

39. Photochemistry of Tetraalkyl-2*H*-thietes

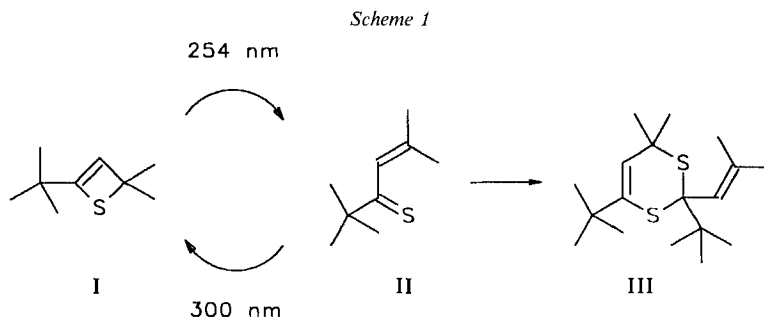
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The 3-alkyl-2,2-dimethyl-4-(*tert*-butyl)-2*H*-thietes **9a–c** were obtained in several steps from the corresponding, newly synthesized, 3-alkyl-2-(*tert*-butyl)thiophenes **5a–c**. Irradiation (254 nm) of these tetraalkylated four-membered S-heterocycles leads to a photostationary equilibrium with enethiones **10a–c** (thiete/enethione 3:1)

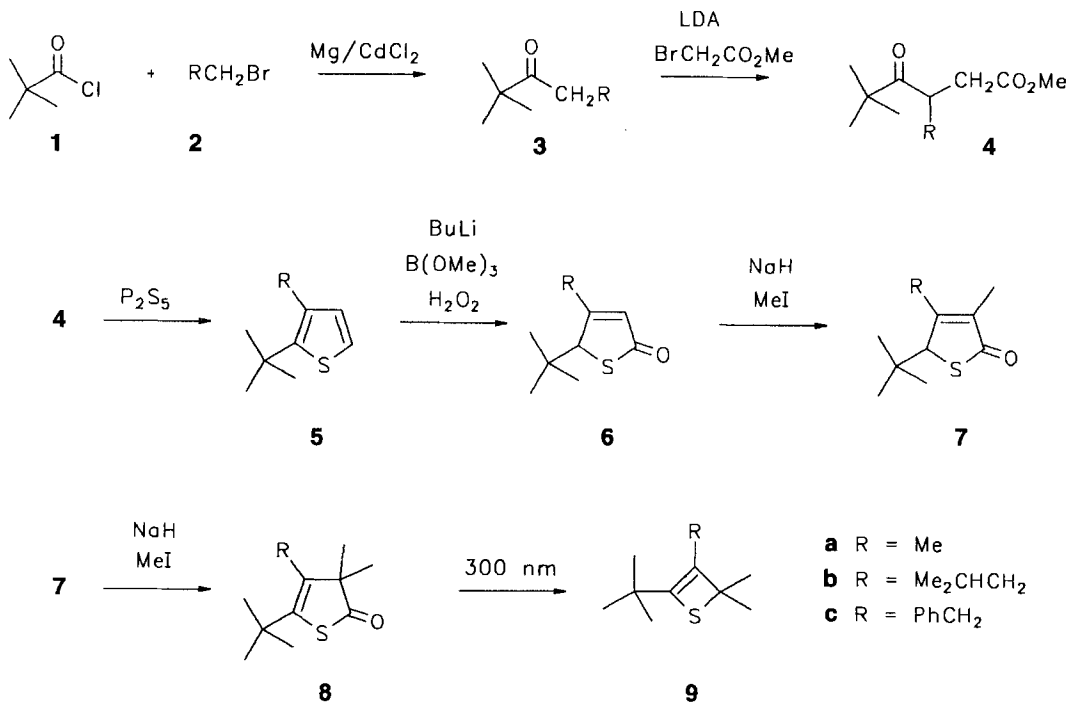
Introduction. – We have recently presented preliminary results [1] on the first example of a light-induced interconversion of a 2,2,4-trialkyl-2*H*-thiete and its valence isomer, an acyclic α,β -unsaturated thione. Irradiation (254 nm) of 4-(*tert*-butyl)-2,2-dimethyl-2*H*-thiete (**I**) afforded 2,2,5-trimethylhex-4-ene-3-thione (**II**), which reclosed to **I** on irradiation with light of 300 nm or greater than 450 nm. In contrast to cyclic α,β -unsaturated thiones with fixed *s-trans*-conformation, *e.g.*, 3-methylcyclopent-2-ene-1-thione [2], acyclic enethiones as **II** readily undergo [4 + 2] dimerization (at 25°: $\tau_{II} = 18$ h) to a 2*H*,4*H*-1,3-dithiin **III** (*Scheme 1*).



