

the hyperconjugating structures involving 8A will be more energetically accessible than those involving 8B. Thus  $r(C_1-C_2)$ should be shorter than  $r(C_1-C_4)$  as is observed. Furthermore, the hyperconjugating structures involving 8A should have more s character in the C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> bond, making the C<sub>2</sub>-F bonds have more p character. This is consistent with the longer C-F bonds and the small value found for  $\theta(F_1C_2F_2)$ .

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Supplementary Material Available: Table of anisotropic thermal parameters (1 page). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

## Kinetics and Mechanisms of $\alpha$ - and $\beta$ -Eliminations of Alkoxysilanes from Saturated and Unsaturated Carbon Frameworks

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Abstract: Although Me<sub>3</sub>SiCH<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>OMe undergoes thermally induced β-elimination of Me<sub>3</sub>SiOMe to afford dimethylsilene, the thermodynamically favorable elimination of Me<sub>3</sub>SiOMe from Me<sub>3</sub>SiSiMe<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OMe does not occur. From kinetic studies and trapping experiments, this is found to be due to a more favorable A-factor for three-centered elimination of :CH2. Three-centered elimination of Me<sub>3</sub>SiOMe from an sp<sup>2</sup>-hybridized carbon to afford a vinylidene is found to be more facile than the analogous elimination from an sp<sup>3</sup>-hybridized carbon due both to more favorable energy of activation and A-factor. Thus, silaallene formation from  $H_2C = C(OMe)SiMe_2SiMe_3$  does not occur due to the greater facility of  $\alpha$ -elimination to  $H_2C = C$ :.

Thermally induced  $\beta$ -elimination of Me<sub>3</sub>SiOMe from silyl ethers of type 1, first reported by Gusel'nikov, has proved to be a convenient route to a variety of interesting silenes.<sup>2</sup> One would assume that the analogous elimination from disilanes of type 2 would be much more facile since it would involve breaking the considerably weaker Si-Si and C-O bonds rather than the robust Si-C and Si-O bonds. Indeed, consideration of available bond strengths<sup>3</sup> leads to the conclusion that  $\beta$ -elimination from 2 should be at least 45 kcal/mol more favorable than from 1. Thus, it was somewhat perplexing to find that flash vacuum pyrolysis (FVP) of 2, although producing the expected Me<sub>3</sub>SiOMe as the major product, afforded a complex mixture of products, none of which seems (from GCMS analysis) to originate from silene 3.

One possible explanation for the surprising dichotomy between the thermolyses of 1 and 2 would be that 2 eschews  $\beta$ -elimination in favor of  $\alpha$ -elimination<sup>4</sup> to produce :CH<sub>2</sub>, a process that is not available to 1. Carbene formation by reductive elimination of Me<sub>3</sub>SiOR is a well-established process<sup>7</sup> although to our knowledge the internal competition between  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -elimination presented in 2 has never been probed. Thus, the complexity of the pyrolysate

Scheme II

$$SiMe_2SiMe_3$$
 $H_2C$ 
 $\Delta$ :  $CH_2$  +  $Me_3SiSiMe_2OMe$ 
 $A$ 
 $OMe$ 

2

 $Me_2Si$ :

 $Me_2Si$ :

 $Me_2SiMe_2SiMe_3$ 

H<sub>3</sub>C—CH 
$$\frac{600 \cdot \text{C}}{\text{SFR}} \text{ [H3C} - \text{CH}1 \rightarrow \text{H2C} = \text{CH}_2$$
OMe
7

from 2 could be explained by initial  $\alpha$ -elimination of :CH<sub>2</sub> followed by a second  $\alpha$ -elimination of :SiMe<sub>2</sub> from the resulting disilane 4. The generation of two highly reactive intermediates from each molecule of 2 would virtually guarantee a complex product

Scheme I ОМе Me<sub>3</sub>S Me<sub>3</sub>SiOMe + complex mixture of minor products

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(3) Walsh, R. Acc. Chem. Res. 1981, 14, 246.

