



The Most Important yet Forgotten Organic Transformations

Group Meeting

April 28th, 2010

Benjamin D. Horning

Thank You Contributors!

Thank you very much to everyone who contributed to this group meeting.

A list of contributors and respondees to my email query is given below.

Eric Jacobsen	James Nowick	Lawrence Scott	Robert Crabtree
George Whitesides	Eric Anslyn	Timothy Donohoe	Thomas Graham
Stuart Schreiber	Michael Krische	Victor Lee	Mark Lipton
Robert Bergman	Doug Taber	Ian Fleming	John Snyder
Paul Wender	Steven Castle	Ian Paterson	Neil Garg
Timothy Jamison	Erick Carreira	Jonathan Clayden	Scott Nelson
Dennis Dougherty	Dieter Seebach	Varinder Aggarwal	Hisashi Yamamoto
Robert Grubbs	Fred Menger	William Kerr	Jerome Berson
Ian Seiple (Baran student)	David Collum	Shu Kobayashi	Steven Weinreb
Dale Boger	Craig Merlic	Michael Haley	Jeffrey Johnson
Ryan Shenvi	Hisashi Yamamoto	Michel Gagne	Chad Arthur Lewis
Martin Burke	Seth Herzon	Howard Whitlock	John Porco
Christina White	Scott Miller	Carolyn Bertozzi	David Spiegel
Scott Denmark	David Spiegel	Jin-Quan Yu	Tomislav Rovis
Richard Hsung	Steven Weinreb	Sam Gellman	Frank Stermitz
Laura Kiessling	Theodore Cohen	Jennifer Schomaker	Barry Snider
Robert McMahan	Dennis Curran	Teshik Yoon	Jeremy Robertson
Howard Zimmerman	Paul Floreancig	Chris Vanderwal	Martin Oestreich
Sam Danishefsky	Peter Wipf	Keith Woerpel	Ei-Ichi Negishi
Tristan Lambert	Pavel Nagorny	Laura Kiessling	Brian Connell
Nicholas Turro	Mike Giuliano	Zhibin Guan	John Montgomery
Robert Knowles	Andrew Phillips		

The Most Important yet Forgotten Organic Transformations

■ Ignoring the important criterion (subjective), where do we find forgotten reactions?

Baran group meetings: <http://www.scripps.edu/chem/baran/html/meetingschedule.html>

<http://www.monomerchem.com/display4.html>

<http://www.organic-chemistry.org/namedreactions/>

The Merck Index contains a named reactions section

1950s Chemische Berichte

<http://orgchem.chem.uconn.edu/namereact/named.html>

<http://www.ecompound.com/>

<http://www.chempensoftware.com/organicreactions.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_organic_reactions

■ How do we break free of the confines of our "Americanized" view of chemistry?

A French text on named reactions, available online:

Réactions Organiques Classées par Auteurs

<http://www.infotheque.info/cache/9085/www.refer.mg/cours/alcene/index.html>

A German named reactions book from the 1960's (available in our library):

Namenreaktionen der organischen Chemie. English (Organic name reactions; a contribution to the terminology of organic chemistry, biochemistry and theoretical organic chemistry. New York, Wiley, 1964
By Helmut Krauch and Werner Kunz

(Lots of overlap with the Merck Index named reactions section)

The Most Important yet Forgotten Organic Transformations

■ First, some definitions

important - adjective - of much or great significance or consequence

forgotten - past participle of forget - to cease or fail to remember; be unable to recall

- The general consensus is that there are no important yet forgotten organic transformations; If they are important, they are important because they are being used.

- The most important yet forgotten problems in organic synthesis

- Things people should know about that they generally don't

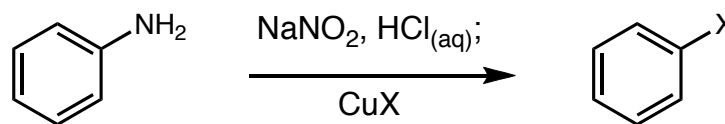
- The reactions that could or should be more important were they not forgotten

- The control of "relative face selectivity." For example, the exo-selective Diels-Alder reaction
- Direct, catalyzed fluorination, chlorination, and hydroxylation into organic molecules via C-H activation, including diastereo- and enantioselective processes at sp_3 -hybridized stereocenter

The Most Historically Important yet Forgotten Reactions

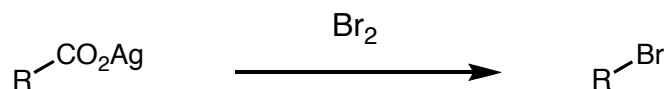
■ The Sandmeyer reaction

Sandmeyer, T. *Ber.* **1884**, 17, 1633-1635.



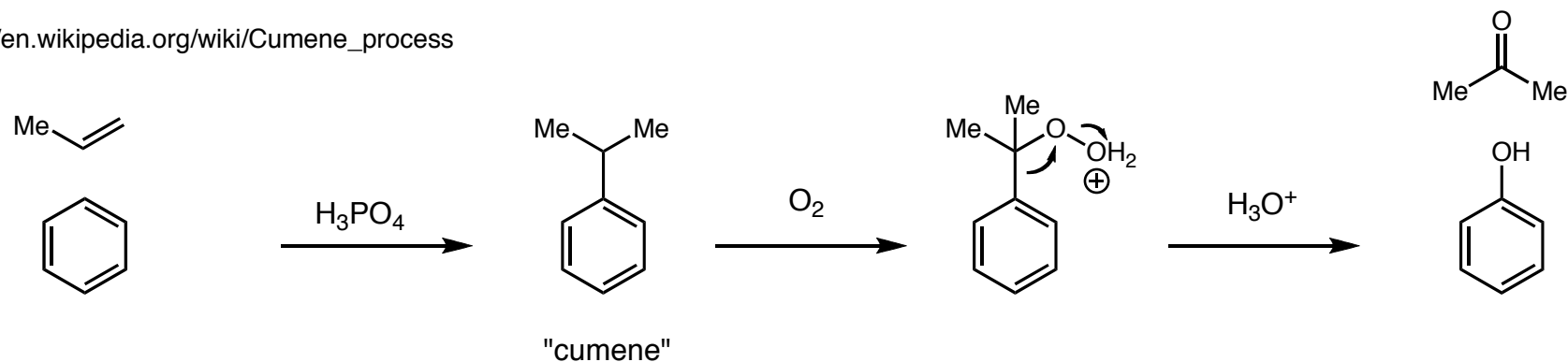
■ The Hunsdiecker reaction

Hunsdiecker, H.; Hunsdiecker, C. *Ber.* **1942**, 75, 291-297.



■ The Cumene process

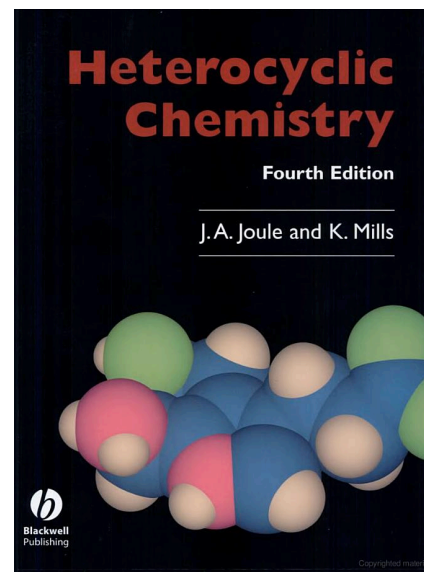
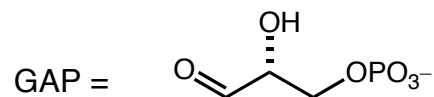
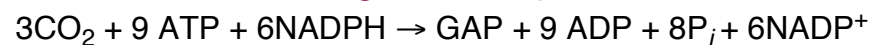
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cumene_process



Things People Should Know About that they Generally Don't

■ Heterocycle Chemistry

■ The Calvin Cycle by which mother nature makes all her organic compounds



■ Other biochemical reactions, such as reactions of thioesters and thiolate/disulfide interchange

Native Chemical Ligation: Dawson, P. E.; Muir, T. W.; Clark-Lewis, I.; Kent, S. B. *Science*, **1994**, *266*, 776-779.

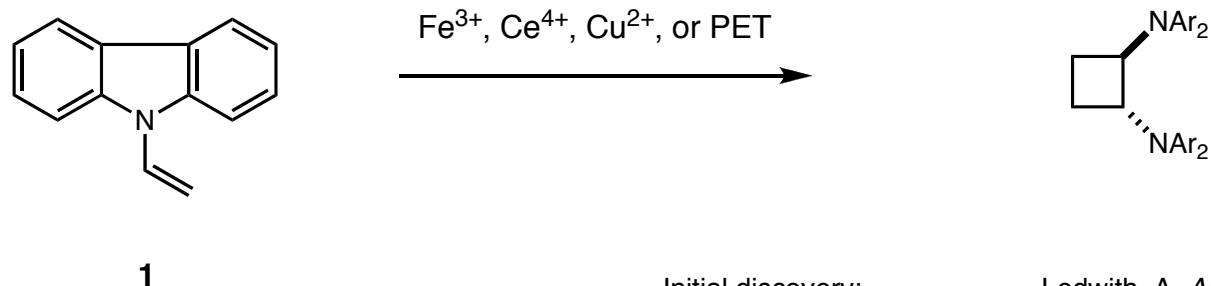
Tonight's Topics

- Radical-cation sigmatropic rearrangements
- Enantioselective photodeconjugation of enoates
- Arene/olefin photocycloaddition
- Trichlorosilane/tertiary amine combination and the Benkeser reaction
- Willgerodt/Kindler reaction
- Burton trifluoromethylation
- Matteson alkylation and the Zweifel Olefin synthesis
- Berman's NO chemistry



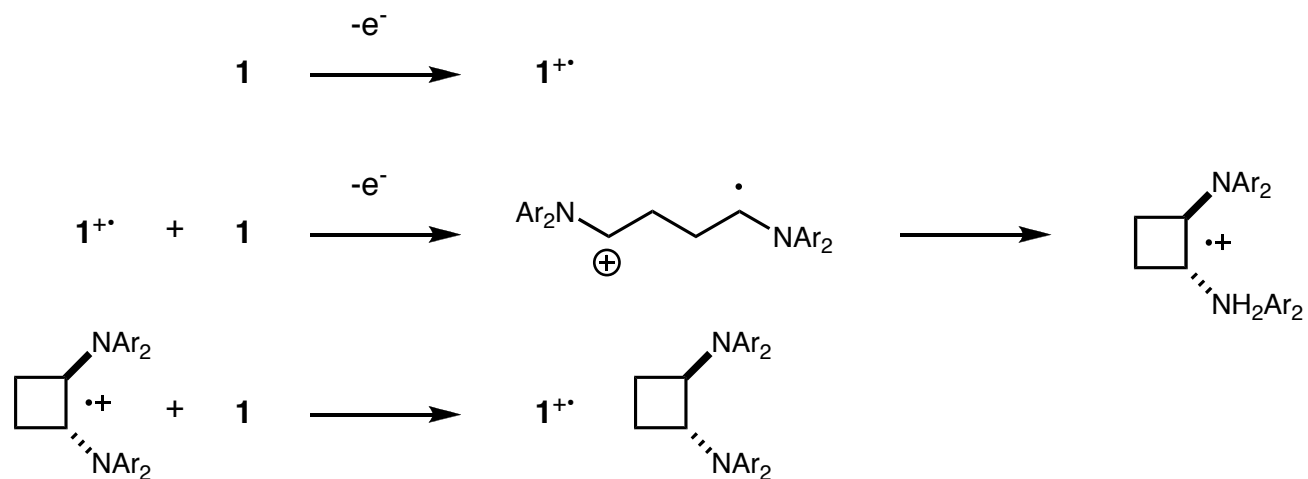
Radical Cation Pericyclic Reactions

- Oxidative conditions were shown to yield the homodimerization of vinyl carbazole **1**



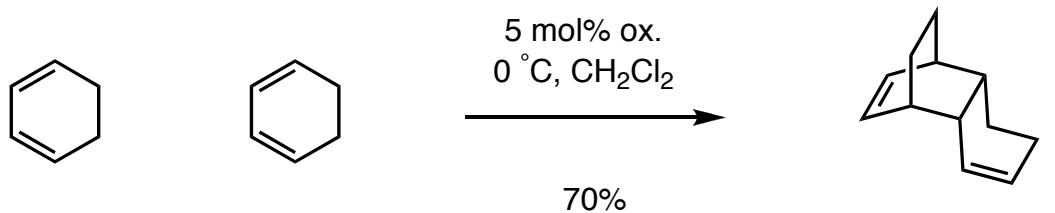
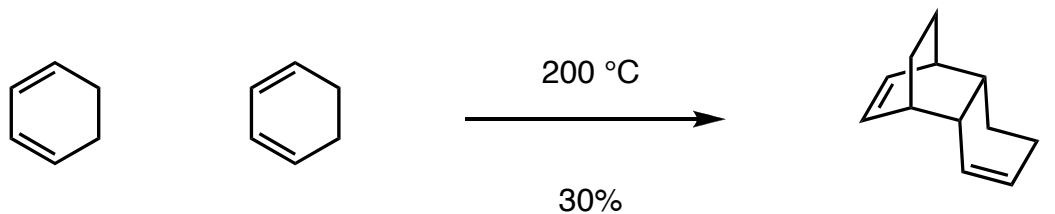
Initial discovery:
Further utilization:

Ledwith, A. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **1972**, *5*, 133-139.
Bauld, N. L. *et al. Acc. Chem. Res.* **1987**, *20*, 371-378.
Bauld, N. L. *Tetrahedron*, **1989**, *45* (17), 5307-5363.



