m, 6H).

[0079] Inventive Example 5 (prophetic): synthesis of compound (8-1): compound (8) wherein R1 to R3b and R6 to R10 are H and R4 and R5 are methyl. In drybox in a 950 mL glass jar, compound (6-1) (31.1 mmol) is slurried in 272 mL of anhydrous diethyl ether. To the stirred reaction mixture is added (Cp)ZrCl₃ (compound (7) wherein R6 to R10 are H, 8.12 g, 31.1 mmol) in small portions followed by the addition of 1,2-dimethoxyethane (27 mL). The resulting reaction mixture is stirred for 48 hours at room temperature, filtered, and the solvent is removed under vacuum to afford compound (8-1).

[0080] Inventive Example 5a (actual): synthesis of compound (8-1): compound (8) wherein R1 to R3b and R6 to R10 are H and R4 and R5 are methyl. In drybox in a 120 mL glass jar, slurried compound (6-1) (0.40 g, 2.38 mmol) of Inventive Example 4a in 32 mL of anhydrous toluene. Stirred the slurry and to it added (Cp)ZrCl₃ (compound (7) wherein R6 to R10 are H, 0.50 g, 1.90 mmol) in small portions. Stirred the resulting mixture for 48 hours at ambient temperature, filtered, and removed solvent under vacuum to give compound (8-1) as a light brown solid. Triturated the solid with pentane (2 x 20 mL) by slurrying and stirring for 18 hours at ambient temperature, followed by filtration to give 0.24 g (25% yield) of purified solid compound (8-1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Benzene-*d*₆) δ 6.01 (s, 5H), 5.25 (s, 1H), 2.70 (ddd, *J* = 14.2, 12.4, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 2.48 (dd, *J* = 15.2, 6.2 Hz, 2H), 1.72 (broad singlet, 9H), 1.49 – 1.29 (m, 1H), 1.06 (dt, *J* = 14.2, 11.3, 3.2 Hz, 2H). Compound (8-1) was also characterized by x-ray crystallography and an ORTEP structure obtained (available upon request).

[0081] Inventive Example 6 (prophetic): compound (9-1): compound (9) wherein R1 to R3b and R6 to R10 are H and R4 and R5 are methyl. In drybox in an 240 mL glass jar, compound (8-1) (10.5 mmol) is slurried in anhydrous diethyl ether (65 mL). To the stirred reaction mixture is added a solution of methyl magnesium bromide (3.0 M, 7.89 mL, 23.7 mmol) dropwise. The reaction mixture is stirred for 20 hours at room

temperature. The solvent is removed under vacuum. The resulting solid product is dissolved in hexanes (150 mL) and filtered. The hexanes are removed under vacuum to afford compound (9-1).

[0082] Inventive Example 7 (prophetic): polymerization of ethylene using a catalyst prepared from compound (8-1) or (9-1). Use a gas-phase fluidized bed reactor ("Reactor") having a reaction zone dimensioned as 304.8 mm (twelve inch) internal diameter and a 2.4384 meter (8 feet) in straight-side height and containing a fluidized reactor bed of polymer granules. Configure the Reactor with a recycle gas line for flowing a recycle gas stream. Fit the Reactor with gas feed inlets and polymer product outlet. Introduce gaseous feed streams of ethylene and hydrogen together with liquid 1-hexene comonomer below the fluidized reactor bed into the recycle gas line. Control individual flow rates of ethylene ("C2"), hydrogen ("H2") and 1-hexene ("C6") to maintain a fixed 1-hexene comonomer to ethylene monomer composition molar ratio ("C6/C2") from 0.0001 to 0.1 (e.g., 0.0050), a constant hydrogen to ethylene molar ratio ("H2/C2") from 0.0001 to 0.1 (e.g., 0.0020), and a constant ethylene ("C2") partial pressure from 1,000 to 2,000 kilopascals (kPa) (e.g., 1,500 kPa). Measure concentrations of all gases by an in-line gas chromatograph to ensure relatively constant composition in the recycle gas stream. Maintain a reacting bed of growing polymer particles in a fluidized state by continuously flowing a make-up feed and recycle gas through the reaction zone. Use a superficial gas velocity of from 0.4 to 0.7 meter per second (m/sec) (e.g., from 0.49 to 0.67 m/sec, or 1.6 to 2.2 feet per second (ft/sec)). Operate the Reactor at a total pressure of 2,000 to 3,000 kPa (e.g., 2344 to about 2413 kPa, or 340 to about 350 pounds per square inch-gauge (psig)) and at a constant reaction temperature of 85° to 115° C. (e.g., 105° C.). Maintain the fluidized bed at a constant height by withdrawing a portion of the bed at a rate equal to the rate of formation of particulate product. The polymer production rate is in the range of 5 to 20 kg/hour (e.g., 13 to 18 kg/hour. Remove the polymer product semi-continuously via a series of valves into a fixed volume chamber, wherein this removed polymer product is purged to remove entrained hydrocarbons and treated with a stream of humidified nitrogen (N2) gas to deactivate any trace quantities of residual polymerization catalyst. A polyethylene is made and characterized by melt index I2 (190 C., 2.16 kg, ASTM D1238-13); density (ASTM D792-13, Method B); Butyl branching frequency* (BBF, NMR), wherein BBF is the number of butyl branches per 1000 main chain carbon

