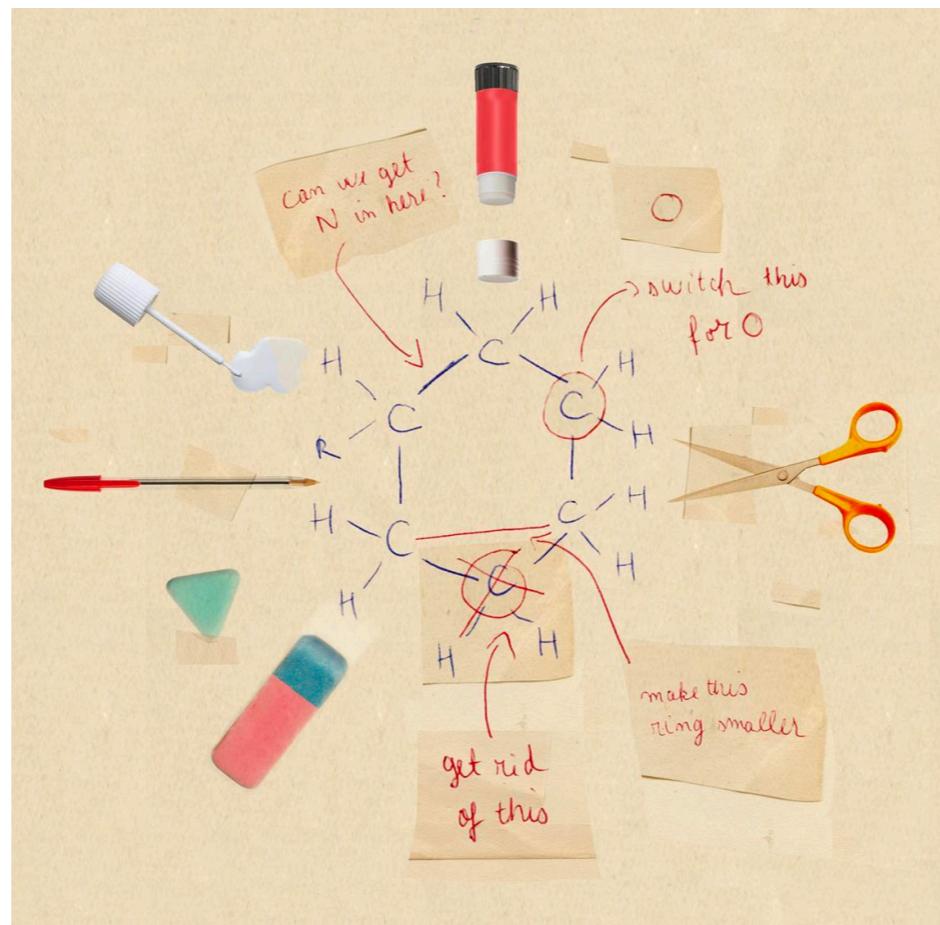


## *'Molecular Editing'*



*William Preston Carson II*

## *What is molecular/skeletal editing?*

*“[the ability to] rapidly build onto, change, or prune molecules one atom at a time using transformations that are mild and selective enough to be employed at the late stages of a synthetic sequence”*



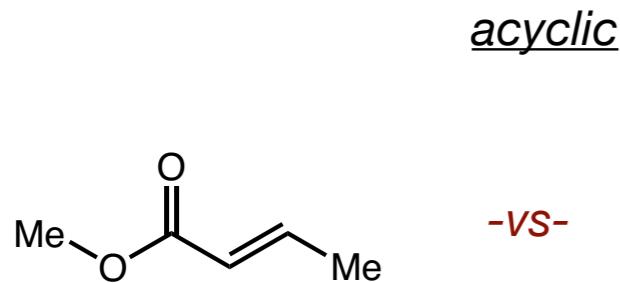
*Vague*

### *Questions*

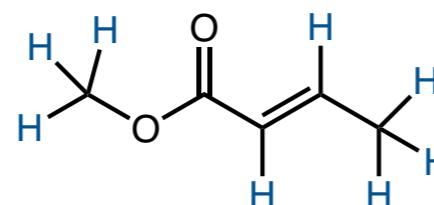
- What constitutes a molecular ‘skeleton’?
- What is a single-atom edit?
- What benefits does this offer over other types of transformations?

# *What constitutes a Molecular Skeleton?*

*Applies to both acyclic and cyclic molecules*

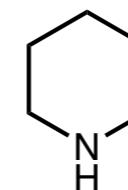


-vs-

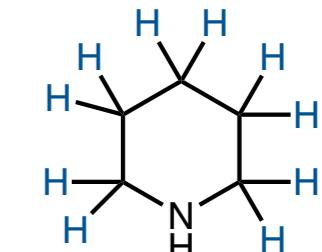


*Skeleton is the longest chain (IUPAC rules)*

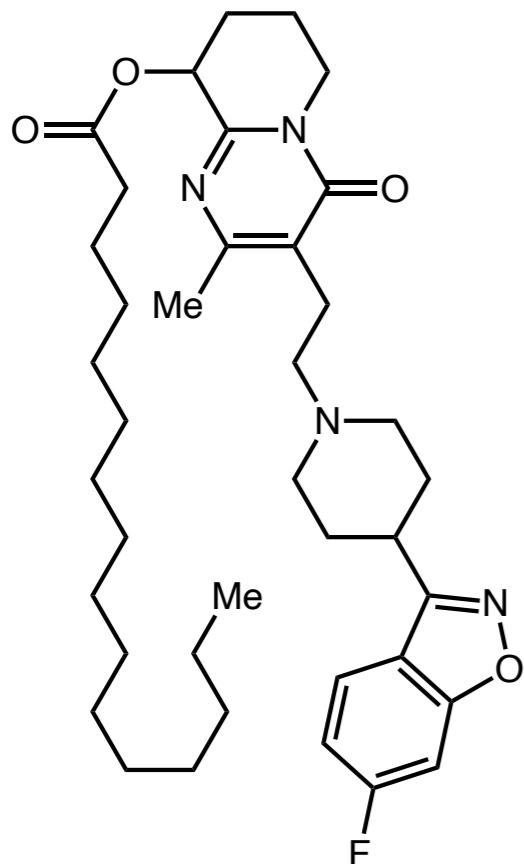
cyclic



-vs-



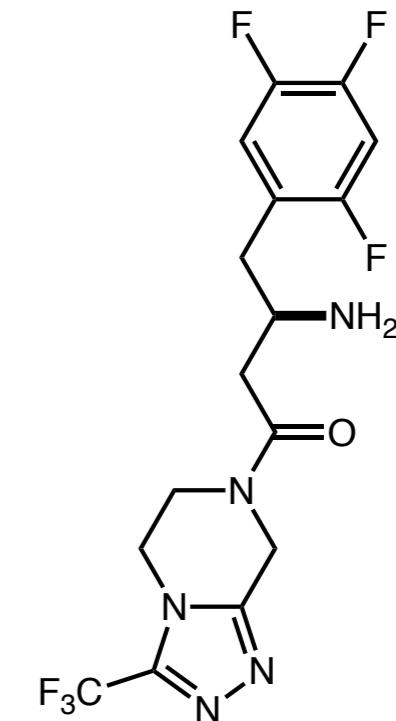
*Skeleton is the atoms that comprise the ring*



hydrogens occupy the molecular 'periphery'

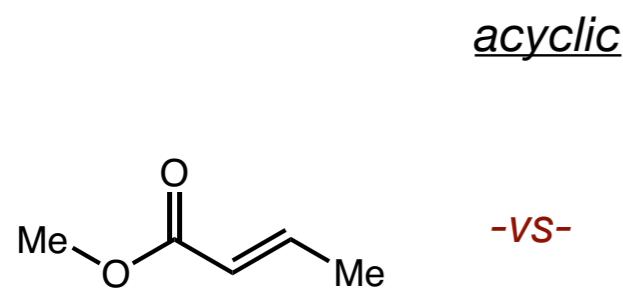
Beyond hydrogen atoms . . .

**Where is the skeleton?**

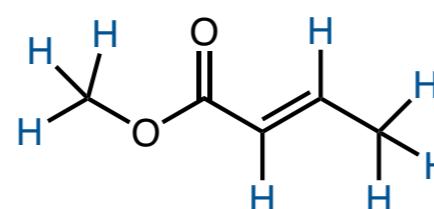


# *What constitutes a Molecular Skeleton?*

*Applies to both acyclic and cyclic molecules*

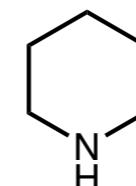


-vs-

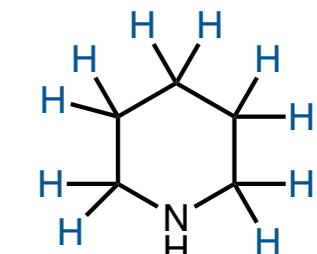


*Skeleton is the longest chain (IUPAC rules)*

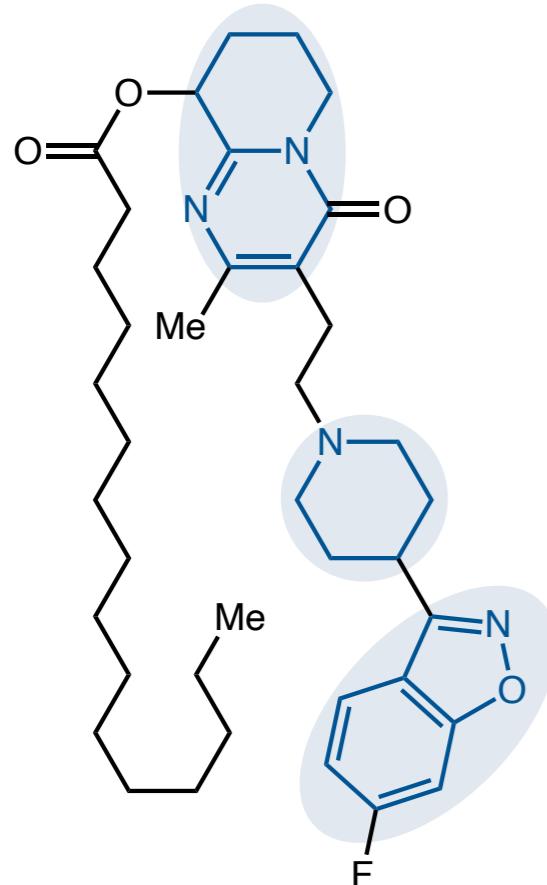
cyclic



-vs-



*Skeleton is the atoms that comprise the ring*



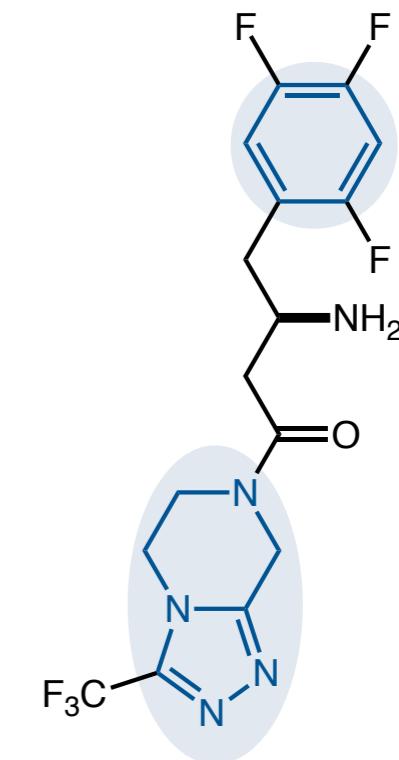
*hydrogens occupy the molecular ‘periphery’*

*Beyond hydrogen atoms . . .*

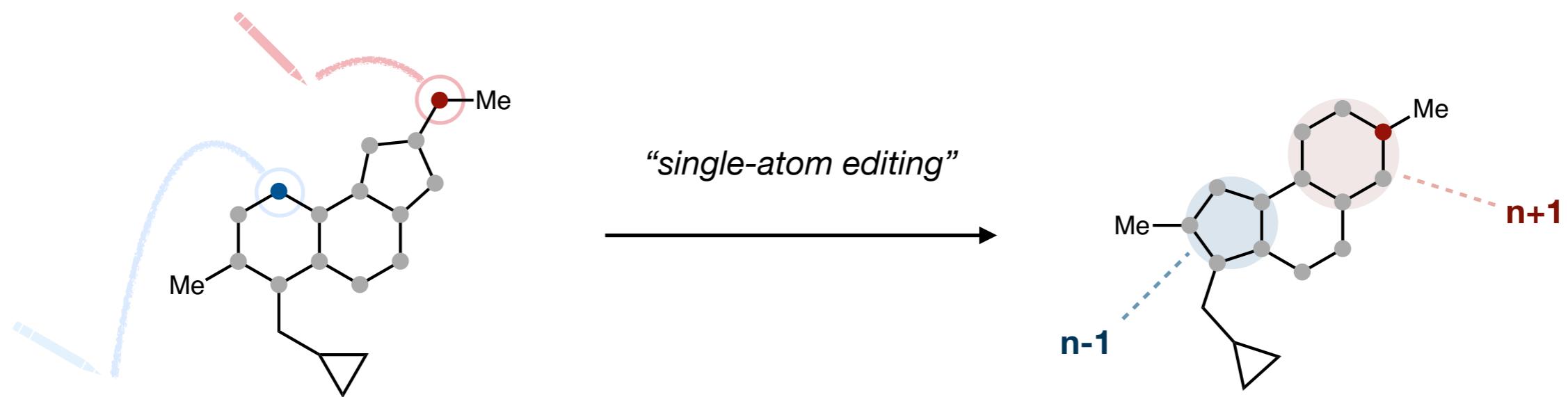
**Rings offer a natural dividing line**

*Blue – skeleton*

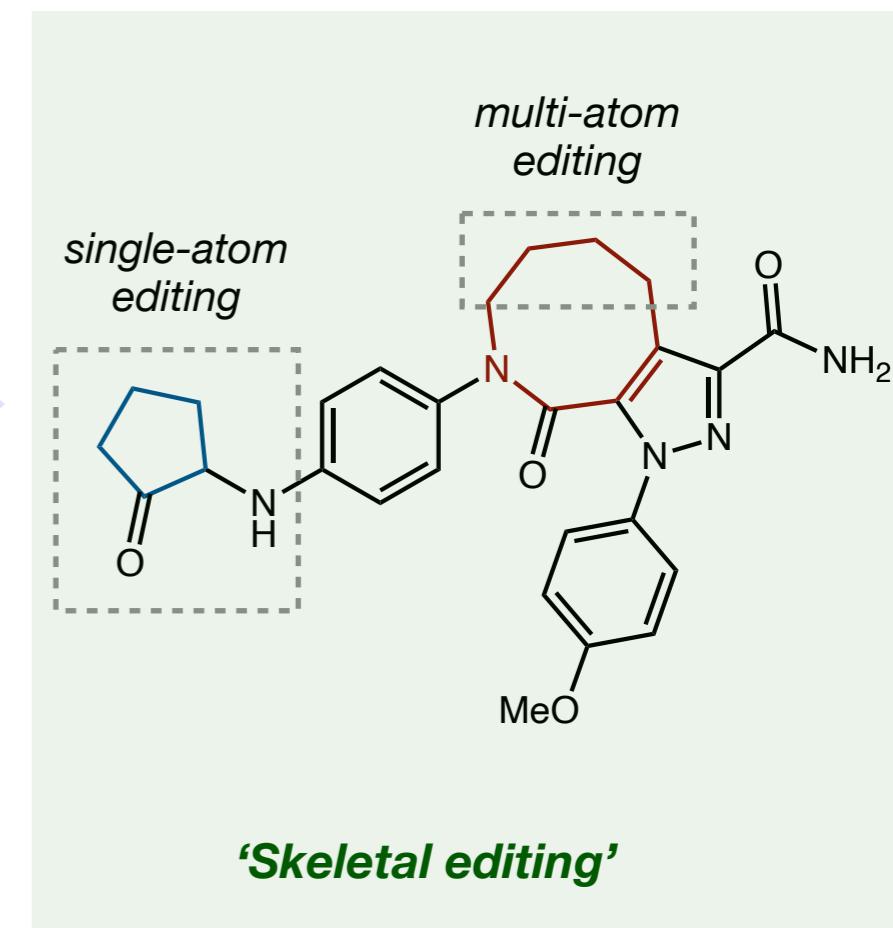
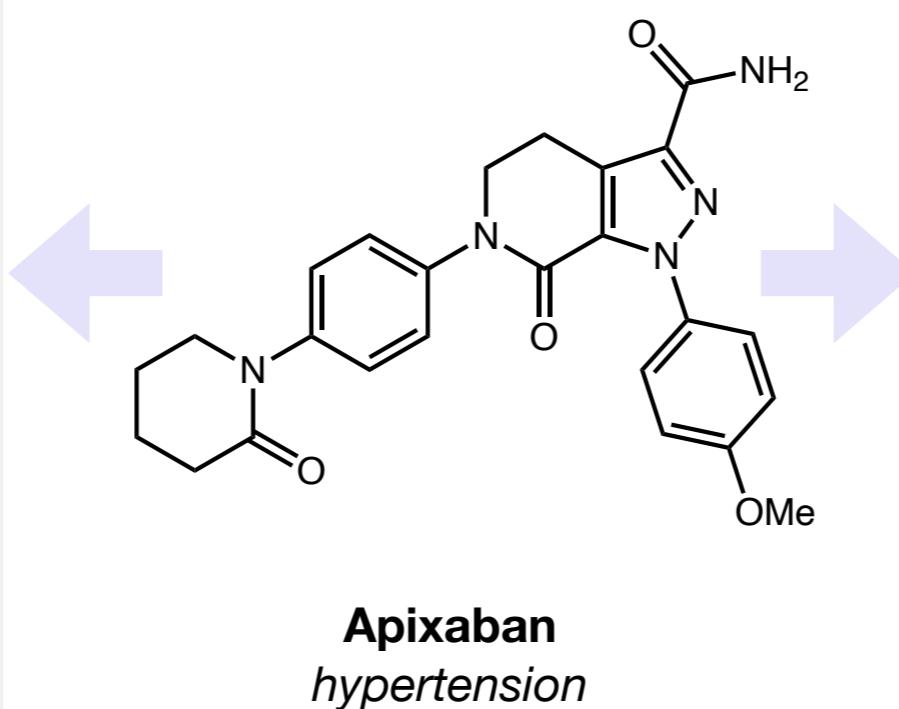
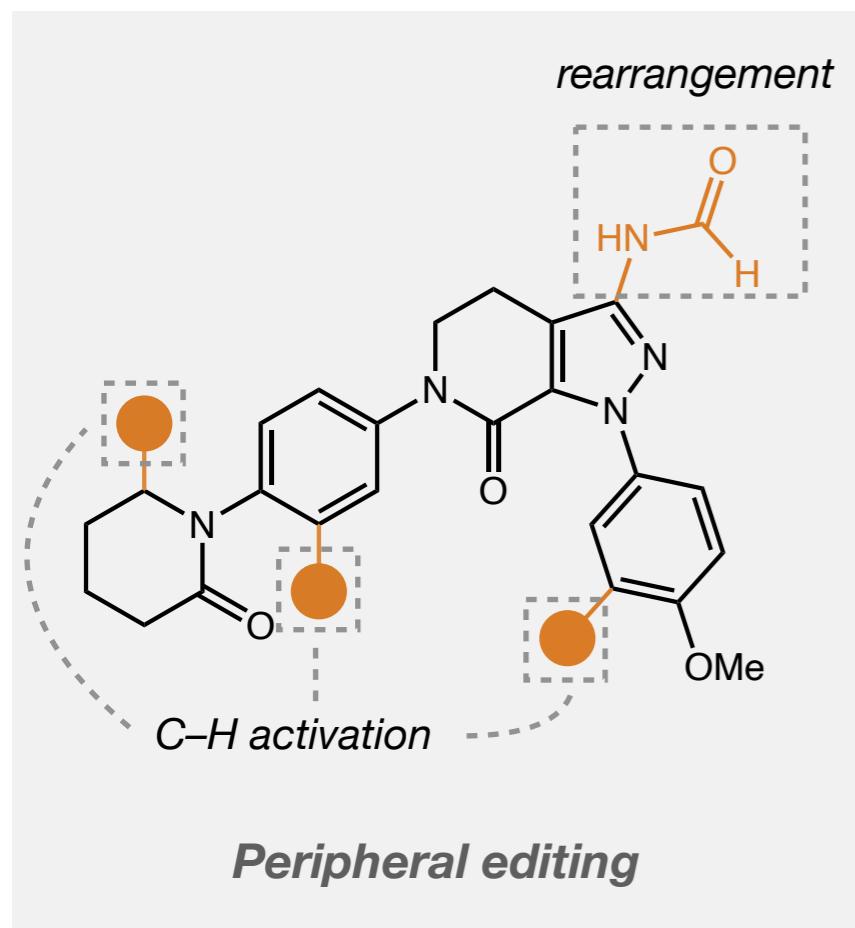
*Black – Periphery*



# What is a Single-Atom Edit?



## Lead Scaffold Diversification



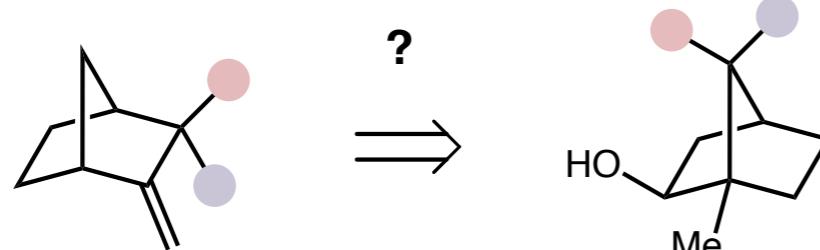
## *Benefits that Skeletal Editing can Offer*

This single-atom editing is a deliberate and beneficial synthetic logic because . . .

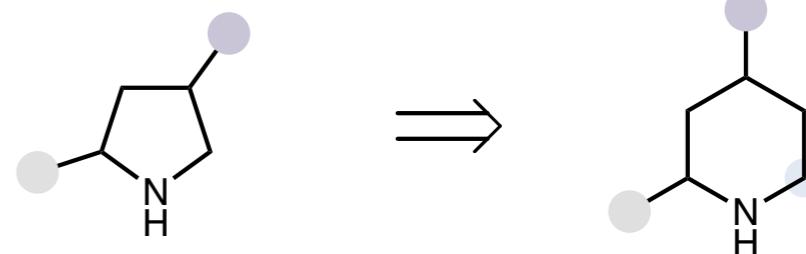
### 'Editing' evokes precision

- most elementary of possible changes to a molecular skeleton
- more complex changes are possible as combinations of multiple single-atom edits

### Retrosynthetic simplicity



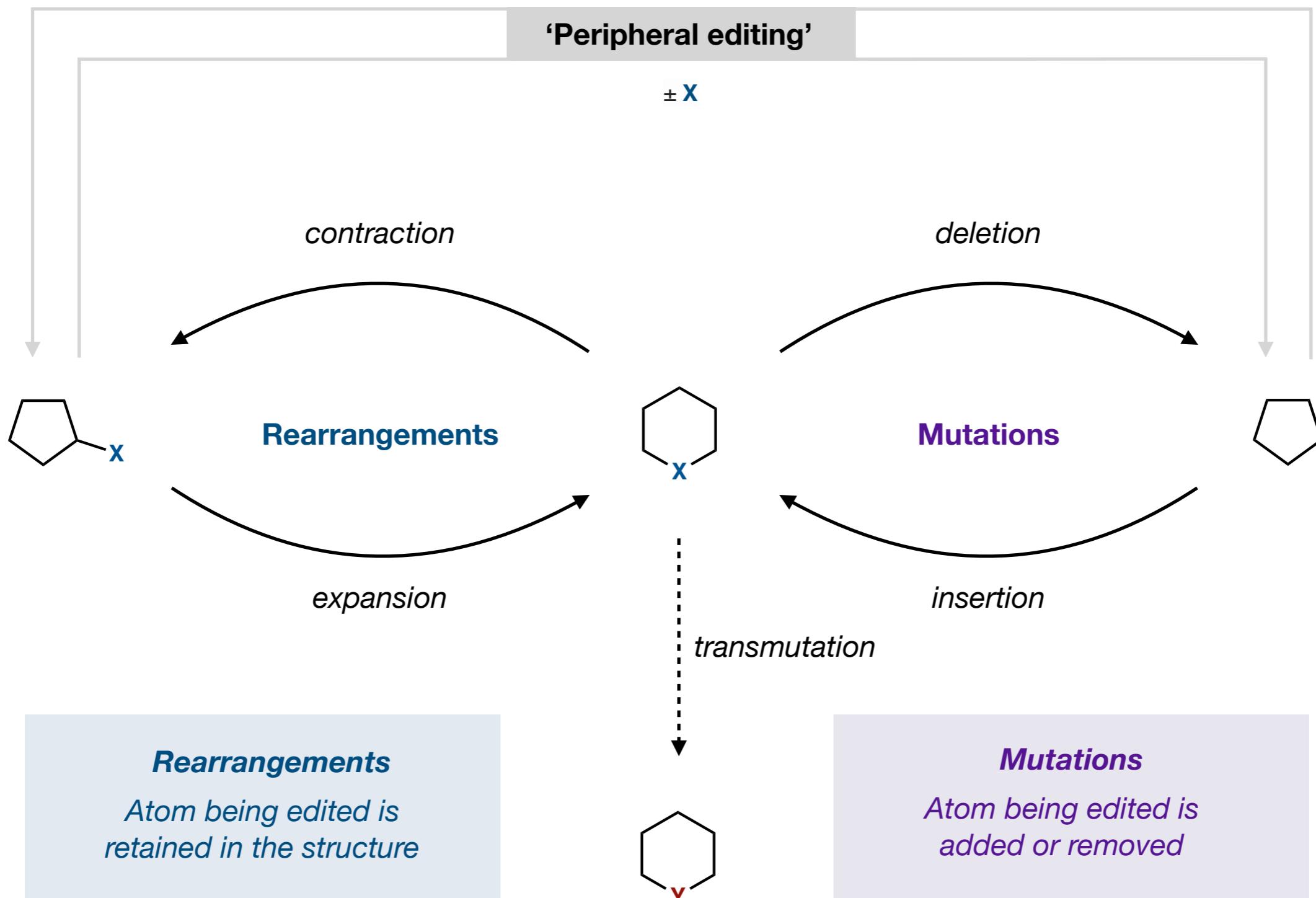
vs



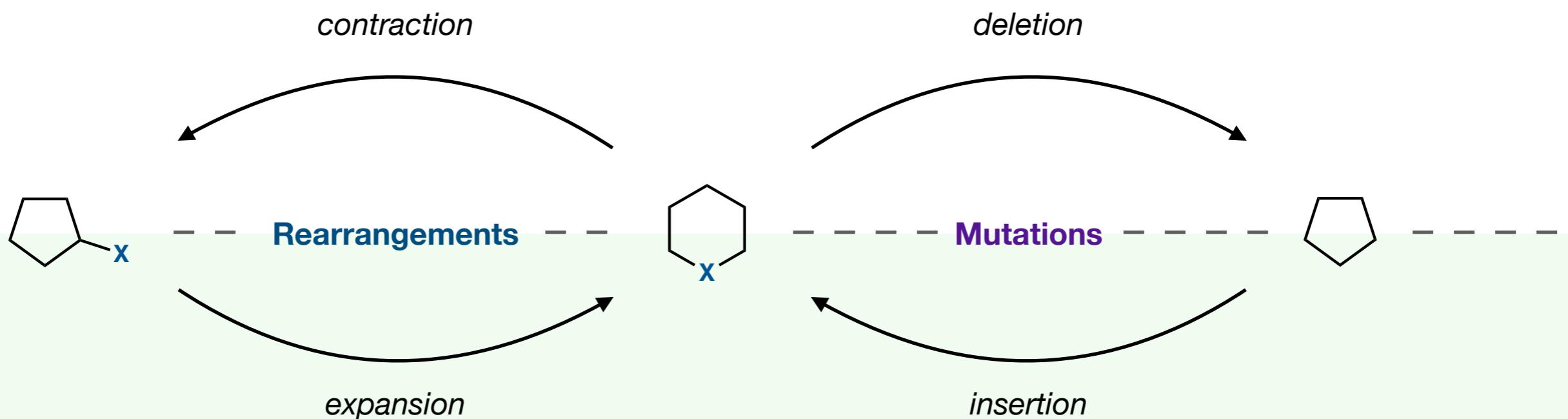
*rearrangements*

*Single-atom editing*

# A Classification Scheme



# A Classification Scheme



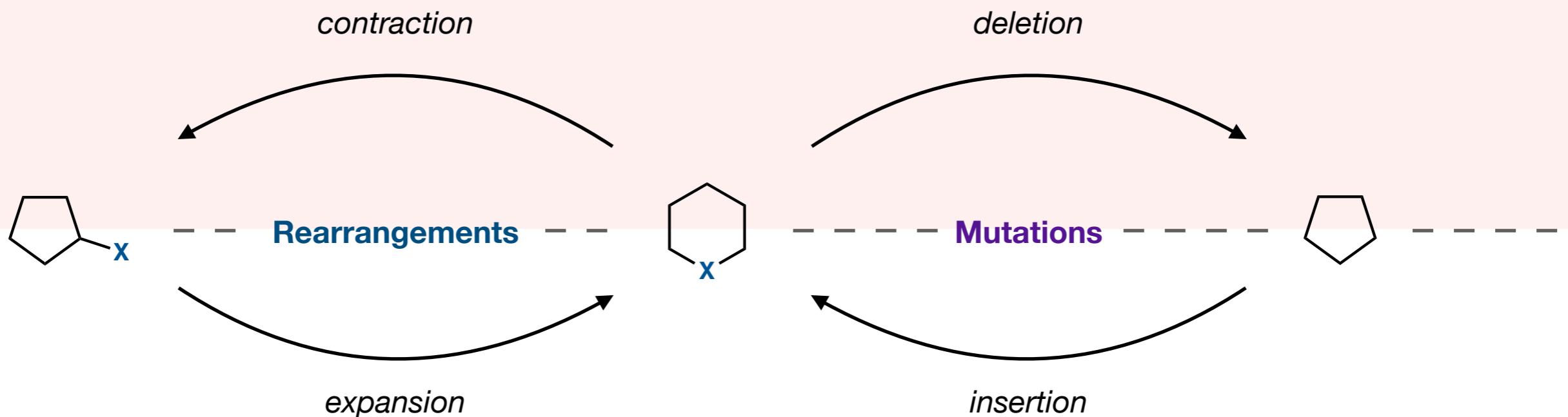
The ring size is increased by one atom

**n + 1 single-atom edit**

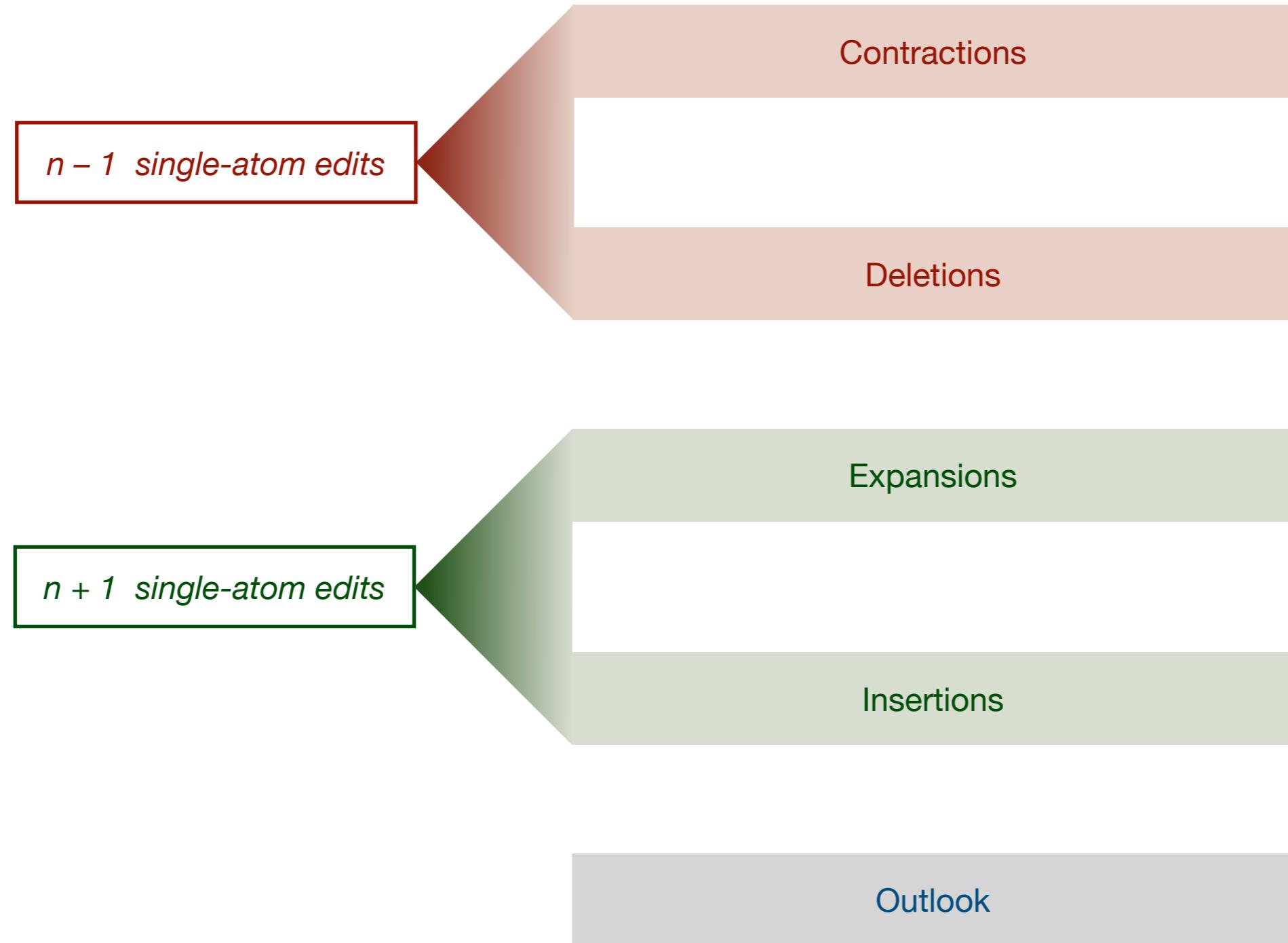
# A Classification Scheme

n – 1 single-atom edit

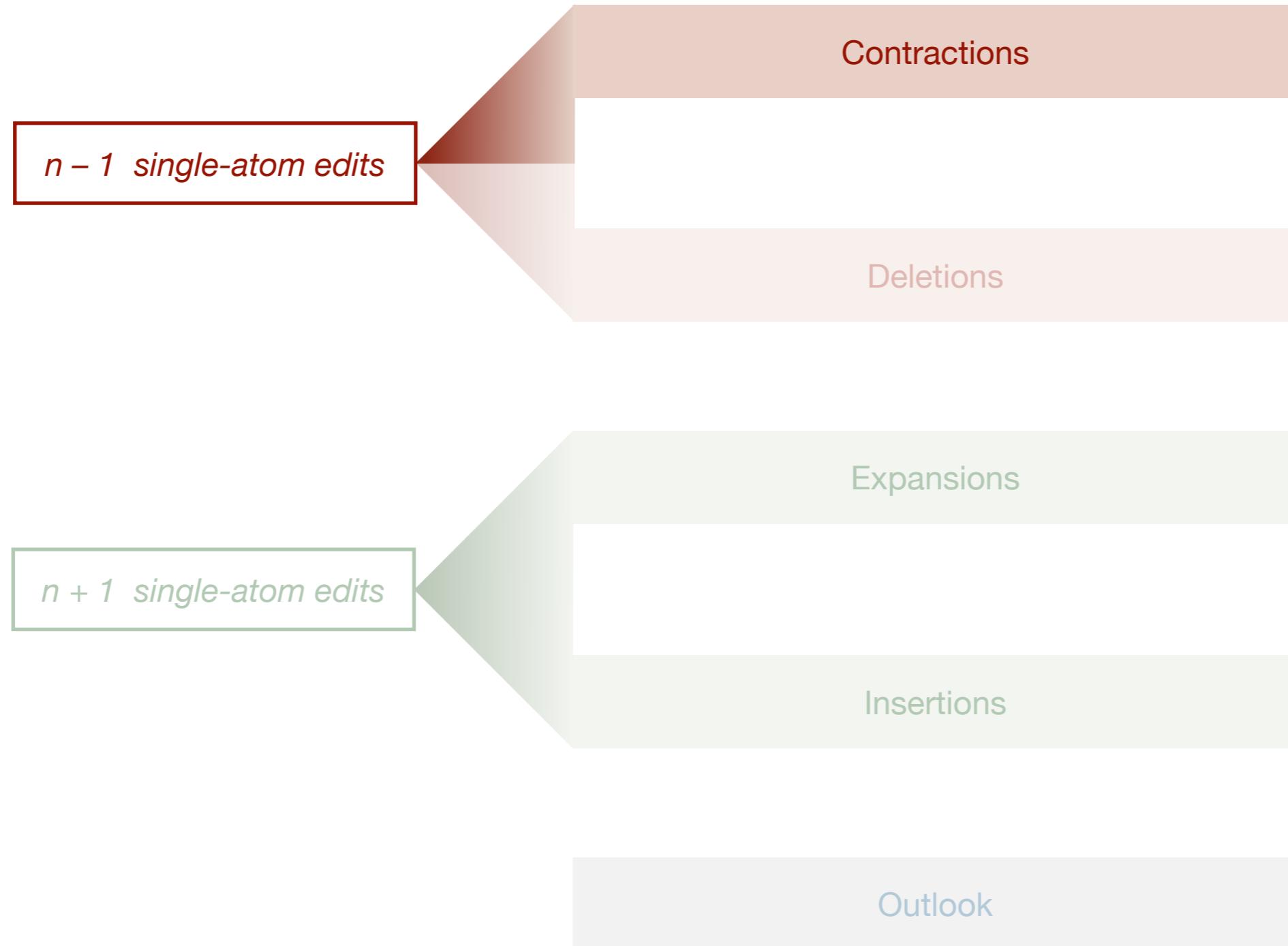
The ring size is decreased by one atom



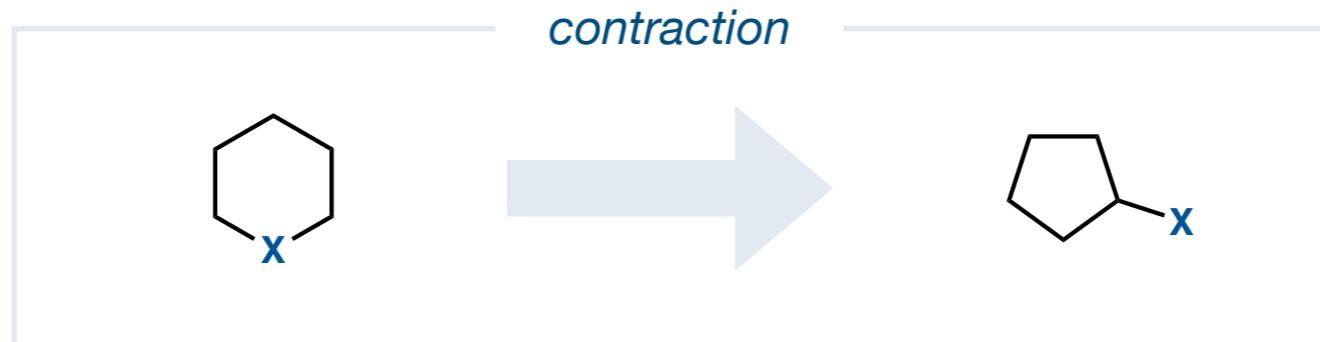
# *Overview*



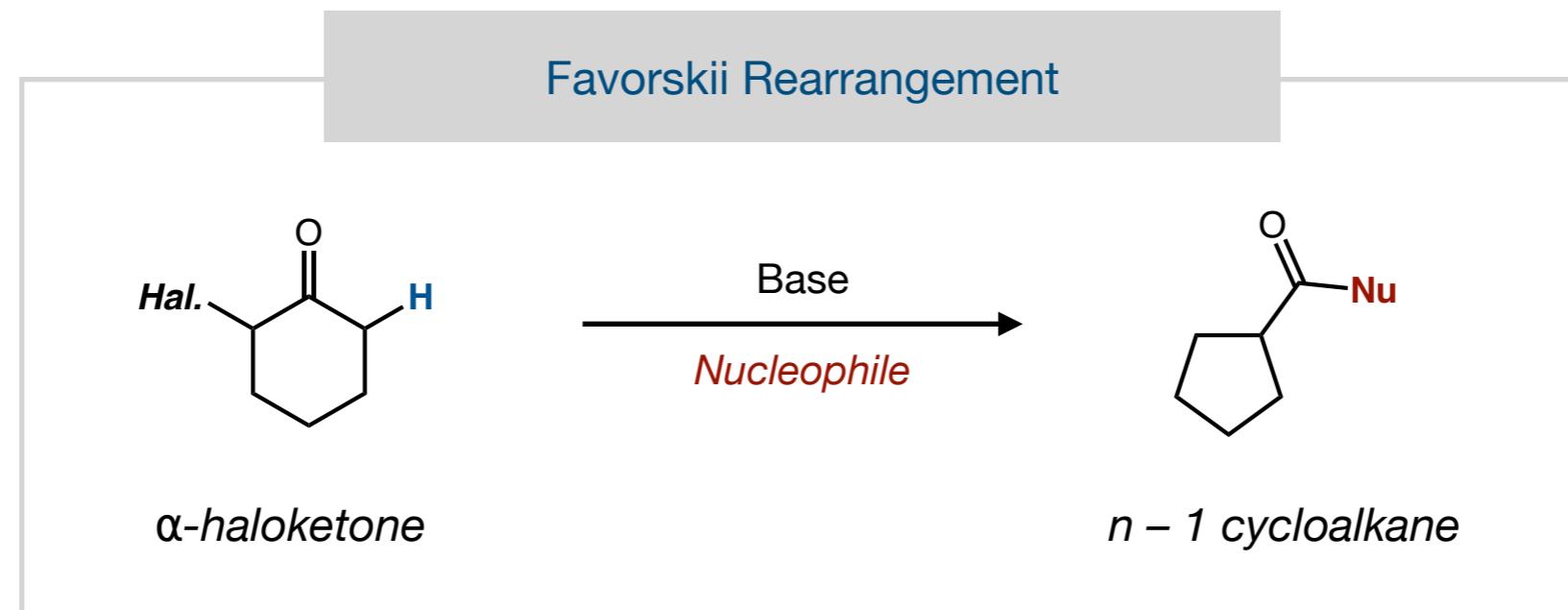
# *Overview*



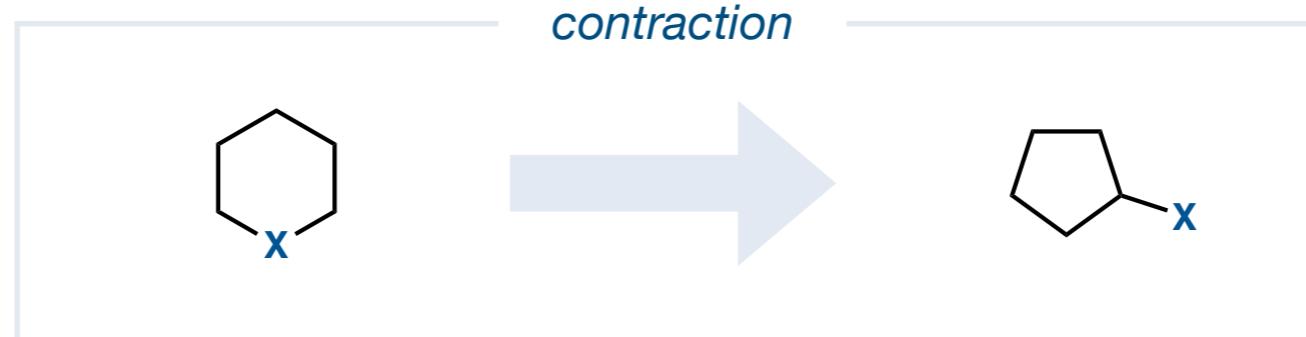
## *Contractions*



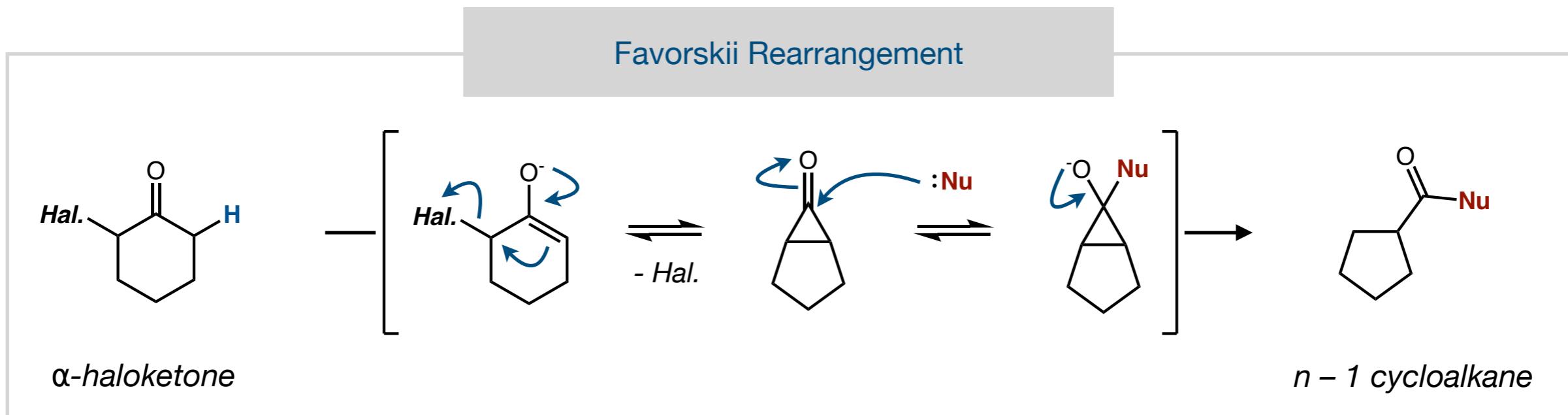
Contractions are when the ring-size is decreased and a previously-endocyclic substituent moves to an exocyclic position



## *Contractions*



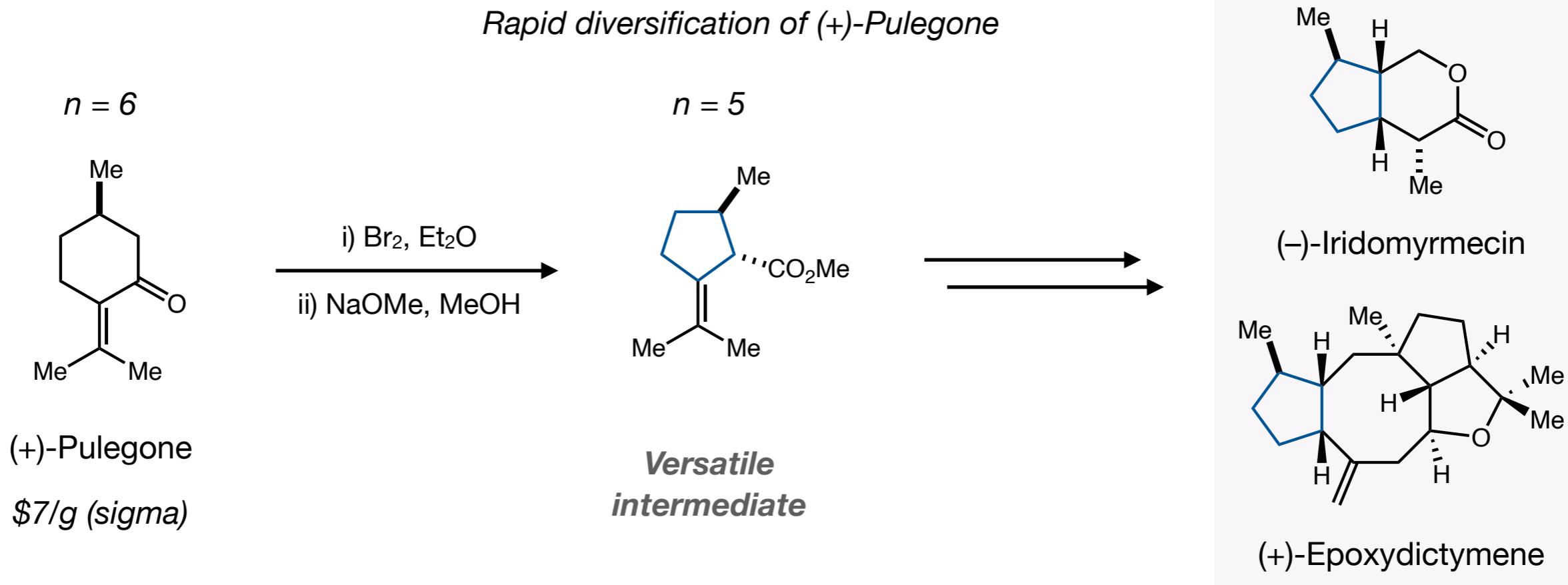
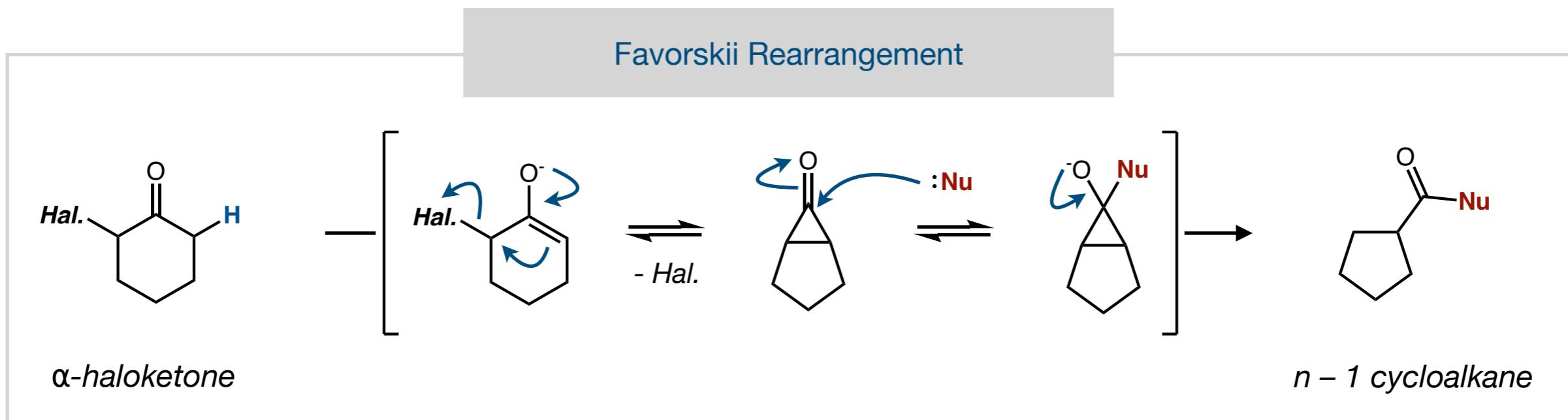
Contractions are when the ring-size is decreased and a previously-endocyclic substituent moves to an exocyclic position



$\alpha$ -haloketone

$n - 1$  cycloalkane

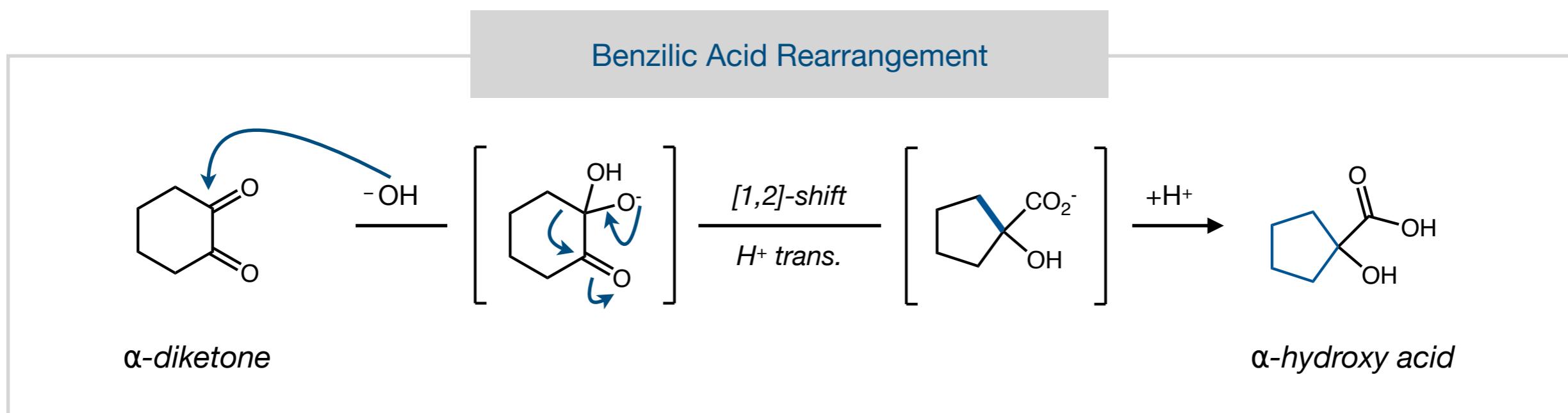
## Contractions – Favorskii Rearrangement



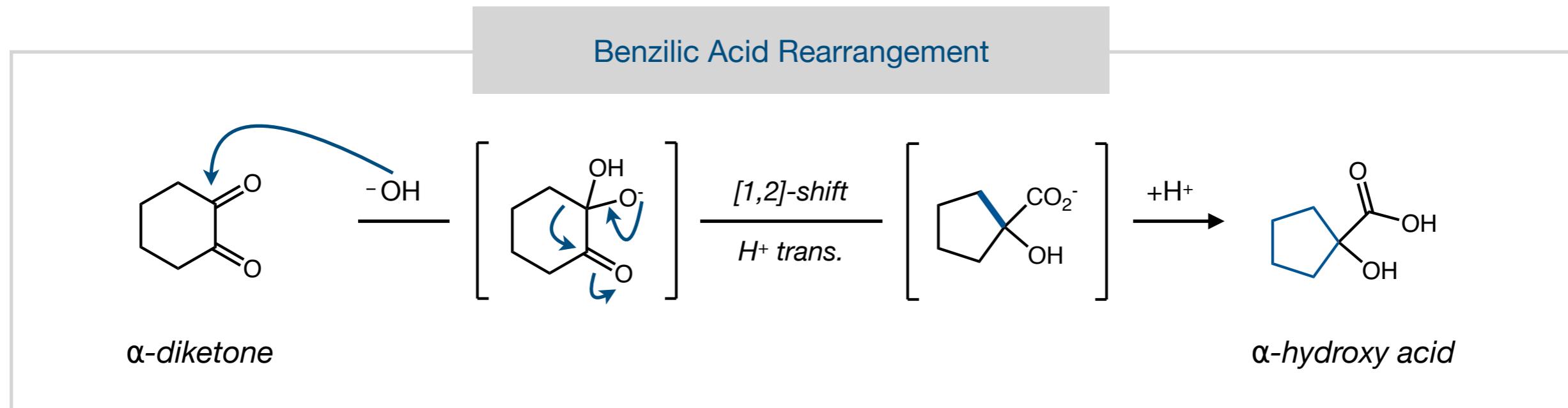
Jamison, T. F.; Shambayati, S.; Crowe, W. E.; Schreiber, S. L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1997**, 119, 4353.