We expected that the replacement of the vinyl H-atom in **II** by a (bulkier) alkyl group would stabilize the *s-trans*- relative to the *s-cis*-conformation of the acyclic enethione, and thus *a*) decelerate its thermal dimerization, and *b*) allow the number of cycles for the photochromic system 2*H*-thiete/enethione to increase. Here, we report on the synthesis of tetraalkyl-2*H*-thietes and on their photochemistry.

Results. – The synthetic route to the target 2*H*-thietes is summarized in *Scheme 2*. Pivaloyl chloride (**1**) reacted with the organocadmium [3] derivatives of bromoalkanes **2** to alkyl *tert*-butyl ketones **3**. *C*-Alkylation of the enolates of **3** with methyl bromoacetate afforded keto esters **4** which cyclized to 3-alkyl-2-(*tert*-butyl)thiophenes **5** on treatment

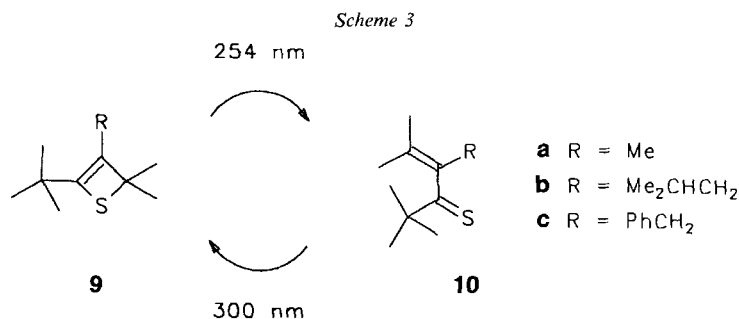
Scheme 2



with P₂S₅ at 160° in tetralin [4]. The oxidation/alkylation sequence **5** → **6** → **7** → **8** as well as the photodecarbonylation of 2(3*H*)-thiophenones **8** to 2*H*-thietes **9** had already been used [5] [6] for the synthesis of 2,2,4-trialkyl-2*H*-thietes. Overall yields of isolated tetraalkyl-2*H*-thietes from 2,3-dialkylthiophenes **5a–c** are 10% for **9a** and **9b**, and 2% for **9c**.

On irradiation (254 nm) of **9** (3 · 10⁻¹ M in CD₃CN) the solution turns purple. Monitoring the reaction by ¹H-NMR indicates no further change after 25% conversion of starting material to a new product, identified as enethione **10** on the basis of the spectral data (*cf. Exper. Part*). Solutions containing **10** can be stored unchanged for weeks at -10°. Irradiation of these 3:1 mixtures of **9** and **10** at 300 nm leads to almost quantitative (> 95% as determined by ¹H-NMR or UV) back-formation of **9**. The interconversion **9a** ⇌ **10a** can also be monitored by GC, whereas enethiones **10b** and **10c** decompose thermally (as does **II**) (*Scheme 3*).

