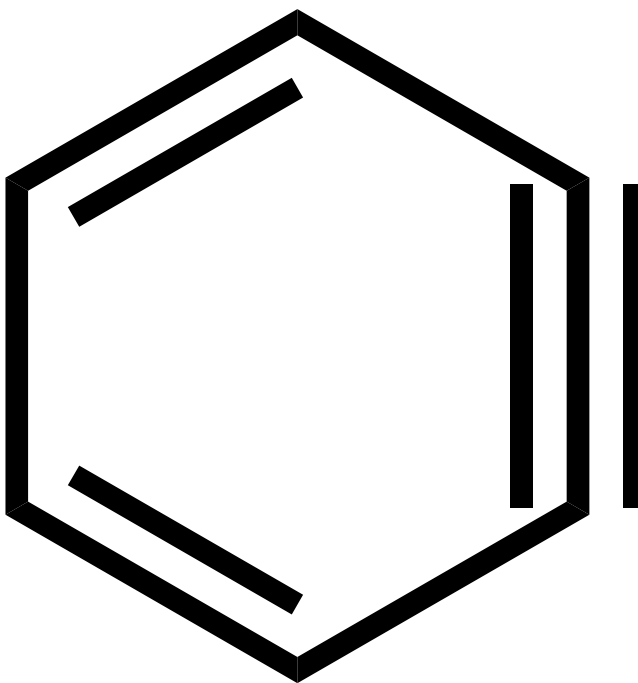


Benzyne: History, Generation, and Reactivity



Eric R. Welin

MacMillan Group Meeting

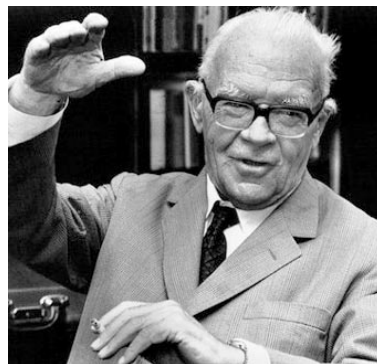
September 18, 2013

Benzyne: History, Generation, and Reactivity

■ part 1: history and structure

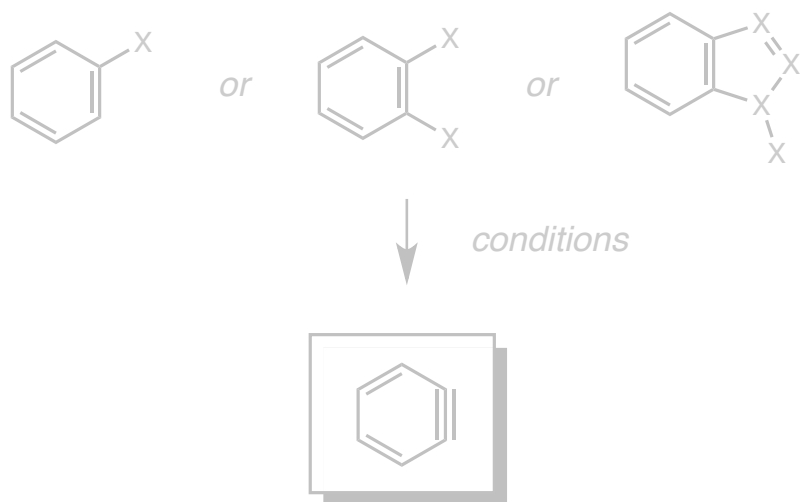


John D. Roberts
Caltech

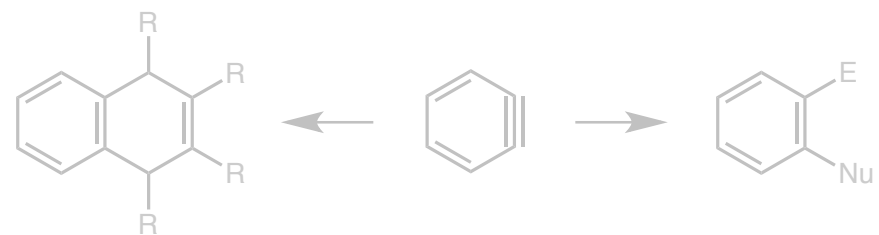


Georg Wittig (Nobel 1979)
University of Freiburg
University of Tübingen

■ part 2: generation



■ part 3: reactivity



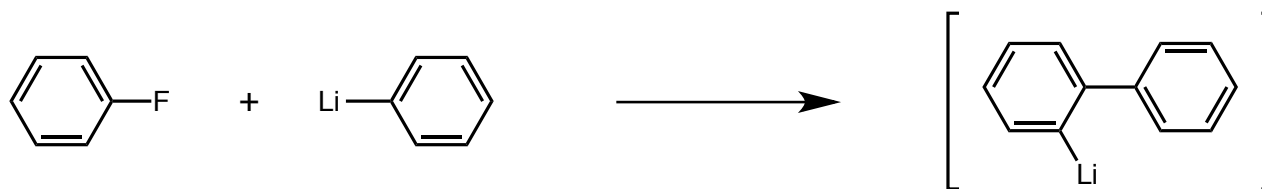
For very useful reviews see:

Pellissier, H.; Santelli, M. *Tetrahedron* **2003**, *59*, 701
Tadross, P. M.; Stoltz, B. M.; *Chem. Rev.* **2012**, *112*, 3550

Halobenzenes and Strong Bases Provide Unexpected Results

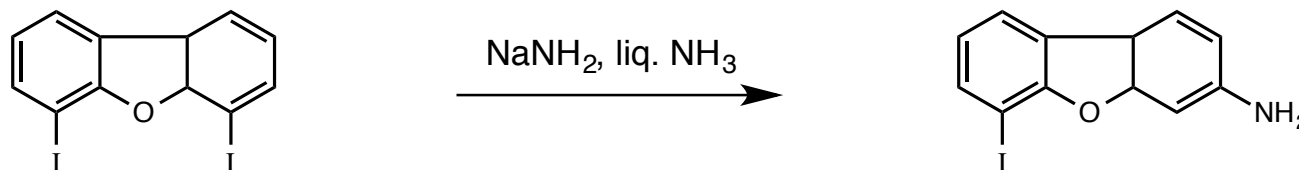
multiple reports from 1940's displayed bizarre reactivity

■ 1940: Wittig *et al.*



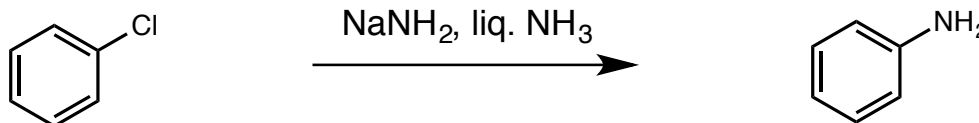
Wittig, G.; Pieper, G.; Fuhrmann, G. *Ber. dtsh. Chem. Ges. A/B*, **1940**, 73, 1193

■ 1945: Gilman *et al.*



Gilman, H.; Avakian, S. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1945**, 67, 349

■ 1946: Bergstrom *et al.*



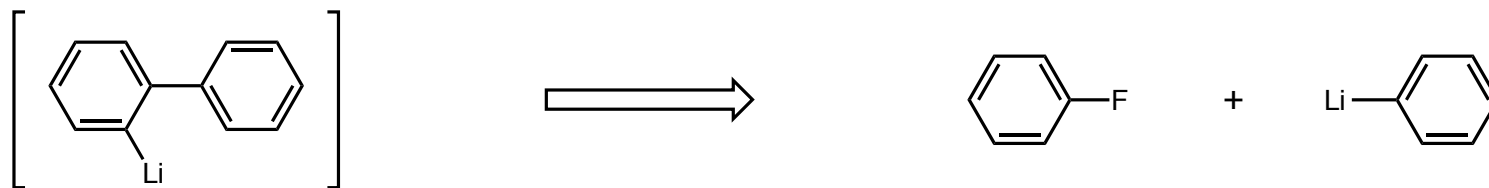
Bergstrom, F. W.; Horning, C. H. *J. Org. Chem.* **1946**, 11, 334

Wittig's Explanation: A Zwitterionic Species

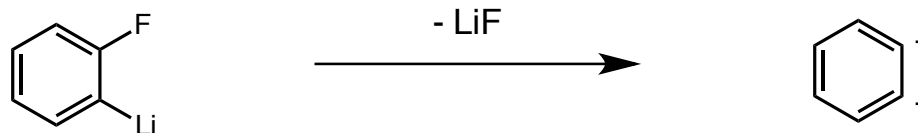
multiple reports from 1940's displayed bizarre reactivity

- product distributions and strong bases implied the presence of carbanions

- reactivity with nucleophiles implied presence of carbocations



- Wittig: Zwitterion structure appears to explain structure



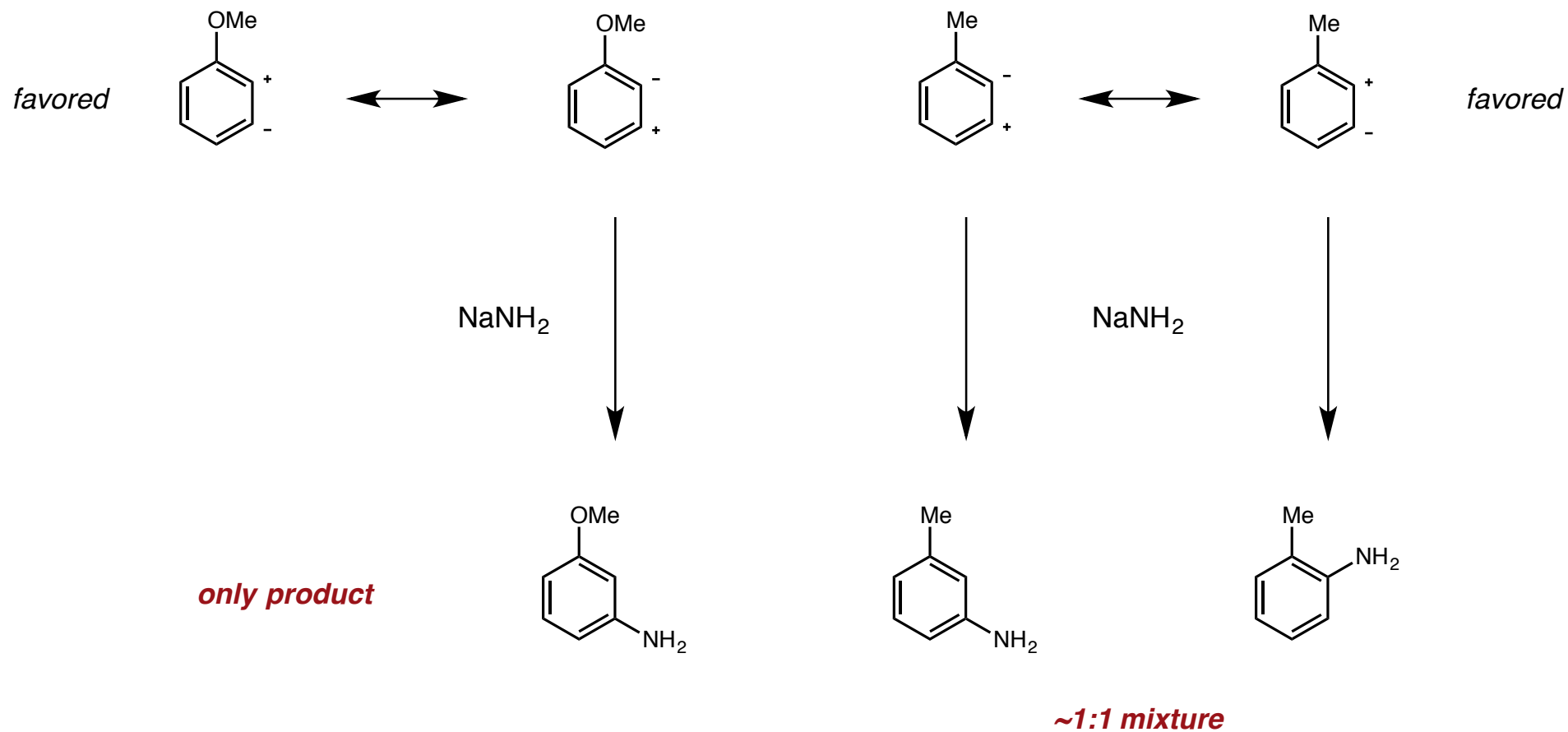
Wittig, G. *Naturwissenschaften*, **1942**, 30, 696

