

Anodically-Generated Br-Cl Composite Halogenating Reagents

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The halogenating power of Br-Cl composite species (termed "BC-reagent" in this article) generated anodically from mixtures of Br^- and Cl^- in CH_2Cl_2 was examined in an ex-cell manner toward some organic compounds. The BC-reagent brominated methoxybenzenes, and the brominating power could be precisely controlled by means of the amount of electricity charged and by varying the ratio of Cl^-/Br^- . The power of the reagent was less controllable during the bromination of aniline. The reaction of olefins with the BC-reagent led to dibromination and bromochlorination, the product-selectivity of which could be also controlled. The theoretically calculated chemical composition of the BC-reagent agreed fairly well with the experimentally confirmed value in some cases.

In general, although chemical reactions can be arbitrarily controlled by suitably selecting the reagents and/or reaction conditions, it is difficult to control the reactivity of the reagents both widely and precisely. In a previous study,¹⁾ we reported that Br-Cl composite species (termed "BC-reagents" in this article), which were most likely polybromochloride ions, $(\text{Br}_x\text{Cl}_y)^-$, were generated by anodic oxidation of mixtures of Br^- and Cl^- in CH_2Cl_2 . The oxidizing ability of the reagent could be precisely controlled by varying the amount of charge passed and the ratio of Cl^-/Br^- for their generation. This BC-reagent was found to be useful for the oxidation of a variety of alcohols in an ex-cell manner.

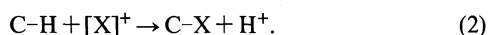
In this work, the halogenating powers of the BC-reagents were examined by using methoxybenzenes (anisole (**1**) and 1,2-dimethoxybenzene (**4**)), aniline (**8**), and olefins (styrene (**12**) and cyclohexene (**15**)) as test compounds. These compounds are known to be brominated and/or bromochlorinated with positive bromine reagents such as Br_2 ,²⁾ BrCl ,^{3–6)} NBS ,⁷⁾ and the salts of trihalide ions (Br_3^- ,^{8–11)} Br_2Cl^- ⁶⁾ and BrCl_2^- ^{12–14)}.

Results and Discussion

Bromination of Methoxybenzenes. An electrochemical stoichiometry for the substitutive halogenation of C-H to C-X with positive halogen species (conventionally, $[\text{X}]^{+15-17})$ anodically-generated from halide ion (X^-) can be formally represented by the following equations:



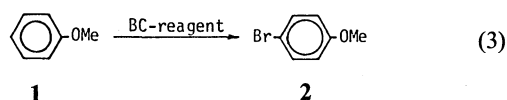
and



Therefore, on the basis of this stoichiometry, the passage of 2F of charge is required to convert 1 mol of anisole (**1**) into 4-bromoanisole (**2**). Thus, 0.5 mol(**1**) F^{-1} corresponds to 1 equiv mol of **1**.

The starting compound **1** (1.0 equiv mol) was reacted in anolytes which originally contained 0.05 M (1 M = 1 mol dm⁻³) Br^- and 0.05 M Cl^- (Cl^-/Br^- ratio (r) = 1) in CH_2Cl_2 ; they were electrolyzed by passing various

amounts of charge for the generation of Br-Cl composite positive halogen species (BC-reagents). After a reaction for 24 h, the unreacted BC-reagents were decomposed with $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ and the reaction mixture was analyzed. Figure 1 shows the relationship between the yield of **2** and the amount of charge passed ($Q/\text{F mol}(\text{Br}^-)^{-1}$), based on the Br^- used. It is clear that the brominating power of the BC-reagent is greatly affected by Q . No by-product was detected and the material balance on the basis of the recovered **1** was always 100%.