Radical Cation Pericyclic Reactions

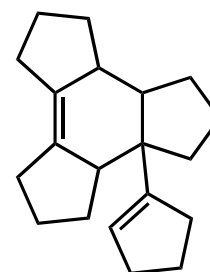
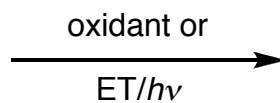
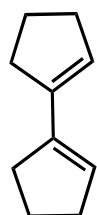
- A useful improvement to diene dimerization



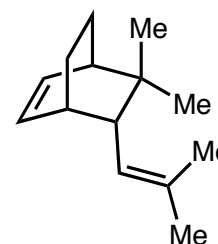
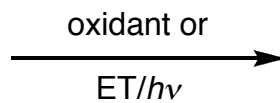
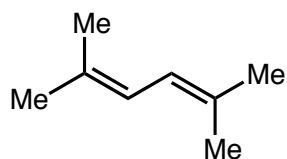
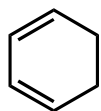
ox. = Ar₃N⁺SbCl₆⁻
an "aminium" salt

Radical Cation Pericyclic Reactions

- Sterically encumbered dienes react well



oxidant - 50%
PET - 70%



oxidant - 40%

"(2,5-dimethyl-2,4-hexadiene) had not previously been induced to participate in a Diels-Alder addition as either the dienic or dienophilic component"

ox. = $\text{Ar}_3\text{N}^+\text{SbCl}_6^-$
an "aminium" salt

Radical Cation Pericyclic Reactions

■ Some terminology

1987

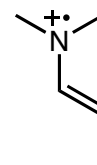
catical = cation radical

caticophile = neutral component which is the reaction partner of the catical

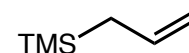
caticogen = neutral component which generates the catical

2007

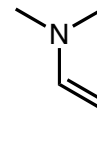
SOMO



SOMO-phile

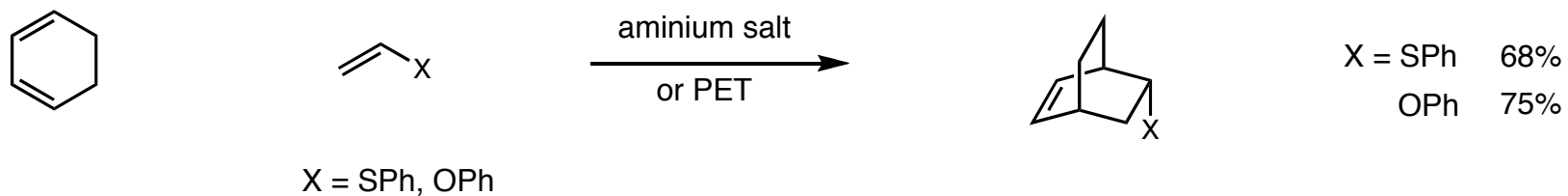


enamine

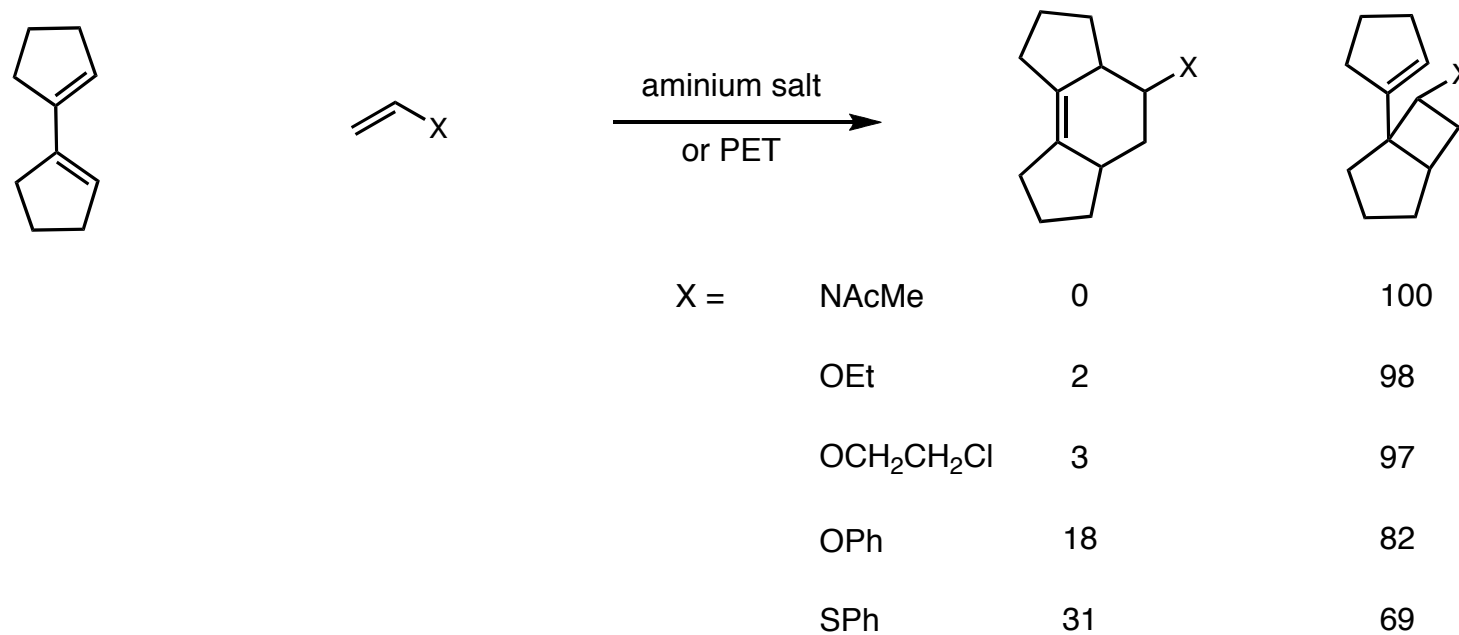


Radical Cation Pericyclic Reactions

■ Diels-Alders beyond diene homo- and heterodimerization

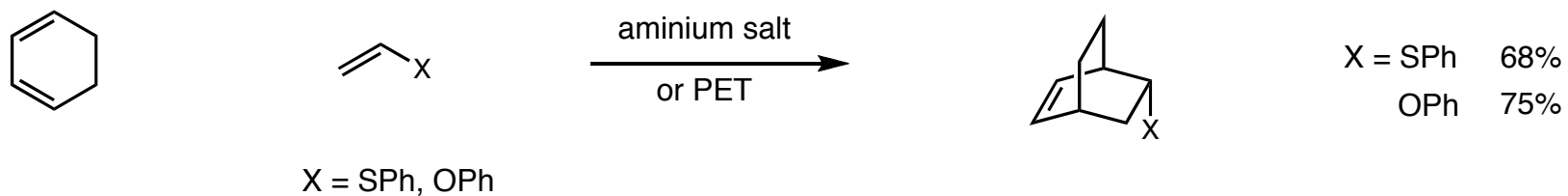


■ Acyclic dienes preferentially yield cyclobutane products

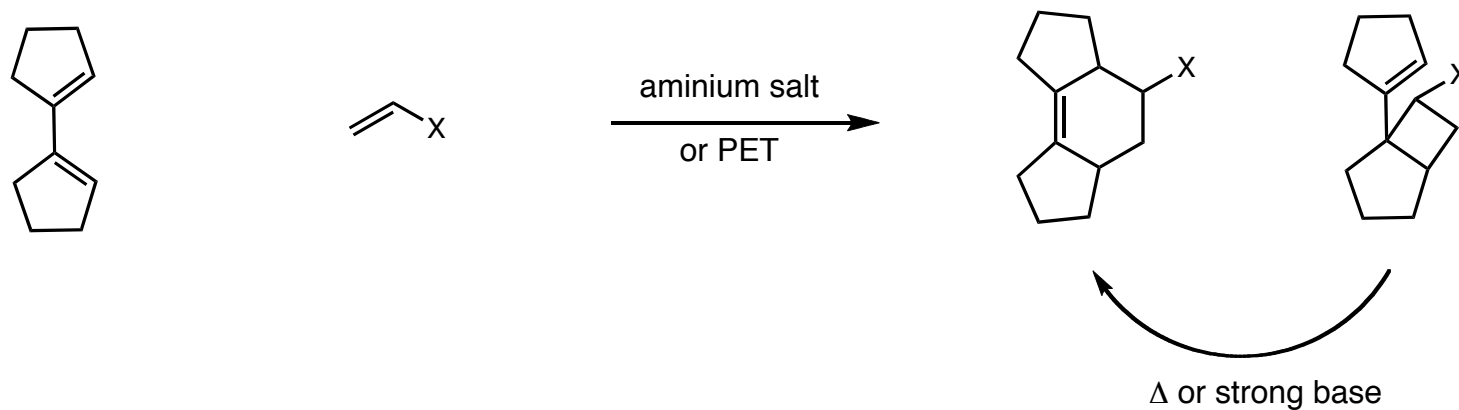


Radical Cation Pericyclic Reactions

■ Diels-Alders beyond diene homo- and heterodimerization

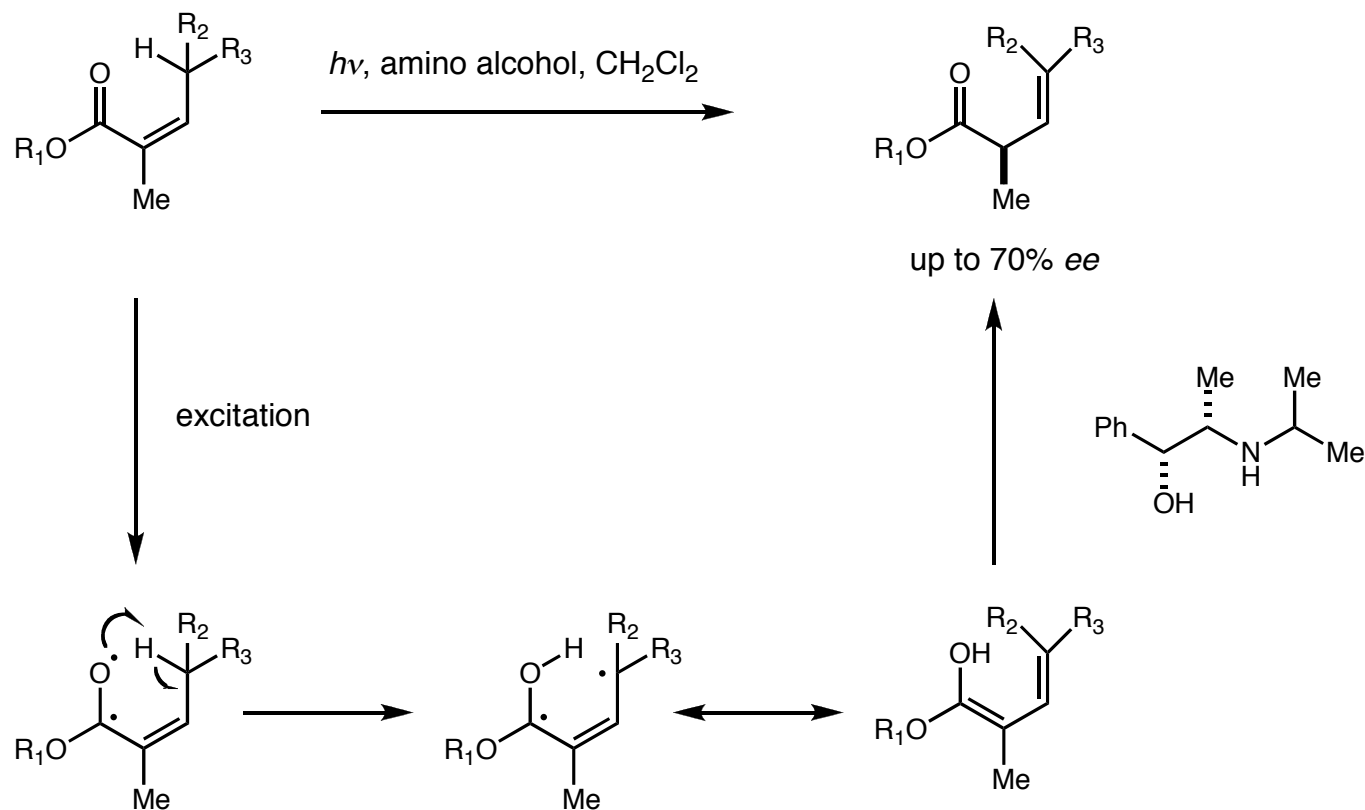


■ Acyclic dienes preferentially yield cyclobutane products



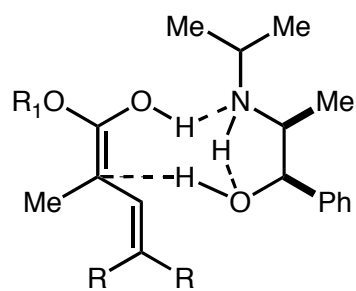
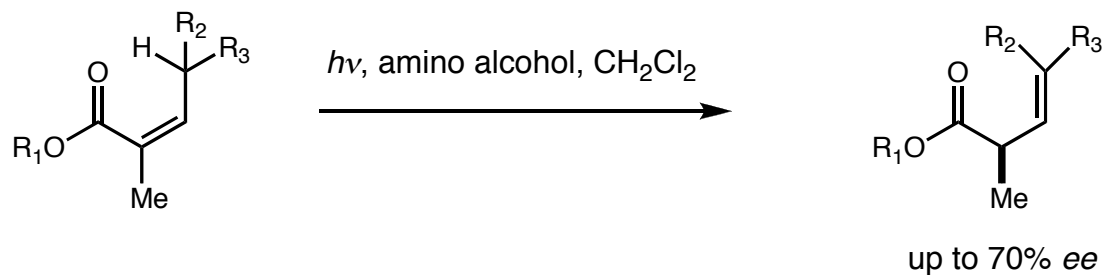
Enantioselective Photodeconjugation of Enoates