atoms; number average molecular weight; weight average molecular weight; molecular mass dispersity (M_w/M_n), $\bar{M}_w$ (pronounced D-stroke M), and melting temperature T_m .

[0083] Inventive Example 8: synthesis of compound (8-2): compound (8) wherein R1 to R3b and R6 to R9 are H, R10 is propyl and R4 and R5 are methyl. Replicated Inventive Example 5a except used (PrCp)ZrCl₃-DME complex (0.75 g, 1.90 mmol) in 14 mL of toluene instead of (Cp)ZrCl₃ to give 0.64 g (78% yield) of purified solid compound (8-2). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Benzene-*d*₆) δ 6.00 – 5.86 (m, 2H), 5.77 (t, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 2H), 5.35 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 2.81 – 2.63 (m, 4H), 2.57 – 2.45 (m, 2H), 1.77 (s, 6H), 1.76 – 1.69 (m, 3H), 1.52 (dt, *J* = 15.0, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.47 – 1.36 (m, 1H), 1.15 – 1.01 (m, 2H), 0.84 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

[0084] Inventive Example 9: synthesis of compound (8-3): compound (8) wherein R1 to R3b and R6 to R9 are H, R10 is methyl and R4 and R5 are methyl. Replicated Inventive Example 5a except used (MeCp)ZrCl₃-DME complex (7.68 g, 24.79 mmol) in 215 mL of toluene instead of (Cp)ZrCl₃ in 14 mL toluene; and used 4.17g (24.79 mmol) instead of 0.40 g, (2.38 mmol) of compound (6-1); and used 160 mL instead of 2 x 20 mL of pentane (4.17 g, 24.79 mmol) to give 5.1 g (51% yield) of purified solid compound (8-3). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Benzene-*d*₆) δ 5.86 (t, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 2H), 5.72 (t, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 2H), 5.27 (s, 1H), 2.74 (ddd, *J* = 15.2, 12.2, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 2.50 (ddt, *J* = 15.1, 6.3, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 1.74 (broad s, 9H), 1.50 – 1.35 (m, 1H), 1.15 – 1.00 (m, 2H).

[0085] Inventive Example 10: synthesis of compound (9-1): compound (9) wherein R1 to R3b and R6 to R9 are H, and R10 is methyl and R4 and R5 are methyl. In drybox in a 120 mL glass jar, slurried compound (8-3) (0.61 g, 1.52 mmol) in anhydrous diethyl ether (10 mL). To the stirred mixture added dropwise a solution of methyl magnesium bromide (3.0 M, 1.14 mL, 3.42 mmol). Stirred the mixture for 20 hours at room temperature. Removed solvent under vacuum. Dissolved resulting solid product in hexanes (40 mL), and filtered. Removed hexanes under vacuum to give 0.411 g (75% yield) of compound (9-1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Benzene-*d*₆) δ 5.71 (t, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 2H), 5.45 (dd, *J* = 3.1, 2.2 Hz, 2H), 5.04 (s, 1H), 2.50 (ddt, *J* = 14.6, 6.2, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 2.22 (ddd, *J* = 14.4, 12.2, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 2.10 (s, 3H), 1.92 (dddt, *J* = 12.4, 3.8, 2.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 1.81 – 1.69 (m, 1H), 1.73 (s, 6H), 1.47 – 1.26 (m, 4H), -0.25 (s, 6H).