Commercially available $\text{Bu}_4\text{NBr}_2\text{Cl}$ and $\text{Bu}_4\text{NBrCl}_2$ reagents (0.05 M in CH_2Cl_2) reacted with 1 equiv mol of **1** under conditions similar to those given in Fig. 1 to give **2** in 33 and 58% yields, respectively. From these

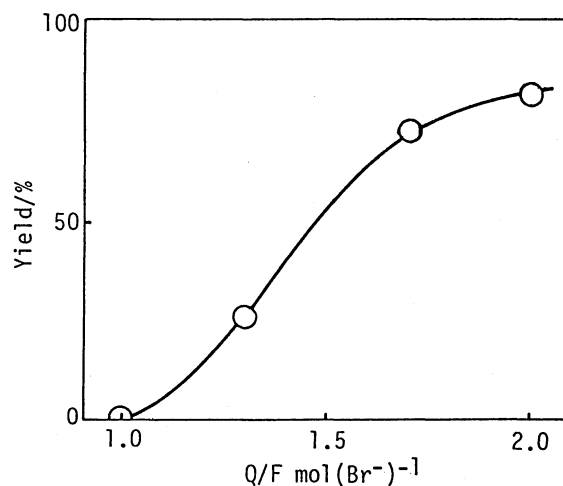


Fig. 1. Relationship between the yield of **2** and Q (amount of charge passed) in the bromination of **1** (1.0 equiv mol) with the BC-reagent generated in 0.05 M $\text{Et}_4\text{NBr} + 0.05$ M Et_4NCl ($r(\text{Cl}^-/\text{Br}^-) = 1$).

results, Br_2Cl^- and BrCl_2^- can be regarded as having brominating powers equal to those of the BC-reagents generated at $Q=1.34$ and $1.54 \text{ F mol}(\text{Br}^-)^{-1}$, respectively (Fig. 1), if the influence of the concentration of the reagents on the yield is negligibly small. Figure 2 shows the results obtained for different concentrations of Br^- at $r(\text{Cl}^-/\text{Br}^-)=1$. From Fig. 2, it is confirmed that the brominating power of the BC-reagent is not influenced by the concentration. The above Q values are considerably smaller than the theoretical value ($Q=2 \text{ F mol}(\text{Br}^-)^{-1}$) for the formation of Br_2Cl^- .

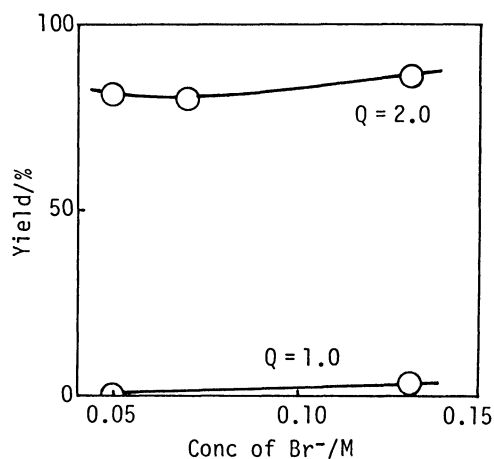


Fig. 2. Relationship between the yield of **2** and the concentration of Br^- ($r(\text{Cl}^-/\text{Br}^-)=1$) in the bromination of **1** (1.0 equiv mol) with the BC-reagent generated at Q (amount of charge passed)=1.0 and 2.0 $\text{F mol}(\text{Br}^-)^{-1}$.

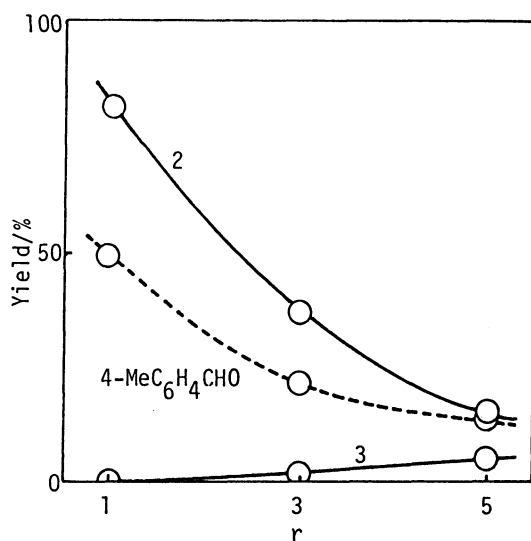
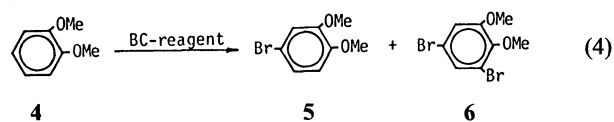