- Norrish type II rearrangement/protonation leads to enantioenriched β - γ unsaturated esters

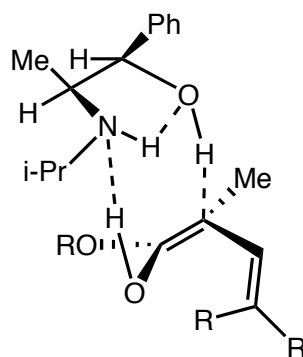


Enantioselective Photodeconjugation of Enoates

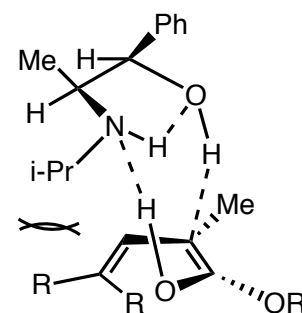
- Norrish type II rearrangement/protonation leads to enantioenriched β - γ unsaturated esters



proposed transition state

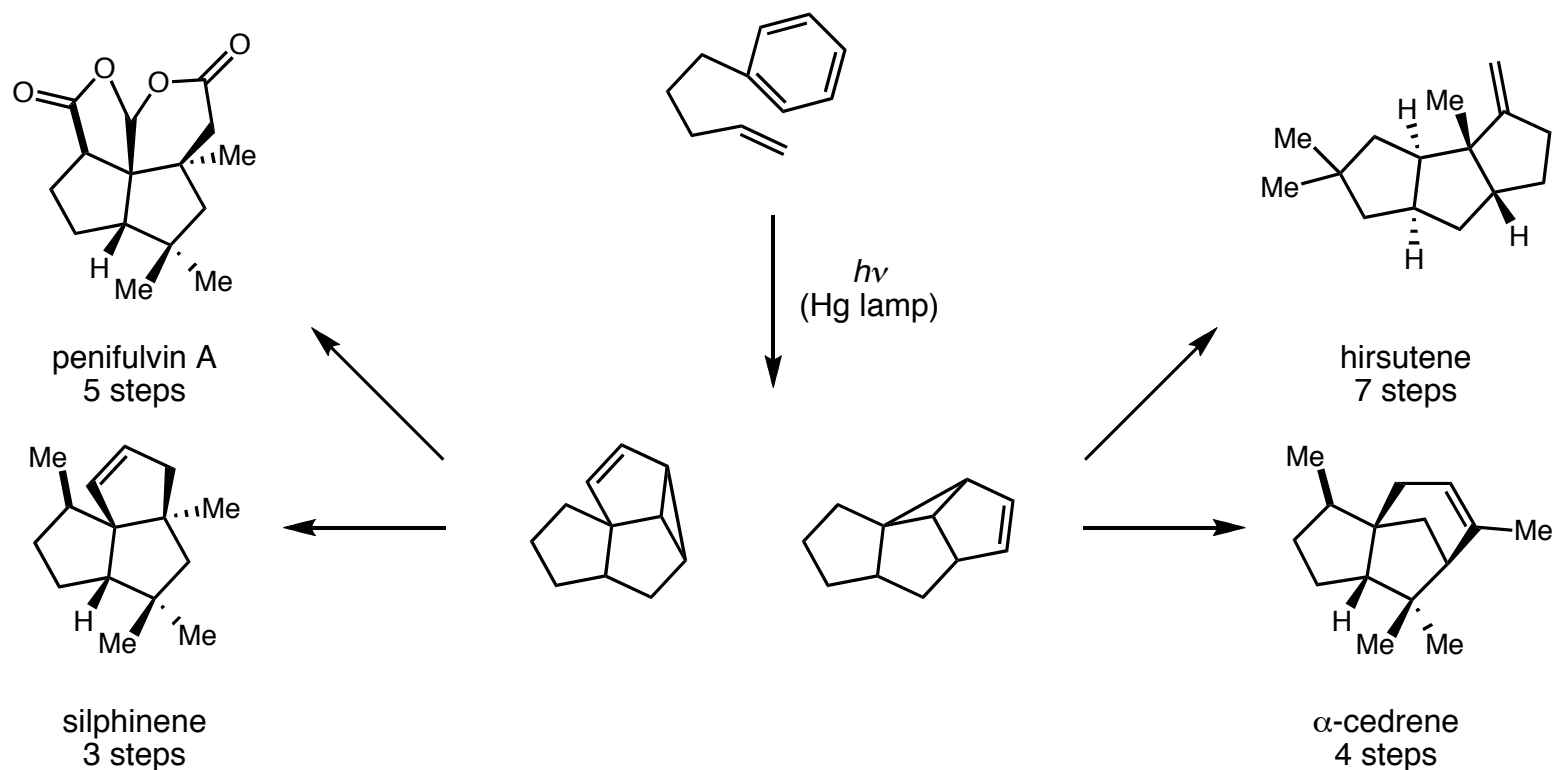


favored



disfavored

Intramolecular Arene-Olefin Photocycloaddition



(Intermolecular) Discovery:

Intramolecular variant:

Histurene:

Cedrene:

Silphinene:

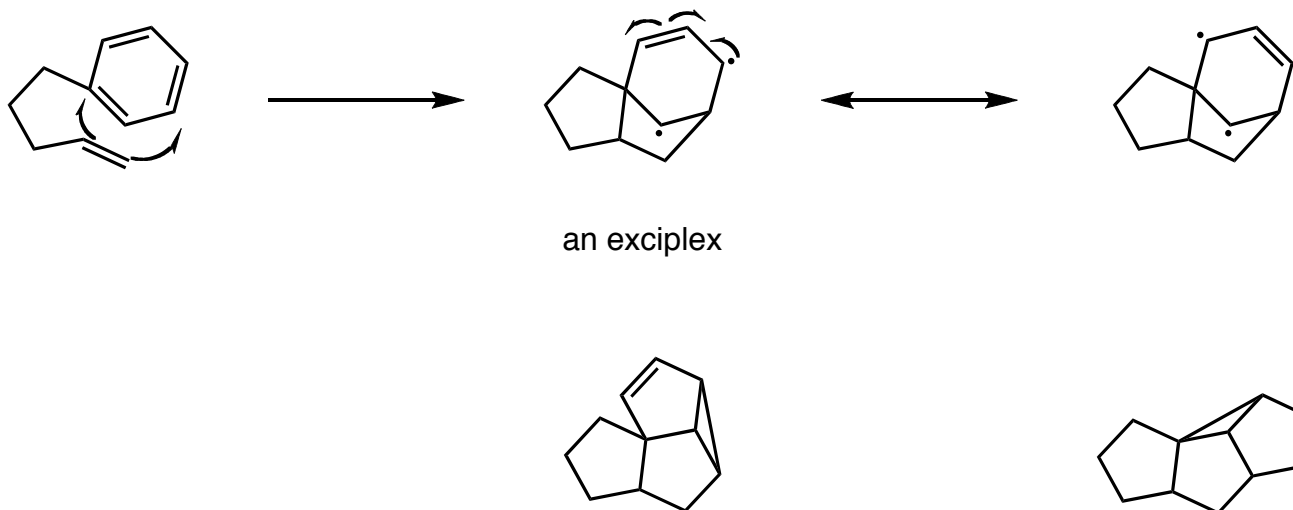
Penifulvins:

- Wilzbach, K. E.; Kaplan, L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1966**, *88*, 2066-2067.
 Bryce-Smith, D.; Gilbert, A.; Orger, B. H. *Chem. Commun.* **1966**, 512.
 Morrison, H.; Ferree, W. *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.* **1969**, 268.
 Ferree, W.; Grutzner, J.; Morrison, H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1971**, *93*, 5502-5512.
 Wender, P. A.; Howbert, J. J. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1982**, *23*, 3983-3986.
 Wedner, P. A.; Howbert, J. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1981**, *103*, 688-690.
 Wender, P. A.; Ternansky, R. J. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1985**, *26*, 2625-2628.
 Gaich, T.; Mulzer, J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, *131*, 452-453.
 Gaich, T.; Mulzer, J. *Org. Lett.* ASAP.
 Russell, A. T.; Chappell, D. *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2006**, *4*, 4409-4430.

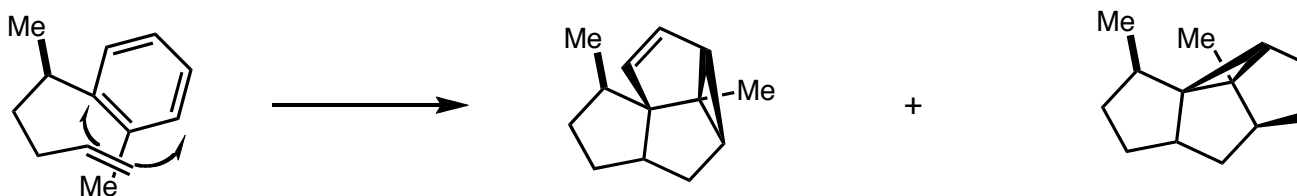
Review of arene-olefin photocycloaddition in total synthesis:

Intramolecular Arene-Olefin Photocycloaddition

- Photoexcitation of a bichromophoric arene-olefin leads to exciplex formation/cyclization



- The presence of a benzylic stereocenter serves to impart diastereoselectivity



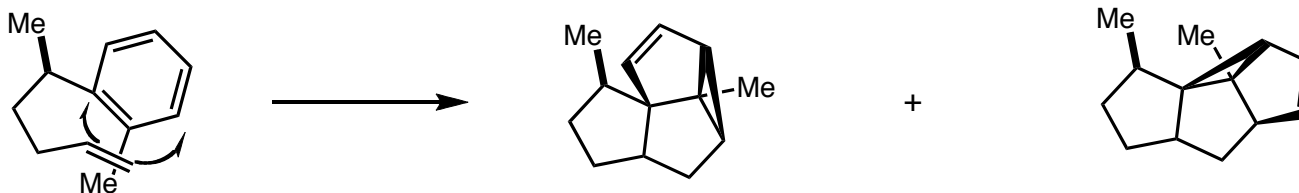
Intramolecular Arene-Olefin Photocycloaddition

