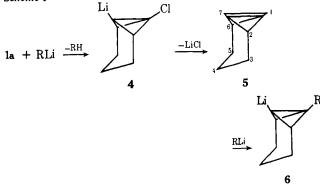
isolated unchanged. This shows that direct coupling as well as chlorine-lithium exchange are insignificant processes and that the absence of a proton at C-7 prevents the substitution reaction to take place. (b) 1-Bromotricyclo[4.1.0.0^{2,7}]heptane (1b)⁷ and *n*-butyllithium in ether led (via 1d) to the parent hydrocarbon 1c as the main product indicating lithium-bromine exchange in this case to be fast and the possible consecutive coupling between 1d and *n*-butyl bromide, however, under the applied conditions (15 min at 20 °C), to be an inefficient process.⁸ As alkyl chlorides need longer reaction times to couple successfully with organolithium compounds than the corresponding alkyl bromides,⁹ this result further excludes that the derivatives 2 were produced via route II. (c) When 1a and *n*-butyllithium were quickly mixed and the mixture was quenched with D₂O after reaction times of 30, 90, and 150 s at 20 °C, 1-n-butyltricyclo[4.1.0.0^{2,7}]heptane-7-d was obtained, in each case with a deuterium content >96%.¹⁰ The bridgehead metalation of the parent hydrocarbon 1c with nbutyllithium in ether has been shown to occur rather slowly.¹¹; Therefore, the introduction of the lithium to the bicyclo-[1.1.0] butane unit must have taken place not at the stage of the final product 2a with the excess of the organometallic base but at an earlier step of the reaction sequence.

Mechanisms I and II are inconsistent with these results; however, all our observations are in accord with III which is outlined in Scheme I.





The chlorine atom in **1a** should enhance the acidity of the proton at C-7 and accelerate the metalation reaction^{12,13} to 4. The consecutive β elimination of lithium chloride from 4 leads to tricyclo $[4.1.0.0^{2,7}]$ hept-1(7)-ene (5) as a reaction intermediate. This highly strained hydrocarbon adds, as expected, the organolithium reagent with the formation of **6**.¹⁴

The three-carbon bridge in 5 connecting C-2 and C-6 causes the bicyclo[1.1.0]but-1(3)-ene unit to take a bent structure. It is interesting to note that this might not introduce additional strain into the molecule: calculations predict nonplanarity for the parent olefin.¹

The proposed scheme for the substitution reaction implies that the carbon atoms 1 and 7 become chemically equivalent on their way from 1a to 6.¹⁵ Experiments to test this consequence are in progress. Also, attempts are underway to trap the proposed intermediate 5 with further suitable reagents.

Acknowledgments: This work was supported by Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and by Fonds der Chemischen Industrie.

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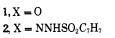
Günter Szeimies,* Joachim Harnisch, Otto Baumgärtel Institut für Organische Chemie, Universität München Karlstrasse 23, D-8000 München, Germany Received April 1, 1977

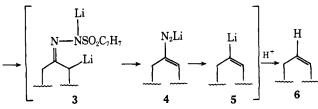
Synthesis of β , γ -Unsaturated Esters. **Direct Generation of Ester Dienolates from** *B***-Keto Ester Tosylhydrazone Trianions**

Sir:

An excellent and frequently used procedure for the ketone \rightarrow olefin (1 \rightarrow 6) transformation is the Shapiro reaction.¹ The ketone 1 is converted to its tosylhydrazone derivative (2) which, in turn, is allowed to react with ≥ 2 equiv of strong base $(CH_3Li, LiNR_2)$ to yield ultimately olefin 6 via the successive intermediacy of tosylhydrazone dianion (3), vinyldiazinyl anion (4), and vinyllithium (5).²

