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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>

Highly Stereoselective Vinylogous Pummerer Rearrangement

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To cite this Article Ruano, José L. García , Alemán, José , Aranda, M. Teresa , Arévalo, María J. and Padwa, Albert(2005) 'Highly Stereoselective Vinylogous Pummerer Rearrangement', *Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements*, 180: 5, 1497 – 1498

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/10426500590913366

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10426500590913366>

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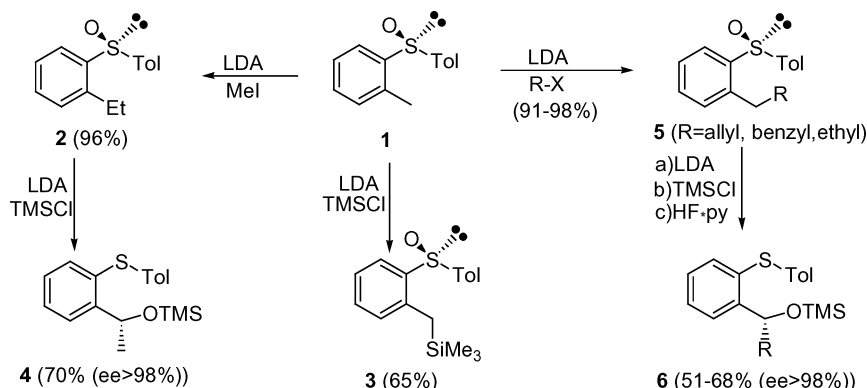
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The Pummerer reaction has received considerable attention as a synthetically useful process.¹ Recently, our research groups have published an interesting example of a new asymmetric vinylogous tin-induced Pummerer rearrangement.² Now, we present our results dealing with an unprecedented vinylogous sila-Pummerer rearrangement,³ which occurs in a completely stereoselective manner.



Received July 9, 2004; accepted October 5, 2004.

JLGR thanks the Spanish Government (Grants BQU2003-04012 and PR2003-0025) and AP thanks the National Science Foundation (Grant CHE-0132651) for financial support. JA also thanks the Spanish Government for a predoctoral fellowship.

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It was observed that when an ortho-sulfinyl carbanion derived from sulfoxide **2**⁴ was treated with LDA and TMSCl, the TMS-protected alcohol **4** was obtained with remarkably high enantioselectivity (ee > 98%) and good yield (70%).⁵ By contrast, under identical conditions, sulfoxide **1** (R=H) was found to undergo a clean carbosilylation reaction at the benzylic position, furnishing compound **3** as the exclusive product. Steric hindrance at the carbanionic position accounts for the observed differences.

We studied the reactions of compounds **5** (prepared in high yields by reaction of **1** with LDA and the corresponding alkyl halide) with LDA and TMSCl, and observed the formation of the sila-Pummerer rearrangement products. These results reveal a wide scope for this new sila-Pummerer reaction.

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