corresponding hydrocarbons often results in significant localization of the charge in the intermediate radical anions or dianions.⁹ However, both 1- and 2-fluoronaphthalene afforded only naphthalene and its reduction products.

Experimental Section

General. Reductions were carried out by adding sodium or lithium metal to the fluoroaromatic compound in liquid ammonia with an- hydrous ether as a cosolvent. In the case of polynuclear and biphenyl derivatives, solid ammonium chloride or water was used to quench the reaction whereas absolute alcohol was used with monobenzenoid compounds.

In cases where fluorine was lost (p-fluorobenzoic acid, 4-fluorobiphenyl, 4,4'-difluorobiphenyl, p-fluorotoluene, p-fluoroanisole, 1 fluoronaphthalene, and 2-fluoronaphthalene), the reduction products are identical with those resulting from reduction of the corresponding nonfluorinated derivatives, and these compounds have previously been characterized (i.e,, l,4-dihydrobenzoic acid, 1,4-dihydrobiphenyl, 2,5-dihydrotoluene, 2,5-dihydroanisole, and $1,4$ -dihydronaphtha-
lene).⁵ The absence of fluorinated reduction products in these cases was determined by GLC and/or NMR analysis. In addition, we have previously described the experimental procedure for the preparation of **3-fluoro-1,4-dihydrobenzoic** acid.1°

3,3'-Difluoro-1,4-dihydrobiphenyl. Sodium metal (10.4 mgatoms) was added to **3,3'-difluorobiphenyl(5.2** mmol, 1 g) in 60 mL of anhydrous ether and 100 mL of anhydrous ammonia at -78 °C. After 20 min, solid ammonium chloride was added and the crude product isolated by ether extraction. The resultant oil was distilled, bp 135 $^{\circ}$ C (5 mm), to give 0.5 g (50%) of pure material: NMR $(CDCI₃)$ δ 7.2 (m, 1 H), 6.9 (m, 3), 5.7 (m, 2, H₅ and H₆), 5.2 (d, 1, H₂), 4.1 (m, **1,** Hi), 2.9 (4 **2,** H4).

Anal. Calcd for C₁₂H₁₀F₂: C, 74.99; H, 5.24; F, 19.77. Found: C, 74.75; H, 5.32; F, 19.70.

3-Fluorotrimethylsilylbenzene. A slight excess of n-butyllithium $(1.1$ equiv, 2 M in hexane) was added to 3 -fluorobromobenzene $(3 g, 4 g)$ 17 mmol) in anhydrous ether at -78 °C. After stirring for 1 h, chlorotrimethylsilane (1 equiv, 1.8 g) was added and the solution was allowed to warm to room temperature (1.5 h). Water was then added followed by ether extraction resulting in an oil which was distilled, bp 60 °C (5 mm), to give pure material (1.2 g, 40%): NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.3 (m, 4 H), 0.25 **(s,** 9).

Anal. Calcd for C₉H₁₃FSi: C, 64.26; H, 7.79; F, 11.30. Found: C, 63.95; H, 8.02; F, 11.55.

3-Fluoro-1,4-dihydrotrimethylsilylbenzene. Lithium wire (0.13) g, 18 mg-atoms) was added to **3-fluorotrimethylsilylbenzene** (1.2 g, 7.2 mmol) in 60 mL of anhydrous ammonia containing 5 mL of absolute ethanol. After the blue color had disappeared, saturated am- monium chloride was added and the product was isolated by ether extraction. Distillation gave a colorless oil, bp 37 °C (5 mm), 0.5 g (40%): NMR (CDCl₃) δ 5.7 (m, 3 H), 2.8 (m, 2), 2.2 (m, 1), 0.05 (s, 9).

Anal. Calcd for C₉H₁₅FSi: C, 63.53; H, 8.88; F, 10.59. Found: C, 64.17; H, 9.05; F, 10.22.

3-Fluoro-1,4-dihydrobiphenyl. 3-Fluorobiphenyl¹¹ was reduced in the same manner as described above for 3,3'-difluorobiphenyl, to afford **3-fluoro-1,4-dihydrobiphenyl** as the major reduction product together with minor products which could not be characterized. An analytical sample was trapped from the gas chromatograph. Structural assignment was based on the appearance of a vinyl proton shifted to higher field and exhibiting large (18 Hz) coupling from the adjacent 19F. NMR (CDC13) *B* 7.2 (m, 5 H), 5.7 (m, 2), 5.27 (d of m, l), 4.2 (m, I), 2.8 (d, 2).

