

A Route from 1,1,1,3-Tetrachloro-3-phenylpropane to Ethynyl Phenyl Ketone Involving Elimination of Hydrogen Chloride and 1,3-Proton Transfer

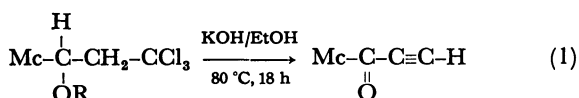
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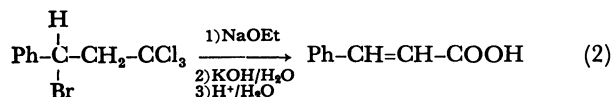
The treatment of 1,1,1,3-tetrachloro-3-phenylpropane with alkali in ethanol affords ethynyl phenyl ketone and its acetal in good yields. This reaction proceeds through the elimination of hydrogen chloride and an efficient 1,3-proton transfer catalyzed by base. Ethyl cinnamate is obtained in only 2% yield.

We have already reported the formation of ethynyl metallocenyl ketones in the reaction of 1,1,1-trichloro-3-alkoxy-3-metallocenylpropanes with alkali in ethanol.¹⁾ The expected product, ethyl 3-metallocenylacrylate (Mc-CH=CH-COOEt) has not been obtained.



Mc: (η^5 -C₅H₅)₂M, M = Fe, Ru; R = -CH₃, -C₂H₅

On the other hand, Kharasch *et al.* reported²⁾ that the treatment of 1,1,1-trichloro-3-bromo-3-phenylpropane, a bromotrichloromethane adduct to styrene, with sodium ethoxide in ethanol followed by hydrolysis gave cinnamic acid.



In order to clarify whether the unusual reaction shown in Eq. 1 is favored specifically by metallocenyl group attached at 3-position or whether it occurs in the normal carbon tetrachloride adduct of alkenes, we reinvestigated the solvolysis of 1,1,1,3-tetrachloro-3-phenylpropane (**1**) in the alkali-ethanol systems.

Experimental

Materials. Styrene (Wako Pure Chemical Co., G. R.) was distilled under reduced pressure just before use. Chlorotris(triphenylphosphine)ruthenium(II) was prepared according to the method given in the literature.³⁾ Sodium ethoxide was prepared from sodium metal and absolute ethanol. Ethanol-*d* (CH₃CH₂OD) (Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique, France, deuterium content: 99%) was used as received.

1,1,1,3-Tetrachloro-3-phenylpropane (**1**) was prepared from styrene according to Matsumoto *et al.*⁴⁾ Styrene (15.6 g, 0.15 mol) and chlorotris(triphenylphosphine)ruthenium(II) (0.78 g, 0.8 mmol) were dissolved in carbon tetrachloride (76 g, 50 cm³) and the solution was refluxed for 5 h under nitrogen atmosphere. After the reaction, carbon tetrachloride was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was submitted to column chromatography on silica gel (Wakogel C-200, 200 mesh, eluent: C₆H₆). **1** was obtained in 95% yield. The spectral data (IR and ¹H NMR spectra) of **1** were identical with those obtained by Matsumoto^{5a)} and Asahara.^{5b)} 1,1,1,3-Tetrachloro-4-phenylbutane (**13**) was prepared by the similar method from allylbenzene and carbon tetrachloride in 82% yield. The IR and ¹H NMR spectra of **13** were identical with those obtained by Matsumoto.⁶⁾

Measurements. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a

Hitachi R-22 (90 MHz) spectrometer. IR spectra were measured on a Hitachi 260-50 spectrophotometer. Mass spectra and GC-mass spectra were obtained on a JEOL JMA D-300 GC-mass spectrometer (column: OV-1, 5%, 1 m glass column).

Quantitative gas chromatography was performed on a Shimadzu GC-6AFP gas chromatograph (column: OV-1, 5%, 2 m glass column, temperature: 90–120 °C) equipped with an integrator (Shimadzu Chromatopak, E-1a).

