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

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# *t*-Butyl Alcohol-Assisted Fission of the P-P Bonds in Red Phosphorus with Lithium in Liquid Ammonia

Lambert Brandsma<sup>a</sup>; Nina Gusarova<sup>b</sup>; Svetlana Arbuzova<sup>b</sup>; Boris Trofimov<sup>b</sup>
<sup>a</sup> Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands <sup>b</sup> The Netherlands Institute of Organic Chemistry, Siberian Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences, Irkutsk, Russia

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## t-BUTYL ALCOHOL-ASSISTED FISSION OF THE P-P BONDS IN RED PHOSPHORUS WITH LITHIUM IN LIQUID AMMONIA

### LAMBERT BRANDSMA\*, NINA GUSAROVA, SVETLANA ARBUZOVA, BORIS TROFIMOV

\*Utrecht University, Padualaan 8, 3584 CH Utrecht, The Netherlands Institute of Organic Chemistry, Siberian Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences, 1, Favorsky Street, 664033 Irkutsk, Russia

Abstract A new method of the selective generation of mono- or diphosphide anions from red phosphorus by the system Li/NH<sub>3</sub> liq in the presence of t-BuOH has been developed.

The addition of one or two equivalent of t-butyl alcohol which is a mild proton donor to a mixture of red phosphorus, lithium and liquid ammonia drastically assists the fission of P-P bonds in the phosphorus molecule. As a result of subsequent alkylation the primary or secondary phosphines have been prepared in 65-85% yield [1, 2].

$$R_2PH$$
  $\stackrel{1. t-BuOH}{\longleftarrow}$   $P / 3Li / NH_3 liq$   $\stackrel{1. 2t-BuOH}{\longleftarrow}$   $RPH_2$ 

R = n-alkyl, PhCH<sub>2</sub>, cycloalkyl; Hal = Cl, Br

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