Anal. Calcd for C₁₂H₁₁F: C, 82.73; H, 6.36; F, 10.90. Found: C, 82.68; H, 6.49; F, 10.75.

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Registry No.-Ammonia, 7664-41-7; **3,3'-difluoro-1,4-dihydro**biphenyl, 62476-43-1; 3,3'-difluorobiphenyl, 396-64-5; 3-fluorotrimethylsilylbenzene, 7217-41-6; 3-fluorobromobenzene, 1073-06-9; chlorotrimethylsilane, 75-77-4; **3-fluoro-1,4-dihydrotrimethylsilyl**benzene, 62476-44-2; 3-fluorobiphenyl, 2367-22-8; 3-fluoro-1,4 dihydrobiphenyl, 62476-45-3.

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Steric Effects in Photochemical Intramolecular $\left[\frac{1}{2} + \frac{2}{3}\right]$ Ring Closure Reaction of Polycyclic Diolefins Leading to Strained Cage Molecules. Empirical Force Field Calculations

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The effect of ground state conformation on photochemical reactivity has rarely been studied1 expect in the solid **state** reactions.² The $\left[\frac{1}{2} + \frac{2}{3}\right]$ cycloaddition, one of the most wellstudied photochemical processes,³ of polycyclic dienes leading to strained cage molecules provides an ideal material to probe the possible role of steric requirements. A variety of examples have already been accumulated wherein the steric environments with respect to the reacting double bonds differ considerably. In accordance with expected steric control, recorded yields of such reactions range between zero and quantitative (Table I). We are interested, from a rather practical standpoint, in studying how steric factors in the ground state influence the appalling difference in the yields.

Photochemical yields are also affected by other factors such as nearby substituents and side reactions including cyclo reversions.⁴ In order to reduce complications arising from these secondary factors to a minimum, we primarily limit our attention to sensitized irradiation of diolefins having no substituent. Diolefins carrying electron-deficient substituents not directly attached to the double bond are considered only for comparison purposes, while those carrying the substituents directly attached to the double bond are not considered except for a homologous series. The effects of side reactions will be discussed when the yield of expected product is poor.

a Distance between rnidpoints of opposing CC double bonds in minimum energy structure of the starting diene. *b* Dihedral angle between two planes containing four unsaturated carbon atoms in the minimum energy structure. *C* (Calculated strain energy of product)- (calculated strain energy of starting diene), according to Allinger **1971-1972** force field, **25"C,** gas phase. The values refer to unsubstituted structures (R = H). See Tables II and III and ref 8a for individual strain energy
values. d Reference 11. e For calculated strain of the product, see Table XII of ref 8a. f Eclipsed conformation. ^h R, R = (CO)₂O, (CN)₂; ref 12. *i* Based on eclipsed starting diolefin conformation. *i* Based on twisted starting
diolefin conformation. *k* R, R = CH₃O₂CNNCO₂CH₃; ref 13. *i* G. O. Schenck an **J.** Blum, C. Zlotogorski, and A. Zoran, *Tetrahedron Lett.,* **1117 (1975),** mRefers to corresponding 5-exo alcohol: W. L. Dilling and C. **E.** Reineke, *Org. Photochem. Synth.,* **1, 85 (1971).** "E. Osawa, *Y.* Fujikura, K. Aigami, Y. Inamoto, N. Takaishi, P. Grubmüller, and P. v. R. Schleyer, manuscript in preparation. $^{\circ}R = H$; $X = CH_1$; ref 17. *P* R, R = (CO)₂O, (CN),; X-X = CH=CH; ref **12. P** Reference **19. rX-X** = trans-CH(C0,Et)-CH(C0,Et). \$Based on strain energies (norbornadiene **25.6,** quadricyclane **78.7** kcal/mol) derived from combustion analysis: H. K. Hall, Jr., C. D. Smith, and J. H. Baldt, *J. Am. Chem. SOC.,* **95, 3197 (1973).** tR = H, yield not reported, ref **20.** UR = OSi(CH,),; **X** = CH,; ref **14.** "The ring closure reaction with an oxa analogue proceeds in **15-35%** yield: W. Eberback and M. Perroud-Arguelles, *Chem. Ber.,* **105, 3078 (1972).** *W* Calculated heat of formation of homocubane reported in Table **XI1** of ref 8a should read **99.03** kcal/mol. **X** R = COOCH3; X = CH₂: W. G. Dauben, C. H. Schallhorn, and D. L. Whalen, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 93, 1446 (1971); R = H; X–X =
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Steric factors considered include the midpoint distance *r* and the orientation θ between opposing double bonds, the