Fig. 3. Relationship between the yield and $r(\text{Cl}^-/\text{Br}^-)$ at Q (amount of charge passed)=2.0 $\text{F mol}(\text{Br}^-)^{-1}$. The concentration of $\text{Et}_4\text{NBr}=0.05 \text{ M}$. The solid line indicates the bromination of **1** (1.0 equiv mol) with the BC-reagent, and the dotted line the oxidation of $4\text{-MeC}_6\text{H}_4\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ (1.0 equiv mol).

Figure 3 shows the relationship between the yields and $r(\text{Cl}^-/\text{Br}^-)$ at $Q=2 \text{ F mol}(\text{Br}^-)^{-1}$. The yield of **2** decreased significantly with an increase in r , and small amounts of 4-chloroanisole (**3**) were formed at large r 's. These results apparently indicate that the BC-reagents bearing relatively weaker brominating and stronger chlorinating powers are generated at larger r . That is, the BC-reagents with positive chlorine components are generated; this was confirmed by a controlled experiment in which once **2** formed it was not converted into **3** by halogen exchange under the reaction conditions used. As described above, polybromochloride ions (Br_xCl_y^-) were supposed to be the most likely species constituting BC-reagents in our previous work.¹⁾ However, it is unlikely that Br_xCl_y^- ions with larger chlorine contents (relatively larger y -values) are generated at larger r , since this is obviously inconsistent with the above observed fact that the $\text{Bu}_4\text{NBrCl}_2$ reagent has a stronger brominating power than the $\text{Bu}_4\text{NBr}_2\text{Cl}$. Therefore, the possible generation of Br_xCl_y^- ions may be excluded.

A similar influence of r on the oxidizing power of the BC-reagents was observed in the oxidation of 4-methylbenzyl alcohol to 4-methylbenzaldehyde (Fig. 3).

The bromination of 1,2-dimethoxybenzene (**4**) with the BC-reagents gave 4-bromo-1,2-dimethoxybenzene (**5**) and 4,6-dibromo-1,2-dimethoxybenzene (**6**) (Eq. 4).



As shown in Fig. 4, when 1 equiv mol of **4** was reacted, **5** was formed as the main product and small amounts of **6** were detected at large Q 's. The material

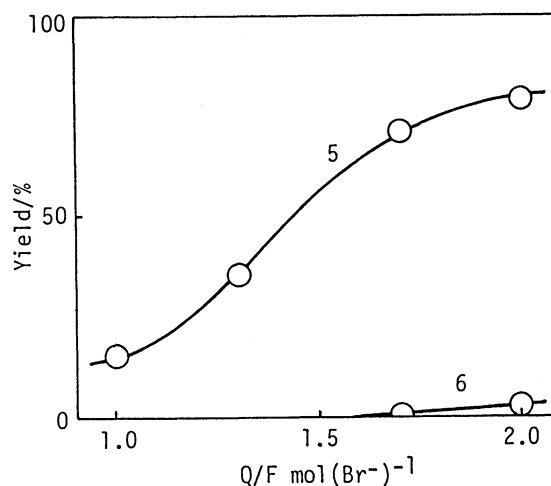


Fig. 4. Relationship between the yields of **5** and **6**, Q (amount of charge passed) in the bromination of **4** (1.0 equiv mol) with the BC-reagent generated in $0.05 \text{ M Et}_4\text{NBr}+0.05 \text{ M Et}_4\text{NCl}$ ($r(\text{Cl}^-/\text{Br}^-)=1$).