Wittig, G. *Angew. Chem.* **1954**, 66, 10

Zwitterion: An Imperfect Explanation

reactivity and selectivity trends call into question the likelihood of a Zwitterion

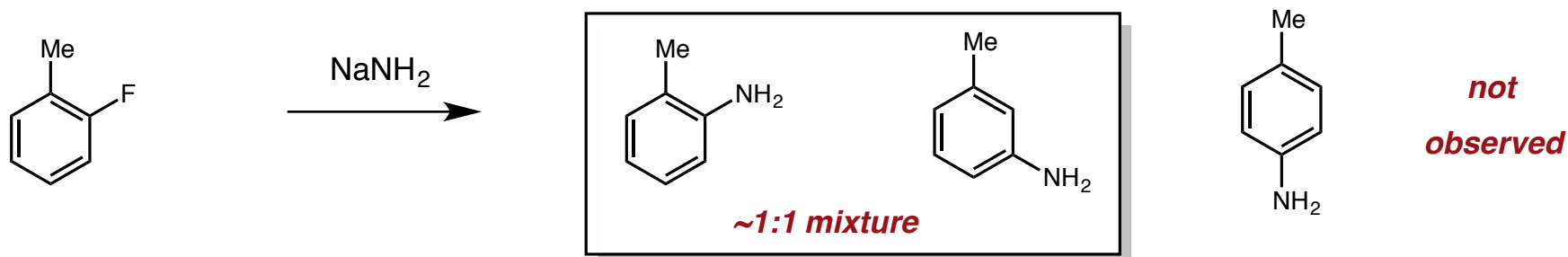
- problem: Zwitterion fails to explain observed regiochemistry



Zwitterion: An Imperfect Explanation

reactivity and selectivity trends call into question the likelihood of a Zwitterion

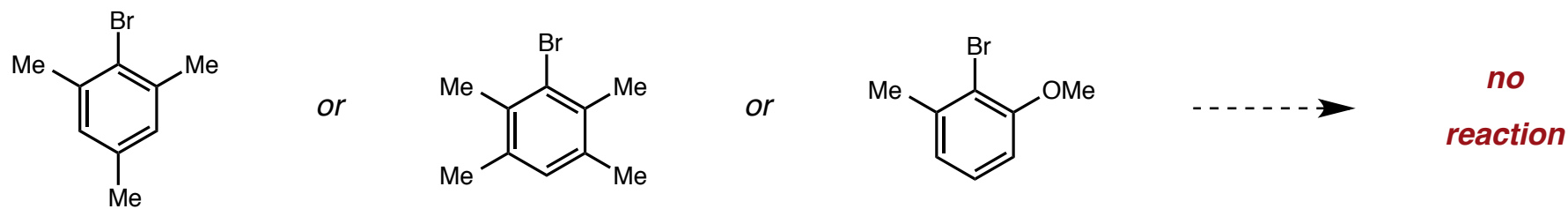
- problem: Zwitterion fails to explain observed regiochemistry
- problem: substitution only observed at *ipso* and *ortho* positions to halide



Zwitterion: An Imperfect Explanation

reactivity and selectivity trends call into question the likelihood of a Zwitterion

- problem: Zwitterion fails to explain observed regiochemistry
- problem: substitution only observed at *ipso* and *ortho* positions to halide
- problem: neither starting material nor product are isomerized under the reaction conditions
- an additional caveat: halides with no *ortho* protons are unreactive



(excluding reactions of *ortho*-dihalides)

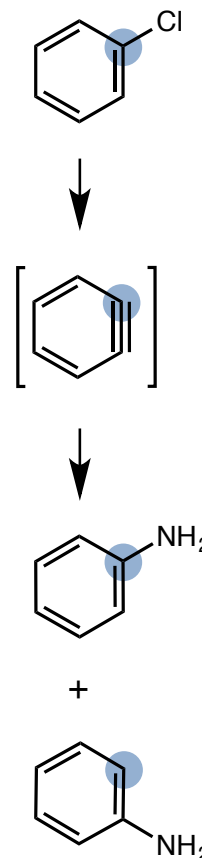
1954: Official Introduction of the Benzyne Concept

REARRANGEMENT IN THE REACTION OF CHLORO-BENZENE-1-C¹⁴ WITH POTASSIUM AMIDE¹

Sir:

No satisfactory explanation has been published for the rearrangements which often occur in the amination of "non-activated" aryl halides with alkali-metal amides.² The pattern of the rearrangements shows a considerable disregard for the influences governing the usual aromatic substitutions and is well illustrated by the products obtained from the amination of the methoxy- and trifluoromethyl-halobenzenes. These facts as well as the orientation data for various substituents can be accommodated by an elimination-addition mechanism involving at least transitory existence of an electrically neutral "benzyne" intermediate (II).

J. D. Roberts *et al.* *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1953**, 75, 3290

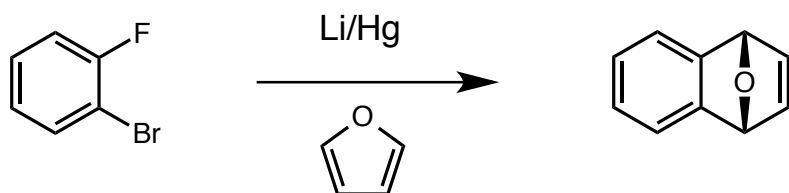


■ ¹⁴C label shows a 1:1 mixture of products: reaction proceeds through symmetrical intermediate

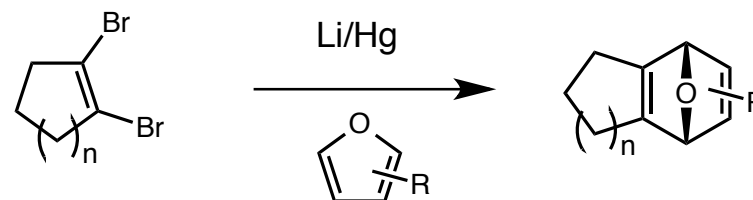
Further Proof of Triple Bond-Containing Structure

over the next decade, evidence for "the benzyne" grows

■ 1955: the first benzyne Diels-Alder

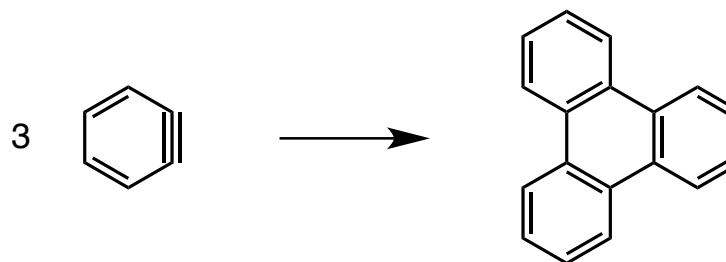
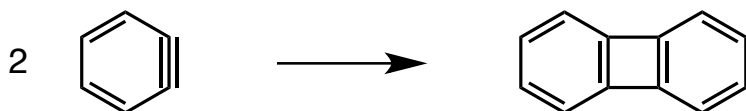


■ 1960: aliphatic cycloalkynes postulated



$n = 1$: "low yield"; $n = 2$: 25%; $n = 3$: 35%

■ early reports: dimerization and trimerization products always present



Heaney, H. *Chem. Rev.* **1962**, 62, 81

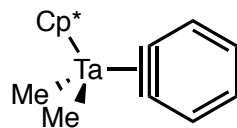
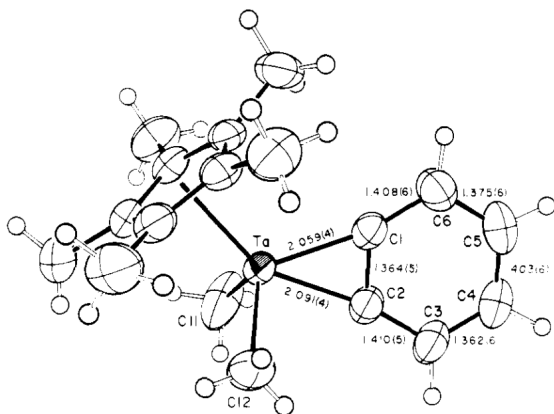
Wittig, G.; Pohmer, L. *Angew. Chem.* **1955**, 67, 348

Wittig, G.; Krebs, A.; Pohlke, R. *Angew. Chem.* **1960**, 72, 324

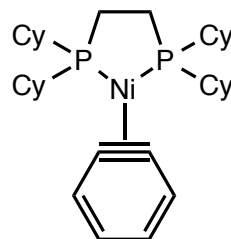
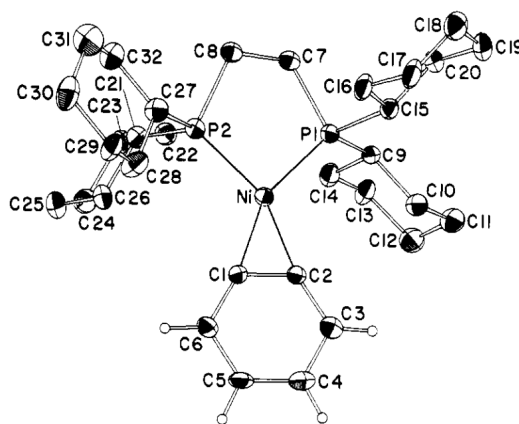
Further Proof of Triple Bond-Containing Structure

after 25 years, crystal structures are obtained

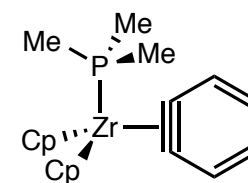
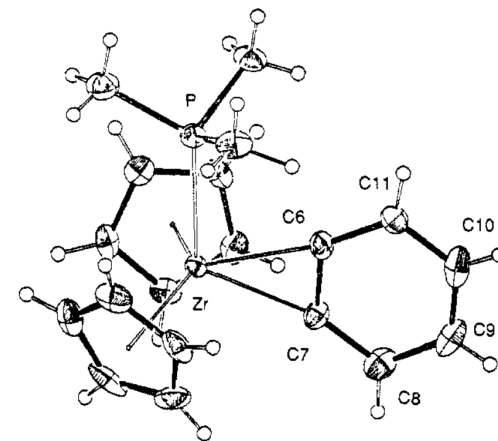
■ 1979-1980's: crystal structure of η^2 -metal-bound benzyne



Shrock, 1979



Bennett, 1985

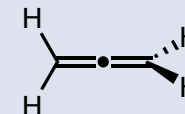
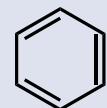
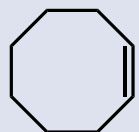


Buchwald, 1986

Buchwald, S. L.; Watson, B. T. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1986**, *108*, 7411
Bennett, M. A.; Hambley, T. W.; Roberts, N. K.; Robertson, G. B. *Organometallics*, **1985**, *4*, 1992
McLain, S. J.; Shrock, R. R.; Sharp, P. R.; Churchill, M. P.; Youngs, W. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1979**, *101*, 263

Further Proof of Triple Bond-Containing Structure

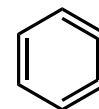
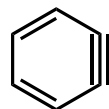
spectroscopic advances allow for more rigorous structural evaluation



