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SYNTHESIS AND REACTION OF VINYLIC TELLURIDES

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Vinyllic tellurides were synthesized by the addition of diorganyl tellurides to acetylenes in the presence of a radical initiator or by visible light irradiation. Vinyllic tellurides underwent transmetalation by the reaction with triethylaluminium or diethylzinc to form the corresponding vinylmetal reagents with retention of the double bond configuration. Oxidation of vinyllic tellurides formed by carbottelluration reactions followed by pyrolysis gave internal acetylenes in good yields.

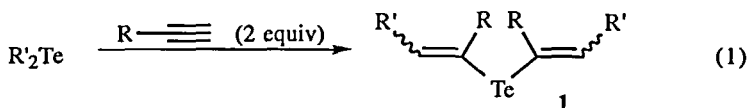
Keywords: vinyllic tellurides; divinyl tellurides; Te-Zn exchange reaction; Te-Al exchange reaction; oxidation of vinyllic tellurides

INTRODUCTION

Vinyllic tellurides are synthetically very useful compounds especially for introduction of vinyl moieties into organic molecules with carbon-carbon bond formation.^[1] We have recently developed a carbottelluration reaction of acetylenes in the presence of a radical initiator to form vinyllic tellurides via S_H2 reaction at the tellurium atom.^[2] Herein, we present a new preparative method of divinyl tellurides by visible light irradiation and some synthetic application of vinyllic tellurides formed by carbottelluration.

Synthesis of Divinyl Tellurides via Carbottelluration Reaction

Since alkyl substituted tellurides show absorption in the range of $\lambda > 300$ nm assignable to $n \rightarrow \sigma^*$ transition^[3] which can lead to cleavage of Te-C bonds,^[3a] we used a tungsten lamp as the light source. Under the irradiation with a tungsten lamp at 50 °C, symmetrical tellurides reacted with 2 equiv of acetylenes to form divinyl tellurides **1** (eq. 1).



Tellurides having secondary and tertiary alkyl substituents afforded divinyl tellurides in moderate to good yields, whereas ⁿBu₂Te gave only a poor yield of the product (Table 1). This is in good agreement with the order of stabilities of radicals formed by photolysis and/or that of facilities of the S_H2 reaction on tellurium. Reactions of ^tBu₂Te with phenyl- and trimethylsilyl acetylenes proceeded stereoselectively giving rise to only *EE* and *ZZ* products, respectively (runs 1 and 2).

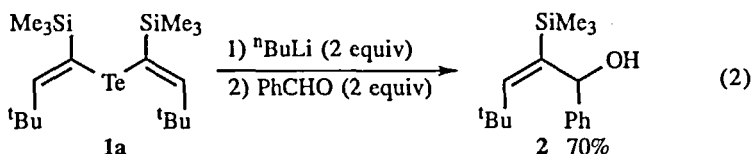
TABLE I Synthesis of divinyl telluride.

Entry	Telluride	Acetylene	Divinyl telluride	Yield ^a (%)	<i>EE/EZ/ZZ</i> ^b
1	^t Bu ₂ Te	Ph—C≡C		86	<i>EE</i> only
2	^t Bu ₂ Te	Me ₃ Si—C≡C		76	<i>ZZ</i> only
3	^s Bu ₂ Te	EtO ₂ C—C≡C		43	20/52/28
4	ⁿ Bu ₂ Te	EtO ₂ C—C≡C		8	29/50/21

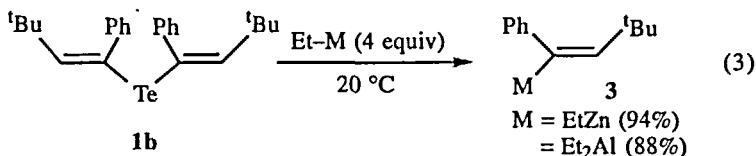
^a Isolated yield based on tellurides used. ^b Determined by ¹H NMR and/or GC.

Tellurium-Metal Exchange Reactions

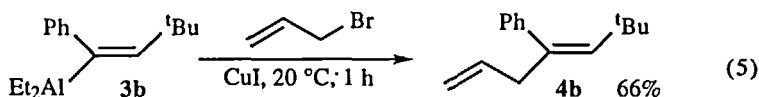
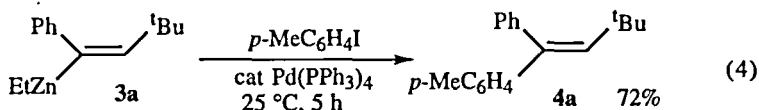
Diorganyl tellurides undergo tellurium-metal exchange reaction by the treatment with various organometallic reagents (metal = Li^[4a], Na^[4b], K^[4b], Mg^[4b], Ca^[4b], Cu^[4c], Zn^[4d], Al^[4e]). For example, **1a** reacts with 2 equiv of butyllithium to give the corresponding vinyl lithium, which can be trapped with benzaldehyde leading to allylic alcohol **2** with complete retention of the stereochemistry in 70% yield based on the vinyl groups of **1a** (eq. 2).



Divinyl telluride **1b** also reacts with diethylzinc or triethylaluminum at room temperature to give corresponding vinylmetal compounds **3** in high yields (eq. 3).

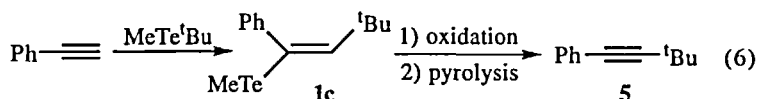


These vinylzinc and vinylaluminum compounds were subjected to the cross-coupling reaction with various halides to give corresponding products **4a,b** as a single stereoisomer (eqs. 4, 5).^[4d,4e,5]



Synthesis of Internal Acetylenes by Vinylic Tellurides

It is known that telluroxides and tellurones undergo elimination reaction to give olefins^[6] as in the cases of selenoxides. Here we disclose that internal acetylenes are formed in good yields by pyrolysis of vinylic telluroxide or tellurones. Oxidation of vinylic telluride **1c** with an aqueous sodium hypochlorite followed by heating at 250 °C in vacuo gave the corresponding internal acetylene **5** in 88% yield. Combination of this reaction with carbottelluration provides a useful method for introduction of tert-alkyl groups to terminal acetylenes.



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