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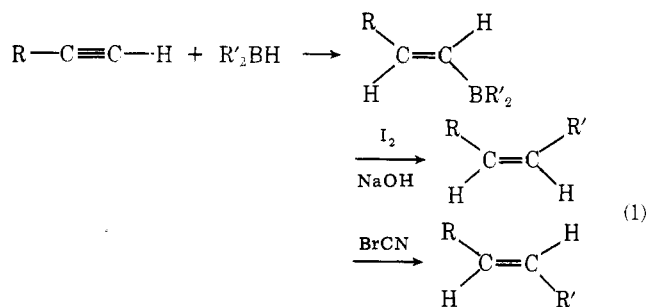
A Stereospecific Route to Trisubstituted Olefins via Organoboranes

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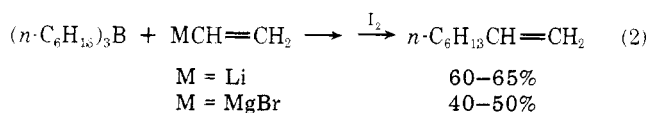
The Zweifel syntheses of *cis*¹ and *trans*² olefins (eq 1) via vinylboranes have found limited applications in organic



synthesis in large part because of the limited availability of stable dialkylboranes.³ A further limitation is the requirement imposed by hydroboration that a hydrogen be *cis* to boron in the initial borane, thus limiting the applicability of this reaction to *cis* and *trans* disubstituted olefins.

Since the common intermediate in these reactions appears to be a vinyl-substituted borate salt, it appeared reasonable to investigate alternative methods of obtaining the intermediates. In analogy with the lithium alkynyltrialkylborate complexes,⁴ formation of a vinyltrialkylborate complex⁵ from a vinylolithium and a trialkylborane followed by iodination should lead to olefins. Herein, we report the utility of this sequence in the synthesis of stereospecifically defined trisubstituted olefins^{6,7} and the somewhat surprising stereochemistry of this reaction.

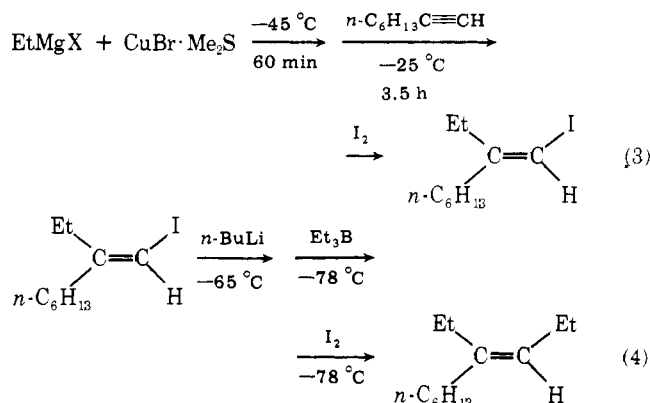
Initially, we found that treatment of tri-*n*-hexylborane with vinylolithium or vinylmagnesium bromide followed by iodination gives moderate yields of 1-octene⁸ (eq 2). In order to



ascertain the overall stereochemistry and the potential synthetic applications to stereospecifically defined olefins, we undertook a systematic study of this reaction using 2,2-disubstituted vinyl iodides as precursors of stereospecifically defined vinylolithiums.

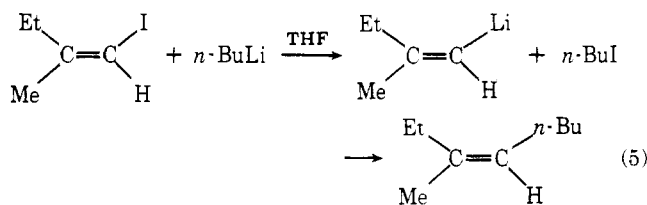
Reaction of ethylmagnesium bromide in the presence of $\text{CuBr}\cdot\text{Me}_2\text{S}$ with 1-octyne leads upon iodination to a 63% yield

of (*E*)-2-ethyl-1-iodo-1-octene (eq 3).⁹ Sequential treatment of the iodide with *n*-butyllithium, triethylborane, and iodine at low temperature leads to a 75% yield of (*E*)-4-ethyl-3-decene (eq 4).¹⁰ In view of these encouraging results, a number

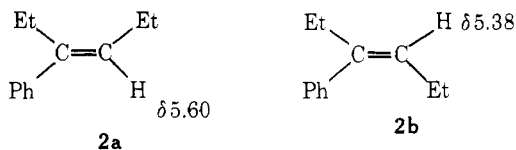


of the iodides were synthesized by the Normant procedure. From these derivatives the corresponding trisubstituted olefins 1a-j were prepared. The results are summarized in Table I.