^{13}C (δ)	70	95	182	75/214 (terminal/internal)
IR (cm^{-1})	2100	2216	1846	1950

- ^{13}C NMR and IR data imply significant resonance contributions of both triple-bond and cumulene-type structures:

**consistent
with ^{13}C data**



**consistent
with IR data**

Warmuth, R. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **1997**, 36, 1347

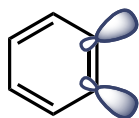
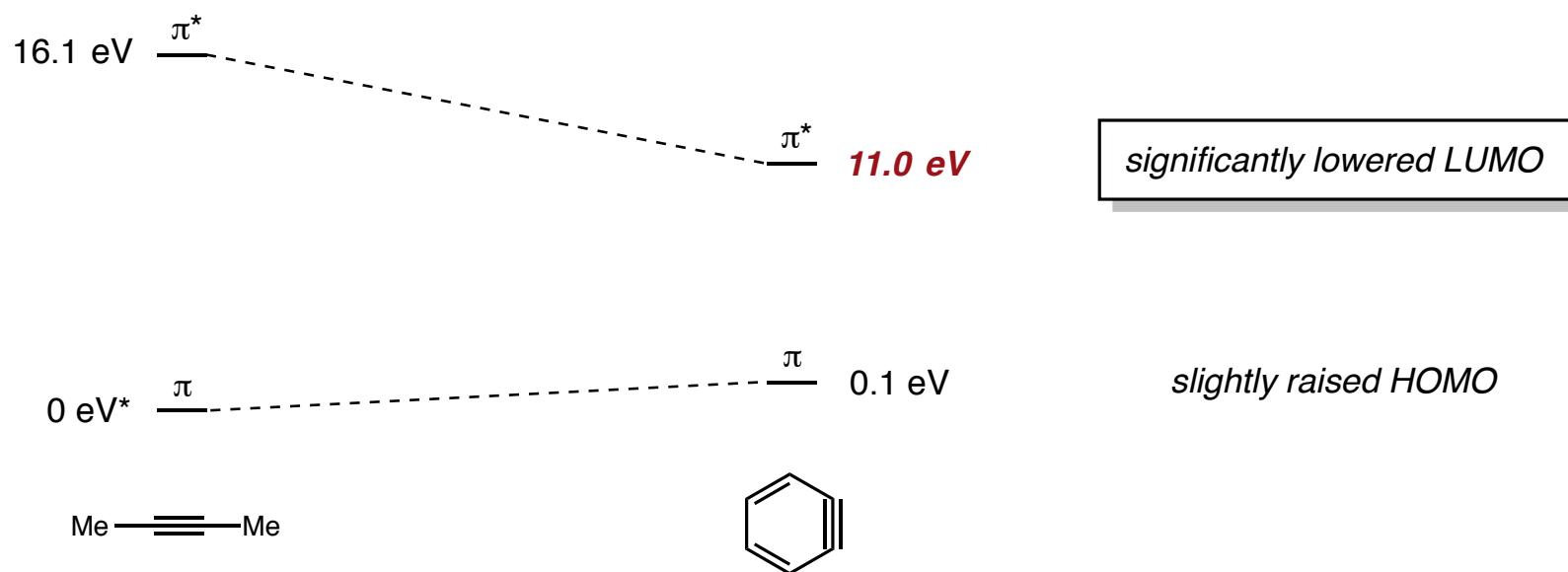
Radziszewski, J. G.; Hess, B. A.; Zahradnik, R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1992**, 114, 52

Das, A.; Dash, C.; Celik, M. A.; Yousufuddin, M.; Frenking, G.; Dias, H. V. R. *Organometallics*, **2013**, 32, 3135

So Why is Benzyne Electrophilic?

why is a highly strained triple bond inherently electrophilic?

- Hoffman's application of extended Hückel theory sheds light



- significant deviation from preferred 180° bond angle results in a low-lying LUMO
- low LUMO explains extreme reactivity towards nucleophiles and dienes

*Arbitrarily reassigned to 0 eV. Actual value = -9.6 eV

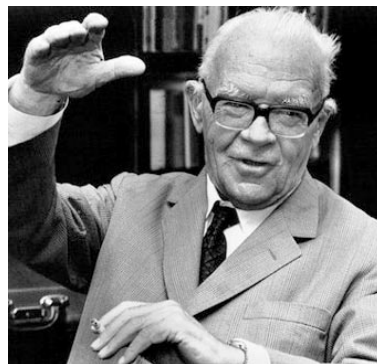
Hoffman, R.; Imamura, A.; Hehre, W. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1968**, *90*, 1499

Benzyne: History, Generation, and Reactivity

■ part 1: history and structure

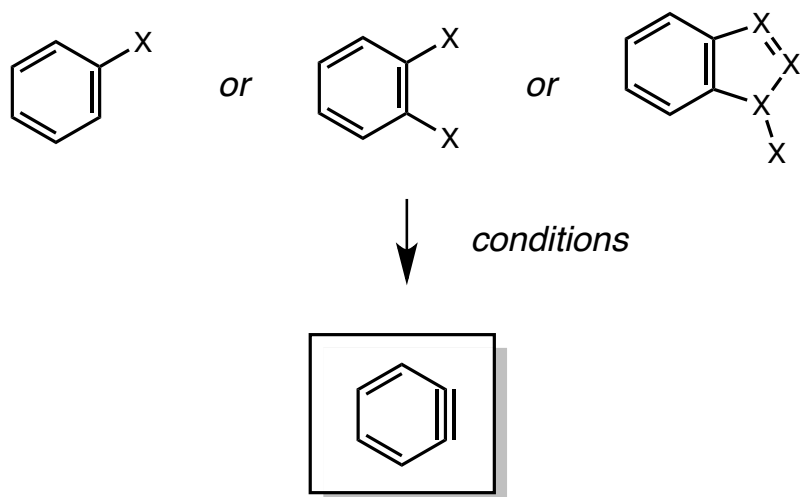


John D. Roberts
Caltech

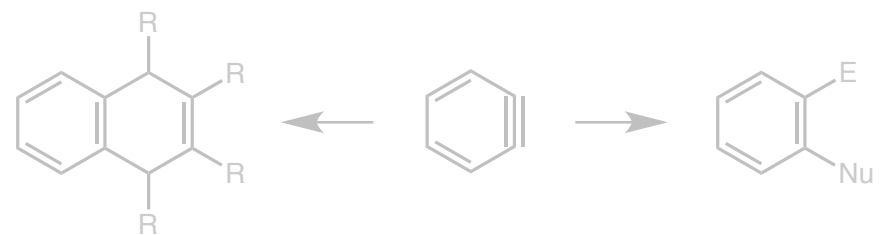


Georg Wittig (Nobel 1979)
University of Freiburg
University of Tübingen

■ part 2: generation



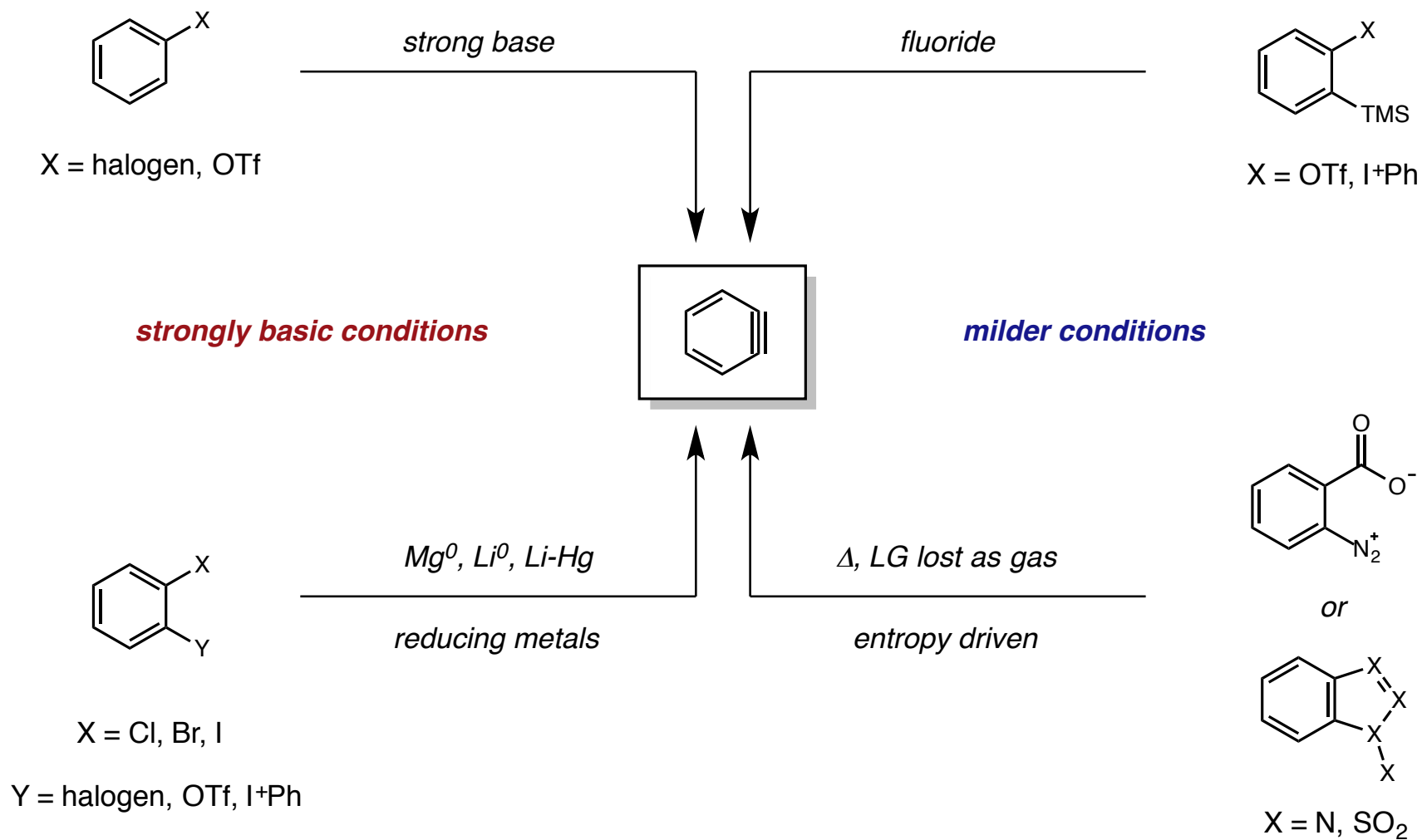
■ part 3: reactivity



For very useful reviews see:

Pellissier, H.; Santelli, M. *Tetrahedron* **2003**, *59*, 701
Tadross, P. M.; Stoltz, B. M.; *Chem. Rev.* **2012**, *112*, 3550

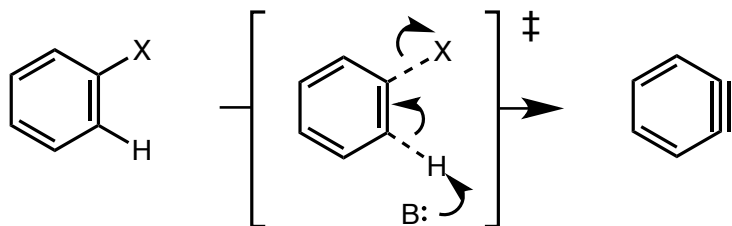
Generation of Aryne Intermediates



Mono- and o-Dihalobenzenes as Precursors

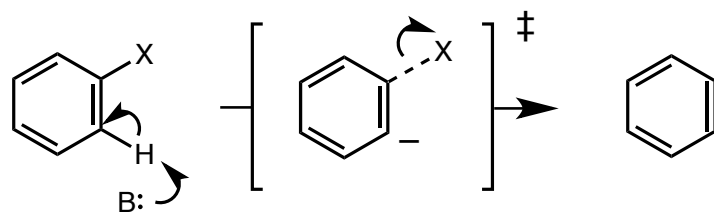
variable trends depending on nature of base and solvent or metal

■ protic solvents: concerted mechanism



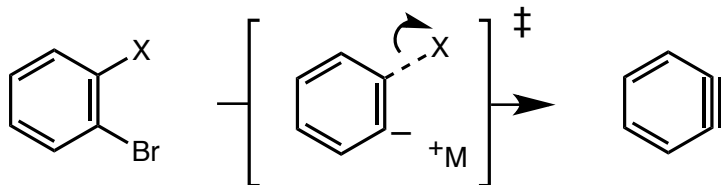
rate: $Br > I > Cl > F$

■ aprotic solvents: stepwise mechanism



rate: $F > Cl > Br > I$

■ dihalides: rate mainly affected by choice of metal



X = F, Cl, Br, I, OTf, I+Ph

rate: $Na > Mg > Li \gg Cu^*$

*elimination not observed with o-chloro aryl copper intermediates!