Discussion. – Except for 2,3-di(*tert*-butyl)thiophene, which has been obtained in very low yield in a multistep synthesis starting from 3,4-di(*tert*-butyl)-1,2-dithiete [7], 2,3-dialkylthiophenes with *t*-Bu group at C(2) have not been reported [8]. Whereas treating 3-methyl-4-oxopentanoic acid with P₂S₅ at 130° gave 2,3-dimethylthiophene in only 3% isolated yield [9], similar treatment of esters **4** in tetralin at 160° affords thiophenes **5** in reasonable yield (36–53%). Regarding the photochemical ring opening of the 2*H*-thiete to the unsaturated thione, the introduction of a fourth alkyl group turns out to be a



double-edged sword, as, on the one side, enethiones **10** are indeed thermally more stable than **II**, but, on the other side, their absorption spectra now substantially overlap with those of the thiete precursors.

In contrast to enethione **II**, compounds **10a–c** do not undergo (thermal) dimerization at room temperature and can, therefore, be stored in solution for long periods. 2,2,4,5-Tetramethylhex-4-ene-3-thione (**10a**) is even stable under analytical GC conditions thus allowing to record its mass spectrum.

It is known [10] for acyclic α,β -unsaturated ketones that the interaction of an alkyl group at C(α) with that on the carbonyl C-atom leads to twisting around the C(O)–C(α) bond inducing significant deviations from a planar conformation. In the case of the corresponding enethiones **10**, this twisting around the C(S)–C(α) bond apparently reduces the intensity [11] of the π - π^* absorption band ($\lambda_{\text{max}} \approx 320 \text{ nm}$) and induces a more than tenfold increase of the extinction coefficient for the n - σ^* absorption band ($\lambda_{\text{max}} \approx 225 \text{ nm}$, $\log \epsilon \approx 4.3$). Unfortunately, this latter band overlaps with the *2H*-thiete absorption ($\lambda_{\text{max}} \approx 240 \text{ nm}$, $\log \epsilon \approx 3.7$), and, therefore, irradiation with light of 254 nm now leads to a photostationary equilibrium thiete/enethione 3:1, thus preventing a higher degree of conversion **9** \rightarrow **10**.

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Experimental Part

General. Photolyses: Rayonet RPR-100 photoreactor equipped with either 254-nm or 300-nm lamps. GC: 30-m SE 30 capillary column. UV Spectra: in nm ($\log \epsilon$). ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR Spectra: at 400 and 100.63 MHz, resp.; chemical shifts in ppm rel. to TMS (= 0 ppm), coupling constants *J* in Hz. MS: at 70 eV; in *m/z* (rel. intensity in %).

Ketones 3. To 24.3 g (1.0 mol) of Mg turnings in 100 ml of Et₂O are added dropwise 1.0 mol of **2** (**a**: 109 g of bromoethane, **b**: 151 g of 1-bromo-3-methylbutane, **c**: 185 g of 1-bromo-2-phenylethane) in 300 ml of Et₂O. The mixture is refluxed for 1 h. After cooling, 95.6 g (0.54 mol) of CdCl₂ are added at r.t., and the mixture is stirred for 1 h. Under reflux, 108 g (0.9 mol) of pivaloyl chloride (**1**) in 200 ml of Et₂O are added, and the mixture is refluxed for 6 h. After cooling to 0°, 400 ml of 10% HCl are added dropwise, the org. phase is separated, washed with sat. aq. NaHCO₃ and NaCl solns., and dried (MgSO₄). After evaporation of the solvent the ketone **3** is obtained by distillation.

2,2-Dimethylpentan-3-one (**3a**): 36.5 g (32%). B.p. 125°/1013 hPa [12]. 2,2,6-Trimethylheptan-3-one (**3b**): 80.1 g (51%). B.p. 55°/15 hPa [12]. 4,4-Dimethyl-1-phenylpentan-3-one (**3c**): 59.1 g (31%). B.p. 114°/15 hPa [13].