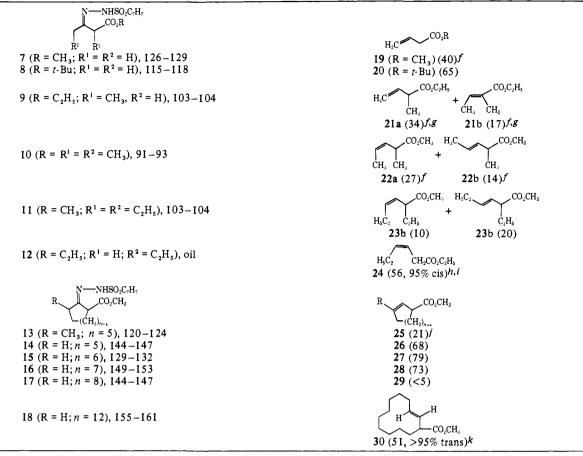






In connection with one of our programs, we are evaluating the synthetic potential of deprotonation reactions of more highly functionalized tosylhydrazones.³ We are pleased to report that reaction⁴ of a series of β -keto ester tosylhydrazones 7-18 with 3.1 equiv of lithium diisopropylamide⁵ (LDA) in tetrahydrofuran at -78 °C, followed by warming to room temperature (4-24 h), quenching with ammonium chloride, and distillation, provides an exceptionally convenient synthesis of β , γ -unsaturated esters **19–30** (Table I).

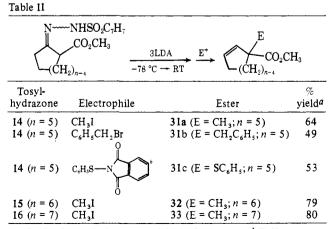
The penultimate intermediate in this unsaturated ester synthesis is presumed to be a dienolate, which undergoes kinetic protonation α to the ester moiety; thus, the simple expedient of quenching the reaction mixture with various electroTosylhydrazone, mp, $^{\circ}C^{a-c}$



^{*a*} Prepared from the corresponding β -keto ester and *p*-toluenesulfonylhydrazine in ether (7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 18), methanol (15, 16), or 95% ethanol (9, 13, 14, 17) in an average yield of 80%. ^{*b*} These materials exhibit combustion analysis (C, H, N, S), IR, ¹H NMR, and ¹³C NMR spectral data in accord with the assigned structures. ^{*c*} The crystalline tosylhydrazones are produced as a mixture of syn and anti isomers (containing as well, in some cases, substantial amounts of the ene-hydrazine⁶ form as assayed by ¹³C NMR⁷) and are used as such in all subsequent reactions. ^{*d*} Yields are nonoptimized and refer to distilled material of >95% purity (10-25-mmol reactions). ^{*e*} These esters exhibit IR, NMR, and exact mass spectral data in accord with the assigned structures. ^{*f*} Losses incurred because of product volatility. ^{*s*} The same I.4:1.0 ratio of 21a/21b was obtained by NH₄Cl quenching of the enolate prepared via reaction of 21b with LDA in THF at -78 °C. ^{*h*} The cis stereo-chemistry of 24 was established by direct comparison (IR, ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR) of authentic *cis*· and *trans*-ethyl 3-hexenoate. ^{*s*} *i*¹³C NMR analysis indicated that <5% of the trans isomer was present, as judged by comparison with an authentic mixture. ^{*j*} The factors responsible for the low yield in this case appear to be more complex than the recurrant findings that trisubstituted olefins are difficult to synthesize using the standard Shapiro reaction (CH₃Li as base).⁹ since the tosylhydrazone of isobutyrophenone can be converted to 1-phenyl-2-methyl-2-propene in 80% yield using LDA as base. ^k The trans stereochemistry of 30 is assigned on the basis of IR (10.3 μ), the proton-decoupled, Eu(FOD)₃- shifted 90-MHz ¹H NMR spectrum, and the ¹³C NMR spectrum.

