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Access details: Access Details: Free Access

Publisher Taylor & Francis

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

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information: http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713618290

## New Routes to (*E*)-Halophosphaalkenes

Jan B. M. Wit<sup>a</sup>; Marcel Van der Sluis<sup>a</sup>; Fridrich Bickelhaupt<sup>a</sup>
<sup>a</sup> Scheikundig Laboratorium, Vrije Universiteít, Amsterdam, HV, The Netherlands

To cite this Article Wit, Jan B. M., Van der Sluis, Marcel and Bickelhaupt, Fridrich (1996) 'New Routes to (E)-Halophosphaalkenes', Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements, 111: 1, 187

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/10426509608054816 URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10426509608054816

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## NEW ROUTES TO (E)-HALOPHOSPHAALKENES

JAN B. M. WIT, MARCEL VAN DER SLUIS AND FRIEDRICH BICKELHAUPT Scheikundig Laboratorium, Vrije Universiteit, De Boelelaan 1083, NL-1081 HV Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Starting from dihalophosphaalkenes Mes\*P=CHal2 (Hal = Cl, Br, I) we have been developing methodologies for the synthesis of (E)-Mes\*P=CHHal, which can be converted to reactive phosphaalkenyl metal reagents. Dibromophosphaalkene 1 was reacted with n-butyllithium at -120 °C, furnishing 2 after chlorination of the intermediate carbenoid. Compound 2 was transformed to the (E)-chlorophosphaalkene 3 as shown (SCHEME 1).

(E)-Bromophosphaalkene 6 was obtained from 1 via 4 and (E)/(Z)-5 as illustrated in Scheme 2. Compound 6 was obtained in 54 % yield with respect to 1.

Halogen-lithium exchange of 6 furnished 7 which was converted to the stable phosphaalkenyl-Grignard reagent 8. Phosphaalkenes 3 and 6 were subjected to Stilletype cross coupling reactions with phenylmagnesium chloride; trans-phosphastilbene 9 was isolated in 76% yield from 3 and in 90% yield from 6. In both cases, 9 was obtained with 100% isomeric purity (SCHEME 2).