Reactions. **Reaction of 1,1,1,3-tetrachloro-3-phenylpropane (1) with Potassium Hydroxide in Ethanol Solution:** **1** (3.0 g, 11.6 mmol) and potassium hydroxide (10 g, 0.178 mol) were added to ethanol (100 cm³) and the solution was refluxed for 18 h at 80 °C. After the reaction, the reaction mixture was neutralized with aqueous sulfuric acid (0.1 mol dm⁻³) and the organic substances were extracted with dichloromethane. After the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, the residue was submitted to column chromatography on silica gel (Wakogel C-200, eluent: C₆H₆). Compounds **2**, **3**, **6**, **8**, and **9** were obtained in almost pure form.

Reaction of 1,1,1,3-tetrachloro-4-phenylbutane (13) with Potassium Hydroxide in Ethanol Solution: The procedure is the same as described for the reaction of **1**. **13** (2.0 g, 7.3 mmol) was added to the ethanol solution containing potassium hydroxide (10 g/100 cm³) and the solution was refluxed for 18 h.

Reaction of 1,1,1,3-tetrachloro-3-phenylpropane (1) with Sodium Ethoxide in Ethanol Solution. To the absolute ethanol solution of sodium ethoxide (12.0 g, 0.176 mol in 100 cm³) was added 3 g of **1** (11.6 mmol) and the solution was refluxed for 18 h at 80 °C. The separation method of the reaction products was the same as described above.

Reaction of 1,1-dichloro-3-ethoxy-3-phenylpropane (10) with Sodium Ethoxide in Ethanol Solution: **10** (200 mg, 0.86 mmol) was refluxed in a sodium ethoxide-ethanol solution (3 g in 25 cm³) for 18 h at 80 °C. After the reaction, the solution was neutralized and the organic substances were extracted with dichloromethane. Dichloromethane was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was dissolved in carbon tetrachloride for ¹H NMR spectra measurement. The ¹H NMR spectra of the product mixture show the presence of only three compounds, **2**, **3**, and **5** (100% conversion). A trace of **4** was detected by GC-mass spectra of the mixture. The yields of the products were calculated from the integrals of the peak areas.

Reaction of 1,1-dichloro-3-ethoxy-3-phenylpropane (10) with Sodium Ethoxide in Ethanol-*d* (C₂H₅OD) Solution: **10** (300 mg, 1.3 mmol) was refluxed in sodium ethoxide-ethanol-*d* solution (1.0 g in 30 cm³) for 8 h at 80 °C. After the reaction, the products were extracted with dichloromethane and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in carbon tetrachloride for the measurement of ¹H NMR spectra. The ¹H NMR spectra showed the presence

of **5**, **5-d**, **2**, **2-d**, **10**, **10-d**, and **3**. The ratio of **5** versus **5-d** was calculated based on the area of the peak of proton; the ratio of the area $\delta=5.76$ (s, $-\text{CH}=\text{CDCl}$) versus $\delta=5.76$ (d, $J=13$ Hz, $-\text{CH}=\text{CHCl}$) was 2 : 1. Similar calculations were done for **2**, **2-d**, **10**, **10-d**. The ratios obtained were: $2/2\text{-d}=2/1$, and $10/10\text{-d}=1/1$. No deuterium incorporation was observed for **3**. The similar reaction was carried out at 60 °C for 2 h in order to detect the compound **11**. The ^1H NMR spectra showed the peaks of compound **10**, **3**, and **5**. No deuterium incorporation was observed for these compounds. The peak attributable to the presence of **11** could not be observed. The GC-mass spectra of the same sample showed no increase of the intensities of the fragment peaks plus one ($P+1$) compared with those of the compounds **10**, **3**, and **5** which were obtained in the reaction of **10** in sodium ethoxide-ethanol system.

Identification of the Products. *1-Phenyl-2-propyn-1-one* (Ethynyl Phenyl Ketone) (**2**): A colorless liquid substance. IR (neat) 3240 ($\equiv\text{C-H}$), 3055, 3030 (arom. C-H), 2095 ($\text{C}\equiv\text{C}$), and 1650 cm^{-1} ($\text{C}=\text{O}$). ^1H NMR (CCl_4) $\delta=3.34$ (1H, s, $\text{C}\equiv\text{C-H}$), 7.30–7.65 (3H, m, meta and para protons of C_6H_5-), and 8.00–8.20 (2H, m, ortho protons of C_6H_5-). GC-MS (OV-1, 110 °C, 23 eV) m/e (rel intensity) 130 (M^+ , 100), 105 (Ph-CO, 5.27), 102 (M^+-CO , 77.09), 78 (C_6H_6 , 5.88), and 77 (C_6H_5 , 2.54). Found: m/e 130.0440. Calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_6\text{O}$: M, 130.0418.