Wolinsky, J.; Gibson, T.; Chan, D.; Wolf, H. *Tetrahedron*. **1965**, 21, 1247.

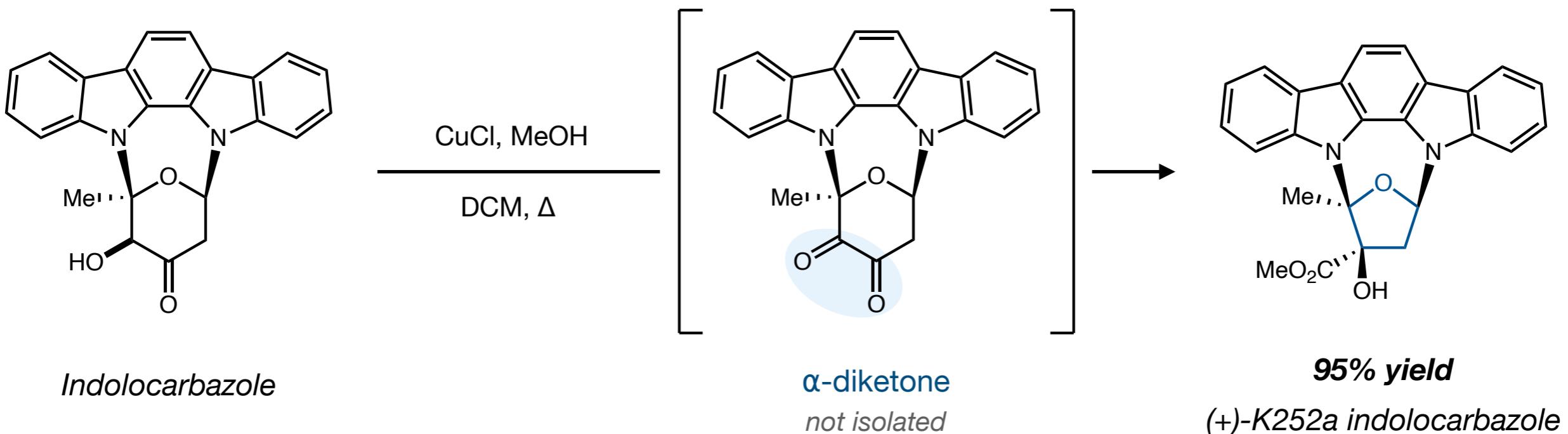
## Benzilic Acid Rearrangement



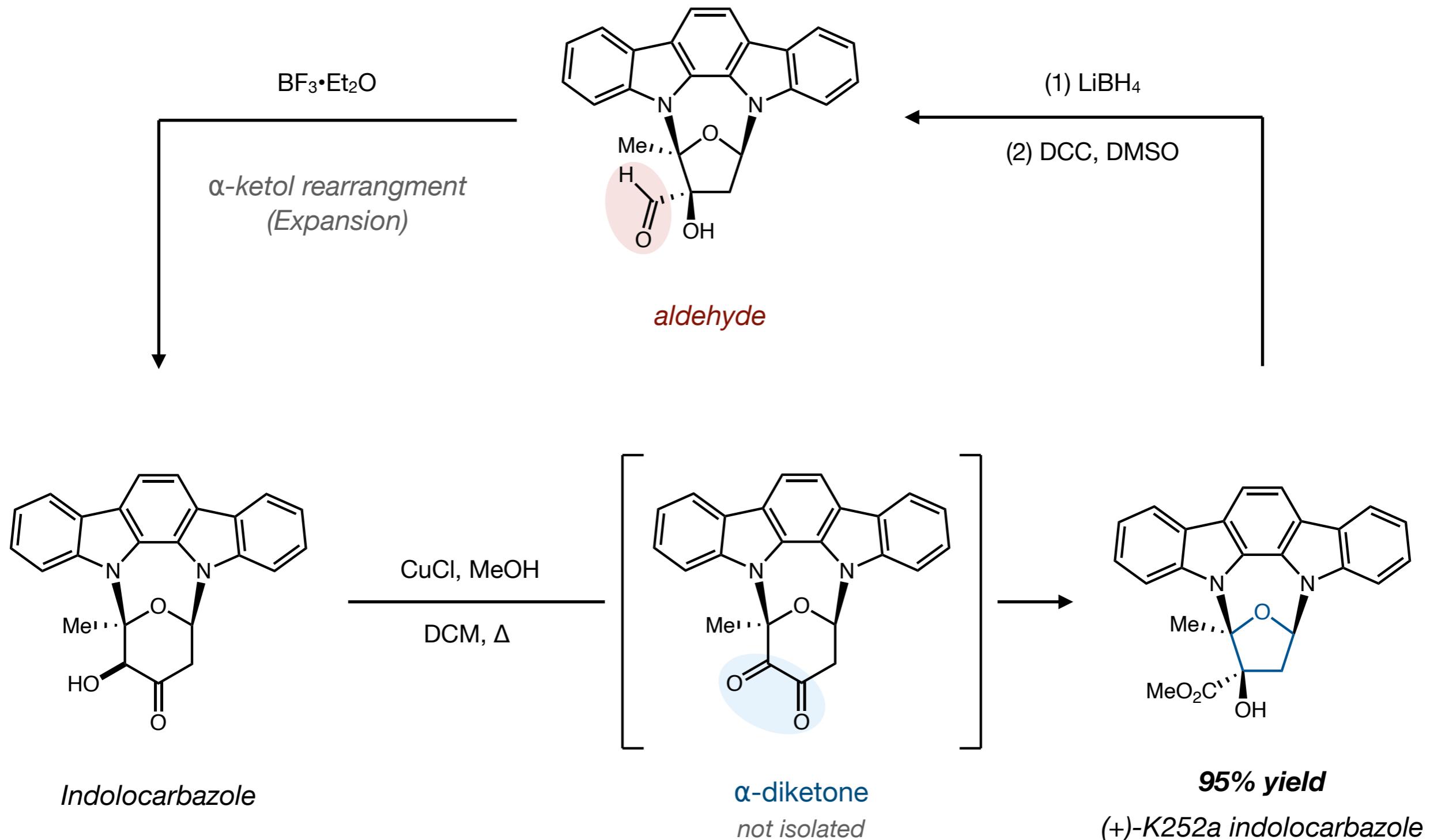
## Benzilic Acid Rearrangement



### Total synthesis applications

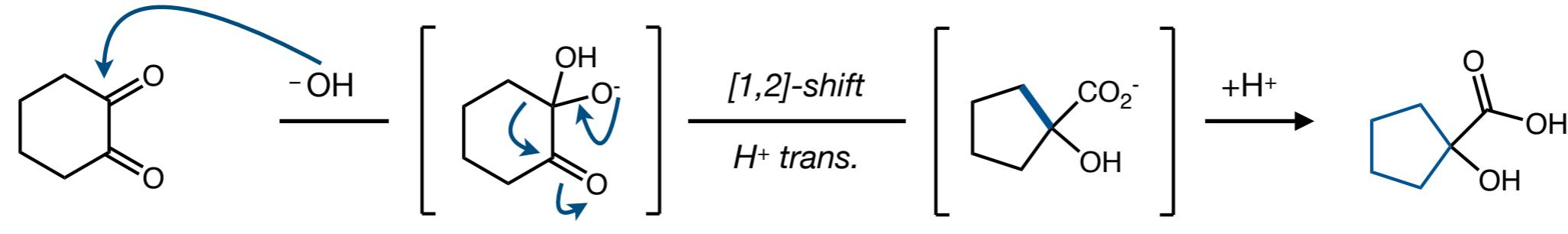


## Benzilic Acid Rearrangement



# Benzilic Acid Rearrangement

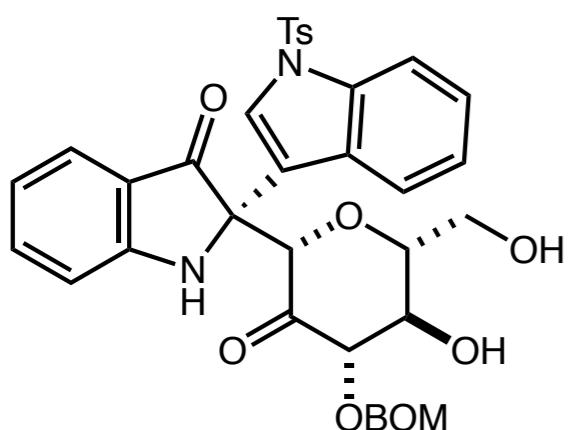
## Benzilic Acid Rearrangement



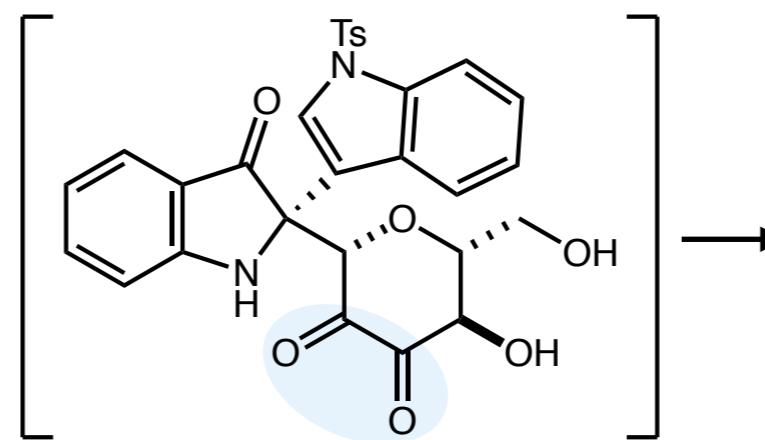
$\alpha$ -diketone

$\alpha$ -hydroxy acid

## Total synthesis applications



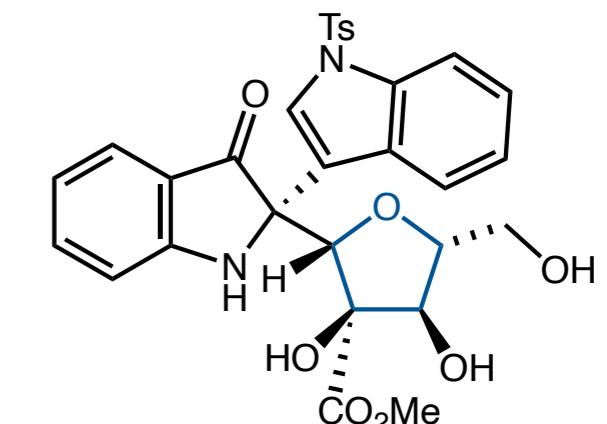
(1)  $\text{Pd(OH)}_2/\text{C}$   
 $\text{MeOH}$   
(2)  $\text{CuCl}$ ,  $\text{MeOH}$   
 $\text{DCM}, \Delta$



BOM- $\alpha$ -hydroxyketone

$\alpha$ -diketone  
not isolated

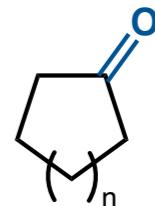
## Densely functionalized indole furanoside



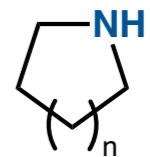
**27% yield**  
(over 2 steps)  
towards (-)-isatisine A

## *Non-Carbonyl-Containing Ring Contractions*

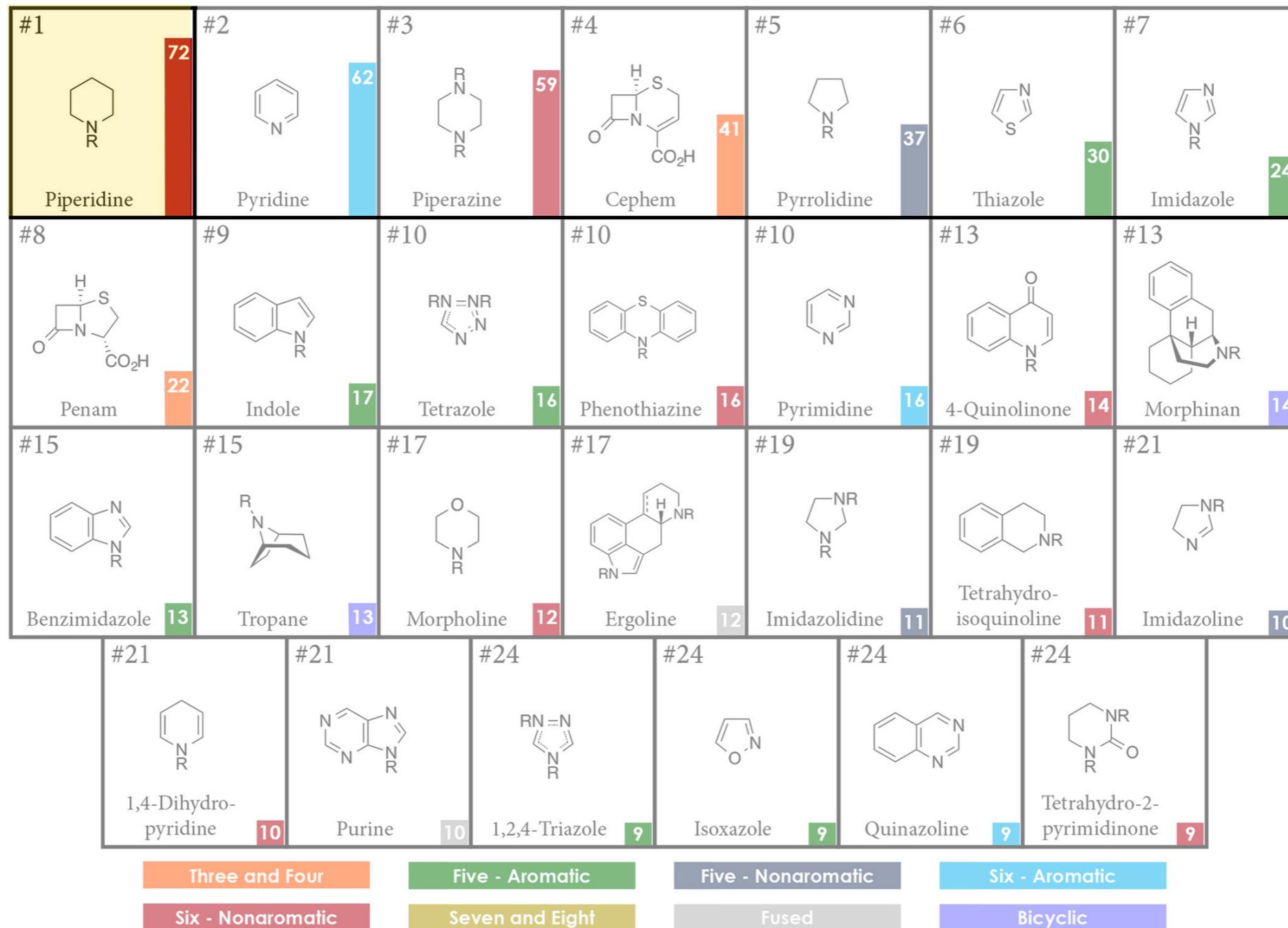
carbonyl-containing starting materials



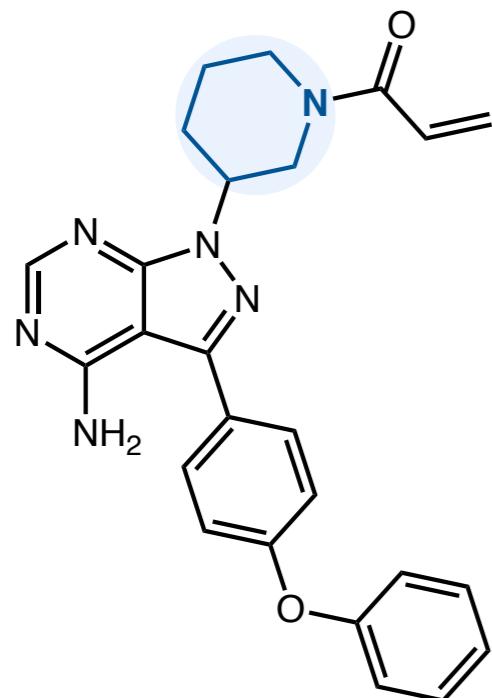
non-carbonyl-containing starting materials



# Drugs Have Lots of Saturated Heterocycles

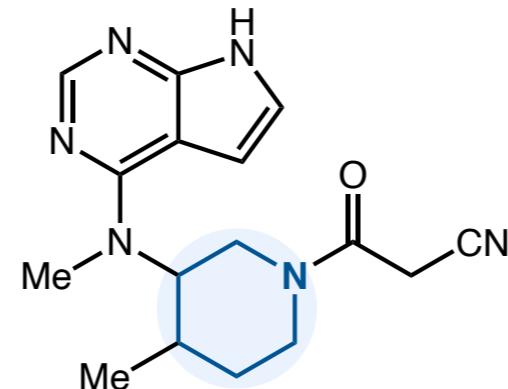


## *Drugs Containing Piperidine Scaffold*



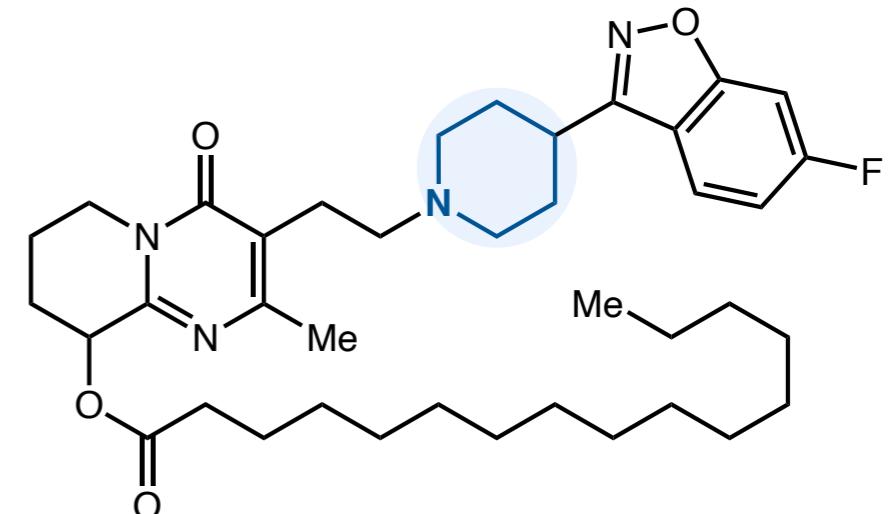
**Imbruvica®**

AbbVie



**Xeljanz®**

Pfizer



**Invega®**

Janssen

---

*piperidine is the most abundant heterocycle in approved pharmaceuticals*

---

*> \$16 billion in sales in 2021*

*Drugs ranging from anticancer, antipsychotic, immunology, etc...*

## *Photochemical Ring Contractions*

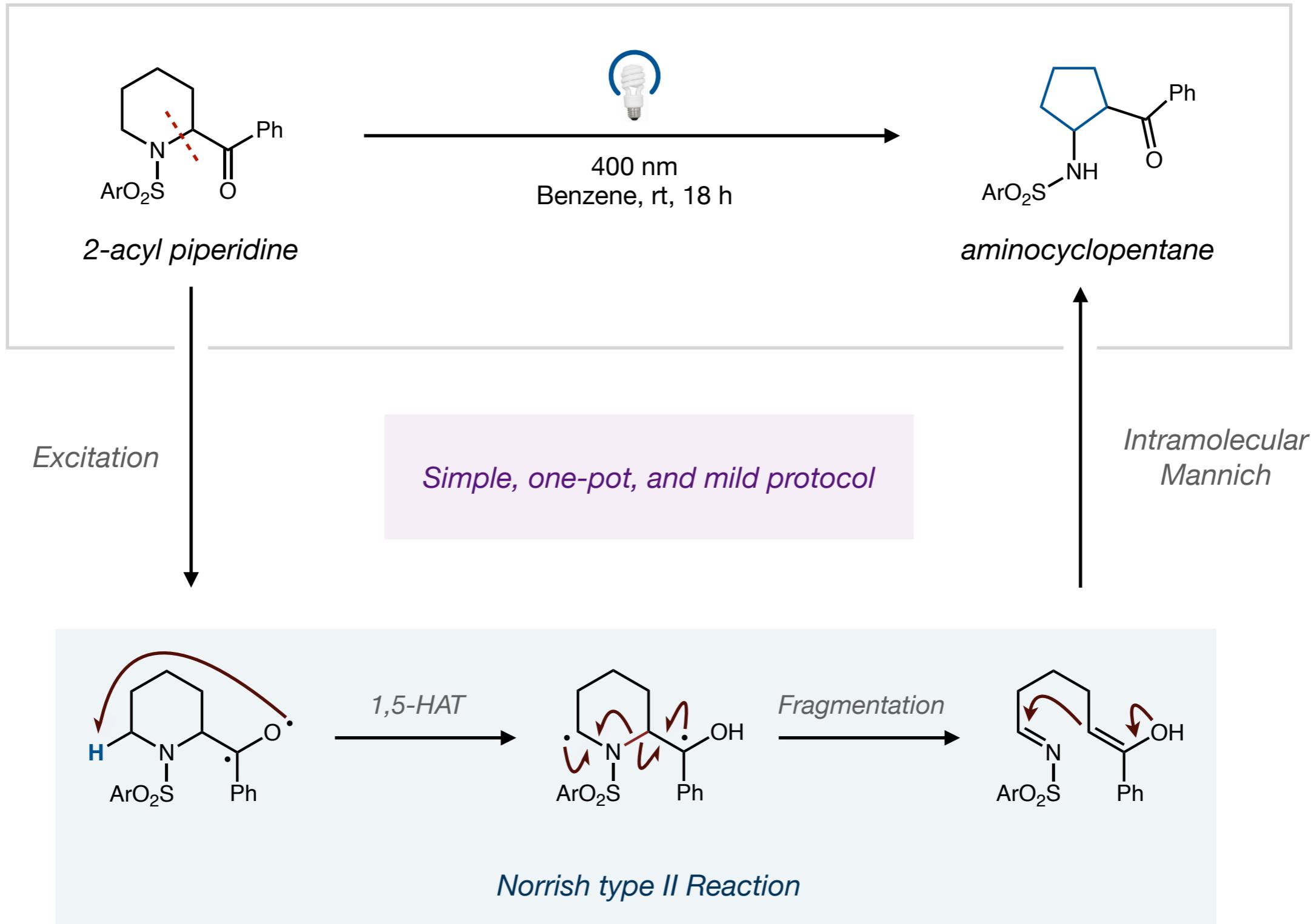


*“Shuffling nitrogen with a light push”*

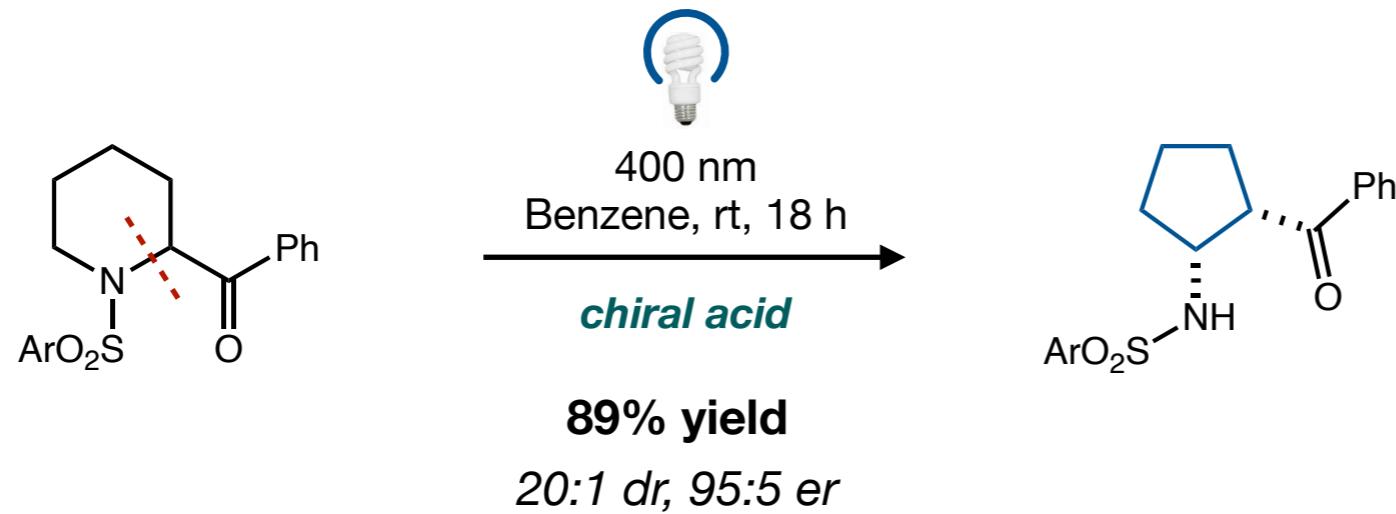


***Richmond Sarpong***  
*UC Berkeley*

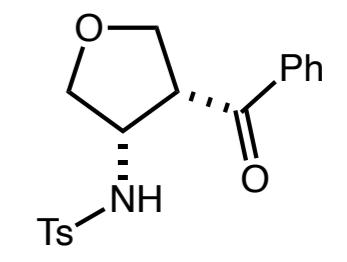
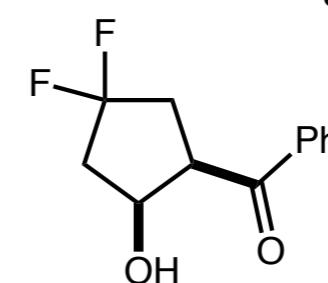
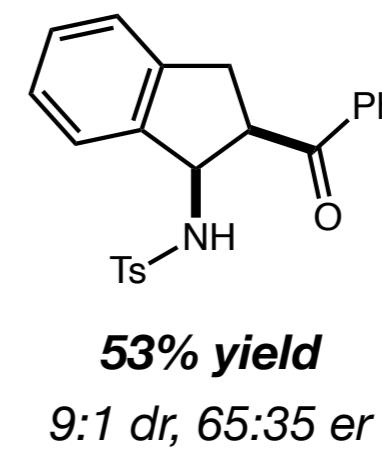
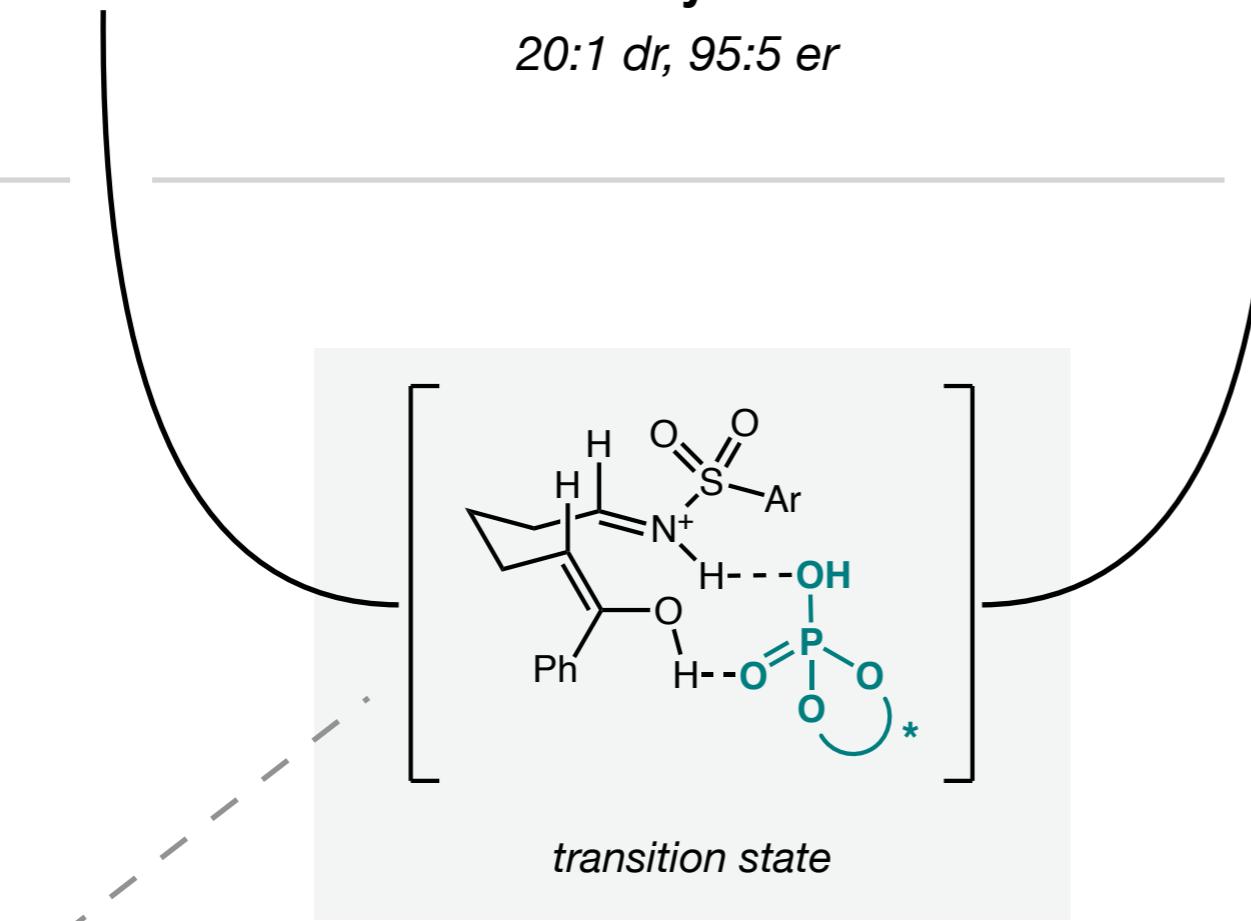
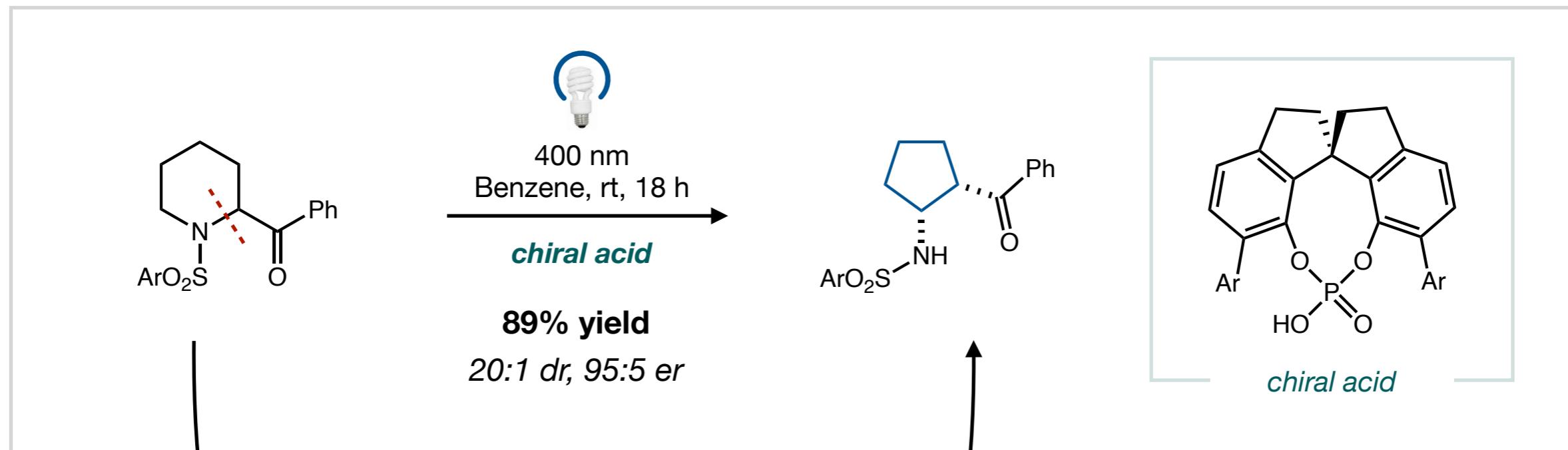
# Photochemical Ring Contractions



## *Photochemical Ring Contractions*



# Photochemical Ring Contractions



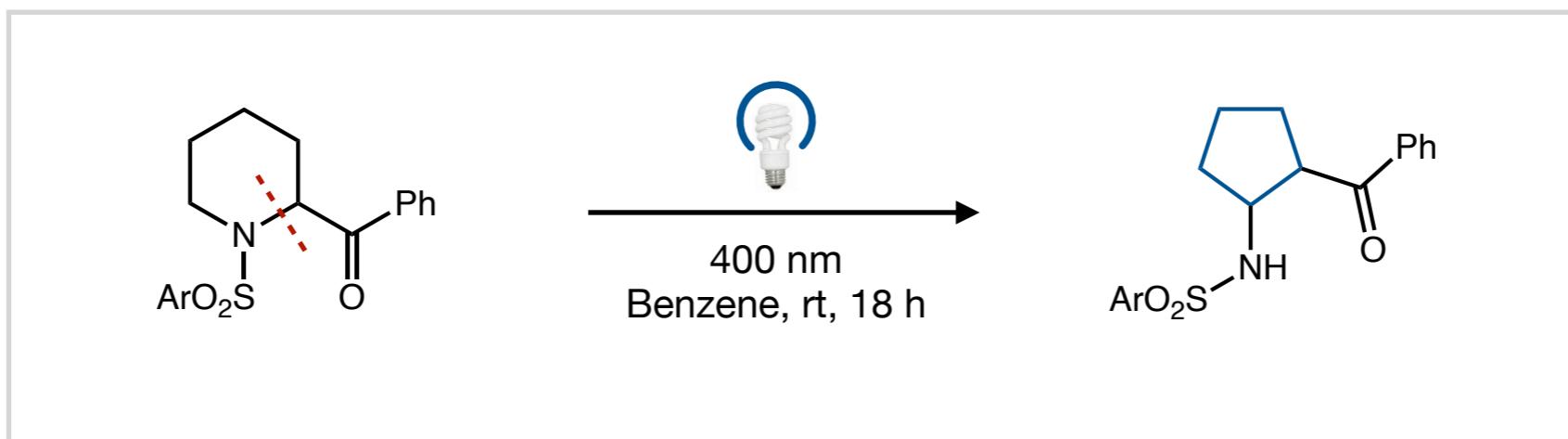
## Why isn't Product Degraded?



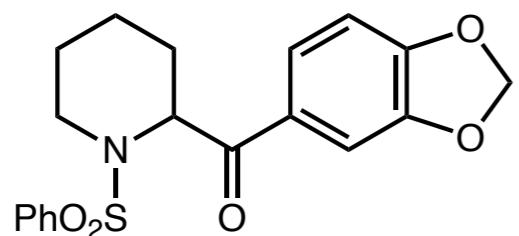
Why doesn't product react further?

**Intramolecular H-bonding**  
Hypsochromic blue shift in  $\lambda_{max}$

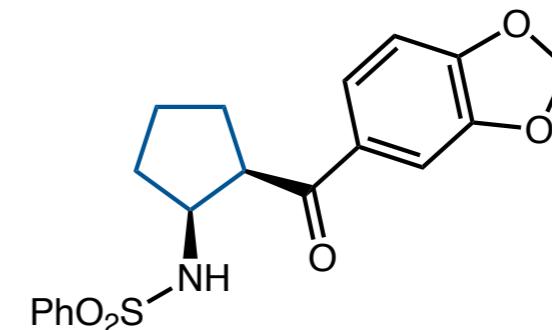
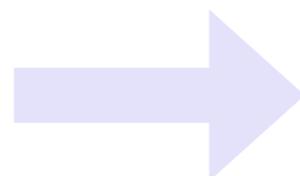
## Photochemical Ring Contractions – Drug-like Examples



### Drug Editing

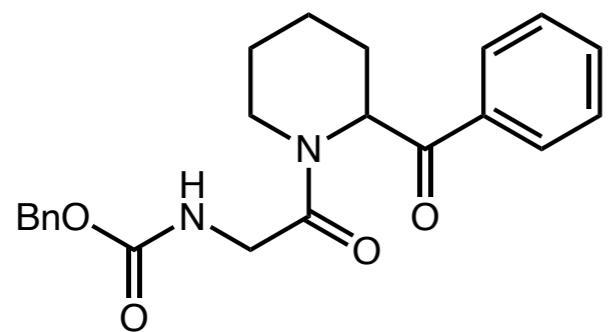


Cyclic MDMC Derivative

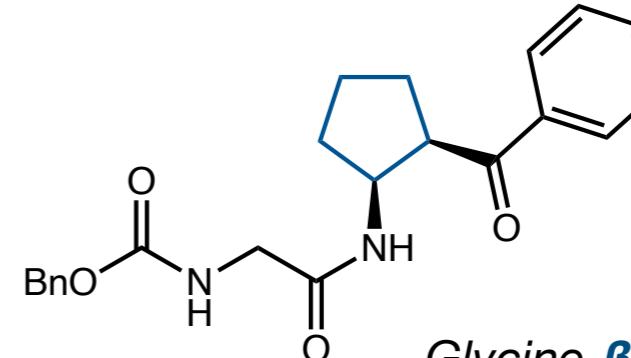
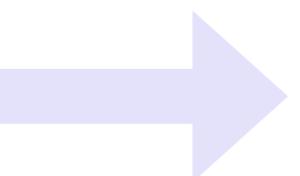


**39% yield (3.2:1 dr)**

### Peptide Editing

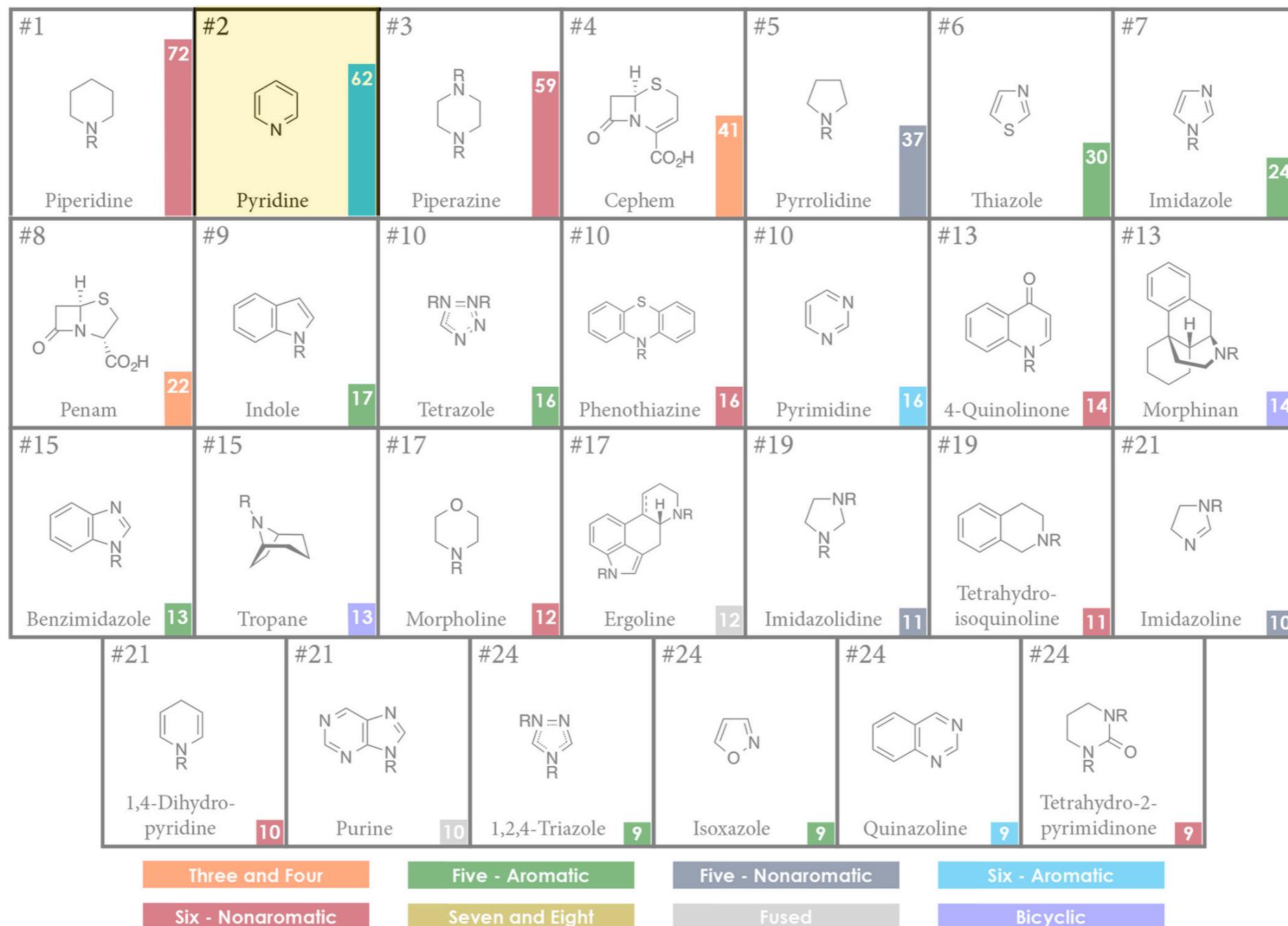


Glycine- $\alpha$ -peptide

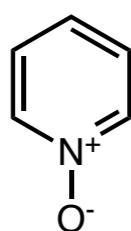
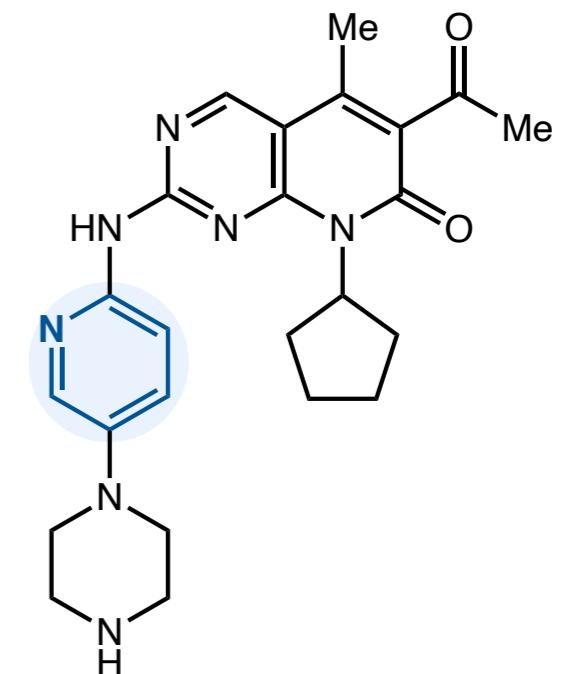
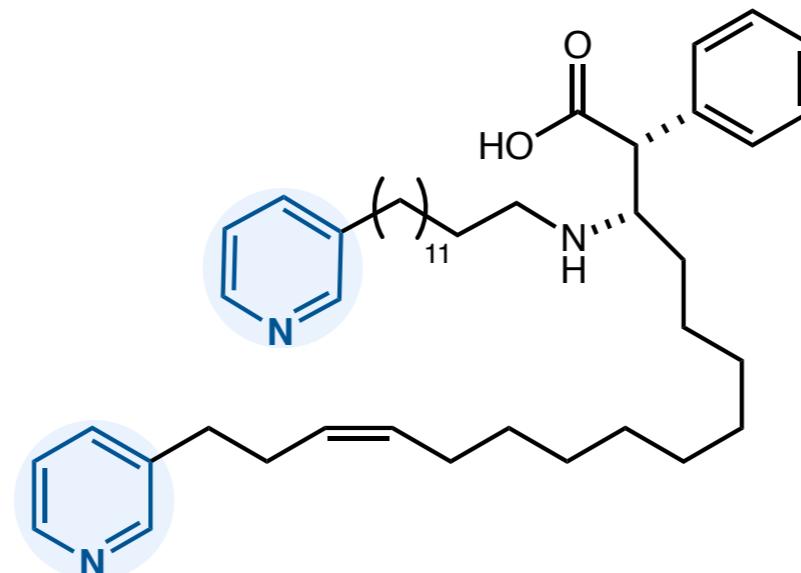
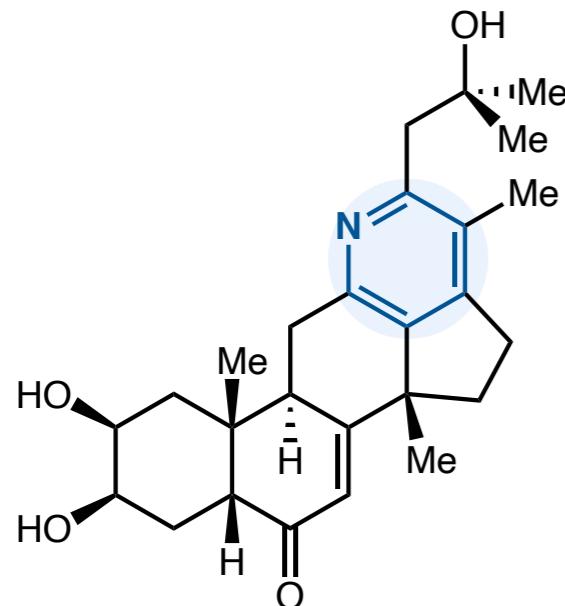


