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A COMMENT ON NITRODESILYLATION BY NITRIC ACID IN ACETIC ANHYDRIDE,
AND ON THE PREPARATION OF *p*-NITROPHENYLTRIMETHYLSILANE

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SUMMARY

A published statement that the value of nitrodesilylations in HNO_3 - $(\text{CH}_3\text{CO})_2\text{O}$ is limited by the danger of explosions is corrected.

Matsumoto and his colleagues recently published an account of the preparation of nitroaryltrimethylsilanes by the reaction between aryl halides and hexamethyldisilane in the presence of $[\text{Pd}(\text{PhPh}_3)_4]$ [1], a very important synthetic method which they discovered [2].* In their paper they point out that *p*-nitrophenyltrimethylsilane can be easily made in good yield by treatment of *p*-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzene with nitric acid in acetic anhydride [4], but add: "However, it should be stressed that explosions have sometimes been observed during reactions of this type. Therefore it seemed of importance to explore an alternate method for making nitrophenyltrimethylsilanes which is free from such disadvantages." Since nitrodesilylation is a useful synthetic procedure, I must point out that while mixtures of acetic anhydride and nitric acid of certain compositions can be explosive [5], I know of no example of an explosion under the conditions used for nitrodesilylation, and nitric acid - acetic anhydride is much used as a nitrating agent. Matsumoto *et. al.* may have been misled by an error, introduced by a mistake in the publisher's office, in an account presented some years ago by R.W. Bott and myself [6]. I have previously drawn attention to this error in a detailed paper on nitrodesilylation [7].

* For the extension of this reaction to benzyl halides and to distannanes and digermanes see ref. 3.

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