[0086] Inventive Example 11: pilot plant polymerization of ethylene and 1-hexene using a catalyst prepared from compound (9-1) in a gas phase fluidized bed reactor to give a poly(ethylene-co-1-hexene) copolymer. Used gas phase fluidized bed polymerization of ethylene and 1-hexene to make an ethylene/1-hexene copolymer.

Used a gas phase fluidized bed reactor that had a 0.35 meter (m) internal diameter and 1.9 m bed height; a distribution grid; and 51.3 kg of a fluidized bed composed of polymer granules. Passed fluidization gas through the bed at a velocity of about 0.52 meter per second (m/s; 1.7 feet per second (ft/s)). Exited the fluidization gas from the top of the reactor and passed the exited fluidization gas through a recycle gas compressor and shell-and-tube heat exchanger, having a tube side and a shell side, before feeding the gas back into the reactor below the distribution grid. Maintained a constant fluidized bed temperature of 105° C. by continuously adjusting the temperature of water on the shell side of the shell-and-tube heat exchanger. Fed gaseous feed streams of ethylene, nitrogen and hydrogen together with 1-hexene comonomer into the recycle gas line. Operated the reactor at a total pressure of about 2413 kilopascals gauge (kPa gauge). Vented the reactor to a flare to control the total pressure. Adjusted individual flow rates of ethylene, nitrogen, hydrogen and 1-hexene to maintain gas composition targets. Set ethylene partial pressure at 1520 kilopascals (kPa; 220 pounds per square inch (psi)), while setting the C6/C2 molar ratio to 0.0050 and the H2/C2 molar ratio to 0.0020. Used induced condensing agent (ICA) isopentane. Maintained isopentane concentration at about 10 mol %. Measured concentrations of all gasses using an on-line gas chromatograph. Prepared spray-dried methylaluminoxane (sdMAO) according to the method of WO 2018/064044. Fed the sdMAO to a pilot-scale UNIPOL™ polyethylene reactor via a 0.635 cm (1/4 inch) inner-diameter injection tube. Also fed a mixture of 0.04 wt% compound (9-1) in isopentane via the same injection tube at a feed rate sufficient to provide a target concentration of Zr per gram of spray-dried MAO. Adjusted feed rates to achieve a targeted polymer production rate in the range of 15 to 20 kg/hour. Maintained the fluidized bed at constant height at 1.9 m by withdrawing a portion of the bed at a rate equal to the rate of formation of particulate polymer product. Removed polymer product semi-continuously via a series of valves into a fixed volume chamber. Purged removed polymer product with a nitrogen purge that removed a significant portion of entrained and dissolved hydrocarbons in the fixed volume chamber. After purging, discharged the purged polymer product from the fixed volume chamber into a fiber pack for collection. Further treated the collected polymer product with a small stream of humidified nitrogen to deactivate any trace quantities of residual catalyst and

cocatalyst entrained therein. Properties of the poly(ethylene-co-1-hexene) copolymer are shown in Table 1 below.

[0087] Table 1: properties of copolymer of Inventive Example 11.

Property	Value
Catalyst mass balance productivity (wt/wt)	11,468
Melt index I ₂ (190 C., 2.16 kg, ASTM D1238-13)	163.7 grams/10 minutes
Density (ASTM D792-13, Method B)	0.9646 g/cm ³
Butyl branching frequency per 1000C (BBF, NMR)	0.74
Number average molecular weight	11,593
Weight average molecular weight	29,986
Molecular mass dispersity (M_w/M_n), $\bar{M}_w$	2.59
Melting temperature T _m	132.06

[0088] In Table 1, the polymerization catalyst of Inventive Example 10 has good catalytic activity and the copolymer has a desired Mw) of greater than 25,000 g/mole. The copolymer has a desirable BBF (Butyl Branching Frequency) of < 1 per 1,000 C (e.g., 0.74 per 1,000 C), and thus the copolymer has a desirable degree of ethylene enchainment. The catalyst has a desirable activity of at least 5,000 kg copolymer made per kg catalyst used.