strain increase, $\Delta_{\rm strain}$ in the product relative to the starting diene.5 These quantities can be estimated most readily and accurately by molecular mechanics calculations6 based on Allinger **1971-1972** force field,' and summarized in Table I. The strain increase $(\Delta_{\rm strain})$ was obtained as the difference in strain energies of starting diolefin (Table 11) and product (Table **111).** Table **I11** includes corresponding energies obtained by using the Engler force field⁸ for comparison. For those starting diolefins containing bicyclo[2.2.2]octane and bicyclo[3.2.2]nonane skeletons **(3,5,9,11,** and **131,** twist **as** well **as** eclipse conformations are considered in view of the flexible nature of these systems. $9,10$

The criteria considered here appear to contribute more or less to the reactivity of diolefins listed in Table I. Most of the calculated distances *r* between opposing double bonds are in the vicinity of **3** A, considerably shorter than the limiting distance of about **4** A beyond which neither intra- nor intermolecular $\left[\frac{1}{2} + \frac{2}{x^2}\right]$ cycloadditions take place in solid state photochemical reactions.^{2,5} Thus, the observed high yield of 2^{11} can be best explained by a remarkably small strain increase accompanying the ring closure, rather than the obvious close and parallel orientation of the double bonds in **1.** Close, parallel orientations of double bonds in **15, 17,** and **21** lead to poorer yields in the ring closure, indicating that the orientation factor does not always dominate. High-yield reactions $3 \rightarrow 4^{12}$ and $5 \rightarrow 6^{12,13}$ are also accompanied by only moderate **Astrain** values, although these examples are assisted by the electron-deficient substituents.

There appears to be essentially no difference between two reactions **(7** - 8 and **9** - **10)** as far as the three criteria, *r, 8,* and Δ_{strain} , are concerned. The poor yield of 10 should then be attributed to the lower reactivity of the bicyclo[2.2.2]octene type double bond of **9** relative to the norbornene type double bond of 7, as suggested by Miller and Dolce.¹⁴ The reactivity

a_{Reference 7. ^b P. Buck, D. Thompson, and S. Winstein, *Chem. Ind.* (London), 405 (1960); R. B. Turner, A. D. Jarrett, P. Goebel,} and B. J. Mallon, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 95, 790 (1973); J. K. Stille and D. R. Witherell, *ibid.,* 86, 2188 (1964). \circ See ref 12 for derivatives.
^d See footnote 10. \circ Twist angles: C₁C₁₀C₉C₈, 2.5°, C₁C₁₃ 6.0'; C1C1oCgC8,2.l0; c3c2C7c6,6.5'; c3c4c&6, 1.1'. **g** N. Takaishi, Y. Inamoto, K. Aigami, K. Tsuchihashi, and H. Ikeda, *Synth. Commun.*, **4**, 225 (1974). ^h Twist angles: $C_1C_2C_6C_7$, 9.6°; $C_1C_9C_8C_7$, 4.0°; $C_1C_{10}C_{11}C_7$, 8.9°. [†] Reference 17. ^{*j*} Twist angles: $C_1C_2C_7C_8$, 19.6°; $C_1C_{10}C_9C_8$, 5.3°; $C_1C_{11}C_{12}C_8$, 13.6°. *k* See ref 19 for derivatives. ^Twist angles: $C_1C_2C_7C_8$, -10.9°; $C_1C_{10}C_9C_8$, -3.1°; $C_1C_{11}C_{12}C_8$, 19.6°. *k* See ref 19 for derivatives. ^Twist -7.8°. ^m See ref 14 for a derivative. ⁿ See ref 14 and references cited in footnotes x and y of Table I for derivatives. ^o Twist angles: $C_1C_{10}C_{11}C_6$, 0.5°. r Reference 24 and G. R. Underwood and B. Ramamoorthy, $Tetrahedron Lett.,$ 4125 (1970). s Reference 25 and L. A. Paquette, R. F. Davis, and D. R. James, *Tetrahedron Lett.,* 1615 (1974). *t* Reference 27 and M. Avram, I. D. Dinulescu, E. E. Marica, G. Mateescu, E. Slim, and C. D. Nenitzescu, *Chem. Ber.,* 97,382 (1964). *u* Reference 28 for a permethyl derivative. -7.8 °. m See ref 14 for a derivative. m See ref 14 and references cited in footnotes x and y of Table I for derivatives. o Twist angles: C₁C₂C₅C₆, 1.4°; C₁C₉C₁₀C₆, 1.9°; C₁C₈C₇C₆