Keto Esters 4. To 44 g (0.44 mol) of (i-Pr)₂NH in 200 ml of THF are added dropwise 275 ml of BuLi (1.6M in hexane, 0.44 mol). After stirring for 30 min and cooling to –78°, a soln. of 0.44 mol of ketone **3** (**a**: 48 g, **3b**: 66 g, **3c**: 81.46 g) in 300 ml of THF is added dropwise, the mixture then being stirred for 30 min at –78° and for

1 h at r.t. After cooling to -78° , a soln. of 138 g (0.9 mol) of $\text{BrCH}_2\text{COOMe}$ in 100 ml of THF is added dropwise and the mixture stirred for 1 h at -78° and then for 12 h at r.t. After addition of Et_2O (300 ml) and H_2O (500 ml), the org. phase is separated, washed with sat. aq. NaHCO_3 and NaCl solns., and dried (MgSO_4). After evaporation of the solvent keto esters **4** are obtained by distillation.

Methyl 3,5,5-Trimethyl-4-oxohexanoate (4a): 49.9 g (61 %). B.p. $125^{\circ}/15$ hPa [14].

Methyl 5,5-Dimethyl-3-(2-methylpropyl)-4-oxohexanoate (4b): 90.2 g (90 %). B.p. $98^{\circ}/1.33$ hPa. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 3.63 (s, 3H); 3.47 (m, 1H); 2.68 (dd, $J = 8.6, 16.3$); 2.36 (dd, $J = 5.1, 16.3$); 1.56 (m, 1H); 1.40 (m, 1H); 1.19 (m, 1H); 1.20 (s, 9H); 0.94 (d, $J = 7.6, 3\text{H}$); 0.92 (d, $J = 7.5, 3\text{H}$). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 217.0 (s); 172.1 (s); 50.9 (q); 43.9 (s); 40.8 (t); 39.3 (d); 35.4 (t); 26.4 (q); 25.2 (d); 22.8 (q); 21.2 (q). MS: 228 (0.1, M^+), 111.

Methyl 3-Benzyl-5,5-dimethyl-4-oxohexanoate (4c): 66.9 g (58 %). B.p. $107^{\circ}/0.2$ hPa. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 7.25–7.14 (m, 5H); 3.68 (m, 1H); 3.58 (s, 3H); 2.96 (dd, $J = 6.6, 13.5$); 2.63 (dd, $J = 7.6, 16.5$); 2.51 (dd, $J = 7.6, 13.5$); 2.31 (dd, $J = 6.1, 16.5$); 1.07 (s, 9H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 217.0 (s); 172.3 (s); 138.7 (s); 129.2 (d); 128.5 (d); 126.6 (d); 51.6 (q); 44.7 (s); 43.9 (d); 38.5 (t); 36.2 (t); 26.5 (q). MS: 262 (7, M^+), 173.

Thiophenes 5. A soln. of 0.31 mol of **4** (a: 57.7 g, b: 70.7 g, c: 81.2 g) in 75 ml of tetralin is added dropwise at 160° to a suspension of 70 g (0.31 mol) of P_2S_5 in 175 ml of tetralin, stirring then being continued for 1 h. After cooling, Et_2O (300 ml) is added, the mixture washed with sat. aq. NaHCO_3 , NaOCl , and NaCl solns., and dried (MgSO_4). After evaporation of the Et_2O , the thiophene is distilled through a spinning band column (for **5a**) or tetralin distilled through a Vigreux column (for **5b** and **5c**) at 16 hPa and the residual thiophene then obtained by distillation.

2-(tert-Butyl)-3-methylthiophene (5a): 20.5 g (42 %). B.p. $180^{\circ}/1013$ hPa. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 6.89 (d, $J = 5.1$); 6.73 (d, $J = 5.1$); 2.31 (s, 3H); 1.41 (s, 9H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 147.8 (s); 132.5 (d); 131.2 (s); 119.1 (d); 34.5 (s); 31.1 (q); 16.1 (q). MS: 154 (20, M^+), 139.