 <sup>(4)</sup> This is also known to be the case for the decomposition of CHF<sub>2</sub>C-F<sub>2</sub>SiCl<sub>3</sub><sup>5</sup> and CHF<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>3</sub>.<sup>6</sup>
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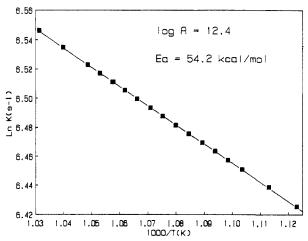


Figure 1. Arrhenius plot for the formation of Me<sub>3</sub>SiOMe from 1 in SFR.

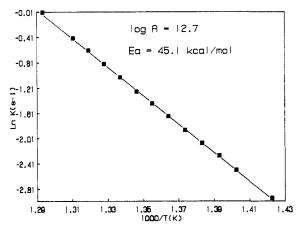


Figure 2. Arrhenius plot for the formation of Me<sub>3</sub>SiOMe from 9 in SFR.

mixture. Evidence for the formation of :SiMe<sub>2</sub> was obtained by flow-copyrolysis of 2 and butadiene at 620 °C to obtain the expected addition products, silacyclopentenes 5 and 6. Evidence for carbene formation was obtained by pyrolysis of disilarly ether 7 to obtain ethylene as the exclusive low molecular weight product.

As to the question of why  $\alpha$ -elimination is favored over  $\beta$ elimination, we are aware of no kinetic studies that could provide an answer. Thus, a kinetic investigation of the thermolyses of 1 and of  $\alpha$ -silyl ether 8 was undertaken with use of a pulsed, stirred-flow reactor (SFR) modeled after the system described by Davidson.8 Decomposition of 1 was carried out over a temperature range of 618-697 °C following the rate of Me<sub>3</sub>SiOMe formation. On the basis of 21 rate determinations in this temperature range, the Arrhenius plot (Figure 1) gave the first-order rate constant for formation of Me<sub>3</sub>SiOMe as log  $k_1 = (12.4 \pm$ 0.1) - [(54200 ± 300)/2.3RT]. The activation energy of 54 kcal/mol eliminates the possibility of a homolytic process, and the A-factor of 12.4 is consistent with that of a four-center transition state.9 For comparison the decomposition of 1methoxy-2-(trimethylsilyl)ethane (9) was examined in the SFR. The thermolysis, which cleanly produced Me<sub>3</sub>SiOMe and ethylene, was followed by the formation of the alkoxysilane over the temperature range of 430-500 °C. The resulting Arrhenius plot (Figure 2) yielded the first-order rate constant as  $\log k_1 = (12.7)$  $\pm$  0.1) - [(45000  $\pm$  200/2.3RT]. The gratifyingly similar Afactors are strong evidence that both 1 and 9 decompose via four-centered transition states, while the difference in  $E_a$ 's is

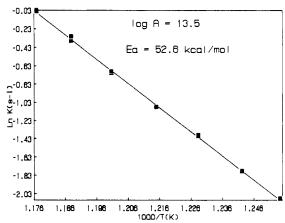


Figure 3. Arrhenius plot for the formation of Me<sub>3</sub>SiOMe from 8 in SFR.

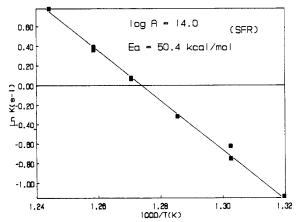


Figure 4. Arrhenius plot for the formation of Me<sub>3</sub>SiOMe from 10 in SFR.

Scheme III

Me<sub>3</sub>Si

OMe

$$H_2C - SiMe_2 - Me_3SiOMe + H_2C = SiMe_2$$

1

 $log A = 12.4$ ;  $E_a = 54.2 \text{ kcal/mol}$ 

SiMe<sub>3</sub>
 $H_3C - CH - Me_3SiOMe + H_3C - CH$ 

OMe

8

 $log A = 13.5$ ;  $E_a = 52.6 \text{ kcal/mol}$ 

Me<sub>3</sub>Si

OMe

 $H_2C - CH_2 - Me_3SiOMe + H_2C = CH_2$ 

9

 $log A = 12.7$ ;  $E_a = 45.1 \text{ kcal/mol}$ 

derived from a combination of the strength of the Si-O bond in 1 and the weakness of the incipient Si-C  $\pi$ -bond.