balance on the basis of the recovered **4** was in the range of 95–100%. The yields of the products increased with an increase in Q . The bromination of **4** with the $\text{Bu}_4\text{NBr}_2\text{Cl}$ and $\text{Bu}_4\text{NBrCl}_2$ reagents indicated that they have brominating powers corresponding to the BC-reagents generated by passing $Q=1.39$ and 1.58 $\text{F mol}(\text{Br}^-)^{-1}$, respectively. These values are close to those obtained in the bromination of **1** (Fig. 1). $\text{Bu}_4\text{NBr}_2\text{Cl}$ and $\text{Bu}_4\text{NBrCl}_2$ also gave small amounts, 2 and 4% yields, respectively, of 4-chloro-1,2-dimethoxybenzene (**7**). The brominating power of the Bu_4NBr_3 reagent was also estimated to correspond to that of the BC-reagent generated at $Q=1.00$ $\text{F mol}(\text{Br}^-)^{-1}$. However, this fact cannot be simply rationalized, since the theoretical Q for generating Br_3^- from Br^- is not 1, but $2/3$ $\text{F mol}(\text{Br}^-)^{-1}$.

The Bu_4NBr_3 , $\text{Bu}_4\text{NBr}_2\text{Cl}$, and $\text{Bu}_4\text{NBrCl}_2$ reagents exhibited UV absorption maxima (λ_{max} 's) at 273, 262, and 240 nm in CH_2Cl_2 , respectively. In previous studies,¹⁾ it was found that the λ_{max} 's of the BC-reagents decreased with an increase in Q . The Q 's required for generating the BC-reagents having λ_{max} 's equal to those of the above three trihalide ion reagents are summarized in Table 1. The Q 's estimated from the λ_{max} 's of Bu_4NBr_3 and $\text{Bu}_4\text{NBr}_2\text{Cl}$ significantly decrease with an

increase in r , while those from the λ_{max} of $\text{Bu}_4\text{NBrCl}_2$ increase slightly. Moreover, it should be noted that all of the Q 's estimated from the λ_{max} 's are quite different from those estimated from the brominating powers.

A more complicated product distribution was observed upon using 0.5 equiv mol of **4**, as shown in Fig. 5. At $Q < 1.5$ $\text{F mol}(\text{Br}^-)^{-1}$, **5** was formed as a sole product; the yield increased simply with an increase in Q , similarly to the trend shown in Fig. 4. The starting **4** was completely consumed at $Q \approx 1.5$ $\text{F mol}(\text{Br}^-)^{-1}$. At $Q > 1.5$ $\text{F mol}(\text{Br}^-)^{-1}$, mixtures of **5** and **6** were formed. These facts indicate that the bromination of **4** takes place stepwise and that the product distribution can be controlled by selecting Q . The total yield of **5** and **6** at $Q > 1.5$ $\text{F mol}(\text{Br}^-)^{-1}$ was in the range 90–100%.

Bromination of Aniline. The bromination of aniline (**8**) was similarly examined in the presence of K_2CO_3 powder (Eq. 5). When 1 equiv mol of **8** was reacted

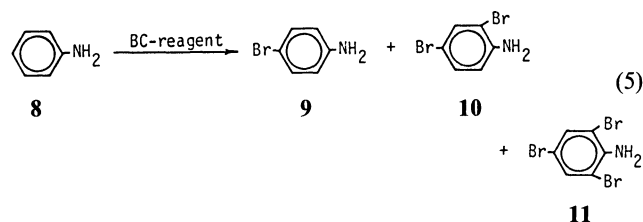


Table 1. Amount of Charge (Q) Passed for the Generation of BC-Reagents Having UV Absorption Maxima (λ_{max}) Equal to Those of Commercially Available Trihalide Ion Reagents

