

# Organic Chemistry

## Trimethylsilyl derivatives of aliphatic nitro compounds in $\alpha,\beta$ -C,C-cross-coupling

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A new  $\alpha,\beta$ -C,C-cross-coupling reaction of derivatives of aliphatic nitro compounds, silyl nitronates and *N,N*-bis(silyloxy)enamines, leading to  $\beta$ -nitro oximes was found. The scope and limitations of this reaction were studied, and a mechanism was proposed.

**Key words:** aliphatic nitro compounds, silyl nitronates, *N,N*-bis(silyloxy)enamines, nitroso alkenes.

The use of aliphatic nitro compounds (ANC) in the development of methods for the assembly of C—C bond presents considerable interest because the starting ANC are readily available and because the nitro group can be involved in subsequent transformations.<sup>2–4</sup>

We found that silyl nitronates **2**,<sup>5</sup> easily prepared by silylation of ANC **1**, and *N,N*-bis(silyloxy)enamines (BSENA) **3**,<sup>6</sup> formed from ANC of the type  $\text{MeCH(R}_3\text{)NO}_2$ , viz., nitroethane (**1a**) or 2-nitropropane (**1b**), smoothly react with each other according to the  $\alpha,\beta$ -C,C-cross-coupling pattern giving rise to silyl derivatives of  $\beta$ -nitroximes **4** and **5** (Scheme 1, Table 1).

Bis-derivatives **5** can arise only from primary ANC **1**. Their formation can be formally represented as the reaction of two BSENA **3** molecules with one silyl nitronate **2** molecule.

The corresponding oximes **6** and bis-oximes **7** can be synthesized by treatment of silyl derivatives **4** and **5** with  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  in methanol or  $\text{AcOH}$  in aqueous THF (Scheme 2).

Nitro compounds **1** were usually silylated by a one-pot procedure by adding them successively to the silylating reagent ( $\text{Me}_3\text{SiCl—NEt}_3$ ) in acetonitrile. The different ratios of the rates of the first and the second

silylation of ANC ensured the required ratio of silyl nitronates **2** and BSENA **3**. The removal of  $\text{Et}_3\text{N} \cdot \text{HCl}$ , excess silylating reagent, and the solvent induced a spontaneous exothermic reaction between compounds **2** and **3** (see Scheme 1). However, attempts to perform this process with BSENA **3** synthesized beforehand and purified by a special procedure<sup>6</sup> failed. Indeed, keeping a mixture of purified **2c** and **3b** for 24 h at  $-20^\circ\text{C}$  did not result in the reaction; however, after the addition of 5 mol.%  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$ , the C,C-cross-coupling reaction was completed over 1 h at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ .

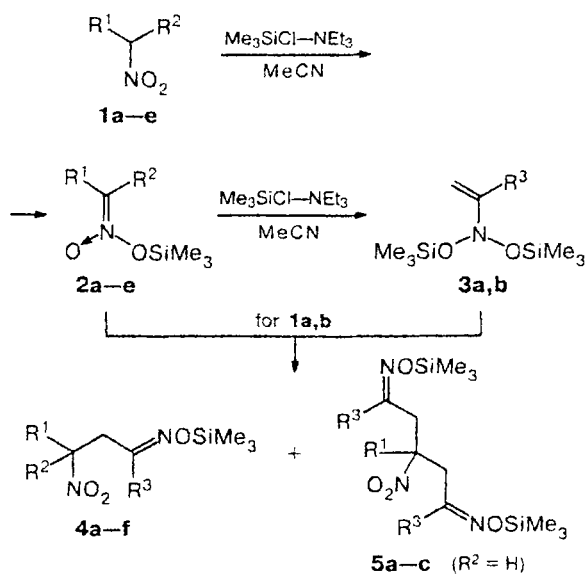
The role of  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  in the **2** + **3** reaction may include nucleophilic interaction with BSENA **3** according to

Table 1. Synthesis of silyl derivatives of  $\beta$ -nitroximes **4** and **5**

Compound	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>3</sup>	Yield (%)	
				4	5
4a, 5a	Me	H	Me	29	20
4b, 5b	Me	H	H	22	33
4c, 5c	Et	H	Me	55	3
4d	Me	Me	Me	60	—
4e	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Me	H	Me	43	—
4f	CO <sub>2</sub> Me	H	Me	31	—

