Convenient synthesis of 1,3-dithiolane-2-thiones: cyclic trithiocarbonates as conformational locks¹

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Abstract
A series of novel 1,3-dithiolane-2-thiones, or cyclic trithiocarbonates, has been prepared by a new simple procedure: a treatment of the corresponding epoxides with the commercially available potassium ethyl xanthogenate, KSC(S)OEt. The stereochemistry of the products was determined by ¹H NMR and in some cases by single-crystal X-ray data. Cyclohexane-based 1,3-dithiolane-2-thiones revealed a trans-fusion of the carbo- and hetero-cycles. The products obtained from the mono-substituted cyclohexene oxides demonstrated an axial position of the substituents. Thus the epoxide transformation into trithiocarbonate can be used as a method for locking cyclic compounds in unstable conformations.

Keywords: Conformational control, conformational lock, molecular switches, epoxides, 1,3-dithiolane-2-thiones, cyclic trithiocarbonates

Introduction
1,3-Dithiolane-2-thiones, or cyclic trithiocarbonates, attract much attention due to their variety of useful properties.²,³ They are used as building blocks in the synthesis of new antibiotics, and as versatile ligands and polymers.²-⁶ Trithiocarbonates are also of commercial importance in a wide variety of applications, for example as rubber stabilizers, ore flotation agents, and additives for lubricants and fuels.⁷-⁹ Besides, they exhibit a remarkably high liver disorder suppressing effect, and hypocholesteremic, hypotriglyceridemic, radioprotective, and insecticidal activity.⁹-¹² One of the most efficient methods for the synthesis of cyclic trithiocarbonates reported in literature is based on the reaction of epoxides with carbon disulfide (CS₂) in presence of a base and/or a catalyst.²,⁵,⁸,¹⁰-¹⁴ However, these procedures often suffer from low yields and poor selectivity. Depending on the catalyst and reaction conditions, a variety of products can be
formed. In addition, use of the volatile, inflammable and toxic carbon disulfide is definitely a serious disadvantage.

Herein we report a new procedure for the synthesis of 1,3-dithiolane-2-thiones: a treatment of epoxides with commercially available potassium ethyl xanthogenate, KSC(S)OEt (for a preliminary communication see ref. 1). The procedure is simple, safe, inexpensive, and relatively fast. It does not require high pressure and catalyst, and often gives 1,3-dithiolane-2-thione as the only product in good to moderate yields. The mechanism and stereochemistry of the reaction are discussed.

When cyclohexene oxide was used as a starting material in catalytic reaction with CS₂, the newly formed five-membered cyclic trithiocarbonate was trans-fused to the cyclohexane ring.² Our modified procedure has the same stereochemical outcome. When it is applied to epoxides of substituted cyclic alkenes, the substituent(s) on the ring could be forced to adopt a sterically unfavourable axial position. Thus, the five-membered trithiocarbonate ring can serve as a lock for unfavourable conformations. We suggest this approach in addition to a set of other conformational locks (acetals, ortho-esters, urethanes, etc.) that have previously been used in various stereoselective syntheses.¹⁵,¹⁶

**Results and Discussion**

**Synthesis of trithiocarbonates**

In the course of our studies on the cleavage of epoxides with sulfur nucleophiles,¹⁷,¹⁸ we found that treatment with potassium xanthogenate transformed epoxides into 1,3-dithiolane-2-thiones (cyclic trithiocarbonates) in good to moderate yields.¹ The procedures described previously for such a transformation used carbon disulfide in presence of a base and/or catalyst, and included an in situ formation of a xanthogenate or a similar intermediate, and then its reaction with an epoxide ²⁵,⁸,¹⁰⁻¹⁴ (for a detailed critical consideration of the literature data see ref. 2). Thus, our modified procedure eliminates the most inconvenient step, which used the toxic, volatile and inflammable CS₂, by employing a safe commercially available reagent.

We carried out the reaction of cyclohexene oxide with KSC(S)OEt (Scheme 1) under various conditions as summarized in Table 1.

**Scheme 1.** Synthesis of *trans*-hexahydro-1,3-benzodithiole-2-thione (2a)
Table 1. Reaction of cyclohexene oxide (1a) with potassium ethyl xanthogenate (Scheme 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>KSC(S)OEt:epoxide mole ratio</th>
<th>Solvent</th>
<th>Temp (°C)</th>
<th>Time (h)</th>
<th>Conversion (%)</th>
<th>Yield of 2a (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 : 1</td>
<td>EtOH</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 : 1</td>
<td>MeOH</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2 : 1</td>
<td>MeOH</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2 : 1</td>
<td>MeOH</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2 : 1</td>
<td>MeOH</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3 : 1</td>
<td>MeOH</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>5 : 1</td>
<td>MeOH</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The isolated yield of the product was dependent on the molar ratio KSC(S)OEt to epoxide. The best result was achieved when the ratio was 2:1 (entry 3). Upon increase of the ratio to 3:1 and 5:1 the yield decreased, but no starting epoxide was recovered (entries 6, 7). Most likely the yield declined due to side reactions of epoxide such as an intermediate/product polymerization. Upon increase of the reaction time the yield decreased (experiment 4). Therefore it was important to monitor the reaction by TLC and to stop it immediately after the complete conversion of epoxide. A reaction temperature of 35-40 °C was found to be optimal, because a lowering of temperature reduced the yield of the product significantly (experiment 5).

Because the conditions of experiment 3 in Table 1 gave the best yield, they were used as standard conditions for the synthesis of a series of trithiocarbonates (Table 2). The starting epoxides were prepared by reaction of corresponding commercially available alkenes with mCPBA.

In some experiments, the reaction yielded intermediate products – thiiranes (see discussion of the mechanism below) or the products of polymerization.

We also explored the possibility of aromatization of the S-substituted cyclohexane rings by treatment of the compounds 2 with Br₂, NBS, or DDQ. However, we obtained the products of oxidation (sulfur replacement) 3 (Scheme 2). Thus, these reagents may be added to the toolbox of other oxidizers used previously for the transformation of 1,3-dithiolane-2-thiones into 1,3-dithiolan-2-ones.
Table 2. Reaction of various epoxides with potassium ethyl xanthogenate.\textsuperscript{a}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Epoxide</th>
<th>Isolated Product</th>
<th>Time (h)</th>
<th>Yield (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1a</td>
<td>2a\textsuperscript{2}</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1b</td>
<td>2b</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1c\textsuperscript{b}</td>
<td>2c</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1d\textsuperscript{c}</td>
<td>2d</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1e\textsuperscript{d}</td>
<td>polymer\textsuperscript{e}</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1f\textsuperscript{f}</td>
<td>2f(a)</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>57\textsuperscript{g}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+ 2f(e)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1g</td>
<td>2g(\textit{ee})</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7\textsuperscript{h}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>1h\textsuperscript{i}</td>
<td>2h(\textit{ee})</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>55\textsuperscript{j}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry</td>
<td>Epoxide</td>
<td>Isolated Product</td>
<td>Time (h)</td>
<td>Yield (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Epoxide 9" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Isolated Product 9" /></td>
<td>72</td>
<td>56 (k)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Epoxide 10" /></td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Isolated Product 10" /></td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Epoxide 11" /></td>
<td><img src="image6.png" alt="Isolated Product 11" /></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td><img src="image7.png" alt="Epoxide 12" /></td>
<td><img src="image8.png" alt="Isolated Product 12" /></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>32 (m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td><img src="image9.png" alt="Epoxide 13" /></td>
<td>polymer (e)</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td><img src="image10.png" alt="Epoxide 14" /></td>
<td><img src="image11.png" alt="Isolated Product 14" /></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td><img src="image12.png" alt="Epoxide 15" /></td>
<td><img src="image13.png" alt="Isolated Product 15" /></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td><img src="image14.png" alt="Epoxide 16" /></td>
<td>polymer (e)</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2. Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Epoxide</th>
<th>Isolated Product</th>
<th>Time (h)</th>
<th>Yield (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Oxirane" /></td>
<td>polymer&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Oxirane" /></td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Thirane" /></td>
<td>72</td>
<td>25&lt;sup&gt;k&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Oxirane" /></td>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Thirane" /></td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup> Epoxide-reagent ratio 1:2; solvent – methanol; 35-45 °C; yields are not optimized; the reactions were terminated after complete consumption of epoxide (by TLC); <sup>b</sup> anti:syn = 1.3:1; <sup>c</sup> anti:syn = 1:1; <sup>d</sup> anti:syn = 1:2; <sup>e</sup> Only polymeric products; no starting epoxide recovered; <sup>f</sup> Pure anti or syn-isomer, or the mixture anti:syn = 1:1; <sup>g</sup> After 0.5 h the ratio of products 2f<sup>(a)</sup>:2f<sup>(e)</sup> was (2.2-3.3):1; after 2-3 h the ratio was 1:1.3; <sup>h</sup> In EtOH; the major product was a polymer; <sup>i</sup> Pure anti or syn-isomer (complete conversion in 2 h and 3 h, respectively); <sup>j</sup> Two diastereomers, 2h<sup>(ee)</sup> and 2h<sup>(ea)</sup>, in the ratio 10:1; <sup>k</sup> Reaction time 72 h; after 15 h thirane was isolated as a major product; <sup>l</sup> A mixture of cis and trans-isomers; <sup>m</sup> After re-acetylation.

Scheme 2. Oxidation of trithiocarbonates 2.