Comparison of the proton-decoupled ¹³C NMR spectra of *Z* and *E* isomers 1g and 1h clearly indicates that the two isomers are different. The stereochemistry of the products was determined in two ways. Treatment of (*Z*)-2-methyl-1-iodo-1-butene with *n*-butyllithium in THF at -78°C leads to halogen-metal exchange. Subsequent displacement of the iodide with retention at the vinyl carbon¹¹ gives (*Z*)-3-methyl-3-octene (eq 5), identical in all respects with 1i. Fur-



ther support for this stereochemical assignment comes from the proton NMR spectrum of 1j. Comparison of the vinyl proton's adsorption at δ 5.56 in 1j with those reported for (*Z*)- and (*E*)-3-phenyl-3-hexene¹² (2a,b) confirms the stereochemical assignment of 1j as the *E* isomer.



The stereochemical purity of the resultant trisubstituted olefins remains a difficult problem. In all cases, by proton-decoupled ¹³C NMR spectroscopy we appear to have only one isomer. In the case of 1g and 1h, each isomer is clearly different, uncontaminated by detectable amounts of the opposite isomer. Furthermore, in the proton NMR of 1j we cannot detect any of the opposite isomer. Based on careful NMR analysis of 1j, we have determined this isomer to be at least 97% stereochemically pure. Unfortunately, preliminary attempts to analyze 1g and 1h by capillary gas chromatography have failed to separate the isomers.¹³ However, the ¹³C NMR spectra indicate each isomer to be at least 95% stereochemically pure.

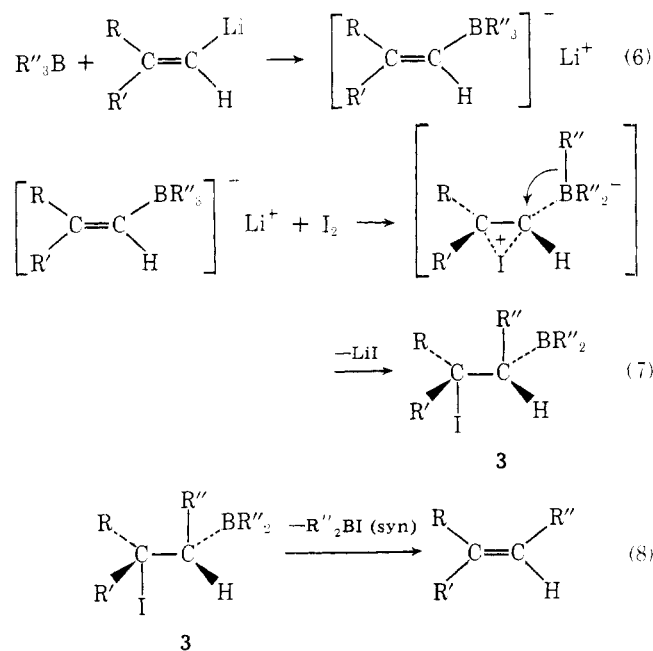
Presumably, this reaction involves a mechanism similar to the halogenation reactions of vinylboranes. Initial complexation of the vinylolithium with the trialkylborane gives an "ate" complex (eq 6). Subsequent formation of the iodonium ion

Table I. Iodination of Lithium Trialkylvinylborates to Give Trisubstituted Olefins