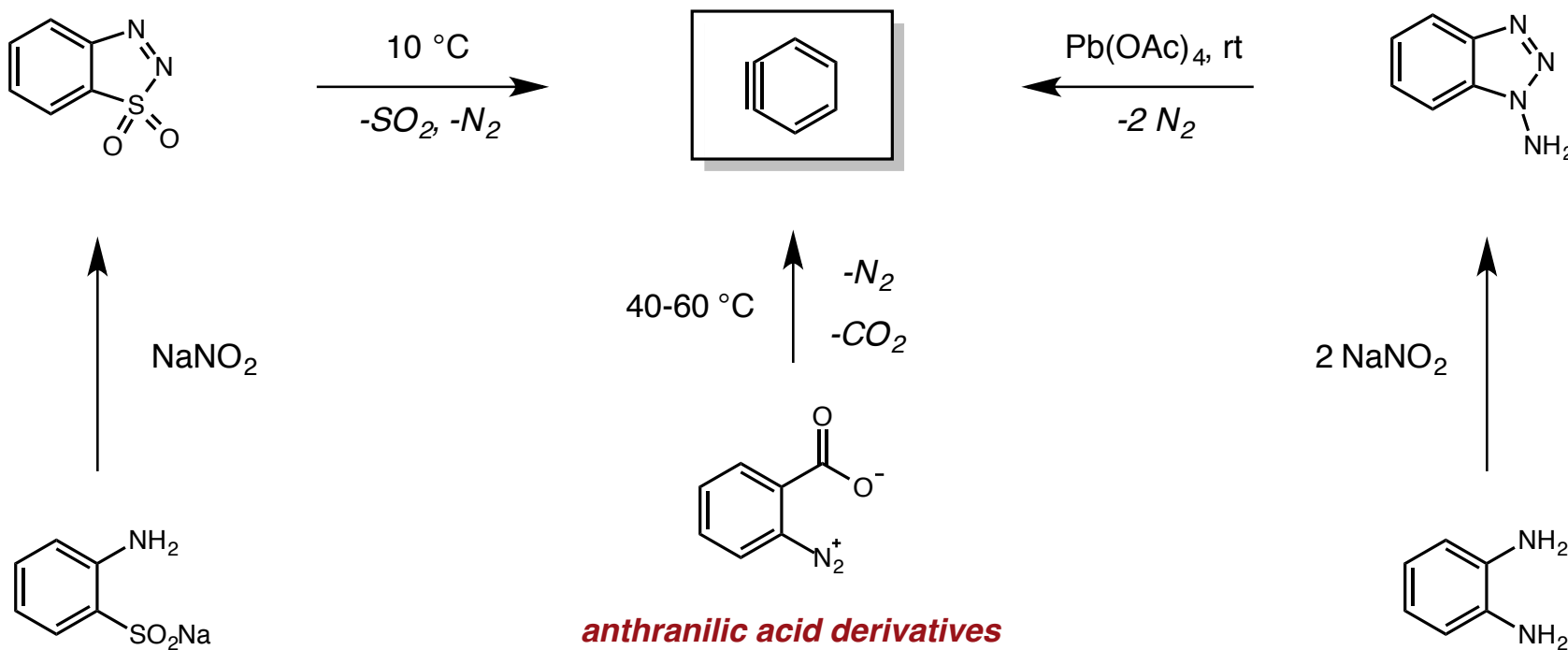
Heaney, H. *Chem. Rev.* **1962**, 62, 81

Ebert, G. W.; Pfennig, D. R.; Suchan, S. D.; Donovan Jr., T. A. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1993**, 34, 2279

Diazotization of o-Disubstituted Anilines Provides Labile Benzyne Precursors

mild thermal/oxidative cleavage provides access to benzyne derivatives

- loss of 2 gas molecules drives benzyne formation under relatively mild conditions



Wittig, G.; Hoffman, R. W. *Ber.* **1962**, *95*, 2718

Wittig, G.; Hoffman, R. W. *Org. Syn.* **1967**, *47*, 4

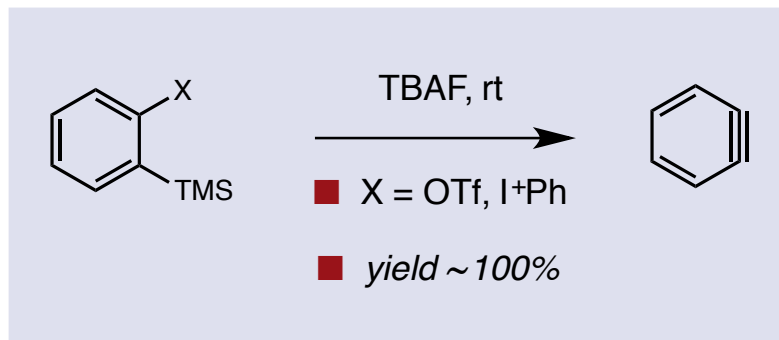
Campbell, C. D.; Rees, C. W. *J. Chem. Soc. C* **1969**, 742

Stiles, M.; Miller, R. G.; Burckhardt, U. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1963**, *85*, 1792

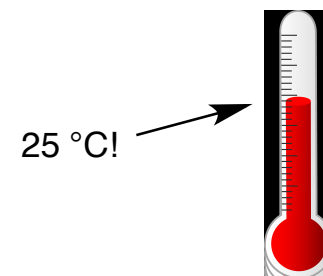
o-Triflyl and *o*-Phenylidonio Silanes as Precursors

benefits abound with silane precursors bearing ortho leaving groups

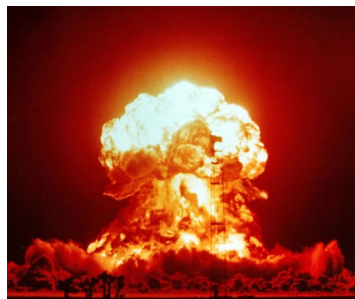
- avoid use of pyrophoric/
highly reactive bases



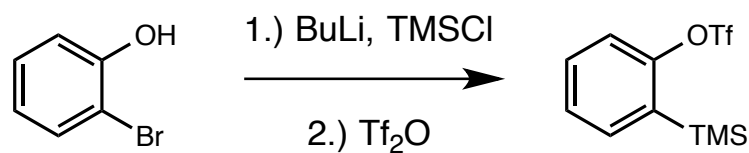
- facile yet controlled at rt



- not shock-sensitive



- easily synthesized



- avoid use of toxic
oxidants [Pb(OAc)₄]



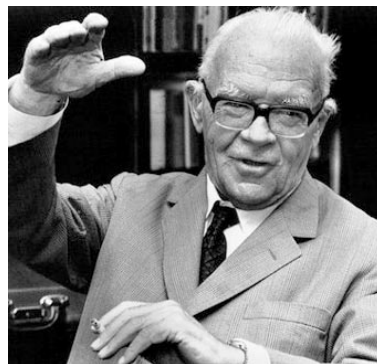
Himeshima, Y.; Sonada, T.; Kobayashi, H. *Chem. Lett.* **1983**, 1211
Kitamura, T.; Yamane, M. *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.* **1995**, 983

Benzyne: History, Generation, and Reactivity

■ part 1: history and structure

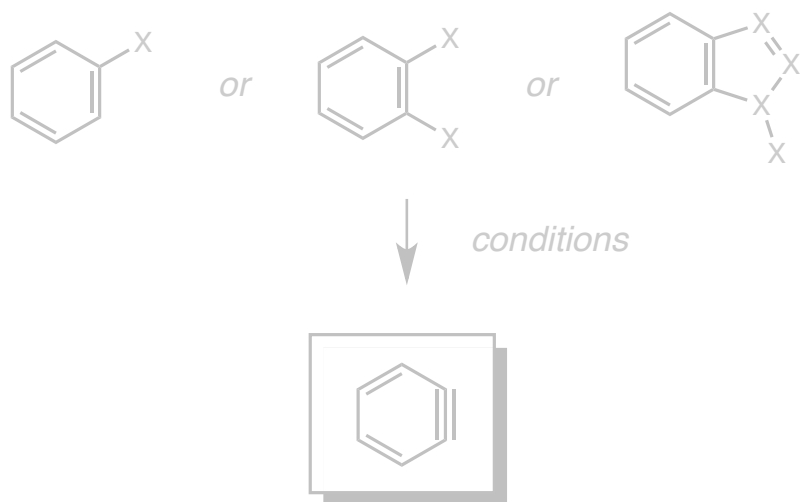


John D. Roberts
Caltech

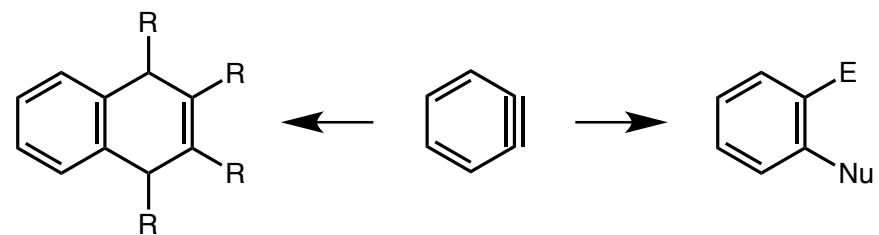


Georg Wittig (Nobel 1979)
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■ part 3: reactivity



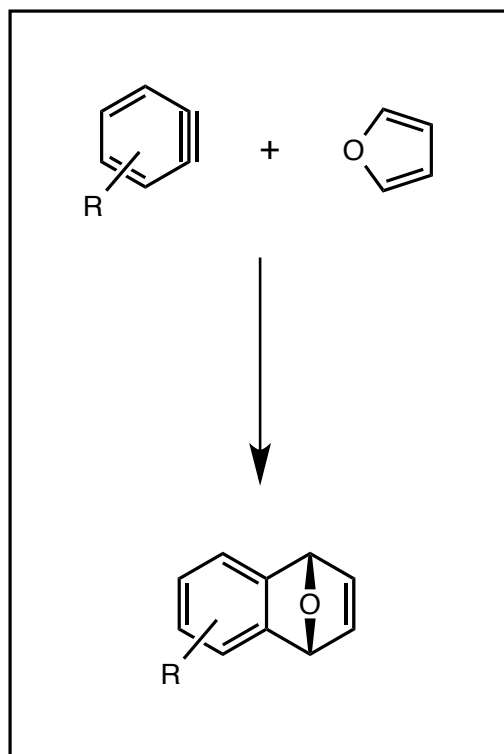
For very useful reviews see:

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Tadross, P. M.; Stoltz, B. M.; *Chem. Rev.* **2012**, *112*, 3550