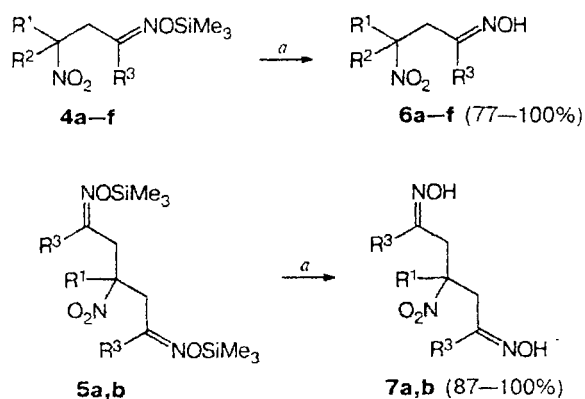
\* For preliminary communication, see Ref. 1.

Scheme 1



1a, 2a:  $\text{R}^1 = \text{Me}$ ,  $\text{R}^2 = \text{H}$ ; 1b, 2b:  $\text{R}^1 = \text{Me}$ ,  $\text{R}^2 = \text{Me}$ ;  
 1c, 2c:  $\text{R}^1 = \text{Et}$ ,  $\text{R}^2 = \text{H}$ ; 1d, 2d:  $\text{R}^1 = (\text{CH}_2)_2\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$ ,  $\text{R}^2 = \text{H}$ ;  
 1e, 2e:  $\text{R}^1 = \text{CO}_2\text{Me}$ ,  $\text{R}^2 = \text{H}$ ; 3a,3b:  $\text{R}^3 = \text{H}$ , Me