Decomposition of 8 was studied in the SFR system from 524 to 579 °C by following the rate of Me<sub>3</sub>SiOMe formation. The Arrhenius plot (Figure 3) from 14 rate determinations gave the first-order rate constant as  $\log k_1 = (13.5 \pm 0.1) - [52600 \pm 400)/2.3RT]$ . The A-factor of 13.5 is a reasonable value for a three-center transition state, although reported values 12 for 1,2-eliminations of silyl halides from  $\alpha$ -halosilanes range from 10.8 to 15.2. As a check on the validity of our activation parameters, the thermolysis of 8 was also followed in a low-pressure-pyrolysis (LPP) system 13 following the rate of disappearance of 8 contin-

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<sup>(9)</sup> For example, the elimination of HBr from *i-*, *n-*, *sec-*, and *t-*BuBr has A-factors ranging from 13.0 to 13.5, <sup>10</sup> while HCN elimination from *i-*PrCN has a log A of 12.1.<sup>11</sup>

has a log A of 12.1.11 (10) Benson, S. W. Thermochemical Kinetics, 2nd ed.; J. Wiley and Sons: New York, 1976; p 111.

<sup>(11)</sup> Dastor, P. N.; Emovan, E. U. Can. J. Chem. 1973, 51, 366.

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Scheme IV

SiMe<sub>3</sub>

$$H_2C = C$$
 $\Delta$ 

Me<sub>3</sub>SiOMe + [H<sub>2</sub>C==C:]  $\rightarrow$  HC==CH

OMe

10

SFR: log  $A = 14.0 \pm 0.3$ ,  $E_a = 50.4 \pm 1.0$ 

LPP: log  $A = 13.6 \pm 0.2$ ,  $E_a = 49.3 \pm 0.7$ 

uously by mass spectroscopy. The resulting Arrhenius parameters of log  $A = 13.3 \pm 0.1$  and  $E_a$  52.0  $\pm$  0.6 kcal/mol were within experimental error the same as those obtained in the SFR.

It is of considerable interest to note that although the activation energies for the decompositions of 1 and 8 are within 2 kcal/mol,  $\alpha$ -elimination is much faster (more than 2 500 times at 600 °C) than  $\beta$ -elimination largely due to a more favorable A-factor. Thus,  $\beta$ -elimination in 2 has no chance to compete with  $\alpha$ -elimination. Such information is crucial in the future design of thermal precursors of reactive species.

With the activation parameters for  $\alpha$ -elimination to a saturated carbene in hand, it was of interest to compare these values with those for the analogous elimination to produce an unsaturated carbene.14 Thus, the thermolysis of 1-methoxy-1-(trimethylsilyl)ethene (10) was studied in both the SFR (485-530 °C) (Figure 4) and LPP (403-462 °C). In the SFR, the clean decomposition of 10 to acetylene and Me<sub>3</sub>SiOMe was followed through the formation of the alkoxysilane, while the rate of decay of 10 was followed in the LPP system. Although the scatter produced larger error limits than observed for 1 or 8, it is clear that the more facile production of vinylidene is due to both a more favorable A-factor and activation energy.

Lastly, we note that the  $\beta$ -elimination route to silenes as exploited with systems of type 1 cannot be extended to the production of 1-silaallenes. We have already reported15 on the thermochemistry of 1-(dimethylmethoxysilyl)-1-(trimethylsilyl)ethene 11 which does not decompose by extrusion of Me<sub>3</sub>SiOMe. We have now investigated the thermolysis of its isomer (1-methoxyethenyl)pentamethyldisilane (13) and find that like 2 it prefers  $\alpha$ -elimination to  $\beta$ -elimination. Flash vacuum pyrolysis of 13 at 550 °C does indeed afford Me<sub>3</sub>SiOMe and (dimethylsilyl)acetylene (14) from which it could be argued that  $\beta$ -elimination had occurred to produce silaallene 12 which rearranged to 14. However, the concomitant formation of methoxydisilane 15 and bis(dimethylsilyl)acetylene (16) strongly suggests that this is actually an  $\alpha$ -elimination of 13 to produce vinylidene, which isomerizes to acetylene, and 15, which undergoes an  $\alpha$ -elimination to afford Me<sub>3</sub>SiOMe and Me<sub>2</sub>Si:. Thus, the formation of alkynes 14 and 16 would be ascribed to reaction of acetylene and one or two molecules of Me<sub>2</sub>Si:.<sup>17</sup> Conclusive evidence for the formation of Me<sub>2</sub>Si: in the pyrolysis of 13 was obtained through copyrolysis of 13 and butadiene at 450 °C in a flow system to obtain the usual silylene addition product, silacyclopentene 5 in 34% yield. Evidence for the validity of the assumption of Me<sub>2</sub>Si:/acetylene origin for products came from copyrolysis of 13 and phenylacetylene to obtain adduct 17, no 16, and only a trace of 14. Although the yield of 17 appears disconcertingly low, relative to the formation of Me<sub>2</sub>Si: as evidenced by the yield of Me<sub>3</sub>SiOMe, it actually represents a respectable 41% trapping efficiency. Thus, we conclude that there is no reason to suggest the intermediacy of silaallene 12 in the pyrolysis of 13.

