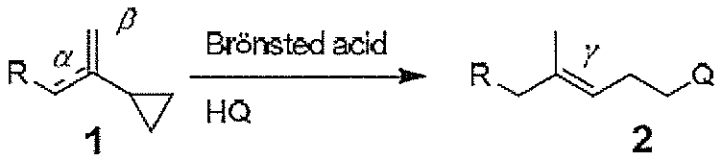
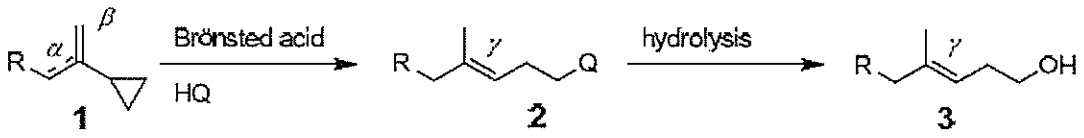
Claims:

1. A method of forming homoallylic compounds **2** from cyclopropylvinyl precursors **1** in the presence of a Bronsted acid HQ



wherein, the Bronsted acid HQ is selected from R'CO_2H and/ or a hydrogen halide selected from HCl, HBr or HI, wherein R is a C_{1-30} cyclic, polycyclic or acyclic alkyl residue, or an aryl or polyaryl residue, each of which may be saturated or unsaturated, branched or linear, and substituted by a hydroxyl group or unsubstituted; R' is a C_{1-30} alkyl or aryl residue, which may be linear or branched and may be substituted or unsubstituted, and wherein Q is R'CO_2 and/or a halide atom.

2. A method of forming a homoallylic alcohol according to claim 1

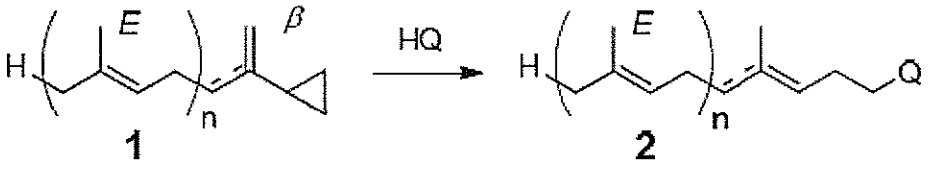


by hydrolysis of rearrangement product **2**.

3. A method of forming a homoallylic alcohol according to claim 2, wherein the E/Z ratio is greater than 70:30, more particularly greater than 75:25; still more particularly greater than 80:20.

4. A method according to any of the preceding claims wherein the residue R contains carbon-carbon unsaturation.

5. A method according to any of the preceding claims wherein the substrate **1** is a polyprenoid



1 **2**

wherein n is 1, 2 or 3.

6. A method according to claim 5 wherein the substrate **1** is a cyclopropanated farnesene.

7. A method of forming Ambrox comprising the step of forming E,E-homofarnesol in accordance with a method defined in any of the preceding claims, and cyclizing the E,E-homofarnesol so formed using the bacterial enzyme squalene hopene cyclase.

8. A method of forming a homoallylic alcohol according to claim 1 by transesterification, and / or nucleophilic substitution of a rearrangement product **2'** in the form of a homoallylic halide (with Q= X = Cl, Br, or I) to esters of the general structure **2**, said esters being hydrolyzed with aqueous base to homoallylic alcohols of the general structure **3**.