Glycine- $\beta$ -peptide  
**24% yield (3.1:1 dr)**

# Drugs Have Lots of Pyridines



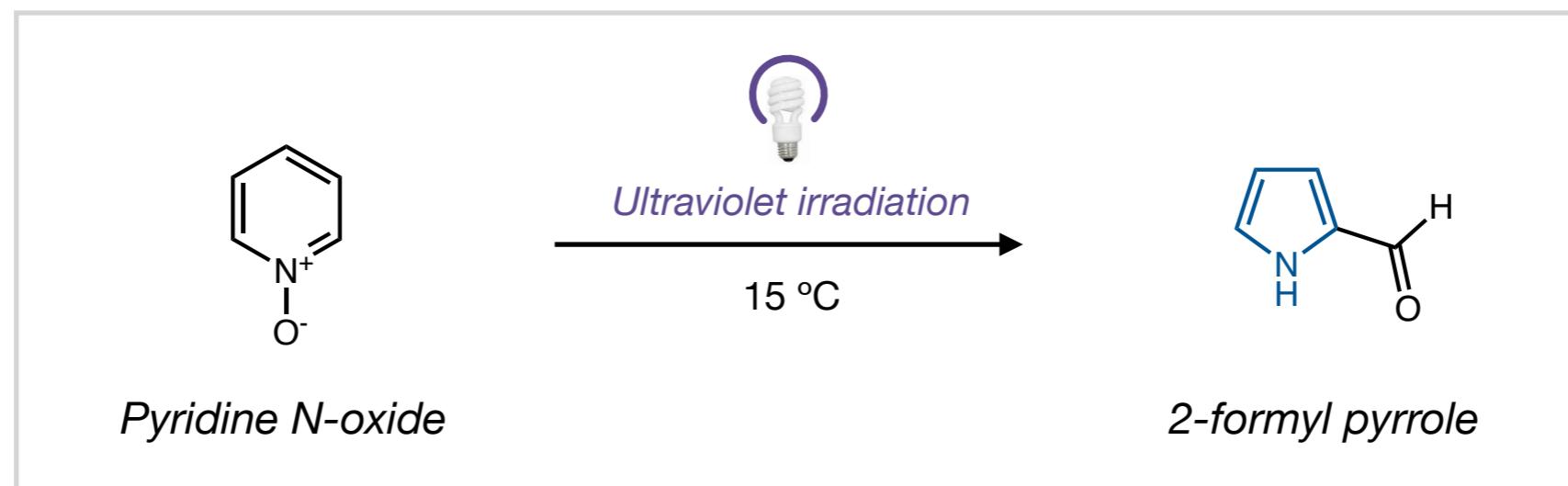
# Pyridines in Drugs & Natural Products



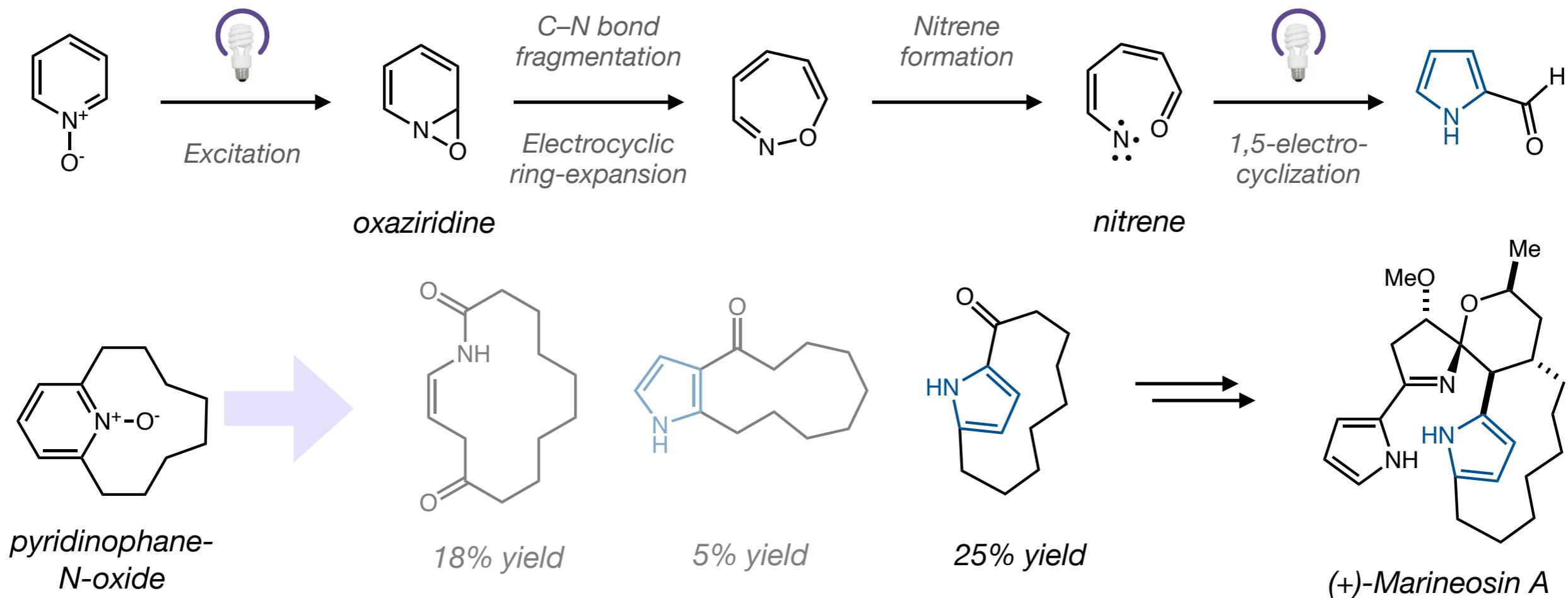
Pyridine N-oxide

- > 19,000 1-step reactions on SciFinder, not including patents
- many drugs contain N-oxides
- PNO is more **nucleophilic** and more **electrophilic**

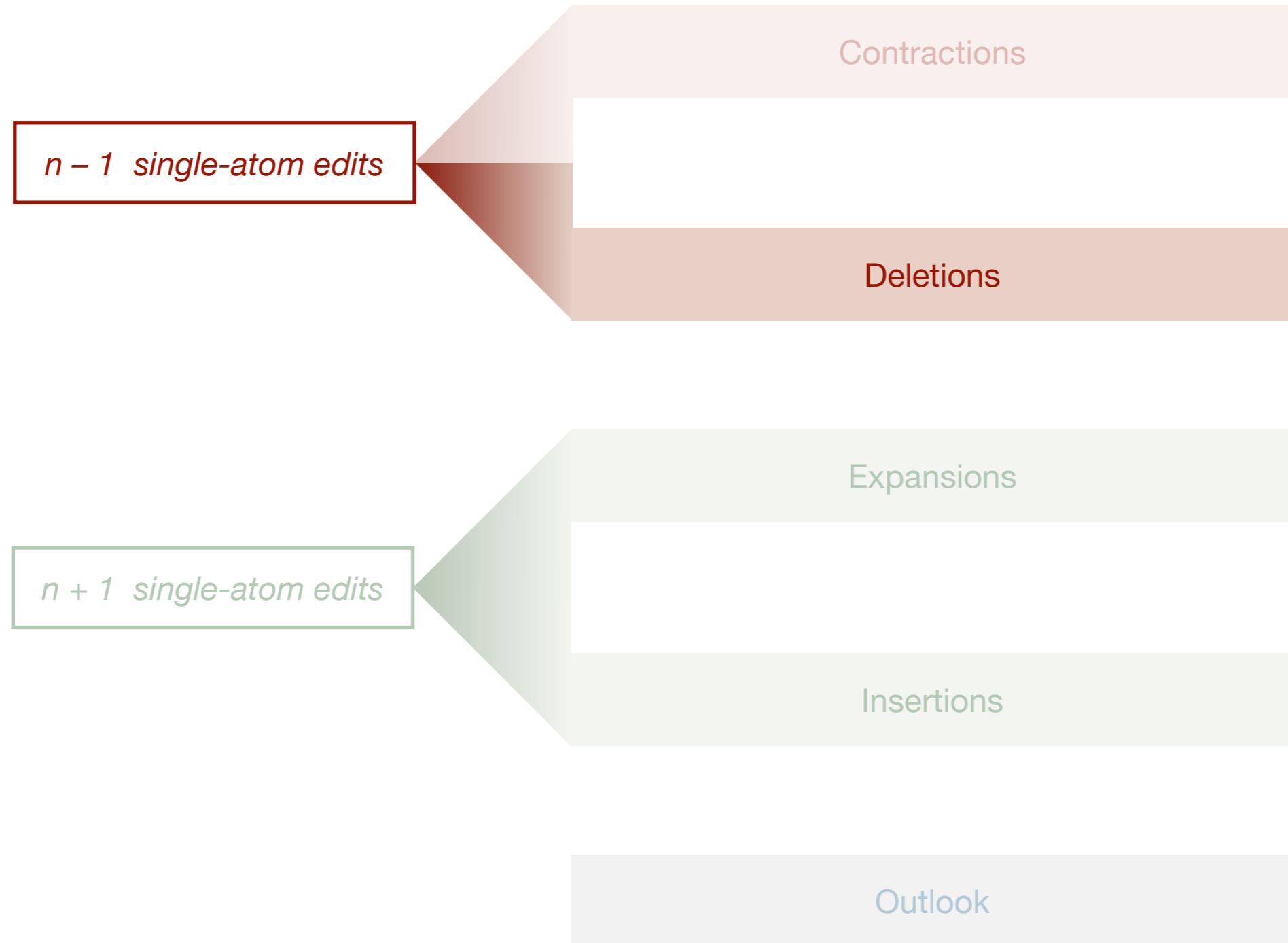
## (Hetero)Aromatic Ring Contractions



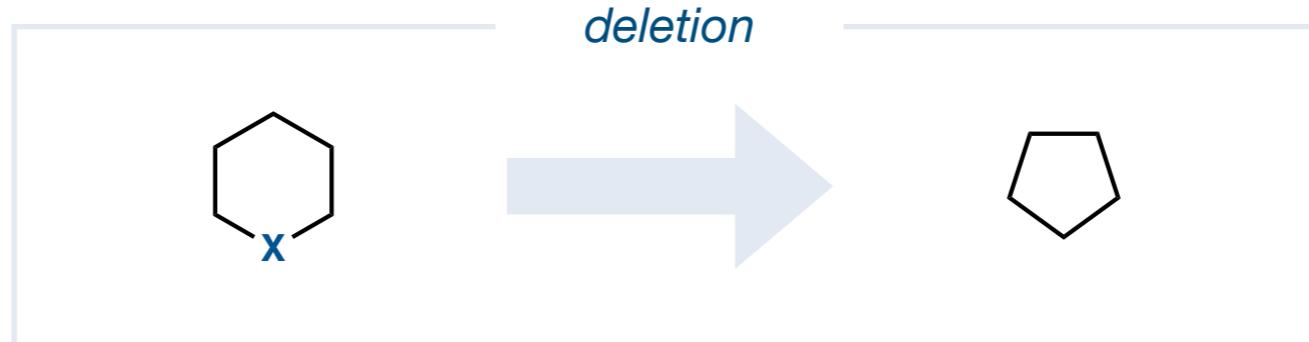
### Mechanism



# *Overview*

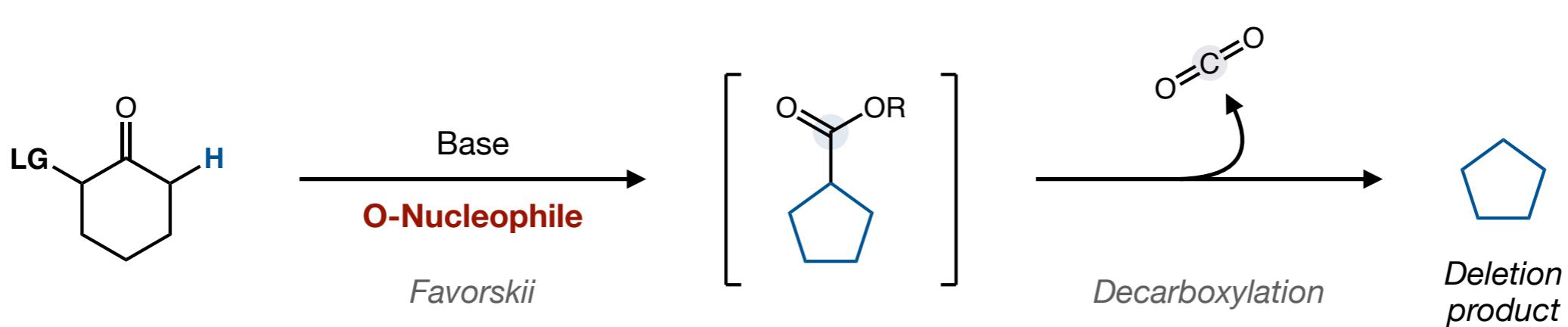


## *Deletions*



Deletions are when the ring-size is decreased and the previously-endocyclic atom is **removed entirely from the molecule**

### Favorskii Rearrangement (again?!)



Decarboxylative Favorskii is formally a **deletion**

# Carbonyl-Related Deletions: First Cubane Synthesis



**Cubane**



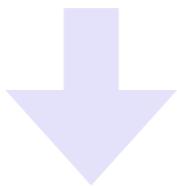
Reduces C(sp<sup>2</sup>)-character in molecules



Improved solubility and metabolic stability

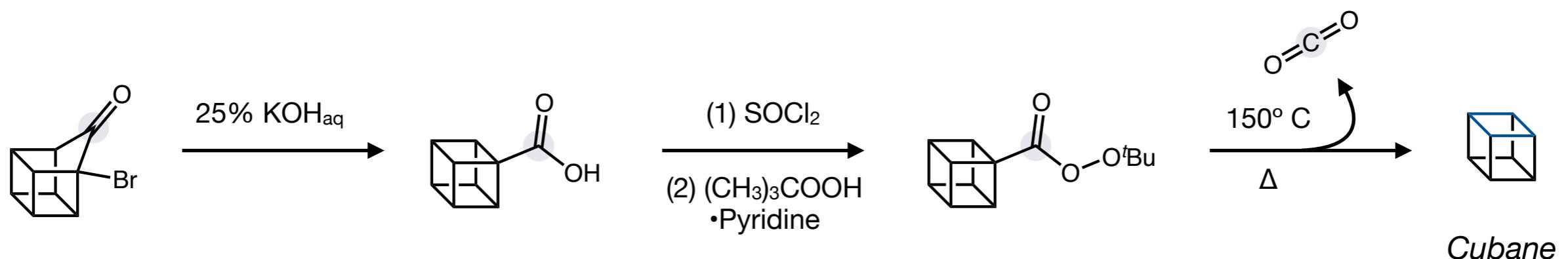


Suitable as a phenyl ring bioisostere

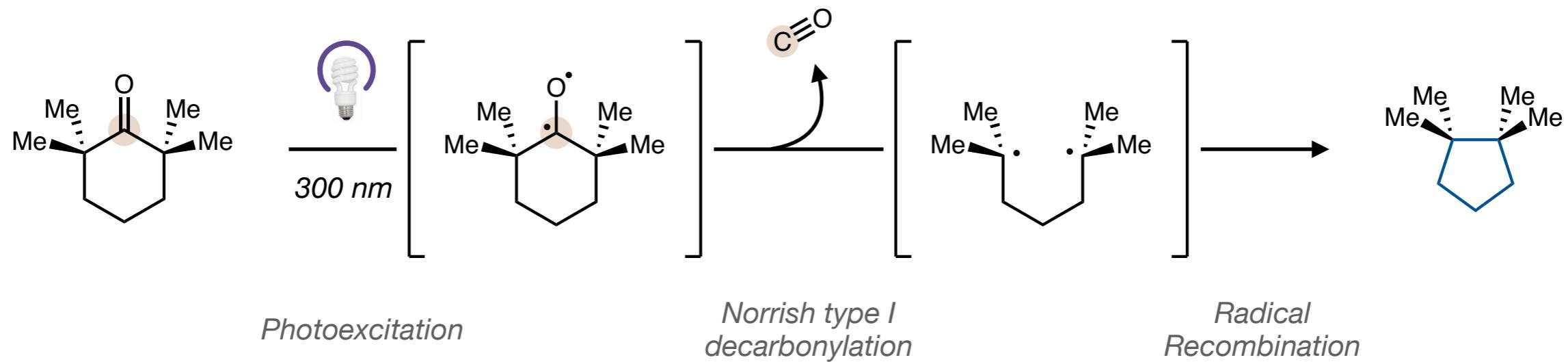


## Incorporation into pharmaceuticals

1964 – First synthesis of cubane – Eaton & Cole

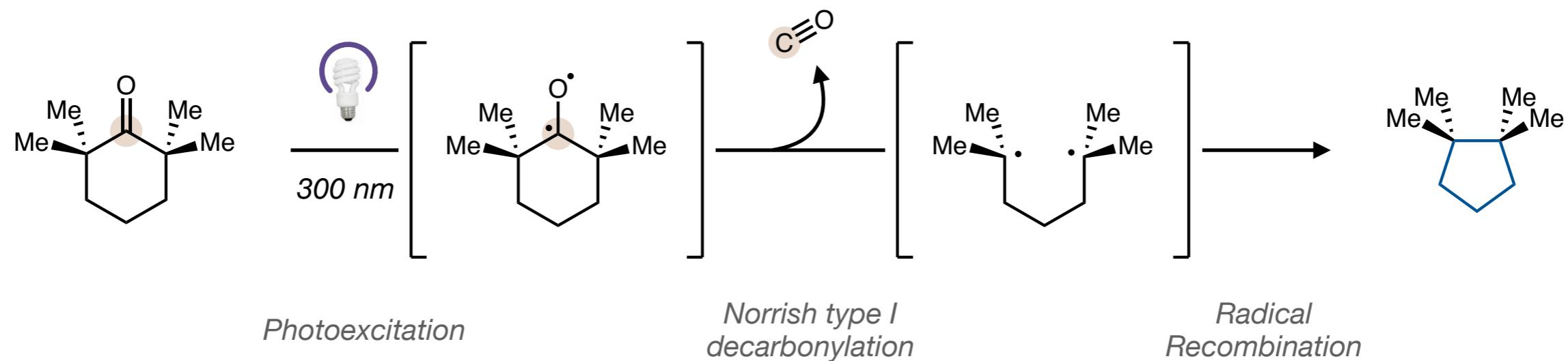


## Photodecarbonylation: Formal CO Deletion

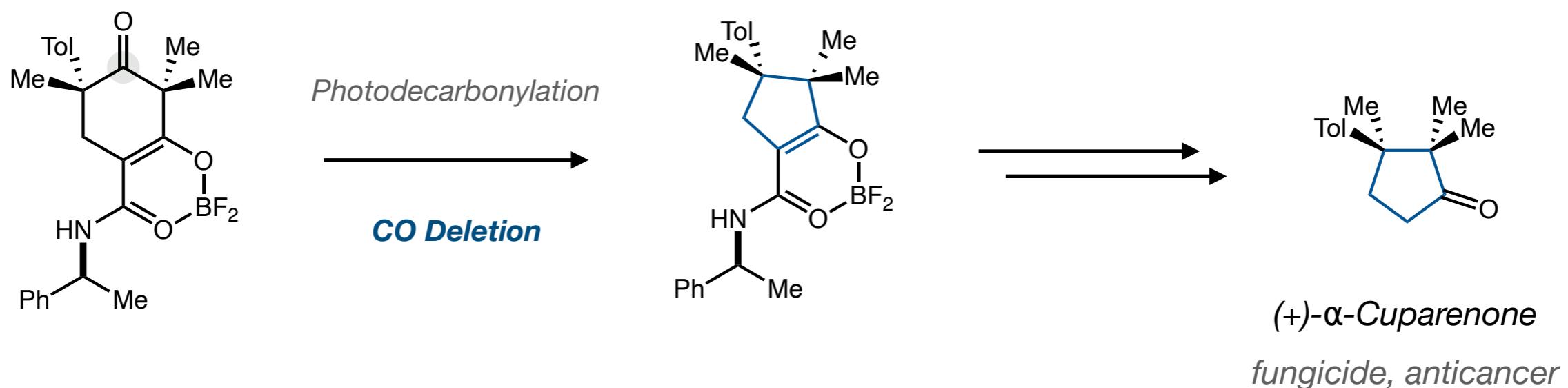


- Simple and ‘green’ approach (few steps, and higher yields)
- Easy to scale-up
- Can stereoselectively forge contiguous all-carbon quaternary centers

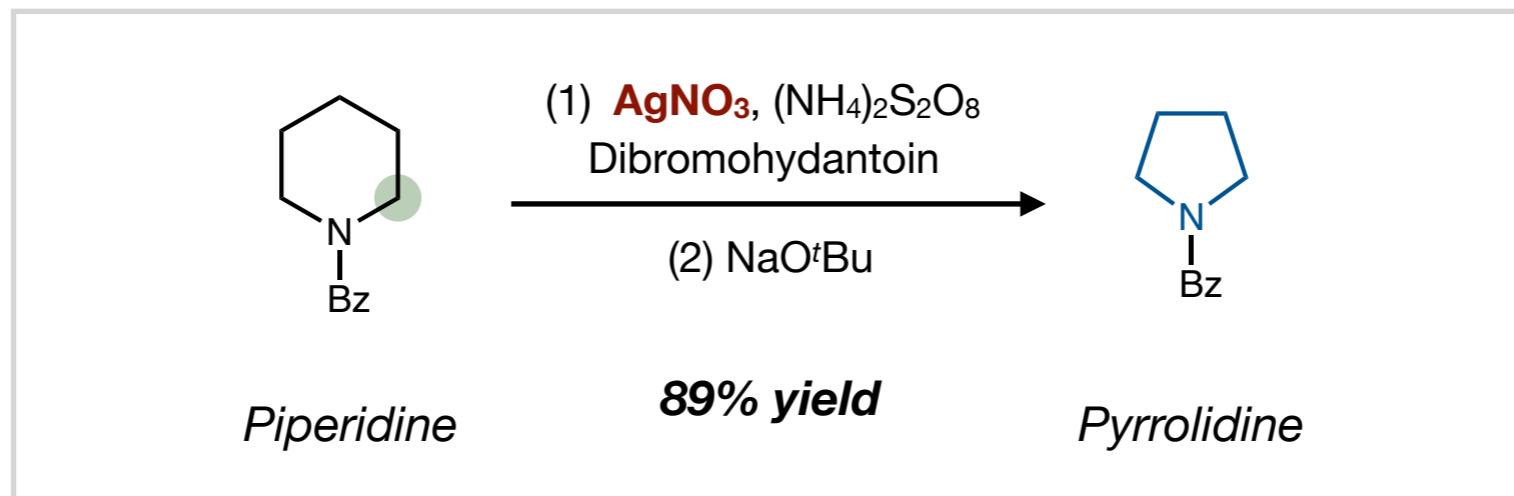
## Photodecarbonylation: Formal CO Deletion



### Garcia-Garibay – Synthesis of (+)- $\alpha$ -Cuparenone

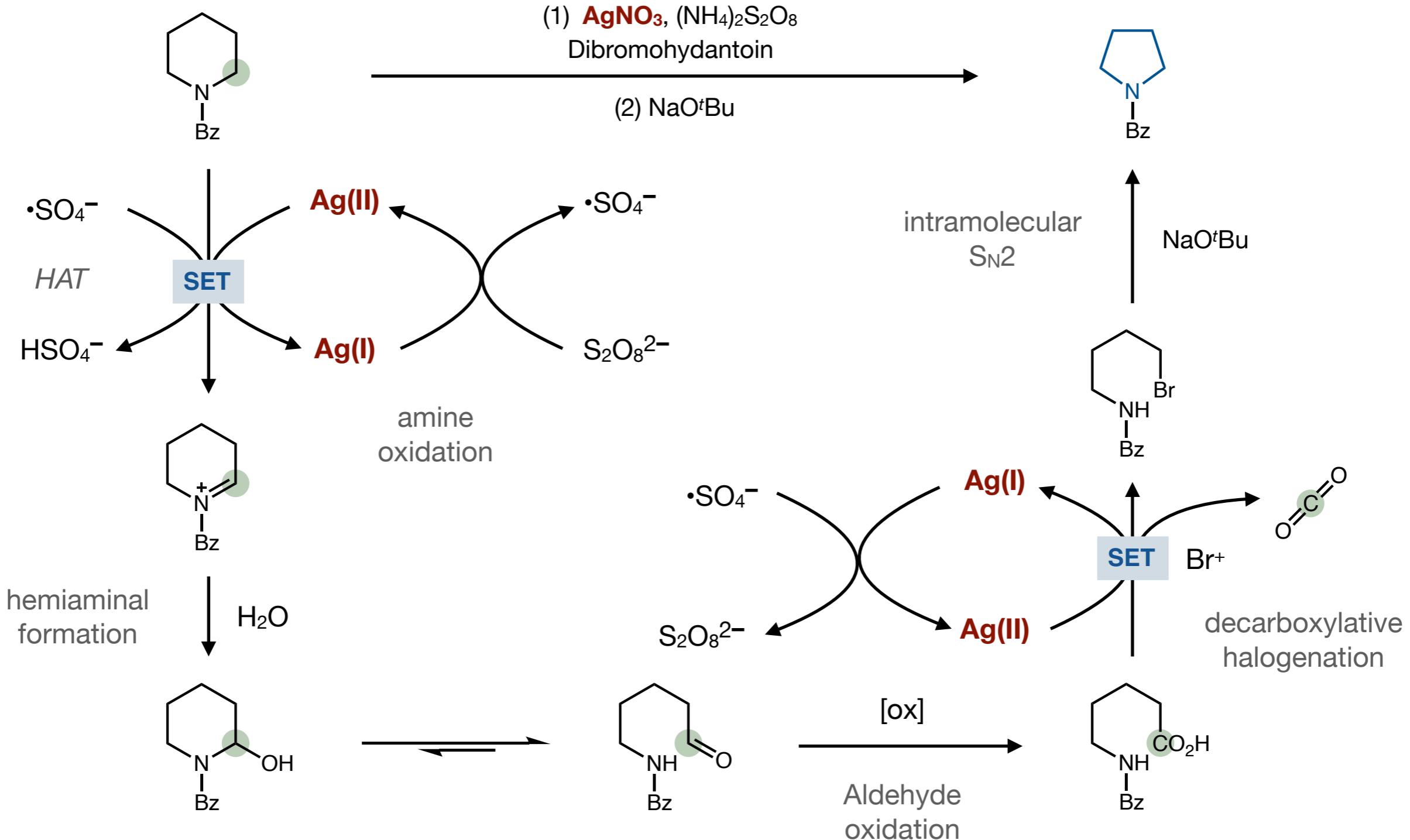


## *Deconstructive Diversification of Cyclic Amines*

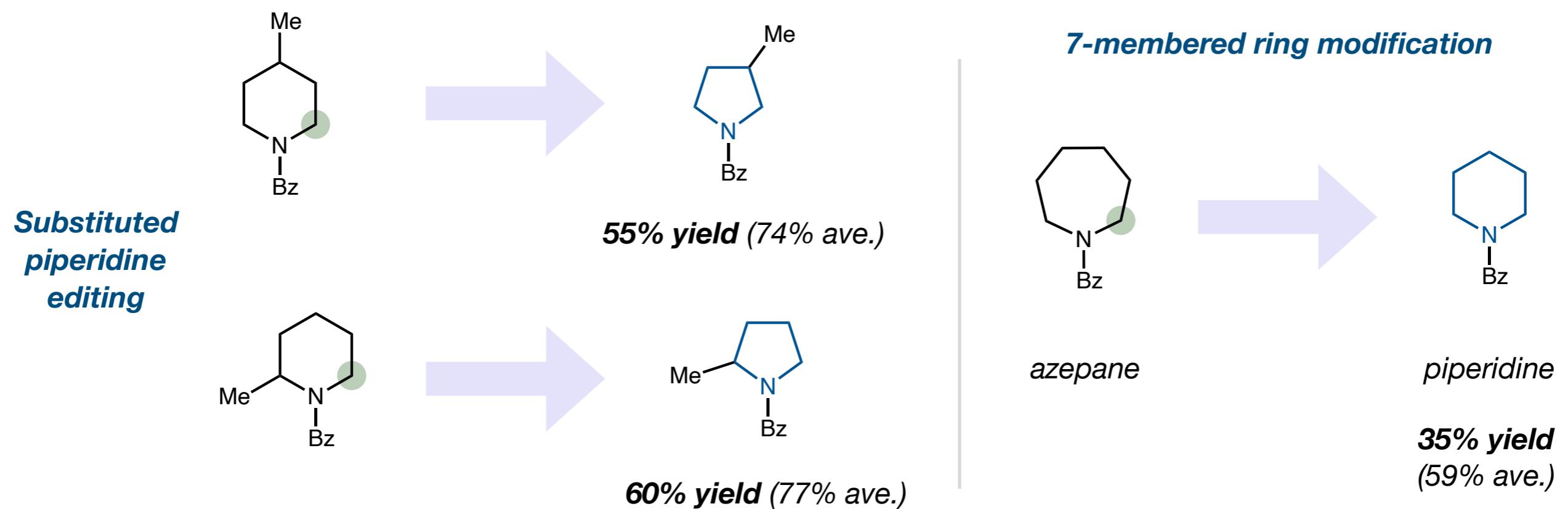
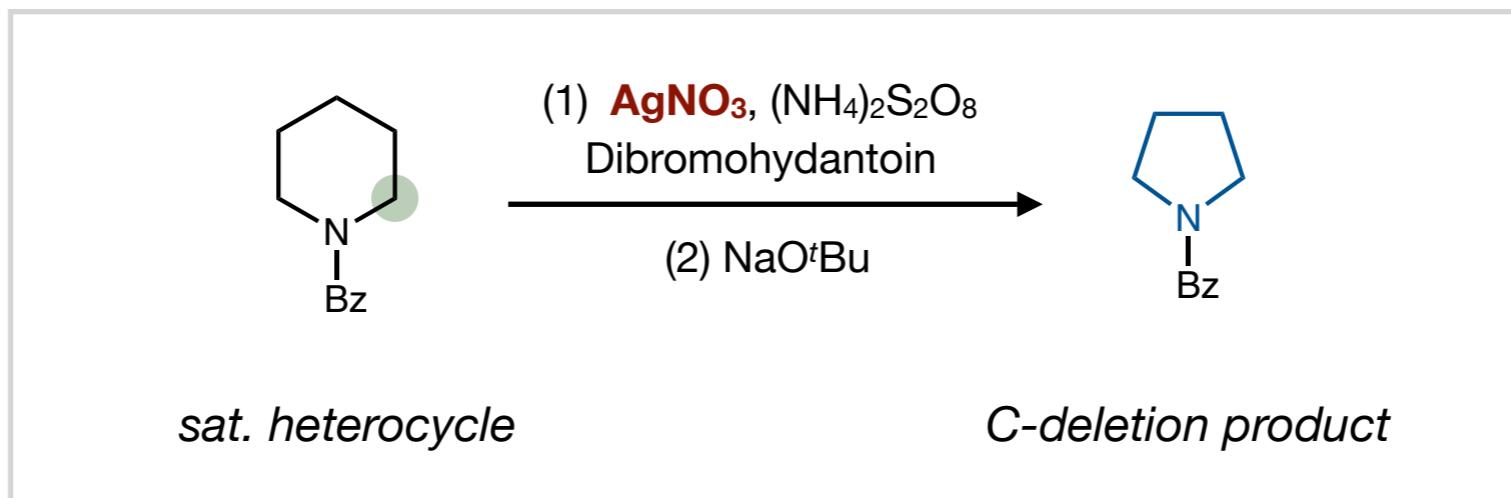


***Jose Roque***  
***UC Berkeley***

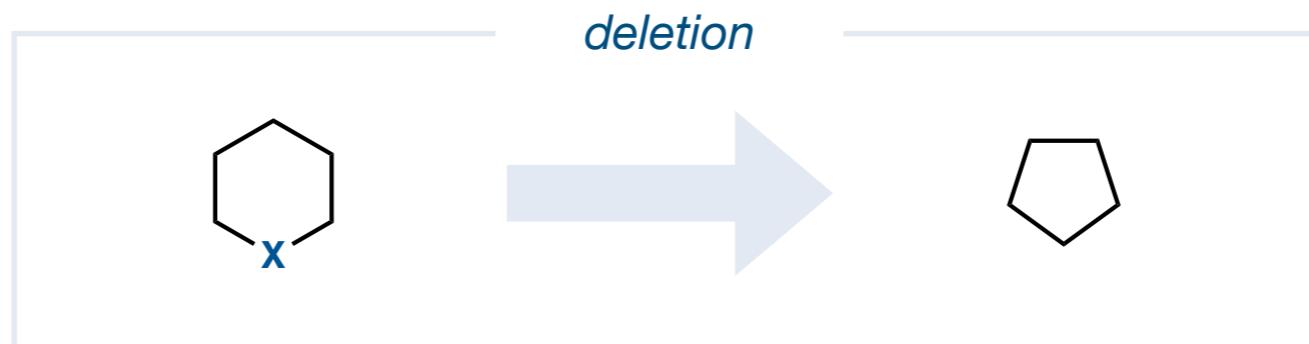
# Deconstructive Diversification of Cyclic Amines – Mechanism



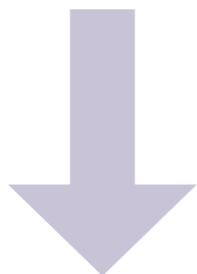
## Deconstructive Diversification of Cyclic Amines – Scope



## *Non-Carbonyl Deletions: Nitrogen Deletion of Secondary Amines*



*What about deletion of a heteroatom?*



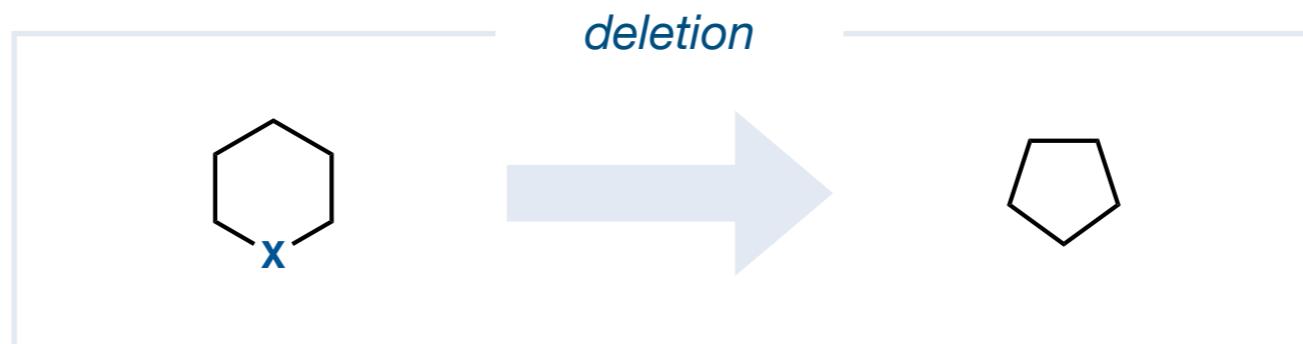
**Extrusion of dinitrogen**

$$\Delta G \ll 0$$

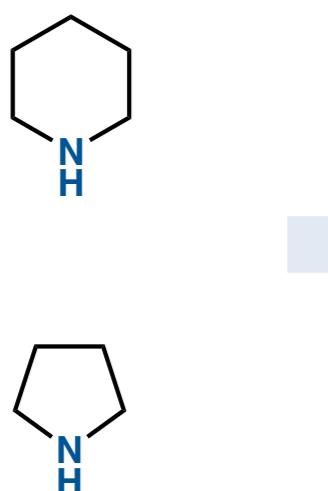


**Mark Levin**  
Univ. of Chicago

## Non-Carbonyl Deletions: Nitrogen Deletion of Secondary Amines

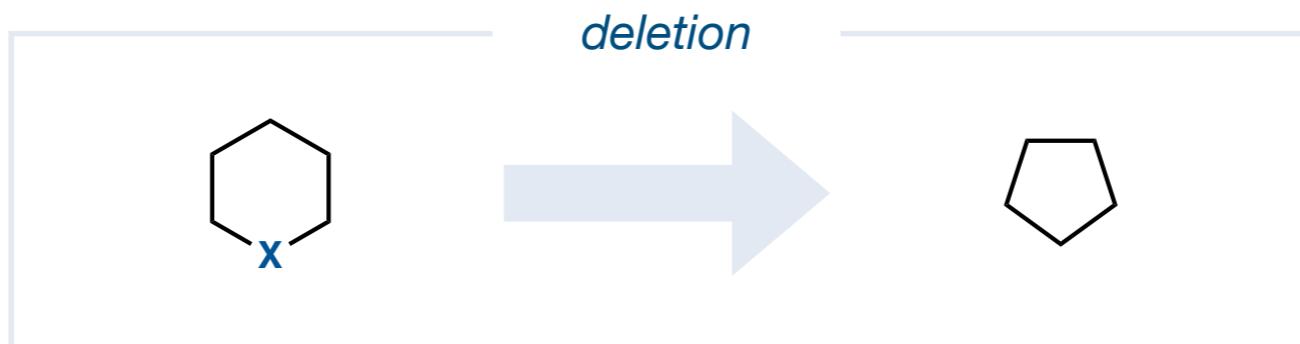


*What about deletion of a heteroatom?*

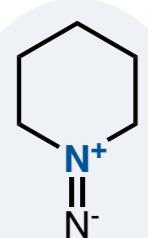


**Mark Levin**  
Univ. of Chicago

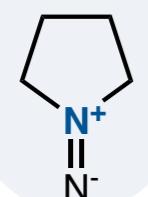
## Non-Carbonyl Deletions: Nitrogen Deletion of Secondary Amines



*What about deletion of a heteroatom?*

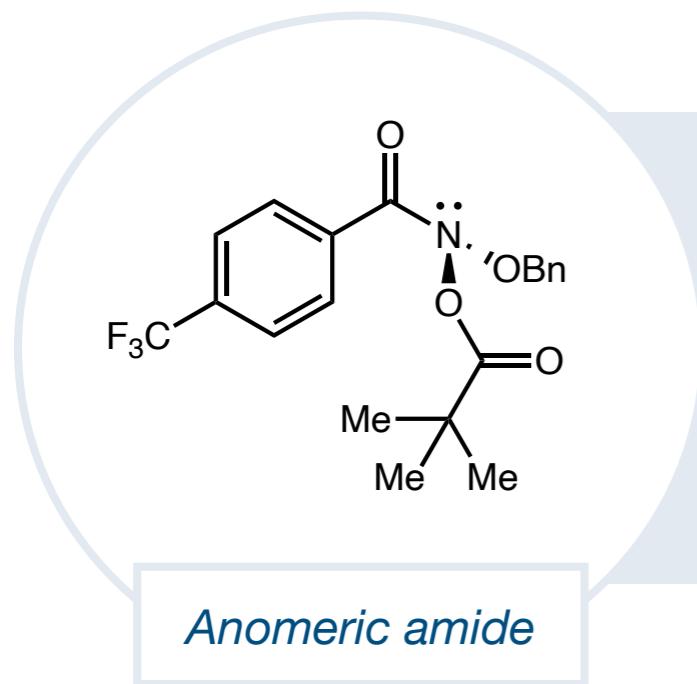


*Isodiazene*



**Mark Levin**  
Univ. of Chicago

## Non-Carbonyl Deletions: Nitrogen Deletion of Secondary Amines

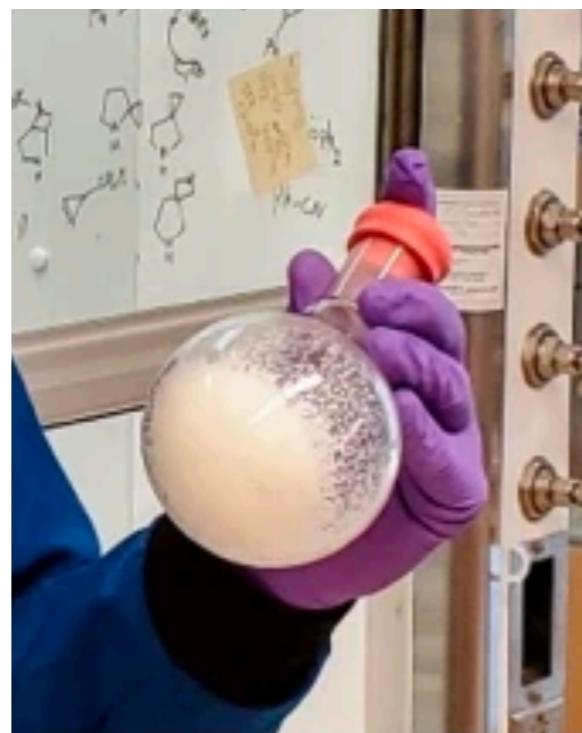


- 
- 
- 

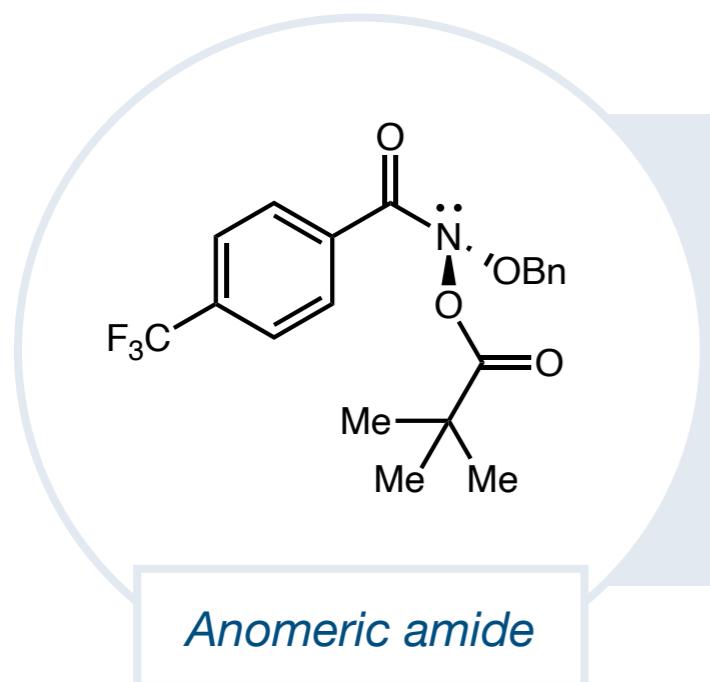
Straightforward to prepare on a multigrain scale

78% yield over 3 steps

No chromatographic methods necessary to purify



# Non-Carbonyl Deletions: Nitrogen Deletion of Secondary Amines

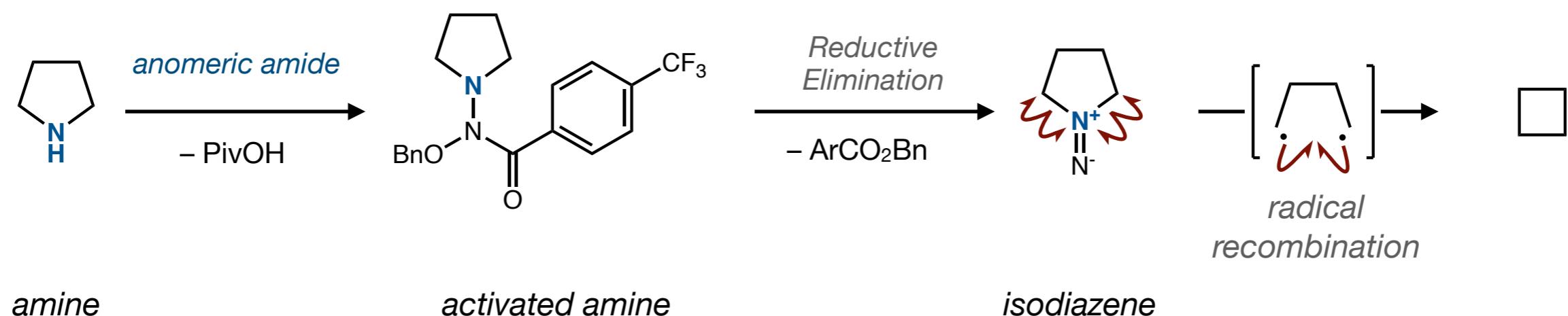


Straightforward to prepare on a multigrain scale

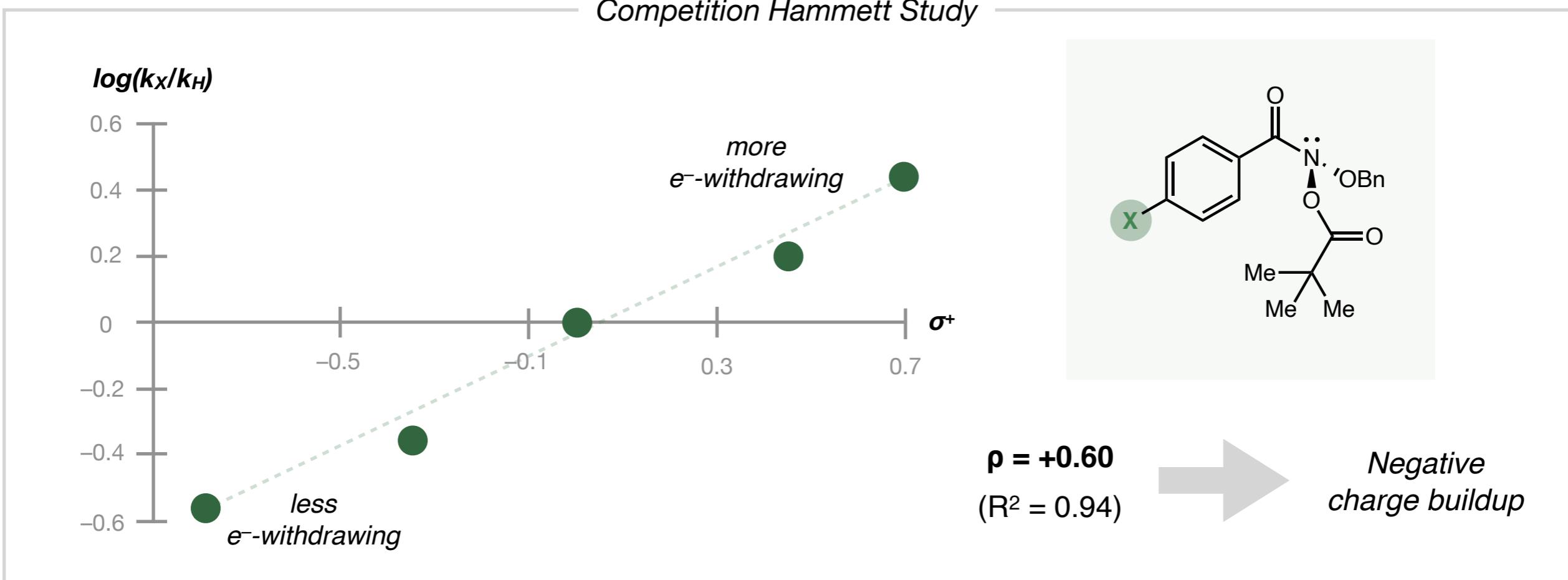
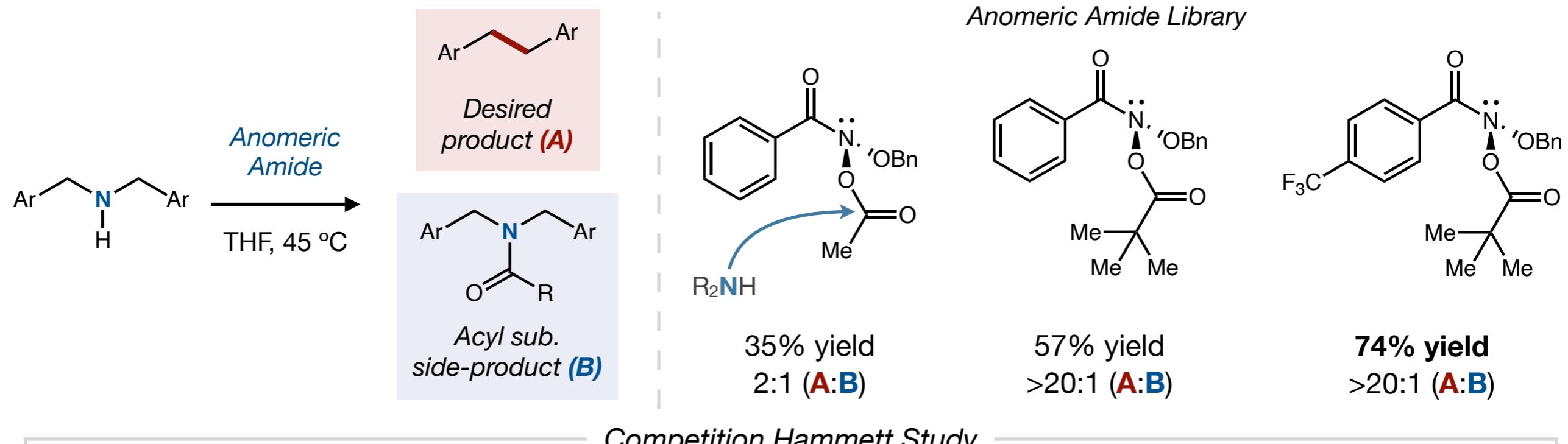
78% yield over 3 steps