Vinyl iodide ^a		Registry no.	R'' ₃ B, ^{b,c}		Product	Registry no.	Yield, ^{d,e} %
R	R'		R'' =	Registry no.			
Ethyl	<i>n</i> -Hexyl	64705-58-4	Ethyl	97-94-9	(<i>E</i>)-4-Ethyl-3-decene (1a)	64705-61-9	75 (61)
			<i>n</i> -Butyl	122-56-5	(<i>E</i>)-6-Ethyl-5-dodecene (1b)	64705-62-0	82
			Isobutyl	1116-39-8	(<i>E</i>)-5-Ethyl-2-methyl-4-undecene (1c)	64705-63-1	72
			<i>sec</i> -Butyl	1113-78-6	(<i>E</i>)-5-Ethyl-3-methyl-4-undecene (1d)	64705-64-2	66
			Cyclohexyl	1088-01-3	(<i>E</i>)-1-Cyclohexyl-2-ethyl-1-octene (1e)	64705-65-3	76
			Cyclopentyl	23985-40-2	(<i>E</i>)-1-Cyclopentyl-2-ethyl-1-octene (1f)	62134-95-6	82
<i>n</i> -Propyl	Ethyl	64705-59-5	Ethyl		(<i>Z</i>)-4-Ethyl-3-heptene (1g)	64705-66-4	80
Ethyl	<i>n</i> -Propyl	64705-60-8	Ethyl		(<i>E</i>)-4-Ethyl-3-heptene (1b)	64705-67-5	87
Ethyl	Methyl	52812-57-4	<i>n</i> -Butyl		(<i>Z</i>)-3-Methyl-3-octene (1i)	34213-99-5	79
Ethyl	Phenyl	64245-21-2	Ethyl		(<i>E</i>)-3-Phenyl-3-hexene (1j)	39857-50-6	38

^a 5.0 mmol of the iodide treated with 5.0 mmol of *n*-BuLi at -80°C in 5.0 mL of ether and stirred for 15 min at -60°C . ^b 5.0 mmol added dropwise at -80°C and stirred for 10 min. ^c 5.0 mmol of I₂ added in 3 mL of THF. ^d Analysis by GLPC (isolated yields in parentheses). ^e All compounds exhibited spectral data in accordance with their structure and gave satisfactory elemental composition by high-resolution mass spectrometry and/or elemental analysis.

followed by migration of an alkyl group from boron to carbon with concurrent anti opening of the iodonium ion leads to **3** (eq 7). β -Haloboranes similar to **3** are known to eliminate R₂BX in an anti manner in the presence of excess base.¹ In the absence of base, a thermal syn elimination similar to that previously reported for the cyanobromination of vinylboranes² must occur, leading directly to the trisubstituted olefin **1** (eq 8).



These results are in sharp contrast to the recent report of Evans and co-workers^{5a,b} wherein the reaction of a vinyl lithium with an alkylboronate ester followed by iodination leads to net inversion of the carbon originally bearing iodine. Presumably, the change in mechanism is due to the increased electrophilicity of **3** vs. the borinate and boronate intermediates investigated by Zweifel and Evans and to the absence of nucleophiles such as sodium methoxide or sodium hydroxide present in their reactions.

In summary, the present development provides a convenient stereospecific route to trisubstituted olefins in two steps from a terminal acetylene, a Grignard reagent, and a trialkylborane. While alternative procedures are available for the synthesis of olefins from vinyl iodides, the ready availability

of trialkylboranes via hydroboration and the known limitation of other reactions to relatively unhindered alkyl derivatives suggest that his procedure may be the method of choice in many cases. To enhance the utility of this sequence, work is in progress to develop a "blocked" borane for use in this reaction¹⁴ and to apply this sequence to the synthesis of naturally occurring compounds.

Experimental Section

Infrared spectra were recorded on a Pye Unicam SP 1000 using a thin film on sodium chloride. ¹H NMR spectra were determined on a Varian EM-360 or a Varian PFT-80 spectrometer using CDCl₃ as solvent and Me₄Si as an internal standard. ¹³C NMR data were obtained on a Varian CFT-20 instrument in CDCl₃ solvent and using Me₄Si as an internal standard. Low-resolution mass spectra were recorded on a Hewlett-Packard 5980A mass spectrometer. High-resolution data were obtained on an AEI MS-30 instrument.

GLC analyses were carried out on a Varian 1400 chromatograph equipped with a flame detector and a Hewlett-Packard 3380 integrating recorder using 6 ft \times 0.125 in. stainless steel columns filled with 10% loaded packing on AW-DMCS treated 80-100 Chromosorb W. Either Se-30 or Xe-60 liquid phases were used. All yields based on GLC were determined using an internal standard. Preparative gas chromatography was carried out on a Varian 920 instrument equipped with 6 ft \times 0.5 in. stainless steel columns filled with 20% loaded packing on AW-DMCS treated 40-60 Chromosorb W. Either Se-30 or Xe-60 liquid phases were employed.