Trihalide ion reagent (λ_{max} in CH_2Cl_2 /nm)	$Q/\text{F mol}(\text{Br}^-)^{-1}$		
	$r=1$	$r=3$	$r=8$
Bu_4NBr_3 (273)	<0.6	<0.3	<0.1
$\text{Bu}_4\text{NBr}_2\text{Cl}$ (262)	1.09	0.95	0.67
$\text{Bu}_4\text{NBrCl}_2$ (240)	1.90	1.97	2.00

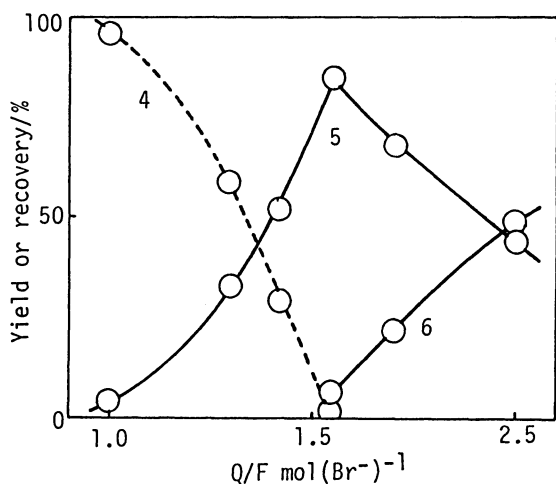


Fig. 5. Relationship between the yields of **5** and **6** and the recovery of unreacted **4**, and Q (amount of charge passed) in the bromination of **4** (0.5 equiv mol) with the BC-reagent generated in 0.05 M Et_4NBr + 0.05 M Et_4NCl ($r(\text{Cl}^-/\text{Br}^-)=1$).

with BC-reagents, 4-bromoaniline (**9**) and 2,4-dibromoaniline (**10**) were formed in ca. 60 and 20% yields, respectively, at any Q used, as shown in Fig. 6. 2,4,6-Tribromoaniline (**11**) was not detected. The bromination efficiency (yield of **9** + 2 × yield of **10**) was in the range 95–100% at all of the Q values used. Consequently, the BC-reagents used were almost completely consumed, while ca. 20% of the starting **8** always

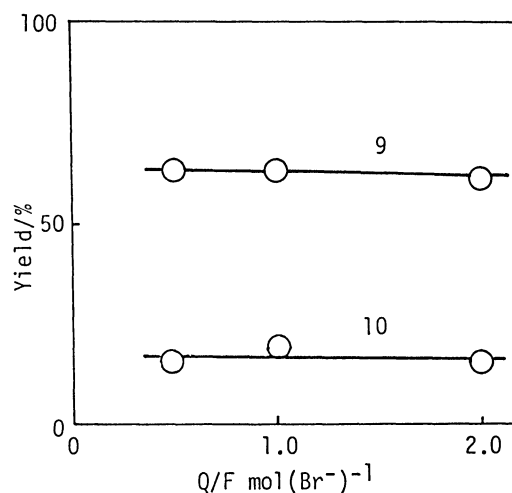


Fig. 6. Relationship between the yields of **9** and **10**, and Q (amount of charge passed) in the bromination of **8** (1.0 equiv mol) with the BC-reagent generated in 0.1 M Et_4NBr + 0.1 M Et_4NCl ($r(\text{Cl}^-/\text{Br}^-)=1$).

Fig. 7. Relationship between the yields of **9**—**11** and Q (amount of charge passed) in the bromination of **8** (0.5 equiv mol) with the BC-reagent generated in 0.1 M Et_4NBr +0.1 M Et_4NCl ($r(\text{Cl}^-/\text{Br}^-)=1$).