No chromatographic methods necessary to purify

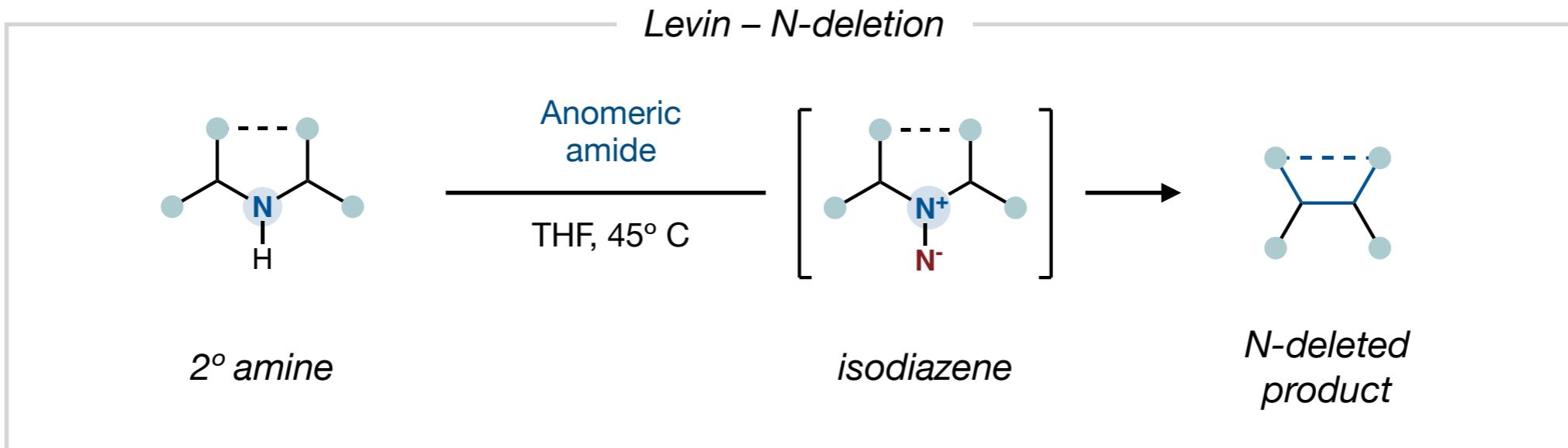
## Activation of secondary amines



# Nitrogen Deletion of Secondary Amines – Anomeric Amide Optimization

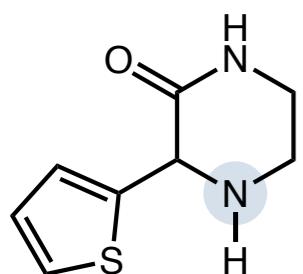


## Nitrogen Deletion of Secondary Amines – Scope

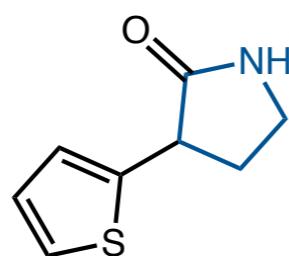


*zinger scope*

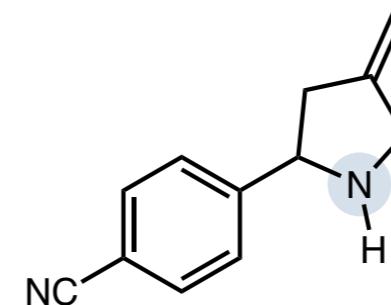
*Skeletal editing of  
bioactive compounds*



**tenilsetam**  
AGE inhibitor

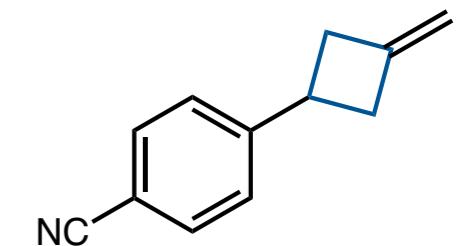


**53% yield**



**from [3+2] cycloaddition**

*Nitrogen linchpin  
cyclobutane synthesis*

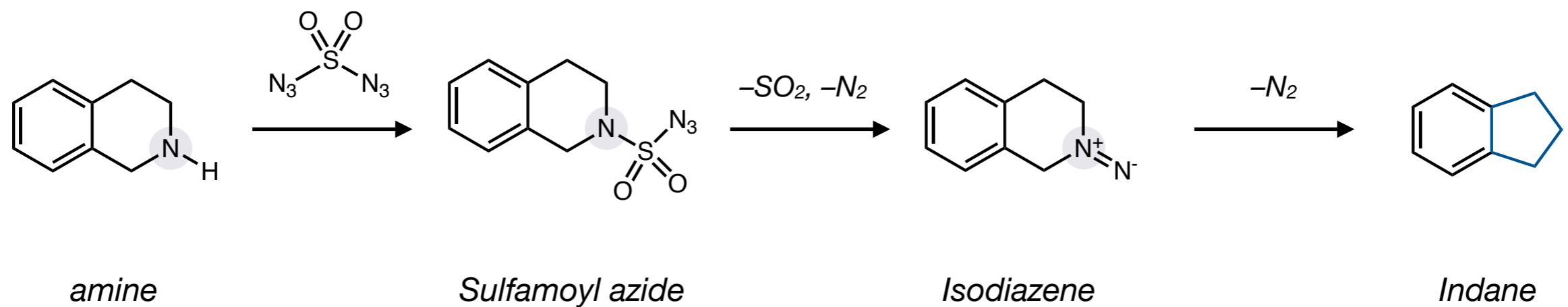


**71% yield**

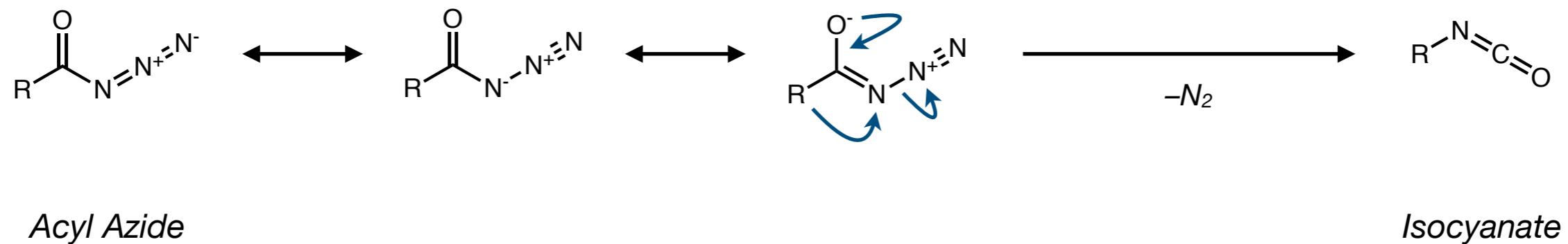
*Toward synthesis of  $\text{H}_3$   
receptor modulator*

## *Alternative Nitrogen-Atom Deletion*

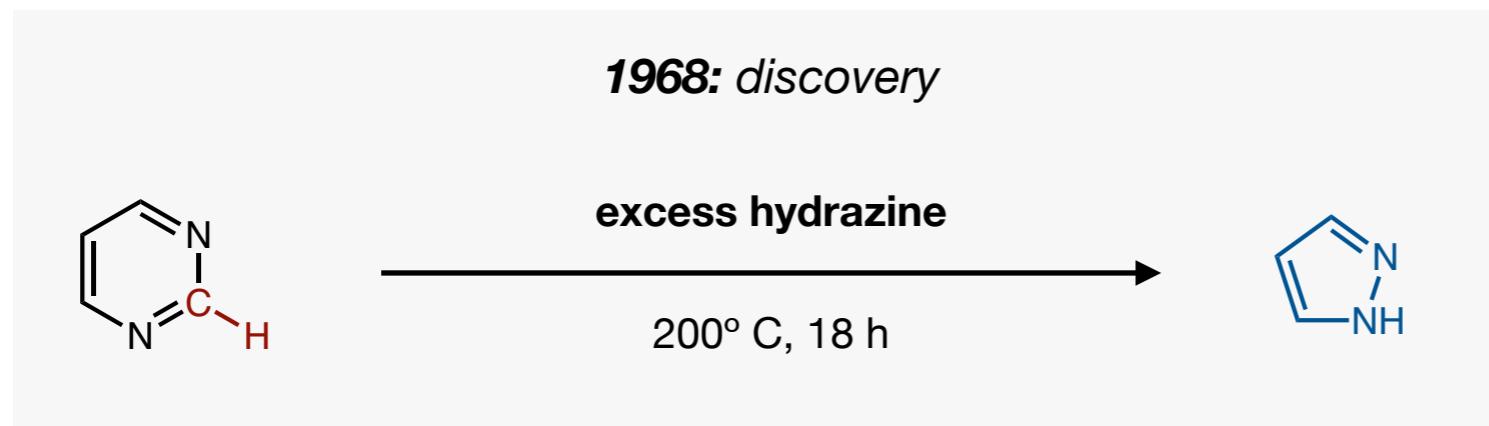
*Lu Group – Nanjing Univ. – 2021*



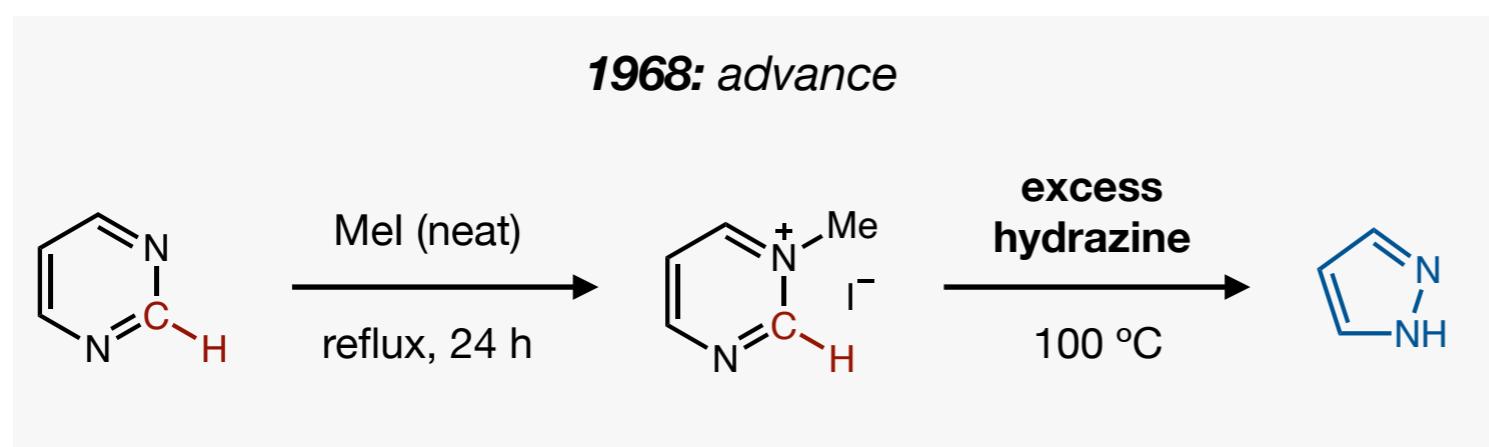
## Curtius-type rearrangement



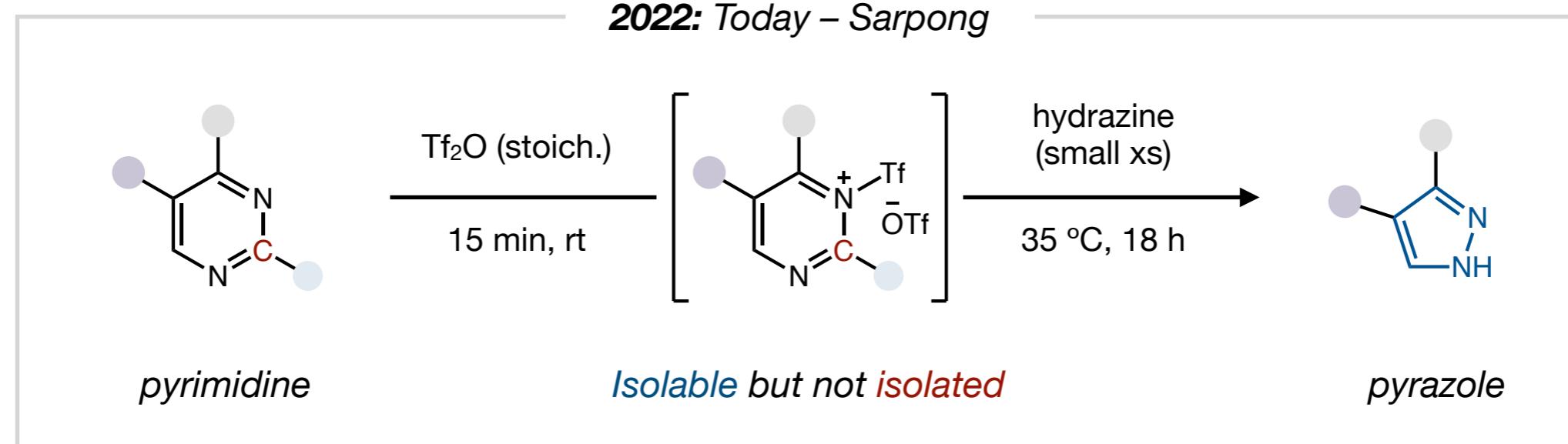
# Non-Carbonyl Deletions: Carbon Deletion of Pyrimidines



*Harsh conditions*  
*Low yields*  
*Extremely limited substrate scope*

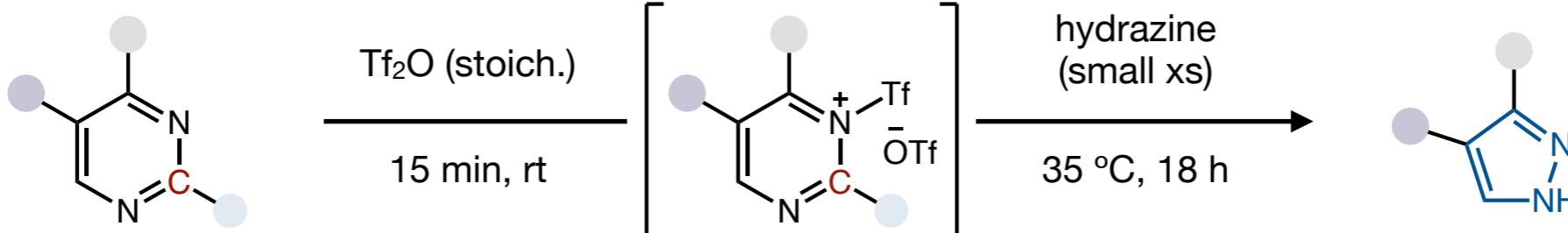


*Two-step protocol*  
*Moderate yields*  
*Limited substrate scope*



## *Non-Carbonyl Deletions: Carbon Deletion of Pyrimidines*

## **2022: Today – Sarpong**



## *pyrimidine*

## *Isolable but not isolated*

## *pyrazole*

*up to 90%  
yield*

*over 40  
examples*

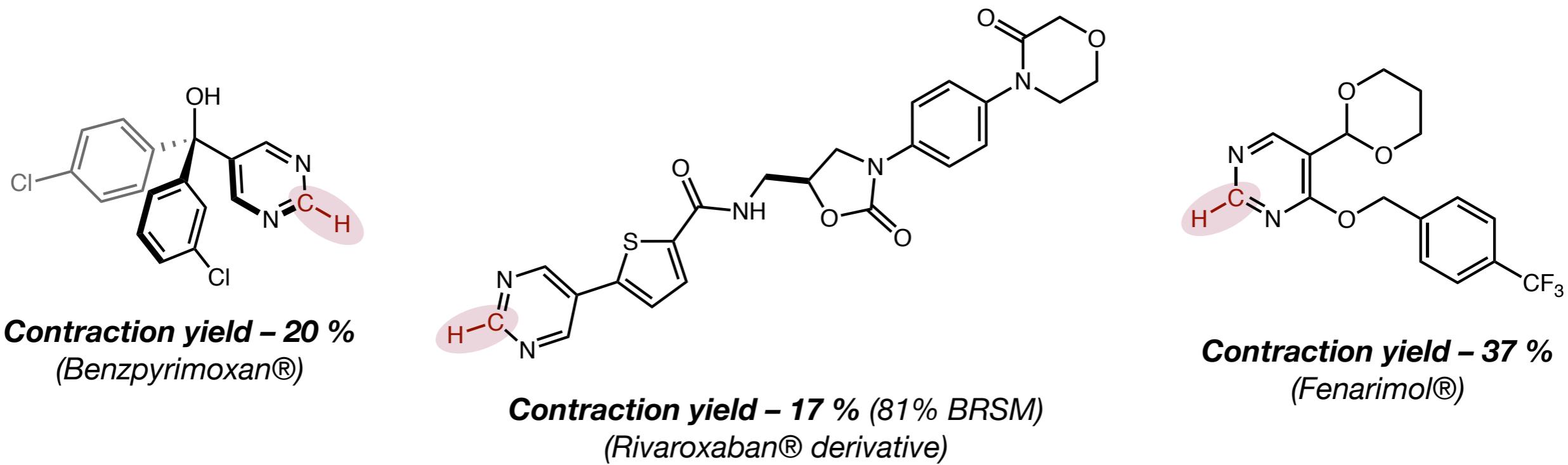
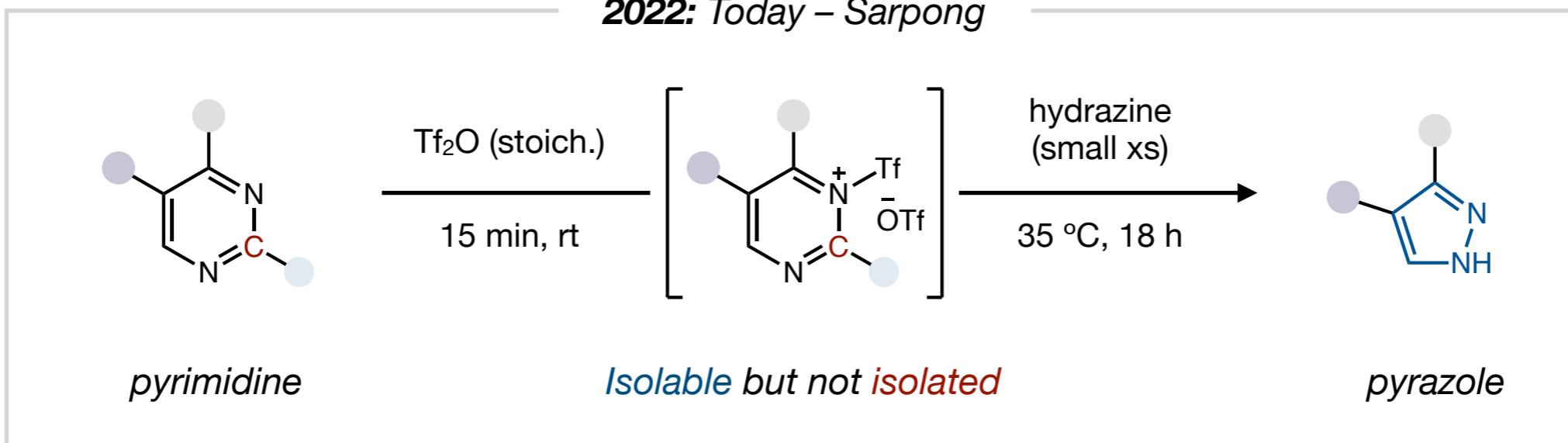
*mild  
conditions*

## *one-pot protocol*

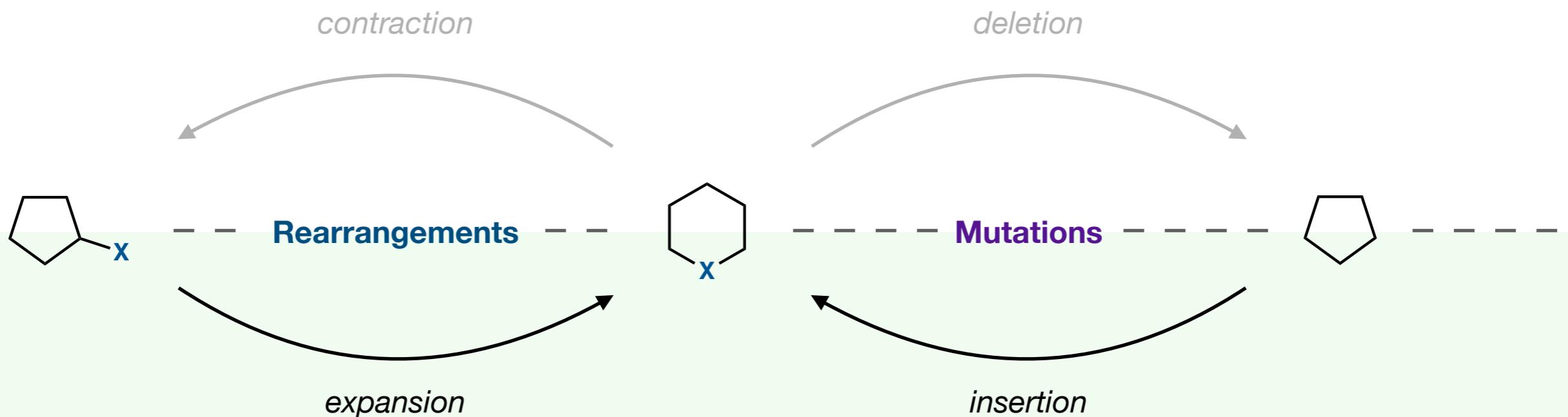
*complex  
substrates*

## *Non-Carbonyl Deletions: Carbon Deletion of Pyrimidines*

## **2022:** Today – Sarpong



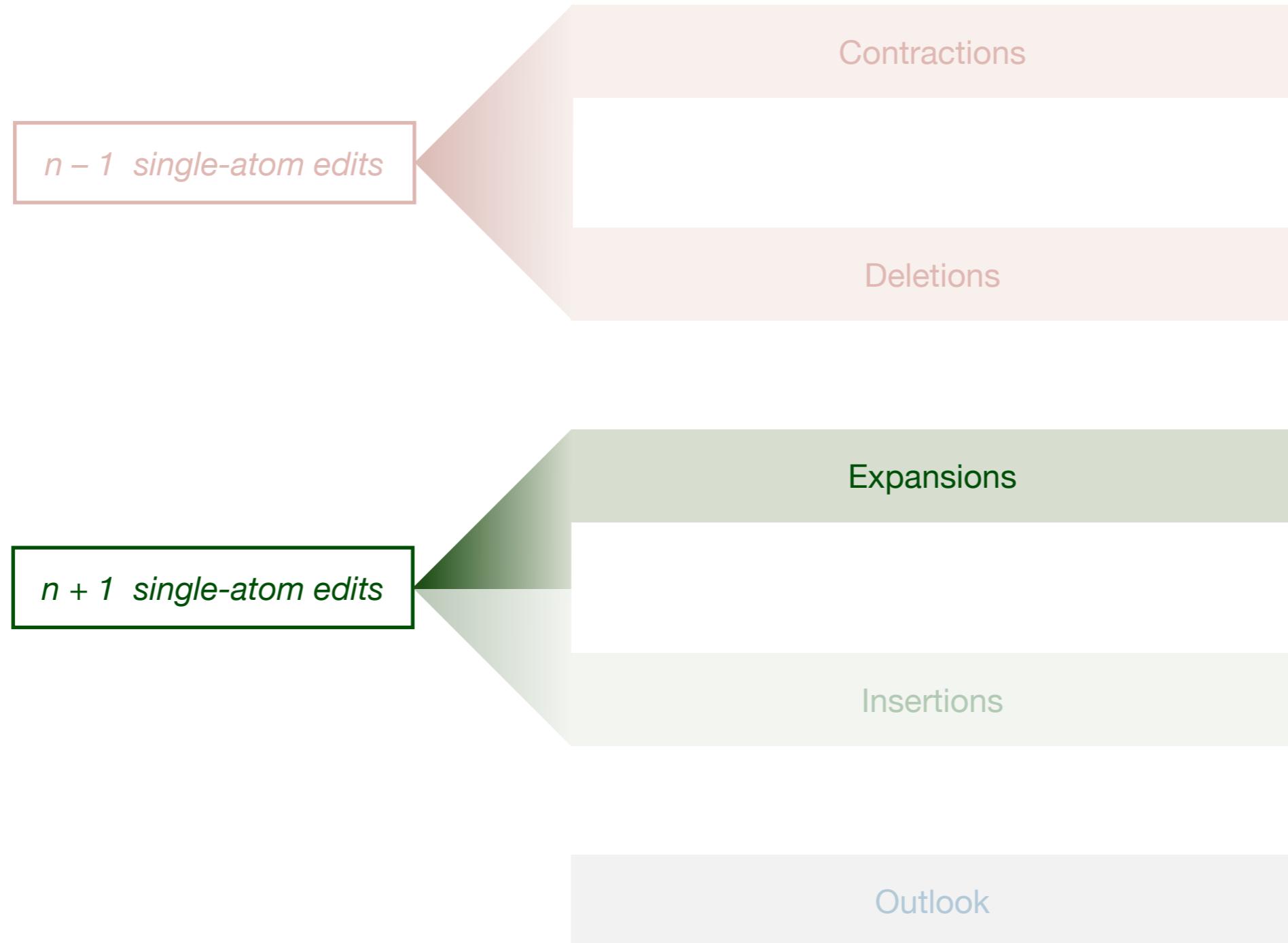
## $n + 1$ Single-Atom Editing



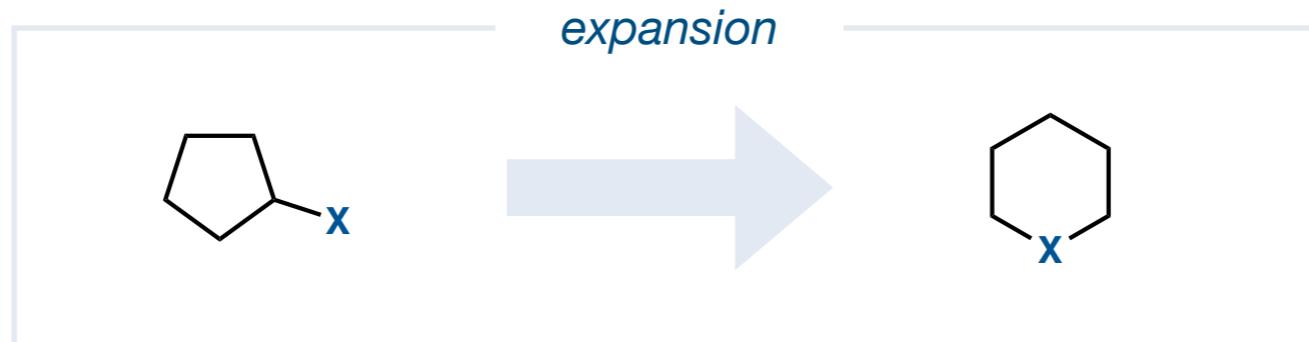
The ring size is increased by one atom

**$n + 1$  single-atom edit**

# Overview



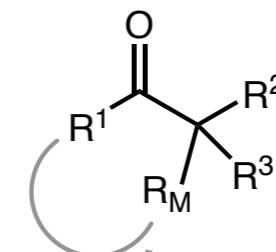
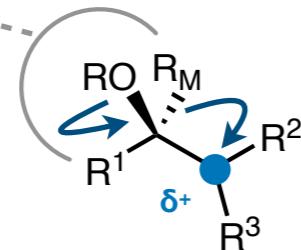
## *Expansions*



*n + 1 single-atom edit where the exocyclic substituent is retained within the ring system*

### semi-pinacol rearrangement

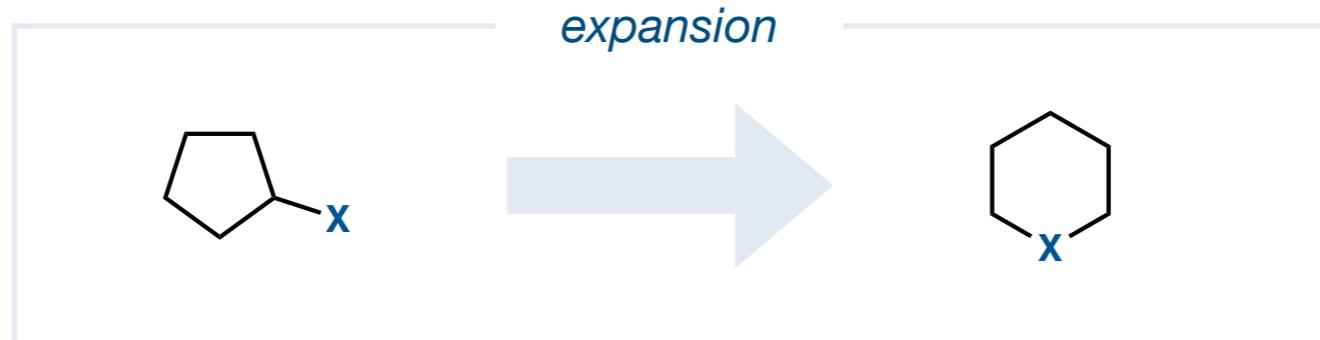
*ring system*



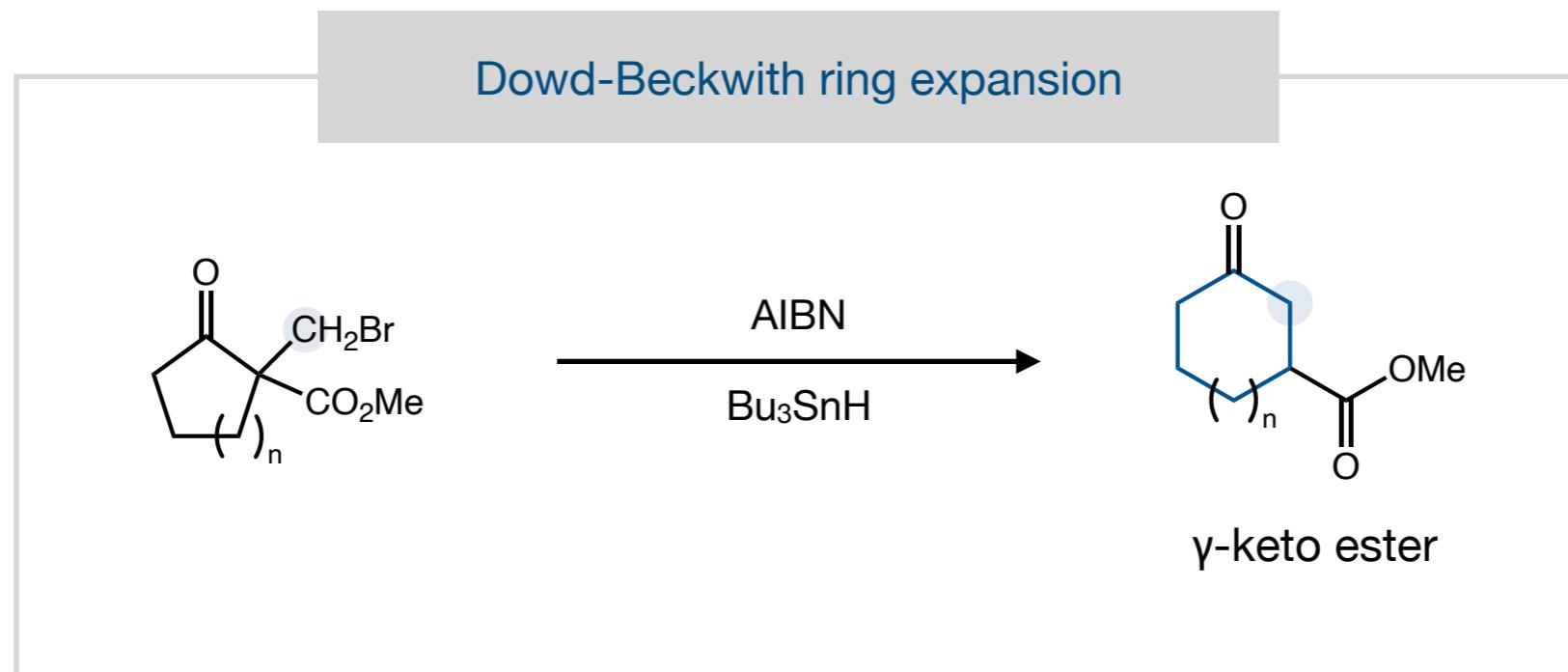
*n+1 ring system*

*Common reaction pathways involve semi-pinacol-like expansions, wherein cyclic tertiary carbinols bearing exocyclic leaving groups undergo the incorporation of the exocyclic methylene and formation of a carbonyl group*

## *Expansions*

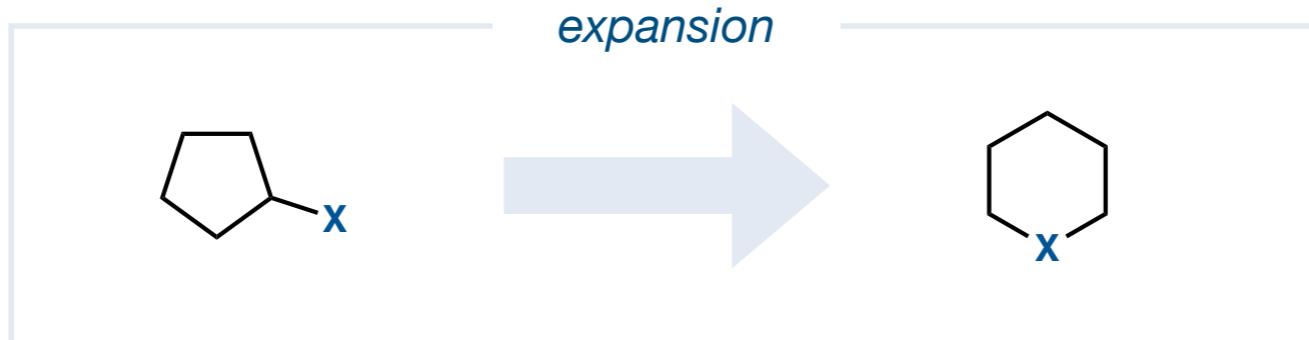


*n + 1 single-atom edit where the exocyclic substituent is retained within the ring system*



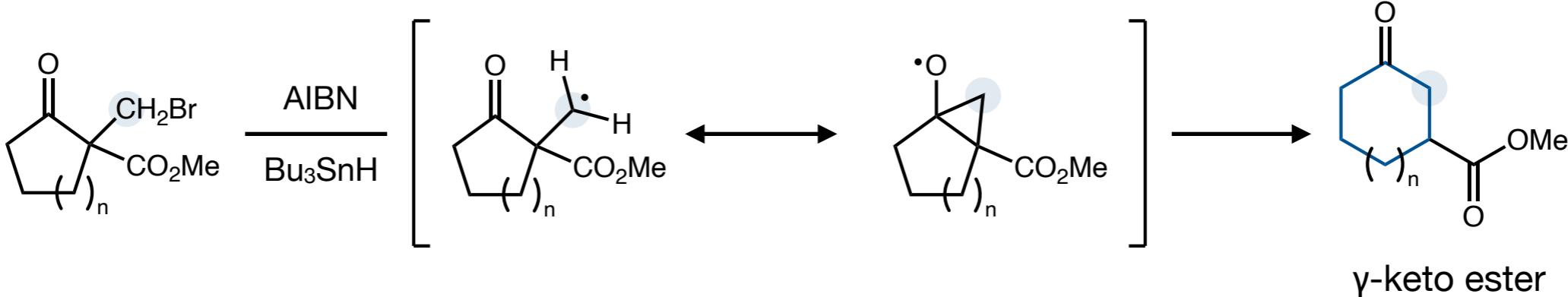
Discovered in 1987

## *Expansions*



*n + 1 single-atom edit where the exocyclic substituent is retained within the ring system*

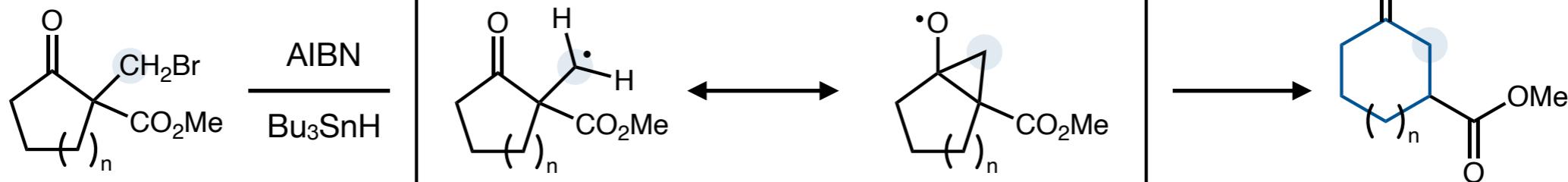
### Dowd-Beckwith ring expansion



Discovered in 1987

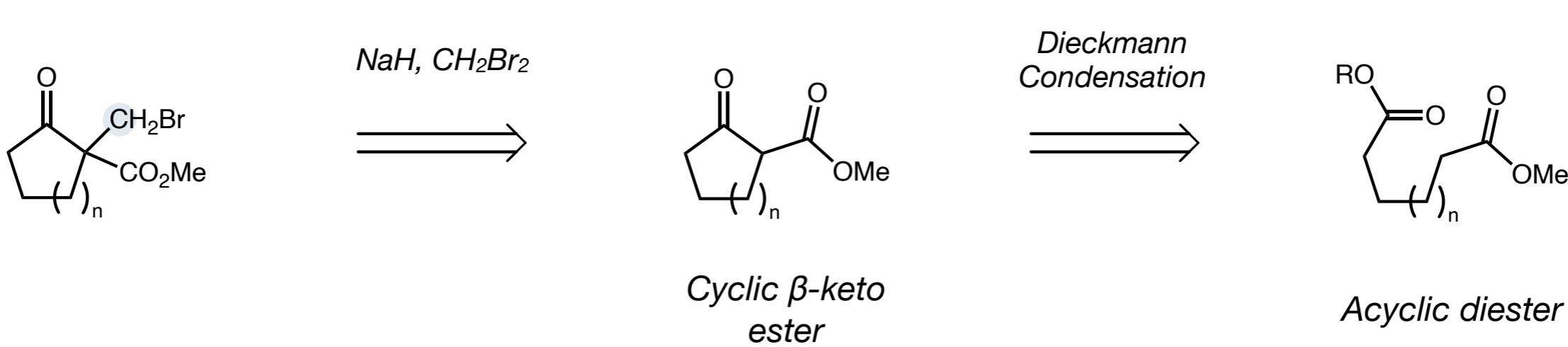
## Dowd-Beckwith Ring Expansion

### Dowd-Beckwith ring expansion



$\gamma$ -keto ester

### Synthesis of Starting materials

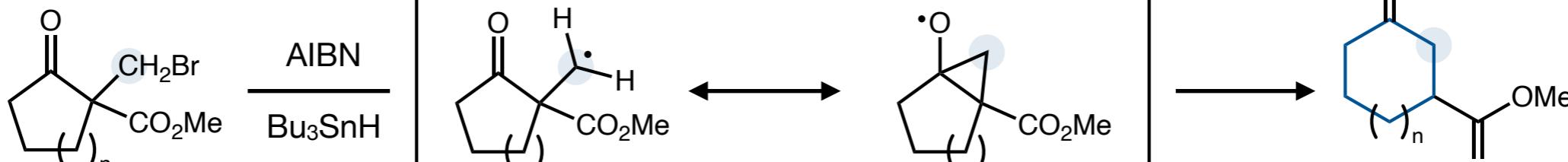


Cyclic  $\beta$ -keto ester

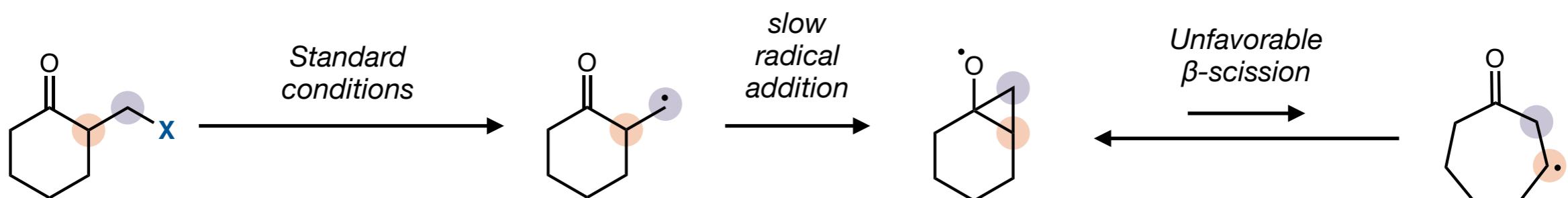
Acyclic diester

## Dowd-Beckwith Ring Expansion – Importance of Ester Group

### Dowd-Beckwith ring expansion



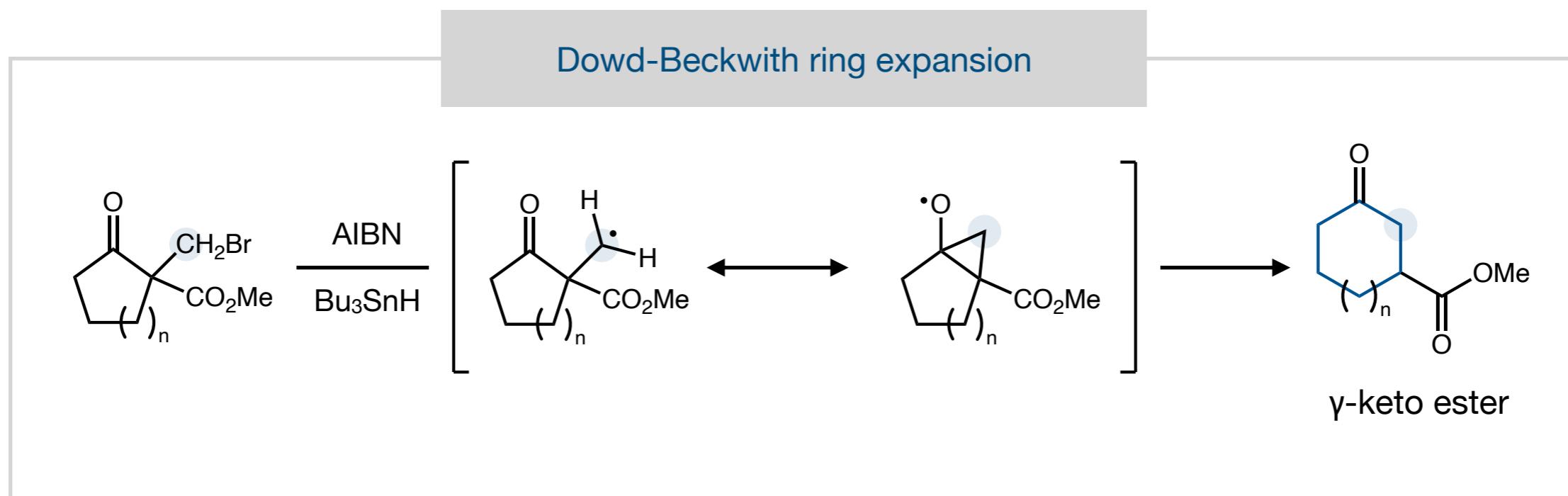
$\gamma$ -keto ester



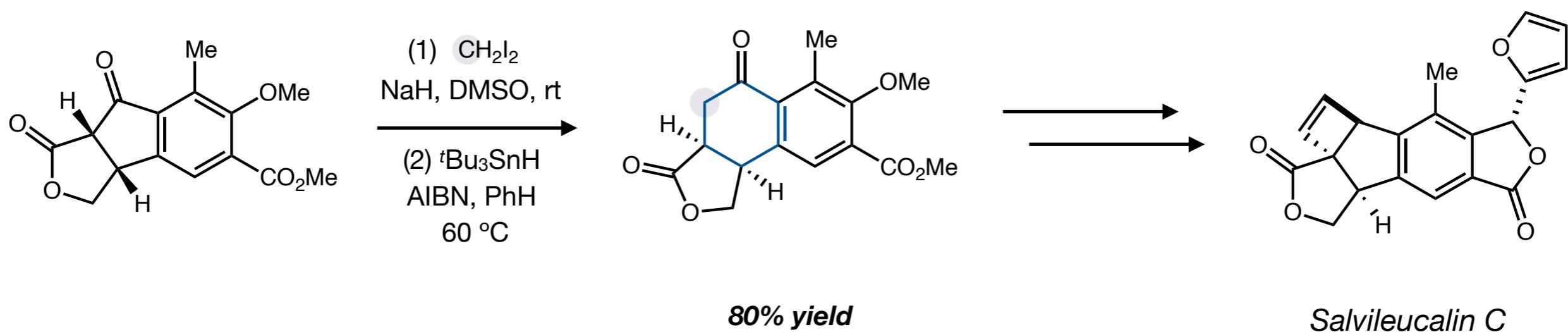
■ Activation of ketone towards attack by the nucleophilic carbon radical