**Stereochemistry of products**

The structures of all compounds were determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR and HRMS analysis. The vicinal coupling constants <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> between protons attached to the cyclohexane moiety are strongly conformation-dependent, which allows an assignment of the predominant conformation and an estimation of the position of conformational equilibrium. <sup>30</sup> For the products with non-symmetrical molecules, most coupling constants in <sup>1</sup>H NMR could be measured directly from the corresponding multiplets assuming the first order of spectra (for methodology see ref. 31). The
large vicinal coupling constants between the cyclohexane protons H3a and H7a geminal to the sulphur atoms (12.1-12.4 Hz) proved unambiguously the trans-diaxial position of these protons and, correspondingly, the trans-diequatorial position of the sulphur atoms in the cyclohexane derivatives 2c – 2i (Figure 1). This means a trans-fusion of two rings, which has also been shown recently by X-ray analysis for the compound 2a.2 The configuration of remote substituents was also established from the couplings of their geminal protons. Thus, the couplings of H5 in the product 2f(e) (triplet of triplets with \( J_{HH} \) of 12.3 Hz and 3.8 Hz) indicated an equatorial position of the methoxycarbonyl group, while all the couplings of H5 in the stereoisomer 2f(a) were small (\( J_{HH} \approx 2.5 - 5.0 \) Hz) indicating an axial position of the substituent (Figure 1). The axial position of methyl group in the compound 2c resulted in small couplings of H5, and was also confirmed by NOE with H3a (Figure 1).

The coupling constants in the half-chairs of epoxides and thiiranes are not characteristic, therefore we used ROESY and STEP-NOESY techniques 32,33 to establish or confirm the configuration of these compounds (Figure 2; for the details see Supplementary data). The STEP-NOESY technique makes use of optimized 1D-pfg-TOCSY magnetization transfer from a well-separated signal in the spectrum to a neighbouring proton in a crowded spectral region for a subsequent 1D-pfg-NOESY irradiation. When literature data were available, our results confirmed the assignments made previously (for instance, for epoxide 11). However, in case of a novel compound 1i (the major syn-product of epoxidation) this approach was inefficient because of conformational peculiarities, and we had to transform 1i into methoxycyclohexanol 4 in order to assign its configuration unambiguously (Scheme 3; see Supplementary data).

\[
\begin{align*}
J(3a,7a) &= 12.1 \text{ Hz} \\
J(5,4^a) &= J(5,6^a) = 12.3 \text{ Hz} \\
J(5,4^b) &= J(5,6^b) = 3.8 \text{ Hz} \\
J(5,4^e) &= J(5,6^e) = 5.0 \text{ Hz} \\
J(5,4^c) &= J(5,6^c) = 2.5 \text{ Hz}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
J(3a,7a) &= 12.2 \text{ Hz} \\
J(5,4^a) &\approx J(5,6^a) \approx J(5,4^c) \approx J(5,6^c) \approx 3.5 \text{ Hz}
\end{align*}
\]

**Figure 1.** Examples of stereochemical assignment for cyclohexano-trithiocarbonates by \(^1\)H NMR.
**Figure 2.** Examples of stereochemical assignment for epoxides and thiiranes by 1D-pfg-ROESY and 1D-pfg-STEP-NOESY experiments.

**Scheme 3.** Acid-catalyzed methanolic cleavage of epoxide 1i.

The single-crystal X-ray analysis has been performed for the products 2f(a), 2f(e), 2h(ee), 2i, and 3h (Figures 3-7). Similar to the published research on compound 2a,² the analysis was complicated by the extremely small size and fiber-like shape of the crystals, necessitating the use of synchrotron radiation.

**Figure 3.** X-ray crystal structure of compound 2f(a) with thermal ellipsoids set at the 50% probability level for non-H atoms (crystals were grown from MeOH). There are two molecules per asymmetric unit.
Figure 4. X-ray crystal structure of compound 2f(e) with thermal ellipsoids set at the 50% probability level for non-H atoms (crystals were grown from MeOH). There are two molecules per asymmetric unit.

Figure 5. X-ray crystal structure of compound 2h(ee) with thermal ellipsoids set at the 50% probability level for non-H atoms (crystals were grown from MeOH).

Figure 6. X-ray crystal structure of compound 3h. Thermal ellipsoids set at the 50% probability level for non-H atoms (crystals were grown from MeOH).
Figure 7. X-ray crystal structure of compound 2i. Thermal ellipsoids set at the 50% probability level for non-H atoms (crystals were grown from MeOH).

The X-ray data clearly demonstrate a chair conformation of the cyclohexane rings, a trans ring fusion, a nearly planar heterocycle, and in case of 2f(a) an axial position of the substituent. Noteworthy, the molecules of racemic compound 2f(a) are paired in asymmetric unit, and the components of the pair have the same configuration (Figure 3). The same kind of stereoselection occurs in case of compound 2f(e) (Figure 4).

Mechanism and stereochemistry of the reaction
As described above, the $^1$H NMR and X-ray data showed that all the obtained cyclohexano-trithiocarbonates were trans-isomers with equatorial position of both sulphur atoms. This requires an inversion of configuration at one of the epoxide carbons during the reaction. The configuration at the second epoxide carbon seems to remain the same as in the substrate, although the original oxygen is replaced by sulphur. This implies a double inversion at the second carbon. A plausible mechanism addressing these major peculiarities is presented in Scheme 4 for the case of mono-substituted cyclohexene epoxides. Similar, although less complete mechanistic considerations were published earlier for the formation of trithiocarbonates from the epoxides of non-cyclic alkenes using carbon disulfide in presence of a base.

The key steps include the cleavage of epoxide 1 by xanthogenate anion, then cyclization of the intermediate 5 into the trans-fused bicyclic structure 6, which requires a transfer of the substituent R into a sterically strained axial position (Scheme 4). Then 6 may eliminate ethoxide ion and give 1,3-oxathiolane-2-thione 7 (route a). We did not isolate these compounds, but the formation of some 1,3-oxathiolane-2-thiones in certain conditions was observed previously. It is also known that these compounds react with excess carbon disulfide to give trithiocarbonates. Apparently, in our case the subsequent addition of a nucleophile (Nuc = EtOCS$_2^-$, EtO$^-$, or MeO$^-$ from the solvent) to probable intermediates 7 occurred quickly and caused cleavage of the heterocycle. An alternative detour (b) seems to be also possible. Both ways include an intramolecular substitution leading to thiirane 8, where the group R occupies again a more relaxed and stable equatorial position. We isolated thiirane 2l as a major product in reaction of epoxide 11 (entry 12 in Table 2). The epoxides 1i and 1r (entries 9 and 18 in Table 2)
produced mostly the corresponding thiiranes after 15-16 h, but finally gave trithiocarbonates when the time was extended to 72 h. Other researchers also reported isolation of thiiranes in certain conditions,2,6,34 and the reaction of some thiiranes with carbon disulfide and base towards trithiocarbonates was described previously.21,34,35 Noticeably, the configuration of the three-membered cycle in 8 is opposite to the configuration of the starting epoxide 1.

Scheme 4. Plausible mechanism for the formation of cyclic trithiocarbonates.

The thiiranes 8 (Scheme 4) are in turn subjected to nucleophilic cleavage by xanthogenate anion, followed by yet another cyclization, which forces the group R again into the sterically strained axial position. Despite this strain, the resulting 1,3-dithiolane-2-thiones 2 must be much less susceptible to addition of nucleophiles than their analogues 7, and they have been isolated in most cases as the major products of reaction. Thus, the monosubstituted cyclohexene oxides 1c, 1d and 1f (entries 3, 4 and 6 in Table 2) yielded trithiocarbonates 2c, 2d and 2f(a) respectively, with an axial substituent R (Figures 1, 3). According to the suggested mechanism, the
configuration of 2 does not depend on the configuration of the starting epoxide 1 (syn- or anti-position of R and O). Indeed, when a mixture of diastereomeric epoxides was used (entries 3, 4 in Table 2), only one product was isolated.

The transfer of substituent R into a sterically strained axial position is a barrier that occurs twice on the way of reaction in the case of epoxycyclohexanes and similar epoxides. It has to be overcome in conformational interconversions $5A \rightarrow 5B$ and $9A \rightarrow 9B$. The second transition is more difficult, because the form $9B$ must be additionally destabilized by a substantial gauche-repulsion between two equatorial atoms of sulfur as it was found in trans-1-RS-2-R'S-cyclohexanes.$^{36,37}$ This can explain why the reaction proceeds only up to thiirane in the case of sterically loaded epoxide $1l$ (entry 12 in Table 2), or can be stopped at the thiirane step in the case of epoxides $1i$ and $1r$ (entries 9 and 18). Similarly, steric strain in reaction intermediates prevented transformation of steroid thiiranes into trithiocarbonates (with one questionable exception).$^{35}$ No trithiocarbonate or even thiirane was isolated in the reactions of 4-$t$-butylecylohexene oxide $1e$ (mixture of stereoisomers; entry 5) and cis-2,6-disubstituted epoxytetrahydropyran $1m$ (entry 13), which produced only polymeric side products. Obviously, it is very difficult to force the bulky $t$-butyl group or the cis-oriented substituents into axial/syn-diaxial positions already at the step of intermediate $5B$.

The studied reaction is sensitive to steric hindrance in general. Thus, no trithiocarbonate was obtained from the epoxycycloododecane $1j$ (entry 10 in Table 2). The simple dimethyl oxiranes $1n$ and $1o$ (entries 14 and 15) produced the corresponding trithiocarbonates in moderate yields, while the yield from the bulkier diphenyl oxirane $1r$ (entry 18) was much lower, and the tetramethyl oxirane $1p$ (entry 16) gave no product at all. As described earlier, the gem-dimethyloxirane $1o$ and trimethyloxirane gave no product in catalytic reaction with carbon disulfide.$^2$ However, the absence of steric hindrance may be also harmful because of fast side reactions: thus, styrene oxide $1q$ (entry 17) produced only a polymer. Evidently, this polymerization is related to the benzylic moiety, because the structurally similar epoxide $1s$ gave the expected product $2s$ (entry 19).