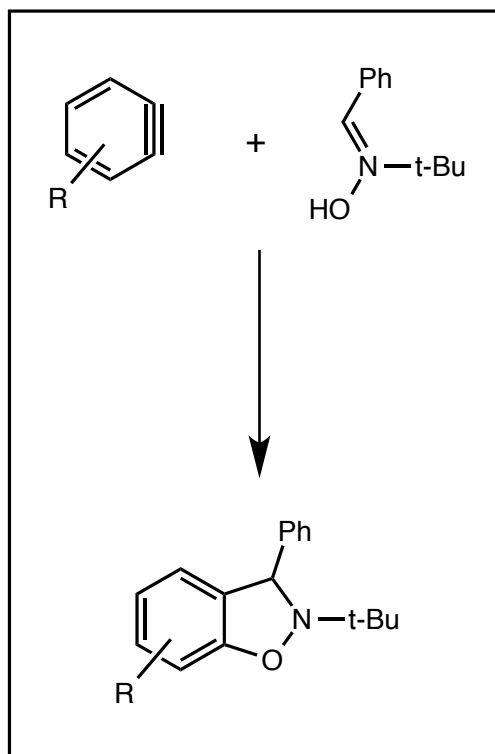
Benzyne Reactivity: Cycloadditions

extremely low LUMO provides high reactivity in a variety of cycloaddition reactions

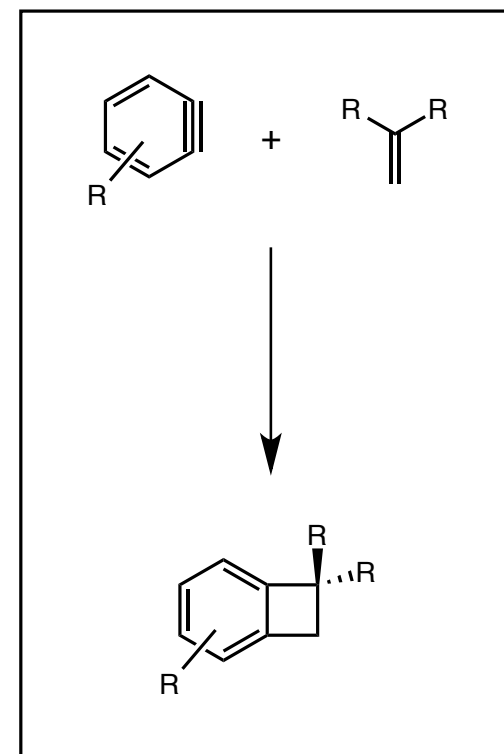
■ [4+2] and Diels-Alder



■ [3+2] cycloadditions



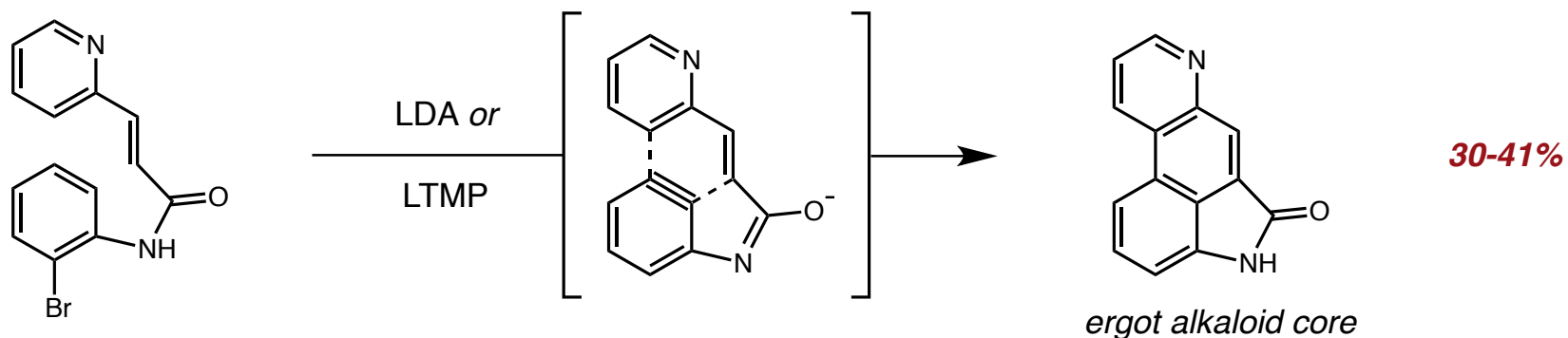
■ [2+2] cycloadditions



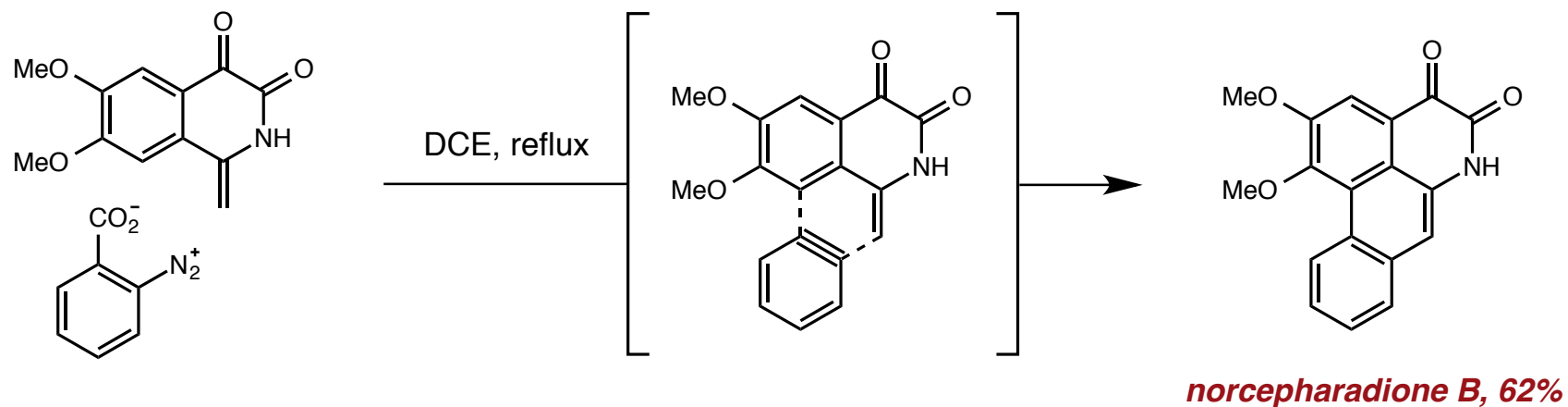
Benzyne Diels-Alder and [4+2] Cycloadditions

literature is flush with intra- and intermolecular annulations

- intramolecular example towards ergot alkaloids



- intermolecular example towards aporphinoids



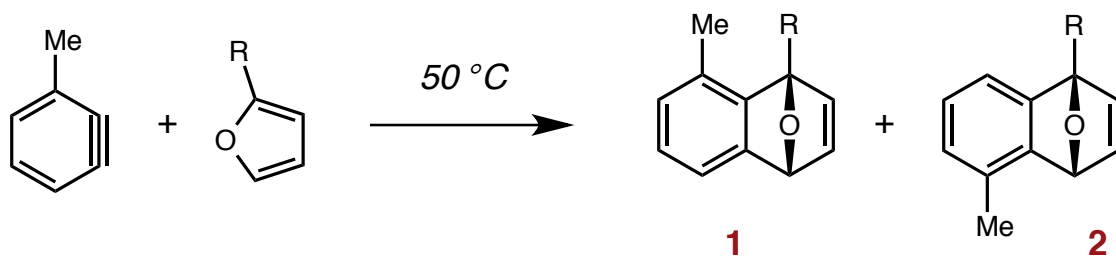
Gómez, B.; Guitián, E.; Castedo, L. *Synlett*, **1992**, 903

Saá, C.; Guitián, E.; Castedo, L.; Saá, J. M. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1985**, 26, 4559

Benzyne Diels-Alder and [4+2] Cycloadditions

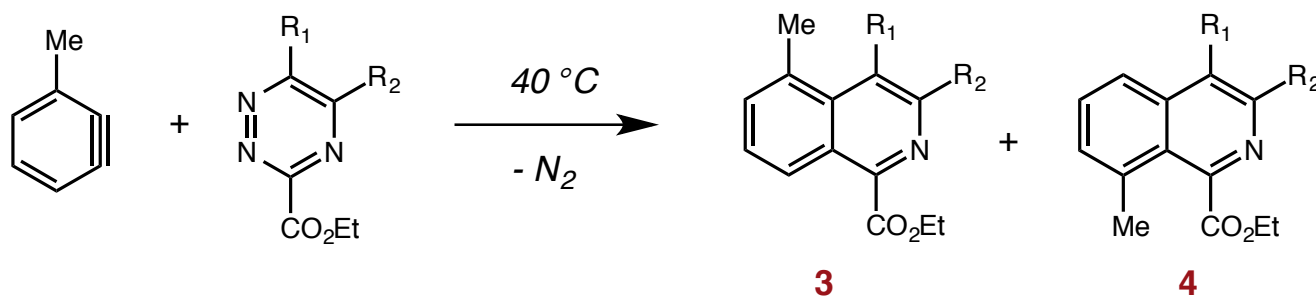
literature is flush with intra- and intermolecular annulations

■ non-symmetrical dienes often display little selectivity:



R	1 : 2
Me	42 : 58
<i>t</i> -Bu	36 : 64
CO ₂ Me	43 : 57
	39 : 61

■ less reactive dienes appear to be under steric control



R ₁	R ₂	3 : 4
CO ₂ Et	CO ₂ Et	40 : 60
H	Ph	100 : 0
Ph	Ph	5 : 95

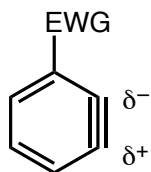
Newman, M. S.; Kannan, R. *J. Org. Chem.* **1976**, *41*, 3356

Gonsalves, A. M. R.; Pihno e Melo, T. M. V. D. *Tetrahedron*, **1992**, *48*, 6821

Can Selectivity be Induced with Benzyne Intermediates?

biasing of the aryne intermediate can powerfully affect selectivity

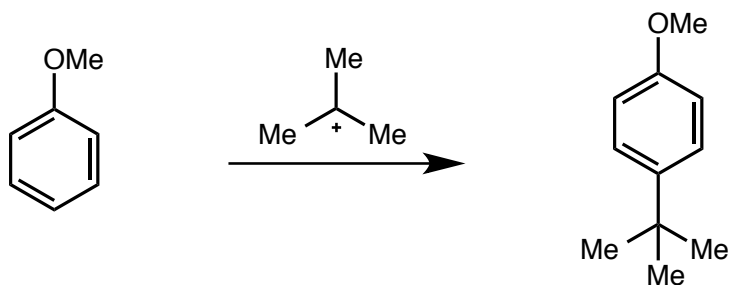
- introduction of polar group at 3-position dramatically influences selectivity



- dipoles arranged to be stabilized by electron withdrawing group

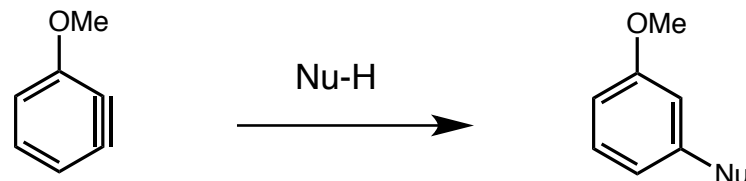
- due to orthogonal nature, typical donating groups are withdrawing!