■ Provides a driving force for the ring expansion

## Dowd-Beckwith Ring Expansion – Total Synthesis

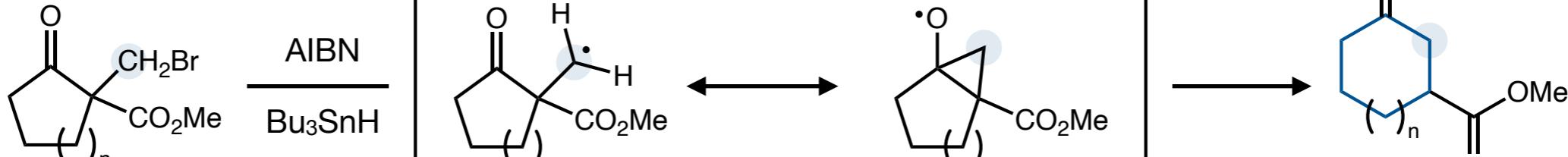


### Natural product synthesis application

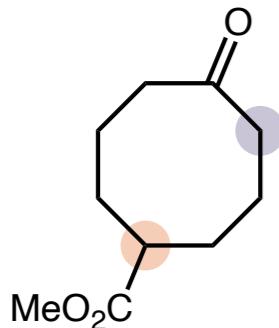
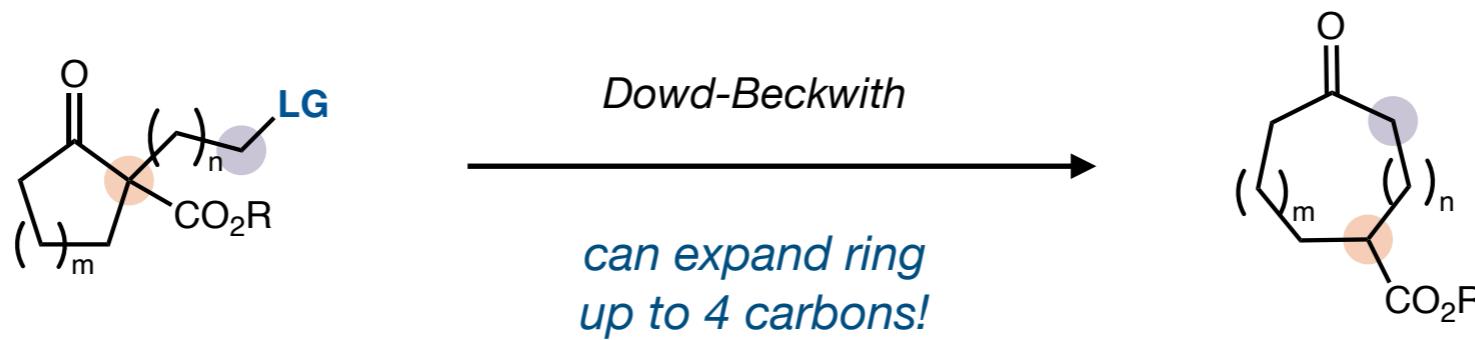


## Dowd-Beckwith Ring Expansion

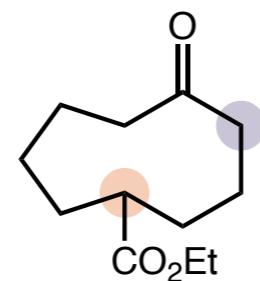
### Dowd-Beckwith ring expansion



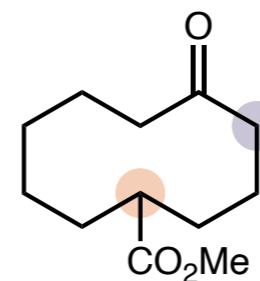
$\gamma$ -keto ester



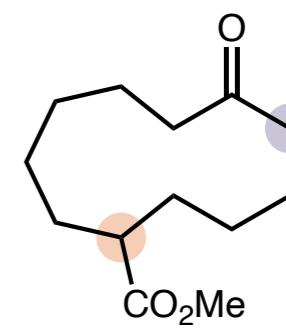
69% yield



75% yield



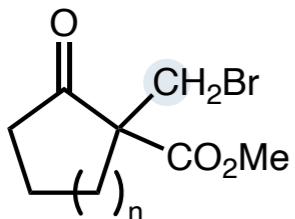
34% yield



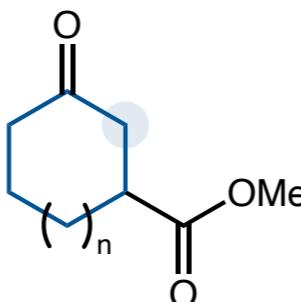
45% yield

## Dong – Ring Expansion of Cyclobutanones

Dowd-Beckwith ring expansion

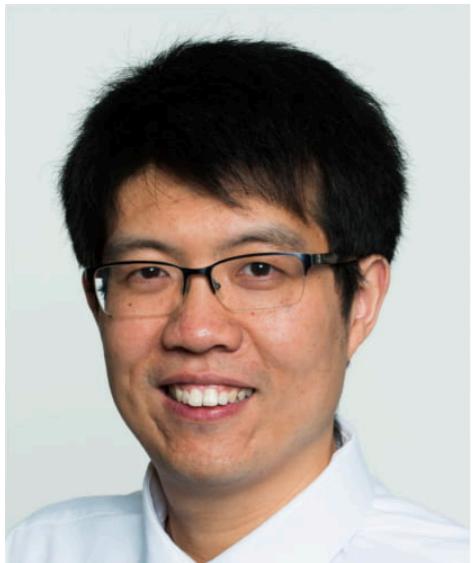


AIBN  
Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH



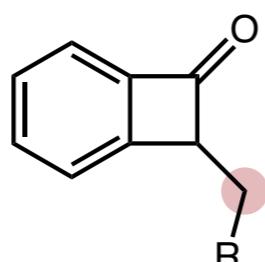
γ-keto ester

Requires a  
halogen/leaving-  
group for initiation



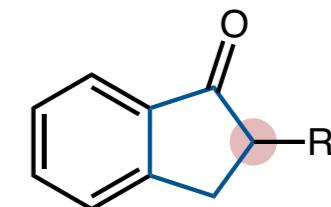
**Guangbin Dong**  
Univ. of Chicago

Dong ring expansion



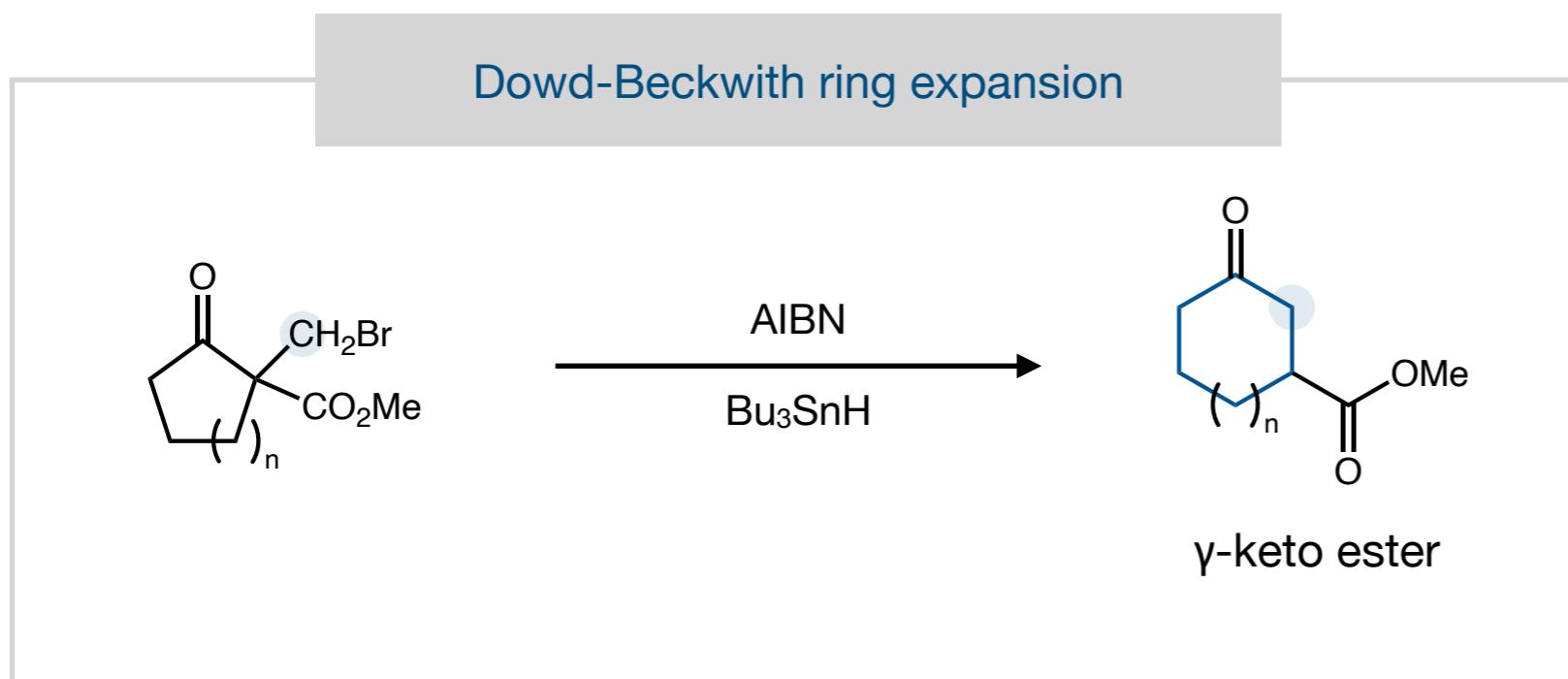
Cyclobutanones

[Rh(COD)Cl]<sub>2</sub>  
dppp

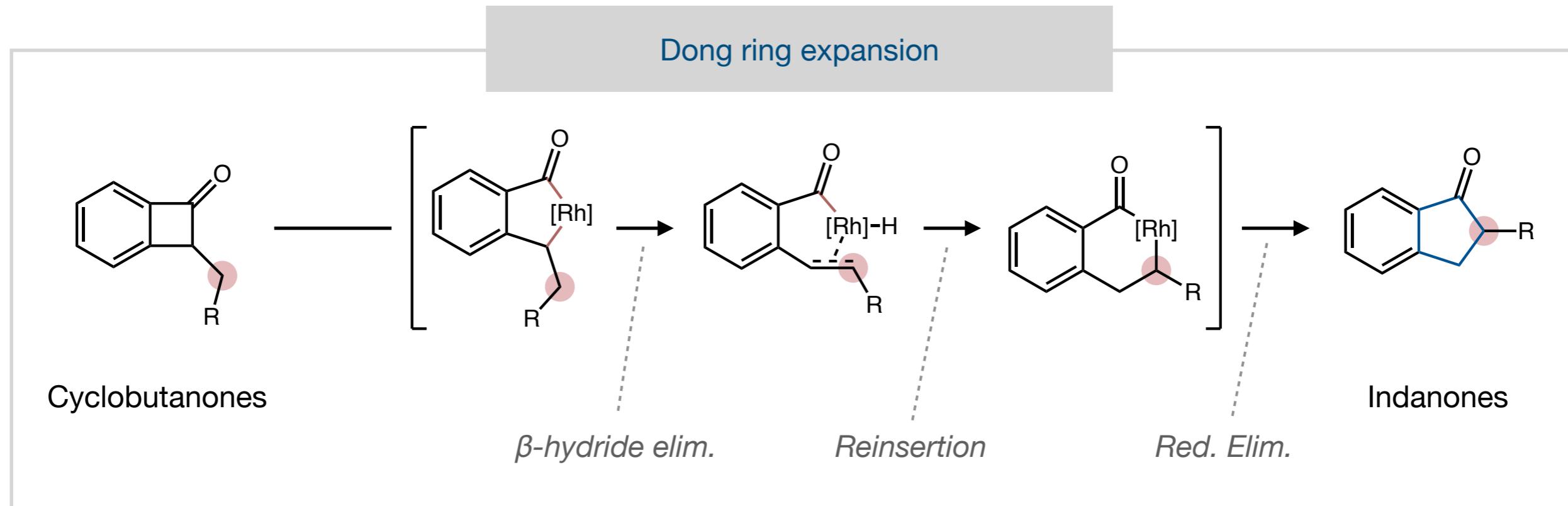


Indanones

## Dong – Ring Expansion of Cyclobutanones

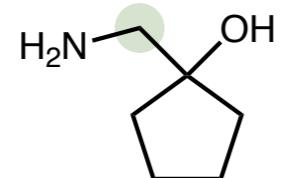


Requires a  
halogen/leaving-  
group for initiation

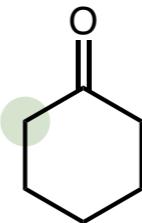


## Tiffeneau-Demjanov Rearrangement

### Tiffeneau-Demjanov Rearrangement



HNO<sub>2</sub>

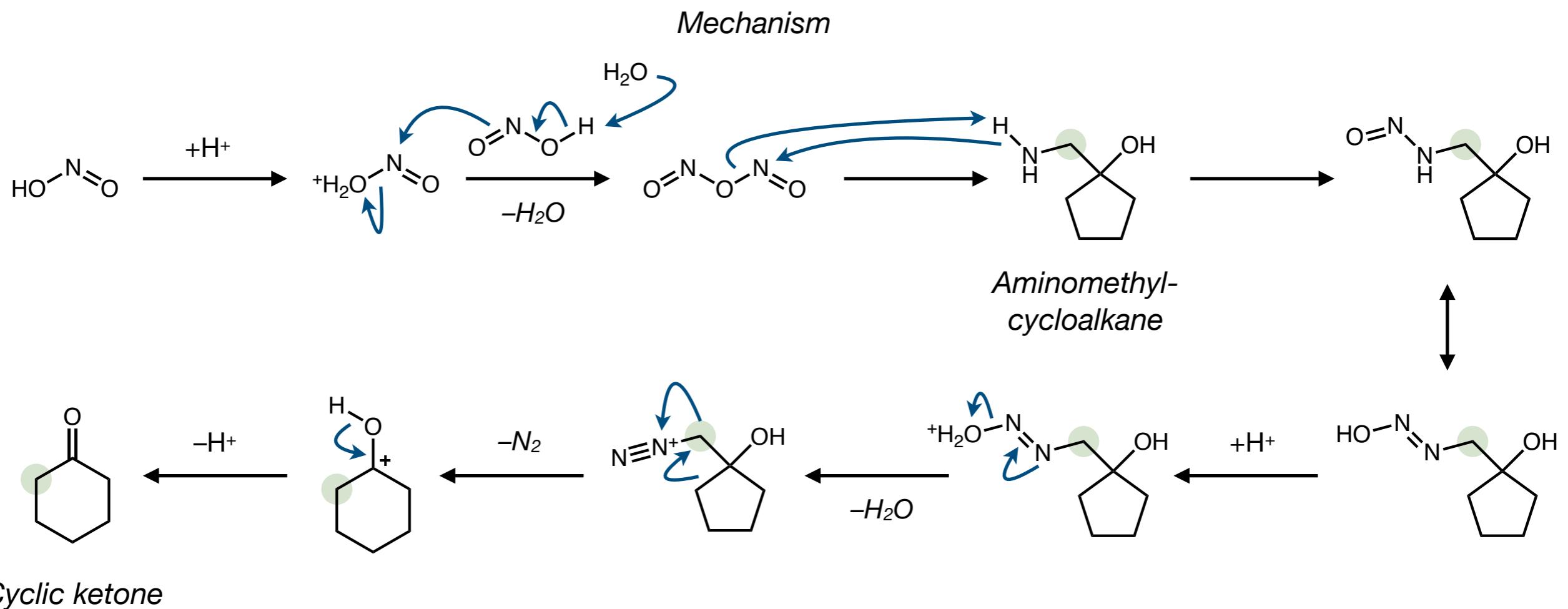
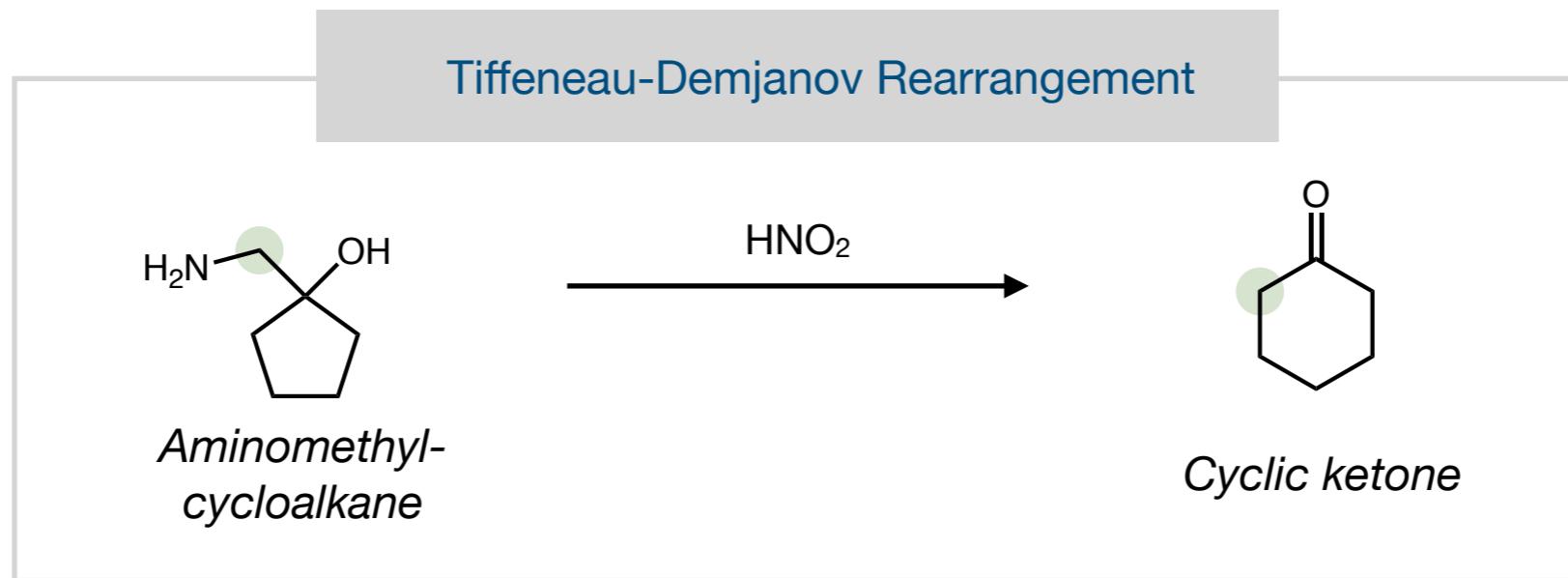


Aminomethylcycloalkane

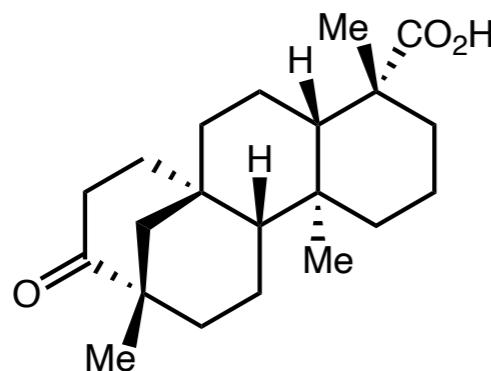
Cyclic ketone

Carbocation rearrangement of  $\beta$ -aminoalcohols via diazotization to afford carbonyl compounds through C–C bond migration

## Tiffeneau-Demjanov Rearrangement



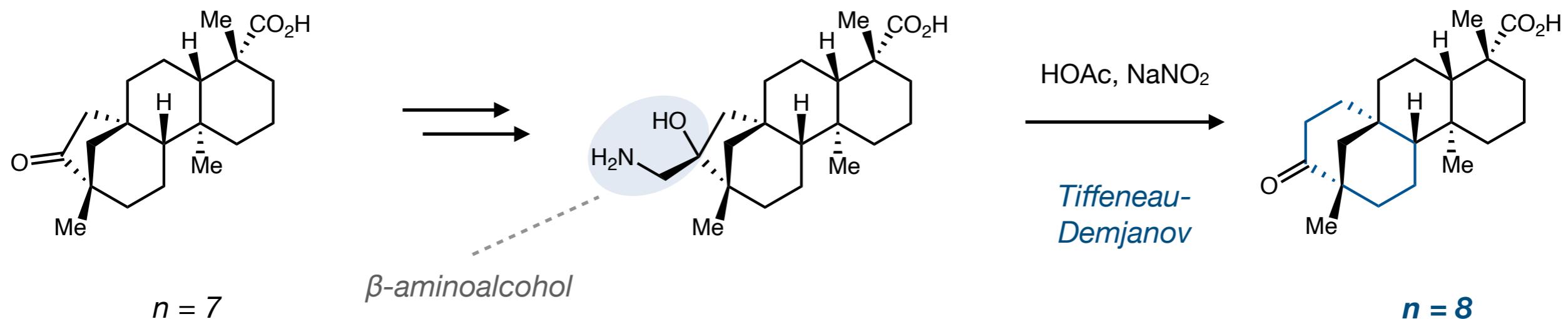
# Tiffeneau-Demjanov Rearrangement – Total Synthesis



(-)-isosteviol

**Exhibits a wide range of biological activities**

Cardioprotective, cytotoxic,  
antibacterial, sweetener, etc...

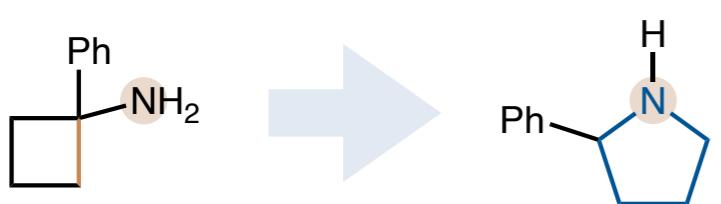
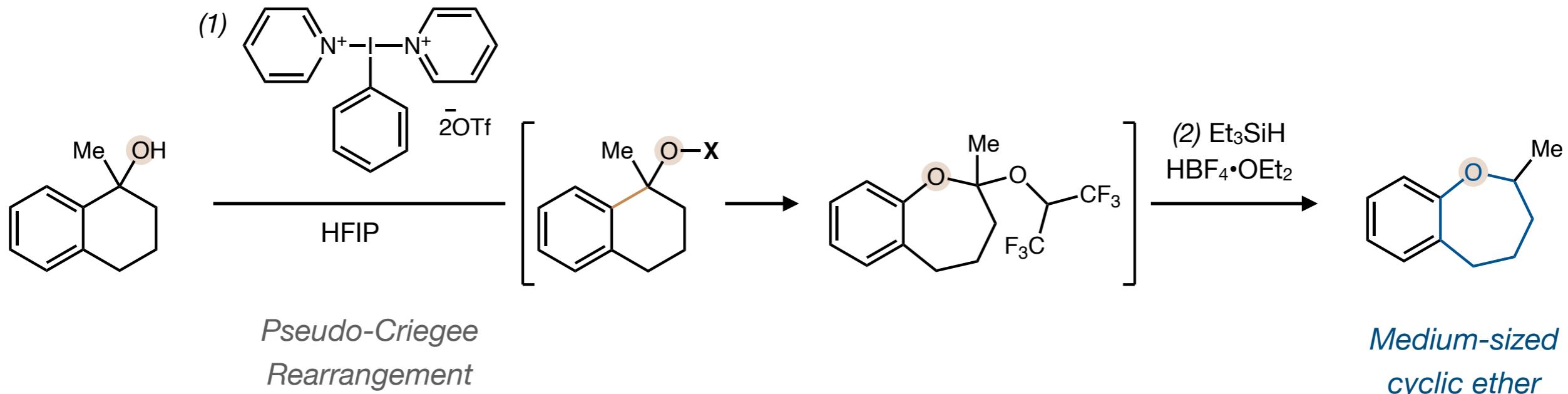


■ Unusual TD regioselectivity where steric demand overrides electronic arguments

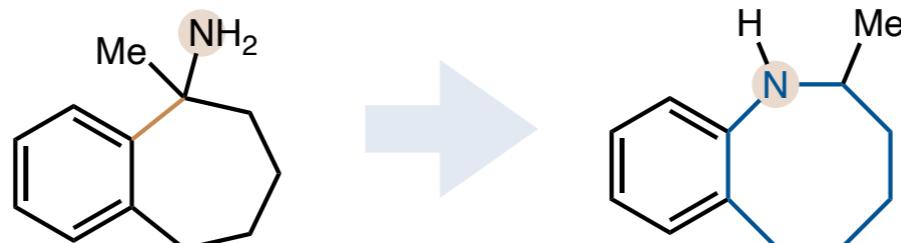
■ 8-step total synthesis with a 16% overall yield

# Select Advances in Oxidative Single-Atom Ring Expansion

Wengryniuk Group – Temple Univ.



Fujioka Group – Osaka Univ.

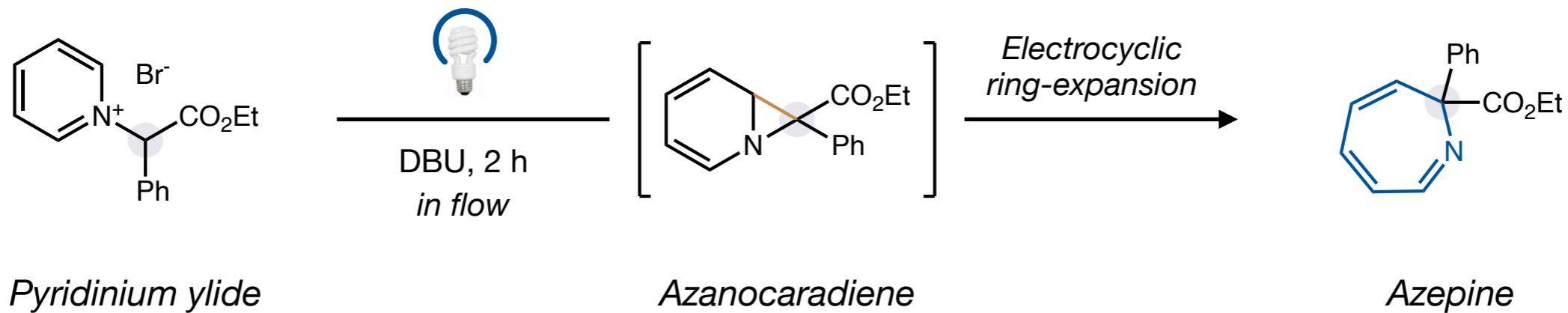


Conditions:  
 $\text{PhI(OAc)}_2, \text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$   
then  $\text{NaBH}_4$

Kelley, B. T.; Walters, J. C.; Wengryniuk, S. E. *Org. Lett.* **2016**, *18*, 1896.

Murai, K.; Komatsu, H.; Nagao, R.; Fujioka, H. *Org. Lett.* **2012**, *14*, 772.

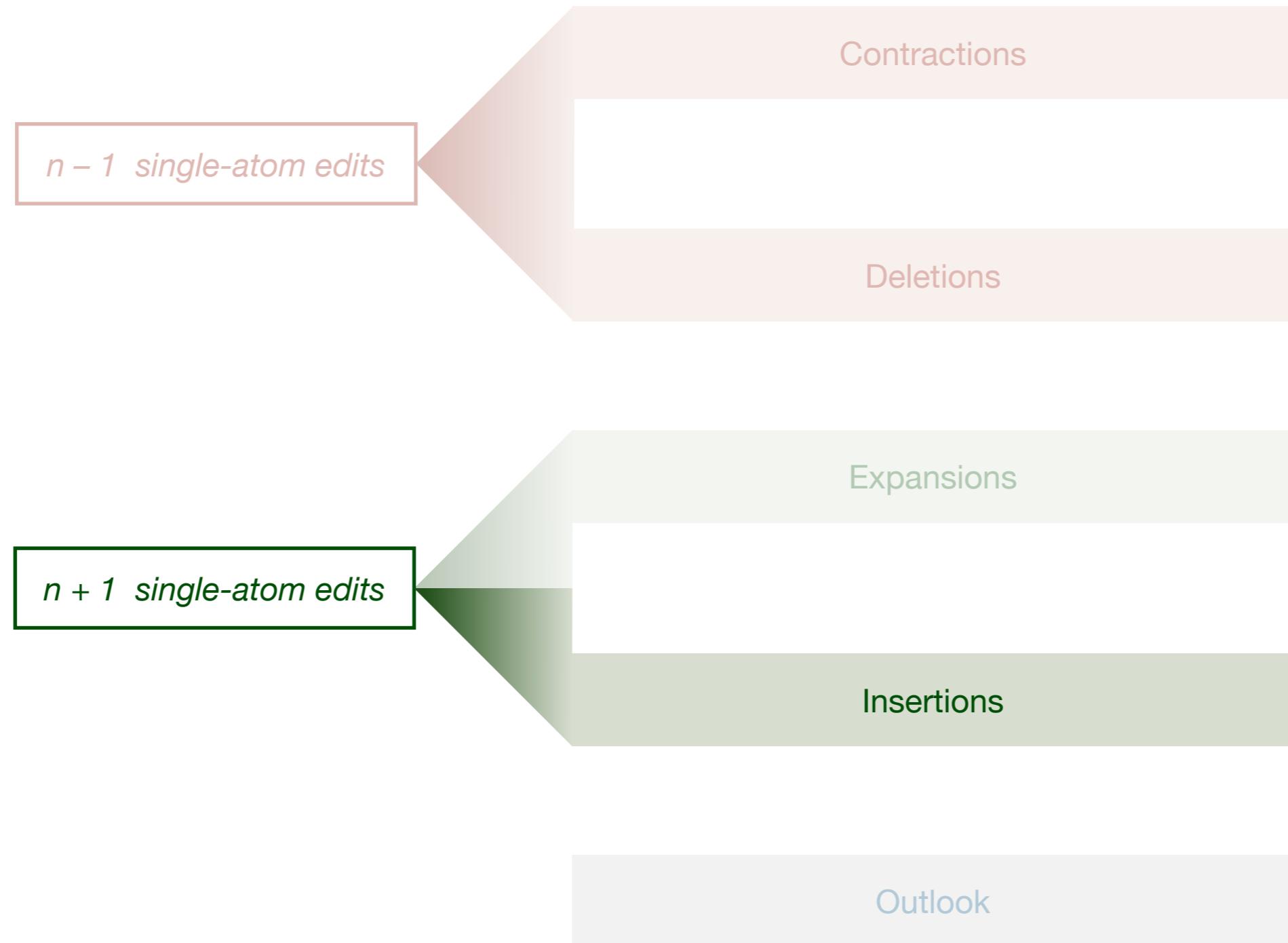
## Aromatic Expansions – Synthesis of Azepines



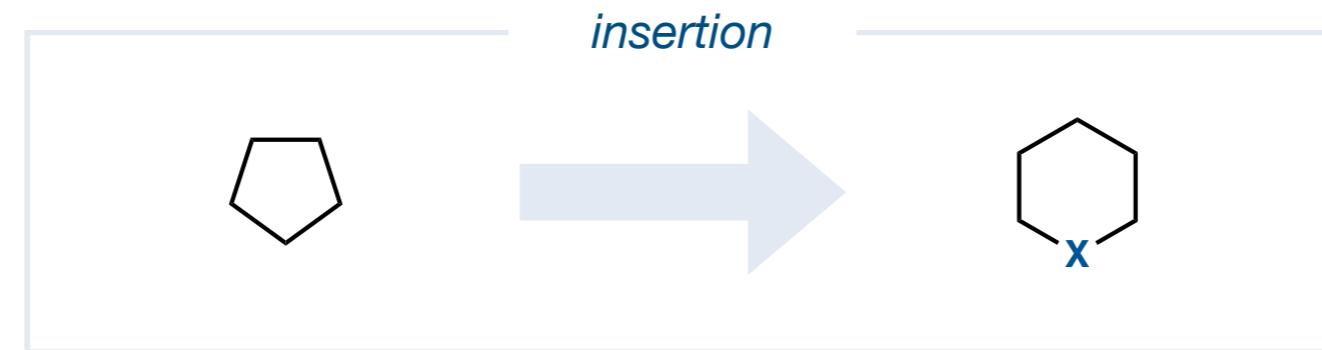
Mild dearomatization enabling the synthesis of valuable azepine derivatives

Demonstrated on pyridine, isoquinoline, quinoline, and phenanthridine cores

# *Overview*



## *Insertion*

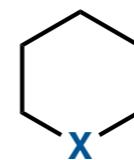


*n + 1 single-atom edit where a new atom is added to the ring system*

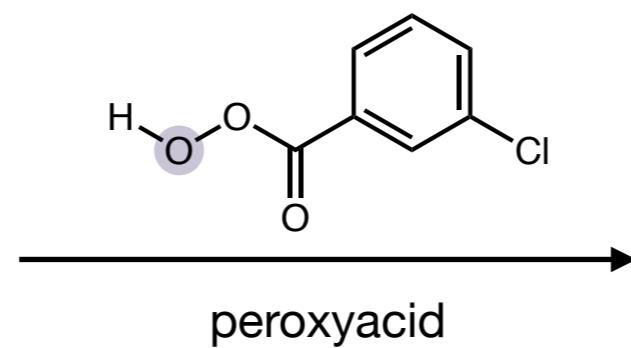
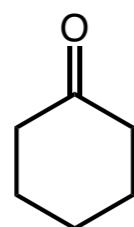
*The widest number of classical carbonyl rearrangements falls into this category*

## *Insertion*

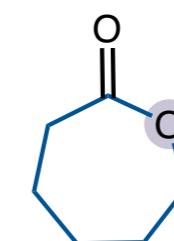
*insertion*



Baeyer-Villager Oxidation



cyclic ketone



lactone



Discovered in 1899 by Adolf von Baeyer & Victor Villiger

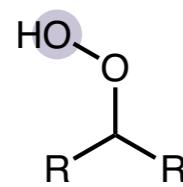
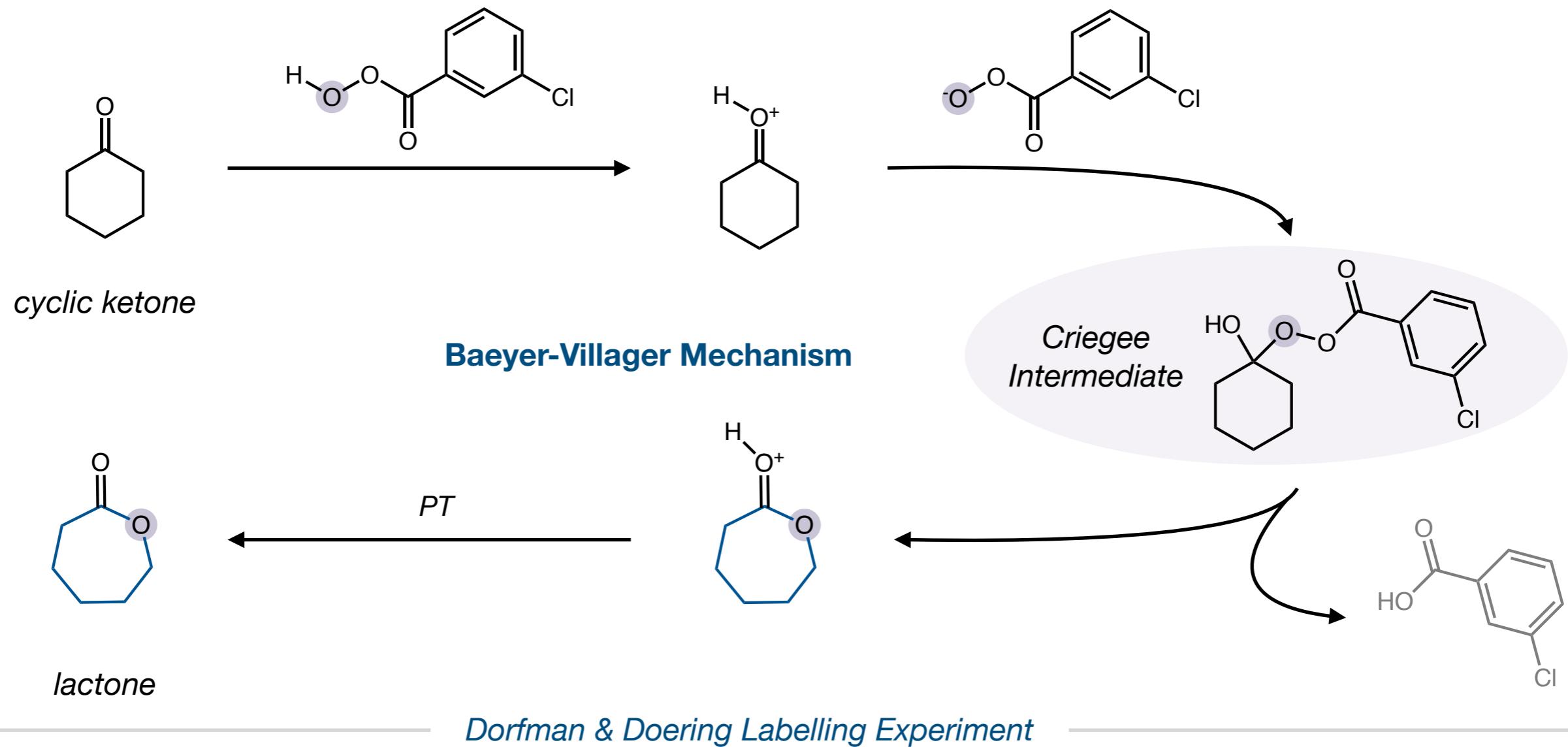


**Migration preference** –  $3^\circ > 2^\circ > \text{Ph} > 1^\circ$  (ability to stabilize positive charge)

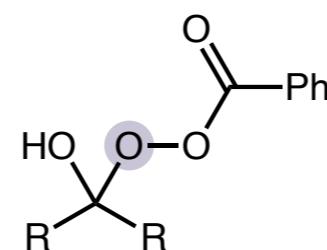


Asymmetric, (bio)catalytic, more selective versions have been developed

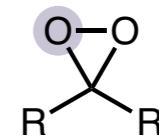
# Baeyer Villager Mechanistic Study



Wittig and Pieper

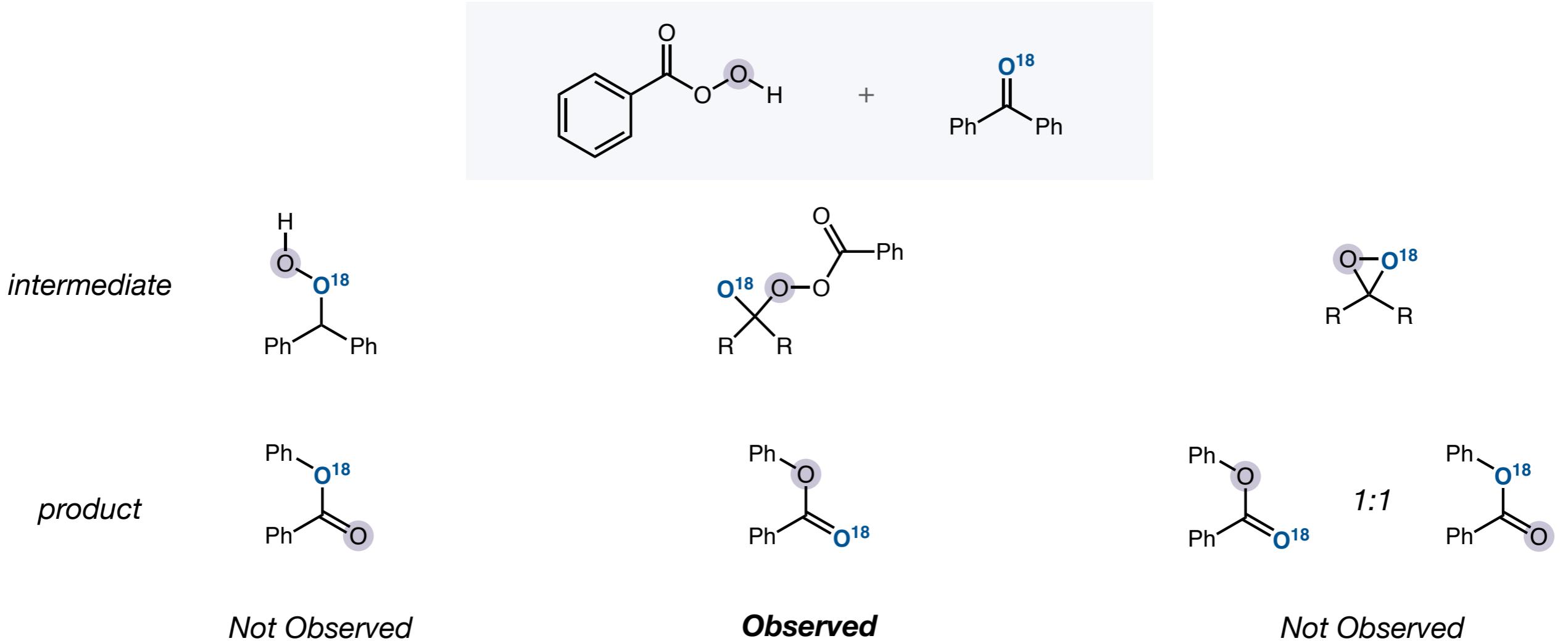


Criegee

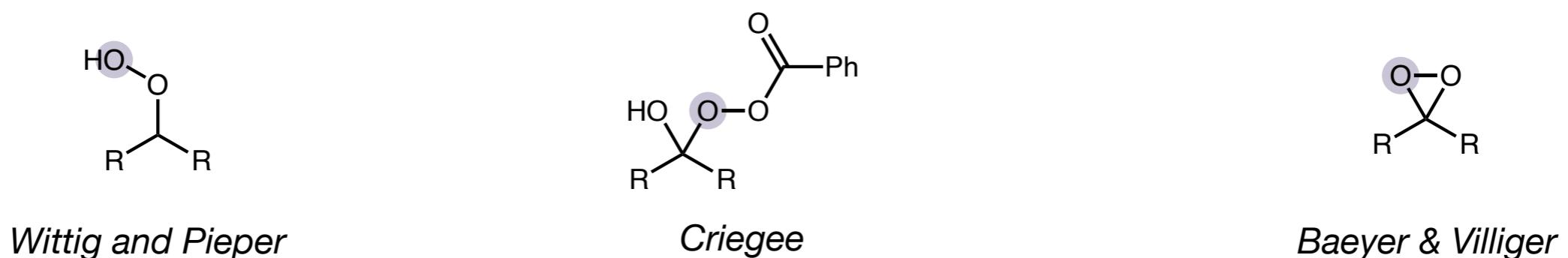


Baeyer & Villiger

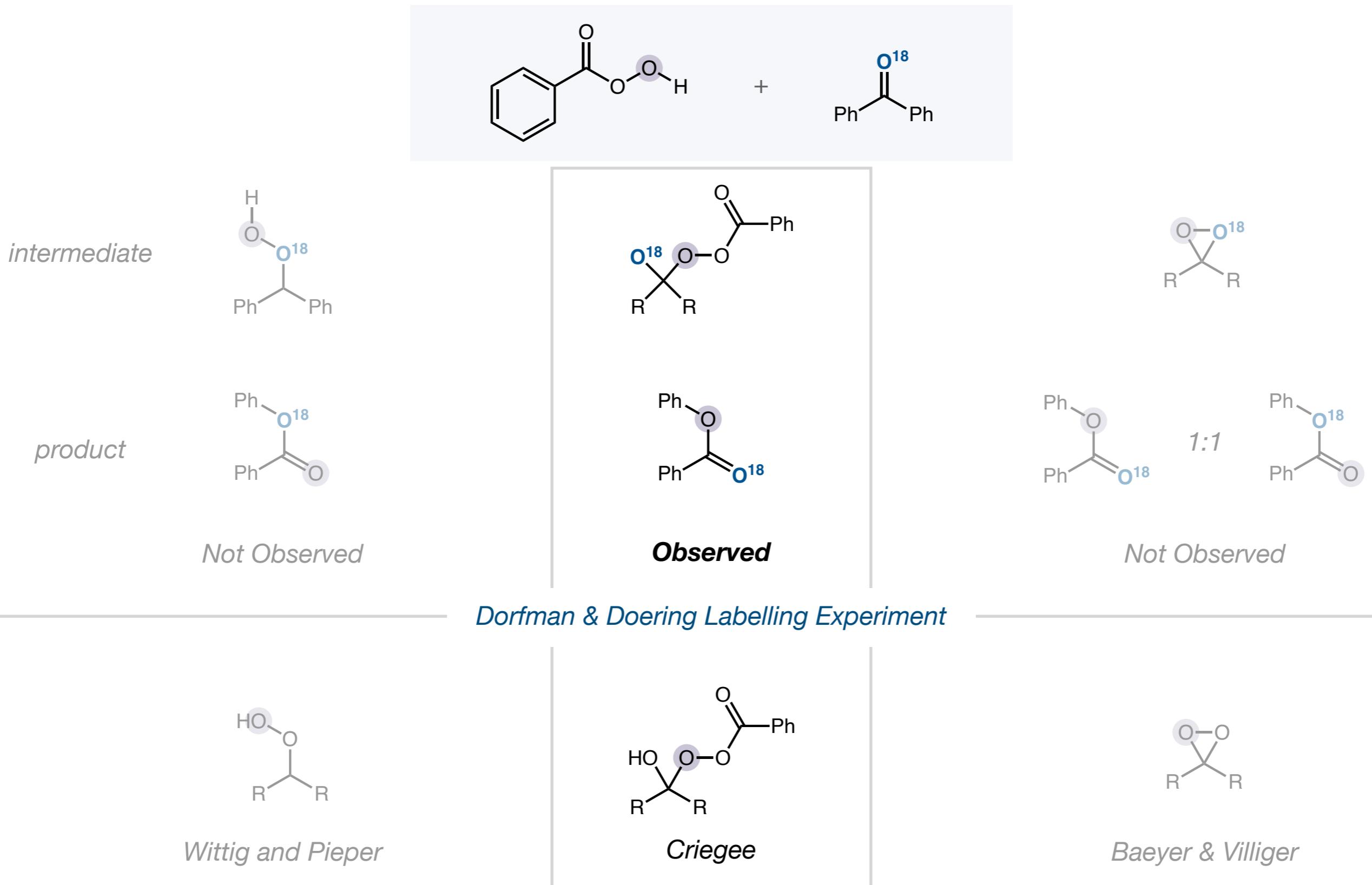
# Baeyer Villager Mechanistic Study



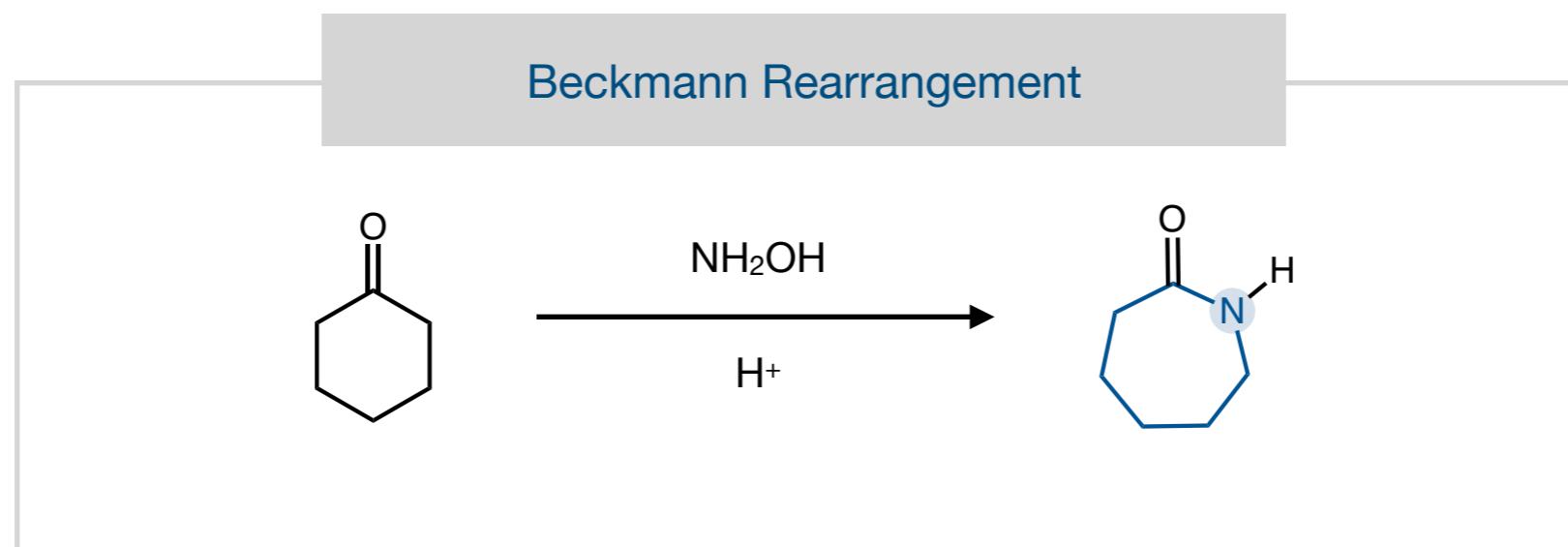
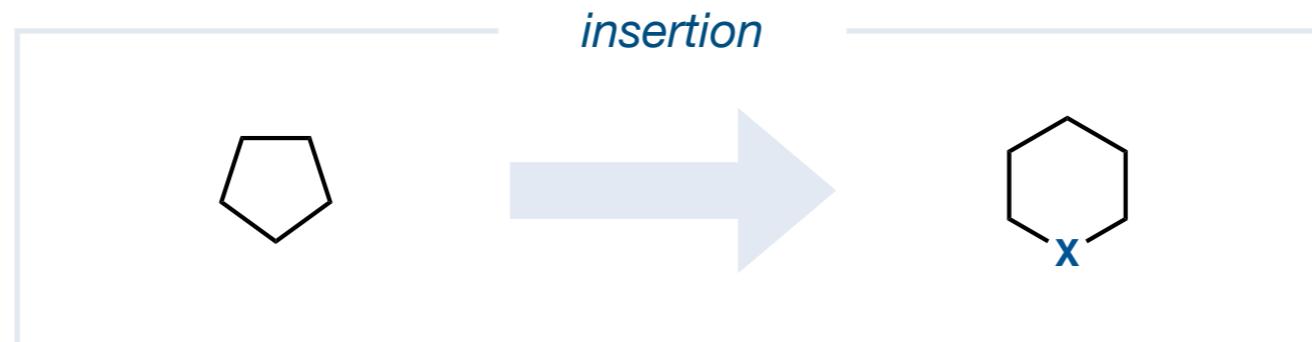
Dorfman & Doering Labelling Experiment



# Baeyer Villager Mechanistic Study



## *Insertion*

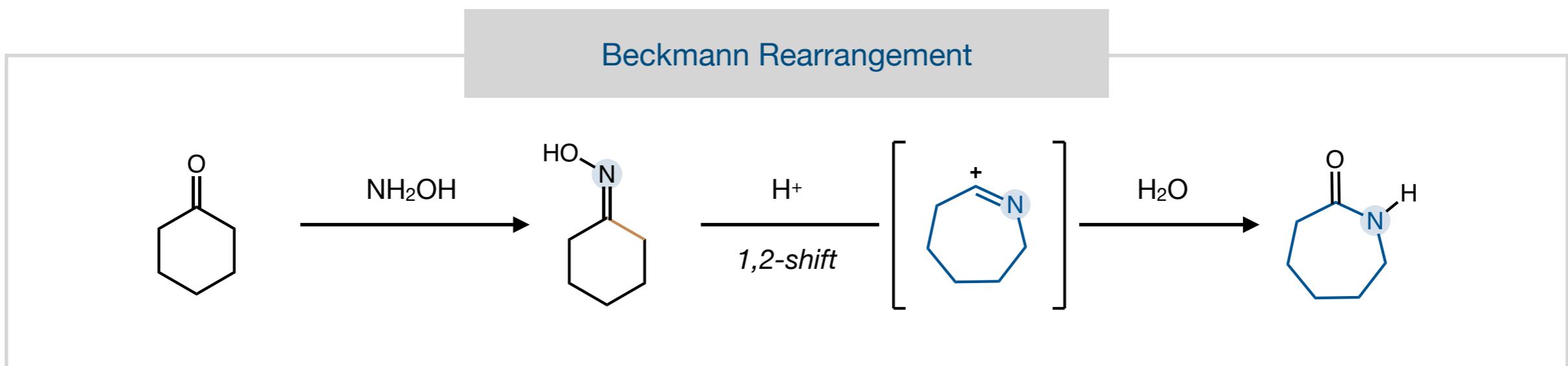
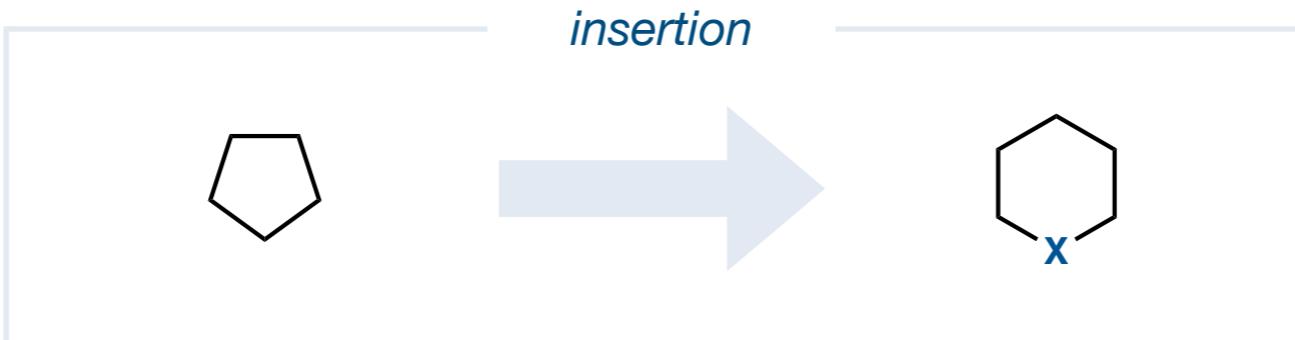


- Discovered in 1886 by Ernst Otto Beckmann in Germany
- Often acid-catalyzed, but also works with  $\text{TsCl}$ ,  $\text{SOCl}_2$ ,  $\text{PCl}_5$  ... etc
- Has been applied to haloimines as well as nitrones

Blatt, A. H. *Chem. Rev.* **1933**, *12*, 215.