Monosubstituted cyclohexene oxide $1f$ with $R = COOMe$ (entry 6, Table 2) did not produce a single product $2f(a)$, but yielded a mixture of diastereomers $2f(a)$ and $2f(e)$ with axial and equatorial positions of the ester group, respectively (Figures 1, 3, 4). The ratio of diastereomers was highly dependent on the time of reaction. After 0.5 h the ratio of products $2f(a):2f(e)$ in their mixture purified by column chromatography was (2.2-3.3):1 by $^1$H NMR, while after 2-3 h the ratio almost inverted to 1:1.3. The longer time of reaction also decreased the overall yield from 57% (0.5 h) to 43-48% (2 h). This reaction was performed with pure syn- or anti-isomer of epoxide $1f$, or with their 1:1 mixture, and always produced approximately the same proportion of products regardless of the starting stereochemistry. Evidently, due to relative acidity of $\alpha$-proton H5, a base-catalyzed epimerization of the expected ester $2f(a)$ have occurred in the course of reaction, and the more stable diastereomer $2f(e)$ was formed. This hypothesis was confirmed by conversion of pure $2f(a)$ into a mixture of diastereomers $2f(a)$ and $2f(e)$ (1:1.3) after 72 h at 40 °C with one equivalent of KSC(S)OEt (Scheme 5). Assuming this is a ratio at equilibrium,
the equatorial form $2f(e)$ is 0.7 kJ/mol more stable than the axial $2f(a)$ in the conditions of reaction.

![Scheme 5](image)

**Scheme 5.** Base-induced epimerization of the product $2f(a)$ with axial ester group.

We noticed that the epimerization of the final product $2f(a)$ with KSC(S)OEt (Scheme 5) required a longer time than that observed in the reaction of starting epoxides under the same conditions (that is in presence of EtOCS$_2^-$, EtO$^-$, or MeO$^-$ from the solvent). This may indicate that a faster α-deprotonation occurs intramolecularly within one or several intermediates of the reaction, when α-proton happens to be in a vicinity of an alcoholate or thiolate anion (Scheme 4).

The results obtained with the cyclohexene oxides $1g$ and $1h$ bearing two ester-groups also confirmed the proposed epimerization. Thus the cis-disubstituted epoxide $1h$ (entry 8) yielded two diastereomers, $2h(ee)$ and $2h(ea)$, in the ratio 10 : 1 (by $^1$H NMR). The formation of the all-equatorial $2h(ee)$ (Figure 5) can be explained by epimerization of the initially formed diastereomer $2h(ea)$ containing one axial ester group. In the case of trans-disubstituted epoxide $1g$ (entry 7, Table 2), a polymer was mostly obtained, and only small amount of the product $2g(ee)$ was isolated. The configuration of both groups COOEt in the latter compound was opposite to what should have been expected. This can be explained by the relative instability of the expected product with both ester groups in axial positions, and by the base-catalyzed epimerization of these substituents.

**Trithiocarbonate ring as a conformational lock**

Control of molecular conformation is a powerful way to modulate the physical, chemical and biological properties of compounds. It can be achieved by a shift of conformational equilibrium towards unusual (relatively unstable) forms via modification of substituents or construction of bridged structures. The synthesis of cyclic trithiocarbonates from epoxides is, in fact, a construction of a bridge that affixes one of possible conformations. Moreover, the stereochemical course of the reaction (the inversion of configuration at one of the former epoxide carbons and the double inversion at the second carbon) forces the structure to perform a flip into a conformation alternative to an original one. It was shown previously that the similar procedure with CS$_2$ as a reagent transformed the epoxides of cis-alkenes into trithiocarbonates with trans-arrangement of substituents. We observed the same result in reactions of epoxides $1n$ and $1r$ (entries 14 and 18 in Table 2). When our procedure was applied to epoxides of substituted cyclic alkenes, these substituent(s) were forced to adopt a sterically unfavourable axial position (see
above). Thus, the five-membered ring of trithiocarbonate can serve as a lock for unfavourable conformations. This lock is powerful enough to make a methyl group axial, which requires 7.3 kJ/mol, but fails to do the same with t-butyl (~20 kJ/mol). The lock can be subsequently removed or cleaved by reduction or hydrolysis of trithiocarbonates to dithiols. We suggest this approach as a potentially useful addition to a set of other conformational locks (acetals, ortho-esters, urethanes, etc.) that have been used in various syntheses previously. In particular, the results of our study clearly point to a possible application of the trithiocarbonate lock for a stereoselective epimerization of ester substituents in basic conditions.

Conclusions

A simple and convenient procedure for the selective synthesis of 1,3-dithiolane-2-thiones (cyclic trithiocarbonates) from epoxides has been developed. The mechanism and stereochemistry of the reaction have been studied. The formation of cyclic trithiocarbonates can be used to lock unstable conformations.

Experimental Section

General. The chemicals used in this study were purchased from commercial sources (Sigma-Aldrich, TCI) and used without additional purification. All solvents were purified by conventional techniques prior to use. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (40-75 µm, Sorbent Technologies) and aluminum oxide (activated basic, 58Å, Aldrich). The reactions were monitored by TLC on silica gel 2.5 × 7.5 cm plates, J. T. Baker (visualization by staining with KMnO4–sulfuric acid), or alumina 8 × 2 cm plates, Analtech Inc. (visualization by staining with I2).

1H NMR and 13C NMR spectra were acquired on JEOL ECA-600 NMR-spectrometer (600 MHz for 1H and 150 MHz for 13C) with spinning at rt. 1H-1H-COSY and 1H-13C-HMQC techniques were used to assign the signals. 1D-pfg-ROESY and 1D-pfg-STEP-NOESY experiments were carried out non-spinning at rt with selective Gauss-shaped 180º-pulses and with 10 s recovery times between pulses. After initial gradient shimming, the spinner was turned off and the shims were manually touched up for best field homogeneity. The optimal mixing time for TOCSY magnetization transfer to a specific neighboring proton was established with an arrayed experiment of 5-10 mixing times between 20-200 ms in 20 ms increments. The ROESY and STEP-NOESY experiments were run for 1024 scans and the raw data were zero-filled four times prior to Fourier transformation.

High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained on a JEOL AccuTOF time-of-flight mass spectrometer (Peabody, MA) coupled with an Ionsense DART open-air ionization source (Saugus, MA). The instrument was tuned to a resolving power of 7,000 with reserpine directly
infused into the electrospray ionization source; this provides a stable ion current to tune the time-of-flight parameters. Samples were introduced into the DART sample gap with a glass melting point capillary by first dipping the closed end of the capillary into the sample then immediately placing it into the helium metastable beam. The helium gas temperature was set to 250 °C to aid in the desorption of the analyte from the capillary. The samples were held in the sample gap for 10-15 seconds to acquire several mass spectra to average for an accurate m/z assignment.

Crystallographic Data for compounds 2f(a), 2f(e), 2h(ee), 3h and 2i were collected on Beamline 11.3.1 at the Advanced Light Source, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab using monochromatic radiation (λ = 0.7749 Å) at 150(2) K. Data reduction and cell refinement for all compounds were performed with SAINT. We used SADABS to obtain the absorption-corrected data. Crystallographic data are given in Table S1 (Supplementary data). Selected bond distances, bond angles and torsion angles are given in Tables S2-S6. CCDC 972800 (2f(a)), 972796 (2f(e)), 972799 (2h(ee)), 972797 (3h) and 972798 (2i) contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.

General procedure for epoxidation
Alkene (5 mmol) was dissolved in dry CH2Cl2 (30 mL), and m-CPBA (7 mmol; 70% tech. grade) was added in small portions at 0 °C while stirring. The mixture was allowed to warm to 20 °C and was stirred at r.t. for 12-48 h until complete conversion of the alkene as monitored by TLC. After addition of CHCl3 (30 mL) and of satd. aqueous Na2CO3 (20 mL), the mixture was stirred for 30 min. Then the organic phase was separated, washed with satd. Na2CO3 (3 × 10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na2SO4, and the solvent was removed on a rotary evaporator. The purification of product was done either by column chromatography or by crystallization.

1-Methylcyclohexene 1,2-oxide (1b) was isolated by column chromatography (Al2O3, CH2Cl2) as a colorless liquid (62%). Rf 0.61 (silica gel, CH2Cl2). 1H NMR (CDCl3): δ 1.16 (m, 1H; H4), 1.25 (m, 1H; H5), 1.28 (s, 3H; CH3), 1.35-1.44 (m, 2H; H4+H5), 1.64 (ddd, J 14.8, 8.1, 5.6 Hz; H6ax), 1.79-1.90 (m, 3H; 2H3+H6eq), 2.94 (d, J 3.5 Hz; H2); 13C NMR (CDCl3): δ 19.72 (C4), 20.11 (C5), 24.06 (CH3), 24.82 (C3), 29.94 (C6), 57.61 (C1), 59.64 (C2) (Lit. 41 13C NMR); HRMS: C7H12O requires [2M+H]+ m/z 225.1855, [M+H]+ m/z 113.0966; observed m/z 225.1857, 113.0961.