Air-sensitive materials were handled via the standard techniques described in Chapter 9 of ref 3c. All glassware was dried at 150°C for 4 h, assembled hot, and allowed to cool under a nitrogen purge. The reaction flasks were fitted with a side arm capped with a rubber septum. All reactions were carried out under a static pressure of nitrogen.

Materials. Triethyl- and triisobutylborane were obtained from Callery Chemical Co. and used without further purification. Tri-*n*-butyl-, tricyclopentyl-, and tricyclohexylborane were prepared by hydroboration with borane methylsulfide in THF.^{3c} Tri-*sec*-butylborane was obtained from Aldrich Chemical Co. and standardized by oxidation with alkaline hydrogen peroxide. The *n*-alkanes (Phillips) employed as internal standards were used as received. All solvents were distilled from benzophenone ketyl under nitrogen. The vinyl iodides were prepared by the method of Normant using CuBr \cdot Me₂S as the source of copper. The solvent used was a 50:50 mixture of ether and dimethyl sulfide. All other conditions are identical with those reported.⁹ The iodides were consistently isolated in ca. 60% yields using this procedure. The lithium reagents were prepared by the method of Normant.¹⁵

(*E*)-4-Ethyl-3-decene (**1a**). A dry 250-mL flask equipped with a septum-capped inlet, reflux condenser, and magnetic stirring bar was flushed with nitrogen. The flask was charged with 60 mL of ether and 15.96 g (60 mmol) of (*E*)-2-ethyl-1-iodo-1-octene and cooled to -80°C . To this mixture 25.64 mL of *n*-butyllithium (2.34 M) was

added. The solution was placed in a -60°C bath ($\text{CHCl}_3/\text{CO}_2$) for 30 min and cooled to -80°C . Triethylborane (5.87 g, 60 mmol) was added, and the solution was stirred for 10 min. Finally, 15.24 g (60 mmol) of iodine dissolved in 60 mL of THF was added over a 15-min period. The solution was stirred for 1 h at -80°C and then allowed to warm to room temperature. The reaction was hydrolyzed with 75 mL of 3 N NaOH under nitrogen. The residual borane was washed three times with 50 mL of 3 N NaOH then oxidized in the presence of 75 mL of 3 N NaOH by the slow dropwise addition of 15 mL of 30% hydrogen peroxide. The organic layer was washed with water and dried, and the solvent was removed by distillation through a 6-in. Vigreux column. Subsequent distillation through a Teflon-coated microspinning band column at 77 mmHg gave 6.43 g of *n*-butyl iodide. The pressure was reduced to 15 mmHg and further distillation gave 6.19 g (61%) of analytically pure (*Z*)-4-ethyl-3-decene; bp $81\text{--}83^{\circ}\text{C}$ (15 mm); IR 1378, 1465, 2860, 2940, 2970, 3040 cm^{-1} ; NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.8–1.6 (m, 17 H), 1.98 (m, 6 H), 5.08 (t, 1 H); high-resolution mass spectrum; m/e 168.1881 (M^+) ($\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{24}$ requires 168.1913).

General Procedure for the Preparation of Olefins 1b–j. A dry 50-mL round-bottom flask equipped with a septum-capped side arm and reflux condenser was connected to an oil bubbler. The system was purged with nitrogen and maintained under nitrogen until after the oxidation. To this flask was added 5 mL of THF and 5.0 mmol of the iodide. The solution was cooled to -80°C , and 5.5 mmol of *n*-butyllithium was added. The solution was stirred at -60°C for 30 min and cooled to -80°C , and 5.0 mmol of the appropriate borane was added. The solution was stirred for 10 min, and then 1.26 g (5 mmol) of I_2 in 5 mL of THF was added. The solution was stirred for 1 h at -80°C and allowed to warm to room temperature. The residual borane was washed three times with 5 mL of 3 N NaOH then oxidized by addition of 2 mL of 3 N NaOH followed by the dropwise addition of 2 mL of 30% hydrogen peroxide. The organic layer was separated and dried, and the trisubstituted olefin content was measured by GLC vs. an internal standard. Purification by preparative gas chromatography afforded essentially pure (<98%) trisubstituted olefins.