2-(tert-Butyl)-3-(2-methylpropyl)thiophene (5b): 21.9 g (36 %). B.p. $65^{\circ}/0.07$ hPa. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 6.91, 6.81 (d, $J = 5.1, 2\text{H}$); 2.58 (d, $J = 7.6, 2\text{H}$); 1.94 (m, 1H); 1.42 (s, 9H); 0.94 (d, $J = 6.6, 6\text{H}$). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 142.8 (s); 135.8 (s); 130.9 (d); 119.2 (d); 38.8 (t); 36.6 (s); 32.0 (q); 29.8 (d); 22.7 (q). MS: 196 (34, M^+), 181.

3-Benzyl-2-(tert-butyl)thiophene (5c): 37.8 g (53 %). Purified by chromatography (SiO_2 , hexane). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 7.25–7.11 (m, 5H); 6.92, 6.63 (d, $J = 5.1, 2\text{H}$); 4.12 (s, 2H); 1.44 (s, 9H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 149.1 (s); 141.3 (s); 134.2 (q); 131.8 (d); 128.6 (d); 128.3 (d); 125.9 (d); 119.7 (d); 35.5 (t); 34.6 (s); 31.8 (q). MS: 230 (0.2, M^+), 91.

Thiophen-2(5H)-ones 6. Prepared from thiophenes **5** (0.22 mol), BuLi, trimethyl borate, and H_2O_2 according to [6] and purified by chromatography on SiO_2 .

5-(tert-Butyl)-4-methylthiophen-2(5H)-one (6a): 24 g (64 %), (CH_2Cl_2). Oil. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 6.04 (s); 4.23 (s); 2.21 (s, 3H); 1.13 (s, 9H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 198.6 (s); 169.6 (s); 132.4 (d); 68.1 (d); 35.8 (s); 28.5 (q); 21.1 (q). MS: 170 (0.25, M^+), 114.

5-(tert-Butyl)-4-(2-methylpropyl)thiophen-2(5H)-one (6b): 30.8 g (66 %), (pentane/acetone 19:1). Oil. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 6.04 (d, $J = 1.0$); 4.26 (d, $J = 1.0$); 2.39 (d, $J = 7.1, 2\text{H}$); 1.94 (m, 1H); 1.12 (s, 9H); 0.97 (d, $J = 6.6, 3\text{H}$); 0.91 (d, $J = 6.6, 3\text{H}$). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 197.9 (s); 172.6 (s); 131.3 (d); 66.1 (d); 42.8 (t); 35.5 (s); 28.2 (q); 27.5 (d); 22.2 (q); 21.6 (q). MS: 212 (0.1, M^+), 57.

4-Benzyl-5-(tert-butyl)thiophen-2(5H)-one (6c): 24.3 g (45 %), (CH_2Cl_2). Oil. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 7.30–7.13 (m, 5H); 5.82 (s); 4.31 (s); 3.89, 3.68 (AB, $J = 16.8, 2\text{H}$); 1.16 (s, 9H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 198.1 (s); 172.8 (s); 133.3 (d); 129.0 (d); 128.9 (d); 127.1 (d); 66.8 (d); 40.6 (t); 36.1 (s); 22.8 (q). MS: 246 (1, M^+), 190.

3-Methylthiophen-2(5H)-ones 7. Prepared from thiophen-2(5H)-ones **6** (0.13 mmol), NaH and MeI in DMSO according to [6] and purified by chromatography on SiO_2 .

5-(tert-Butyl)-3,4-dimethylthiophen-2(5H)-one (7a): 12.0 g (50 %), (CH_2Cl_2). M.p. 57° . $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 4.08 (s); 2.12 (s, 3H); 1.80 (s, 3H); 1.10 (s, 9H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 199.4 (s); 160.9 (s); 137.1 (s); 66.1 (d); 36.0 (s); 28.7 (q); 19.4 (q); 10.3 (q). MS: 141 (5, $[M - 43]^+$), 128.