- Friedel-Crafts chemistry:



OMe is activating as EDG

- benzyne chemistry:

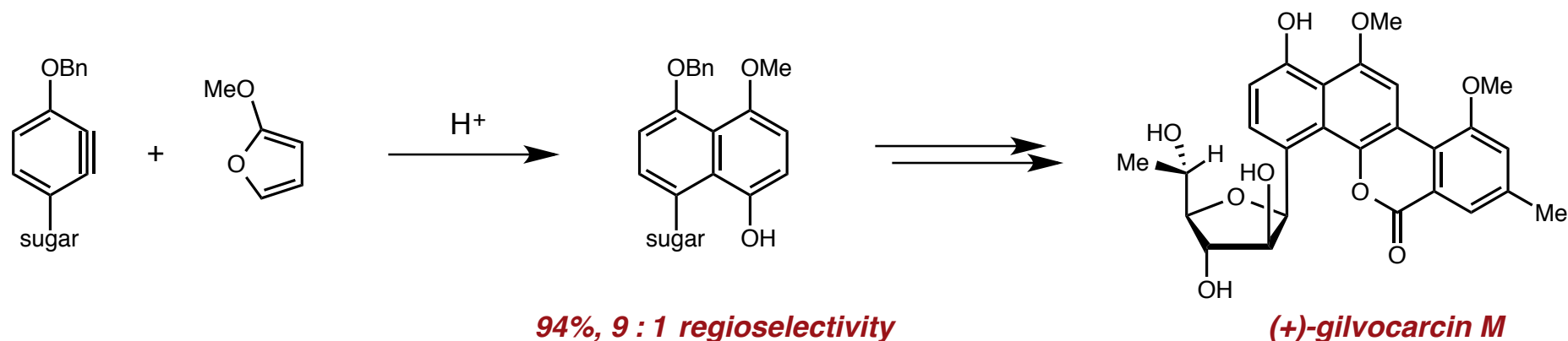


OMe is activating as EWG

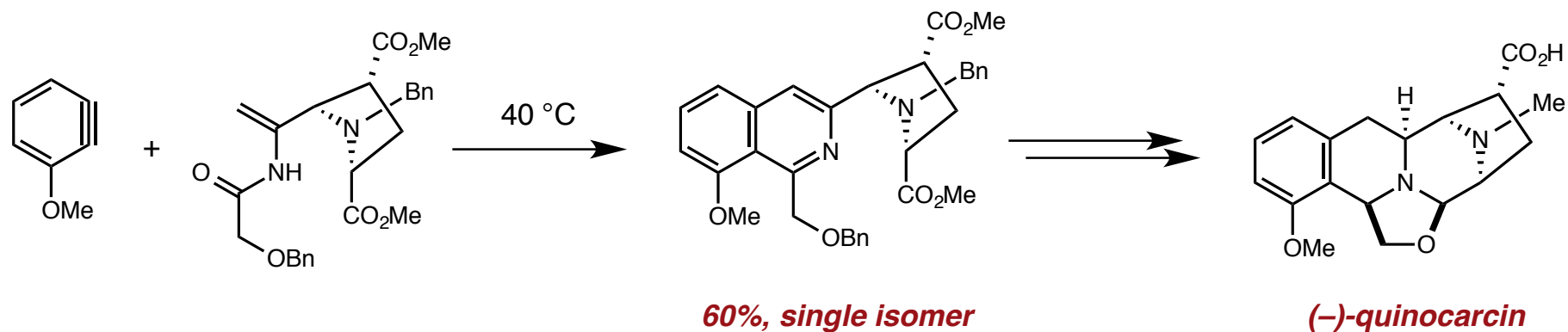
Applications in Total Synthesis

high selectivity achieved with 3-methoxy arynes

■ Suzuki *et al.*, 1992:



■ Stoltz *et al.*, 2008:



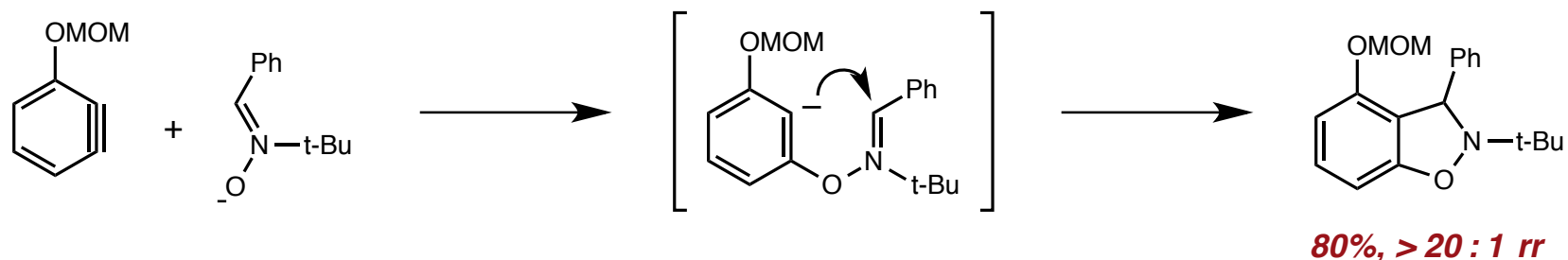
Allan, K. M.; Stoltz, B. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, *130*, 17270

Matsumoto, T.; Hosoya, T.; Suzuki, K. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1992**, *114*, 3568

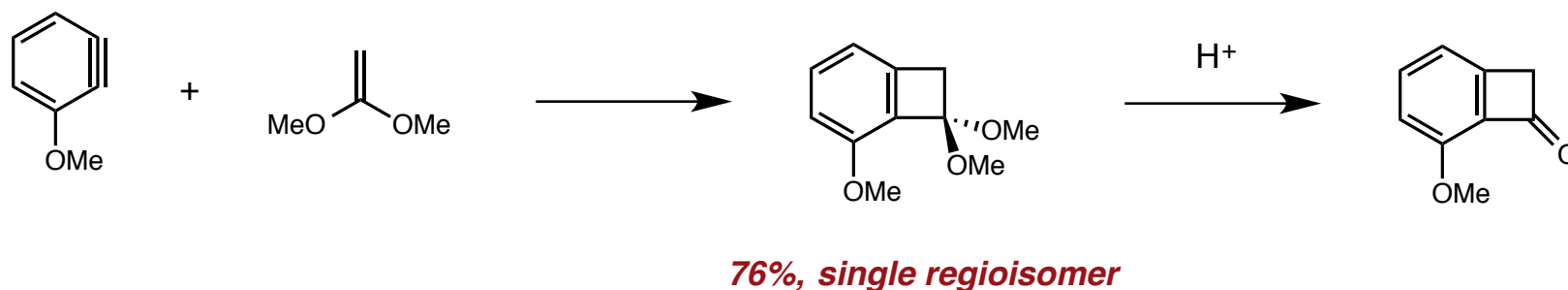
[2+2] and [3+2] Cycloadditions

high selectivity achieved with 3-methoxy arynes

- stepwise [3+2] cycloadditions proceed with same regiochemistry:



- [2+2] cycloadditions with enol ethers provide convenient access to benzocyclobutenones



Stevens, R. V.; Bisacchi, G. S. *J. Org. Chem.* **1982**, 47, 2393

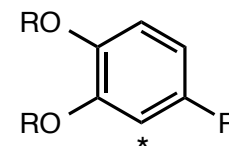
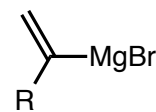
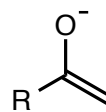
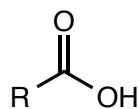
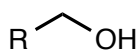
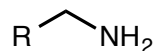
Matsumoto, T.; Sohma, T.; Hatazaki, S.; Suzuki, K. *Synlett*, **1993**, 843

Hosoya, T.; Hasegawa, T.; Kuriyama, Y.; Suzuki, K. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1995**, 36, 3377

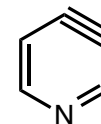
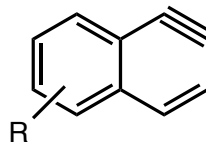
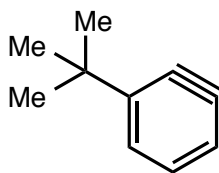
Nucleophilic Attack on Arynes

the most common reactivity of arynes

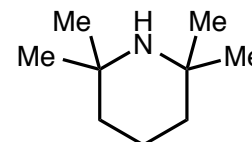
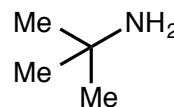
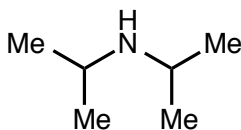
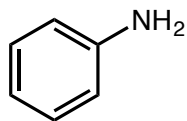
- nearly any nucleophile will react with benzyne:



- nature of the aryne has little effect on reactivity:



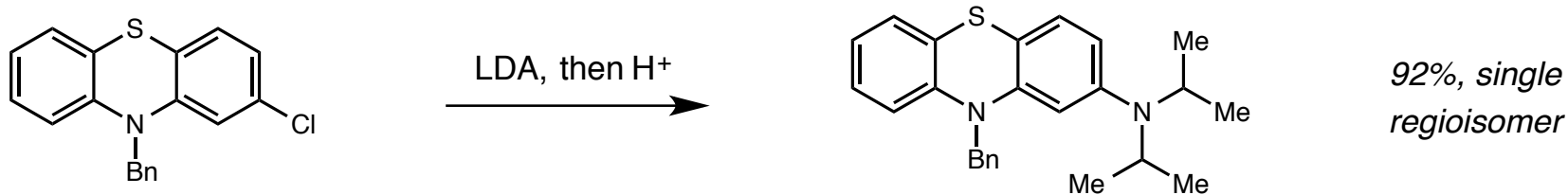
- even sterically-hindered and electronically-deactivated nucleophiles are highly reactive:



Nucleophilic Attack on Arynes: Selectivity Trends

high selectivity sometimes observed in bicyclic systems

- again, adjacent EWG will dictate selectivity:



- theory provides a predictive model based on bond angle distortion:



■ very distorted; very high selectivity

■ very little distortion; no selectivity

■ slightly distorted; very high selectivity

■ very distorted; very high selectivity

smaller bond angle has more s-character (δ^-); larger bond angle has more p character (δ^+)

Self, J. L.; Khanapure, S. P.; Biehl, E. R. *Heterocycles*, **1991**, *32*, 311

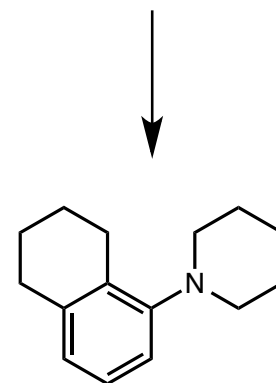
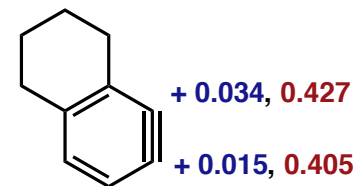
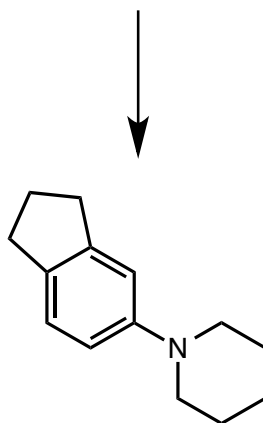
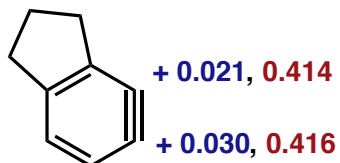
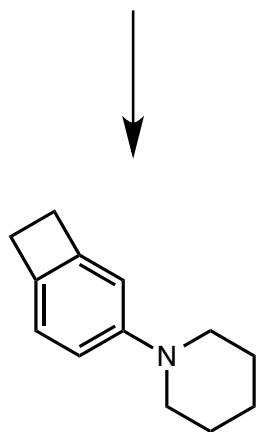
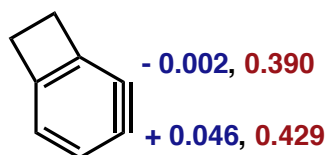
Garr, A. N.; Luo, D.; Brown, N.; Cramer, C. J.; Buszek, K. R.; VanderVelde, D. *Org. Lett.* **2010**, *12*, 96