^a Engler force field, ref 8. ^b_Allinger 1971-1972 force field, ref 7. *c* See ref 12 for derivatives. ^d Computational results for this molecule preliminarily reported in E. Osawa, P. v. R. Schleyer, L. W. K. Chang, and V. V. Kane, *Tetrahedron Lett.,* 4189 (1974). **e** E. Osawa, Y. Fujikura, K. Aigami, Y. Inamoto, N. Takaishi, P. Grubmuller, and P. v. R. Schleyer, manuscript in preparation. *f* Reference 18; K. Hirao, T. Iwakuma, M. Taniguchi, E. Abe, 0. Yonemitsu, T. Date, and K. Kotera, *Chem. Commun.,* 691 (1974); T. Iwakuma, H. Nakai, 0. Yonemitsu, and B. Witkop, *J. Am. Chem.* Soc., 96,2564 (1974); T. Iwakuma, K. Hirao, and 0. Yonemitsu, *ibid.,* 96,2570 (1974). **g** J. Dekker, J. J. Dekker, L. Fourie, and G. L. Wenteler, *J.* S. *Afr. Chem. Znst.,* 28,321 (1975); K. G. R. Pachler, P. L. Wessels, J. Dekker, J. J. Dekker, and T. G. Dekker, *Tetrahedron Lett.,* 3059 (1976). h Reference 24.

difference may be most readily understood in terms of the steric strain at these double bonds in the ground state, for which the strain energy difference between the alkene and corresponding alkane is proposed to be a good measure.7b This proposal is illustrated in Table IV for the parent systems, norbornene and bicyclo[2.2.2]octene, using experimental heats of formation as the basis of calculation. About 5 kcal/mol higher strain in the norbornene double bond relative to the bicyclo[2.2.2]octene double bond, which has virtually no extra strain compared to the ethylene double bond, is in accord with their known chemical and physical behavior.^{15,16}

The failure of dicyclohexadiene (11, $R = H$; $X = CH₂$) to effect intramolecular ring closure¹⁷ aroused some speculations.17J8 The relatively large distance r (3.6 **A)** of 11 is not likely to be **an** obstacle in view of the known examples in solid state photochemistry.² Strain increase in the reaction $11 \rightarrow$ 12 is comparable to the reaction $9 \rightarrow 10$. Therefore, from a steric standpoint, uncomfortable orientation of the double

Table IV. Alkene-Alkane Strain Energy Difference Based on Experimental Heats of Formation (kcal/mol, 25 **"C, Gas)**

		Strain		Difference	
	ΔH_f° (exptl)	Sg	A^h	$S_{\mathcal{E}}$	A^h
Norbornene	20.7 ^a $(21.1)^{b}$	23.2	23.6		
	$(15.12)^{c}$			5.6	4.7
Norbornane	-12.42^{d} $(-12.60)^a$	17.6	18.9		
Bicyclo[2.2.2] octene	4.88e	12.2 ^e	13.0		
Bicyclo ^{[2.2.2}]octane	$-23.67e$ (-23.75)	11.4e	13.7	0.8	-0.7

a Based on heat of hydrogenation data. H. K. Hall, Jr., C. D. Smith, and J. H. Baldt, *J. Am. Chem. SOC.,* 95, 3197 (1973). \real^b Based on equilibration between cyclopentadiene and ethylene: R. Walsh and M. Wells, *J. Chem. Thermodyn., 8,* 55 (1976). Combustion analysis by Hall et al. (footnote *a*). ^{*d*} Combustion analysis: P. v. R. Schleyer, J. E. Williams, and **K.** R. Blanchard, *J. Am. Chem. SOC.,* 92,2377 (1970). **e** Combustion analysis: S. S. Wong and E. E. Westrurn, Jr., *ibid.,* 93,5317 (1971). *f* Combustion analysis: R. H. Boyd, S,. N. Sanwal, S. Shary-Tehrany, and D. McNally, *J. Phys. Chem.,* 75,1264 (1971). **g** Based on Schleyer's group enthalpy increments (footnote *d*). ^h Based on Allinger's enthalpy increment scheme, ref 7b.

bonds *(8* larger than **30°)** appears responsible. The double bond isomer 13 having an ideal orientation undergoes the reaction with high yield,¹⁹ albeit this example is assisted by electron-deficient substituents and moderate strain increase. The reaction $11 \rightarrow 12$ also proceeds smoothly when electrondeficient substituents are present in the molecule.¹²