3,3-Diethoxy-3-phenyl-1-propyne (**3**): A pale yellow liquid substance. IR (neat) 3270 ($\equiv\text{C-H}$), 3060, 3030 (arom. C-H), 2980, 2930, 2880 (aliph. C-H), 2110 ($\text{C}\equiv\text{C}$), 1110 and 1045 cm^{-1} (C-O-C). ^1H NMR (CCl_4) $\delta=1.19$ (6H, t, $-\text{OCH}_2-\text{CH}_3$), 2.59 (1H, s, $\text{C}\equiv\text{C-H}$), 3.53 (4H, m, $-\text{OCH}_2-\text{CH}_3$), and 7.20–7.55 (5H, m, C_6H_5-). GC-MS (OV-1, 126 °C, 70 eV) m/e (rel intensity) 204 (M^+ , 1.54), ($\text{M}^+-\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$, 29.7), 159 ($\text{M}^+-\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5$, 100), 131 ($\text{M}^+-\text{O}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2+\text{H}$, 65.4), and 77 (C_6H_5 , 1.9). Found: m/e 204.1131. Calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2$: M, 204.1150.

(Z)-3-Chloro-1-phenyl-2-propen-1-one (**4**): A colorless liquid substance. IR (neat) 3060, 3030 (arom. C-H), 1670 ($\text{C}=\text{O}$), 1650 ($\text{C}=\text{C}$), and 670 cm^{-1} (*cis* $\text{CH}=\text{CHCl}$). ^1H NMR (CCl_4) $\delta=6.63$ (1H, d, $J=8$ Hz, $-\text{CH}=\text{CHCl}$), 6.87 (1H, d, $J=8$ Hz, $-\text{CH}=\text{CHCl}$), and 7.15–7.6 (5H, m, C_6H_5-). GC-MS (OV-1, 110 °C, 23 eV) m/e (rel intensity) 166 (M^+ , 41.1, $\text{M}^++2/\text{M}^+=0.322$ ($\text{Cl}\times 1$)), 138 (M^+-CO , 13.3), 131 (M^+-Cl , 55.5), 105 (Ph-CO, 100), and 77 (C_6H_5 , 36.7). Found: m/e 166.0168. Calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_7\text{OCl}$: M, 166.01861.

(E)-1-Chloro-3,3-diethoxy-3-phenylpropene (**5**): A colorless liquid substance. IR (neat) 3070, 3030 (arom. C-H), 2980, 2940, 2880 (aliph. C-H), 1660 ($\text{C}=\text{C}$), 1070–1060 (C-O-C), and 942 cm^{-1} (*trans* $\text{CH}=\text{CHCl}$). ^1H NMR (CCl_4) $\delta=1.17$ (6H, t, $-\text{OCH}_2-\text{CH}_3$), 3.36 (4H, m, $-\text{OCH}_2-\text{CH}_3$), 5.76 (1H, d, $J=13$ Hz, $-\text{CH}=\text{CHCl}$), 6.50 (1H, d, $J=13$ Hz, $-\text{CH}=\text{CHCl}$), and 7.10–7.55 (5H, m, C_6H_5-). GC-MS (OV-1, 96 °C, 70 eV) m/e (rel intensity) 240 (M^+ , 0.12, $\text{M}^++2/\text{M}^+=0.323$ ($\text{Cl}\times 1$)), 205 (M^+-Cl , 100), 195 ($\text{M}^+-\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5$, 79.23), 167 ($\text{M}^+-\text{O}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2+\text{H}$, 60.35), 131 ($\text{M}^+-\text{O}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2-\text{Cl}$, 70.84), 105 (Ph-CO, 86.63), and 77 (C_6H_5 , 62.92). Found: m/e 240.0925. Calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_2\text{Cl}$: M, 240.09181.

