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## Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements

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# Phosphoranylidenephines (R<sub>3</sub>P=Pr) as Phospha-Wittig Reagents

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# Phosphoranylidenephosphines (R<sub>3</sub>P=Pr) as Phospha-Wittig Reagents

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We have recently discovered direct and high yielding routes to phosphoranylidenephosphines ArP=PMe<sub>3</sub> (1a, Ar = Dmp, 1b, Ar = Mes\*, eq. 1).<sup>1</sup>

$$ArPCl_2 + Zn \xrightarrow{xs PMe_3} P = P \qquad (1)$$

We have characterized 1a by X-ray diffraction methods and found a short P=P bond length of 2.084(2) Å, consistent with multiple bonding between the phosphorus atoms. Compounds 1a,b react with aldehydes to produce phosphaalkenes (eq. 2).

This extremely facile phosphaalkene syntheses offers a new rapid means for synthesis of phosphaalkenes. In addition, a "one pot" procedure for generating 1a and 1b in situ in the presence of benzaldehyde to give good yields of the corresponding phosphaalkene has been developed.

## References

[1] Shah, S.; Protasiewicz, J. D. J. Chem. Soc. Chem. Commun. 1998, in press.