3-Methyl-7-oxabicyclo[4.1.0]heptane (1c). Epoxides 1c-anti and 1c-syn were prepared in 1.3:1 ratio and were isolated by column chromatography (Al2O3, CH2Cl2) as a colorless liquid (80%). Rf 0.51 (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc 9:2). Epoxide 1c-anti 1H NMR (CDCl3): δ 0.83 (d, J 6.8 Hz, 3H; CH3), 0.86 (m, 1H; H4), 1.22-1.33 (m, 1H; H3), 1.40 (m, 1H; H4), 1.69 (ddd, J 14.8, 12.5, 5.2, 1.5 Hz, H2eq), 1.82 (ddd, J 15.6, 11.4, 6.6 Hz, H5ax), 1.93-2.01 (m, H5eq), 2.07-2.13 (ddd, J 15.0, 4.3, 2.0 Hz, H2eq), 3.08-3.11 (m, 2H; H1+H6); 13C NMR (CDCl3): δ 21.71 (CH3), 23.47 (C5), 25.26 (C4), 29.04 (C3), 33.62 (C2), 51.56, 53.23 (C1, C6) (Lit. 42 1H NMR, 13C NMR for a mixture of isomers); Epoxides 1c-syn 1H NMR (CDCl3): δ 0.82 (d, J 6.6 Hz, 3H; CH3), 1.05 (dd, J 14.4, 6.9 Hz, 1H; H4), 1.09 (ddd, J 12.5, 4.4 Hz, H3) 1.22-1.32 (m, 1H; H4), 1.38 (dd, J 15.0,
11.7 Hz, H5ax), 1.55 (m, 1H; H2), 1.93-2.01 (m, 1H; H5eq), 2.07-2.13 (m, 1H; H2); 3.11-3.14 (m, 2H; H1+H6); 13C NMR (CDCl3): δ 22.08 (CH3), 24.33 (C5), 26.47 (C4), 27.67 (C3), 32.53 (C2), 51.95, 52.36 (C1, C6) (Lit.42 1H NMR, 13C NMR); HRMS for the mixture: C7H12O requires [2M+H]+ m/z 225.1855, [M+H]+ m/z 113.0966; observed m/z 225.1858, 113.0970.

2-(7-Oxabicyclo[4.1.0]heptan-3-yl)ethanol (1d). Epoxides 1d-anti and 1d-syn were prepared in 1:1 ratio as a colorless liquid (70%) and were used for further step without purification. Rf 0.13 (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc 7:4). Configuration was established based on the analogy of 1H NMR spectra with the other 3-substituted epoxides. Epoxide 1d-anti 1H NMR (CDCl3): δ 0.91 (m, 1H; H4), 1.29-1.50 (m, 4H; H3+H4+CH2), 1.59 (m, 1H; H2), 1.83 (m, 1H; H5), 2.13 (m, 1H; H2), 3.09-3.16 (m, 2H; H1+H6), 3.62 (t, J 6.7 Hz, 2H; CH2O); 13C NMR (CDCl3): δ 23.51 (C5), 24.49 (C4), 27.23 (CH2), 31.87 (C2), 39.14 (C3), 51.96, 53.11 (C1, C6), 60.64 (CH2O); Epoxide 1d-syn 1H NMR (CDCl3): δ 1.12 (m, 1H; H4), 1.30-1.49 (m, 4H; H3+H4+CH2), 1.70 (m, 1H; H5), 1.83 (m, 1H; H2); 2.04 (m, 1H; H5); 2.13 (m, 1H; H2), 3.09-3.16 (m, 2H; H1+H6), 3.62 (t, J 6.7 Hz, 2H; CH2O); 13C NMR (CDCl3): δ 25.24 (C5), 26.34 (C4), 29.21 (CH2), 30.67 (C2), 39.62 (C3), 51.87, 52.71 (C1, C6), 60.34 (CH2O); HRMS for the mixture: C8H14O2 requires [2M+H]+ m/z 285.3991, [M+H]+ m/z 143.1072; observed m/z 285.2040, 143.1079.

3-t-Butyl-7-oxabicyclo[4.1.0]heptanes (1e). Epoxides 1e-anti and 1e-syn were prepared in 1:2 ratio (the ratio 1:1.5 is previously described43) and were isolated by column chromatography (Al2O3, CH2Cl2) as a colorless liquid (65%). Rf 0.73 (silica gel, CH2Cl2). Epoxide 1e-syn 1H NMR (CDCl3): δ 0.78 (s, 9H; C(CH3)3), 0.97 (dtd, J 2.1, 12.2, 5.9 Hz, H4ax), 1.06 (dq, J 4.1, 12.6 Hz, H3), 1.36 (m, H4eq), 1.57 (dd, J 12.1, 15.2 Hz, H5ax), 1.65 (dddd, J 1.5, 4.8, 12.5, 14.6 Hz, H2ax), 1.95 (ddt, J 2.2, 5.8, 15.3 Hz, H5eq), 2.16 (m, H2eq), 3.11 (m, H1), 3.14 (dd, J 5.5, 3.9 Hz, H6); Epoxide 1e-anti 1H NMR (CDCl3): δ 0.80 (s, 9H; C(CH3)3), 0.85 (m, 1H; H4), 1.21 (dtd, J 2.0, 12.1, 3.9 Hz, H3), 1.37 (m, 1H; H4), 1.50 (m, 1H; H2), 1.75 (ddd, J 15.4, 12.9, 6.3 Hz, H5ax), 2.04 (dtd, J 15.5, 5.9, 1.7 Hz, H5eq), 2.16 (m, 1H; H2), 3.11 (m, 1H; H6), 3.21 (m, 1H; H1).

Methyl 7-oxabicyclo[4.1.0]heptane-3-carboxylates (1f). Epoxides 1f-anti and 1f-syn were prepared in 2:1 ratio (the same ratio as described previously44) and were separated by column chromatography (Al2O3, CH2Cl2). Epoxide 1f-anti 1H NMR (CDCl3): δ 1.39 (ddt, J 13.4, 10.1, 6.5 Hz, H4ax), 1.74 (m, H4eq), 1.85-1.99 (m, 3H; 2H5+H2ax), 2.25 (dd, J 15.0, 4.9 Hz, H2ax), 2.50 (ddd, J 9.5, 4.9, 3.0 Hz, H3), 3.12 (t, J 4.0 Hz, H6), 3.21 (m, H1), 3.65 (s, 3H; OCH3); 13C NMR (CDCl3): δ 175.98 (C=O); HRMS: C8H12O3 requires [2M+H]+ m/z 313.1651, [M+H]+ m/z 157.0865; observed m/z 313.1675, 157.0898. Epoxide 1f-syn is a colorless liquid (25%). Rf 0.63 (Al2O3, CH2Cl2). 1H NMR (CDCl3): δ 1.52-1.64 (m, 2H4), 1.75 (dddd, J 15.0, 11.1, 5.6, 1.7 Hz, H5ax), 2.08-2.27 (m, 4H; 2H2+H3+H5ax), 3.12-3.16 (m, 2H; H1+H6), 3.65 (s, 3H; OCH3); 13C NMR (CDCl3): δ 22.84, 22.96 (C4, C5), 27.23 (C2), 35.79 (C3), 51.46, 51.81, 52.28 (C1, C6, CH3), 175.98 (C=O); HRMS: C8H12O3 requires [2M+H]+ m/z 313.1651, [M+H]+ m/z 157.0865; observed m/z 313.1675, 157.0898.
Diethyl 7-oxabicyclo[4.1.0]heptane-trans-3,4-dicarboxylate (1g) was prepared as described and isolated by column chromatography (Al₂O₃, hexane/EtOAc gradient washing 8:2 → 7:3) as a colorless liquid (60%). \( \text{Rf} \) 0.74 (Al₂O₃, hexane/EtOAc 7:3). \(^1\)H NMR (CDCl₃): \( \delta \) 1.21 (t, \( J \) 7.1 Hz, 3H; CH₃), 1.22 (t, \( J \) 7.1 Hz, 3H; CH₃), 1.87 (ddd, \( J \) 14.9, 10.8, 2.1 Hz, H2ax), 2.04 (ddd, \( J \) 15.5, 10.9 Hz, H5eq), 2.30 (ddd, \( J \) 15.5, 6.6, 4.8 Hz, H5eq), 2.45 (ddd, \( J \) 14.9, 4.8, 1.8 Hz, H2eq), 2.58 (dt, \( J \) 10.7, 6.7 Hz, H4), 2.80 (dt, \( J \) 10.7, 4.9 Hz, H3), 3.17 (t, \( J \) 4.3 Hz, H6), 3.24 (m, H1), 4.11 (m, 4H, OCH₂); \(^{13}\)C NMR (CDCl₃): \( \delta \) 14.20 (CH₃), 26.44 (C5), 27.30 (C2), 37.80 (C3), 40.14 (C4), 50.40 (C6), 52.00 (C1), 60.84 (OCH₂), 173.76, 174.82 (C=O); HRMS: C₁₂H₁₈O₅ requires [M+H]+ m/z 243.1233; observed m/z 243.1240.

Dimethyl 7-oxabicyclo[4.1.0]heptane-cis-3,4-dicarboxylates (1h). Epoxides 1h-anti and 1h-syn were prepared according to the synthetic procedure reported previously. Epoxide 1h-anti is a colorless liquid. \(^1\)H NMR (CDCl₃): \( \delta \) 2.17–2.29 (m, 4H; 2H₂+2H₅), 2.88–2.92 (m, 2H; H₃+H₄), 3.20–3.23 (m, 2H; H₁+H₆), 3.67 (s, 6H; OCH₃); \(^{13}\)C NMR (CDCl₃): \( \delta \) 24.79 (C₂, C₅), 37.69 (C₃, C₄), 51.61 (C₁, C₆), 52.12 (OCH₃), 173.56 (C=O). Epoxide 1h-syn is a colorless liquid. \(^1\)H NMR (CDCl₃): \( \delta \) 2.08–2.14 (m, 2H; H₂+H₅), 2.63–2.68 (m, 2H; H₂+H₅) 2.71–2.75 (m, 2H; H₃+H₄), 3.14–3.16 (m, 2H; H₁+H₆), 3.66 (s, 6H; OCH₃); \(^{13}\)C NMR (CDCl₃): \( \delta \) 24.82 (C₂, C₅), 37.57 (C₃, C₄), 51.03 (C₁, C₆), 51.97 (OCH₃), 173.09 (C=O). The configurations were assigned according to \(^1\)H and \(^{13}\)C NMR data previously reported.