Scheme 2

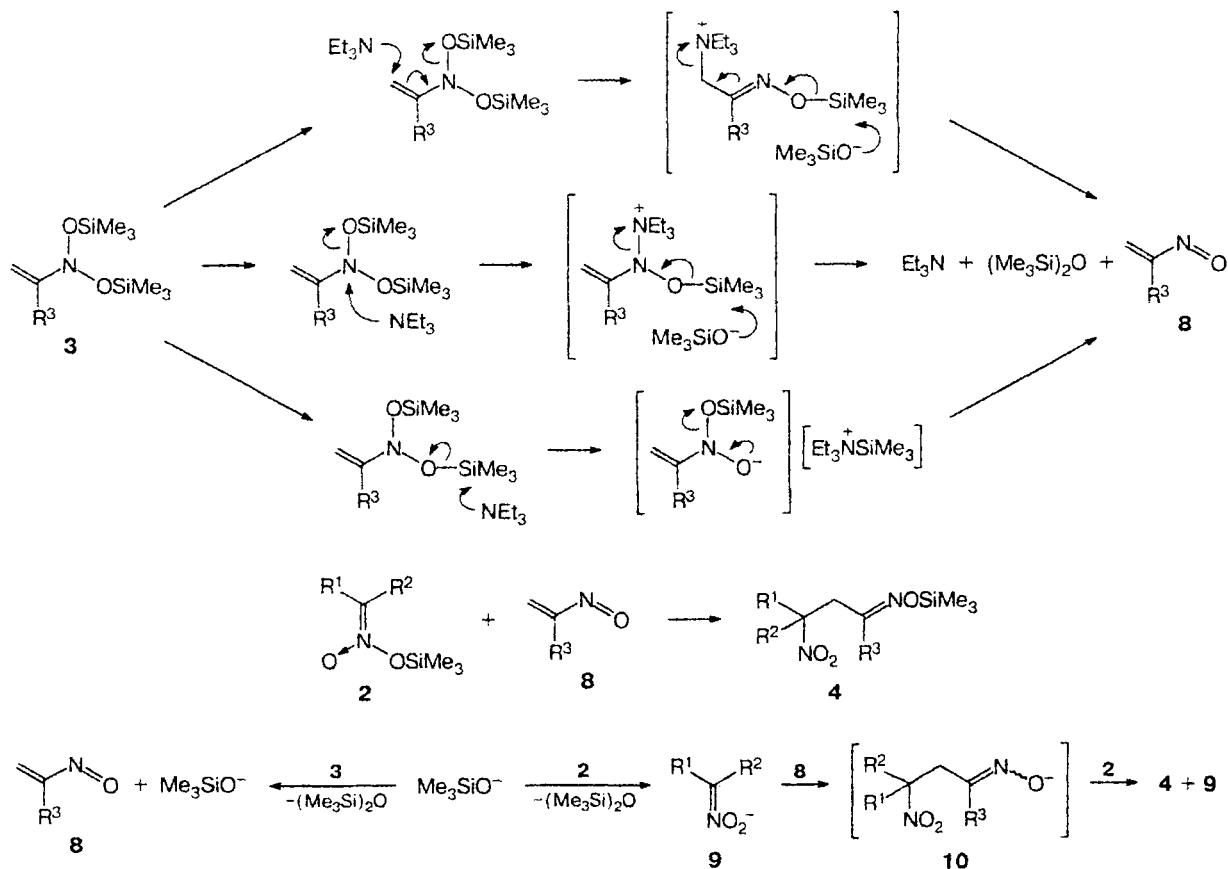


Reagents. a.  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$ , MeOH or AcOH, THF-H<sub>2</sub>O.

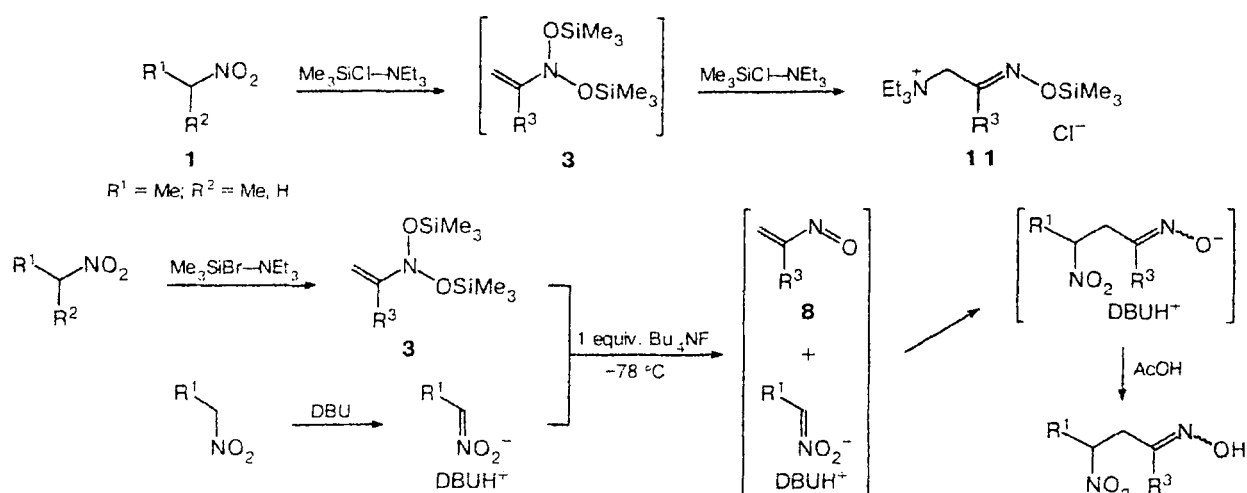
one of three pathways (Scheme 3) to give nitrosoalkenes 8 as reactive intermediates.

In this case, oxime derivatives 4 can be formed both upon the reaction of nitrosoalkenes 8 with silyl nitronates

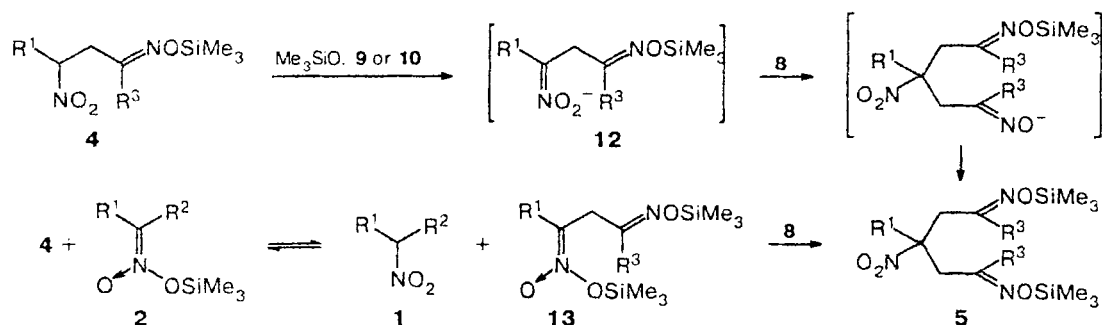
Scheme 3



Scheme 4



Scheme 5



2 and upon the transformation of silyl nitronate 2 into nitro carbanion 9, able to react with nitrosoalkenes 8 to give anion 10. This anion is converted into oxime 4 via the transfer of the  $\text{Me}_3\text{Si}^+$  cation from silyl nitronate 2, as shown in Scheme 3 (see also Refs. 7 and 8).