Cheong, P. H.-Y.; Paton, R. S.; Bronner, S. M.; Im, G.-Y. J.; Garg, N. K.; Houk, K. N. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, *132*, 1267

Effect of Ring Strain on Regioselectivity

- calculation of charge and LUMO coefficients matches predictions of bond angle strain with selectivity trends

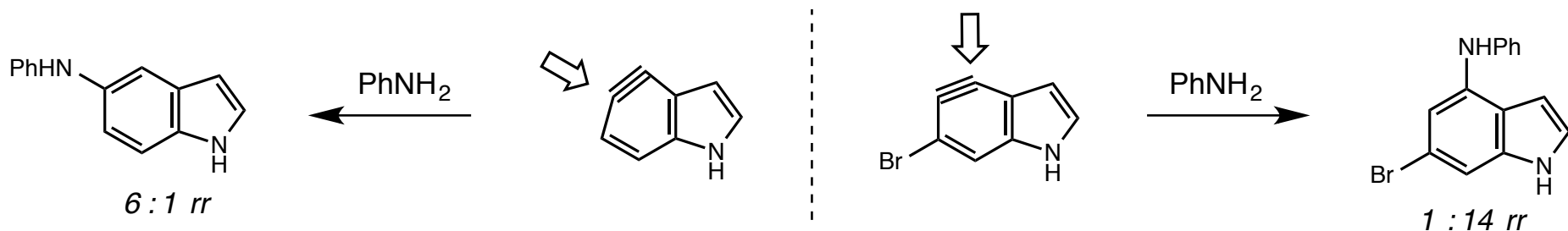
DFT calculated charge, LUMO coefficient



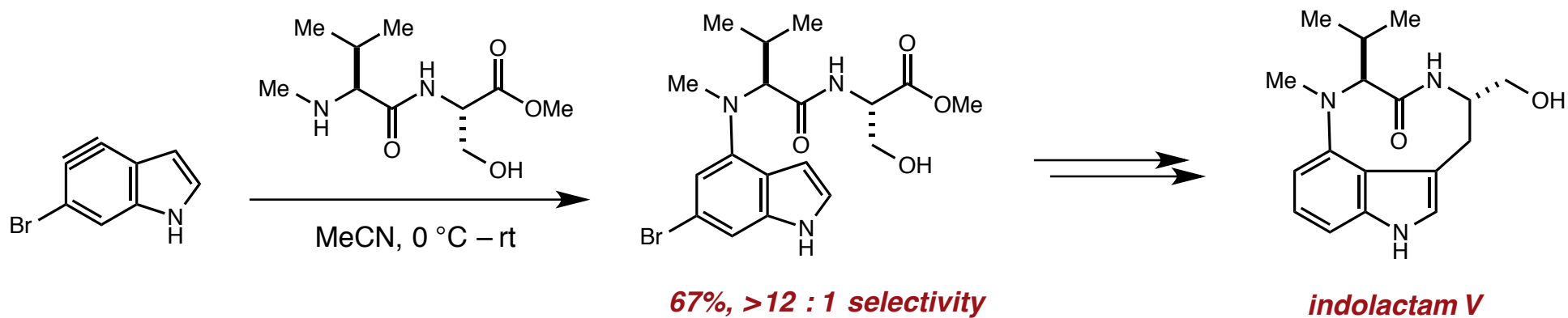
Nucleophilic Attack on Arynes: Selectivity Trends

can inherent selectivity be reversed?

- introduction of bromide to indole strongly influences site of nucleophilic attack

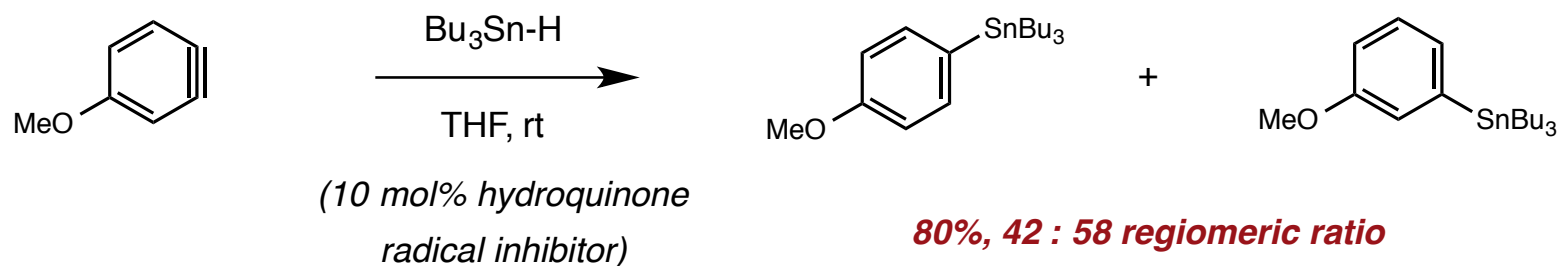


- application to the total synthesis of indolactam V

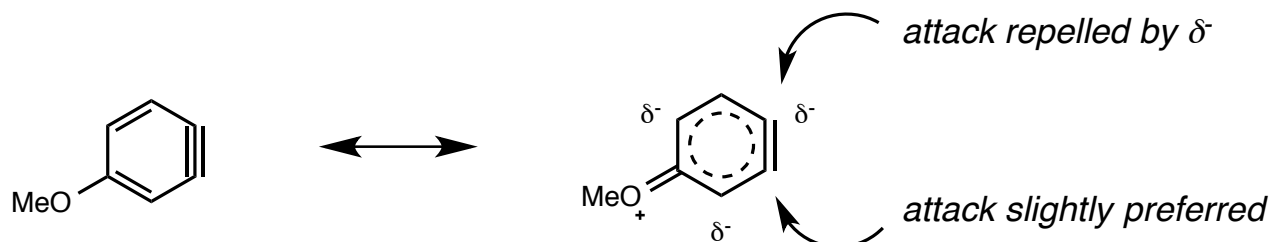


More Distal Polar Group Results in Greatly Diminished Selectivity

- recent example: 4-methoxybenzyne provides products in only a 1.5 : 1 ratio

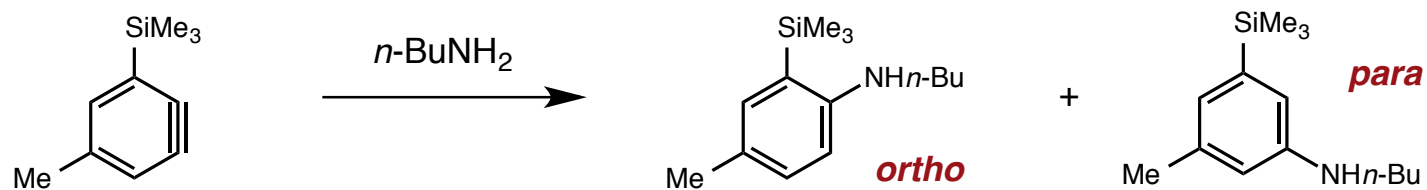


- possible cause: electrostatic repulsion of electron rich π -system

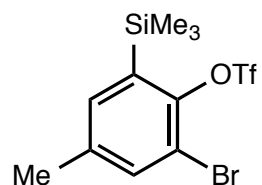


Reversing Selectivity: Formation of ate-Complex

- introduction of silyl group produces *meta*-product, likely due to non-bonding interactions

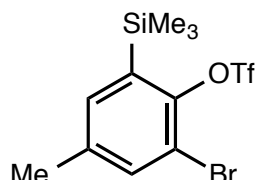


- method of generation and presence of fluoride strongly influences selectivity:



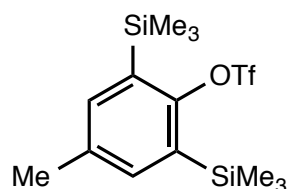
and BuLi

1 : 50 *o* : *p*



and BuLi
+ 2 equiv. TBAF

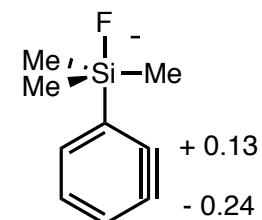
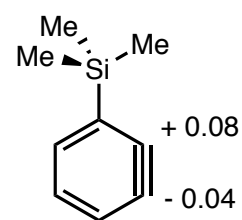
1 : 1.2 *o* : *p*



and TBAF

8 : 1 *o* : *p*

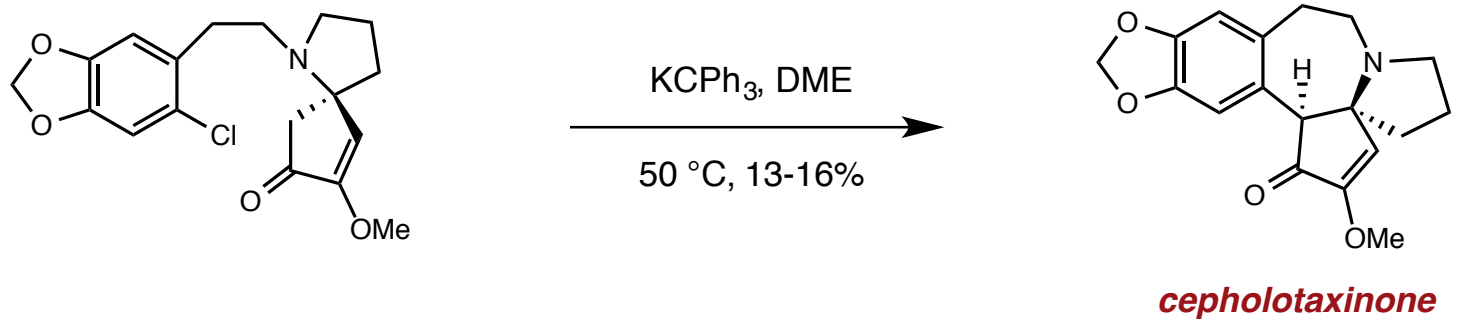
- DFT predicts significantly increased charges in ate-complex



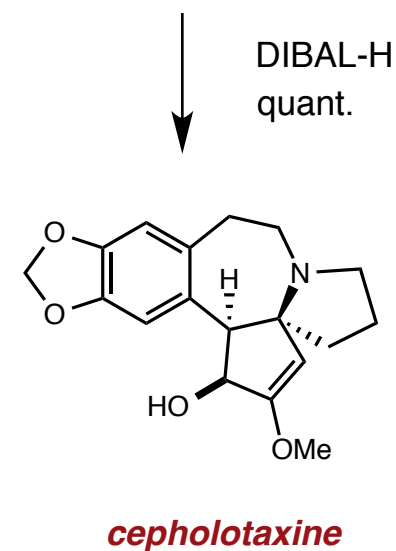
Nucleophilic Attack on Arynes by Enolates

notable appearances in natural product synthesis

- first report: Semmelhack, 1972



cephalotaxinone = 6 steps
cephalotaxine = 7 steps
*also represents the first use of arynes
in natural product synthesis*