A homologous series of fused cyclobutene derivatives, 15, 17, and 19, provides a unique opportunity to test the effects of steric environments. Since only the first member $(11, R =$ H) of the hydrocarbon series has been studied (without description of yield), 20 we first concentrate on the series of bis-(trimethylsiloxy) derivatives $(R = OSiMe₃)$. The reaction series $15 \rightarrow 16$, $17 \rightarrow 8$, $19 \rightarrow 20$ shows progressive and sharp decrease in the yield of ring closure product in this order.14 Contrary to an earlier suggestion,¹⁴ calculated distances *r* are invariably favorable 2.9 Å within the series. High yield in the invariably favorable 2.9 Å within the series. High yield in the reaction $15 \rightarrow 16$ despite a considerably large Δ_{strain} value will be the result of the high reactivity of the norbornene type double bond.²¹ Sudden decrease in the yield of the reaction $17 \rightarrow 18$ is partly due to the lack of extra reactivity in the bicyclo[2.2.2]octene type double bond of 17 and partly due to an increase in **Astrain** by **7.5** kcal/mol. Complete inertness of 19 under irradiation must be attributed to the still higher **Astrain** value predicted for ita ring closure reaction. The photochemical behavior of this series indicates that the maximum strain increase that can be overcome will be about *70* kcal/mol. In the presence of suitable substituents, the yield of 18 increases to a moderate range.^{22,23}

The successful ring closure of homohypostrophene (21) to homopentaprismane (22)²⁴ provides an example of hydrocarbon reaction where a Δ_{strain} value of 70 kcal/mol is tided over. This reaction is undoubtedly assisted by an ideal juxtaposition of the double bond in 21. In contrast, hypostrophene (23)²⁵ and tricyclo[4.2.0.0^{2,5}]octa-3,7-diene (25)^{26,28} are inert under any photolytic conditions and their inertness has been attributed to the mixing effect of high-lying σ orbitals with π orbitals.^{27,29} Nevertheless, we note here that an extremely large strain increase, which we predict to accompany the formation of pentaprismane (24) from 23, could well be a key factor in the failure of this reaction. On the other hand, calculated Δ_{strain} arising from the formation of cubane (26)

from 25 (72 kcal/mol) is comparable to that of homopenta-
prismane formation $(21 \rightarrow 22)$. Thus, the reaction $(25 \rightarrow 26)$ **hs a** good chance to proceed on steric grounds alone, especially if activating substituents are present. 30

Finally, the high-yield conversion of norbornadiene (27) to quadricyclane (28)³¹ under sensitized irradiation can be understood in terms of the shortest distance *r* among the diolefins in Table I, not unsurmountable Δ_{strain} (less than 70 kcal/mol) and expectedly high steric strain in the double bonds of 27.

In conclusion, intramolecular $\left[\frac{1}{2} + \frac{2}{3}\right]$ photochemical ring closure reactions of polycyclic diolefins leading to strained cage products are recognized to be under the great influence of three steric criteria: r , θ , and Δ_{strain} . Although the higher limit of *r* could not be determined based on the available data, the limit of orientation factor θ appears to be near 35[°]. The maximum recorded **Astrain** that could be overcome among the known examples is about 70 kcal/mol. The norbornene type double bond is about *5* kcal/mol more strained than the usual double bonds and highly reactive in the cycloaddition reactions.

Rationale for the arguments presented above lies in Hammond's postulate.32 Evaluation of relative contribution of steric factors to the overall activation process remains to be explored.