[0089] Inventive Examples 12 to 14: synthesis of spray-dried polymerization catalysts. In separate experiments, prepared a polymerization catalyst system using one of polymerization catalysts of Inventive Example 5a, 8, and 9, respectively, as follows. Slurried 5.30 g of treated (hydrophobic) fumed silica (Cabosil TS-610) in 125 g of toluene. Then added 44 g of a 10 wt% solution of methylaluminoxane (MAO) in toluene. Next, added the polymerization catalyst of Inventive Example 5a, 8, or 9, and stirred the resulting mixture for 30 to 60 minutes. Used a spray-drier apparatus configured with an inlet and outlet and an atomizing device, a heated spray drier, and a cyclone separator. Introduced the resulting mixture into the spray-drier via the inlet into the atomizing device, producing droplets that were then contacted with a hot nitrogen gas stream to evaporate the liquid and form a powder. Separated the powder from the gas mixture in the cyclone separator, and discharged the separated fine powder through the outlet into an external container. During the foregoing spray-drying procedure, the spray drier temperature was set at 165° C. and the outlet temperature at 60° to 70° C. All loadings of the catalyst of Inventive Examples 5a, 8, or 9 were 50 micromoles of catalyst per gram of treated fumed silica (μmol/g), which corresponds to an Al:Zr atomic ratio of 100. This gave a spray-dried catalyst of Inventive Example

12, 13, or 14 containing a polymerization catalyst of Inventive Example 5a, 8, or 9, respectively.

[0090] Inventive Examples 15 to 17: lab-scale polymerization of ethylene and 1-hexene using spray-dried catalyst of any one of Inventive Example 12, 13, or 14 containing a polymerization catalyst of Inventive Example 5a, 8, or 9, respectively. Used a 2-liter, stainless steel autoclave gas phase reactor equipped with a mechanical agitator. For each experimental run, first dried the reactor for 1 hour, then charged the dried reactor with 400 g of NaCl and dried by heating at 105° C. under nitrogen for 30 minutes. To the resulting dried reactor, added 5 g of SMAO (silica supported methylalumoxane) as a scavenger under nitrogen pressure. Then sealed the reactor and stirred its contents. Then charged the reactor with hydrogen (1500 ppm) and 1-hexene. Pressurized the reactor with ethylene (total pressure = 220 psi) to give H₂/C₂ molar ratio = 0.0017 and C₆/C₂ molar ratio = 0.004. Once the pressurized reactor reached a steady state, charged the spray-dried catalyst of any one of Inventive Example 12, 13, or 14 therein to start a polymerization. Brought the reactor temperature to 100° C., and maintained it at this temperature throughout the experiment run for 60 minutes. At 60 minutes, cooled the reactor to ambient temperature vented and opened. Washed the resulting product mixture with water, then methanol, and dried it to give a poly(ethylene-co-1-hexene) copolymer of any one of Inventive Examples 15 to 17, respectively. Calculated the catalyst activity in grams of polymer made per gram catalyst-hour as equal to a ratio of an amount of polymer yield to the amount of catalyst added to the reactor. Measured number-average molecular weight (M_n), weight average molecular weight (M_w), molecular weight distribution (M_w/M_n), melt temperature, and butyl branch frequency (BBF) according to their foregoing respective test methods. Results are shown below in Table 2.

[0091] Table 2: Catalysts and copolymers of Inventive Examples 15 to 17.