■ Model for diastereoselectivity



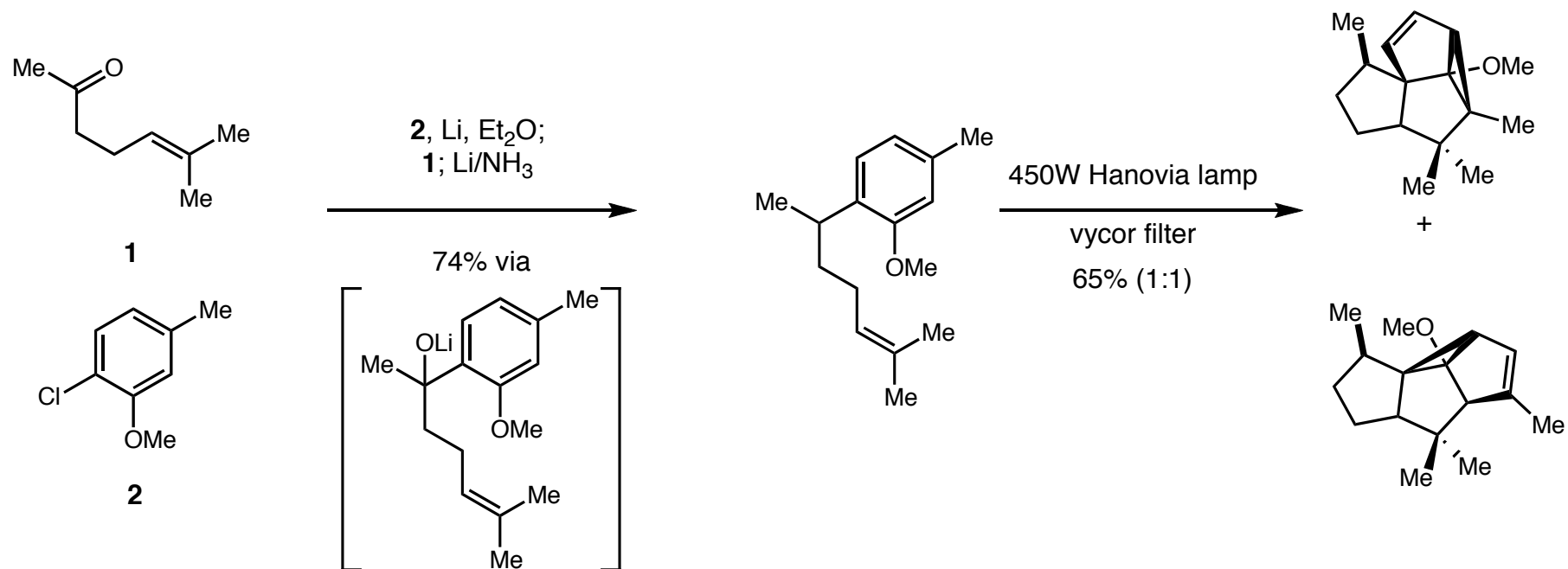
single diastereomer observed for each regioisomer

■ The presence of a benzylic stereocenter serves to impart diastereoselectivity



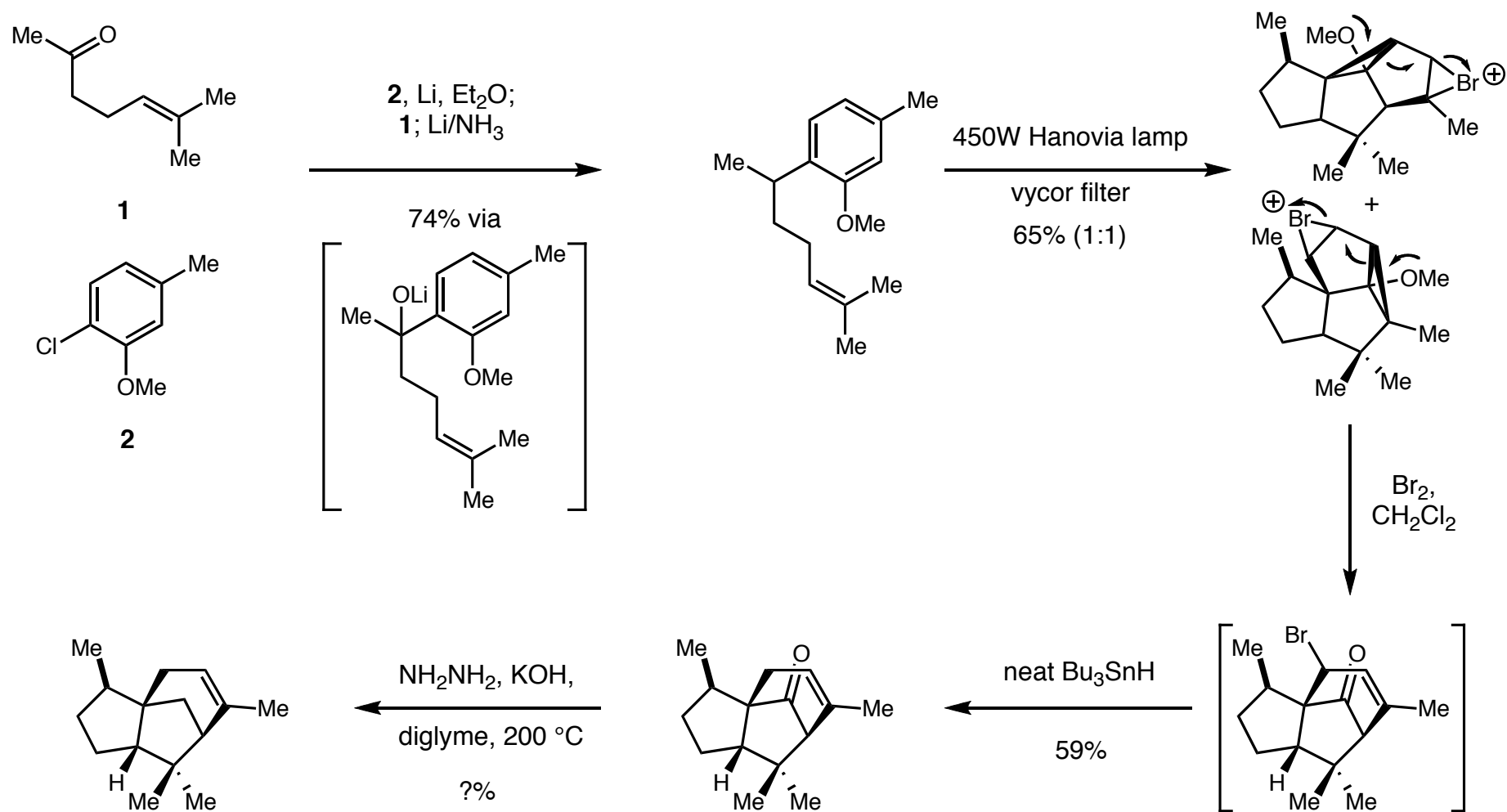
Intramolecular Arene-Olefin Photocycloaddition

- Cyclized products can be advanced to a variety of terpenoid natural products



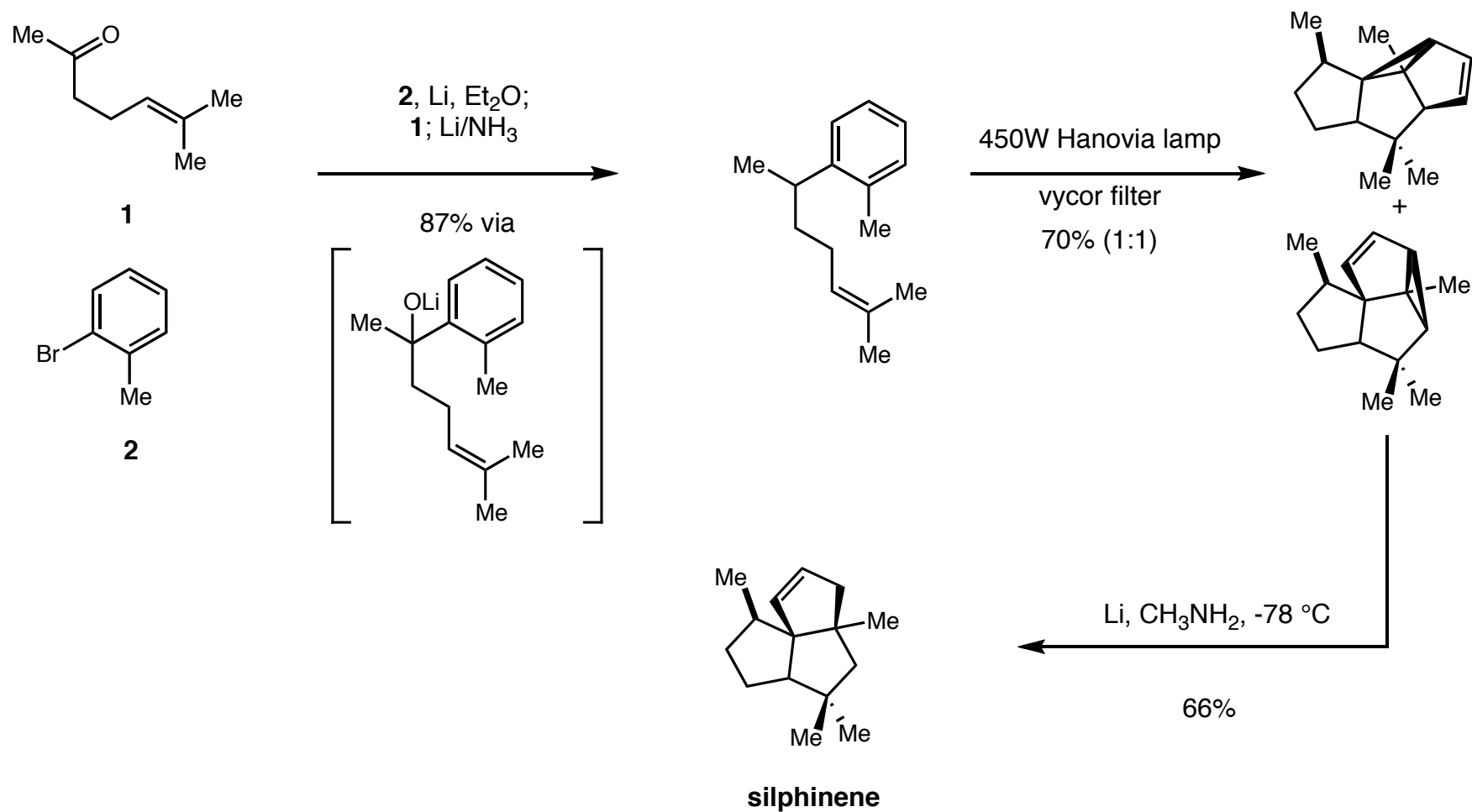
Intramolecular Arene-Olefin Photocycloaddition

- Cyclized products can be advanced to a variety of terpenoid natural products



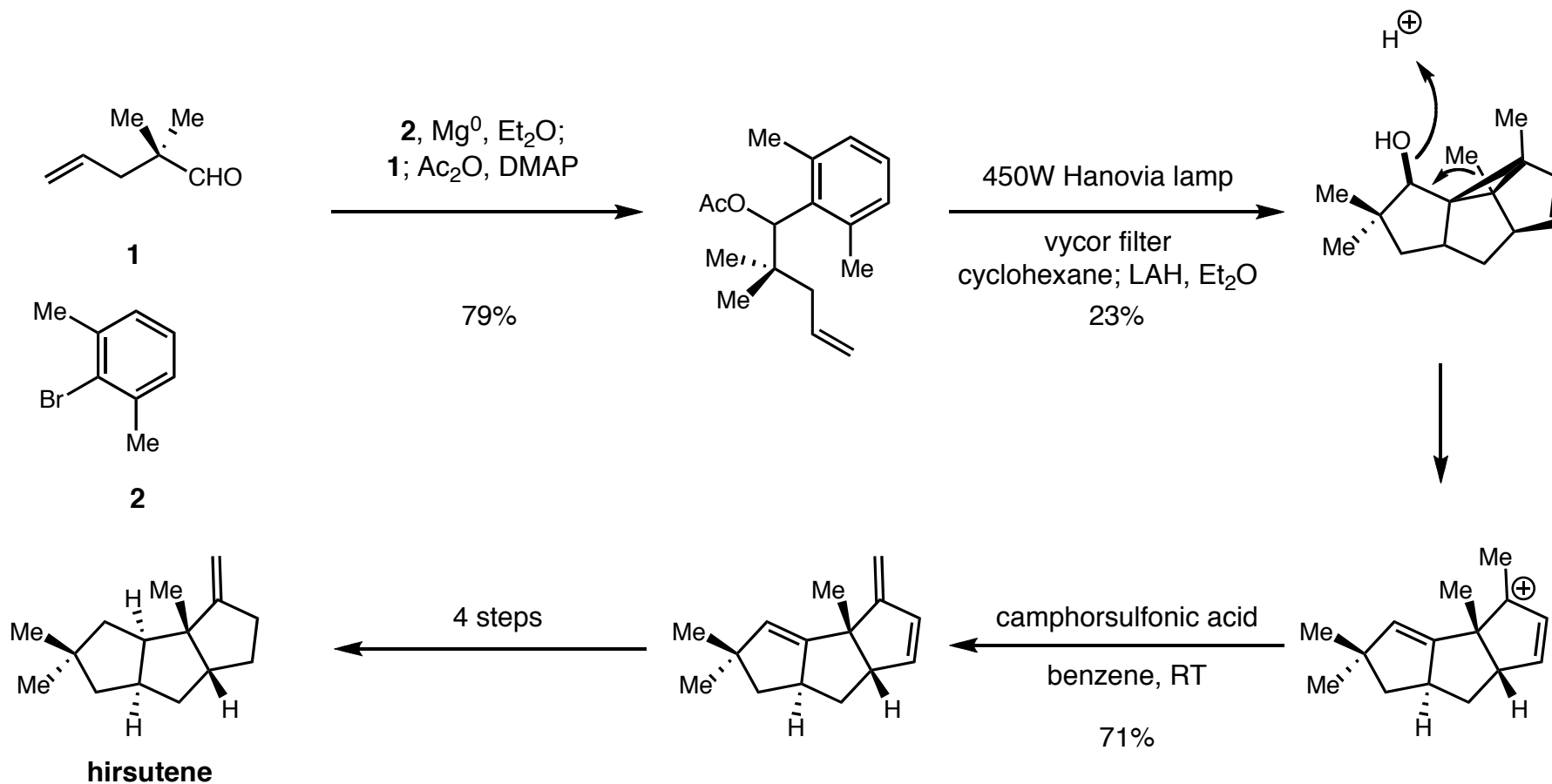
Intramolecular Arene-Olefin Photocycloaddition