The trimethylsilyloxy anion, which can also arise in the reaction of  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  with BSENA, could also generate nitrosoalkene 8 according to a chain pattern; however, the reaction of these species with more electrophilic silyl nitronate 2 appears more favorable.

The participation of nitrosoalkanes 8 as reactive intermediates in the 2 + 3 C,C-cross-coupling is indicated by several facts. First, bases, including triethylamine, induce decomposition of BSENA 3. Second, it is known that silylation of ANC 1 can give quaternary ammonium salts 11,<sup>6</sup> which are evidently formed from the intermediate BSENA 3 (Scheme 4). Finally, recently we demonstrated<sup>8</sup> that the last step shown in Scheme 4 is actually possible because nitrosoalkenes 8 are smoothly trapped by nitronate anions generated from primary ANC.

It can be suggested that products 4 are deprotonated under reaction conditions to give anions 12, which are converted into bis(oxime) derivatives 5 via the reaction

with a second molecule of nitrosoalkene 8 followed by silylation (Scheme 5).

The possibility of reversible silylation of oximino derivatives 4 followed by the reaction of silyl nitronate 13 with nitrosoalkene 8 also cannot be ruled out (see Scheme 5). In any case, we detected the reversible reaction  $4c + 2c \rightleftharpoons 1c + 13c$  by NMR spectroscopy after the addition of 5 mol.%  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  to a mixture of authentic samples of 4c and 2c. The  $4c : 2c : 1c : 13c$  equilibrium ratio was 1.5 : 7.1 : 1.3 : 0.5. The presence of silyl nitronate 13c was confirmed by comparison of the  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{29}\text{Si}$ , and  $^{14}\text{N}$  NMR spectra of this mixture with the spectra of authentic 13c, prepared by silylation of compound 4c with chlorotrimethylsilane in the presence of 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU).<sup>9</sup>

The structures of products 4–7 were established based on  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{14}\text{N}$ , and  $^{29}\text{Si}$  NMR spectra and confirmed by the data of elemental analysis. The configuration of oximes was determined under the assumption that the chemical shifts  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  of atoms adjacent to the  $\text{C}=\text{NOH}$  fragment and located in the *cis*-position with respect to the OH group are shifted upfield with respect to the  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  values for similar atoms in the *trans*-position to the OH group.<sup>10</sup>

Thus, we found a novel reaction between mono- and bistrimethylsilyl derivatives of ANC, which can be formally classified as  $S_N2'$  substitution of the trimethylsilyloxy group in BSENA 3 on treatment with silyl nitronates 2. This reaction is a new method for the construction of a C—C bond by virtue of aliphatic nitro derivatives.

### Experimental

NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM 300 spectrometer in  $CDCl_3$  (unless another solvent is indicated in the corresponding procedure). Chemical shifts were referred to internal  $Me_4Si$  ( $^1H$ ,  $^{13}C$ ,  $^{29}Si$ ) or external  $MeNO_2$  ( $^{14}N$ ,  $^{15}N$ ). For the NMR spectra of minor isomers, only some characteristic signals are given.

Cross-coupling reactions were carried out in anhydrous solvents under dry argon.

Nitro compound 1d was prepared by a known procedure.<sup>11</sup> Silyl nitronate 2e was synthesized by the Torrsell method.<sup>12</sup> Acetonitrile and methylene chloride were distilled over  $P_2O_5$ . The other reagents ( $EtNO_2$ ,  $PrNO_2$ ,  $Pr^iNO_2$ ,  $Et_3N$ ,  $Me_3SiCl$  (Aldrich), and DBU (Fluka)) were distilled from  $CaH_2$ .