3,3-Diethoxy-1-phenyl-1-propanone (**6**): The dimethyl acetal of **6** which was prepared from **4** with sodium methoxide was reported by T. Matsumoto, *et al.*⁷⁾ A colorless liquid substance. IR (neat) 3070, 3030 (arom. C-H), 2980, 2940, 2890 (aliph. C-H), 1690 ($\text{C}=\text{O}$), and 1125 cm^{-1} (C-CO-C). ^1H NMR (CCl_4) $\delta=1.13$ (6H, t, $-\text{OCH}_2-\text{CH}_3$), 3.17 (2H, d, $J=5$ Hz, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2$), 3.61 (4H, m, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_3$), 5.03 (1H, t, $J=5$ Hz, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2$), 7.11–7.66 (3H, m, meta and para protons of C_6H_5-), and 7.77–8.11 (2H, m, ortho protons of C_6H_5-). GC-MS (OV-1, 110 °C, 23 eV) m/e (rel intensity) 222 (M^+ , 1.33), 193 ($\text{M}^+-\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$, 29.86),

177 ($\text{M}^+-\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5$, 5.87), 176 ($\text{M}^+-\text{HOC}_2\text{H}_5$, 5.53), 147 ($\text{M}^+-\text{O}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2+\text{H}$, 12.27), 133 ($\text{M}^+-\text{O}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2+\text{H}$, 13.99), 105 (Ph-CO, 100), and 78 (C_6H_6 , 8.59). Found: m/e 222.1264. Calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3$: M, 222.12564.

3,3-Diethoxy-1-phenylpropyne (**7**): A colorless liquid substance. IR and ^1H NMR spectra of this compound were identical with those reported by Kiely *et al.*⁸⁾ Found: m/e 204.1164. Calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2$: M, 204.1150.

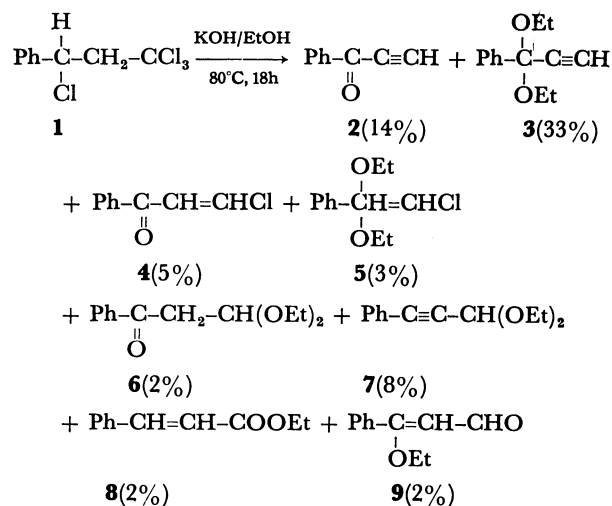
Ethyl Cinnamate (**8**): The IR and ^1H NMR spectra of **8** were identical with those of authentic sample.

3-Ethoxy-3-phenyl-2-propenal (**9**): A colorless liquid substance. IR (neat) 3070, 3030 (arom. C-H), 2980, 2940, 2880 (aliph. C-H), 1660 ($-\text{C}=\text{C}-\text{CHO}$), and 1378 cm^{-1} (C-H of CHO). ^1H NMR (CCl_4) $\delta=1.13$ (3H, t, $-\text{OCH}_2-\text{CH}_3$), 3.36 (2H, q, $-\text{OCH}_2-\text{CH}_3$), 5.47 (1H, d, $J=8$ Hz, $-\text{CH}=\text{CHO}$), 7.0–7.51 (5H, m, C_6H_5-), and 9.30 (1H, d, $J=8$ Hz, CHO). GC-MS (OV-1, 110 °C, 23 eV) m/e (rel intensity) 176 (M^+ , 20.92), 175 (M^+-H , 31.98), 147 (M^+-CHO , 25.49), 131 ($\text{M}^+-\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5$, 100), and 78 (C_6H_6 , 13.10). Found: m/e 176.0841. Calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_2$: M, 176.08376.