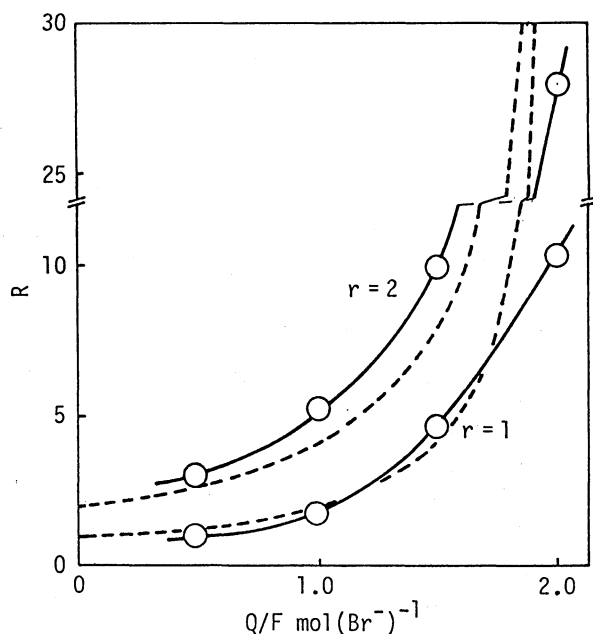
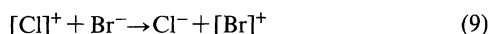


Fig. 8. Relationship between R (formation ratio of 13/14) and Q (amount of charge passed) in the halogenation of **12** (0.1 M) with the BC-reagent generated at $r(\text{Cl}^-/\text{Br}^-)=1$ and 2. The concentration of $\text{Et}_4\text{NBr}=0.1$ M. The solid lines with circles indicate the experimentally found values; the dotted lines without circles indicate the theoretically calculated values.

mine than chlorine.



A further possible reason is that the BC-reagents have Br^- -components or cause some radical halogenation.

Although the reaction of **15** also gave mixtures of 1-bromo-2-chloro-cyclohexane (**16**) and 1,2-dibromo-cyclohexane (**17**) in high halogenation efficiencies, the stereochemistry of the products was not determined. The relationships between $R(\text{16/17})$ and Q were similar to those given in Fig. 8.

BC-reagents seem to be useful for organic synthesis as oxidizing and halogenating reagents. Furthermore, various kinds of mixed positive halogen reagents may be generated by this anodic method using a variation of combinations of the halide ions (F^- , Br^- , Cl^- , and I^-).

For a comparison with ex-cell electrohalogenation using the BC-reagents, the in-cell electrohalogenation of the olefins was also examined under similar conditions so as to give lower yields; the R 's were not simply controlled by Q and r . For instance, the in-cell halogenation of **12** gave considerable amounts of unknown products in addition to **13** and **14**, particularly at large Q and r . The formation of the unknown products is probably due to direct anodic oxidation of the starting **12** and/or the products.

Conclusions

By investigating the halogenation of some test compounds with Br-Cl composite species (BC-reagent) anodically-generated from mixtures of $\text{Br}^- + \text{Cl}^-$ in CH_2Cl_2 (even though the chemical composition was not specified) we obtained the following important results concerning the reactivity:

(1) The BC-reagent brominates methoxybenzenes; their brominating power can be variably and precisely controlled by the amount of charge (Q) passed and the ratio (r) of Cl^-/Br^- used.

(2) Although aniline is also brominated with the reagent in high bromination efficiency, the brominating power varies over a narrow range.

(3) Olefins give the corresponding dibrominated and bromochlorinated products in high halogenation efficiencies, and their selectivities are variably and precisely controlled by Q and r . The experimental selectivities agree with those theoretically predicted when Q and/or r are not large,

$$R = r/(1 - Q/2),$$

where R is the formation ratio of bromochlorinated/dibrominated products.