**Synthesis of derivatives 4a,c,e and 5a,c (general procedure).**  $Pr^iNO_2$  (1b) (1.35 mL, 15 mmol) was added at 10 °C to a solution of  $NEt_3$  (7.93 mL, 57 mmol) and  $Me_3SiCl$  (5.91 mL, 46.5 mmol) in MeCN (11 mL). The mixture was kept for 3 h at 10–15 °C and for 72 h at 22 °C. A solution of ANC 1a,c,d (16.4 mmol) in MeCN (1.4 mL) was added at 10 °C and the mixture was kept for 24 h at 22 °C. Then the reaction mixture was diluted with benzene (12 mL) and filtered in an argon atmosphere and the precipitate was washed with benzene (12 mL). The combined filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* (15 Torr). The residue was diluted with hexane (10 mL), and the resulting solution was filtered under argon and concentrated *in vacuo* (5 °C, 15 Torr). At the end of concentration, slight warming of the mixture is possible. The resulting mixture of compounds 2a,c,e and 3a was kept for 1 h at 15 °C, for 2 h at 45 °C, and for 24 h at 22 °C and evacuated, and the residue was distilled to give products 4a,c,e and 5a,c.

**4-Nitropentane-2-one O-trimethylsilyloxime (4a).** Yield 0.95 g (29%), b.p. 45–48 °C (0.25 Torr) (cf. Ref. 1).

**4-Nitrohexan-2-one O-trimethylsilyloxime (4c).** Yield 1.22 g (35%) (for the ratio 2c : 3b = 1.6 : 1.0, the yield of 4c was 1.92 g (55%)), b.p. 60–61 °C (0.5 Torr) (cf. Ref. 1).

**Methyl 4-nitro-6-(E)-trimethylsilyloximinopentanoate (4e).** Yield 1.87 g (43%), b.p. 95–97 °C (0.25 Torr). Found (%): C, 45.28; H, 7.66; N, 10.03; Si, 9.80.  $C_{11}H_{22}N_2O_5Si$ . Calculated (%): C, 45.50; H, 7.64; N, 9.65; Si, 9.67.  $^1H$  NMR,  $\delta$ : 0.15 (s, 9 H,  $SiMe_3$ ); 1.88 (s, 3 H,  $CH_3C=N$ ); 2.15–2.25, 2.38–2.47 (both m, each 2 H,  $CH_2CH_2$ ); 2.61 (dd, 1 H,  $CH_AH_B$ ,  $^2J = 16.8$  Hz,  $^3J = 4.4$  Hz); 2.97 (dd, 1 H,  $CH_AH_B$ ,  $^2J = 16.8$  Hz,  $^3J = 8.9$  Hz); 3.68 (s, 3 H,  $CO_2Me$ ); 4.89–4.99 (m, 1 H,  $CHNO_2$ ).  $^{13}C$  NMR,  $\delta$ : -1.2 ( $SiMe_3$ ); 14.2 ( $CH_3C=N$ ); 28.5, 29.6 ( $CH_2CH_2$ ); 38.6 ( $CH_2C=N$ ); 51.5 ( $CO_2CH_3$ ); 83.0 ( $CHNO_2$ ); 155.9 (C=N); 171.9 (C=O).  $^{14}N$  NMR,  $\delta$ : 10.1 ( $\nu_{1/2} = 16.2$  Hz).

**A mixture of 4-ethyl-4-nitroheptane-2,6-dione O,O-bis(trimethylsilyl)dioximes (5c) (E,E:E,Z = 5 : 1; the mixture was prepared at 2c : 3b = 1.6 : 1.0).** Yield 0.34 g (3%), b.p. 105–110 °C (bath temperature, 0.24 Torr). Found (%): C, 47.85; H, 8.79; N, 11.51; Si, 15.12.  $C_{15}H_{33}N_3O_4Si_2$ . Calculated (%): C, 47.97; H, 8.86; N, 11.19; Si, 14.95.  $^1H$  NMR,  $\delta$ : *E,E*-isomer: 0.17 (s, 18 H,  $SiMe_3$ ); 0.87 (t, 3 H,  $CH_3CH_2$ ,  $J = 7.4$  Hz); 1.83 (s, 6 H,  $CH_3C=N$ ); 2.10 (q, 2 H,  $CH_2CH_2$ ,  $J =$

