A straightforward synthetic methodology for the asymmetric construction of important fused carbocycles containing the privileged bicyclo[4,3,0]nonane or bicyclo[4,4,0]decane framework, as well as, for certain key fused and bridged lactones is presented. This method oversees a dramatic increase in structural complexity both in terms of the stereocentre density and the 3D skeletal framework. The concept of an organocatalysed coupling of a LUMO-lowered dielectrophile (2-enal) with an easily enolizable cyclic 2-enone through two sequential vinylogous additions (first a regioselective vinylogous Michael addition from the γ position, then a vinylogous aldol from the γ’ position) to afford the [3+3]-annulation product, has also been introduced for the first time. The starting cyclopentenone was synthesized from a simple furan using the sustainable chemistry of singlet oxygen.

All the actions were performed with a high degree of regioselectivity and with remarkable diastereo- and enantioselectivity, in one-pot operations [1].

Acknowledgements: The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Research Council under the European Union’s Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013)/ERC grant agreement no. 277588. We thank the Greek General Secretariat of Research and Technology for matching (reward) funds (KA: 4143). We also thank the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation for the Ph.D. fellowship of Manolis Sofiadis (G ZM 063-1/2016-2017).