## **Experimental Section**

General. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Nicolet Model NT-300 spectrometer. GCMS data were obtained at 70 eV on a HP 5970 mass selective detector coupled with a HP 5890 capillary GC. Scheme V SiMe3 Me2Si=C=CH2 (ref 16)

11

OMe

$$A_{2}C = C$$
 $A_{2}C = C$ 
 $A_{2}C = C$ 
 $A_{3}C = C$ 
 $A_{2}C = C$ 
 $A_{2}C = C$ 
 $A_{3}C = C$ 
 $A_{3}C = C$ 
 $A_{4}C = C$ 
 $A_{2}C = C$ 
 $A_{4}C =$ 

Quantitative GC analysis was accomplished with use of predetermined response factors and n-decane as an internal standard. Preparative GC separations were performed on a Varian Model 920 instrument. Flash vacuum pyrolyses (FVP) were carried out by slowly distilling compounds through a heated, seasoned, horizontal quartz pyrolysis tube (16 mm i.d., 200 mm long) packed with quartz chips, with product collection in a trap cooled with liquid N<sub>2</sub>. Pressures were measured by an ion gauge placed behind a liquid N<sub>2</sub> trap and are typically an order of magnitude lower than in the reaction zone. The stirred flow reactor (SFR) system is modeled after that described by Davidson.8 Our SFR system uses a 60 mL/min He flow to sweep the material through the reactor into a Varian 6000 GC (FID) and has the option of diverting the separated products into a VG SX-300 quadrupole mass spectrometer for mass analysis. The low-pressure pyrolysis (LPP) is designed after that described by Davidson13 and is continuously monitored by the VG SX-300.

Synthesis of (Trimethylsilyl) (dimethylmethoxysilyl) methane (1).1 Preparation of 1 was accomplished in two steps in overall isolated yield of 34%. Quenching of Me<sub>3</sub>SiCH<sub>2</sub>MgCl with Me<sub>2</sub>SiCl<sub>2</sub> afforded Me<sub>3</sub>SiCH<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl (bp 56-58 °C (20 Torr)) in 47% yield. To a stirring mixture of LiOMe in THF at -78 °C, obtained by addition of 8.2 mL (2.5 M, 21 mmol) of n-BuLi in hexane to 1.0 g (31 mmol) of methanol in 15 mL of THF, was added 3.4 g (19 mmol) of Me<sub>3</sub>SiCH<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl over 10 min. After being stirred at -78 °C for 0.5 h, the mixture was warmed to room temperature. Trap-to-trap distillation was followed by fractional distillation with a 7-cm column packed with glass helices to afford 2.4 g (14 mmol, 73%) of 1: bp 54-55 °C (26 Torr); GCMS (70 eV) m/e (% relative intensity) 163 (7.5), 162 (16), 161 (M - 15, 100), 131 (68), 115 (6.4), 89 (12), 73 (31), 59 (56), 45 (26), 43 (24); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -0.14 (2 H, s), 0.02 (9 H, s), 0.10 (6 H, s), 3.38 (3 H, s); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 0.03, 1.13, 4.14, 49.94.

Synthesis of (Methoxymethyl)pentamethyldisilane (2). Disilane 2 was prepared by the method of Tamao and Kumada. 18 Characterization was by 1H NMR and GCMS.