7-Oxabicyclo[4.1.0]heptane-cis-3,4-dicarboxylic acid imides (1i). Epoxides 1i-anti and 1i-syn were prepared in 1:5.5 ratio. Configuration of the major 1i-syn epoxide was established based on NOE analysis of the product of epoxide cleavage with MeOH/H⁺ (see Supplementary data). Epoxide 1i-syn was isolated by recrystallization from MeOH as a white solid (84%). Mp 225-229 °C; \( \text{Rf} \) 0.55 (Al₂O₃, CHCl₃/MeOH 10:1). \(^1\)H NMR (CD₃OD): \( \delta \) 2.16–2.22 (m, 2H; H₂+H₅), 2.51–2.57 (m, 2H; H₂+H₅), 2.79–2.82 (m, 2H; H₃+H₄), 3.13–3.16 (m, 2H; H₁+H₆); \(^{13}\)C NMR (CD₃OD): \( \delta \) 21.63 (C₂, C₅), 36.51(C₃, C₄), 50.79 (C₁, C₆), 183.11 (C=O); HRMS: C₈H₉NO₃ requires [2M+H]+ m/z 335.1243, [M+H]+ m/z 168.0661; observed m/z 335.1226, 168.0681. Epoxide 1i-anti was characterized by NMR in the mixture with the major epoxide. \(^1\)H NMR (CD₃OD): \( \delta \) 1.94–2.00 (m, 2H; H₂+H₅), 2.42–2.48 (m, 2H; H₂+H₅), 2.87–2.93 (m, 2H; H₃+H₄), 3.20–3.22 (m, 2H; H₁+H₆); \(^{13}\)C NMR (CD₃OD): \( \delta \) 22.56 (C₂, C₅), 36.56 (C₃, C₄), 49.08 (C₁, C₆), 182.84 (C=O).

1,2-Anhydro-3,4,6-tri-O-benzyl-α-D-glucopyranose (1k). Tri-O-benzyl-glucal (0.53 g, 1.27 mmol) was dissolved in the mixture of CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL), acetone (1 mL) and satd NaHCO₃ (10 mL). A solution of Oxone (1.6 g, 2.6 mmol) in H₂O (6 mL) was added dropwise over 15 min at 0 °C while stirring. The mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature and was stirred for 16h. The organic phase was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2x20 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under vacuum. The pure product was obtained by crystallization from MeOH as a white solid (0.40 g, 73%). \(^1\)H NMR (CDCl₃): \( \delta \) 3.06 (d, \( J \) 2.2 Hz, H2), 3.66-3.75 (m, 4H; H₄+H₅+2H₆), 3.97 (d, \( J \) 7.8 Hz, H₃), 4.53 (d, \( J \) 12.1 Hz, 1H; CH₂, benzyl), 4.58 (d, \( J \) 11.0 Hz, 1H; CH₂, benzyl), 4.62 (d, \( J \) 12.0 Hz, 1H; CH₂, benzyl), 4.69 (d, \( J \) 11.5 Hz, 1H; CH₂, benzyl), 4.81 (d, \( J \) 11.3 Hz, 2H; CH₂, benzyl),
4.99 (d, J 1.4 Hz, H1), 7.15-7.19 (m, 2H, aromatic), 7.25-7.38 (m, 13H, aromatic) (Lit.46,47 1H NMR data). HRMS: C_{27}H_{28}O_{5} requires [2M+H]^+ m/z 865.3952, [M+H]^+ m/z 433.2015; observed m/z 865.3988, 433.2002.

Ethyl 4,6-di-O-acetyl-2,3-anhydro-α-D-manno-(1l) and allo-hexopyranosides were prepared according to the procedure previously reported.48 The diastereomeric epoxides were obtained in the ratio 10:1 (manno:allo) with the overall yield 45%. Manno-hexopyranoside (1l): was isolated by column chromatography, (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc gradient washing 5:1→5:2) as a colorless syrup. 1H NMR (CDCl3): δ 1.26 (t, J 7.1 Hz, 3H; CH₃, ethyl), 2.06 (s, 3H; CH₃, acetyl), 2.11 (s, 3H; CH₃, acetyl), 3.08 (d, J 3.5 Hz, H₃), 3.21 (d, J 3.5 Hz, H₂), 3.60 (dq, J 9.7, 7.1 Hz, 1H; CH₂, ethyl), 3.83 (dq, J 9.7, 7.1 Hz, 1H; CH₂, ethyl), 3.90 (ddd, J 9.8, 5.5, 2.8 Hz, H₅), 4.10 (m, 2H₆), 4.86 (d, J 10.0 Hz, H₄), 5.00 (s, H₁) (Lit. 48 1H NMR data); 13C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 15.12 (CH₃, ethyl), 20.84 (CH₃, acetyl), 20.90 (CH₃, acetyl), 49.38(C3), 53.34 (C2), 63.13 (C4 and C6), 64.24 (CH₂, ethyl), 64.73 (C5), 94.89 (C1), 169.69 (C=O), 170.82 (C=O); HRMS: C₁₂H₁₈O₇ requires [C₁₀H₁₃O₆]+ m/z 229.0712; observed m/z 229.0722. The configuration of epoxide 1l was confirmed by NOE analysis (see Supplementary data).

Allo-hexopyranoside was characterized by 1H NMR in mixture with the major stereoisomer. 1H NMR (CDCl3): δ 1.24 (t, J 7.2 Hz, 3H; CH₃, ethyl), 2.08 (s, 3H; CH₃, acetyl), 2.11 (s, 3H; CH₃, acetyl), 3.53 (dd, J 4.2, 3.0 Hz, H₂), 3.55 (dd, J 4.1, 1.6 Hz, H₃), 3.60 (dq, J 9.8, 7.1 Hz, 1H; CH₂, ethyl), 3.81 (dq, J 9.8, 7.1 Hz, 1H; CH₂, ethyl), 4.10 (m, 2H₆), 4.20 (dd, J 12.4, 5.1 Hz, H₅), 5.04 (d, J 3.0 Hz, H₁), 5.00 (dd, J 10.0, 1.5 Hz, H₄) (Lit.48 1H NMR data).

(1S*,2S*,4R*,6R*)-4-methyl-2-phthalimidomethyl-3,7-dioxabicyclo[4.1.0]heptane (1m). Synthesis of this compound was reported previously.49,50 1H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.08 (d, J 6.2 Hz, 3H; CH₃), 1.62 (dd, J 14.6, 11.0, 1.8 Hz, H₅₆), 2.01 (dt, J 14.6, 2.2 Hz, H₅₆), 3.16 (d, J 4.3 Hz, H₁), 3.33 (dt, J 4.2, 1.8 Hz, H₆), 3.47 (m, J 6.2, 2.6 Hz, H₄), 3.92 (m, 2H; CH₂N), 4.10 (t, J 7.02 Hz, H₂), 7.72 (m, 2H, aromatic), 7.86 (m, 2H, aromatic); 13C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 21.08(CH₃), 32.82 (C5), 40.11 (CH₂N), 51.68 (C6), 52.36 (C1), 65.95 (C4), 72.41 (C2), 123.53, 132.03, 134.22 (C, aromatic), 168.35 (C=O). HRMS: C₁₅H₁₅NO₄ requires [M+H]^+ m/z 274.1079; observed m/z 274.1072.

General procedure for the synthesis of trithiocarbonates. Potassium ethyl xanthogenate (2 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH (3 mL) under Ar atmosphere and a solution of epoxide (1 mmol) in MeOH (2 mL) was added at 35-45 °C while stirring. The mixture was stirred at this temperature until the complete conversion of the epoxide, as monitored by TLC (the time of reaction is shown in Table 2). The solvent was removed on a rotary evaporator. The purification of product was done either by column chromatography or by crystallization.

Hexahydro-1,3-benzodithiole-2-thione (2a) was prepared from cyclohexene epoxide 1a and was isolated by column chromatography (silica gel, CHCl₃/hexane 9:2) as a yellow solid (73%). Mp 167-169 °C, (Lit.2,34 Mp 164-169 °C); Rf 0.54 (silica gel, CHCl₃/hexane 9:2). 1H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.42-1.50 (m, 2H; H₅₆, H₆₅), 1.67-1.77 (m, 2H; H₄₆₇, H₇₄₅), 1.91-1.99 (m, 2H; H₅₆₇, H₆₅), 2.18-2.23 (m, 2H; H₄₆₇, H₇₄₅), 4.05-4.11 (m, 2H; H₃a+H₇a); 13C NMR (CDCl₃): δ
25.13 (C5, C6), 29.17 (C4, C7), 64.59 (C3a, C7a), 227.21 (C=S), (Lit. 2 1H NMR, 13C NMR); HRMS: C7H10S3 requires [M+H]+ m/z 191.0023; observed m/z 191.0040.