Inv. Ex. No.	Catalyst	Activity (grams copolymer/gram catalyst-hour)	M _n	M _w	M _w /M _n	Melt temp. (° C)	BBF (per 1,000 C)
15	(8-1) (IE5a)	2936	11,506	34,344	2.98	131.92	0.8

16	(8-2) (IE8)	7005	10,604	34,516	3.25	130.67	1.11
17	(8-3) (IE9)	6719	12,406	35,587	2.87	133.01	0.55

[0092] In Table 2, the catalysts (8-1), (8-2) and (8-3) exhibit polymerization activity of at least 2,500 grams copolymer/gram catalyst and produce a copolymer having a desired Mw > 25,000 and two examples have BBF < 1.5 per 1,000 C (1.11, 0.8, and 0.55 per 1,000 C), which evidence a desirable degree of ethylene enchainment. Degree of ethylene enchainment indicates the catalysts selectively permit polymerization of ethylene (i.e., improved ethylene enchainment) while mitigating the polymerization of other molecules such as 1-hexene (e.g., via a particular degree of steric hindrance associated with the substituent groups of the catalysts).

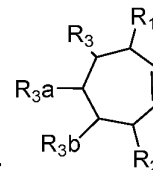
[0093] As discussed earlier, Conia et al., Rand and Dolinski, and others report using PPA or P₂O₅/PPA mixture to catalyze a reaction of cycloheptene, cyclohexene, or cyclopentene with an alpha,beta-unsaturated carboxylic acid such as acrylic acid or crotonic acid gives a reaction mixture that contains an ester by-product (e.g., cycloheptyl crotonate, cyclohexyl crotonate, or cyclopentyl crotonate, respectively). We found that using a sulfonic acid reagent (P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H reagent) to catalyze a reaction of cycloheptene, cyclohexene, or cyclopentene with an alpha,beta-unsaturated carboxylic acid such as acrylic acid or crotonic acid gives a reaction mixture that does not contain an ester by-product (e.g., the reaction does not yield cycloheptyl crotonate, cyclohexyl crotonate, or cyclopentyl crotonate, respectively). We base this finding on analysis of at least one of the reaction mixtures by GC/MS (EI), which fails to show any ester by-product. We also base this finding on seeing that the reaction of cycloheptene, cyclohexene, or cyclopentene with an alpha,beta-unsaturated carboxylic acid such as acrylic acid or crotonic acid in the presence of the P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H reagent goes much faster than a reaction of cycloheptyl crotonate, cyclohexyl crotonate, or cyclopentyl crotonate, respectively, in the presence of the P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H reagent.

[0094] Without wishing to be bound by theory, we believe that the P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H reagent reacts with the alpha,beta-unsaturated carboxylic acid (e.g., crotonic acid) to give *in situ* a mixed anhydride of general formula R₄CH=CHC(=O)-O-SO₂-CH₃, which generates *in situ* an acylium ion (i.e., acyl carbonium ion) of formula R₄CH=CHC⁺(=O), which rapidly undergoes a Friedel-Crafts acylation of cycloalkene to give *in situ* a

ketone of formula $R^A-C(=O)-R^C$, wherein R^A is $R^4CH=CH-$ and R^C is cycloalken-1-yl, which ketone undergoes cyclization reaction to give the corresponding cyclopentenone. For example, when the cycloalkene is cyclohexene and the alpha,beta-unsaturated carboxylic acid is crotonic acid, we believe that the P_2O_5/H_3CSO_3H reagent reacts with the crotonic acid to give *in situ* a mixed anhydride of general formula $H_3CCH=CHC(=O)-O-SO_2-CH_3$, which generates *in situ* an acylium ion (i.e., acyl carbonium ion) of formula $H_3CCH=CHC^+(=O)$, which rapidly undergoes a Friedel-Crafts acylation of cycloalkene to give *in situ* a ketone of formula $R^A-C(=O)-R^C$, wherein R^A is $H_3CCH=CH-$ and R^C is cyclohexen-1-yl, which ketone undergoes cyclization reaction to give the corresponding cyclopentenone that is 2,3,4,5,6,7-hexahydro-3-methyl-1H-inden-1-one (i.e., 7-methyl-bicyclo[4.3.0]-7-nonen-9-one). Therefore, using the P_2O_5/H_3CSO_3H reagent in reaction of a cycloalkene such as cycloheptene, cyclohexene, or cyclopentene with an alpha,beta-unsaturated carboxylic acid such as acrylic acid or crotonic acid does not inherently make the ester by-product (e.g., cycloheptyl crotonate, cyclohexyl crotonate, or cyclopentyl crotonate, respectively) reported by Conia et al., Rand and Dolinski, and others using PPA or P_2O_5 /PPA mixture.