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Registry No.-2, 704-02-9; **3** $(R, R = (CO)_2O)$, 24145-84-4; **3** $(R, R = (CN)_2)$, 62415-18-3; **5** $(R, R = (CO)_2O)$, 24147-34-0; **5** $(R, R = (CN)_2)$, 62415-02-5; **5** (R,R = $CH_3O_2CNNCO_2CH_3$), 62415-03-6; 11 (R,R = $(CO)_2O$; X-X = CH=CH), 62415-00-3; 11 $(R, R = (CN)_2; X-X =$ CH=CH), 62415-04-7; **12** (R = H; X-X = CH=CH), 62415-05-8; **13** $(X-X = trans-CH(CO_2Et)CH(CO_2Et)$, 41181-93-5; 13 $(X-X = i)$, 41182-02-9; 14 (X-X = trans-CH(CO₂Et)CH(CO₂Et)), 41181-96-8; **14** $(X-X = i)$, $62415-01-4$; **15** $(R = OSi(CH_3)_3)$, $39762-43-1$; **16** $(R =$ H), 452-61-9; 17 (R = $OSi(CH_3)_3$; X = CH₂), 39762-44-2; 17 (R = COOCH₃; X = CH₂), 62415-06-9; 17 (R = H; X-X = benzo), 27487-45-2; 17 (R = H; X-X = cyclobuteno), 62415-07-0; 17 (R,R = $(CO)_2O$; $X-X =$ benzo), 29443-82-1; 18 (R = H; $X-X =$ cyclobuteno), 62415-09-2; 19 (R = $OSi(CH_3)_3$), 39762-45-3; 24, 4572-17-2; 26, $X = CH_2$, 62415-08-1; 18 (R = H; X = CH₂), 5603-27-0; 18 (R = H; 277-10-1.

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Recalculations of enthalpies using a different energy minimization scheme
(pattern search method)⁸ and taking the conformational flexibility of the bicyclo $[2.2.2]$ octane skeleton 9 into account give essentially the same results as shown above. Comparison between experlmental (Table IV) and calculated enthalpies revealed that our calculations overestimated the enthalpy of bicyclo[2.2.2]octene **and** underestimated those of bicyclo[2.2.2] octane and norbornene, although the discrepancies were close to the
known accuracy range of ±2 kcai/mol.^{8a} For these reasons, we do not extend **the** alkene-alkane strain energy difference **scheme** to other systems like 7, 9, 15, 17, and 19 for which calculated enthalpy values must be used.

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and the most prominent, if it o
- (23) The possibility of cycloreversion is ruled out based on the logic that cycloreversion should have been most prominent, if it occurs at all, in 15

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A Synthesis **of** Terminal Arylacetylenes-an in Situ Generated Copper(1) Acetylide

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Terminal arylacetylenes can be prepared by several routes. Dehydrohalogenation of halogenated ethanes,²⁻⁶ amineinduced decomposition of **5-aryl-3-nitroso-2-oxazolidones,7** and pyrolysis of 4-aryl-1,2,3-selenadiazoles⁸ are methods recently reported in the literature. Alternatively, the triple bond can be preformed with a protecting group attached to one end and then coupled at the unprotected end to a suitable aromatic ring, followed by removal of the protecting group. $9,10$

In connection with other studies, we required l-ethynyl-8-halonaphthalenes. Because of the lability of the halogen atom in the 8 position, only the last method seemed a feasible preparative route. Curtis and co-workers⁹ have reported using the Castro reaction¹¹ to couple 1-iodonaphthalene and copper(1) 3,3-diethoxy-l-propyne **(1).** Hydrolysis and deformylation of the coupled product gave 1-ethynylnaphthalene in moderate yield.

Our attempts to employ Curtis' method using 1,8-diiodonaphthalene¹² or 1-bromo-8-iodonaphthalene¹³ gave the desired coupled product but in low yield. The lack of success of this method was apparently due to the difficulty in preparing and isolating **1.** Rather than isolate **1,** we generated and reacted **1** in situ. We have observed that **1** is soluble in THF and pyridine, unlike most other copper(I) acetylides.^{11d} Soluble in situ generated copper(1) acetylides have been reported using N-ethylpiperidine as base. The yields of coupled products were low, however.^{11e}

l,l-Diethoxy-2-propyne15 (2) was dissolved in dry tetrahydrofuran (THF) and deprotonated with n -butyllithium. To this solution was added cuprous iodide, and the solution was allowed to stir until the CUI had dissolved. The desired naphthyl iodide was added and the solution refluxed for 12 h. Excellent yields of the coupled product were obtained after work-up. (Scheme I).

Cuprous trimethylsilylacetylide proved too unstable to undergo coupling under our conditions.14 Use of potassium *tert* -butoxide as the deprotonating base resulted in lower yields. 1-Bromonaphthalene and several substituted phenyl iodides failed to react when subjected to the same conditions.

A number of substituted phenyl iodides did undergo coupling with **1** when the THF was replaced with dry pyridine and the reflux time extended to 48 h. The yields of the 1,l-diethoxy-3-aryl-2-propynes were lower but still useful. To achieve maximum yields the ratio of **2** to aryl iodide was **21.** Variation of the ratio from 1:l to 4:l did not give any improvement in the yield (Scheme 11). Our results are summarized in Table I.

Scheme **I1**