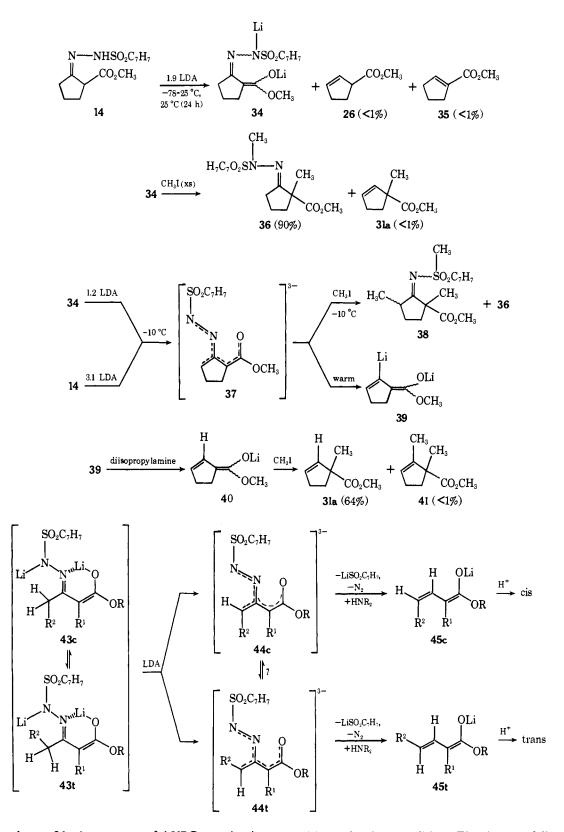
philic reagents allows direct access to α -functionalized β , γ unsaturated esters **31**-**33**^{10,11} (see Table II).

Several additional observations which are pertinent to this reaction follow. (1) Treatment of tosylhydrazone 14 with 1.9 equiv of LDA in THF produces a stable, homogeneous, deep vellow solution of dianion 34. VPC examination of this solution after standing at room temperature for 24 h reveals no evidence of the presence of unsaturated esters 26 or 35. Subsequent treatment of this solution with excess methyl iodide produces only dimethylated tosylhydrazone 36^{10} (>90%) with no evidence of the presence of ester 31a (<1%).¹² These results implicate a more fundamental role for the third equivalent of LDA than simply serving as a base for ionization of conjugated ester $35.^{13}$ (2) Treatment of tosylhydrazone dianion 34 with an additional 1.2 equiv of LDA (-78 to -10 °C, 1 h) produces a reddish black solution which is identical in appearance with the solution which results from reaction of 14 with 3.1 equiv of LDA under similar conditions. Although at -10 °C this solution appears relatively stable, further warming to above 0 °C results in the slow evolution of nitrogen, along with the simultaneous appearance of ester 26 as assayed by VPC. As



^a Yield refers to isolated material of >95% purity. ^bT. Kumamota, S. Kobayashi, and T. Mukaiyama, *Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.*, **45**, 866 (1972).

previously indicated, quenching the reaction mixture with methyl iodide, after the nitrogen evolution has ceased, produces



 α -methylated ester **31a**; however, careful VPC examination of this solution fails to reveal the presence of dimethylated ester **41**, which was prepared by an independent route for comparison purposes.¹⁴ (3) Addition of excess methyl iodide to the $-10\rightarrow0$ °C reaction mixture produces trimethylated hydrazone **38**¹⁵ (~10-15%) as well as dimethyl species **36** (50-55%) and deconjugated ester **31a** (18%).