Synthesis of (1-Methoxyethenyl)pentamethyldisilane (13). To a solution of methyl vinyl ether (3.70 g, 63.7 mmol) in 30 mL of THF at -78 °C under N<sub>2</sub> was slowly added 52.7 mmol of t-BuLi (31.0 mL of 1.7 M solution in pentane). The mixture was allowed to warm to 0 °C and stirred for an additional 0.5 h during which time the color changed from yellow to colorless. After being cooled to -78 °C, a solution of chloropentamethyldisilane (7.70 g, 46.1 mmol) in 10 mL of THF was added

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<sup>(15)</sup> Bain, S.; Ijadi-Maghsoodi, S.; Barton, T. J. Organometallics 1987, 6, 1136

<sup>(16)</sup> Barton, T. J.; Burns, G. T.; Goure, W. F.; Wulff, W. D. J. Am. Chem.

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via syringe after which the mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 20 h. After trap-to-trap distillation, fractional distillation yielded GC-pure 13 (5.9 g, 68%): bp 64-66 °C (20 Torr); GCMS (70 eV) m/z (% relative intensity) 187 (M - 1, 0.8), 173 (M - 15, 23), 89 (100), 84 (43), 73 (92), 59 (79), 58 (40), 45 (47), 43 (33); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DCCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.05 (9 H, s), 0.14 (6 H, s), 3.49 (3 H, s), 4.22 (1 H, d, J = 2.0 Hz), 4.60 (1 H, d, J = 2.0 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DCCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -4.91, -2.27, 54.09, 93.34, 170.64; IR (neat) 3096 (w), 2951 (s), 2897 (m), 1580 (m), 1246 (s), 1209 (s), 1040 (s), 891 (m), 835 (s), 800 (s) cm<sup>-1</sup>. Anal. Calcd for  $C_8H_{20}OSi_2$ : C, 51.00; H, 10.70. Found: C, 50.85; H, 10.97.

Synthesis of (1-Methoxyethyl) pentamethyldisilane (7). A solution of 13 (0.9 g, 4.8 mmol) and hydrazine (1.85 g, 58 mmol) in 30 mL of MeOH was refluxed (100 °C bath) for 30 h with continuous bubbling of  $O_2$  through the solution. After reflux the total volume was only ca. 10 mL. After the solution was cooled to 0 °C, HCl (5 mL, 0.1 N) was added, the mixture stirred for 1 h, 50 mL of Et<sub>2</sub>O added, the aqueous layer discarded, and the organic layer washed twice with 10 mL of H<sub>2</sub>O before drying over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration the ether was removed by distillation to leave 0.3 g of crude 7 which was further purified by preparative gas chromatography. 7: GCMS m/e (% relative intensity) 175 (M - 15, 5), 148 (6), 131 (19), 89 (60), 86 (35), 73 (100), 59 (80), 58 (34), 45 (49), 43 (39); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DCCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.04 (3 H, s), 0.06 (9 H, s), 0.1 (3 H, s), 1.20 (3 H, d, J = 7.9 Hz), 3.05 (1 H, q, J = 7.3 Hz), 3.30 (3 H, s); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DCCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -6.56, -6.13, -1.77, 15.18, 58.11, 71.25; IR (neat) 2951z(s), 2895 (m), 1244 (s), 1103 (s), 1076 (s), 833 (s), 797 (s) cm<sup>-1</sup>. Anal. Calcd for  $C_8$ H<sub>22</sub>OSi<sub>2</sub>: C, 50.46; H, 11.65. Found: C, 50.10; H, 11.95.