7.4 Hz); 3.01 (d, 2 H,  $CH_AH_B$ ,  $J = 16.4$  Hz); 3.11 (d, 2 H,  $CH_AH_B$ ,  $J = 16.4$  Hz); *E,Z*-isomer: 0.93 (t, 3 H,  $CH_3CH_2$ ,  $J = 7.4$  Hz).  $^{13}C$  NMR,  $\delta$ : *E,E*-isomer: -0.7 ( $SiMe_3$ ); 8.0 ( $CH_3CH_2$ ); 15.4 ( $CH_3C=N$ ); 30.6 ( $CH_2CH_2$ ); 39.9 ( $CH_2C=N$ ); 91.3 ( $CNO_2$ ); 156.5 (C=N); *E,Z*-isomer: 8.5 ( $CH_3CH_2$ ); 15.3 ( $CH_3C=N$ , *E*); 21.0 ( $CH_3C=N$ , *Z*); 30.0 ( $CH_2CH_2$ ); 35.1 ( $CH_2C=N$ , *Z*); 41.1 ( $CH_2C=N$ , *E*); 91.4 ( $CNO_2$ ).  $^{29}Si$  NMR (INEPT),  $\delta$ : 24.59 ( $SiMe_3$ , *E,E*).  $^{14}N$  NMR,  $\delta$ : 13.6 ( $NO_2$ ,  $\nu_{1/2} = 23.0$ , *E,E* and *E,Z*).

**4-Methyl-4-nitroheptane-2,6-dione O,O-bis(trimethylsilyl)-(E,E)-dioxime (5a).** Yield 2.17 g (20%), b.p. 100–102 °C (0.6 Torr), m.p. 24–30 °C. Found (%): C, 46.61; H, 8.65; N, 11.59; Si, 15.50.  $C_{14}H_{31}N_3O_4Si_2$ . Calculated (%): C, 46.50; H, 8.64; N, 11.62; Si, 15.53.  $^1H$  NMR,  $\delta$ : 0.16 (s, 18 H,  $SiMe_3$ ); 1.67 (s, 3 H,  $CH_3CNO_2$ ); 1.82 (s, 6 H,  $CH_3C=N$ ); 2.92 (d, 2 H,  $CH_AH_B$ ,  $J = 15.9$  Hz); 3.02 (d, 2 H,  $CH_AH_B$ ,  $J = 15.9$  Hz).  $^{13}C$  NMR,  $\delta$ : -0.8 ( $SiMe_3$ ); 15.3 ( $CH_3C=N$ ); 23.6 ( $CH_3CNO_2$ ); 44.2 ( $CH_2$ ); 87.5 ( $CNO_2$ ); 156.2 (C=N).  $^{15}N$  NMR,  $\delta$ : -15.8 ( $NO_2$ ); 21.9 (C=N).

**Synthesis of compounds 4b and 5b.** A solution of  $EtNO_2$  (5.53 mL, 0.074 mol) in MeCN (5 mL) was added at 10 °C to a solution of  $Et_3N$  (23.7 mL, 0.17 mol) and  $Me_3SiCl$  (19.8 mL, 0.16 mol) in MeCN (27 mL). The reaction mixture was kept for 72 h at -20 °C (2a : 3a = 1.5 : 1.0, monitoring by  $^1H$  NMR), diluted with benzene (30 mL), and filtered under argon, and the precipitate was washed with benzene (30 mL). The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* (15 Torr), the residue was diluted with hexane (20 mL), and the mixture was filtered (Ar). The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* (5 °C, 15 Torr). At the end of concentration, the mixture substantially warmed up. The reaction mixture was kept for 1 h at 40–50 °C and for 24 h at 20 °C and concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was distilled to give products 4b and 5b.

**A mixture of 3-nitrobutanal (E)- and (Z)-O-trimethylsilyloximes (4b) (E : Z = 2 : 1).** Yield 22%, b.p. 60–62 °C (0.6 Torr) (cf. Ref. 1).

**A mixture of 3-methyl-3-nitropentanedial (E,E)- and (E,Z)-O,O-bis(trimethylsilyl)dioximes (5b) (E,E:E,Z = 4 : 1).** Yield 33%, b.p. 114–115 °C (0.6 Torr) (cf. Ref. 1).

**4-Methyl-4-nitropentane-2-one (E)-O-trimethylsilyloxime (4d).**  $Pr^iNO_2$  (3.30 mL, 37 mmol) was added in one portion at 10 °C to a solution of  $Et_3N$  (8.14 mL, 59 mmol) and  $Me_3SiCl$  (6.98 mL, 55 mmol) in MeCN (18 mL). The mixture was kept for 36 h at 15 °C (the ratio 2b : 3b = 1.1 : 1.0, monitoring by  $^1H$  NMR). The reaction mixture was diluted with benzene (30 mL) and filtered (Ar), and the precipitate was washed with benzene (30 mL). The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* (15 Torr), and the residue was diluted with hexane (20 mL) and filtered (Ar). The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* (5 °C, 15 Torr). At the end of concentration, the mixture slightly warmed up. The reaction mixture was kept for 1 h at 40–50 °C and for 24 h at 20 °C and concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was distilled. Yield 2.45 g (60%), b.p. 62–64 °C (0.5 Torr) (cf. lit.<sup>13</sup>).

