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Scope and Mechanism of the (4+3) Cycloaddition Reaction of Furfuryl Cations

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The method of choice for the preparation of six-membered rings is the (4+2) cycloaddition. The isoelectronic (4+3) cycloaddition between a diene and an allyl cation gives seven-membered rings, but the synthesis of suitable cationic reaction partners is challenging. In their Communication (DOI: 10.1002/anie.201104930) J. M. Winne et al. report a novel synthetic method that uses furfuryl alcohols as three-carbon dienophiles for the rapid assembly of cycloheptenes.