3a-Methyl-hexahydro-1,3-benzodithiole-2-thione (2b) was prepared from epoxide 1b and was isolated by column chromatography (silica gel, CH2Cl2) as a yellow oil (37%). Rf 0.49 (silica gel, CH2Cl2). 1H NMR (CDCl3): δ 1.48 (m, H6 ax), 1.62 (m, H5 ax), 1.68 (s, 3H; CH3), 1.71-1.79 (m, 2H; H5eq+H7ax), 1.93-1.98 (m, 2H; H6eq+H7eq), 2.01 (dt, J 4.3, 13.0 Hz, H4eq); 2.13 (dddd, J 12.8, 3.9, 2.7, 1.1 Hz, H4 ax); 2.13 (dddd, J 12.8, 3.9, 2.7, 1.1 Hz, H4 eq), 4.41 (dd, J 13.1, 3.4 Hz, H7a); 13C NMR (CDCl3): δ 18.91 (CH3), 20.83 (C5), 23.78 (C7), 25.37 (C6), 35.69 (C4), 67.99 (C3a, C7a), 226.69 (C=S); HRMS: C8H12S3 requires [M+H]+ m/z 205.0173; observed m/z 205.0125.

(1S*,2S*,5R*)-5-Methylhexahydro-1,3-benzodithiole-2-thione (2c) was prepared from epoxide 1c and was isolated by column chromatography (silica gel, CH2Cl2/hexane 10:3) as a yellow solid (37%). Mp 123-125 °C; Rf 0.62 (silica gel, CH2Cl2/hexane 10:3). 1H NMR (CDCl3): δ 1.09 (d, J 7.4 Hz, 3H; CH3), 1.68-1.72 (m, 2H6), 1.86-2.03 (m, 4H; 2H4+2H7), 2.25 (m, H5), 4.03 (dt, J 12.2, 3.7 Hz, H7a), 4.32 (dt, J 12.2, 4.1 Hz, H3a); 13C NMR (CDCl3): δ 17.98 (CH3), 23.98 (C7), 27.20 (C5), 30.51 (C6), 34.40 (C4), 59.79 (C3a), 65.01 (C7a), 227.14 (C=S); HRMS: C8H12S3 requires [M+H]+ m/z 205.0179; observed m/z 205.0125.

(1S*,2S*,5S*)-5-(2-Hydroxyethyl)hexahydro-1,3-benzodithiole-2-thione (2d) was prepared from epoxide 1d and was isolated by column chromatography (silica gel, CH2Cl2/MeOH 10:0.5) as a yellow oil (59%). Rf 0.56 (silica gel, CH2Cl2/MeOH 10:0.5). 1H NMR (CDCl3): δ 1.66-1.77 (m, 3H; CH2+H6), 1.81-1.88 (m, 2H; H6+H7ax), 1.93 (dt, J 13.0, 4.7 Hz, H4ax), 2.05 (dq, J 13.5, 3.6 Hz, H7eq), 2.12 (dq, J 13.3, 3.5 Hz, H7eq), 2.22 (m, H5), 3.71 (dt, J 6.4, 2.2 Hz, 2H; CH2O), 4.06 (dt, J 12.1, 3.7 Hz, H7a), 4.27 (dt, J 12.6, 3.5 Hz, H3a); 13C NMR (CDCl3): δ 24.50 (C7), 28.91 (C6), 29.34 (C5), 32.85 (C4), 34.21 (CH2), 60.18 (C3a), 61.03 (CH2OH), 64.92 (C7a), 227.00 (C=S); HRMS: C9H14OS3 requires [M+H]+ m/z 235.0285; observed m/z 235.0273.

5-(Methoxycarbonyl)hexahydro-1,3-benzodithiole-2-thiones [2f(a) and 2f(e)] were synthesized from individual 1f-anti and 1f-syn epoxides or from their mixture with overall yields 50-60%. The ratio of diastereomers was dependent on the time of the reaction: after 0.5 h the ratio of products 2f(a):2f(e) was (2.2-3.3):1; after 2-3 h the ratio was 1:1.3.

(1S*,2S*,5R*)-5-(Methoxycarbonyl)hexahydro-1,3-benzodithiole-2-thione [2f(a)] was isolated by column chromatography (silica gel, CH2Cl2/hexane 10:3) as a yellow solid. Mp 95-97 °C; Rf 0.39 (silica gel, CH2Cl2/hexane 10:3). 1H NMR (CDCl3): δ 1.69 (dddd, J 14.2, 13.5, 5.3, 4.0 Hz, H6ax), 1.88 (dq, J 3.6, 13.1 Hz, H7ax), 1.92 (dq, J 12.9, 5.0 Hz, H4ax), 2.12 (dq, J 13.3, 3.5 Hz, H7eq), 2.41 (m, H6eq), 2.64 (ddd, J 13.3, 3.6, 2.1 Hz, H4eq), 2.94 (tt, J ≈ 2.5, 5.0 Hz, H5), 3.74 (s, 3H; OCH3), 4.07 (dt, J 12.2, 3.6 Hz, H7a), 4.29 (dt, J 12.4, 3.5 Hz, H3a); 13C NMR (CDCl3): δ 25.90, 26.44 (C6, C7), 29.89 (C4), 38.55 (C5), 52.27 (OCH3), 60.55 (C3a), 63.88 (C7a), 173.67 (C=O), 226.03 (C=S); HRMS: C9H14O2S3 requires [M+H]+ m/z 249.0078; observed m/z 249.0074.

(1S*,2S*,5S*)-5-(Methoxycarbonyl)hexahydro-1,3-benzodithiole-2-thione [2f(e)] was isolated by column chromatography (silica gel, CH2Cl2/hexane 10:3) as a yellow solid. Mp 64-66 °C; Rf 0.32 (silica gel, CH2Cl2/hexane 10:3). 1H NMR (CDCl3): δ 1.63 (ddt, J 13.1, 13.1, 3.6
Hz, H6\textsuperscript{ax}), 1.77 (dd, J 11.6, 13.1, 3.6 Hz, H7\textsuperscript{ax}), 1.90 (q, J 12.2 Hz, H4\textsuperscript{ax}), 2.23 (ddq, J 13.6, 1.8, 3.5 Hz, H6\textsuperscript{eq}), 2.28 (dq, J 13.1, 3.4 Hz, H7\textsuperscript{eq}), 2.47 (dd, J 12.9, 3.4, 1.8 Hz, H4\textsuperscript{eq}), 2.55 (tt, J 12.3, 3.8 Hz, H5), 3.68 (s, 3H; OCH\textsubscript{3}), 4.06 (dt, J 3.5, 12.1 Hz, H3\textsuperscript{a}), 4.10 (dt, J 3.4, 12.1 Hz, H7\textsuperscript{a}); \(^{13}\)C NMR (CDCl\textsubscript{3}): \(\delta\) 27.70, 27.90 (C6, C7), 31.02 (C4), 41.87 (C5), 52.12 (OCH\textsubscript{3}), 62.90, 63.27 (C3\textsuperscript{a}, C7\textsuperscript{a}), 173.62 (C=O), 225.92 (C=S); HRMS: C\textsubscript{9}H\textsubscript{12}O\textsubscript{2}S\textsubscript{3} requires [M+H]\textsuperscript{+} m/z 249.0078; observed m/z 249.0074.

(1S*,2S*,5S*,6S*)-5,6-Bis(ethoxycarbonyl)hexahydro-1,3-benzodithiole-2-thione [2g(\textit{ee})] was prepared from epoxide \textit{1g} and was isolated by column chromatography (silica gel, EtOAc/hexane 5:7) as a yellow liquid (7%). \(^{1}H\) NMR (CDCl\textsubscript{3}): \(\delta\) 1.25 (t, J 7.1 Hz, 6H; CH\textsubscript{3}), 1.82-1.93 (m, 2H; H4+H7), 2.56-2.61 (m, 2H; H4+H7), 2.86-2.93 (m, 2H; H5+H6), 4.09-4.14 (m, 2H; H3\textsuperscript{a}+H7\textsuperscript{a}), 4.15 (q, J 7.1Hz, 2H; OCH\textsubscript{2}), 4.16 (q, J 7.1 Hz, 2H; OCH\textsubscript{2}); \(^{13}\)C NMR (CDCl\textsubscript{3}): \(\delta\) 14.18 (CH\textsubscript{3}), 30.84 (C4, C7), 43.83 (C5, C6), 61.47 (OCH\textsubscript{2}), 62.29 (C3\textsuperscript{a}, C7\textsuperscript{a}), 172.51 (C=O), 225.10 (C=S); HRMS: C\textsubscript{13}H\textsubscript{18}O\textsubscript{4}S\textsubscript{3} requires [M+H]\textsuperscript{+} m/z 335.0446; observed m/z 335.0452.

5,6-Bis(methoxycarbonyl)hexahydro-1,3-benzodithiole-2-thiones [2h(\textit{ee}) and 2h(\textit{ea})] were obtained in 10:1 ratio from either 1h-\textit{anti} or 1h-\textit{syn} epoxide. (1S*,2S*,5S*,6R*)-5,6-Bis(methoxycarbonyl)hexahydro-1,3-benzodithiole-2-thione [2h(\textit{ee})] was isolated by column chromatography (silica gel, EtOAc/hexane 3:7) as a yellow solid (50%). Alternatively, \textit{2h(\textit{ee})} was purified by crystallization from MeOH (yield 46%). Mp 189-190 \textdegree C; \(R_f\) 0.48 (silica gel, EtOAc/hexane 3:7). \(^{1}H\) NMR (CDCl\textsubscript{3}): \(\delta\) 1.83-1.93 (m, 2H; H4+H7), 2.56-2.61 (m, 2H; H4+H7), 2.88-2.95 (m, 2H; H5+H6), 3.71 (s, 6H; OCH\textsubscript{3}), 4.10-4.17 (m, 2H; H3\textsuperscript{a}+H7\textsuperscript{a}); \(^{13}\)C NMR (CDCl\textsubscript{3}): \(\delta\) 30.77 (C4, C7), 43.72 (C5, C6), 52.56 (OCH\textsubscript{3}), 62.17 (C3\textsuperscript{a}, C7\textsuperscript{a}), 172.97 (C=O), 224.81 (C=S); HRMS: C\textsubscript{11}H\textsubscript{14}O\textsubscript{4}S\textsubscript{3} requires [M+H]\textsuperscript{+} m/z 307.0133; observed m/z 307.0116.