**Methyl 2-nitro-4-(E)-trimethylsilyloximinopentanoate (4f).**  $Pr^iNO_2$  (0.65 mL, 7.2 mmol) was added in one portion at 10 °C to a solution of  $Et_3N$  (2.33 mL, 16.6 mmol) and  $Me_3SiCl$  (2.03 mL, 15.8 mmol) in MeCN (3.6 mL). The mixture was kept for 3 h at 10–15 °C and for 72 h at 22 °C and silyl nitronate 2e (2.06 g, 10.8 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was diluted with benzene (5 mL) and filtered under argon, the precipitate was washed with benzene (5 mL), and the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* (15 Torr). The residue was diluted with hexane (10 mL), the mixture was filtered in an argon atmosphere, and the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* (5 °C, 15 Torr). The resulting mixture was kept for 1 h at 15 °C, for 4 h at 45 °C, and for 24 h at 22 °C and concentrated *in*

*vacuo*, and the residue was distilled to give 0.58 g (31%) of product **4f**, b.p. 68–72 °C (bath temperature, 0.08 Torr). Found (%): C, 41.50; H, 7.01; N, 10.50; Si, 10.64.  $C_9H_{18}N_2O_5Si$ . Calculated (%): C, 41.21; H, 6.92; N, 10.68; Si, 10.71.  $^1H$  NMR,  $\delta$ : 0.14 (s, 9 H,  $SiMe_3$ ); 1.92 (s, 3 H,  $CH_3C=N$ ); 3.06 (dd, 1 H,  $CH_AH_B$ ,  $^2J = 17.7$  Hz,  $^3J = 5.5$  Hz); 3.23 (dd, 1 H,  $CH_AH_B$ ,  $^2J = 17.7$  Hz,  $^3J = 9.1$  Hz); 3.84 (s, 3 H,  $CO_2Me$ ); 5.64 (dd, 1 H,  $CHNO_2$ ,  $^3J = 9.1$  Hz,  $^3J = 5.5$  Hz).  $^{13}C$  NMR,  $\delta$ : -1.1 ( $SiMe_3$ ); 14.5 ( $CH_3C=N$ ); 35.6 ( $CH_2$ ); 53.5 ( $CO_2CH_3$ ); 83.8 ( $CHNO_2$ ); 155.4 ( $C=N$ ); 164.9 ( $C=O$ ).  $^{29}Si$  NMR (INEPT),  $\delta$ : 25.99 ( $SiMe_3$ ).  $^{14}N$  NMR,  $\delta$ : -5.7 ( $\nu_{1/2} = 11.5$  Hz).

**Trimethylsilyl 1-ethyl-3-(E)-trimethylsilyloximino-aci-nitrobutanoate (13c).** A solution of compound **4c** (232 mg, 1 mmol) in 0.4 mL of  $CH_2Cl_2$  was added at 0 °C to a solution of DBU (0.15 mL, 1.01 mmol) in 1.3 mL of  $CH_2Cl_2$ . After 5 min, a solution of  $Me_3SiCl$  (0.13 mL, 1.05 mmol) in 1 mL of  $CH_2Cl_2$  was added at 0 °C and the mixture was kept at this temperature for an additional 20 min. The volatile components were concentrated *in vacuo*, 4 mL of hexane was added to the residue, and the resulting solution was filtered in an argon atmosphere. Concentration of the filtrate gave 240 mg of an oil. According to NMR spectrum, this was a 3 : 1 mixture of **13c** and **4c**. The yield of product **13c** was 52%.  $^1H$  NMR,  $\delta$ : 0.18 (s, 9 H,  $C=NOSiMe_3$ ); 0.32 (s, 9 H,  $C=N(O)OSiMe_3$ ); 1.07 (t, 3 H,  $CH_3CH_2$ ,  $^3J = 7.5$  Hz); 1.88 (s, 3 H,  $CH_3C=N$ ); 2.35 (q, 2 H,  $CH_3CH_2$ ,  $^3J = 7.5$  Hz); 3.29 (s, 2 H,  $CH_2$ ).  $^{13}C$  NMR,  $\delta$ : -0.8 ( $NOSiMe_3$ ); 0.2 ( $N(O)OSiMe_3$ ); 9.5 ( $CH_3CH_2$ ); 14.1 ( $CH_3C=N$ ); 23.8 ( $CH_3CH_2$ ); 36.5 ( $CH_2$ ); 125.3 ( $C=N(O)OSiMe_3$ ); 157.4 ( $C=NOSiMe_3$ ).  $^{29}Si$  NMR (INEPT),  $\delta$ : 24.16, 24.58 ( $N(O)OSiMe_3$ ,  $NOSiMe_3$ ).  $^{14}N$  NMR,  $\delta$ : -90.9 ( $N(O)OSiMe_3$  ( $\nu_{1/2} = 36.7$  Hz)).