Experimental

General. Electrolysis was carried out in a divided glass cell¹¹ equipped with Pt electrodes (anode, 3×2 cm; cathode, 2×1.5 cm) using a Hokuto HA-501 potentiogalvanostat. ^1H NMR, IR, and MS spectra were recorded on a JEOL JNM-PMX60 spectrometer (60 MHz), a Hitachi 285 spectrometer and a JEOL JMS-D100 gas chromatograph-mass (GCMS) spectrometer, respectively. GC analysis was performed using a Yanaco G-2000 gas chromatograph with a Silicone DC-550 column (4 m) at $50-210^\circ\text{C}$. Preparative TLC analysis was also performed using silica gel-coated plates/hexane.

Chemicals and Solvent. The starting compounds (**1**, **4**, **8**, **12**, and **15**), supporting electrolytes (Bu_4NClO_4 , Et_4NBr , and Et_4NCl), trihalide salts (Bu_4NBr_3 , $\text{Bu}_4\text{NBr}_2\text{Cl}$, and $\text{Bu}_4\text{NBrCl}_2$), and standard samples of some (**2**, **3** and **9-11**) of the products were commercially supplied. Samples of **5**²⁰ and **6**²¹ were prepared by bromination of **4** with Bu_4NBr_3 and Br_2 , respectively. Samples of **13**¹²⁻¹⁴ and **14**²² were prepared by halogenation of **12** with pyridinium hydrobromide-perbromate and $\text{Bu}_4\text{NBrCl}_2$, respectively, while those of **16** and **17** were synthesized by halogenation of **15** with Bu_4BrCl_2 and Bu_4NBr_3 , respectively. The structures of these compounds were confirmed by their MS spectra, IR spectra, ^1H NMR spectra and/or elemental analysis.

CH_2Cl_2 , as the electrolytic solvent, was refluxed over CaH_2 and then distilled in an atmosphere of dry nitrogen.

Electrogeneration of BC-Reagents. CH_2Cl_2 solutions (40 cm^3) containing 0.05–0.013 M $\text{Et}_4\text{NBr} + 0.5-0.25$ M $\text{Et}_4\text{NCl} + 0.1$ M Bu_4NClO_4 ($r=1-5$), 0.1 M $\text{Et}_4\text{NBr} + 0.1$ M Et_4NCl ($r=1$), and 0.1 M $\text{Et}_4\text{NBr} + 0.1-0.2$ M Et_4NCl ($r=1-2$) were used as anolytes for the BC-reagents for halogenation of **1** and **4**, **8**, and **12** and **15**, respectively. The catholyte was 22 cm^3 of 0.1 M $\text{Bu}_4\text{NClO}_4/\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$. Electrolysis was galvanostatically carried out at 5.0 and 8.3 mA cm^{-2} of anodic current

densities for **1** and **4**, and **8**, **12** and **15**, respectively, at room temperature in a dry nitrogen atmosphere.

Halogenation. After passage of an appropriate amount of charge [$Q < 2 \text{ F mol}(\text{Br}^-)^{-1}$], 1.0 equiv mol of **1**, 0.5–1.0 equiv mol of **4** and **8**, or 1.5–6.0 equiv mol of **12** and **15** was added to the anolyte. The resulting reaction mixture was allowed to stand for 24 h in the halogenation of **1**, **4**, **12** and **15** and 1 h for **8**, at room temperature in a dry nitrogen atmosphere. Unreacted BC-reagent was decomposed by shaking with a $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ solution; and then the CH_2Cl_2 phase was dried over MgSO_4 and subjected to analysis of the products and unreacted starting compounds.

In a similar manner as that mentioned above, **1** and **4** were also brominated with 1.0 equiv mol of commercially-available Bu_4NBr_3 , $\text{Bu}_4\text{NBr}_2\text{Cl}$ or $\text{Bu}_4\text{NBrCl}_2$.

Analysis. The products were identified with authentic samples by GCMS, ^1H NMR and/or IR, and were quantitatively analyzed by GC.

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