(E)-6-Ethyl-5-dodecene (1b). Isolation by preparative gas chromatography gave 0.61 g of pure material; IR 1465, 2840, 2940, 2965 cm^{-1} ; NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.6–1.75 (m, 21 H), 2.0 (m, 6 H), 5.10 (t, 1 H); high-resolution mass spectrum, m/e 196.2213 (M^+) ($\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{28}$ requires 196.2190).

(E)-5-Ethyl-2-methyl-4-undecene (1c). Isolation by preparative gas chromatography gave 0.53 g of pure material; IR 1370, 1385, 1470, 2960, 2980, 3060 cm^{-1} ; NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.70–2.30 (m, 27 H), 5.10 (t, 1 H); high-resolution mass spectrum, m/e 196.2202 (M^+) ($\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{28}$ requires 196.2190).

(E)-5-Ethyl-3-methyl-4-undecene (1d). Isolation by preparative gas chromatography gave 0.49 g of pure material; IR 1378, 1465, 2865, 2940, 2975 cm^{-1} ; NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.60–1.68 (m, 22 H), 1.8–2.4 (m, 5 H), 4.82 (d, 1 H); high-resolution mass spectrum, m/e 196.2179 (M^+) ($\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{28}$ requires 196.2190).

(E)-1-Cyclohexyl-2-ethyl-1-octene (1e). Isolation by preparative gas chromatography gave 0.61 g of pure material; IR 1450, 2860, 2935, 2965 cm^{-1} ; NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.5–2.5 (m, 29 H), 4.96 (d, 1 H); high-resolution mass spectrum, m/e 222.2327 (M^+) ($\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{30}$ requires 222.2346).

(E)-1-Cyclopentyl-2-ethyl-1-octene (1f). Isolation by preparative gas chromatography gave 0.51 g of pure material; IR 1380, 1460, 2870, 2950; NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.5–3.0 (m, 27 H), 4.98 (d, 1 H); high-resolution mass spectrum, m/e 208.2190 (M^+) ($\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{28}$ requires 208.2214).

(Z)-4-Ethyl-3-heptene (1g). Isolation by preparative gas chromatography gave 0.22 g of pure material; IR 855, 875, 900, 1390, 1465, 2880, 2940, 2975, 3020 cm^{-1} ; NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.50–1.65 (m, 11 H), 1.70–2.30 (m, 6 H), 5.16 (t, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ 12.98, 14.12, 14.66, 21.03, 21.74, 29.64, 32.37, 125.63, 140.48; high-resolution mass spectrum, m/e 126.1422 (M^+) (C_9H_{18} requires 126.1408).

(E)-4-Ethyl-3-heptene (1h). Isolation by preparative gas chromatography gave 0.178 g of pure material; IR 1390, 1465, 2880, 2940, 2975, 3020 cm^{-1} ; NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.5–1.67 (m, 11 H), 1.70–2.40 (m, 6 H), 5.10 (t, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ 13.28, 13.86, 14.75, 20.90, 21.44, 23.11, 38.89, 126.13, 140.49; high-resolution mass spectrum, m/e 126.1417 (M^+) (C_9H_{18} requires 126.1408).

(Z)-3-Methyl-3-octene (1i). Isolation by preparative gas chromatography gave 0.32 g of pure material; IR 1378, 1460, 2860, 2940, 2970; NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.60–1.50 (m, 10 H), 1.68 (d, 3 H), 1.80–2.40 (m,

4 H), 5.17 (t, 1 H); high-resolution mass spectrum, m/e 126.1420 (M^+) (C_9H_{18} requires 126.1408).

(E)-3-Phenyl-3-hexene (1j). Isolation by preparative gas chromatography gave 0.18 g of pure material; IR 700, 765, 865, 1038, 1075, 1380, 1460, 1600, 2880, 2940, 2980, 3040, 3065; NMR (CCl_4) δ 0.7–1.3 (m, 6 H), 2.0–2.7 (m, 4 H), 5.57 (t, 1 H), 7.23 (s, 5 H); high-resolution mass spectrum, m/e 160.1244 (M^+) ($\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}$ requires 160.1251).

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