

III. Migration of Aldehydo Groups

A possible fate for an alkoxy radical formed by cyclization is ring opening to produce a radical different from the one that initially formed the ring.^{4,13-17} A new direction in ring opening is likely if it produces a more stable radical. In the reaction shown in [Scheme 8](#) such a situation exists.^{14,15} Ring opening of the alkoxy radical **20** gives the resonance-stabilized, benzylic radical **21** rather than the unstabilized radical **19** that reacted to produce the ring system. This alternative ring opening (**20**→**21**) completes an addition-fragmentation sequence that causes migration of the aldehydo group.

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