■ Reductive cleavage leads to a different series of products



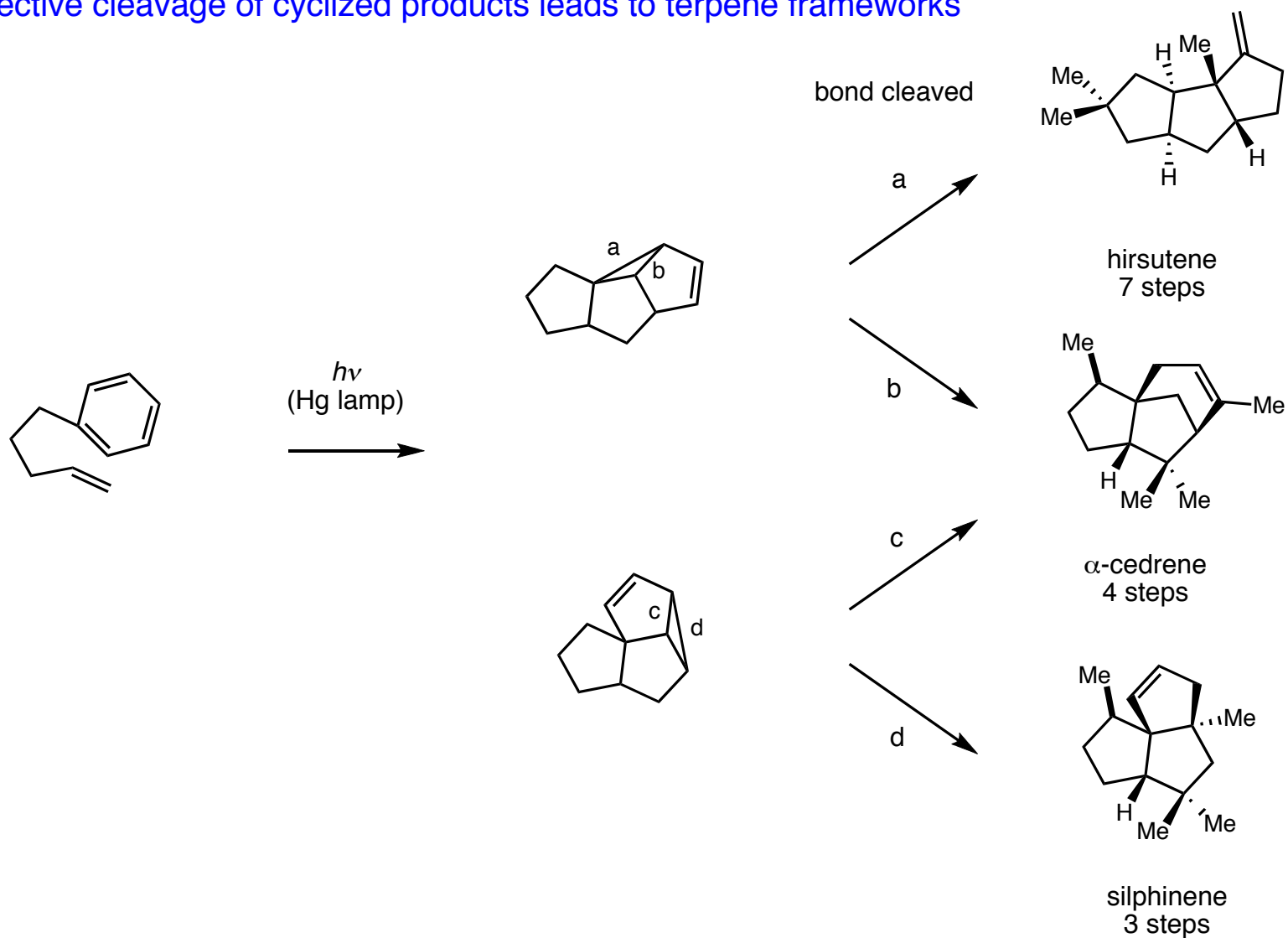
Intramolecular Arene-Olefin Photocycloaddition

- A third mode of cleavage leads to triquinanes



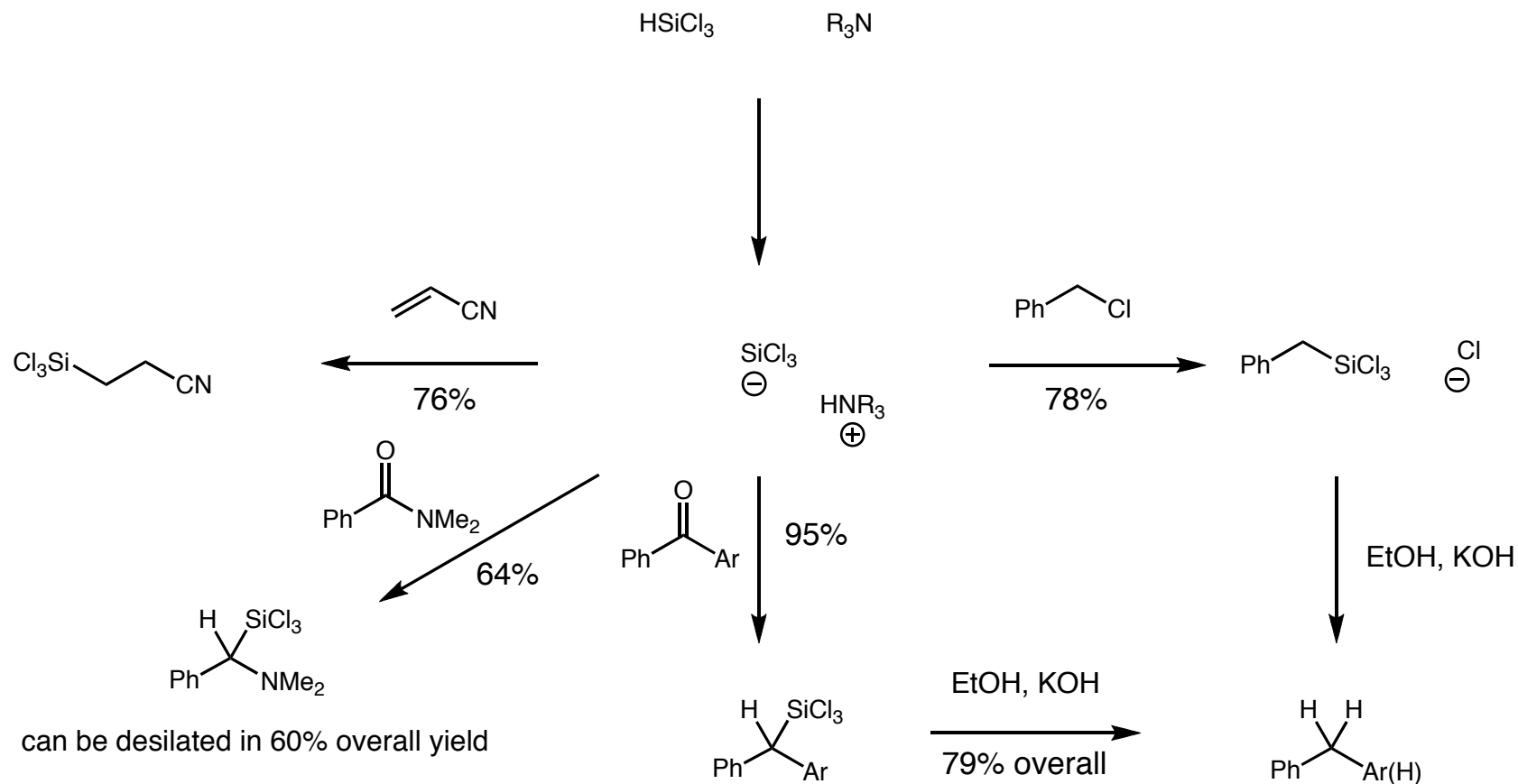
Intramolecular Arene-Olefin Photocycloaddition

- Selective cleavage of cyclized products leads to terpene frameworks



Trichlorosilane-Tertiary Amine Combinations - The Benkeser Reaction

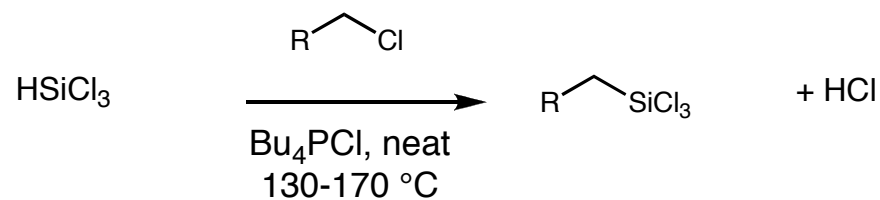
- Trichlorosilane is inexpensive and abundant due to its use in transistor-grade silicon



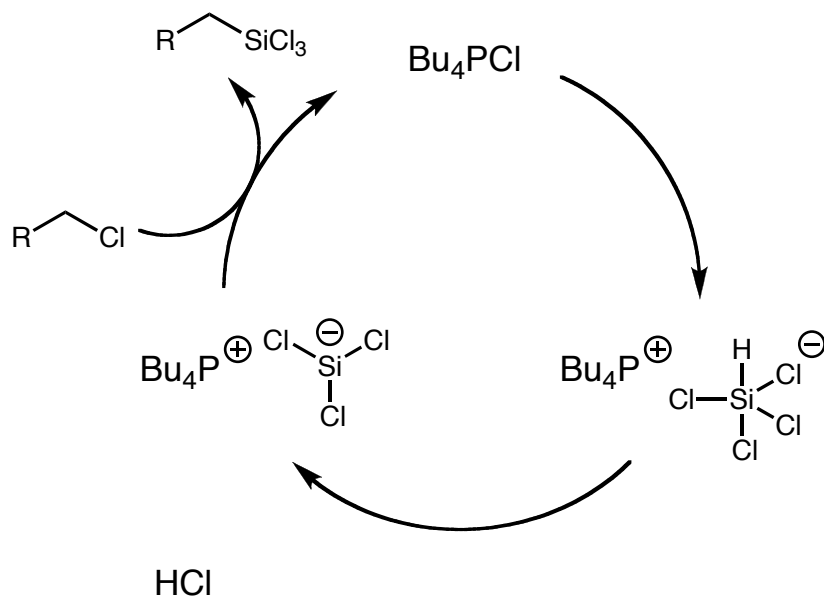
- Unfortunately, these reactions only work with HSiCl_3 , not even HMeSiCl_2 works

Trichlorosilane-Tertiary Amine Combinations - The Benkeser Reaction

- A recent (2001) JACS paper updated this methodology, expanding the nature of the electrophile



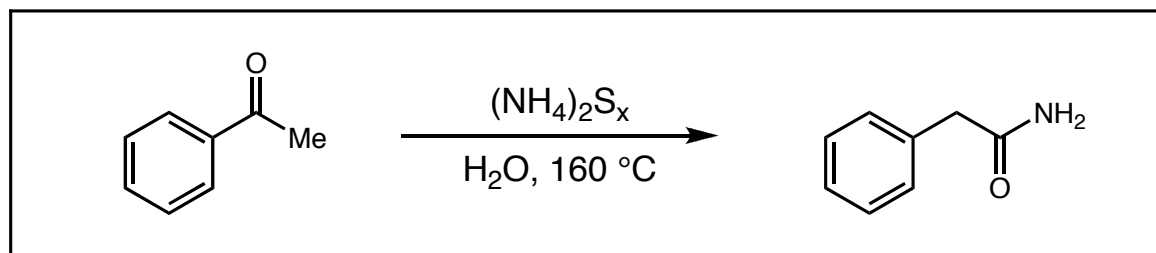
R = benzyl, allyl, alkyl



Jung, I. N. *et al.* *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2001**, *123*, 5584-5585.

