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ELECTRON-INDUCED CATALYTIC NUCLEOPHILIC AROMATIC SUBSTITUTION, A CORRECTION

W.J.M. van Tilborg, C.J. Smit and J.J. Scheele
Koninklijke/Shell-Laboratorium, Amsterdam
(Shell Research, B.V.)

During personal discussions with Prof. Savéant at the 3rd Euchem Conference on Organic Electrochemistry at Pitlochry, Scotland, the authors learned that in a previously published letter[1] they had misleadingly called the "ECE" mechanism the "Savéant" mechanism, as well as stated that Savéant et al.[2] expressed some preference for this mechanism over the alternative "disproportionation" or "radical chain" reaction pathway. On the contrary, Savéant's original communication[1] discusses both alternatives with equal emphasis and the authors regret the oversight that led to this mistake.

On the basis of the observed relationship between substrate concentration and product yield and the inverse relationship between substrate concentration and yield of termination product[3] (pinacol) the authors are still tempted to express a tentative preference for the radical chain pathway. However, they must admit that no definite proof for either mechanism (or the mixed mechanism) exists since the method they used to measure the "exchange current" might well be inapplicable to this complex system.

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[1] W.J.M. van Tilborg, C.J. Smit and J.J. Scheele, Tetrahedron Letters 1977, 2113.

[2] J. Pinson and J-M. Savéant, J.C.S. Chem. Comm. 1974, 933.

[3] W.J.M. van Tilborg and C.J. Smit, Tetrahedron Letters, 1977, 3651.