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## Preliminary Communication

### Preparation of new C-alkyl-C-stannylimines

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#### Abstract

Treatment of (1,1,3,3-tetramethyl)butyl isocyanide with one equivalent of alkyllithium reagent followed by one equivalent of chlorotrialkylstannane afforded 1,1,3,3-tetramethyl-N-[1-(trialkylstannyl)alkylidene]butanamines in good yields. Similarly, the reaction of 2,6-dimethylphenyl isocyanide with one equivalent of diethylzinc then with one equivalent of chlorotrimethylstannane gave 2,6-dimethyl-N-[1-(trimethylstannyl)-propylidene]benzenamine.

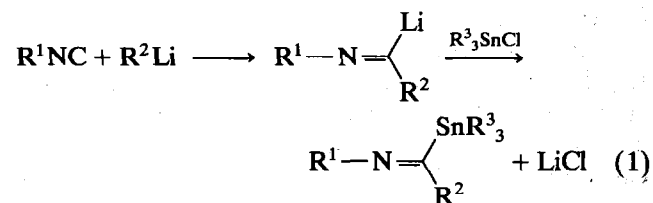
Organotin compounds are valuable intermediates in organic synthesis, either as reagents for selective transformations or as intermediates for the creation of carbon-carbon bonds. In the latter case, the high selectivity of tin-carbon bond cleavage involved in direct reactions, transmetalations, or transition-metal catalyzed couplings is very useful [1]. The recently developed chemistry of acyltins [2] suggests interesting alternatives to the use of classical acyl anions [3]. Despite this potential, only few examples of preparations and reactions of C-stannylimines have been so far reported. These compounds were first synthesized by coupling imidoyl chlorides with stannyllithium reagents [4] and then reacted with organic halides in the presence of potassium fluoride to give ketimines [5]. The kinetics of their methanolysis to aldimines have been determined [6]. Trimethylsilyltributylstannane adds to isocyanides in the presence of tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium as catalyst. In this way, C-stannyl-C-silylimines have been obtained and their reactivity, especially transmetalation with organolithium reagents

has been studied [7]. However, neither method of preparation is able to give C-alkyl-C-stannylimines. The first method has only been described for C-aryl-C-stannylimines and the second one for C-silyl-C-stannylimines. Here we report the preparation of new C-alkyl-C-stannylimines.

The addition of lithium reagents to isocyanides produces lithium aldimines, which have been used as precursors for many organic compounds [8]. These intermediates were prepared and the coupling with trialkylchlorostannanes attempted. This reaction (see eqn. (1)) proceeded easily giving the expected C-alkyl-C-stannylimines in good yield.

The C-stannylimines are thermally stable enough to be purified by distillation under high vacuum. They are air-sensitive and have to be handled under dinitrogen to avoid decomposition. This preparation is also suitable for C-trimethylstannylimines and for C-tributylstannylimines.

In a typical procedure, to 6.96 g (50 mmol) of 1,1,3,3-tetramethylbutyl isocyanide in 30 ml of dry THF at  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$  were added 20 ml of a solution of n-butyl-lithium (50 mmol, 2.5 N). After 45 min at  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$ , the mixture was cooled to  $-75^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and 16.3 g (50 mmol) of tributyltin chloride in 10 ml of THF were added slowly. After 1 h at  $-75^{\circ}\text{C}$ , the solvents were evaporated and the residue extracted with pentane. After filtration and evaporation of pentane, the product was distilled

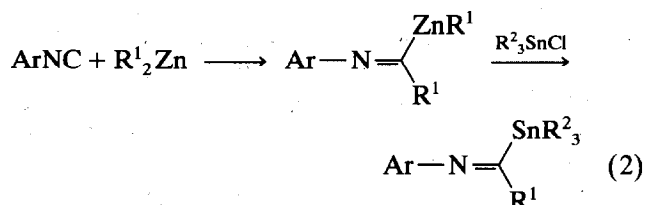


R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>3</sup>	Yield (%)
(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> CCH <sub>2</sub> C(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	Bu	Me	80
(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> CCH <sub>2</sub> C(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	Bu	Bu	76
(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> CCH <sub>2</sub> C(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	2-MeC <sub>3</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	Me	79
(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> CCH <sub>2</sub> C(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	2-MeC <sub>3</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	Bu	73
(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> CCH <sub>2</sub> C(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	2,2-Me <sub>2</sub> C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	Me	82
(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> CCH <sub>2</sub> C(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	2,2-Me <sub>2</sub> C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	Bu	72
(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> C	2,2-Me <sub>2</sub> C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	Me	69

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(Kugelrohr apparatus). B.p.<sub>0.00015</sub> = 140°C. Yield = 76%. <sup>119</sup>Sn NMR: δ (ppm, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>) - 88.7. <sup>13</sup>C NMR: δ (ppm, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 177.6 (<sup>1</sup>J(Sn-C) = 210 Hz), 60.4, 57.0, 47.6 (<sup>2</sup>J(Sn-C) = 139 Hz) 32.1, 32.0, 29.9, 29.4, 28.9, 27.5, 22.7, 14.1, 13.6, 13.2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR: δ (ppm, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 2.31 (m, 2H), 1.6–1.0 (m, 18H) 1.0–0.8 (m, 33H).

Only tertiary alkyl 'N-imine' can be obtained by this way, as aryl isocyanides tend to oligomerize in the presence of lithium reagents. To get N-aryl-C-stannylimine, another intermediate, a zinc aldimine [9], has been used. This organometallic reagent, prepared by addition of diethylzinc to 2,6-dimethylphenylisocyanide, reacted smoothly with trimethyltin chloride to give the desired N-aryl-C-stannylimine.



(R<sup>1</sup> = Et, R<sup>2</sup> = Me, yield = 69%)

A mixture of 1.31 g (10 mmol) of 2,6-dimethylphenylisocyanide and 10 ml of a solution of diethylzinc in toluene (11 mmol, 1.1 N) was heated for 5 h. Then a solution of 4.95 g (25 mmol) of trimethyltin chloride in 2 ml of dry DMF was added and, after stirring at room temperature for 15 h, the mixture was treated as in the previous preparation. After a forerun of unreacted isocyanide, the N-aryl-C-stannylimine was isolated. B.p.<sub>0.00015</sub> = 135°C. Yield (based upon 60% of consumed isocyanide) = 69%. <sup>119</sup>Sn NMR: δ (ppm, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>) - 81.3. <sup>13</sup>C NMR: δ (ppm, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 195.0, 151.9, 127.8, 126.0, 123.1, 38.9, 18.0, 10.8, -8.3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR δ (ppm, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 6.9–6.7 (m, 3H), 2.64 (q, 2H), 1.95 (s, 6H), 1.17 (t, 3H), -0.13 (s, 9H).

Although these synthetic methods are complementary in terms of the substituents attached to the sp<sup>2</sup> carbon atom, they are limited to aliphatic derivatives, as aryllithiums are not nucleophilic enough to add easily to isocyanides. Further work is in progress to achieve access to C-aryl-C-stannylimines and to test their reactivity towards electrophiles.

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