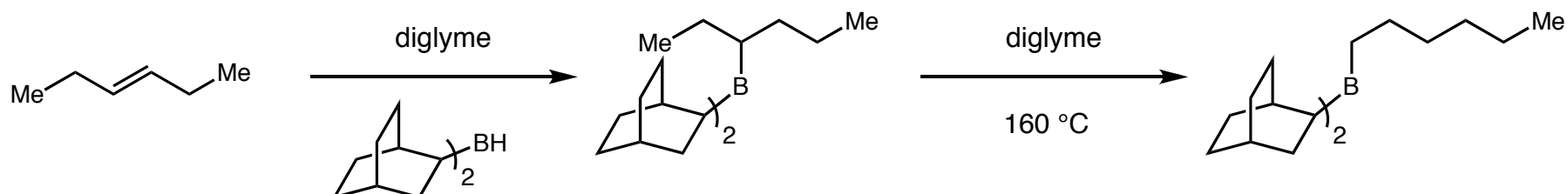
The Willgerodt-Kindler Reaction

- Reaction of aryl alkyl ketones with an amine and sulfur at high temperatures

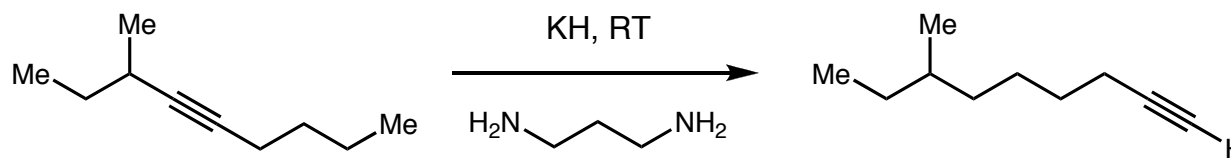


Willgerodt, C. *Ber.* **1887**, 20, 2467-2470.
Kindler, K. *Ann. Chem.* **1923**, 431, 187.

- Conceptually related to the (H. C.) Brown borane/olefin isomerization and the (C. A.) Brown acetylene zipper reactions



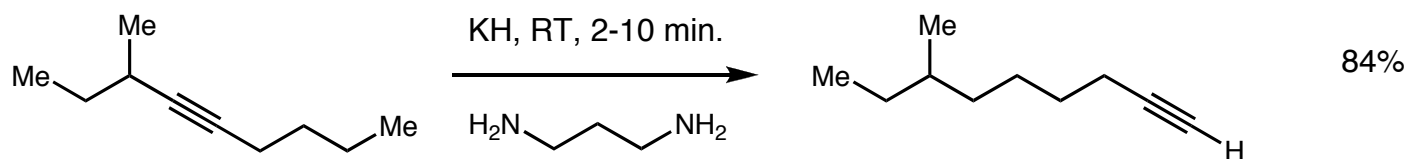
Brown, H. C.; Racherla, U. S. *J. Organometal. Chem.* **1983**, 241, C37-C40.



Brown, C. A.; Yamashita, A. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1974**, 97, 891-891.

The Willgerodt-Kindler Reaction - Related Contrathermodynamic Isomerizations

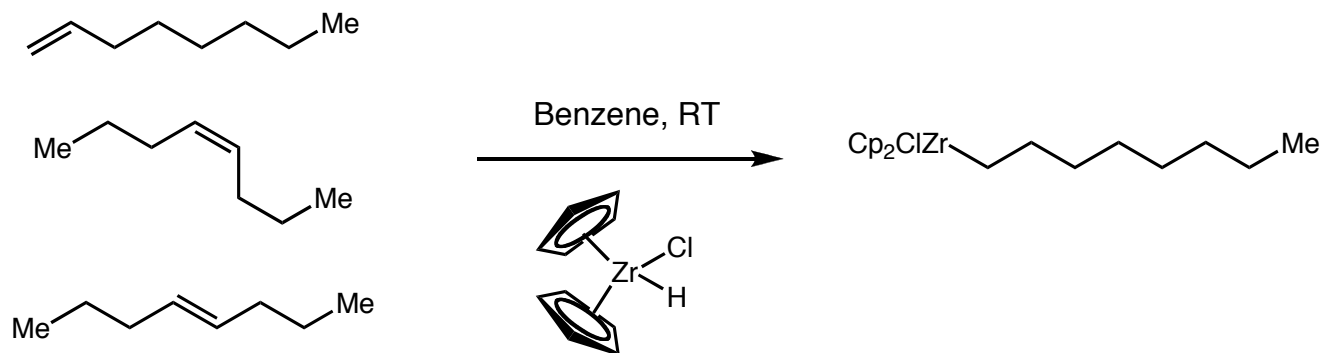
- C. A. Brown's KAPA contribution makes the alkyne zipper synthetically useful



Previous conditions required > 100 °C, longer than 2 hours, and only worked on methyl alkynes

Brown, C. A.; Yamashita, A. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1974**, *97*, 891-891.

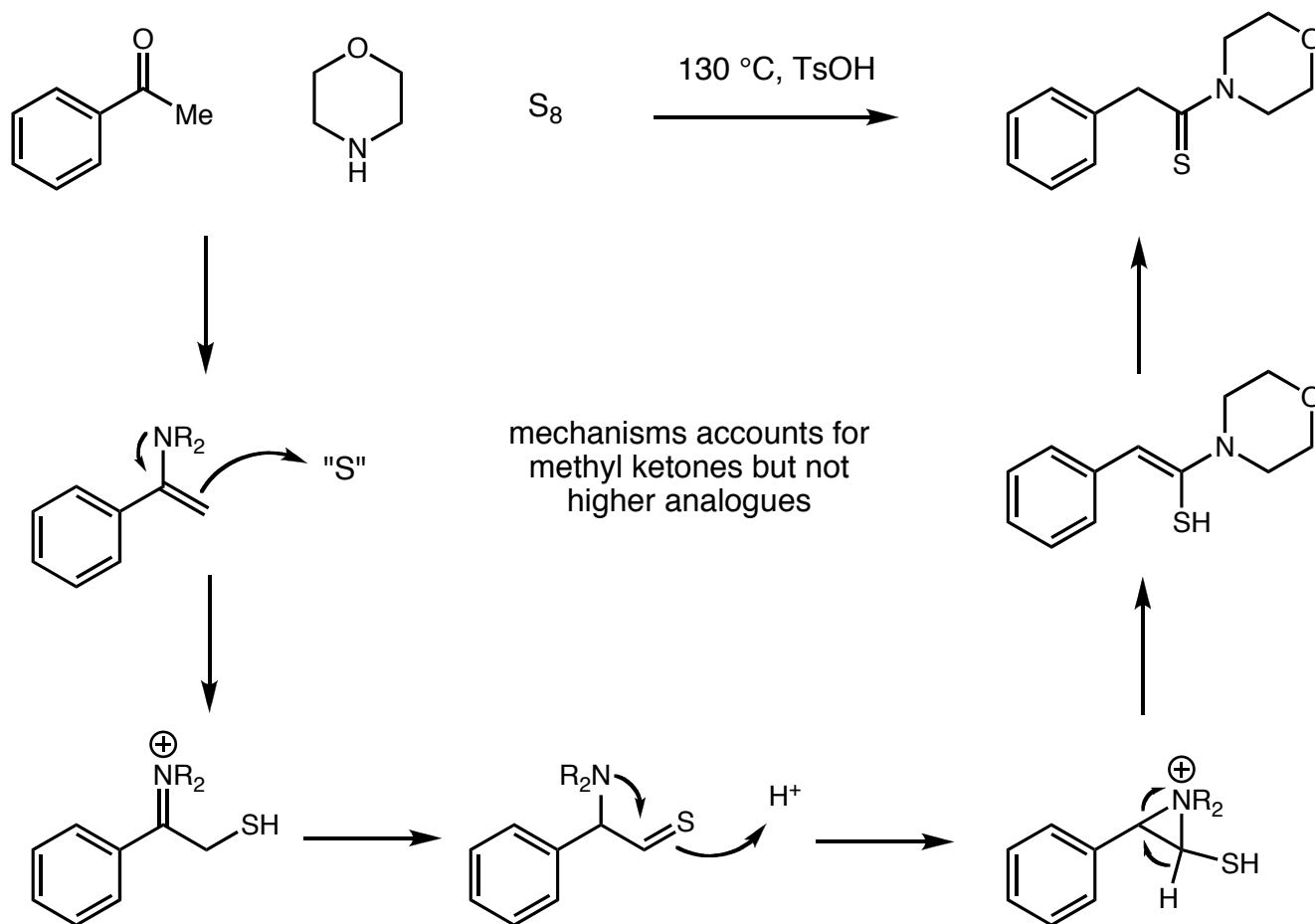
- J. Schwartz's hydrozirconation isomerization trumps H. C. Brown's hydroboration isomerization



Hart, D. W.; Schwartz, J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1974**, *96*, 8115-8116.

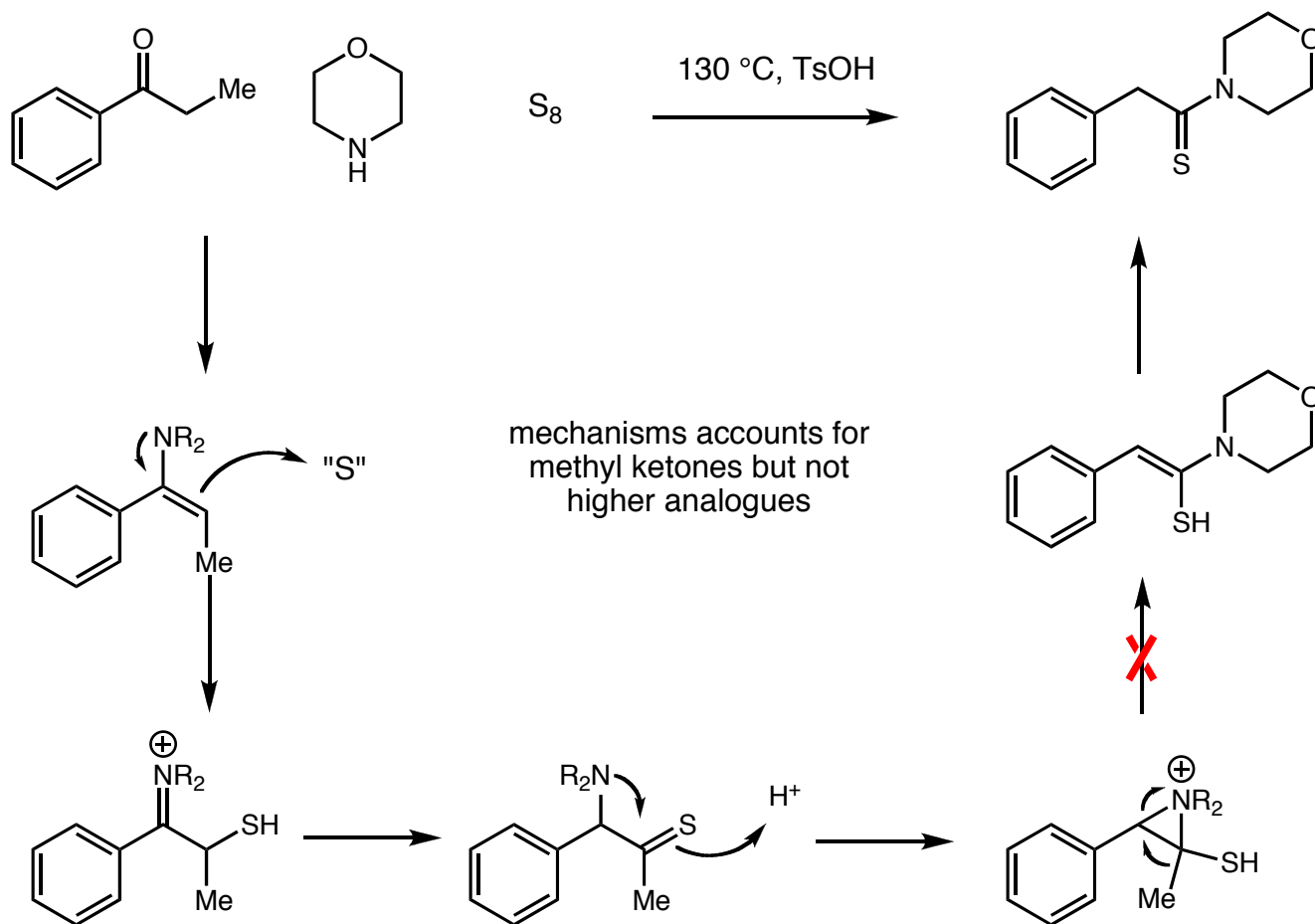
The Willgerodt-Kindler Reaction - Mechanism

