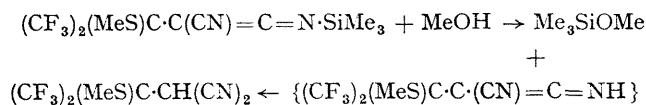


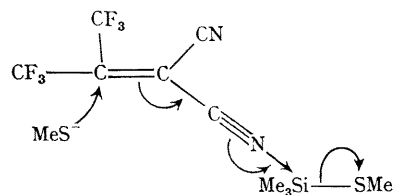
With the exception of some of the organotin ketenimines, all of the products undergo rapid alcoholysis and hydrolysis; the non-metalloid product reverting to the dicyano-form: *e.g.*,



These alcoholysis products have been characterised by analysis, mass spectra, and n.m.r. spectra; and they show a complete loss of the intense $\text{C}=\text{C}=\text{N}$ chromophore in the u.v. spectrum. Hydrolysis of the trimethylsilane adduct produces $(\text{CF}_3)_2\text{HC}\cdot\text{CH}(\text{CN})_2$, the overall reaction thus effecting a mild⁷ and convenient hydrogenation of $(\text{CF}_3)_2\text{C}=\text{C}(\text{CN})_2$.

All of the reactions proceed under mild conditions,

though more rapidly when impurities are present, *e.g.*, a trace of methanethiol in Me_3SiSMe causes the olefin insertion to be instantaneous, possibly by an anionic initiation:



We thank the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research through its European Research Office for support of this work.

(Received, June 26th, 1969; Com. 924.)

¹ E. W. Abel and J. P. Crow, *J. Chem. Soc. (A)*, 1968, 1361; E. W. Abel, D. J. Walker, and J. N. Wingfield, *ibid.*, 1814.

² W. J. Middleton, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1965, **30**, 1402.

³ L. J. Bellamy, "The Infrared Spectra of Complex Molecules," 2nd edn., 1958, Methuen, London, p. 264.

⁴ W. Beck, H. S. Smedal, and H. Köhler, *Z. anorg. Chem.*, 1967, **354**, 69.

⁵ R. Dijkstra and H. J. Backer, *Rec. Trav. chim.*, 1954, **73**, 575.

⁶ E. Müller, R. Sommer, and W. P. Neumann, *Annalen*, 1968, **718**, 1.

⁷ R. Sommer, E. Müller, and W. P. Neumann, *Annalen*, 1968, **718**, 11.