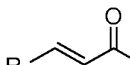
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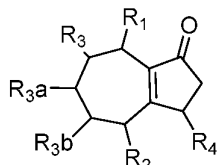
1. A method of synthesizing a bicyclo[5.3.0]decene compound, the method



comprising (A) contacting a compound of formula (1) ("compound (1)"):

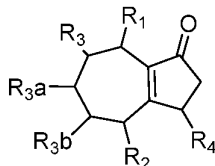
(1), wherein R1, R2, R3, R3a, and R3b are independently H or (C₁-C₄)alkyl, or any two adjacent R1 to R3b groups are bonded together to form a (C₁-C₄)alkylene and the remaining two R1 to R3b groups independently are H or (C₁-C₄)alkyl, with a

compound of formula (2) ("compound (2)"):  (2), wherein R4 is H or (C₁-C₄)alkyl, in the presence of an effective amount of a phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent and under reaction conditions sufficient to make a compound of formula (3)

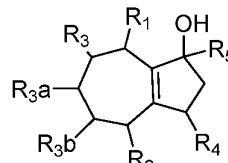


("compound (3)"): (3) and/or its oxo/R4 regioisomer; wherein R1 to R4 are as defined above; and with the proviso that when each of R1 to R3a is H and R4 is methyl, the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent and contacting step (A) are free of a polyphosphoric acid (PPA).

2. A method of synthesizing a ligand for a transition metal, the method comprising:

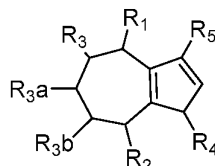


(A) synthesizing the compound (3): (3) and its oxo/R4 regioisomer, according to step (A) of claim 1, wherein R1 to R4 are as defined in claim 1; (B) contacting the compound (3) and/or its oxo/R4 regioisomer with either a hydride-functional reducing agent or a (C₁-C₄)alkyl lithium, under reaction conditions sufficient



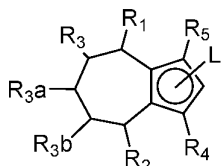
to make a compound of formula (4) ("compound (4)"): (4) and/or its (HO,R5)/R4 regioisomer, respectively, wherein R1 to R4 are as defined above and

R5 is either H or (C₁-C₄)alkyl, respectively; and (C) contacting the compound (4) and/or its (HO,R5)/R4 regioisomer with dehydration reaction conditions to make a

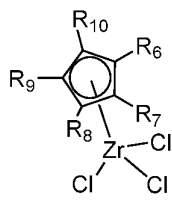


compound of formula (5) ("compound (5)"): (5), and/or its R5/R4 regioisomer, respectively; wherein R1 to R5 are as defined above.

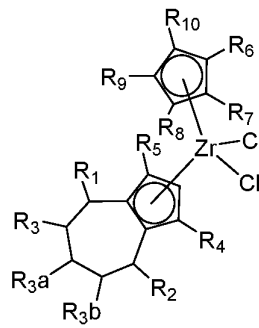
3. A method of synthesizing a zirconocene dichloride complex, the method comprising synthesizing the compound (5) and/or its R5/R4 regioisomer according to steps (A) to (C) of claim 2; (D) contacting the compound (5) and/or its R5/R4 regioisomer with an alkyl lithium under reaction conditions sufficient to make a



compound of formula (6) ("compound (6)"): (6) and/or its R5/R4 regioisomer, wherein R1 to R5 are as defined in claim 2; and (E) contacting the compound (6) and/or its R5/R4 regioisomer with a compound of formula (7)



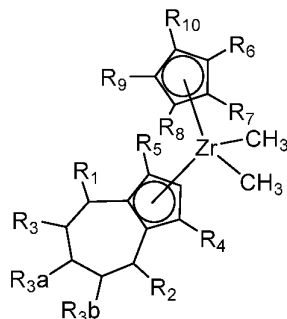
("compound (7)"): (7), wherein R6 to R8 independently are H or (C₁-C₄)alkyl and R9 and R10 independently are H, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, or R9 and R10 are bonded together and are a (C₃-C₅)alkylene, under reaction conditions sufficient to



make a compound of formula (8) ("compound (8)"): (8) and/or its R5/R4 regioisomer, wherein R1 to R10 are as defined above.