- At high temperatures, many mechanistic oddities are possible



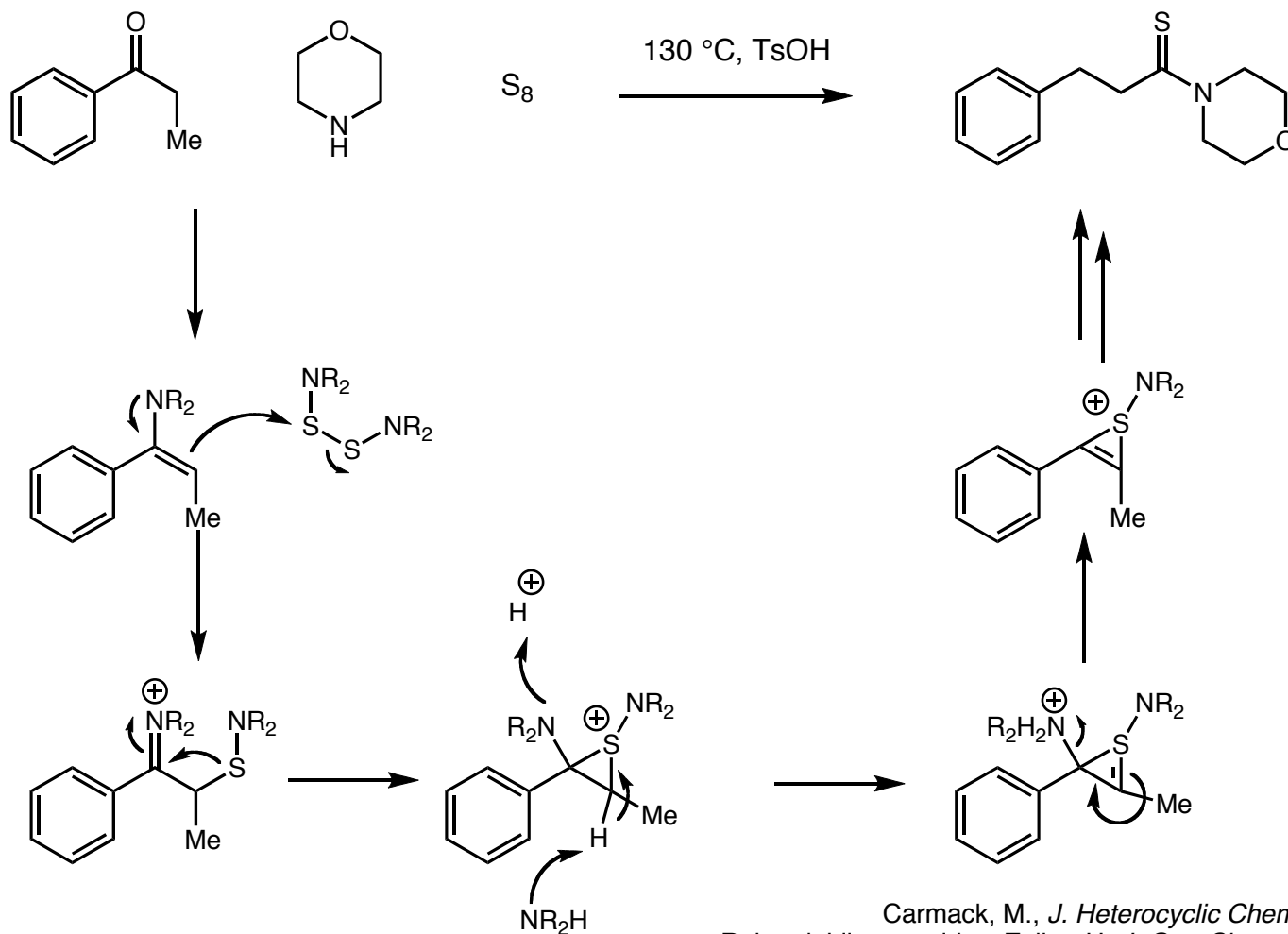
The Willgerodt-Kindler Reaction - Mechanism

- At high temperatures, many mechanistic oddities are possible



The Willgerodt-Kindler Reaction - Mechanism

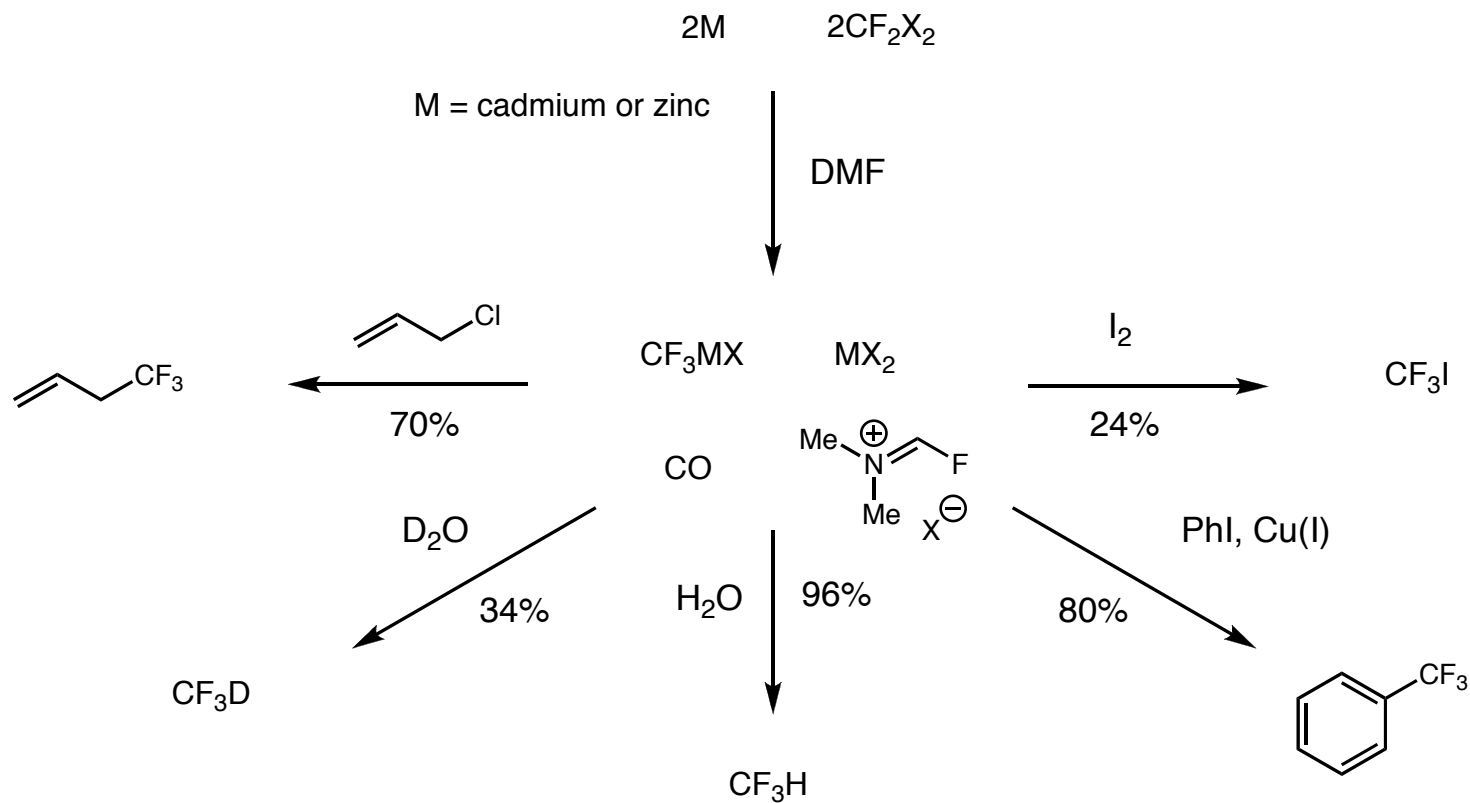
- In order to walk the carbonyl along the chain, a new mechanistic proposal was needed



Carmack, M., *J. Heterocyclic Chem.* **1989**, *26*, 1319-1323.
Related thiirene oxides: Zoller, U. *J. Org. Chem.* **1985**, *50*, 1107-1110.

Burton Trifluoromethyl Organometallics

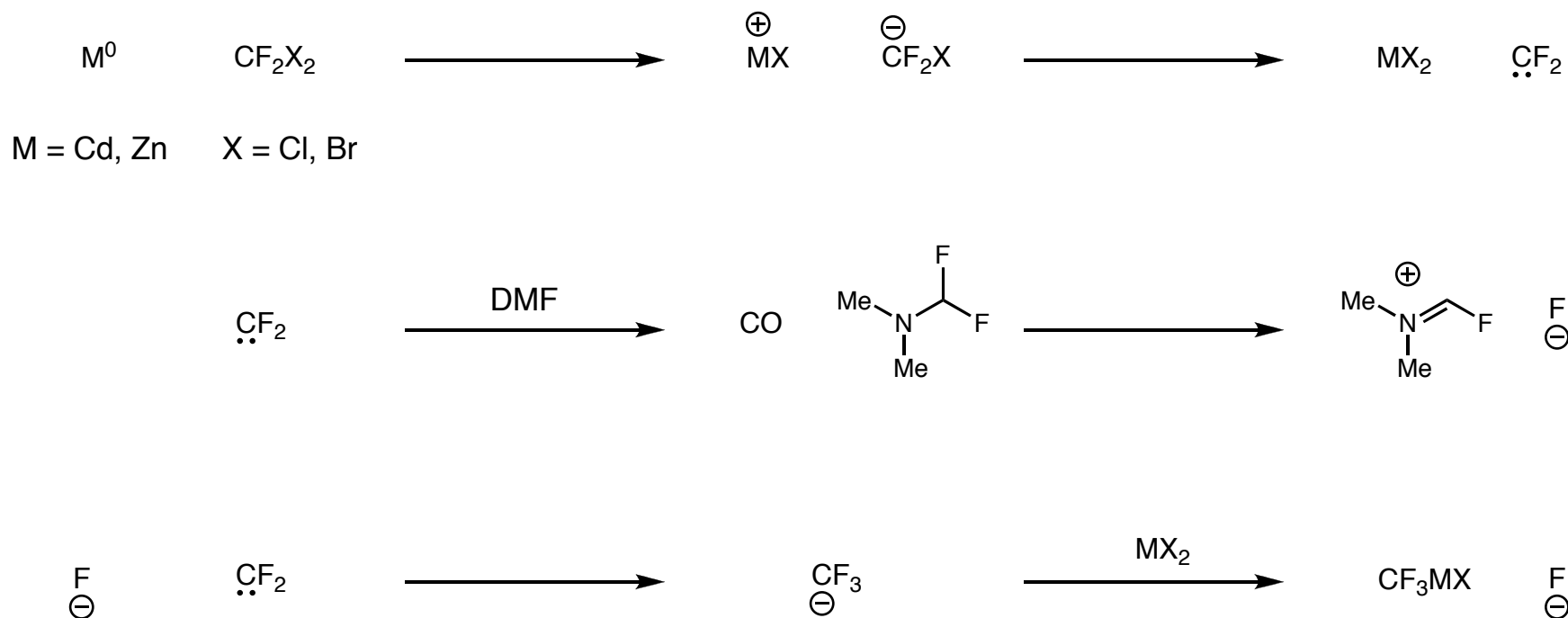
■ Preparation of trifluoromethyl organometallics via reduction of CF_2X_2



Burton, D. J.; Wiemers, D. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1985**, *107*, 5014-5015.
Burton, D. J.; Wiemers, D. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1986**, *108*, 832-834.

Burton Trifluoromethyl Organometallics

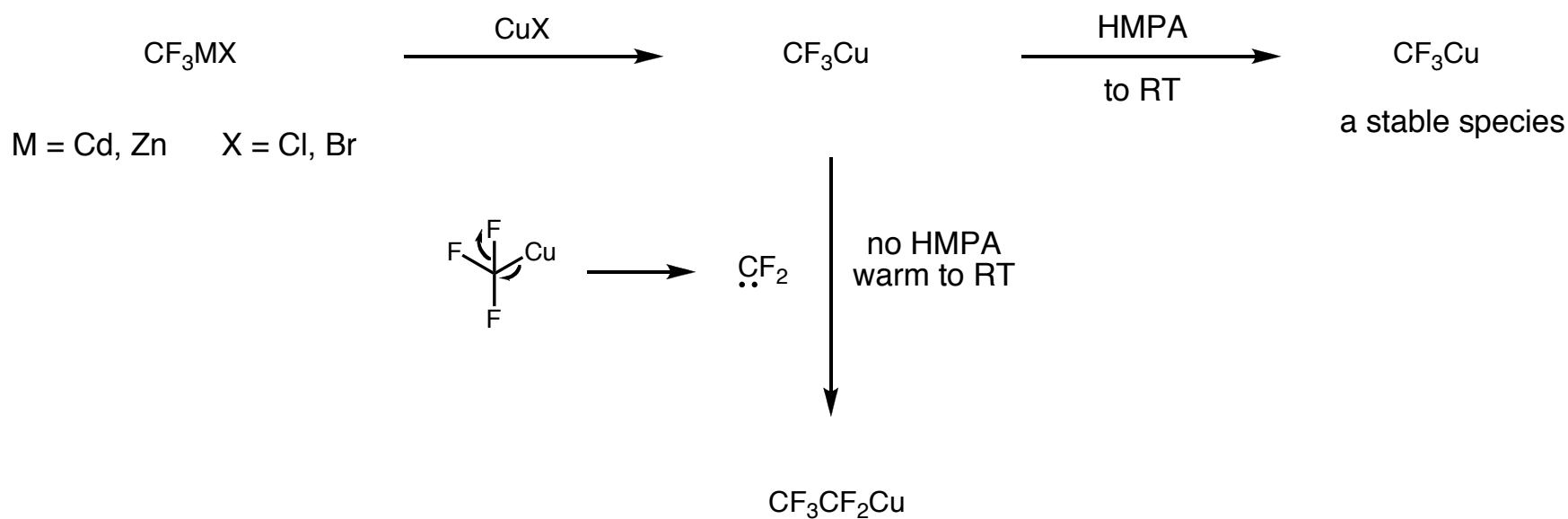
■ Preparation of trifluoromethyl organometallics via reduction of CF_2X_2



Burton, D. J.; Wiemers, D. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1985**, *107*, 5014-5015.
 Burton, D. J.; Wiemers, D. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1986**, *108*, 832-834.