5-(tert-Butyl)-4-methyl-4-(2-methylpropyl)thiophen-2(5H)-one (7b): 14.4 g (46 %), (pentane/acetone 19:1). Oil. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 4.19 (s); 2.45 (d, $J = 7.5, 2\text{H}$); 1.95 (m, 1H); 1.82 (s, 3H); 1.09 (s, 9H); 1.02 (d, $J = 6.5, 3\text{H}$); 0.80 (d, $J = 6.5, 3\text{H}$). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 199.9 (s); 164.4 (s); 138.0 (s); 63.4 (d); 40.6 (t); 36.1 (s); 28.8 (q); 28.0 (d); 23.3 (q); 21.4 (q); 10.9 (q). MS: 211 (0.1, $[M - 15]^+$), 128.

4-Benzyl-5-(tert-butyl)-3-methylthiophen-2(5H)-one (7c): 18.9 g (56 %), (pentane/ Et_2O 4:1). Oil. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 7.30–7.06 (m, 5H); 4.10 (s, 2H); 3.79 (s); 1.89 (s, 3H); 1.07 (s, 9H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 199.6 (s); 162.2 (s); 139.4 (s); 137.0 (s); 128.5 (d); 127.8 (d); 126.3 (d); 63.4 (d); 37.0 (t); 36.0 (s); 28.9 (q); 10.9 (q). MS: 204 ($[M - 56]^+$).

3,3-Dimethylthiophen-2(3H)-ones 8. Prepared from **7** (0.07 mol), NaH, and MeI in DMSO according to [6] and purified by chromatography on SiO_2 .

5-(*tert*-Butyl)-3,3,4-trimethylthiophen-2(3H)-one (**8a**): 5.8 g (42%), (CH₂Cl₂), M.p. 37°. ¹H-NMR (CD₃CN): 1.86 (s, 3H); 1.31 (s, 9H); 1.13 (s, 6H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): 212.2(s); 136.0(s); 130.5(s); 61.6(s); 35.2(s); 30.8(q); 23.1(q); 13.1(q). MS: 198 (30, M⁺), 113.

5-(*tert*-Butyl)-3,3-dimethyl-4-(2-methylpropyl)thiophen-2(3H)-one (**8b**): 10.2 g (61%), (pentane/Et₂O 9:1). Oil. ¹H-NMR (CD₃CN): 2.29 (d, J = 8.1, 2H); 2.05 (m, 1H); 1.33 (s, 9H); 1.20 (s, 6H); 0.95 (d, J = 6.6, 6H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): 210.0(s); 136.8(s); 132.6(s); 60.3(s); 34.7(t); 34.0(s); 29.6(q); 25.7(d); 22.6(q); 20.8(q). MS: 240 (17, M⁺), 197.

4-Benzyl-5-(*tert*-butyl)-3,3-dimethylthiophen-2(3H)-one (**8c**): 3.3 g (17%), (pentane/Et₂O 19:1). Oil. ¹H-NMR (CD₃CN): 7.30–7.21 (m, 5H); 3.81 (s, 2H); 1.30 (s, 9H); 1.04 (s, 6H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): 211.5(s); 140.5(s); 139.6(s); 131.4(s); 128.4(d); 128.2(d); 126.2(d); 62.2(s); 36.4(s); 32.9(t); 31.1(q); 24.3(q). MS: 274 (24, M⁺), 259.

2H-Thietes **9**. Ten glass tubes, each one containing an Ar-degassed soln. of **8** (1 mmol) in pentane (10 ml), are irradiated with light of 300 nm for 70 h. After evaporation of the solvent the residue is purified by chromatography on SiO₂.

4-(*tert*-Butyl)-2,2,3-trimethyl-2H-thiete (**9a**): 1.4 g (80%), (pentane). Oil. UV (C₆H₁₂): 237 (3.60). ¹H-NMR (CD₃CN): 1.61 (s, 3H); 1.49 (s, 6H); 1.13 (s, 9H). ¹³C-NMR (CD₃CN): 145.8(s); 132.8(s); 51.5(s); 34.9(s); 29.2(q); 25.9(q); 11.6(q). MS: 170 (12, M⁺), 113.