4. A method of synthesizing a zirconocene dimethyl complex, the method comprising synthesizing the compound (8) and/or its R5/R4 regioisomer according to

steps (A) to (E) of claim 3; and (F) contacting the compound (8) and/or its R5/R4 regioisomer with an effective amount of methyl magnesium bromide under reaction conditions sufficient to make a compound of formula (9) ("compound (9)"):



(9) and/or its R5/R4 regioisomer, wherein R1 to R10 are as defined in claim 3.

5. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent is a polyphosphoric acid (PPA); a mixture of a phosphorous pentoxide and methanesulfonic acid ("P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H mixture"), or a reaction product thereof; or a combination of a PPA and a P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H mixture, or a reaction product of thereof; with the proviso that when each of R1 to R3b is H and R4 is methyl, the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent and the contacting step (A) are free of the PPA.

6. The method of any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent is a polyphosphoric acid (PPA); with the proviso that at least one of R1 to R3b is (C₁-C₄)alkyl or R4 is H.

7. The method of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent is the P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H mixture, or a reaction product thereof.

8. The method of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the phosphoric and/or sulfonic acid reagent is the combination of the PPA and the P₂O₅/H₃CSO₃H mixture, or a reaction product thereof.

9. The method of any one of claims 1 to 8, characterized by any one of limitations (i) to (ix): (i) wherein at least one of R1 to R3b is a (C₁-C₄)alkyl or R4 is H; (ii) wherein each of R1 to R4 is H; (iii) wherein each of R1 to R3b is H and R4 is methyl; (iv) wherein in compound (1) each of R1, R2, R3a and R3b is H and R3 is methyl; in compound (2) R4 is methyl; and in compound (3) each of R1, R2, R3a and R3b is H and each of R3 and R4 is methyl; and in its oxo/R4 regioisomer each of R1, R2, R3a and R3 is H and each of R3b and R4 is each methyl; (v) wherein R1 and/or R2 is methyl and R3, R3a and R3b is H; (vi) wherein R1 is methyl, R2 is 1-methylethyl (i.e., isopropyl), and R3,

R3a and R3b are H; (vii) wherein R1 is 1-methylethyl (i.e., isopropyl), R2 is methyl, and R3, R3a and R3b are H; (viii) wherein R1 and R2 independently are (C₁-C₄)alkyl, R3, R3a and R3b are H, and the stereochemistry of the carbon atom bonded to R1 is (R) and the stereochemistry to the carbon atom bonded to R2 is (S); and (ix) wherein R1 and R2 independently are (C₁-C₄)alkyl, R3, R3a and R3b are H, and the stereochemistry of the carbon atom bonded to R1 is (S) and the stereochemistry to the carbon atom bonded to R2 is (R).

10. The compound (3) or its oxo/R4 regioisomer made by the method of claim 1, the compound (4) or its (HO,R5)/R4 regioisomer made by the method of claim 2, the compound (5) or its R5/R4 regioisomer made by the method of claim 2, the compound (6) or (8), or their respective R5/R4 regioisomer made by the method of claim 3, or the compound (9) or its R5/R4 regioisomer made by the method of claim 4; wherein the compound or its regioisomer is free of platinum, palladium, nickel, rhodium, and ruthenium.

11. A method of polymerizing an olefin, the method comprising contacting ethylene and/or an alpha-olefin with a catalyst made by contacting the compound (8) or (9), or its R5/R4 regioisomer, made by the method of claim 4, with an activator, under conditions sufficient to make a polyolefin polymer comprising a polyethylene homopolymer, an ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer, or a poly(alpha-olefin) homopolymer.

12. The polyolefin polymer made by the method of claim 11 and being free of platinum, palladium, nickel, rhodium, and ruthenium.