(1S*,2S*,5S*,6R*)-5,6-Bis(methoxycarbonyl)hexahydro-1,3-benzodithiole-2-thione [2h(\textit{ea})] was isolated by column chromatography (silica gel, EtOAc/hexane 3:7) as a yellow oil (5%). \(R_f\) 0.31 (silica gel, EtOAc/hexane 3:7). \(^{1}H\) NMR (CDCl\textsubscript{3}): \(\delta\) 2.02 (ddd, J 13.6, 12.4, 5.1 Hz, H4\textsuperscript{ax}), 2.34 (dt, J 13.4, 12.4 Hz, H7\textsuperscript{ax}), 2.57 (ddd, J 3.5, 3.7, 0.9 Hz, H7\textsuperscript{eq}), 2.65-2.70 (m, 2H; H4\textsuperscript{eq}+H6), 3.50 (m, H5), 3.71 (s, 3H; OCH\textsubscript{3}), 3.73 (s, 3H, OCH\textsubscript{3}), 4.07-4.15 (m, 2H; H3a+H7a); \(^{13}\)C NMR (CDCl\textsubscript{3}): \(\delta\) 24.09, 29.79 (C4, C7), 40.44 (C5, C6), 59.96, 60.45 (C3\textsuperscript{a}, C7\textsuperscript{a}), 171.88, 172.36 (C=O), 225.40 (C=S); HRMS: C\textsubscript{11}H\textsubscript{14}O\textsubscript{4}S\textsubscript{3} requires [M+H]\textsuperscript{+} m/z 307.0133; observed m/z 307.0125.

(1S*,2S*,5S*,6R*)-2-Thioxohexahydro-1,3-benzodithiole-cis-5,6-dicarboximide (2i) was prepared from epoxide \textit{1i-\textit{syn} after 72 h at 40 \textdegree C and was isolated by column chromatography (silica gel, CH\textsubscript{2}Cl\textsubscript{2}/MeOH 9:1) as a yellow solid (56%). Mp 220-221 \textdegree C; \(R_f\) 0.32 (silica gel, CH\textsubscript{2}Cl\textsubscript{2}/MeOH 9:1). \(^{1}H\) NMR (CD\textsubscript{3}OD): \(\delta\) 1.76 (q, J 12.5 Hz, H4\textsuperscript{ax}), 2.04 (ddd, J 13.7, 12.9, 7.5 Hz, H7\textsuperscript{ax}), 2.63 (ddd, J 13.4, 7.4, 3.3 Hz, H4\textsuperscript{eq}), 2.78 (ddd, J 13.8, 4.0, 1.3 Hz, H7\textsuperscript{eq}), 3.09 (dt, J 11.7, 7.6 Hz, H5), 3.34 (dt, J 7.7, 1.1 Hz, H6), 4.13 (dt, J 12.4, 4.1 Hz, H7a), 4.28 (dt, J 12.3, 3.1 Hz, H3a); \(^{13}\)C NMR (CD\textsubscript{3}OD): \(\delta\) 24.09, 29.79 (C4, C7), 40.44 (C5, C6), 59.96, 60.45 (C3\textsuperscript{a}, C7\textsuperscript{a}), 171.88, 172.36 (C=O), 225.40 (C=S); HRMS: C\textsubscript{11}H\textsubscript{14}O\textsubscript{4}S\textsubscript{3} requires [M+H]\textsuperscript{+} m/z 307.0133; observed m/z 307.0125.
C7a), 178.73, 179.51 (C=O), 225.76 (C=S); HRMS: C$_9$H$_9$NO$_2$S$_3$ requires [M+H]$^+$ m/z 259.9873; observed m/z 259.9867.

(1$S^*,3R^*,4S^*,6R^*$)-7-Thiabicyclo[4.1.0]heptane-cis-3,4-dicarboximide (3,4-epithiohexahydrophthalimide) was obtained in the reaction of epoxide 1i-syn with potassium ethyl xanthogenate after 15 h at 40 °C and was isolated by column chromatography (silica gel, CH$_2$Cl$_2$/MeOH 9:1) as a yellow solid (52%). Mp 207-209 °C. Configuration was established based on the similarity of the $^1$H NMR spectra of this thiirane and 1i-anti epoxide. $^1$H NMR (CD$_3$OD): $\delta$ 2.07-2.12 (m, 2H; H$_2$+H$_6$), 2.47-2.55 (m, 2H; H$_2$+H$_5$), 2.83-2.89 (m, 2H; H$_3$+H$_4$), 3.24-3.27 (m, 2H; H$_1$+H$_6$); $^{13}$C NMR (CD$_3$OD): $\delta$ 23.73 (C$_2$, C$_5$), 32.90 (C$_3$, C$_4$), 36.79 (C$_1$, C$_6$), 182.04 (C=O); HRMS: C$_8$H$_9$NO$_2$S requires [M+H]$^+$ m/z 184.0432; observed m/z 184.0420.

3,4,6-Tri-O-benzyl-1-thio-$\beta$-D-glucopyranose (2k) was obtained in the reaction of epoxide 1k with potassium ethyl xanthogenate after 2h at 45 °C and was isolated by column chromatography (silica gel, CH$_2$Cl$_2$/EtOAc 10:0.5) as a colorless oil (37%). R$_f$ 0.19 (silica gel, CHCl$_3$/EtOAc 10:1). $^1$H NMR (CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ 2.19 (d, J = 9.7 Hz, SH), 2.43 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, OH), 3.40 (dt, J = 9.0, 2.1 Hz, H$_2$), 3.49 (ddd, J = 9.8, 4.3, 2.0 Hz, H$_5$), 3.53 (t, J = 8.9 Hz, H$_3$), 3.66 (dd, J = 9.4 Hz, H$_4$), 3.68-3.76 (m, 2H$_6$), 4.33 (t, J = 9.5 Hz, H$_1$), 4.52 (d, J = 10.7 Hz, 1H; CH$_2$, benzyl), 4.54 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H; CH$_2$, benzyl), 4.61 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H; CH$_2$, benzyl), 4.81 (d, J = 10.7 Hz, 1H; CH$_2$, benzyl), 4.85 (d, J = 11.3 Hz, 1H; CH$_2$, benzyl), 4.91 (d, J = 11.3 Hz, 1H; CH$_2$, benzyl), 7.12-7.16 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.38 (m, 13H); $^{13}$C NMR (CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ 68.73 (CH$_2$), 73.64, 75.17, 75.34 (CH$_2$, benzyl); 77.40 (C$_4$), 77.67 (C$_2$), 79.82 (C$_5$), 81.02 (C$_1$), 85.69 (C$_3$), 127.83, 127.92, 127.94, 128.05, 128.50, 128.52, 128.64, 137.99, 138.02, 138.56 (C aromatic) (Lit. 1H NMR and $^{13}$C NMR for a mixture of $\alpha$- and $\beta$-isomers see in SI for $^{19}$); HRMS: C$_{27}$H$_{30}$O$_5$S requires [M+NH$_4$]$^+$ m/z 484.2158, [M+H]$^+$ m/z 467.1892, [M-H$_2$O+H]$^+$ m/z 449.1787; observed m/z 484.2110, 467.1933, 449.1808.

trans-4,5-Dimethyl-1,3-dithiolane-2-thione (2n) was prepared from cis-1,2-dimethyloxirane 1n and was isolated by column chromatography (silica gel, CH$_2$Cl$_2$/EtOAc 10:0.5) as a colorless oil (43%). Mp 40-42 °C (Lit.$^{13}$ Mp 41.5-42.5 °C); R$_f$ 0.56 (silica gel, EtOAc/hexane 3:7). $^1$H NMR (CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ 1.58 (m, 6H, CH$_3$), 4.10 (m, 2H, H$_4$+H$_5$), (Lit.$^{20}$ 1H NMR); $^{13}$C NMR (CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ 18.58 (CH$_3$), 61.38 (C$_4$, C$_5$), 226.41 (C=S); HRMS: C$_5$H$_8$S$_3$ requires [M+H]$^+$ m/z 164.9866; observed m/z 164.9858.