Kaur, K.; Srivastava, S. *New J. Chem.* **2020**, *44*, 18530.

## *Insertion*

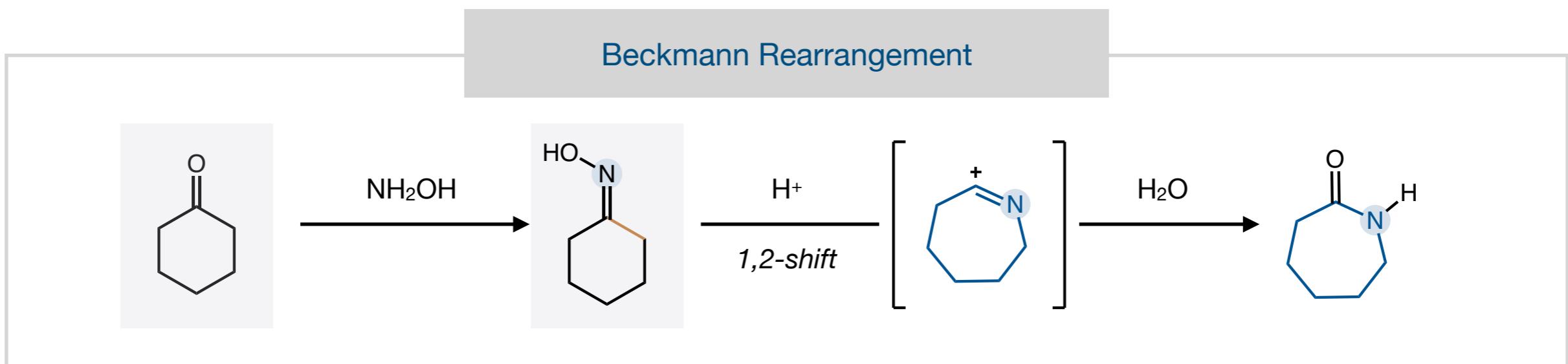
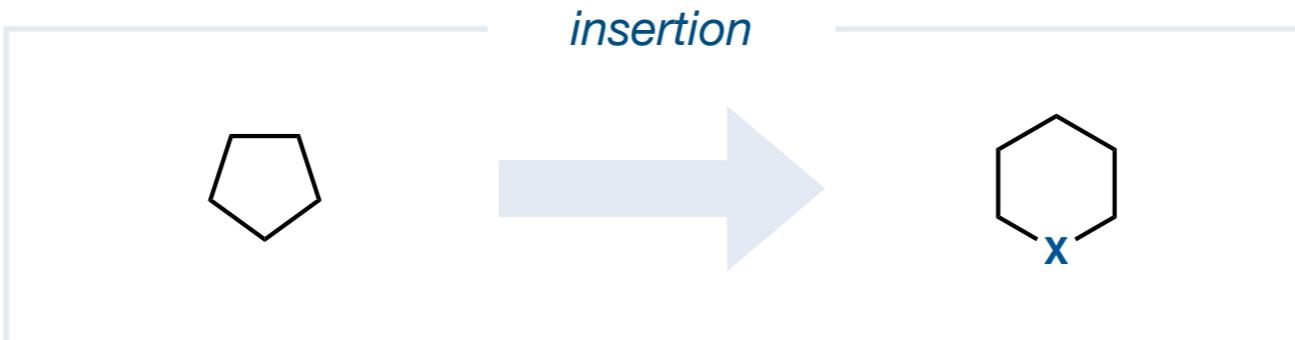


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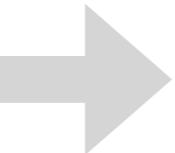
Kaur, K.; Srivastava, S. *New J. Chem.* **2020**, *44*, 18530.

## *Insertion*



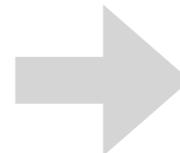
*Skeletal editing classification problem:*

*If cyclic ketone is defined as the start of the transformation...*



***Insertion***

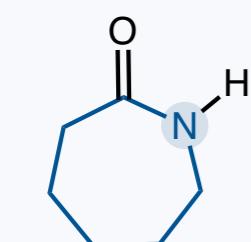
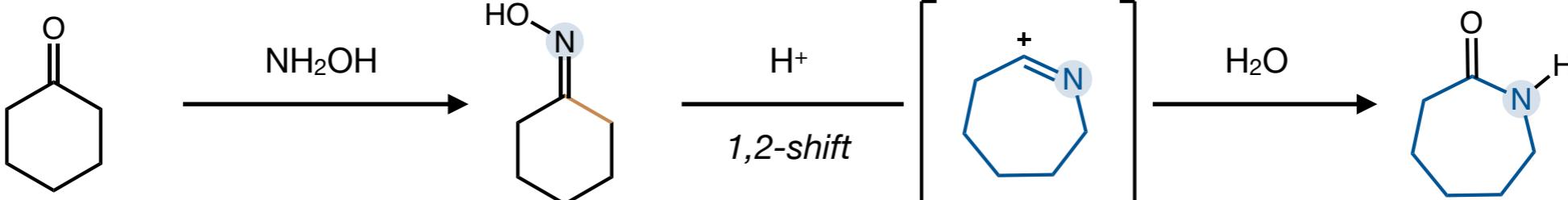
*If oxime is isolated and defined as the start of the transformation...*



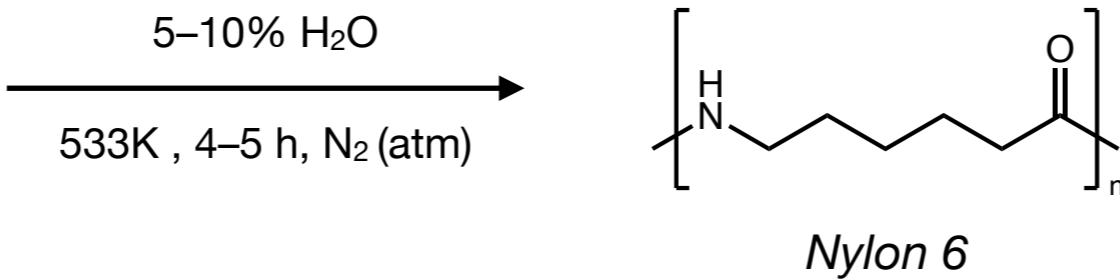
***Expansion***

## Beckmann Rearrangement – Nylon Synthesis

### Beckmann Rearrangement



*caprolactam*



*Nylon 6*



Employed on a multi ton scale



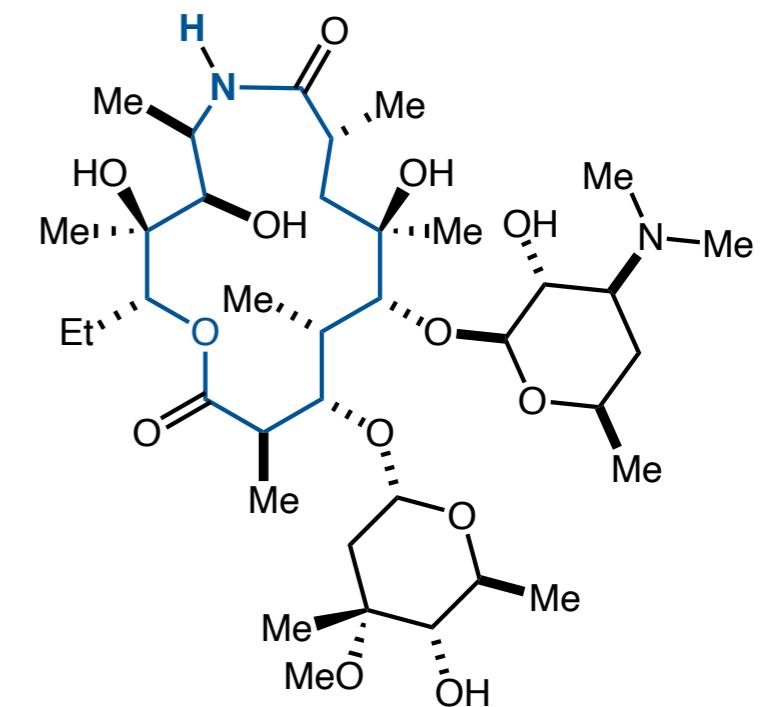
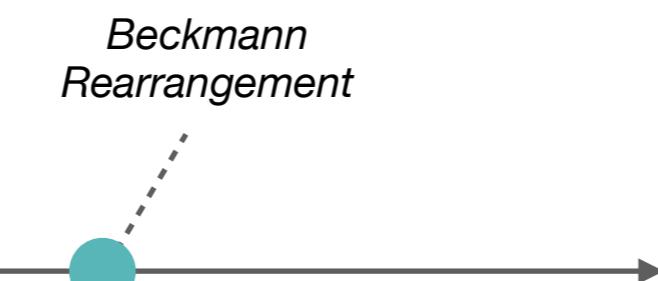
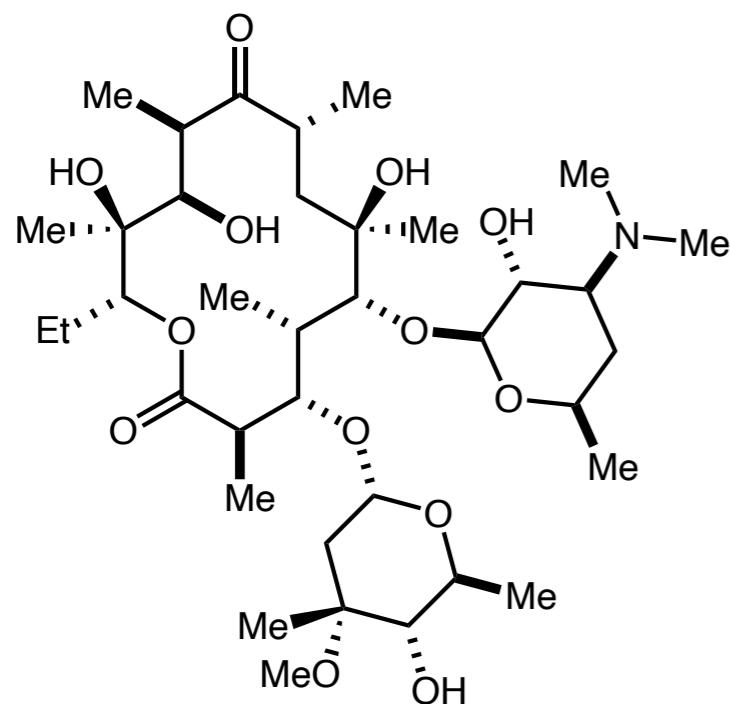
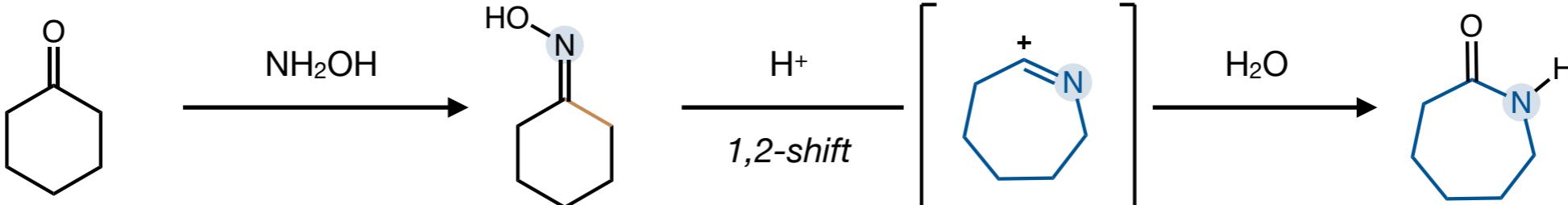
Accounts for 90% of the global demand for Nylon



Clothing, reinforcement, industry parts, plastics

## Beckmann Rearrangement Applications

### Beckmann Rearrangement

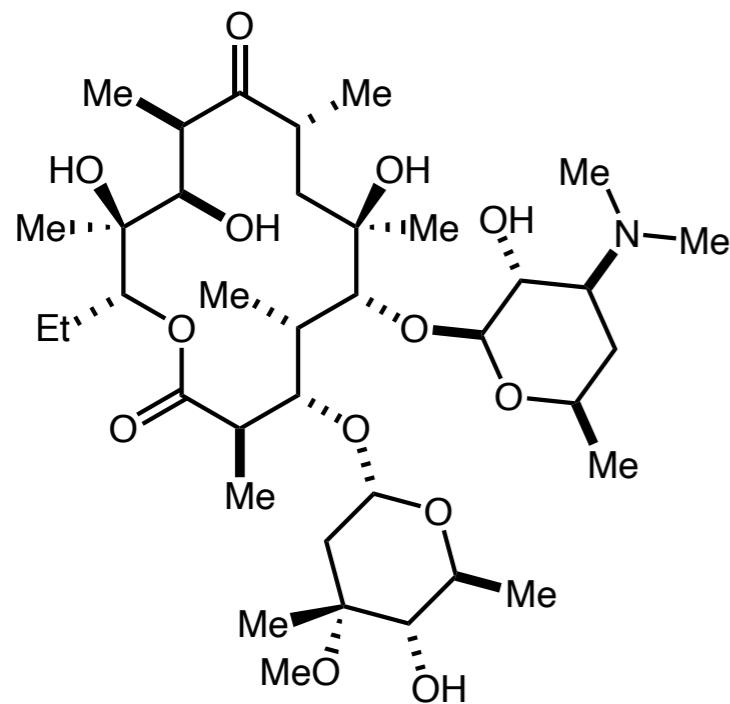
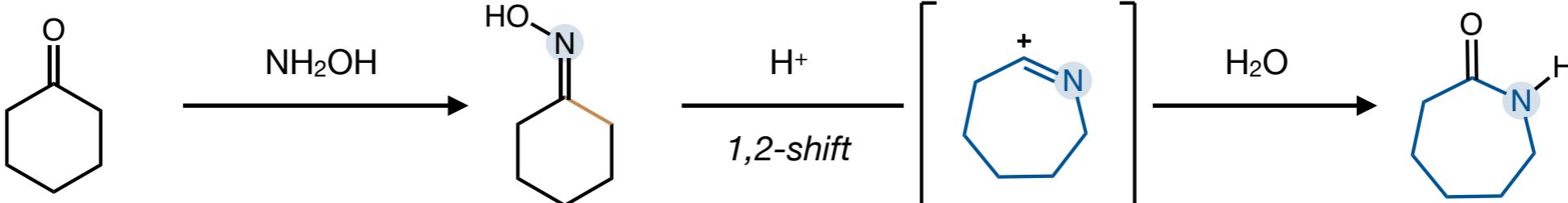


*Erythromycin A*

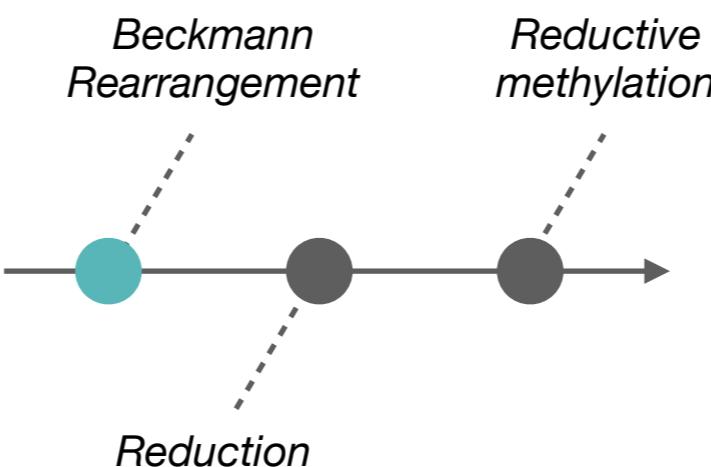
*Insertion Product*

## Beckmann Rearrangement Applications

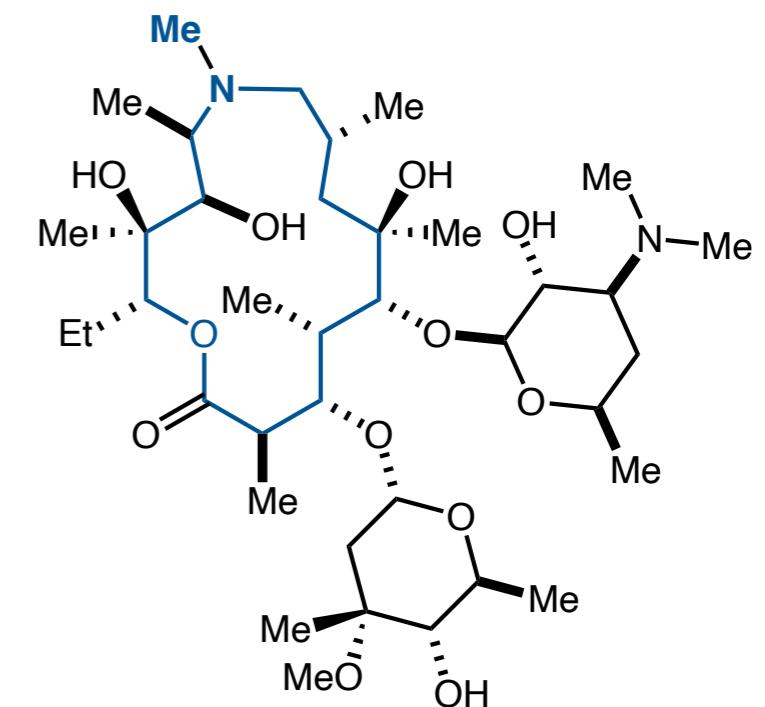
### Beckmann Rearrangement



Erythromycin A

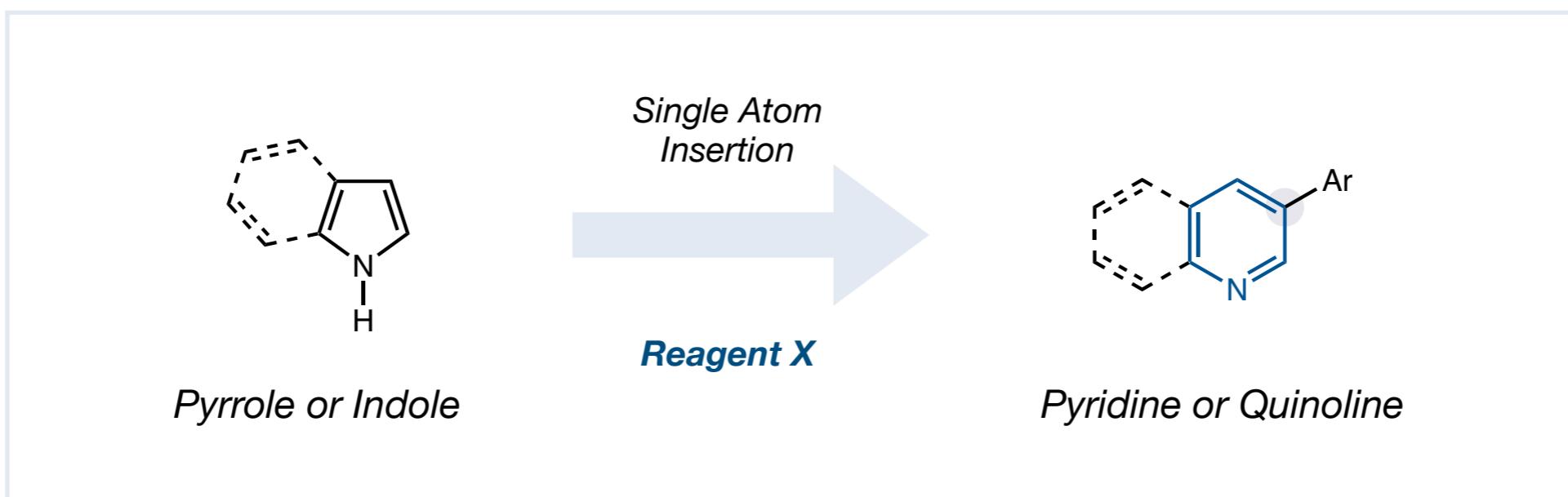


- Increased potency and half-life
- The first 15-membered macrolide antibiotic



Azithromycin

# *Recent Advances in Single-Atom Insertions into Heterocycles*

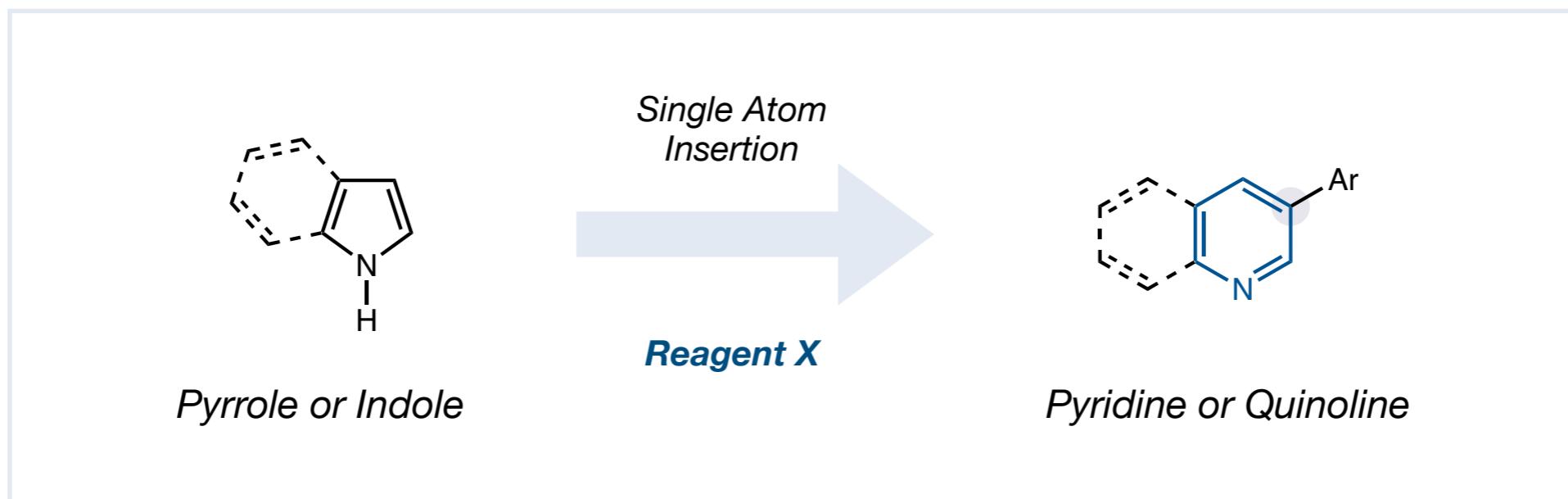


**Matthew Sigman**  
Univ. of Utah



**Mark Levin**  
Univ. of Chicago

# Recent Advances in Single-Atom Insertions into Heterocycles

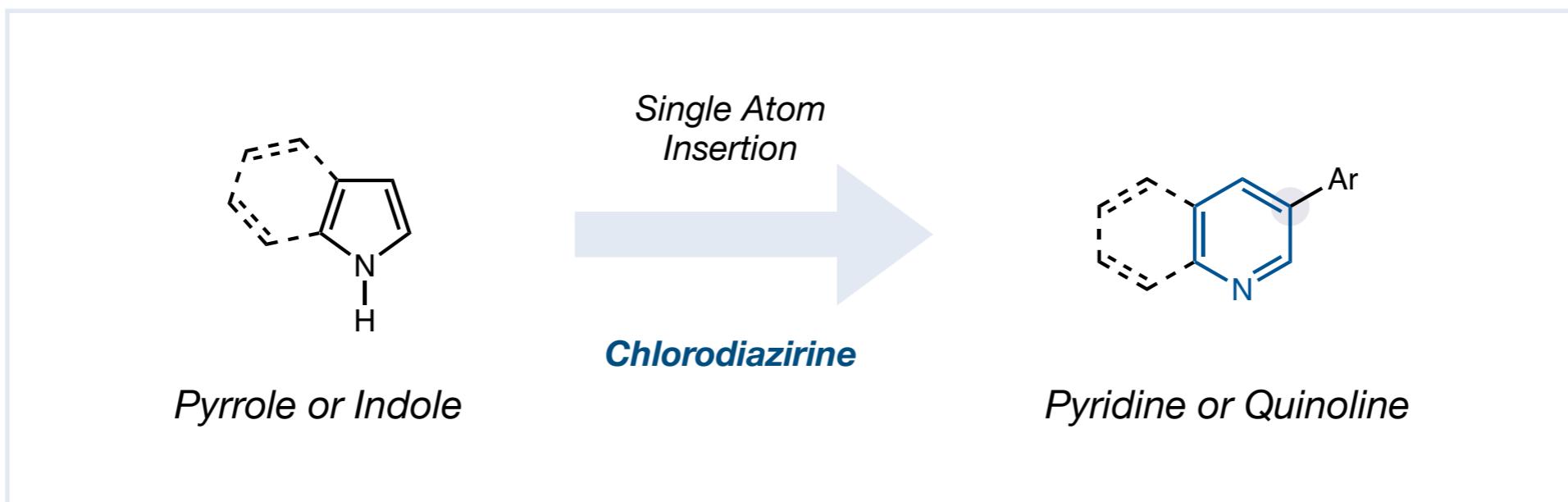


*Chlorodiazirine*

*Carbynyl cation  
equivalent*

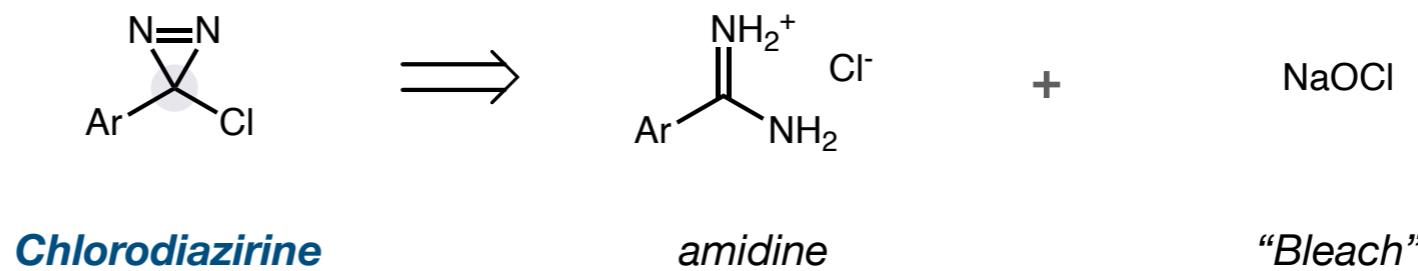
**Stable and isolable**

# Recent Advances in Single-Atom Insertions into Heterocycles

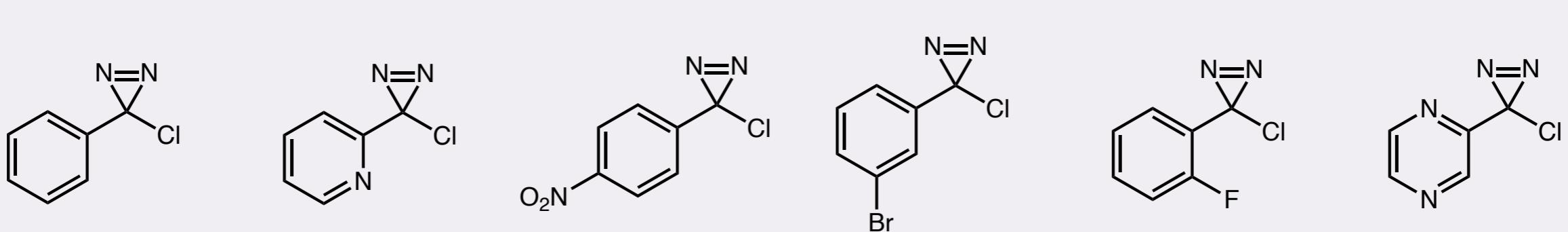


Synthesis of chlorodiazirine

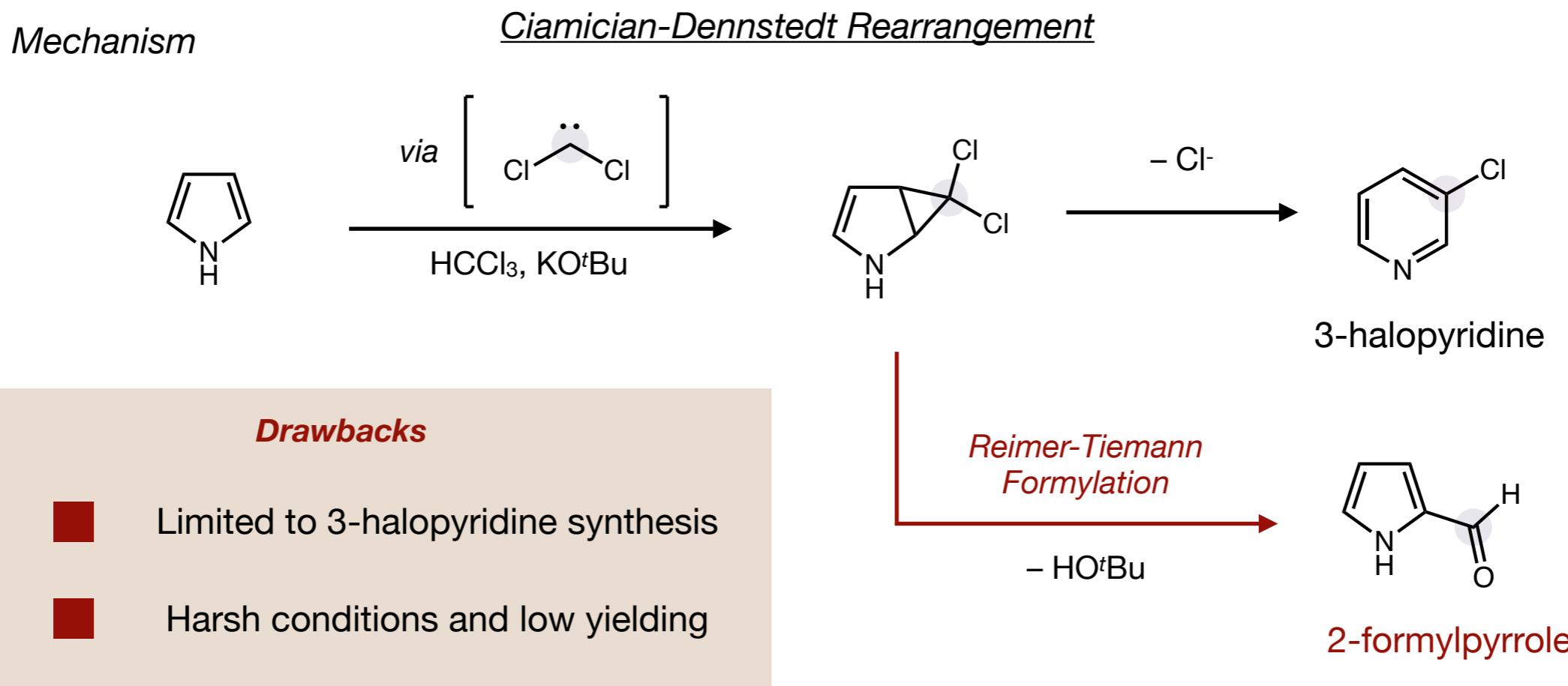
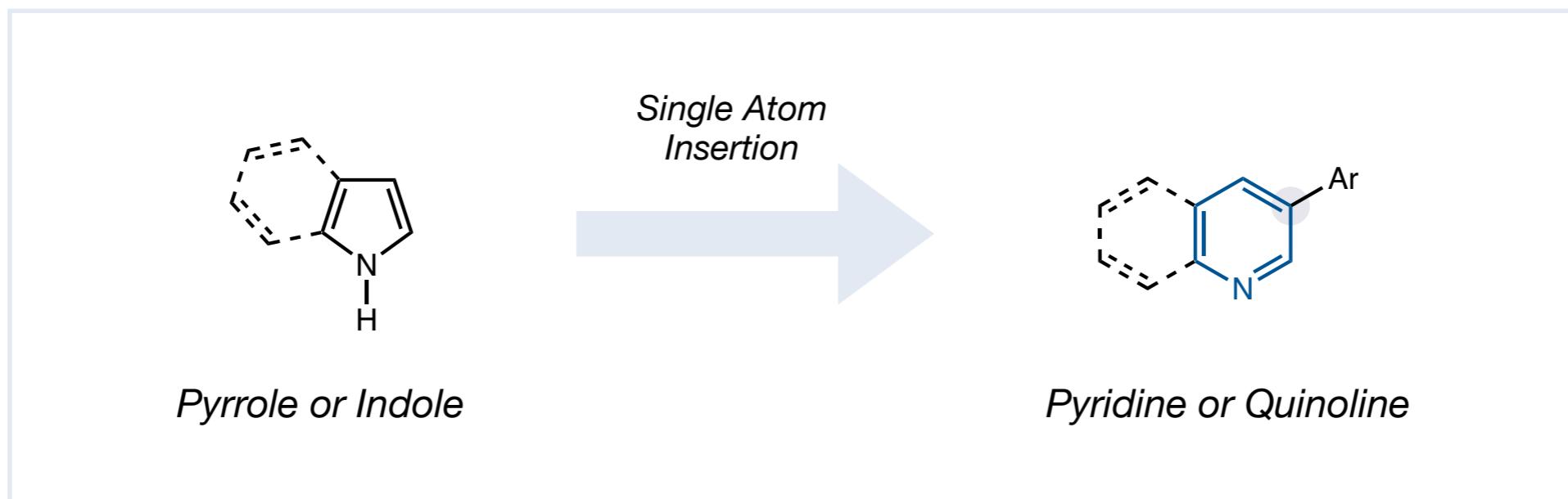
Graham oxidation of  
amidine precursors



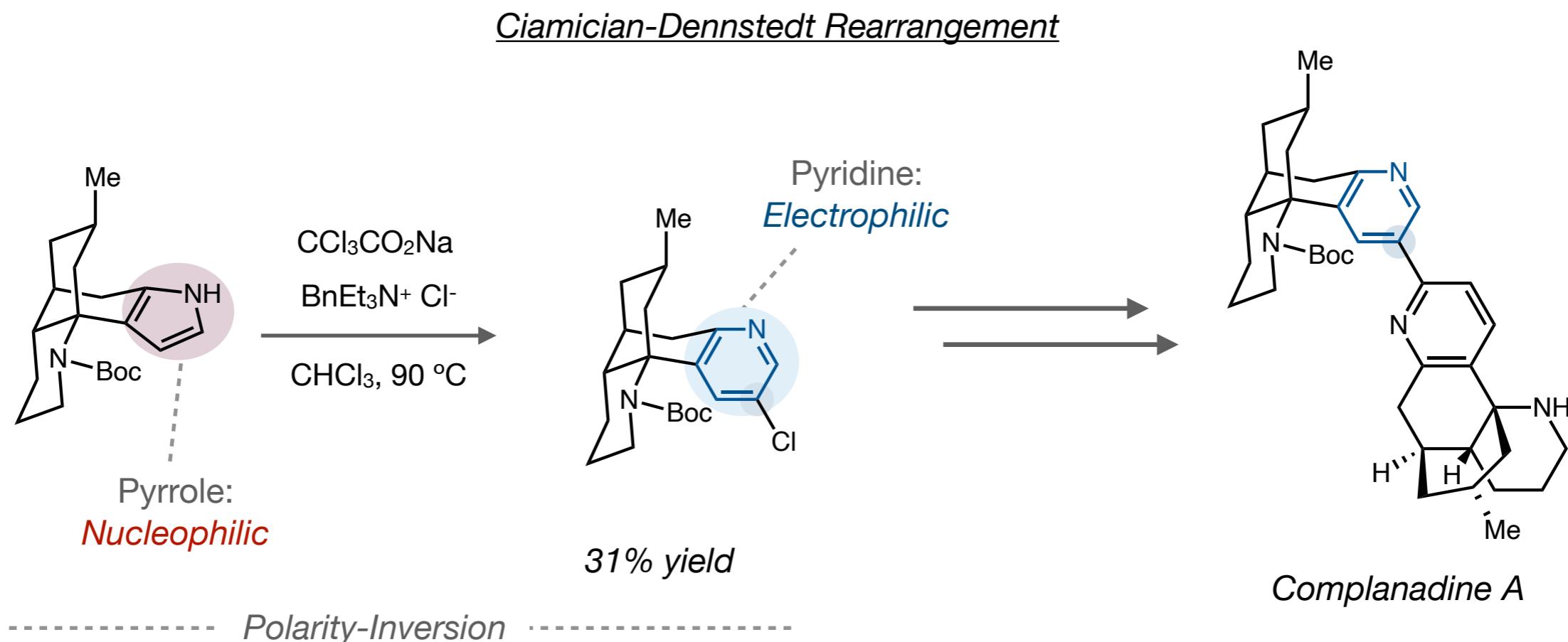
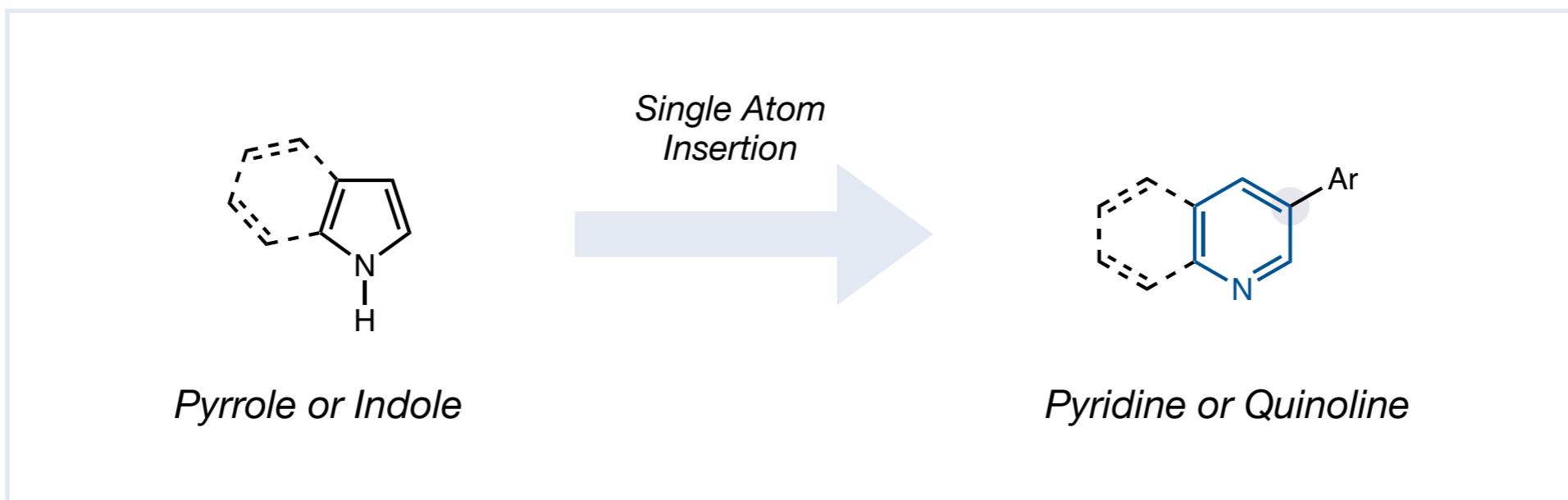
## Chlorodiazirine library synthesis



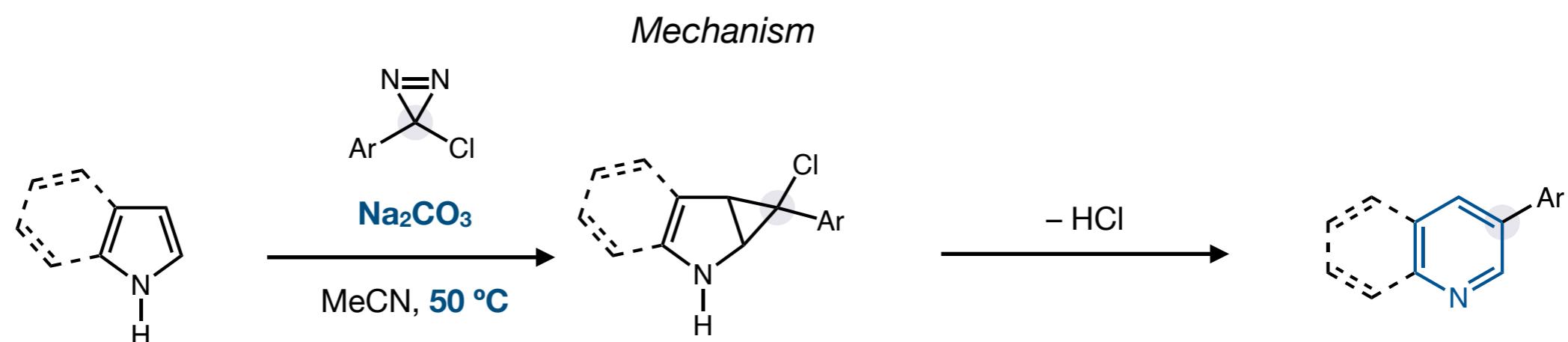
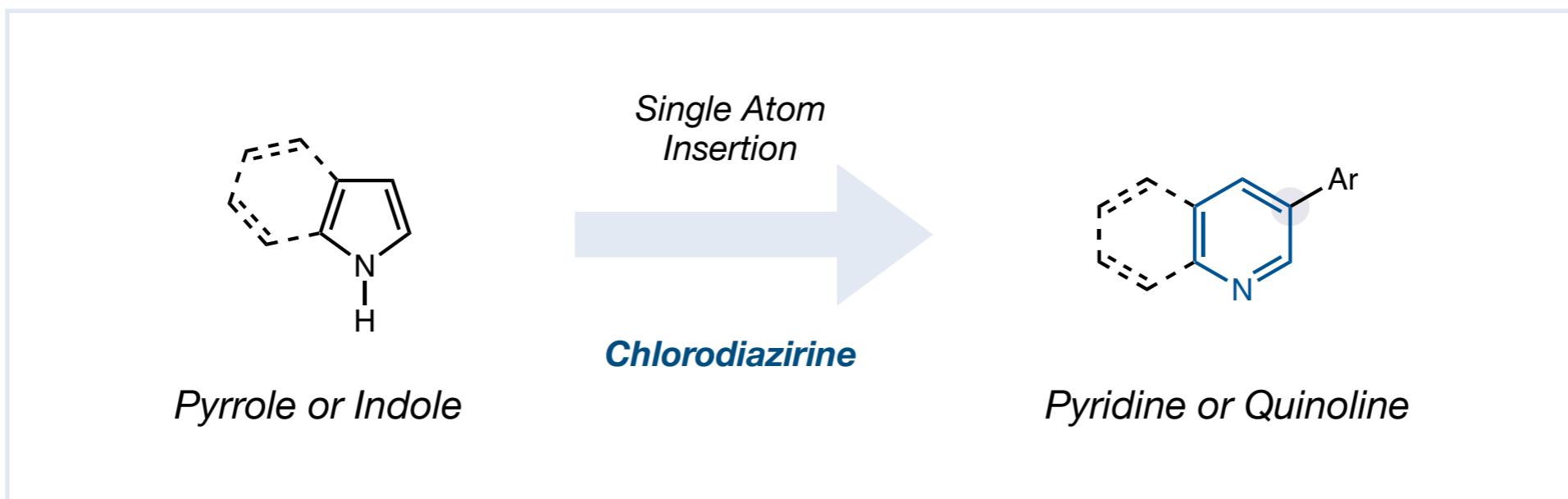
# Recent Advances in Single-Atom Insertions into Heterocycles