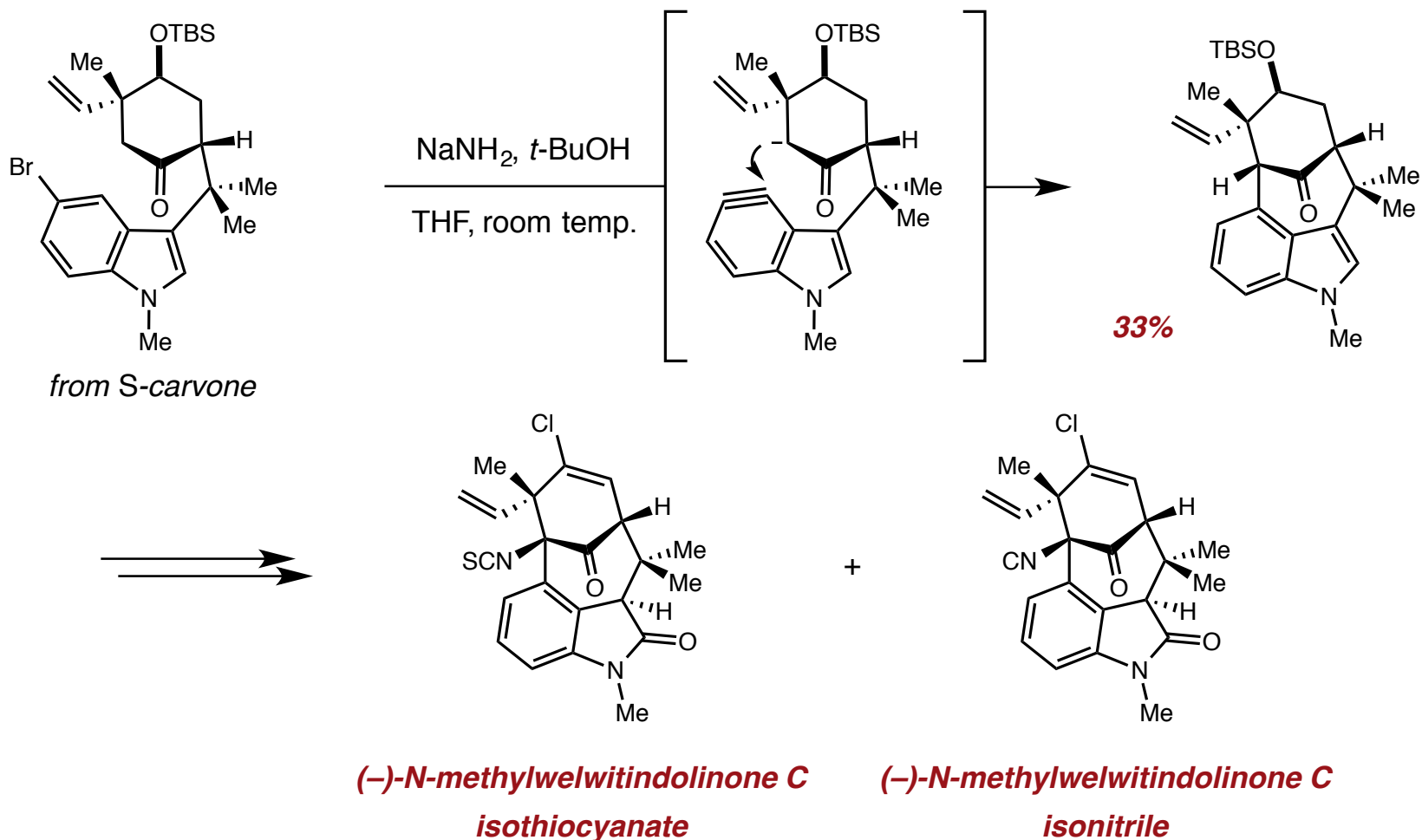
Semmelhack, M. F.; Chong, B. P.; Jones, L. D. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1972**, *94*, 8629

Semmelhack, M. F.; Chong, B. P.; Stauffer, R. D.; Rogerson, T. D.; Chong, A.; Jones, L. D. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1975**, *97*, 2507

Nucleophilic Attack on Arynes by Enolates

notable appearances in natural product synthesis

- 2011: Garg's synthesis of welwitindolinones

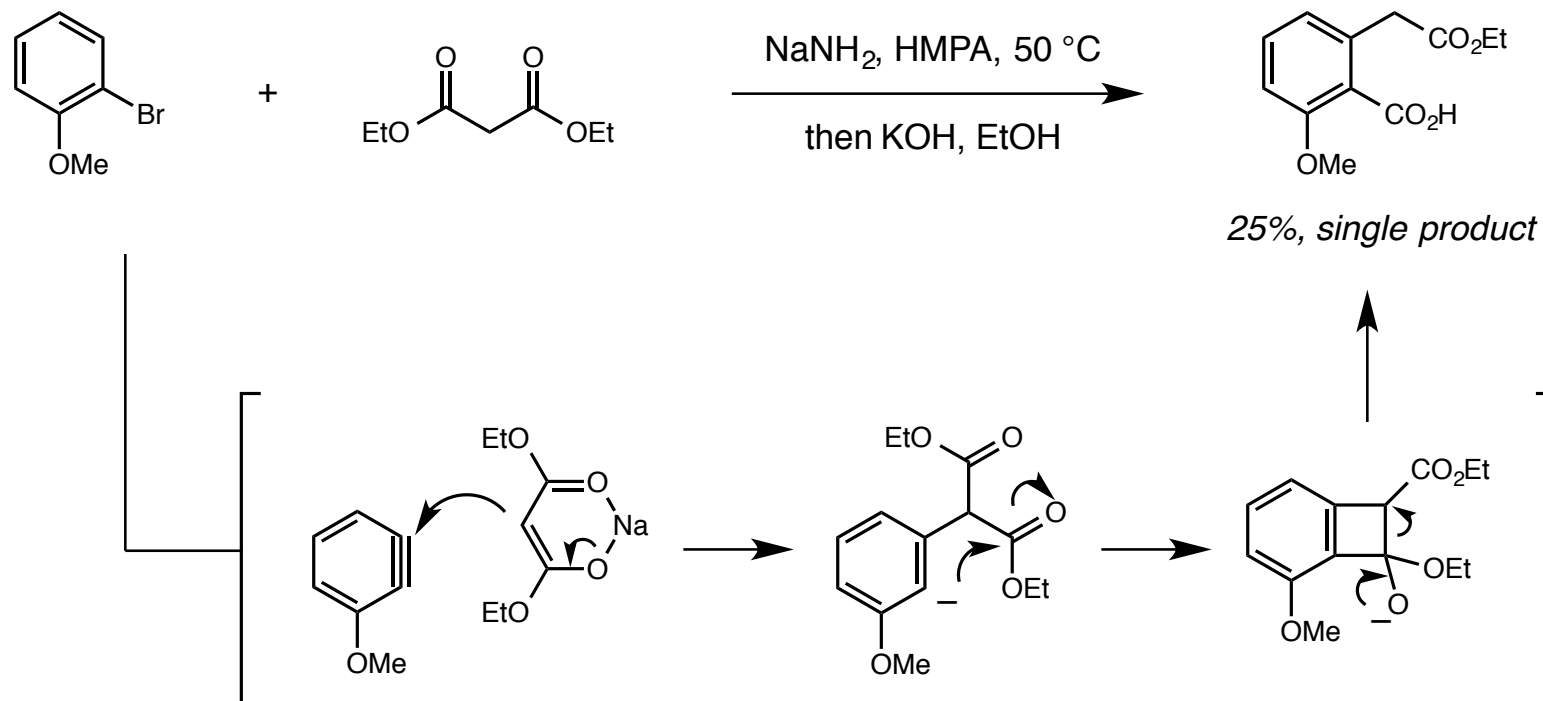


Huters, A. D.; Quasdorf, K. W.; Styduhar, E. D.; Garg, N. K. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, *133*, 15797
Quasdorf, K. W.; Huters, A. D.; Lodewyk, M. W.; Tantillo, D. J.; Garg, N. K. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, *134*, 1396

Nucleophilic Attack on Arynes by Enolates

notable appearances in natural product synthesis

- interesting products are delivered with malonate nucleophiles:

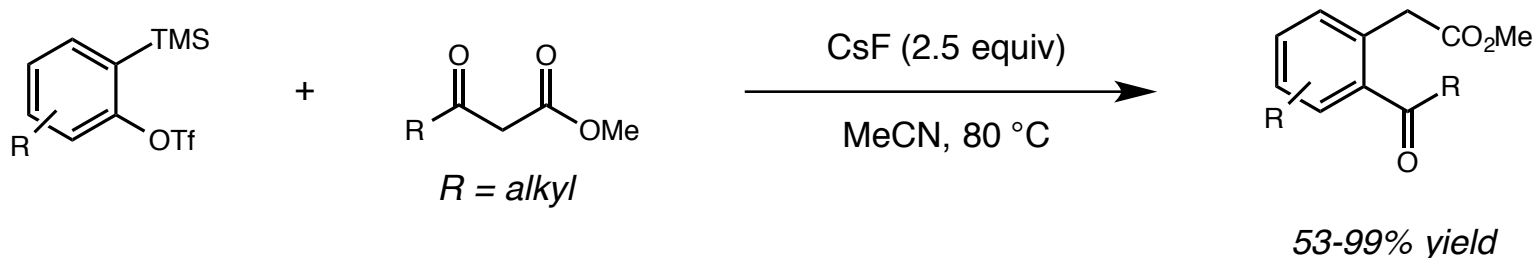


- retro-Dieckmann fragmentation provides products of formal σ -bond insertion

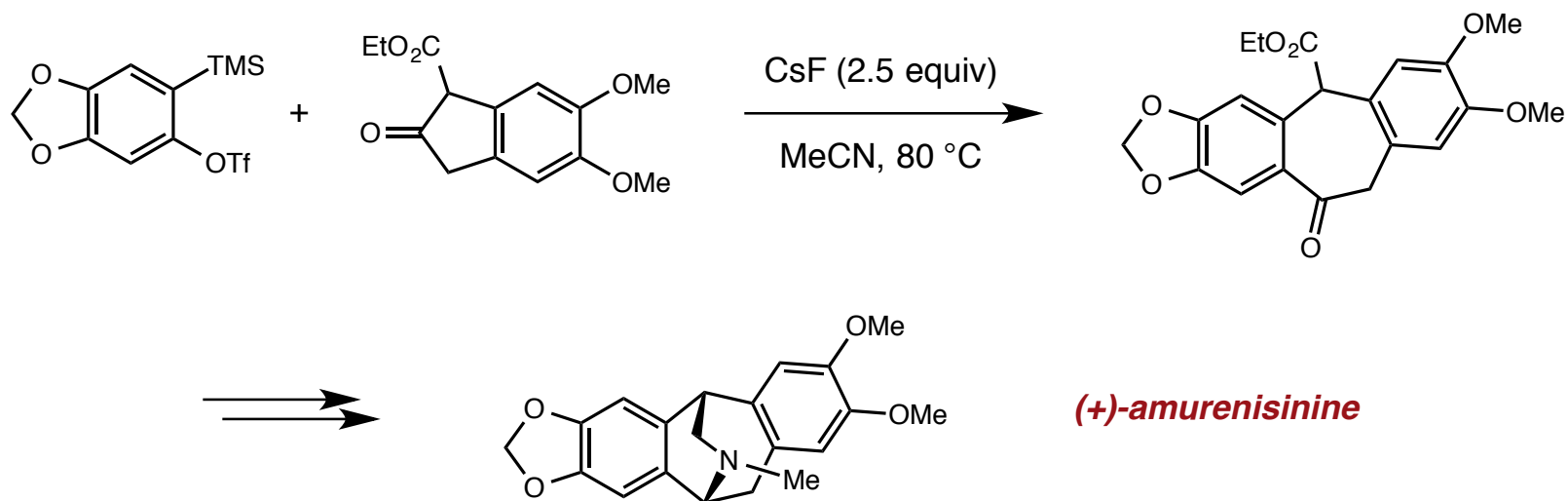
Nucleophilic Attack on Arynes by β -Dicarbonyls

notable appearances in natural product synthesis

- Tambar and Stoltz optimize with β -keto esters and *o*-silyl triflates



- application: total synthesis of (+)-amurensinine



Tambar, U. K.; Stoltz, B. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2005**, *127*, 5340
Ebner, D. C.; Tambar, U. K.; Stoltz, B. M. *Org. Synth.* **2009**, *86*, 161
Tambar, U. K.; Ebner, D. C.; Stoltz, B. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, *128*, 11752