1,1-Dichloro-3-ethoxy-3-phenylpropene (**10**): A pale yellow liquid substance. IR (neat) 3060, 3030 (arom. C-H), 2960, 2920, 2890 (aliph. C-H), and 1610 cm^{-1} ($\text{C}=\text{C}$). ^1H NMR (CCl_4) $\delta=1.13$ (3H, t, $-\text{OCH}_2-\text{CH}_3$), 3.38 (2H, m, $-\text{OCH}_2-\text{CH}_3$), 5.03 (1H, d, $J=8$ Hz, $-\text{CH}(\text{OEt})-\text{CH}=\text{CCl}_2$), 5.93 (1H, d, $J=8$ Hz, $-\text{CH}(\text{OEt})-\text{CH}=\text{CCl}_2$), and 7.0–7.4 (5H, m, C_6H_5-). GC-MS (OV-1, 110 °C, 23 eV) m/e (rel intensity) 230 (M^+ , 0.26, $\text{M}^++2/\text{M}^+=0.66$ ($\text{Cl}\times 2$)), 195 (M^+-Cl , 100), 185 ($\text{M}^+-\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5$, 5.94), 167 ($\text{M}^+-\text{Cl}-\text{C}_2\text{H}_5+\text{H}$, 36.64), 131 ($\text{M}^+-2\text{Cl}-\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$, 15.90), and 105 (Ph-CO, 6.3). Found: m/e 230.0198. Calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{12}\text{OCl}_2$: M, 230.0264.

Results and Discussion

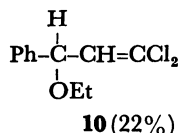
When **1** (3.0 g, 11.6 mmol) was refluxed in an ethanolic solution of potassium hydroxide (10 g/100 cm^3) for 18 h followed by neutralization with acid, eight compounds were obtained. The main products were ethynyl phenyl ketone (**2**) (14%) and its acetal (**3**) (33%); these are the phenyl analogs of the compounds obtained in the case of 1,1,1-trichloro-3-ethoxy-3-metallocenylpropane.¹⁾



These facts indicate that this type of unusual reaction is favored not only by a metallocenyl group attached to the 3-position but also by a phenyl group at the 3-position.

The products from **1** except for **8** which is the product expected from the report by Kharasch *et al.*²⁾ have one similar feature, *i.e.* these compounds have a hydrogen atom at the terminal carbon which originally had three chlorine atoms.

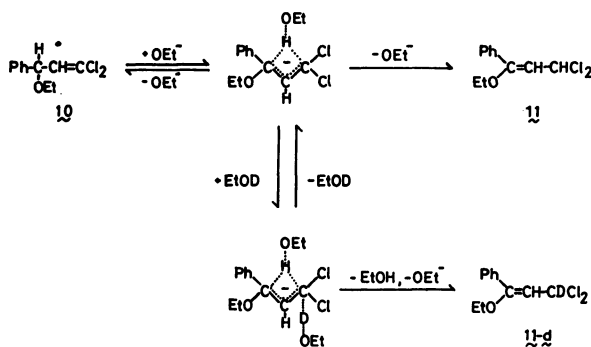
When the reaction of **1** was carried out with ethanolic sodium ethoxide (12 g/100 cm³), compounds **2**, **3**, **4**, **5**, and **10** were obtained in 59, 2, 2, 2, and 22% yields, respectively.



Compound **10** has a different type of structure from **2**, **3**, **4**, and **5** and is considered to be a precursor to **2** and **3**, since i) **10** is the compound which is formed by the normal substitution of chloride ion by ethoxide ion at benzylic position of **1**; ii) the hydrogen atom at the benzylic position in **1** is still at the original position in **10**; and iii) the terminal carbon has no hydrogen atom yet.

The treatment of **10** (200 mg) with sodium ethoxide in ethanol (3 g/25 cm³) afforded a mixture of products, the composition of which is similar to that of the product from **1** on treatment with sodium ethoxide except for **10**. **2**, **3**, **4**, and **5** were obtained in 18, 72, <1, and 9% yields, respectively.

The formation of **5** from **10** strongly suggests that the base-catalyzed 1,3-proton transfer⁹⁾ takes place effectively and this results in the formation of the rearranged product **11** as shown in Scheme 1.

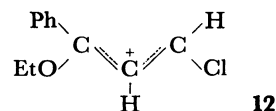


Scheme 1.