# Recent Advances in Single-Atom Insertions into Heterocycles



# Recent Advances in Single-Atom Insertions into Heterocycles

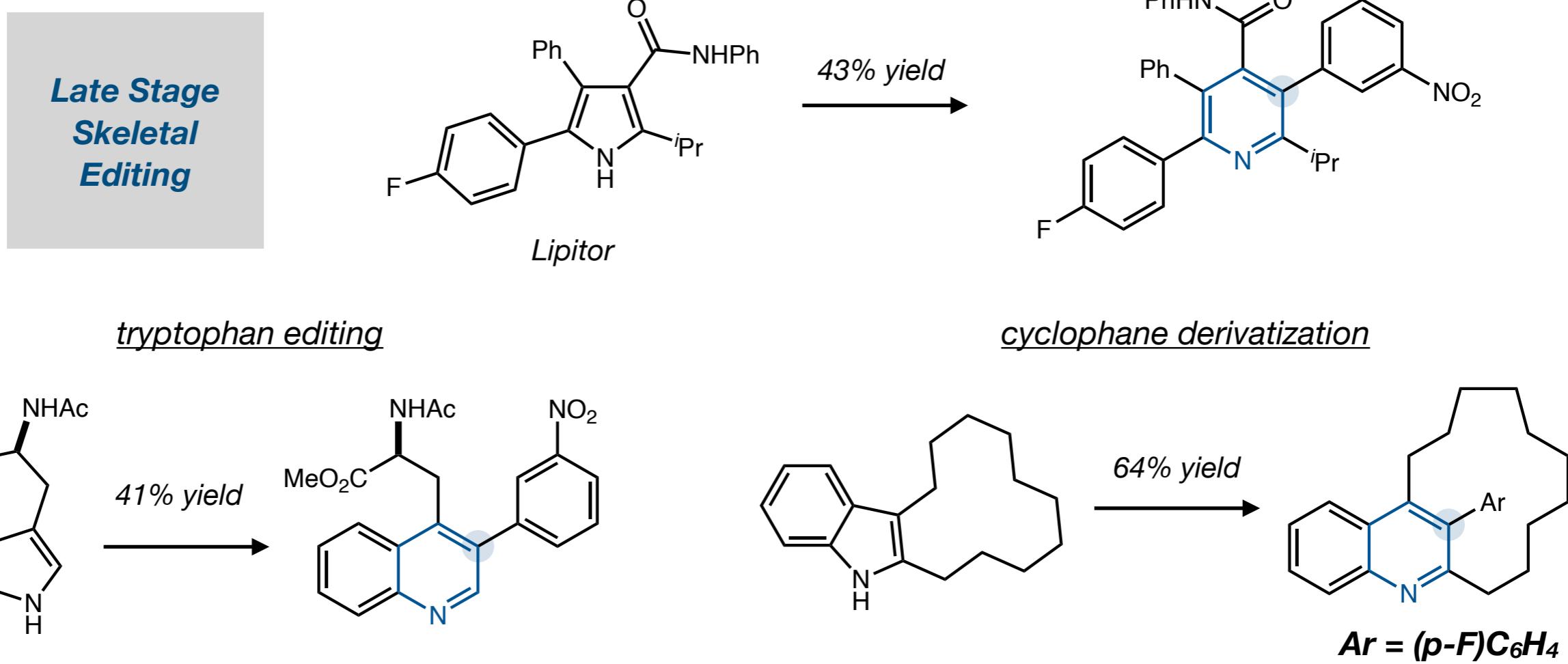
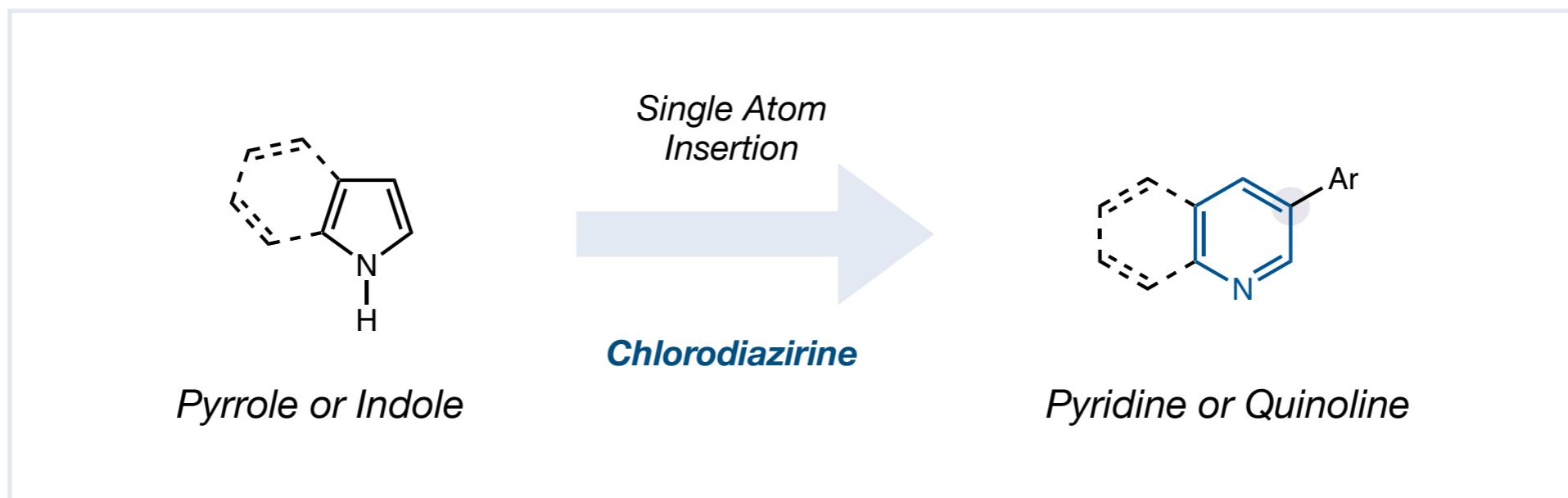


## Mild Cyclopropanation

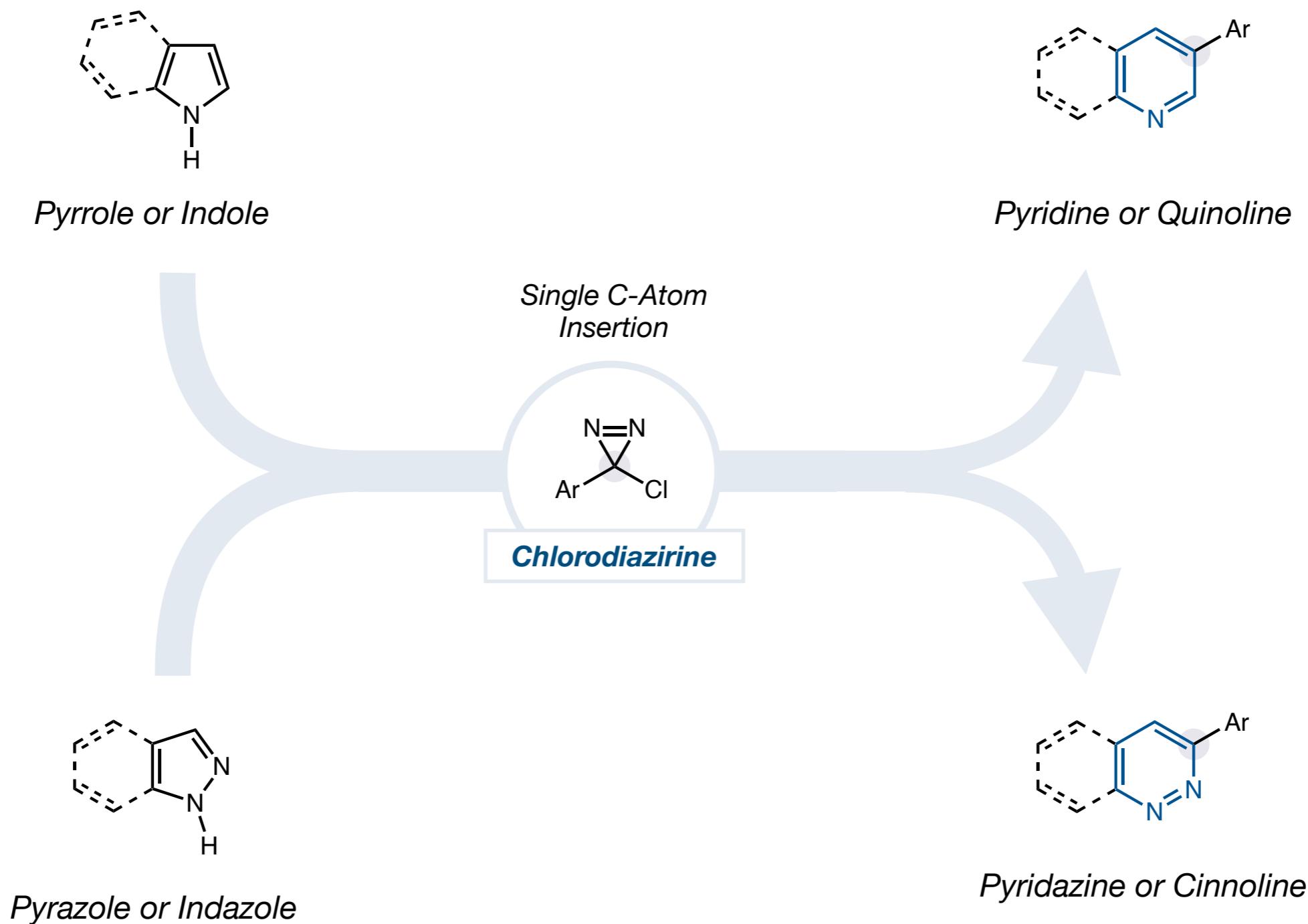
- Weaker Base ( $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  vs  $\text{KO}^t\text{Bu}/\text{KOH}$ )
- Lower Reaction Temperatures

## Broader Reaction Scope

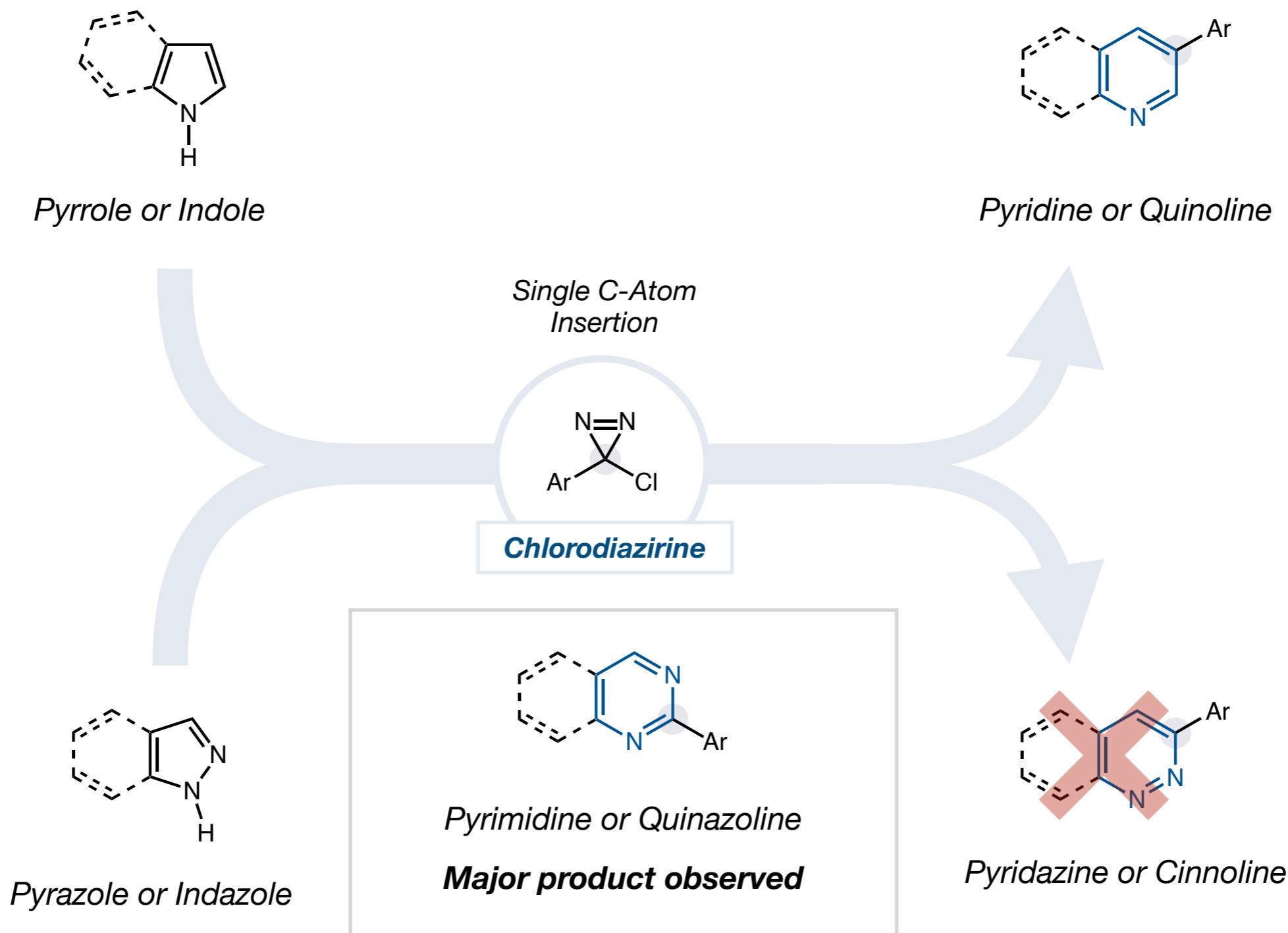
# Recent Advances in Single-Atom Insertions into Heterocycles



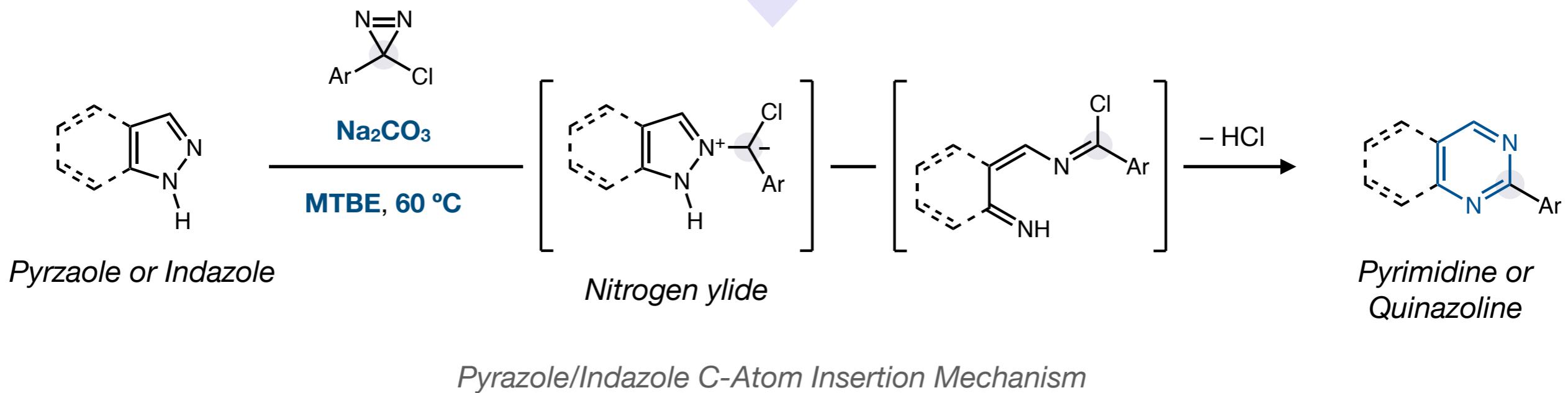
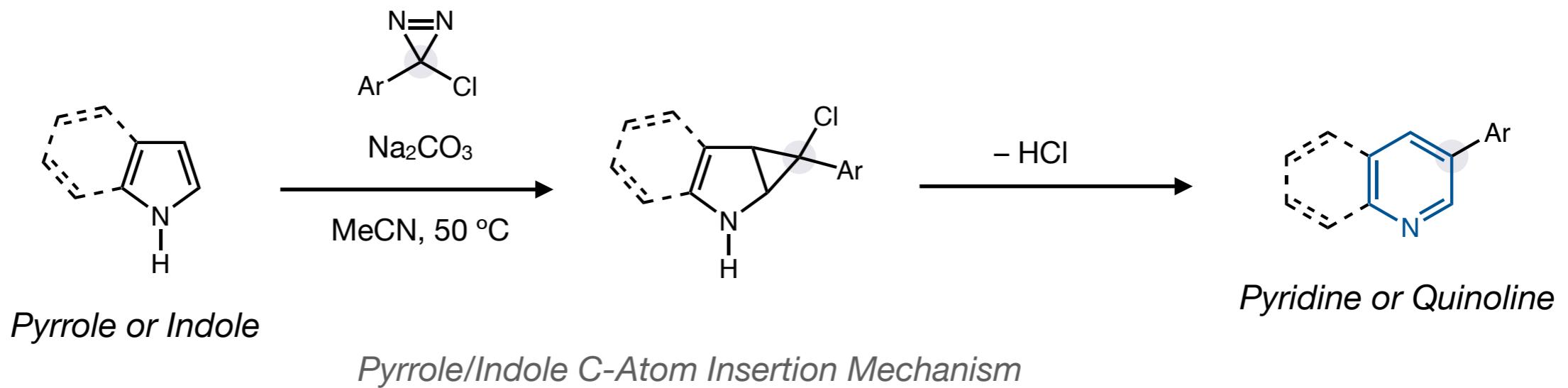
# *Recent Advances in Single-Atom Insertions into Heterocycles*



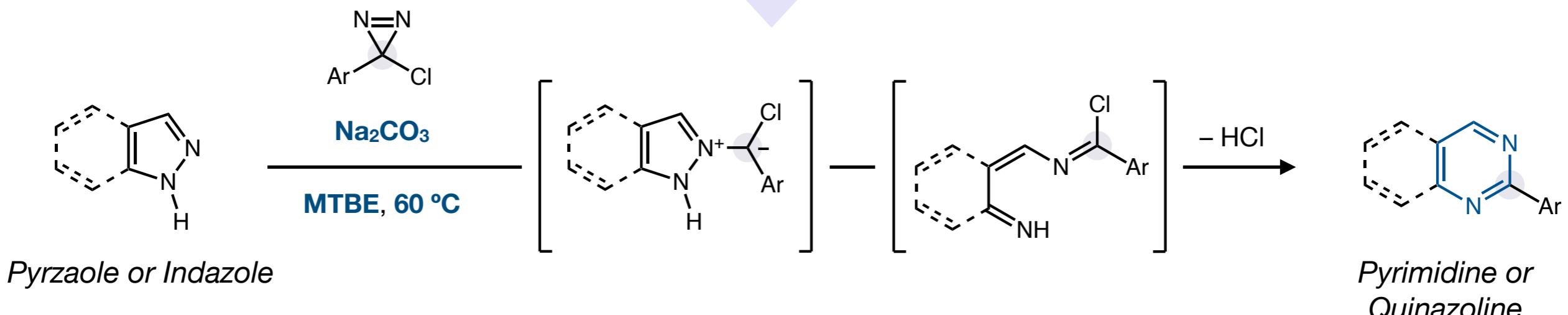
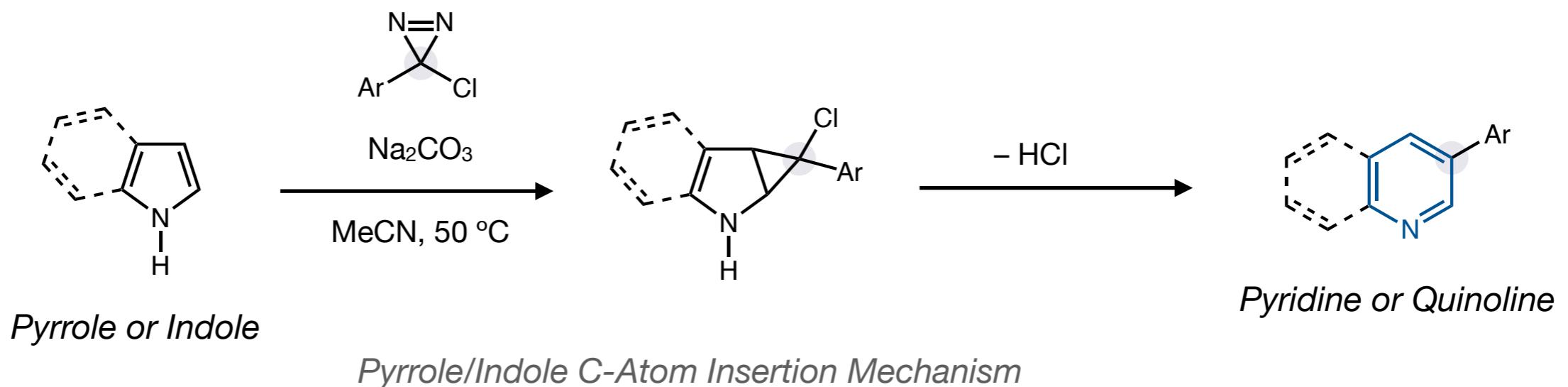
# Recent Advances in Single-Atom Insertions into Heterocycles



# Levin – Unified Access to Pyrimidines and Quinazolines

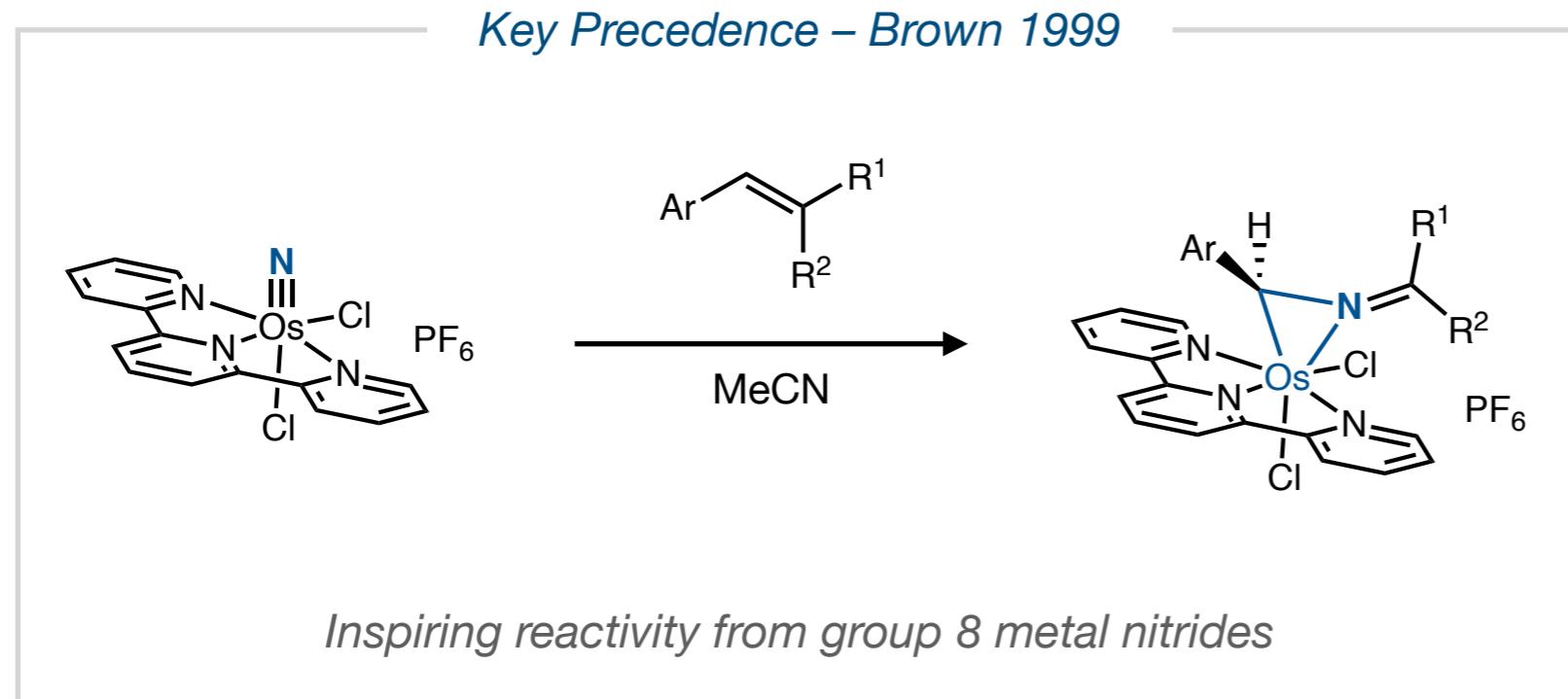
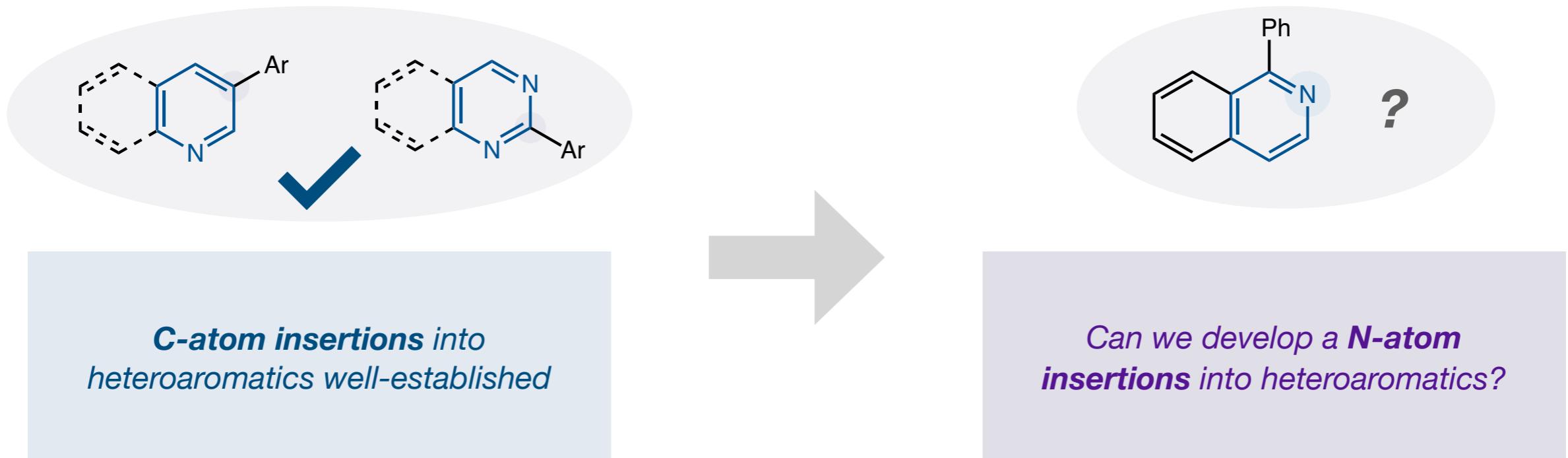


# Levin – Unified Access to Pyrimidines and Quinazolines



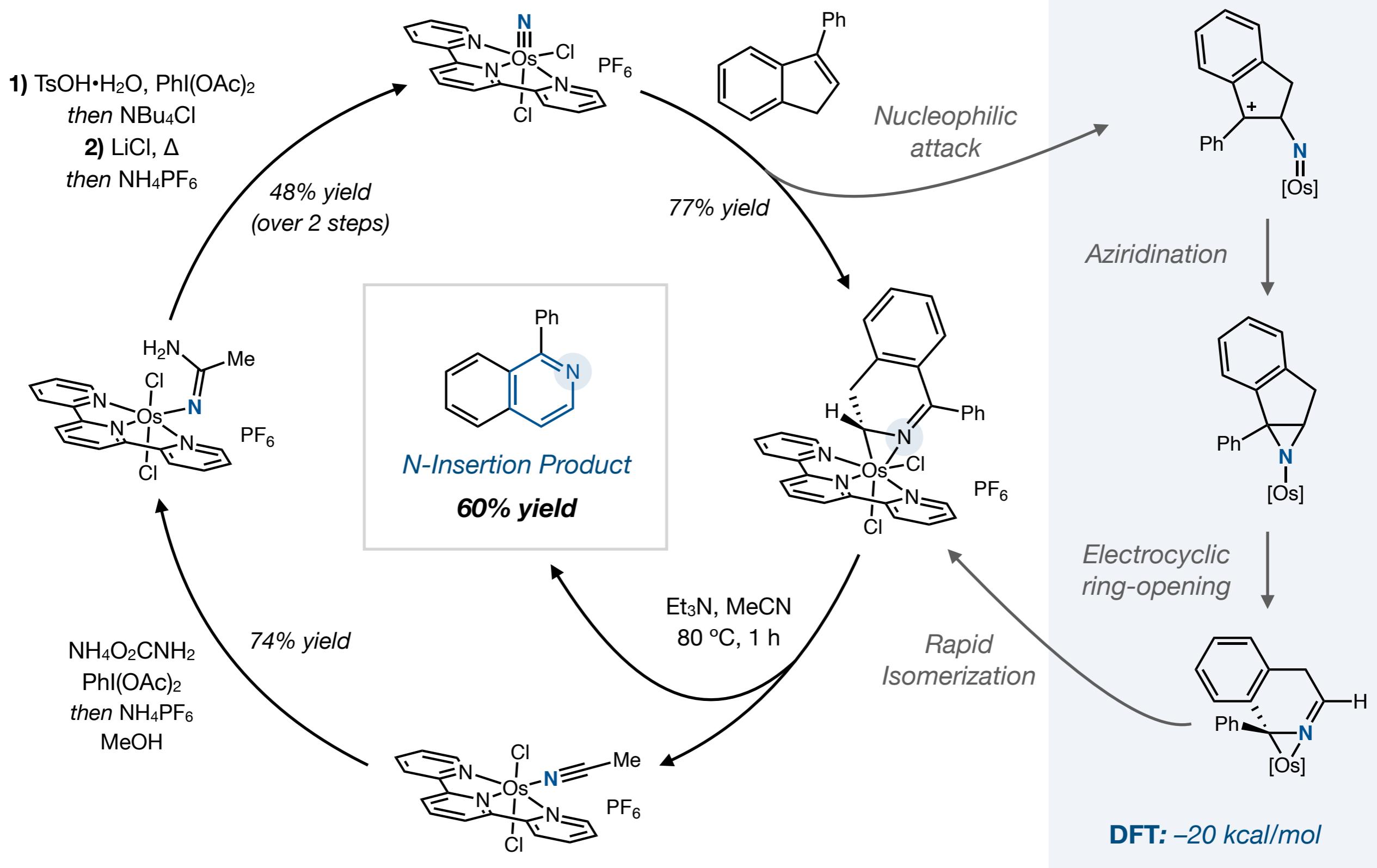
**Serendipitous functionalization of the relatively weak N–N bond**

# Levin – Heteroarene Synthesis via Nitride Insertion

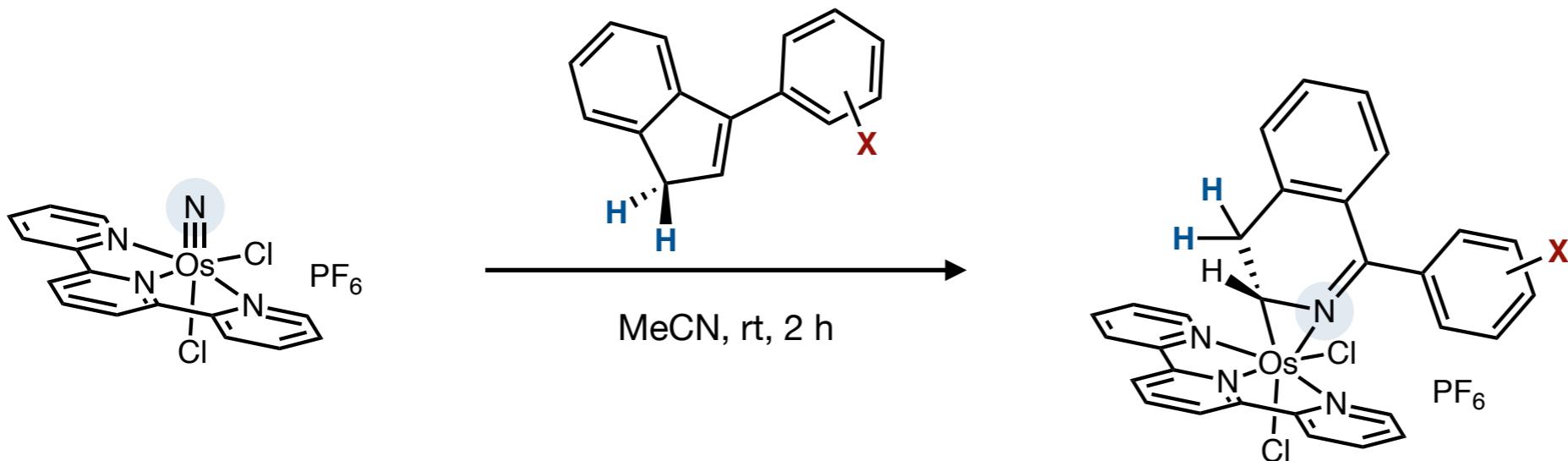


Terminal osmium(VI) nitrido complexes can insert nitrogen into conjugated olefines

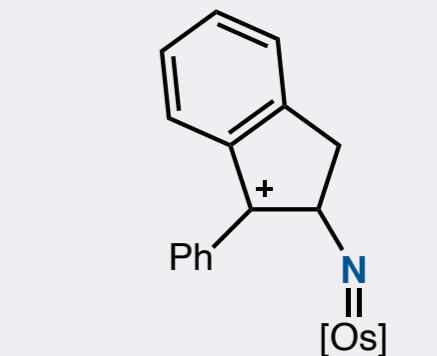
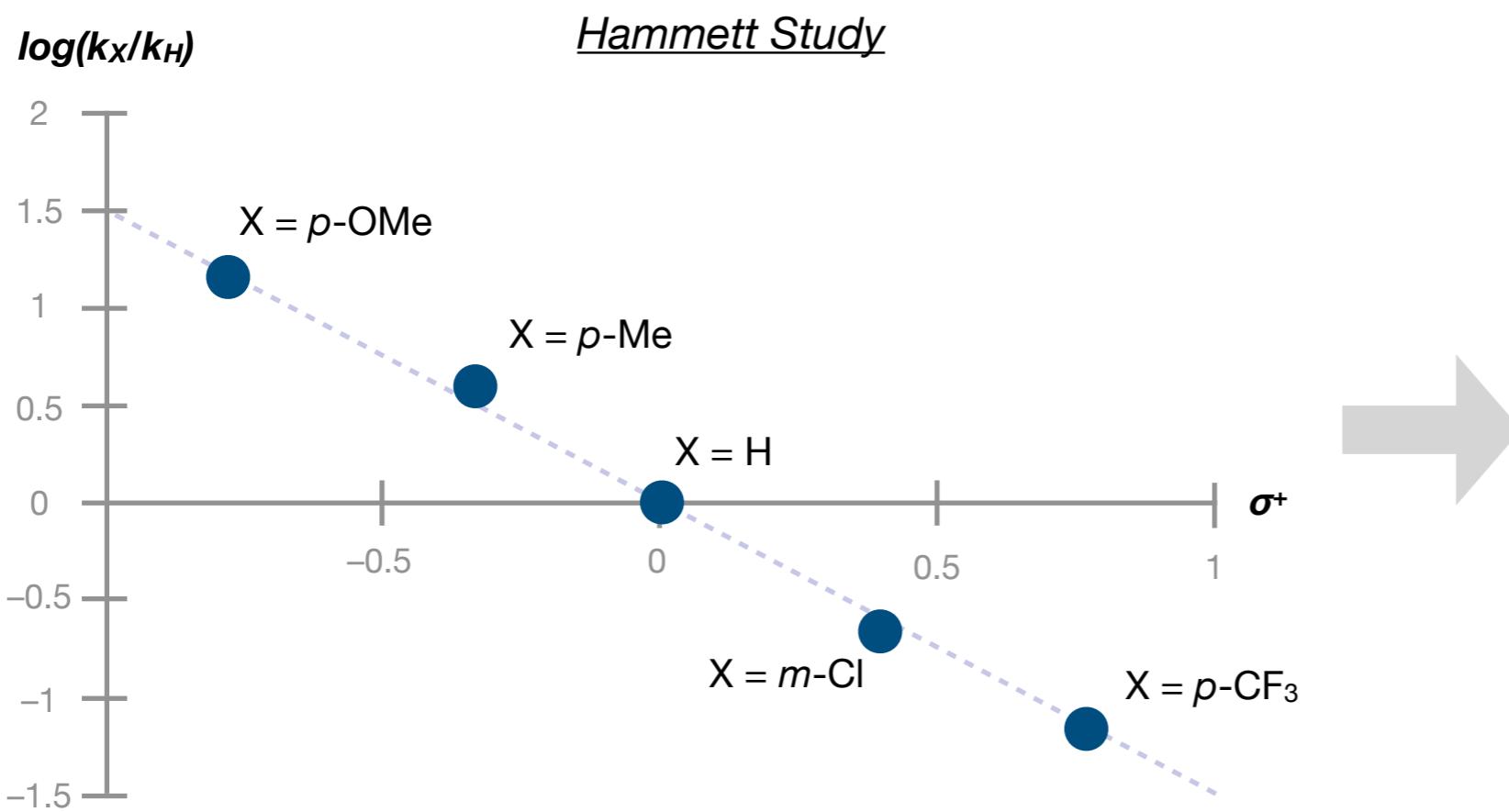
# Levin – Heteroarene Synthesis via Nitride Insertion



# Levin – Heteroarene Synthesis via Nitride Insertion – Hammett Study



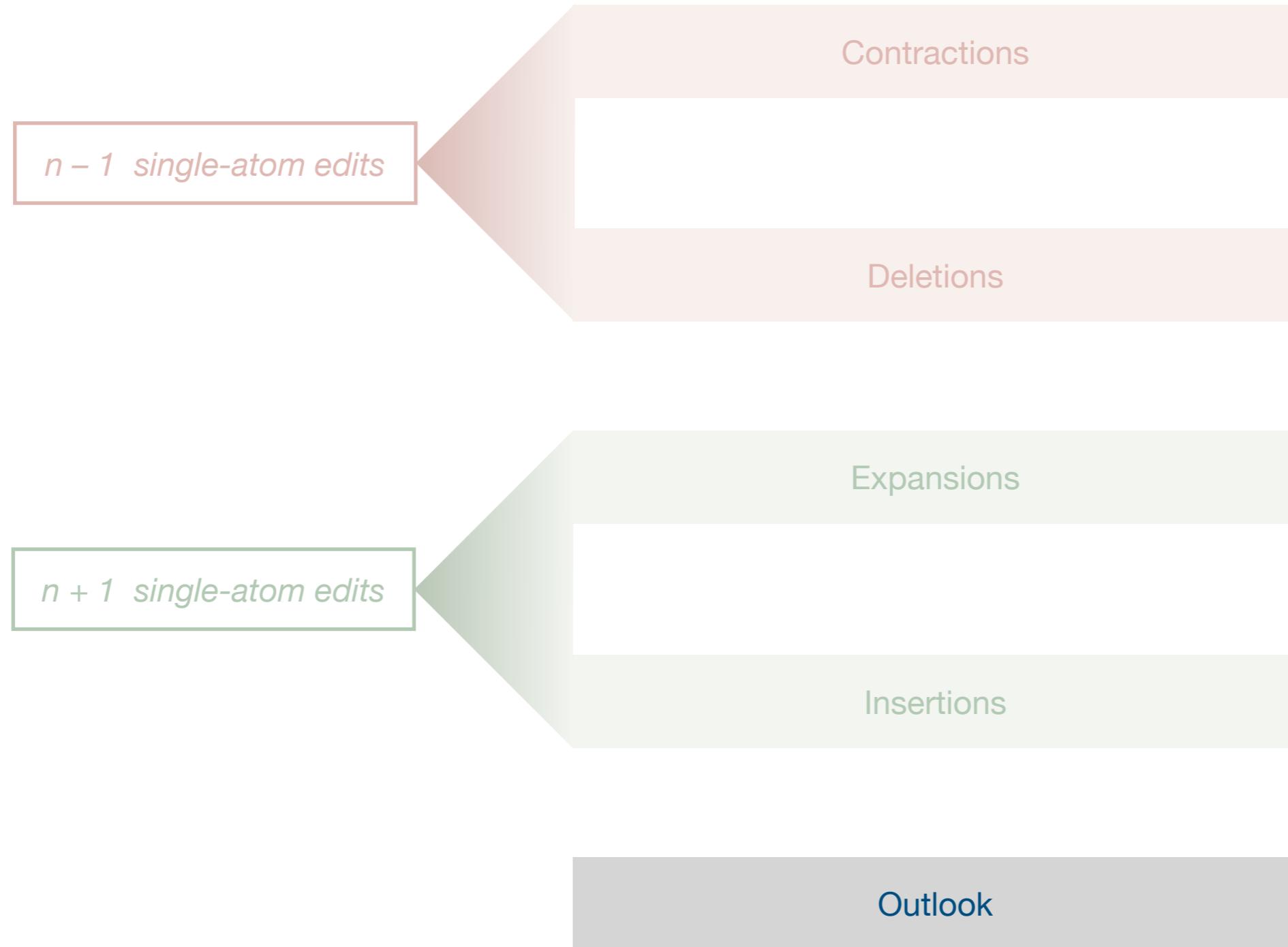
*Distinctive protons  
easily monitored by  
 $^1\text{H-NMR}$*



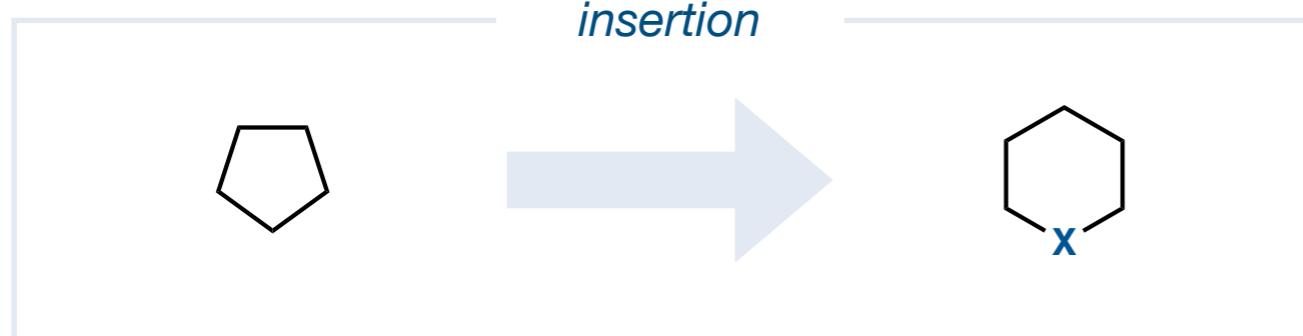
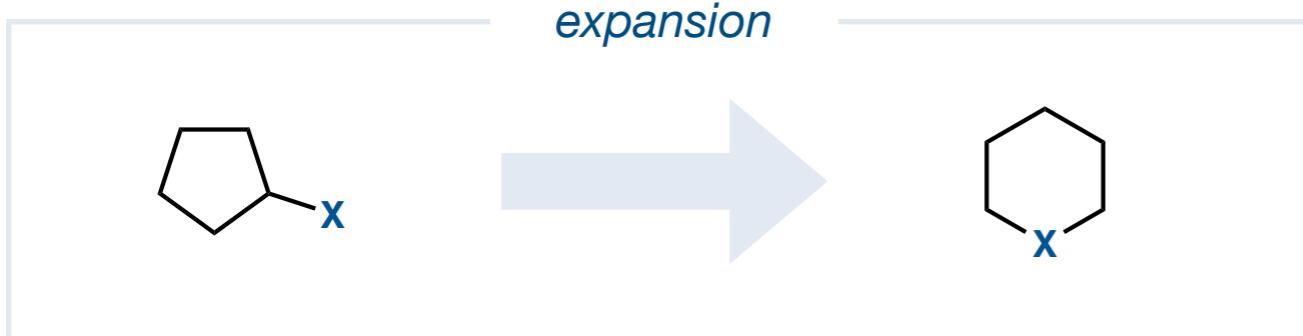
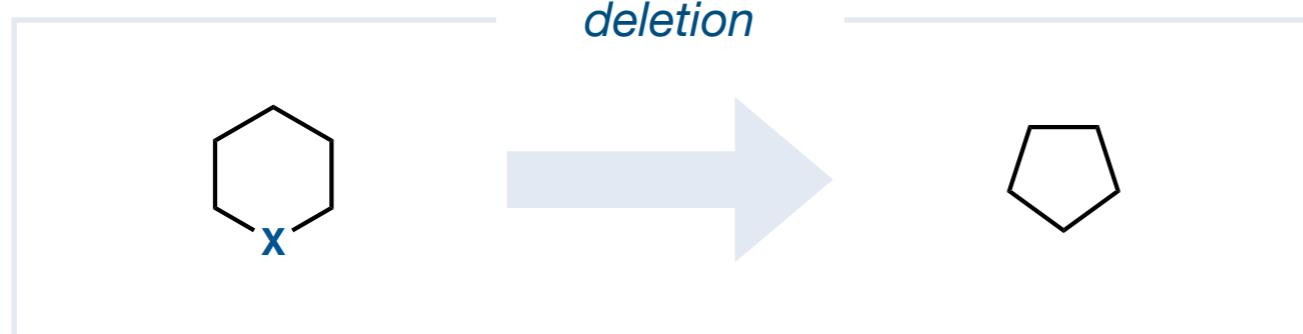
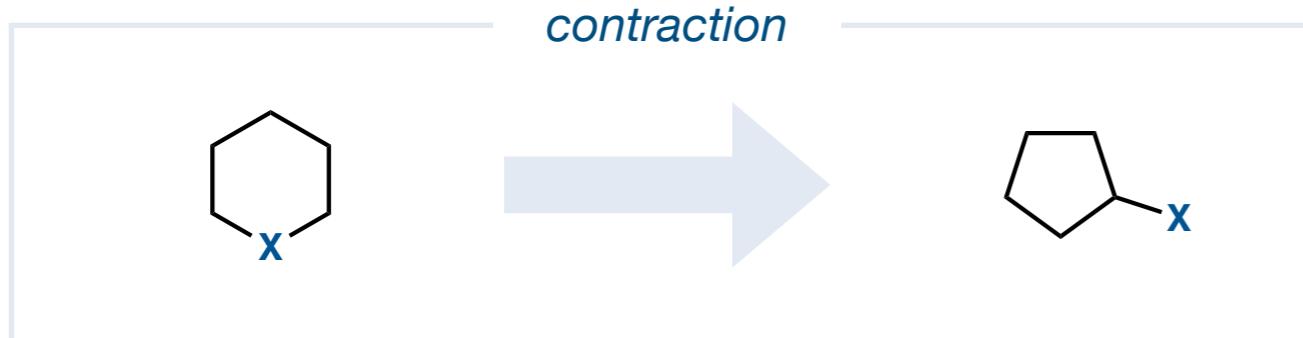
$$\rho = -1.5 \quad (R^2 = 0.996)$$

*Strong evidence for  
dibenzylidene cation  
intermediate*

# Overview



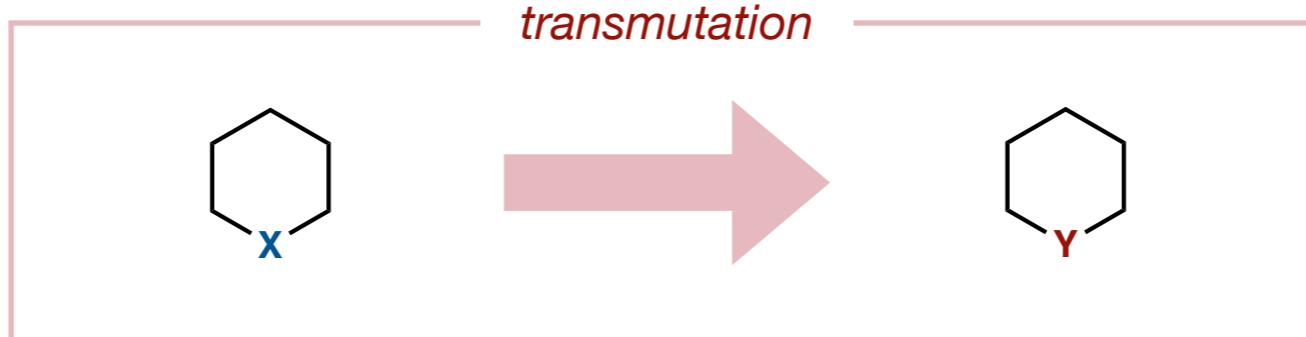
# *Outlook*



**Maturity**

- Context-independent deployment*
- Non-traditional reactivity manifolds*
- Single-step operations*
- Moving beyond  $n \pm 1$*