4-(*tert*-Butyl)-2,2-dimethyl-3-(2-methylpropyl)-2H-thiete (**9b**): 1.0 g (44%), (pentane). Oil. UV (C₆H₁₂): 243 (3.68). ¹H-NMR (CD₃CN): 1.89 (d, J = 7.5, 2H); 1.73 (m, 1H); 1.46 (s, 6H); 1.04 (s, 9H); 0.81 (d, J = 6.6, 6H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): 147.9(s); 136.4(s); 52.0(s); 38.0(t); 35.0(s); 29.6(q); 27.4(d); 27.0(q); 22.6(q). MS: 212 (34, M⁺), 155.

3-Benzyl-4-(*tert*-butyl)-2,2-dimethyl-2H-thiete (**9c**): 0.9 g (35%), (pentane). Oil. UV (C₆H₁₂): 248 (3.80). ¹H-NMR (CD₃CN): 7.28 (m, 5H); 3.48 (s, 2H); 1.35 (s, 6H); 1.21 (s, 9H). ¹³C-NMR (CD₃CN): 148.7(s); 140.0(s); 134.5(s); 129.2(d); 128.8(d); 126.5(d); 52.6(s); 35.2(s); 34.2(t); 29.4(q); 27.1(q). MS: 246 (23, M⁺), 189.

Enthiones **10**. Ar-Degassed solns. of **9** (0.3 mmol) in CD₃CN (1 ml) in a quartz NMR tube were irradiated with light of 254 nm for 2 h. The reaction can be monitored by GC, UV, and ¹H-NMR (for **9a** → **10a**, 26% conversion), and by UV and ¹H-NMR only (for **9** → **10b**, 22%, and **9c** → **10c**, 20%, resp.). Irradiation of these solns. with light of 300 nm leads to almost quantitative (> 95%) back-formation of **9**. Attempted separation and isolation of **10** by chromatography on both SiO₂ and Al₂O₃ failed due to decomposition. Spectroscopic data for **10** were thus obtained directly from irradiated solns. of **9**.

2,2,4,5-Tetramethylhex-4-ene-3-thione (**10a**): UV (C₅H₁₂): 554 (1.45), 315 (3.38), 224 (> 4.3). ¹H-NMR (CD₃CN): 1.81 (s, 3H); 1.68 (s, 3H); 1.52 (s, 3H); 1.35 (s, 9H). ¹³C-NMR (CD₃CN): 278.4(s); 141.4(s); 122.9(s); 52.7(s); 31.3(q); 22.2(q); 19.7(q); 19.2(q). MS: 170 (20, M⁺), 113.

2,2,5-Trimethyl-4-(2-methylpropyl)hex-4-ene-3-thione (**10b**): UV (C₅H₁₂): 551 (1.72), 315 (3.06), 227 (> 4.2). ¹H-NMR (CD₃CN): 2.31 (dd, J = 10.0, 14.0); 2.21 (dd, J = 6.0, 14.0); 1.84 (m, 1H); 1.71 (s, 3H); 1.55 (s, 3H); 1.35 (s, 9H); 0.89 (d, J = 7.0, 3H); 0.84 (d, J = 7.0, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (CD₃CN): 277.7(s); 146.7(s); 124.9(s); 52.9(s); 41.0(t); 32.2(q); 27.8(d); 23.6(q); 23.0(q); 21.6(q); 20.2(q).

4-Benzyl-2,2,5-trimethylhex-4-ene-3-thione (**10c**): UV (C₅H₁₂): 548 (2.06), 315 (3.46), 220 (> 4.4). ¹H-NMR (CD₃CN): 7.20 (m, 5H); 3.72 (s, 2H); 1.77 (s, 3H); 1.61 (s, 3H); 1.35 (s, 9H). ¹³C-NMR (CD₃CN): 276.2(s); 144.6(s); 139.6(s); 129.4(d); 128.4(d); 126.4(d); 126.0(s); 53.1(s); 38.9(t); 32.1(q); 23.0(q); 20.6(q).

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