4,4-Dimethyl-1,3-dithiolane-2-thione (2o) was prepared from 1,1-dimethyloxirane 1o and was isolated by column chromatography (silica gel, CH$_2$Cl$_2$/hexane 10:3) as a yellow liquid (30%). R$_f$ 0.77 (silica gel, CH$_2$Cl$_2$/hexane 10:3). $^1$H NMR (CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ 1.73 (s, 6H, CH$_3$), 3.74 (s, 2H, H$_4$+H$_5$), (Lit.$^{21}$ $^1$H NMR); $^{13}$C NMR (CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ 27.58 (CH$_3$), 55.76 (C$_5$), 66.22 (C$_4$), 227.76 (C=S); HRMS: C$_5$H$_8$S$_3$ requires [M+H]$^+$ m/z 164.9866; observed m/z 164.9858.

cis-4,5-Diphenyl-1,3-dithiolane-2-thione (2r) was prepared from trans-1,2-diphenyloxirane 1r and was isolated by column chromatography (silica gel, EtOAc/hexane 3:7) as a yellow solid (25%). Mp 108-113 °C, (Lit.$^{13}$ Mp 115-120 °C); R$_f$ 0.50 (EtOAc/hexane 3:7). $^1$H NMR (CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ 5.75 (s, 2H; H$_4$+H$_5$), 6.97-7.00 (m, 4H; phenyl), 7.15 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H; phenyl), 7.22 (tt, J = 7.4, 1.2 Hz; 2H, phenyl); $^{13}$C NMR (CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ 67.92 (C$_4$, C$_5$), 128.35, 128.68, 128.83 133.06 (C, phenyl), 227.52 (C=S); HRMS: C$_{15}$H$_{12}$S$_3$ requires [M+H]$^+$ m/z 289.0179; observed m/z
trans-2,3-Diphenylthiirane was obtained in the reaction of trans-epoxide 1r with potassium ethyl xanthogenate after 15 h at 40 °C and isolated by column chromatography (Al₂O₃, hexane) as a white solid (38%). Mp 52-54 °C (Lit. 51 Mp 53-54 °C); R_f 0.61 (Al₂O₃, hexane). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 3.97 (s, 2H; H⁺,H⁻), 7.27-7.30 (m, 2H; phenyl), 7.32-7.39 (m, 8H; phenyl) (Lit. 52 ¹H NMR); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 45.54 (C₂, C₃), 127.09, 127.89, 128.74, 138.77 (C, phenyl); HRMS: C₁₄H₁₂S requires [M+H]+ m/z 213.0738; observed m/z 213.0708.

4-n-Butyl-1,3-dithiolane-2-thione (2s) was prepared from 1,2-epoxyhexane 1s and was isolated by column chromatography (silica gel, CH₂Cl₂/hexane 2:1) as a yellow liquid (52%). R_f 0.52 (silica gel, CH₂Cl₂/hexane 1:1). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 0.91 (t, J 7.1 Hz, 3H; CH₃), 1.38 (m, 4H; 2CH₂), 1.92 (m, 2H; CH₂), 3.70 (dd, J 11.9, 7.9 Hz, 1H; CH₂S), 3.95 (dd, J 11.9, 5.5 Hz, 1H; CH₂S), 4.38 (tt, J 8.0, 5.5 Hz, 1H; CHS); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 13.92 (CH₃), 22.43 (CH₂), 30.48 (CH₂), 33.33 (CH₂), 48.29 (CH₂S), 61.07 (CHS), 228.06 (C=S) (Lit. 2 ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR); HRMS: C₇H₁₂S₃ requires [M+H]+ m/z 193.0179; observed m/z 193.0163.

Ethyl 4,6-di-O-acetyl-2,3-dithiopho-2,3-dideoxy-α-D-allopyranoside (2l)
Potassium ethyl xanthogenate (130 mg, 0.8 mmol) was dissolved in 1 mL of MeOH under Ar atmosphere and solution of manno-epoxide 1l (110 mg, 0.4 mmol) in 2 mL of MeOH was added at 40 °C while stirring. The mixture was stirred at this temperature for 24 h until complete conversion of the epoxide, as monitored by TLC. The reaction mixture was passed through a layer of silica gel and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in dry CH₂Cl₂ and acetic anhydride (0.5 mL) was added to the solution at 0 °C under stirring followed by pyridine (0.1 mL). The reaction mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature and was stirred for 24 h. The solvent was removed on a rotary evaporator. The product was isolated by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc gradient washing 5:1→5:3) as a colorless oil (38 mg, 32%). R_f 0.24 (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc 4:1). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.22 (t, J 7.1 Hz, 3H; CH₃, ethyl), 2.05 (s, 3H; CH₃, acetyl), 2.08 (s, 3H; CH₃, acetyl), 3.54 (dd, J 6.7, 5.2 Hz, H₂), 3.59 (dq, J 10.0, 7.1 Hz, 1H; CH₂, ethyl), 3.62 (dd, J 6.7, 4.1 Hz, H₃), 3.76 (dq, J 10.0, 7.1 Hz, 1H; CH₂, ethyl), 4.03 (dd, J 9.9, 5.1, 2.2 Hz, H₅), 4.09 (dd, J 12.1, 2.2 Hz, H₆), 4.18 (dd, J 12.1, 5.1 Hz, H₆), 5.19 (dd, J 9.8, 4.1 Hz, H₄), 5.27 (d, J 5.1 Hz, H₁) (the spectrum is similar to the reported ¹H NMR spectrum of the corresponding allo-epoxide); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 15.19 (CH₃, ethyl), 20.86 (CH₃, acetyl), 21.06 (CH₃, acetyl), 35.72 (C₃), 38.72 (C₂), 62.76 (C₆), 63.18 (C₅), 63.76 (CH₂, ethyl), 67.10 (C₄), 92.37 (C₁), 170.43 (C=O), 170.80 (C=O); HRMS: C₁₂H₁₈O₆S requires [M+H]+ m/z 291.0902, [C₁₀H₁₅O₄S]+ m/z 245.0484; observed m/z 291.0912, 245.0493.

Oxidation of trithiocarbonates. Trithiocarbonate (0.5 mmol) was dissolved in 2 mL of dry CHCl₃, and solution of Br₂ (2 mmol) in 2 mL of CHCl₃ was added dropwise at 0 °C while stirring. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature (20 °C) and was stirred for 6-12 h until complete conversion of the starting material as monitored by TLC. After addition of 20 mL CHCl₃, an orange precipitate was removed by suction filtration. The filtrate was washed with dilute aqueous NaHCO₃ (10 mL) followed by saturated NaCl (10 mL) and dried over anhydrous
Na₂SO₄. The solvent was removed on a rotary evaporator. Purification of the product was achieved by column chromatography.

**Hexahydro-1,3-benzodithiol-2-one (3a)** was prepared by oxidation of trithiocarbonate 2a with Br₂ and was isolated by column chromatography (silica gel, CH₂Cl₂/hexane 3:1) as a white solid (60%). Mp 106-108 °C; R₇ 0.55 (silica gel, CH₂Cl₂/hexane 3:1). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.49-1.54 (m, 2H; H₅+H₆), 1.63-1.72 (m, 2H; H₄+H₇), 2.14-2.19 (m, 2H; H₄+H₇), 3.79-3.85 (m, 2H; H₃a+H₇a); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 25.63 (C₅, C₆), 29.51 (C₄, C₇), 58.46 (C₃a, C₇a), 172.96 (C=O), 194.15 (SSC=O); HRMS: C₇H₁₀OS₂ requires [2M+H]⁺ m/z 349.0424, [M+H]+ m/z 175.0251; observed m/z 349.0403, 175.0253.

**(1S*,2S*,5S*,6S*)-5,6-Bis(methoxycarbonyl)-hexahydro-1,3-benzodithiol-2-one [3h(ee)]** was prepared by oxidation of trithiocarbonate 2h(ee) with Br₂ and isolated by column chromatography (silica gel, CH₂Cl₂) as a white solid (75%). Mp 130-132 °C; R₇ 0.23 (silica gel, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.78-1.88 (m, 2H; H₄+H₇), 2.54-2.59 (m, 2H; H₄+H₇), 2.91-2.97 (m, 2H; H₅+H₆), 3.69 (s, 6H; OCH₃), 3.80-3.86 (m, 2H; H₃a+H₇a); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 31.19 (C₄, C₇), 44.00 (C₅, C₆), 52.51 (OCH₃), 56.15 (C₃a, C₇a), 172.96 (C=O), 194.15 (SSC=O); HRMS: C₁₁H₁₄O₅S₂ requires [M+H]+ m/z 291.0361; observed m/z 291.0354. The same product was obtained in reactions of trithiocarbonate 2h(ee) (1 equiv) with DDQ (4 equiv) in dry THF (yield 45%, and 32% recovered 2h(ee)) and with NBS (4 equiv) in dry CHCl₃ (yield 23%).

**Methanolysis of epoxide 1i**

**(1S*,2R*,4S*,5S*)-4-Hydroxy-5-methoxycyclohexane-cis-1,2-dicarboximide (4).** Epoxide 1i-syn (35 mg, 0.2 mmol) was dissolved in methanol (1 mL), and H₂SO₄ in methanol (1:3 v/v, 0.1 mL) was added at room temperature. The mixture was stirred for 14 h, then diluted with CHCl₃ (30 mL) and washed with saturated NaHCO₃ (5 mL). Organic phase was dried over Na₂SO₄, and solvent was removed on a rotary evaporator yielding 30 mg of white solid (75%). R₇ 0.41 (silica gel, CHCl₃/MeOH 10:1). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.75 (ddd, J 14.2, 7.6, 6.4 Hz, 2H; H₃ax+H₆ax), 2.25 (ddd, J 14.3, 7.3, 3.6 Hz, H₆ee), 2.37 (ddd, J 14.2, 6.2, 4.1 Hz, H₃ee), 2.94 (q, J 7.6 Hz, H2), 3.04 (dt, J 7.7, 6.5 Hz, H1), 3.18 (ddd, J 7.8, 6.4, 4.0 Hz, H5), 3.41 (s, 3H; OCH₃), 3.73 (ddd, J 7.8, 6.4, 3.7 Hz, H4); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 24.17 (C₆), 29.07 (C₃), 39.15 (C2), 39.21 (C1), 56.91 (OCH₃), 68.74 (C₄), 79.08 (C₅), 179.04, 179.14 (C=O); HRMS: C₈H₁₃NO₄ requires [2M+H]⁺ m/z 399.1767, [M+H]+ m/z 200.0923; observed m/z 399.1866, 200.0924.

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**Supplementary data**

Available information: X-ray crystallographic data and selected NMR spectra. Supplementary data associated with this article can be found with the online version.

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