Synthesis of 1-Methoxy-2-(trimethylsilyl)ethane (9). Ether 9 was synthesized by the route reported by Chvalovsky.<sup>19</sup>

Synthesis of 1-Methoxy-1-(trimethylsilyl)ethene (10). Ether 10 was synthesized by the route reported by Soderquist.<sup>20</sup>

Synthesis of 1-Methoxy-1-(trimethylsilyl)ethane (8). In a stainless steel bomb equipped with stirrer were placed 10 (2.7 g, 21 mmol) and Pd/C (0.1 g, 5%). The bomb was charged with 600 psi  $H_2$ , and the mixture was stirred for 6 days. The bomb was washed out with 15 mL of Et<sub>2</sub>O and fractional distillation yielded GC-pure 8 (1.1 g, 8.5 mmol, 40%): bp 54-55 °C (125 Torr); GCMS m/e (% relative intensity) 117 (M - 15, 19), 89 (27), 73 (100), 59 (40), 45 (28), 43 (32); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DCCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.00 (9 H, s), 1.19 (3 H, d J = 7.3 Hz), 2.90 (1 H, q, J = 7.3 Hz), 3.32 (3 H, s); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DCCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -3.85, 14.34, 58.20, 71.34; IR (neat) 1248 (s), 864 (s), 839 (s) cm<sup>-1</sup>. Anal. Calcd for  $C_6H_{16}OSi$ : C, 54.48; H, 12.19. Found: C, 54.83; H, 12.54.

Copyrolysis of 2 and 1,3-Butadiene. The copyrolysis was conducted in a vertical tube furnace with use of a quartz chip packed tube (16 mm i.d., 200 mm long) with butadiene (60 mL/min) as the carrier gas. The addition rate for 2 (130 mg) was ca. 25 mg/min (via syringe). GC and GCMS analysis and comparison with authentic samples revealed the major products to be Me<sub>3</sub>SiOMe (19%), 5 (8%), and 6 (4%) with the yields corrected for 11% unreacted 2.

FVP of 13. FVP of 13 (135 mg) was conducted at 550 °C ( $5 \times 10^{-4}$  Torr) by slow distillation of 13 through the pyrolysis tube and collection at -196 °C. After addition of a measured amount of *n*-decane as an internal standard, the yields were measured (after individual calibration) by GC. The yields are corrected for the 24% recovery of 13. The major products Me<sub>3</sub>SiOMe (55%), 15 (37%), 14 (16%), and 16 (14%) were isolated by preparative GC and characterized by GCMS, GCIR, and <sup>1</sup>H NMR.

Copyrolysis of 13 and 1,3-Butadiene. Pyrolysis of 13 (244 mg) was conducted in a vertical quartz chip packed tube to 450 °C by dropwise addition via syringe (through a septum) at a rate of ca. 10 mg/min. The tube was continuously swept with butadiene at a rate of 60 mL/min. The pyrolysate was collected at -78 °C and an internal standard of decane was added. Yields were determined by GC and are corrected for 27% recovery of 13. The products  $Me_3 SiOMe~(42\%)$  and silacyclopentene 5 (34%) were isolated by preparative GC and characterized by GCMS,  $^1H$  NMR, and  $^{13}C$  NMR comparison with authentic samples.

Copyrolysis of 13 and Phenylacetylene. A mixture of 13 (92.3 mg, 0.491 mmol) and phenylacetylene (89.1 mg, 0.874 mmol) was pyrolyzed by codistillation ( $5 \times 10^{-4}$  Torr) through a horizontal quartz chip packed tube heated to 550 °C. The pyrolysate was analyzed by GC with *n*-decane as the internal standard, and the yields are corrected for 16% unreacted 13. The major products Me<sub>3</sub>SiOMe (22%), 15 (21%), and 17 (9%) were isolated by preparative GC and identified by GCMS, GCIR, and  $^{1}$ H NMR.

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**Registry No. 1**, 5180-93-8; **2**, 5089-54-3; **5**, 16054-12-9; **6**, 18187-50-3; **7**, 113380-60-2; **8**, 113380-61-3; **9**, 18173-63-2; **10**, 79678-01-6; **13**, 113403-33-1; **14**, 1777-04-4; **15**, 18107-29-4; **16**, 34664-55-6; **17**, 87290-97-9; Me<sub>3</sub>SiCH<sub>2</sub>MgCl, 13170-43-9; Me<sub>2</sub>SiCl<sub>2</sub>, 75-78-5; Me<sub>3</sub>SiCH<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl, 13683-11-9; methyl vinyl ether, 107-25-5; chloropentamethyldisilane, 1560-28-7; 1,3-butadiene, 106-99-0; phenylacetylene, 536-74-3.

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<sup>(20)</sup> Soderquist, J. A., Hsu, G. J. Organometallics 1982, 1, 830.