We feel these facts are most consistent with the presence of *trianion* **37** as a discrete intermediate in the $-10 \rightarrow 0$ °C solution. The rate of formation of trianion **37** and its subsequent decomposition to dilithiodienolate **39**¹⁶ are apparently com-

petitive under these conditions. The absence of dimethylated ester **41** in the methyl iodide quenching experiment suggests that dilithio intermediate **39** is protonated in situ by the diisopropylamine present in the reaction mixture.¹⁷

This trianion reaction appears to allow considerable stereochemical control over olefin geometry in the formation of ester dienolates from "acyclic" substrates. It is striking to note (cases 10, 11, 12, and 18, Table I) that the resultant olefin geometry varies from *stereoselectively* cis $(12 \rightarrow 24)$ to completely trans $(18 \rightarrow 30)$. These results seem to be best rationalized on the basis of kinetic deprotonation of the least sterically destabilized dianion rotomer $(43c \Rightarrow 43t)$ to produce trianion 44c or 44t which, in turn, decomposes to dienolate 45c or 45t, respectively. Geometrical equilibration at the trianion stage (44c \Rightarrow 44t) is an additional rationale which makes parallel stereochemical predictions for this trianion reaction.18

The product stereochemistry seems to be primarily determined by minimization of steric interactions in intermediates 43 or 44. In the case where $R^1 = H(12)$, the R^2 group apparently prefers to be orientated away from lithiosulfonamide group resulting in formation of cis olefin 24. When R^1 is an alkyl group (10, 11), the situation appears more balanced and a cis-trans mixture of olefins is formed (21a,b, 22a,b). Where R^1R^2 are part of a large ring (18), the cis orientation (43c or 44c) is further destabilized by additional interactions between the ring methylenes and the alkoxy group of the ester. This cumulative effect presumably overcompensates for the R²sulfonamide interaction which, in turn, results in the formation of trans olefin (30). This latter effect is consistent with the observed shift toward trans olefin in the acvelic case where an additional methylene group was added to the R^1 and R^2 moieties (c.f. 10 vs. 11).¹⁹

Acknowledgment. This investigation was supported by Grant No. CA-19689-01, awarded by the National Cancer Institute, DHEW.

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- (21) Alfred P. Sloan Fellow 1977-1979.

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Nickel Phosphine Complexes. Crystal and Molecular Structure of a New Nickel(I) Complex: $[Ni(P(CH_3)_3)_4]B(C_6H_5)_4$

Sir:

The interest in Ni(II) phosphine complexes has increased considerably in recent years because of their values as promoters in organic syntheses such as cross-coupling reactions,^{1,2} carbonylation,³ cyclotrimerization of ethylene,⁴ In these reactions, the formation, the stereochemistry, and the oxidation-reduction equilibria of alkylphosphine-nickel complexes are of great importance since they are central to the understanding of the catalytic cycle. On the basis of the 16 and 18 electron rule, it has been assumed⁵ that these reactions imply diamagnetic Ni(II) d⁸ or Ni(0) d¹⁰ complexes as active intermediates. Paramagnetic d⁹ species (17 electron complexes) have not usually been considered.

Recently, Klein et al.⁶ have reported the synthesis of new pentacoordinate $[Ni(CH_3)(P(CH_3)_3)_4]^+X^-$ complexes. Since very few pentacoordinate [NiXL₄]⁺ compounds have been reported, we planned to determine the x-ray structure of the [Ni(CH₃)(P(CH₃)₃)₄]BPh₄ complex. Orange red crystals were obtained by crystallization from a solution of the fivecoordinate complex in tetrahydrofuran. It turns out, surprisingly after the crystal structure analysis, that a dissociative reduction of the $[Ni(CH_3)(P(CH_3)_3)_4]BPh_4$ species occurs and that the isolated complex is the unexpected nickel(I)[Ni(P(CH₃)₃)₄]BPh₄ compound.⁷ We report here the crystal and molecular structure of this Ni(I) complex.

It crystallizes in the monoclinic space group $P2_1/c$ with four units per cell ($\rho_m = 1.145 (5) \text{ g/cm}^3$) of dimensions a = 16.153(3) Å, b = 12.540 (2) Å, c = 20.880 (3) Å, $\beta = 111.54$ (2)°. Intensity data were collected from a single crystal sealed in a Lindemann glass capillary mounted on an automatic diffractometer (Enraf-Nonius, CAD-4) using Mo K α radiation. The structure was solved from Patterson and Fourier synthesis and