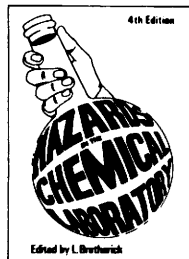


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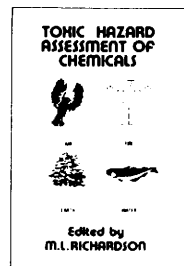
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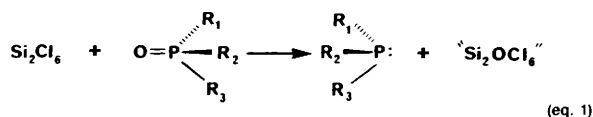
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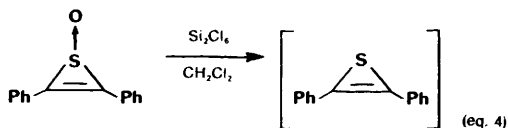
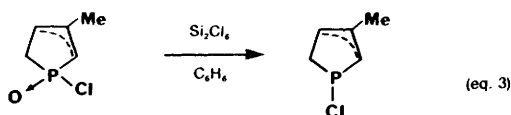
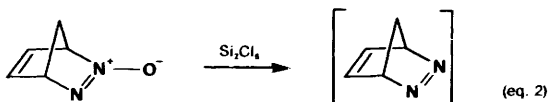
Disilane Dialog

A literature search on **hexachlorodisilane** quickly reveals the interdisciplinary interest in this versatile chemical. The patent literature reflects considerable activity in areas such as catalysis and olefin metathesis,^{1,2} deposition and epitaxial doping,^{3,5} photoconductive elements,^{6,7} and polymer research.^{8,9} Organosilane chemistry is another active area¹⁰⁻¹³ which includes hetero- π -systems, such as silabenzene.^{14,15}

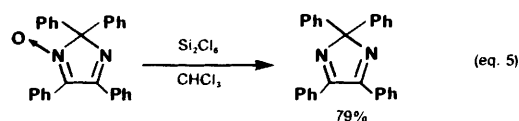
Use of **hexachlorodisilane** as a reagent in organic synthesis grew from the realization that the Si-Si bond could be cleaved by various agents, most notably oxides.^{16,17} Higher silicon chlorides were suggested as reducing agents for use in nonaqueous systems where hydride or metallic reducing agents were incompatible.¹⁸ Its use in the synthesis of optically active phosphines promptly followed (eq. 1).¹⁹ Mild conditions give good yields and high stereospecificities with nearly complete inversion of configuration.



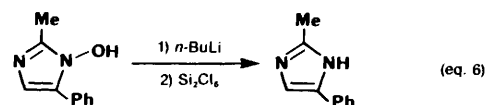
Hexachlorodisilane also reduces amine oxides to amines and sulfoxides to sulfides.²⁰ However, phosphine sulfides are reduced to phosphines with retention of configuration in high optical yields.²¹ Similar results are observed in the reduction of cyclic phosphine oxides,²² where structural constraints apparently promote the retention of configuration. Applications of this chemistry include conversion of *cis*-azoxyalkanes to unstable *cis*-azo compounds (eq. 2),²³ reduction of 1-halophospholine oxides (eq. 3),²⁴ and deoxygenation of a diphenylthiirene 1-oxide (eq. 4).²⁵



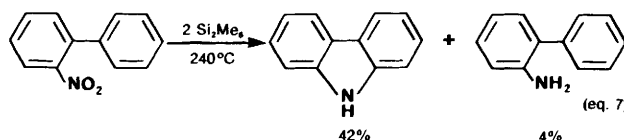
In addition to the advantages provided by the mild reaction conditions (ice bath/ambient temperature), the selectivity of **hexachlorodisilane** deoxygenation of N-oxides minimizes product rearrangement and over-reduction of C=N bonds²⁶ (eq. 5).



This technique has been extended to certain novel dehydroxylations (eq. 6).



Hexamethyldisilane is less sensitive to water and oxygen than **hexachlorodisilane** and, along with several other disilanes, has been used in the deoxygenation of nitrobenzenes and nitrotoluenes²⁷ (eq. 7); severe reaction conditions may limit the exploitation of this method.



The chemistry of **trichlorosilane**, a widely used reagent, has been extended to the reduction of bridged cyclic phosphine oxides.²⁸

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