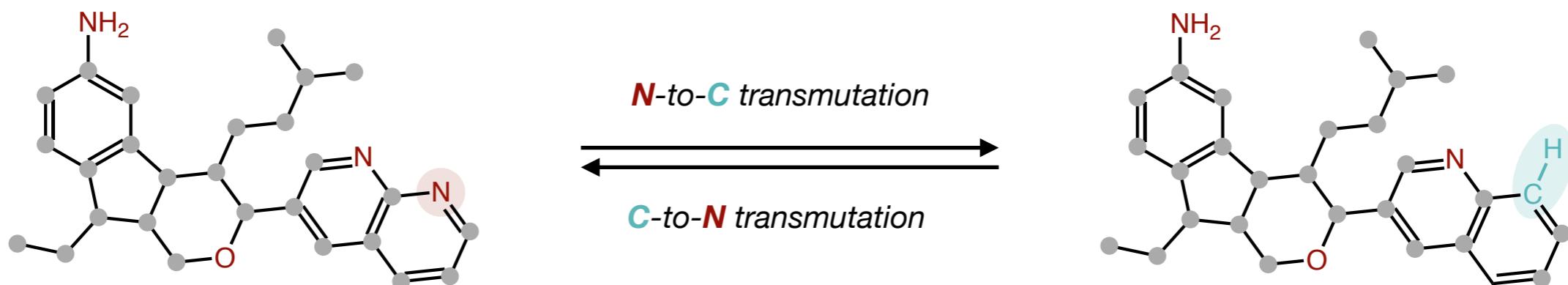
# Transmutations



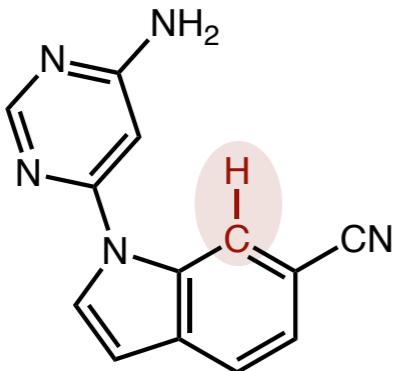
*Maintaining the ring size while replacing one atom in a ring system*

***The ultimate goal of skeletal editing***

*Such transmutations would enable the direct interrogation of shape-conserving structure-activity relationships in drugs*



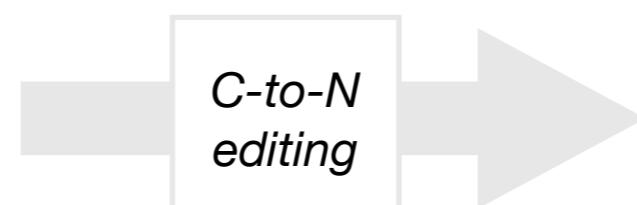
## 'Necessary Nitrogen Effect'



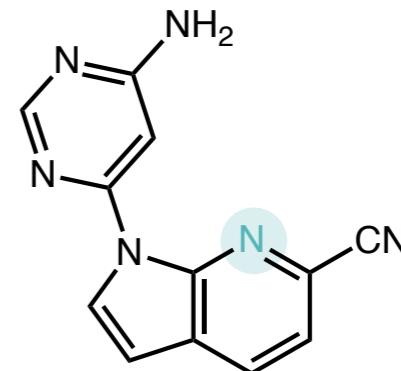
*Lead compound*

*Cdc7 kinase  
inhibitor*

$IC_{50} = 2,700 \text{ nM}$



*300-fold biochemical  
potency improvement*

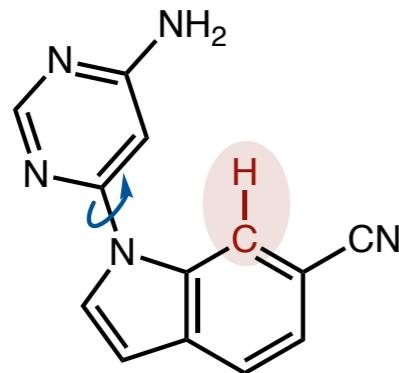


$IC_{50} = 9.0 \text{ nM}$

*Cdc – Cell division cycle*

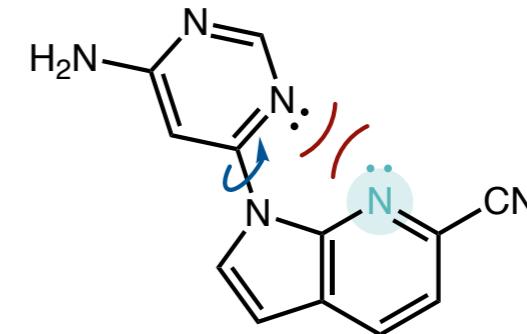
*IC<sub>50</sub> – half maximal inhibitory concentration*

## 'Necessary Nitrogen Effect'



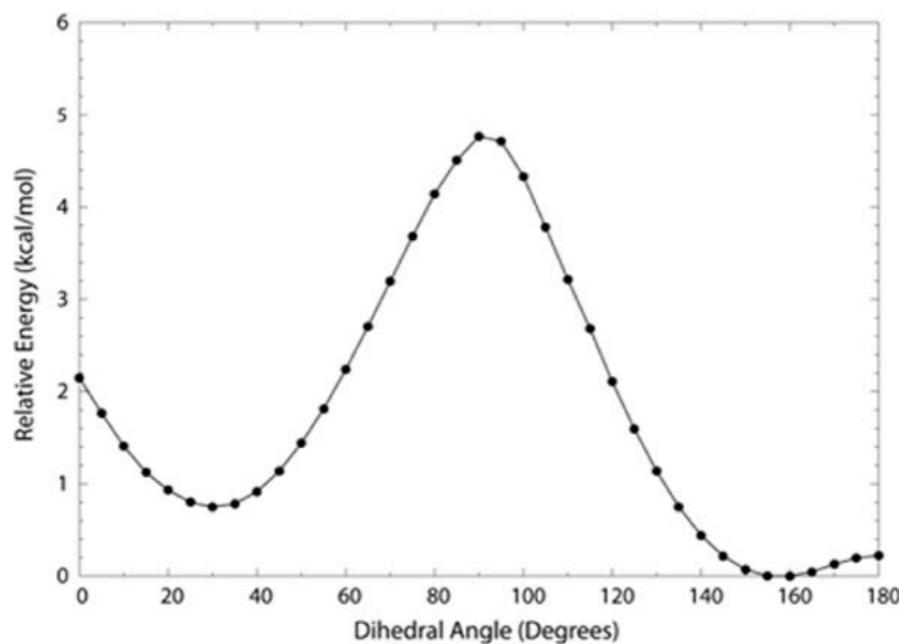
Dihedral angle =  $0^\circ$

C-to-N  
editing

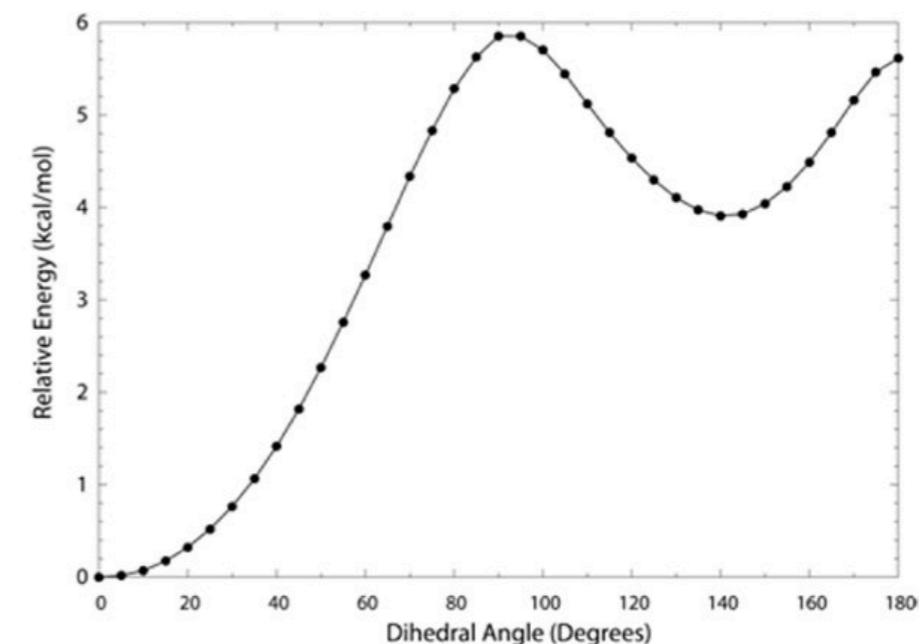


Dihedral angle =  $180^\circ$

300-fold biochemical  
potency improvement

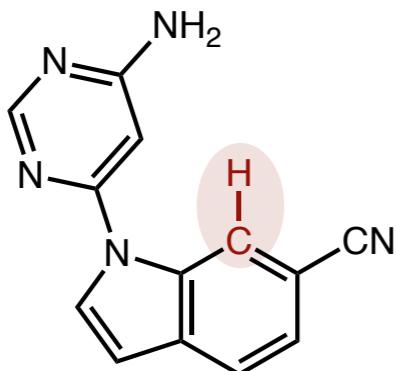


Preference for  $>150^\circ$  biaryl dihedral angle



Strong preference for  $0^\circ$  biaryl dihedral angle  
due to **nitrogen lone-pair/lone-pair repulsion**

## 'Necessary Nitrogen Effect'



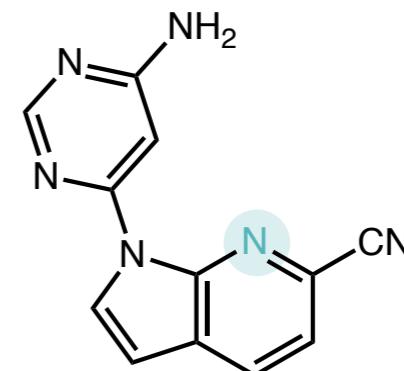
*Lead compound*

*Cdc7 kinase  
inhibitor*

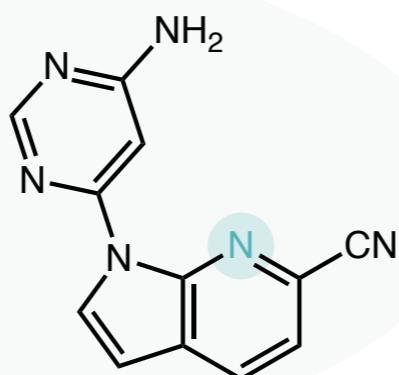
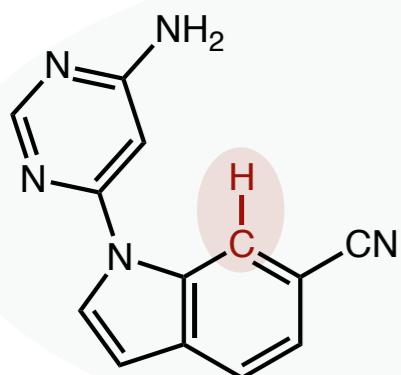
$IC_{50} = 2,700 \text{ nM}$

*C-to-N  
editing*

*300-fold biochemical  
potency improvement*



$IC_{50} = 9.0 \text{ nM}$



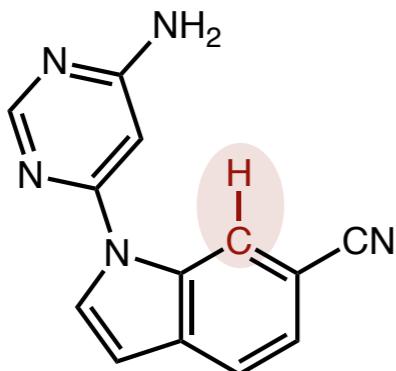
*Cdc – Cell division cycle*

$IC_{50}$  – half maximal inhibitory concentration

*Pharma – 'Nitrogen Scans'*

*Conventional methods demand  
lengthy de novo synthesis*

## 'Necessary Nitrogen Effect'



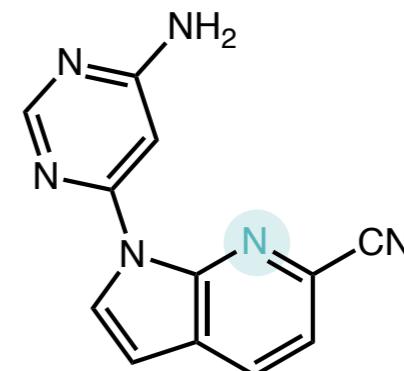
*Lead compound*

*Cdc7 kinase  
inhibitor*

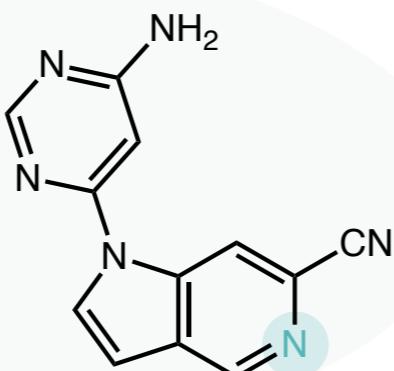
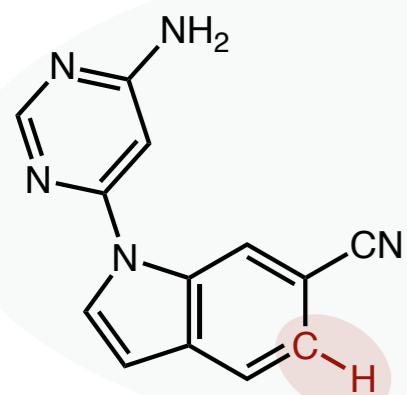
$IC_{50} = 2,700 \text{ nM}$

*C-to-N  
editing*

*300-fold biochemical  
potency improvement*



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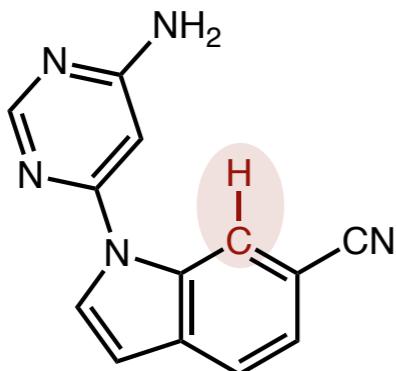
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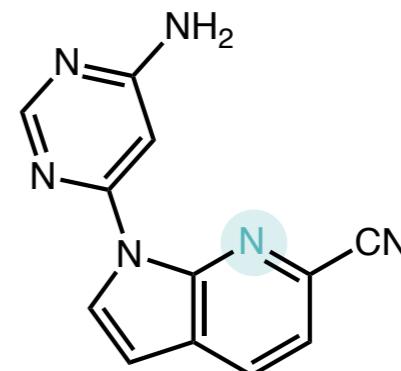
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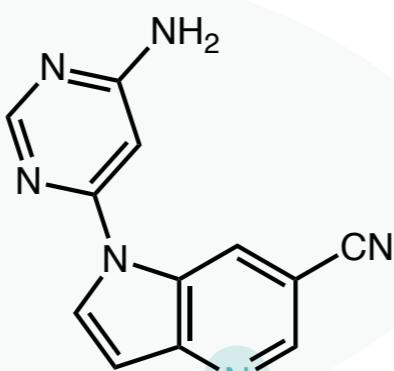
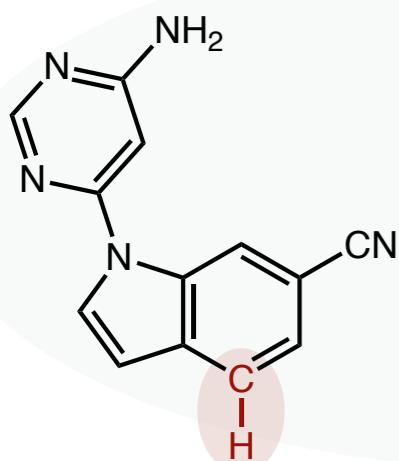
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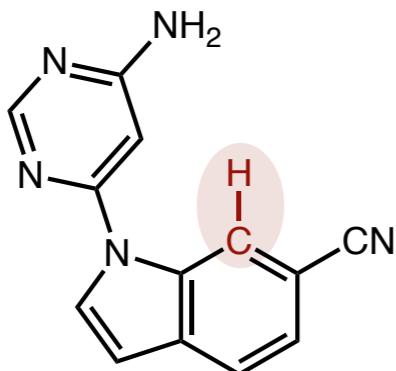
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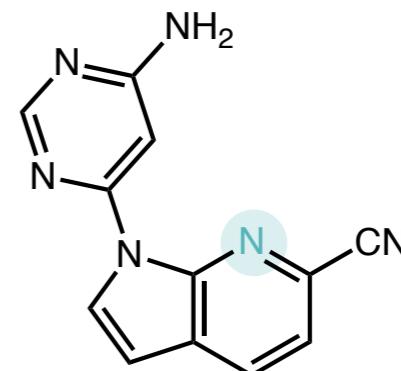
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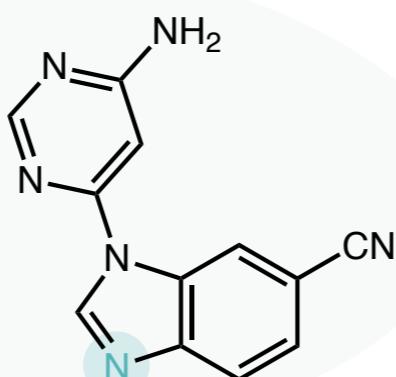
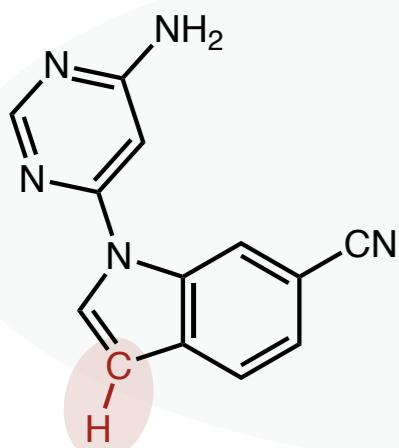
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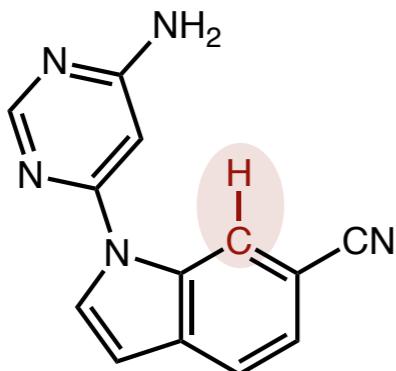
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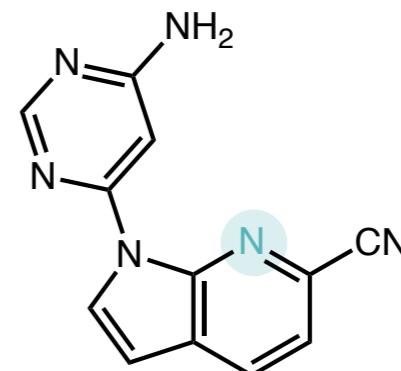
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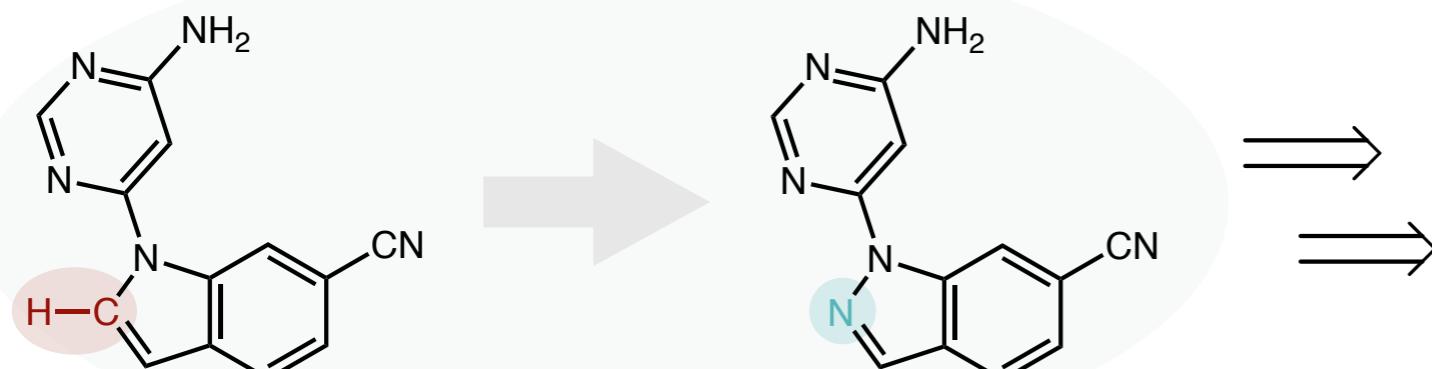
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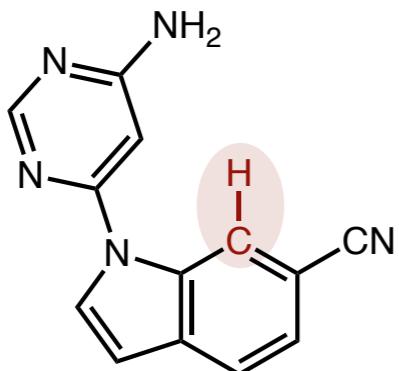
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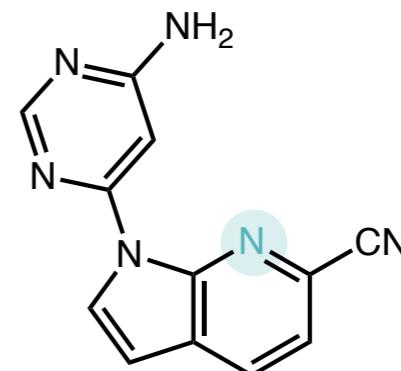
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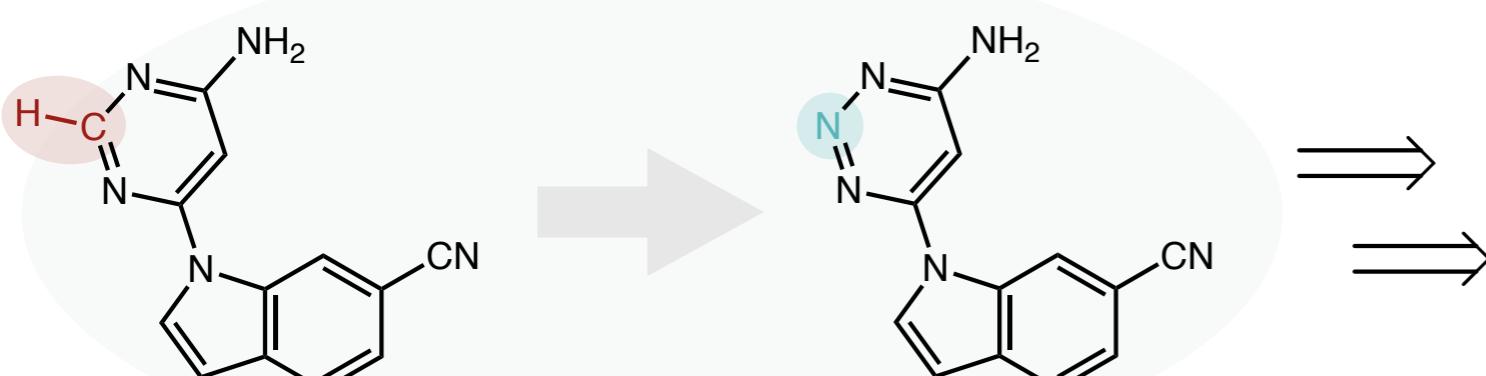
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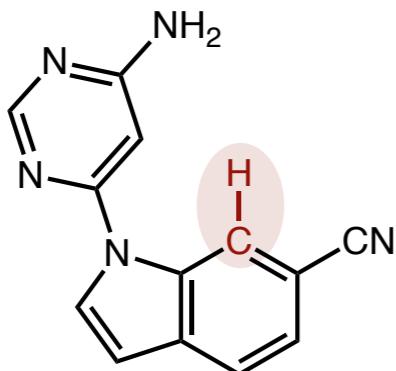
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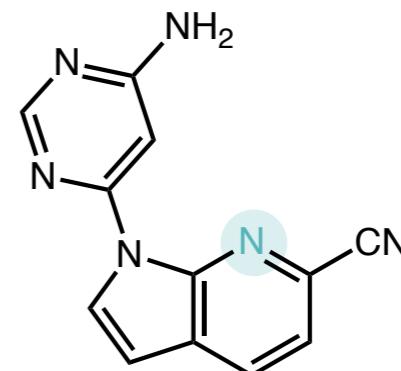
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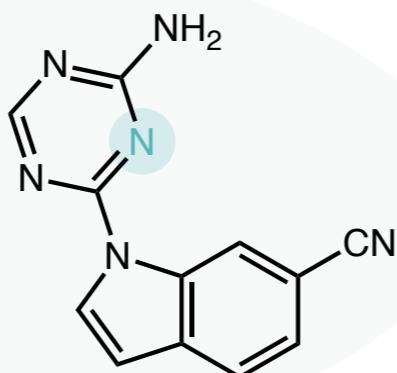
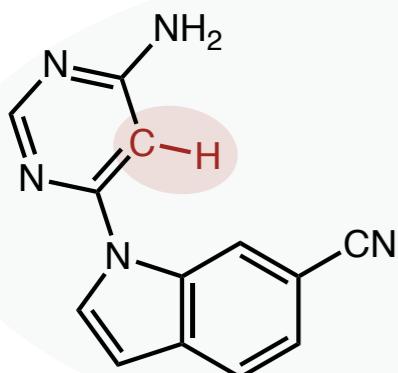
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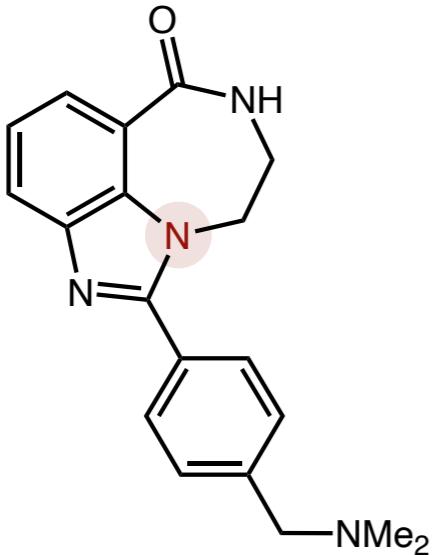
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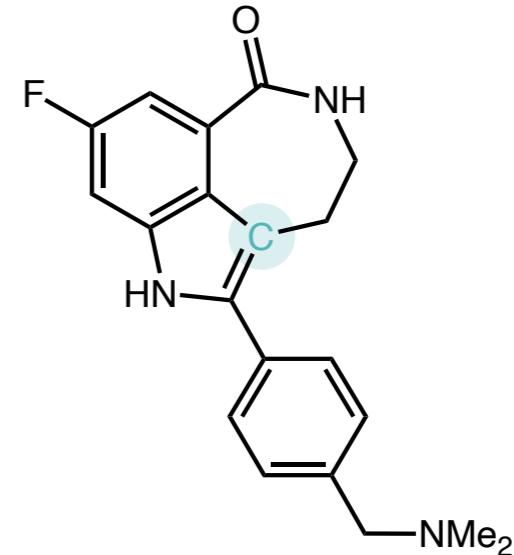
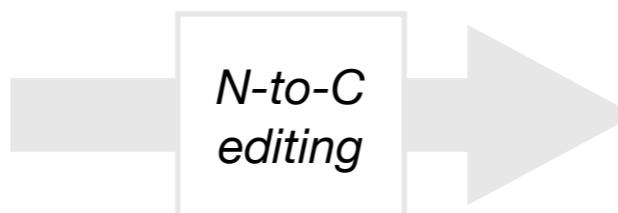
## 'Necessary Nitrogen Effect'



*Lead compound*

*PARP inhibitor*

$$K_i = 5.8 \text{ nM}$$



*Transmuted product*

$$K_i = 1.4 \text{ nM}$$

Sometimes nitrogen is 'unnecessary'

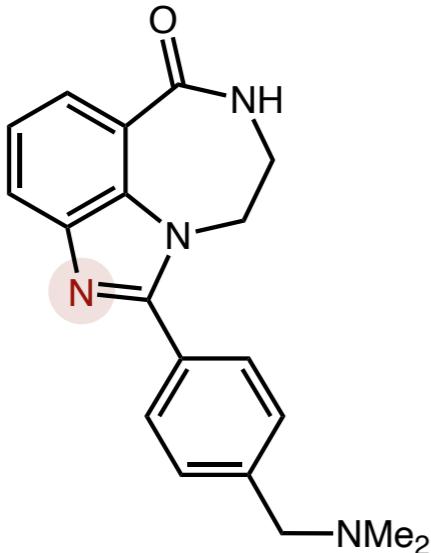
?

How can we efficiently 'scan'  
for where nitrogen is needed?

$K_i$  – inhibitory constant

PARP – polyadenosine diphosphate ribose polymerase

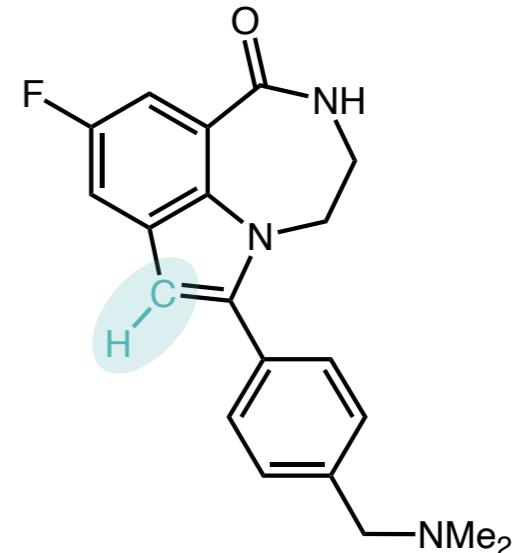
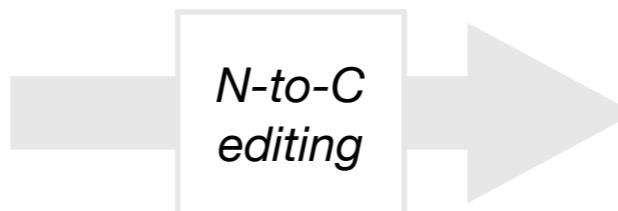
## 'Necessary Nitrogen Effect'



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*PARP inhibitor*

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*Transmuted product*

$K_i = ??$

Sometimes nitrogen is 'unnecessary'

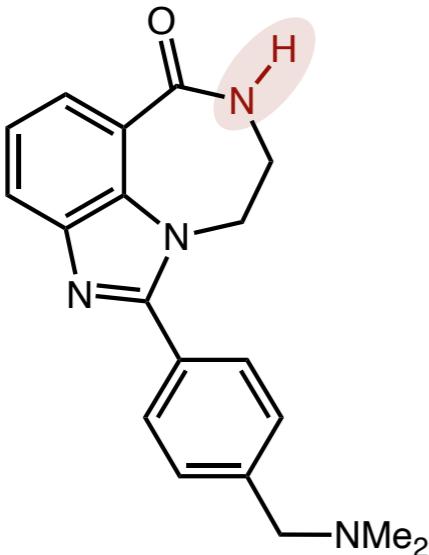
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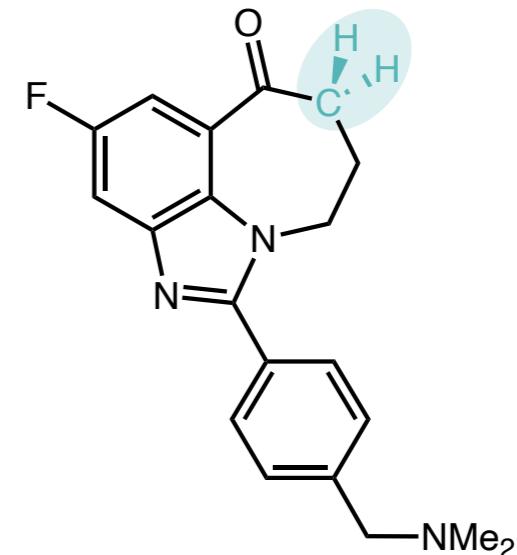
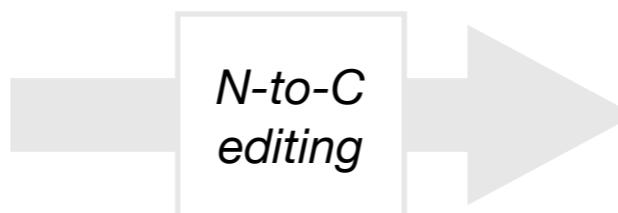
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?

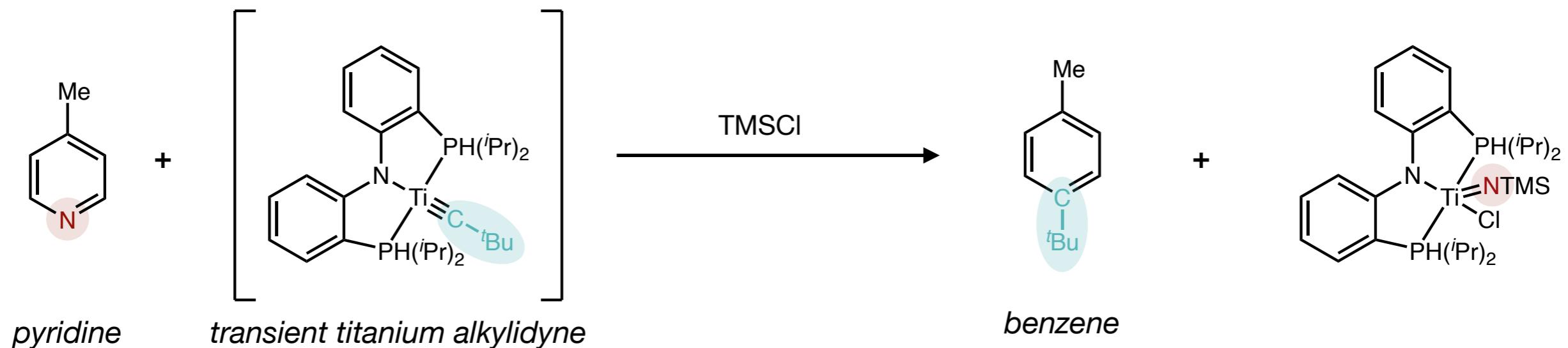
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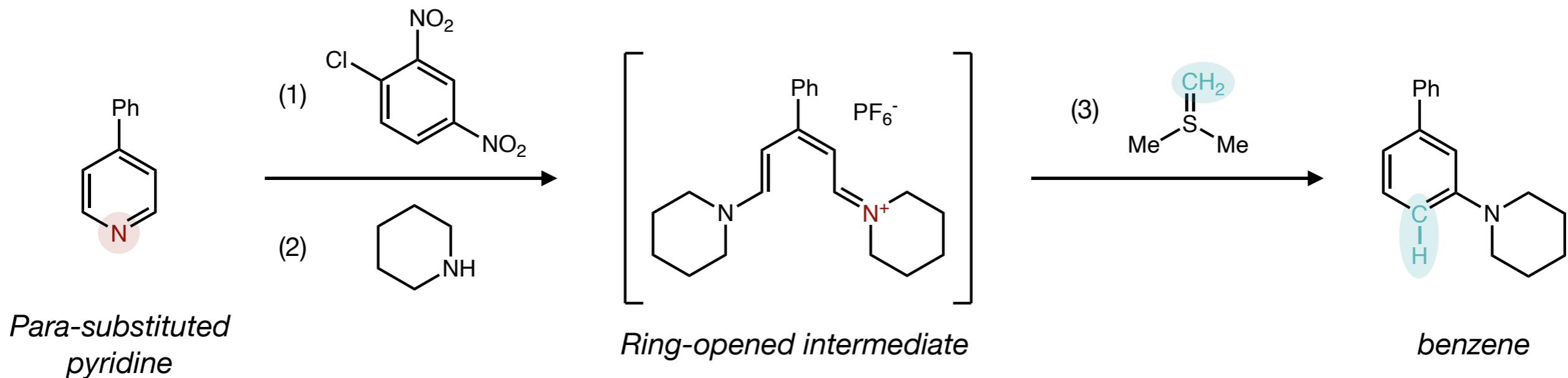
# Promising Examples of Formal Carbon-Nitrogen Transmutation

Mindiola Group – Univ. of Pennsylvania



require stoichiometric metals or multistep sequences

Kano Group – Gakushuin Univ.

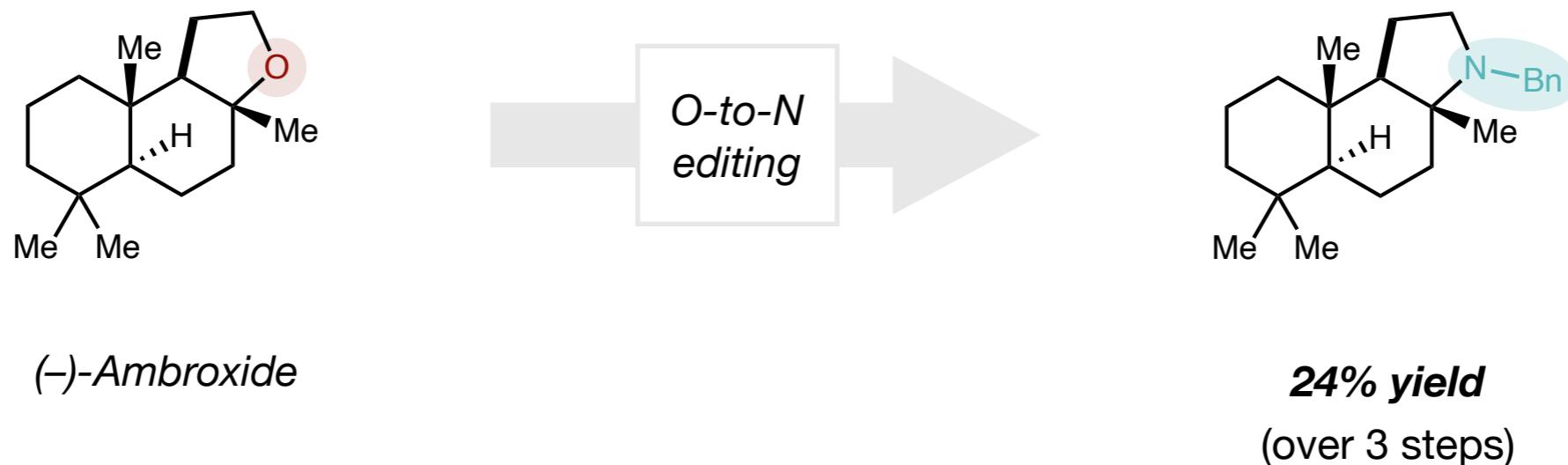
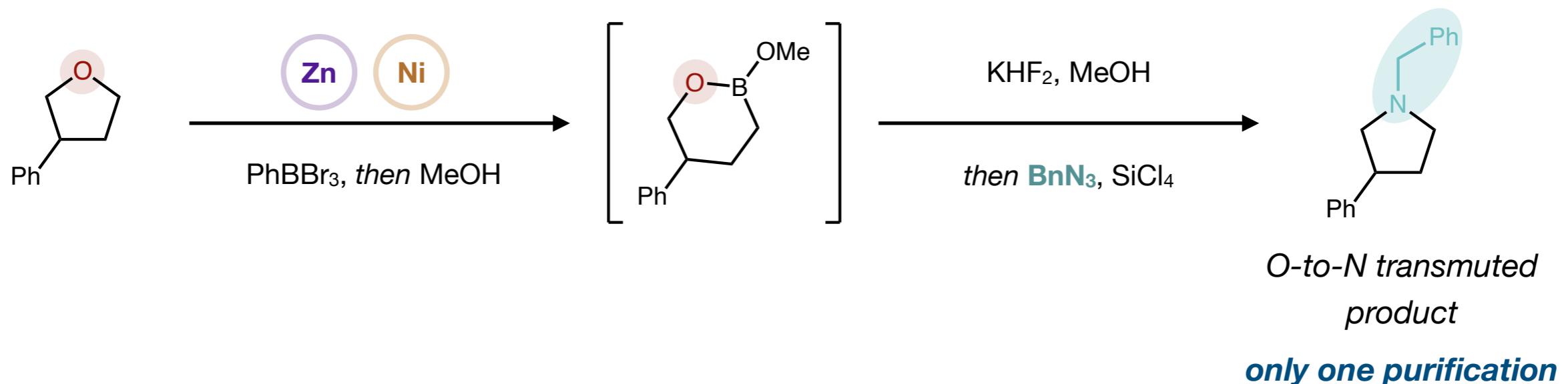


Fout, A. R.; Bailey, B. C.; Tomaszewski, J.; Mindiola, D.J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2007**, 129, 12640.

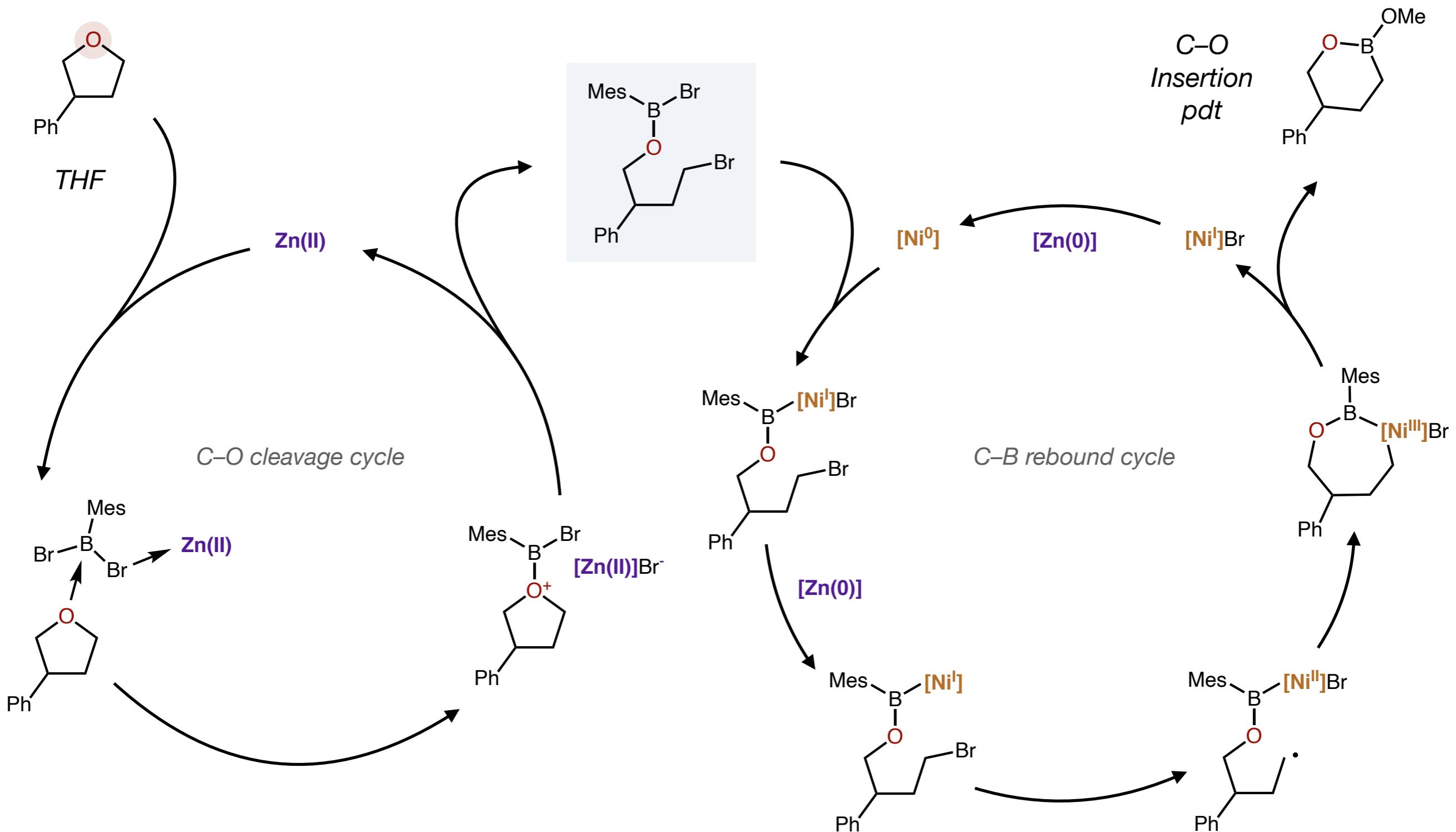
Morofuji, T.; Inagawa, K.; Kano, N. *Org. Lett.* **2021**, 23, 6126.

# Dong – Formal Transmutation of Other Heteroatoms

Dong Group – Univ. of Chicago

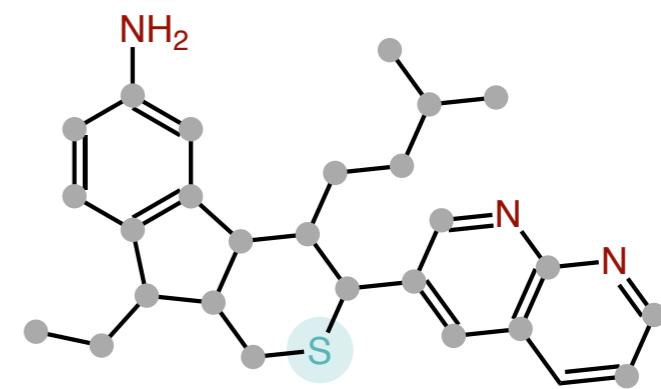
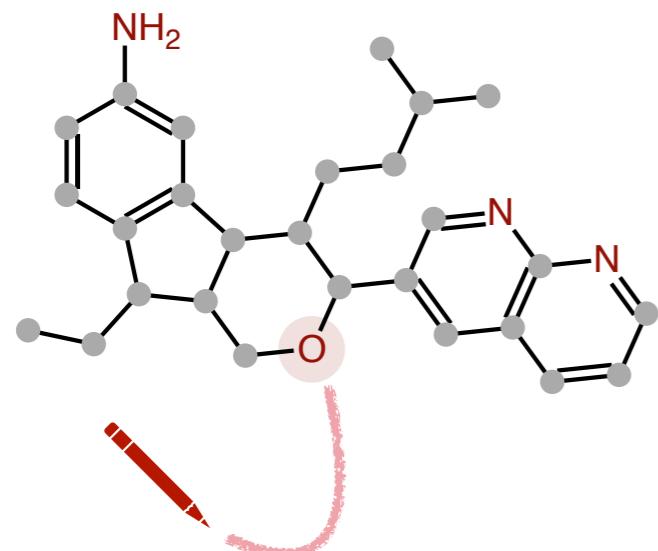


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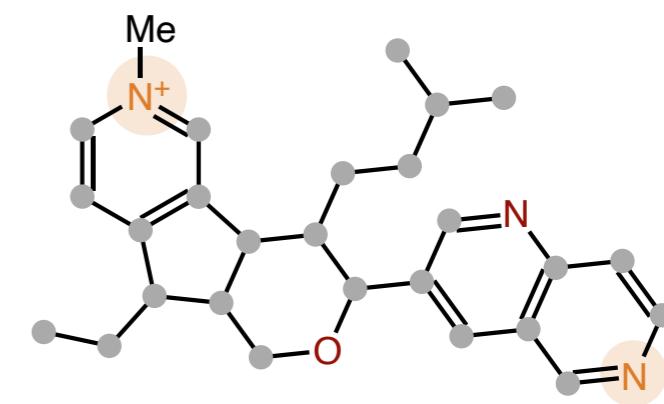
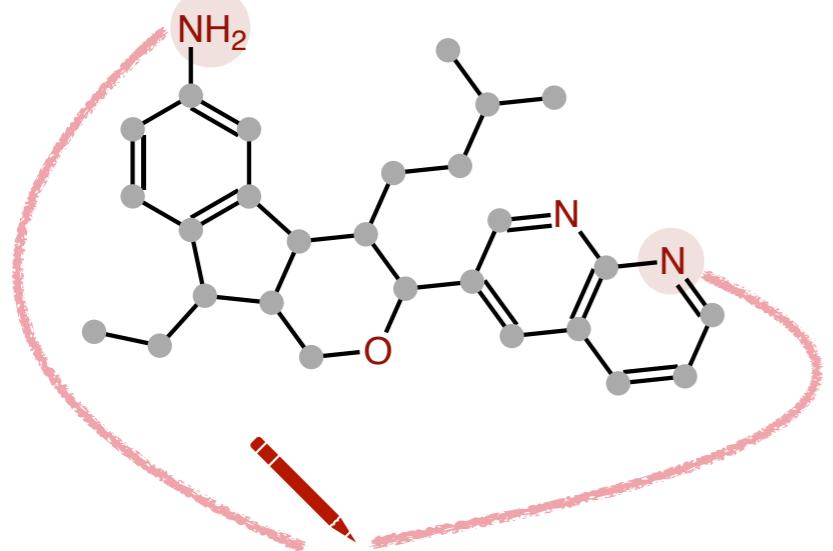
# Skeletal Editing Dream Reactions

## Heteroatom transmutation



O-to-S transmutation product

## Heteroatom migration



N-migration product

“[Skeletal editing is] ... like suddenly discovering while you're driving that there's a new shortcut road that you didn't know about, one that connects two neighborhoods that you've always thought of as being far apart.”

# Questions?