If this 1,3-proton transfer occurs intramolecularly, the incorporation of deuterium from the solvent (EtOD) would not be observed in the products. The results that the alkali-solvolysis of **10** (300 mg) with sodium ethoxide in monodeuterated ethanol (EtOD) (1.0 g/30 cm³) at 80 °C for 8 h shows the 33% incorporation of deuterium in **5** but no incorporation of deuterium in **3** indicate that the 1,3-proton transfer occurs mainly intramolecular fashion. Cram and Uyeda⁹⁾ reported the base-catalyzed rearrangement of 3-phenyl-1-butene to *cis*-2-phenyl-2-butene and they showed that both intra- and intermolecular 1,3-hydrogen transfer were involved in the rearrangement. However, the fact that no deuterium incorporation was observed for **3** indicates

that the primary reaction of **10** with ethoxide ion to produce **11** is almost intramolecular fashion and the secondary solvolysis of **11** is faster than H-D exchange reaction. When the reaction of **10** with sodium ethoxide in EtOD was carried out at 60 °C for 2 h, formation of **3** and **5** without deuterium were observed, although the formation of **11** was not observed. These results strongly suggest that the intramolecular 1,3-proton transfer occurs effectively in this reaction, when the H-D exchange process is slow enough compared with the solvolysis.

The tentative reaction pathway from **11** to **5** is as follows; i) the rearranged product **11** loses one of the two chlorine atoms as a chloride ion and forms carbenium ion, such as **12**, and ii) **12** is attacked by ethoxide ion at the α -position to phenyl group to produce **5**.



No similar reaction involving 1,3-proton transfer was observed in the treatment of 1,1,1,3-tetrachloro-4-phenylbutane (**13**), a carbon tetrachloride adduct to allylbenzene, with potassium hydroxide in ethanol solution.¹⁰⁾

For this base-catalyzed 1,3-proton transfer reaction, the stabilization of the transition state by conjugation with an aromatic group seems to play an important role: When an ethoxide ion attacks the hydrogen atom at the 3-position of **10** and abstracts it as a proton, the negative charge is delocalized in a conjugate system involving phenyl group. After the proton transfer is completed, the removal of a chloride ion from **11** produces an allyl cation **12** which is also stabilized by the phenyl group. The results that the products **2**, **3**, **4**, **5**, and **6** consist of 82% of the whole products strongly suggest that the carbon atom having phenyl and ethoxyl group in **12** is preferentially attacked by ethoxide ion to produce **5**. These results agree with those obtained in the case of metallocene derivatives of **1**.

The formation of **2**, **3**, **4**, and **5** may be explained by a mechanism in which a transposition of the carbon side chain resulting in the exchange of 1- and 3-positions is involved. However, this mechanism is excluded by the experiment using 1,1,1-trichloro-3-ethoxy-3-(3-ethylferrocenyl)propane. When it was refluxed with potassium hydroxide in ethanol at 80 °C for 18 h, only 3-ethyl ferrocenyl ethynyl ketone was obtained and no product *via* carbon side chain transposition, such as 2-ethylferrocenyl ethynyl ketone or 1'-ethylferrocenyl ethynyl ketone was obtained.

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5) a) H. Matsumoto, private communication; b) T. Asahara and C. Wu, *Kogyo Kagaku Zasshi*, **72**, 1516 (1969).

6) H. Matsumoto, private communication. IR (neat) 3070, 3040, 2970, 1505, 1460, 1420, 1205, 970, 760, and 699 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (CCl_4) δ =3.05—3.29 (4H, m, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CHCl}-\text{CH}_2\text{CCl}_3$), 4.20—4.58 (1H, m, $-\text{CHCl}-$), and 7.21 (5H, s, C_6H_5-). Found: m/e 269.9538. Calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{10}\text{Cl}_4$: M, 269.9539.

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10) The only product which has molecular weight less than 300 could be identified by GC-MS (OV-1, 110 °C, 23 eV). The parent peak (M^+ , m/e 208, $\text{M}^+ + 2/\text{M}^+ = 0.335$) and fragment pattern suggest the presence of 1-chloro-3-ethoxy-4-phenyl-1-butyne.