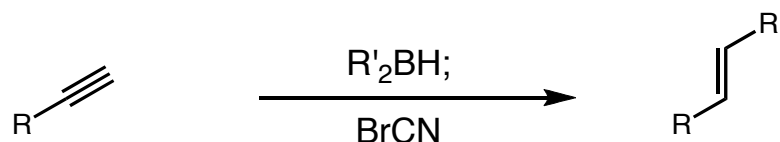
Burton Trifluoromethyl Organometallics

■ Preparation of trifluoromethyl organometallics via reduction of CF_2X_2



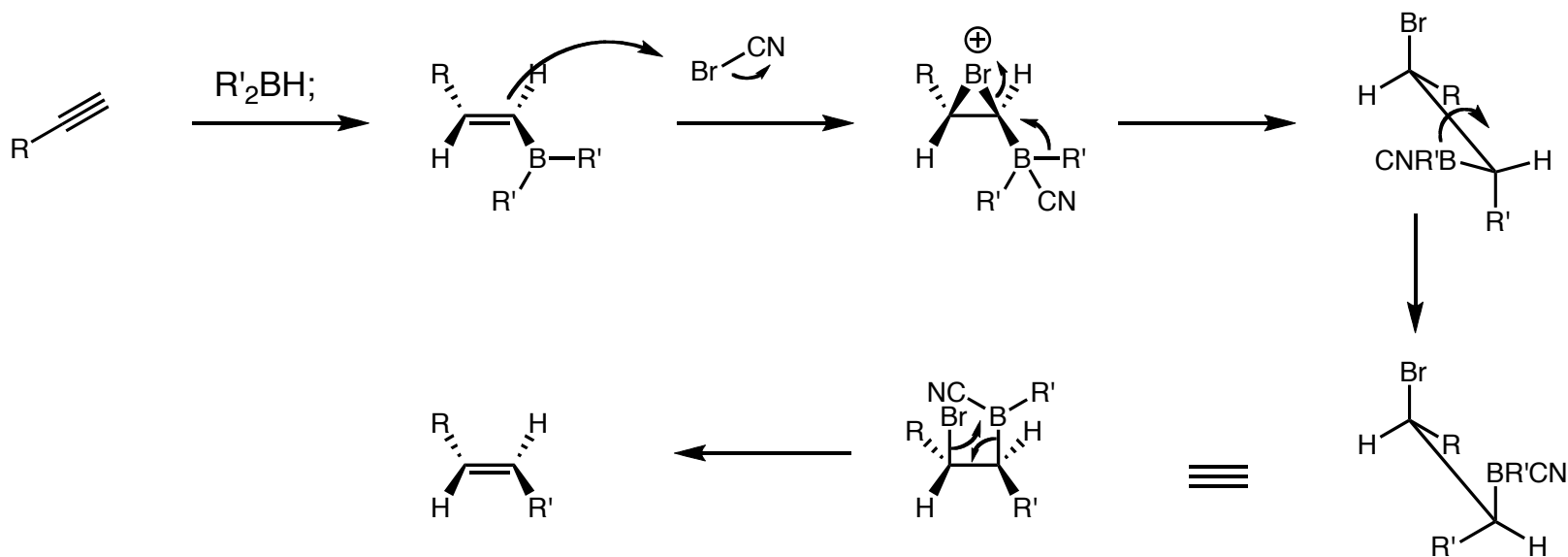
The Zweifel Olefin Synthesis

- Hydroboration of an alkyne leads to a vinyl borane, which can undergo net reductive elimination



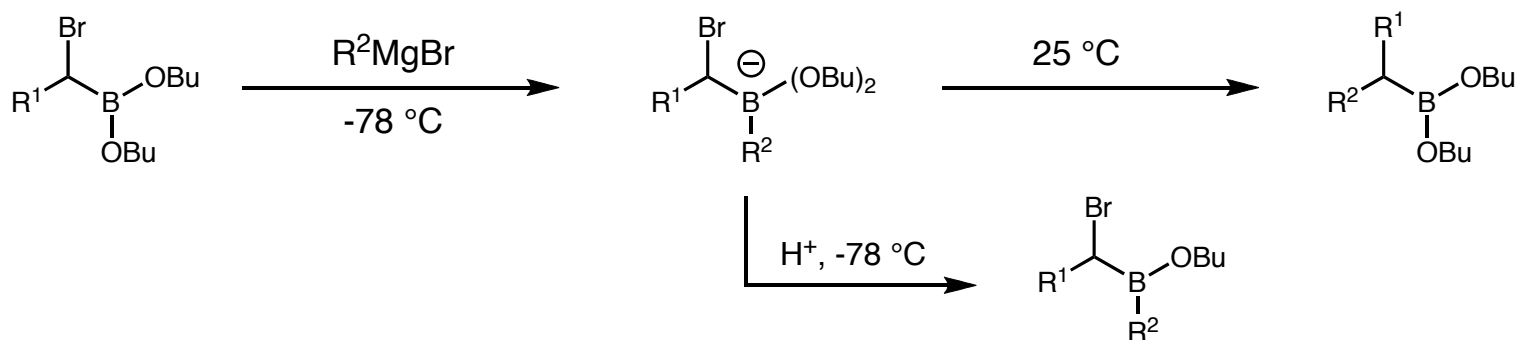
Zweifel, G.; Fisher, R. P.; Snow, J. T.; Whitney, C. C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1972**, *94*, 6560-6571.

- Hydroboration, alkyl migration and B-X elimination are all stereospecific

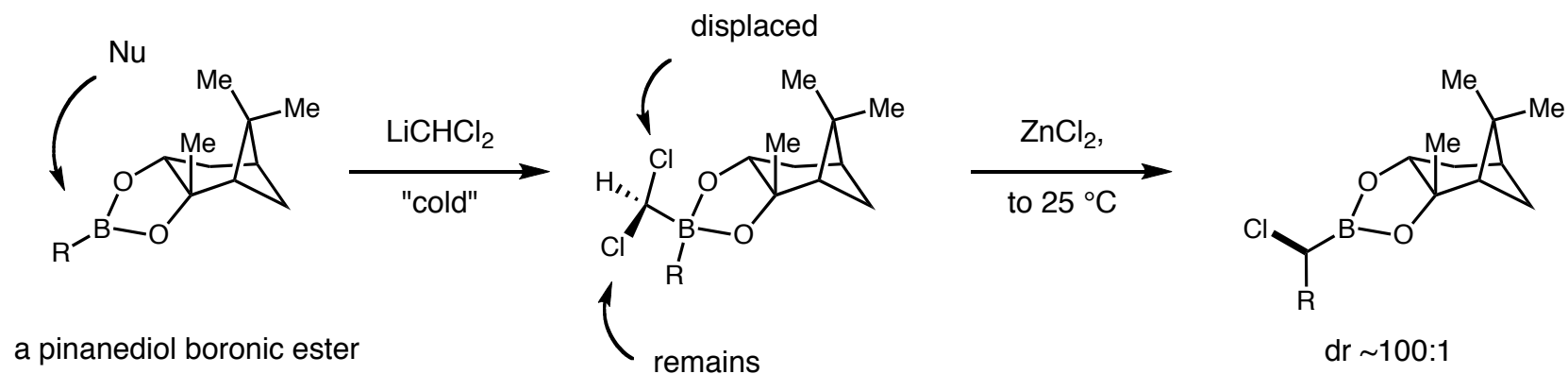


The Matteson Alkylation

- Addition of alkyl lithium and grignard reagents to α -halo boronic esters leads to net displacement

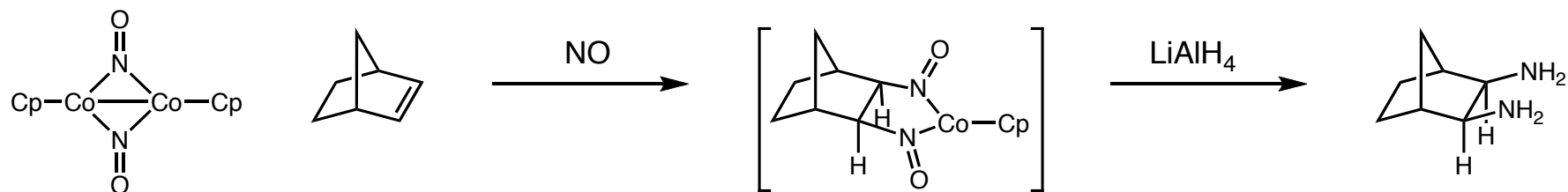


- Very high levels ($>1000:1$) of diastereoselection can be achieved with chiral boronic esters



Bergman Chemistry Involving (CoCpNO)₂

- So much CO chemistry (hydroformylation) is known, why is there so little NO chemistry?

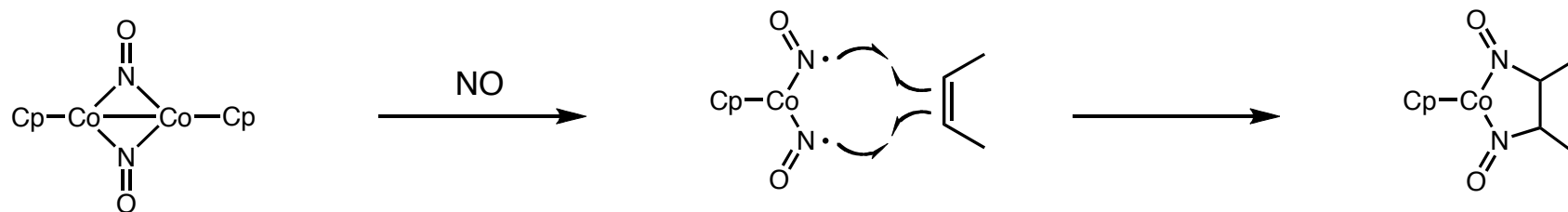


Brunner's dimer

Becker, P. N.; White, M. A.; Bergman, R. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1980**, *102*, 5676-5677.
 Weiner, W. P.; Bergman, R. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1983**, *105*, 3922-3929.
 Becker, P. N.; Bergman, R. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1983**, *105*, 2985-2995.
 Becker, P. N.; Bergman, R. G. *Organometallics* **1983**, *2*, 787-796.

Schomaker, J. M.; Boyd, W. C.; Stewart, I. C.; Toste, F. D.; Bergman, R. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, *130*, 3777-3779.

- The reaction is proposed to proceed via CpCo(NO)₂

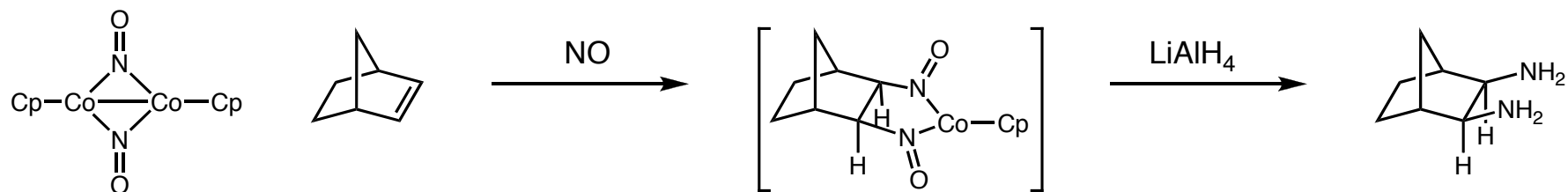


Brunner's dimer

- An interesting case of a metal's ligands interacting with an olefin, rather than the metal itself (another example is osmium tetroxide)

Bergman Chemistry Involving (CoCpNO)₂

- So much CO chemistry (hydroformylation) is known, why is there so little NO chemistry?



Brunner's dimer

Becker, P. N.; White, M. A.; Bergman, R. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1980**, *102*, 5676-5677.
 Weiner, W. P.; Bergman, R. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1983**, *105*, 3922-3929.
 Becker, P. N.; Bergman, R. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1983**, *105*, 2985-2995.
 Becker, P. N.; Bergman, R. G. *Organometallics* **1983**, *2*, 787-796.

Schomaker, J. M.; Boyd, W. C.; Stewart, I. C.; Toste, F. D.; Bergman, R. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, *130*, 3777-3779.

- NO can undergo migratory insertion analogous to CO



Bergman Chemistry Involving (CoCpNO)₂

- Recently, the groups of Bergman and Toste looked at some new chemistry involving nitrosoalkanes