**Desilylation of compounds 4a–c,f and 5b.** Ammonium fluoride (4 mg, 0.11 mmol) was added to a solution of compounds **4a–c,f** or **5b** (2.1 mmol) in 2.5 mL of MeOH and the mixture was kept for 3 h at -20 °C. Concentration of the mixture *in vacuo* and crystallization of the residue gave oximes **6a–c,f** (or **7b**).

**4-Nitropentan-2-one (E)-oxime (6a).** Yield 301 mg (98%), m.p. 68–72 °C (hexane–ether, 1 : 5) (cf. Ref. 1).

**4-Nitrohexan-2-one (E)-oxime (6c).** Yield 330 mg (98%), m.p. 51–56 °C (hexane) (cf. Ref. 1).

**4-Nitrobutanal oxime (6b) (E : Z = 1 : 1).** Yield 277 mg (100%), oil. Found (%): C, 36.53; H, 6.34; N, 21.03.  $C_4H_8N_2O_3$ . Calculated (%): C, 36.36; H, 6.10; N, 21.20.  $^1H$  NMR,  $\delta$ : 1.55 (d, 3 H,  $CH_3$ ); 1.57 (d, 3 H,  $CH_3$ ); 2.60–3.10 (m, 4 H, 2  $CH_2$ ); 4.71–4.90 (m, 2 H, 2  $CHNO_2$ ); 6.80 (t, 1 H,  $HC=N$ , Z); 7.51 (t, 1 H,  $HC=N$ , E); 8.30–9.30 (br.s, 2 H, OH).  $^{13}C$  NMR,  $\delta$ : 19.1, 19.2 ( $CH_3$ , E, Z); 30.2 ( $CH_2$ , Z); 34.3 ( $CH_2$ , E); 79.9, 80.3 ( $CH$ , E, Z); 146.1, 146.5 ( $C=N$ , E, Z).

**A mixture of methyl (E)- and (Z)-4-hydroximino-2-nitropentanoates (6f) (E : Z = 4 : 1,  $^1H$  NMR data).** Yield 397 mg (100%), oil. The NMR spectra were identical to those reported previously.<sup>8</sup>

**A mixture of 3-methyl-3-nitropentanedial dioximes (7b) (E,E : E,Z : Z,Z = 5 : 8 : 1,  $^1H$  NMR data).** Yield 396 mg (100%), oil. The NMR spectra were identical to those reported previously.<sup>1</sup>

**4-Nitro-4-methylpentan-2-one (E)-oxime (6d).** A solution of compound **4d** (460 mg, 2 mmol) in MeOH (4 mL) was kept at 20 °C for 24 h and concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was crystallized. Yield 270 mg (85%), m.p. 63–64 °C (hexane) (cf. Ref. 13).

**Desilylation of oximes 4e and 5a.** A solution of compound **4e** (3 mmol) or **5a** (1.5 mmol) in 2 mL of MeOH was added at 0 °C to an AcOH–THF–H<sub>2</sub>O mixture (6 mL + 6 mL + 2 mL), and the mixture was kept for 30 min at 20 °C and concentrated *in vacuo* to give oxime **6e** or **7a**.

**Methyl (E)-6-hydroximino-4-nitroheptanoate (6e).** Yield 504 mg (77%), oil. The NMR spectra were identical to those reported previously.<sup>8</sup>

**A mixture of 4-methyl-4-nitroheptan-2,6-dione dioximes (7a) (E,E : E,Z = 4 : 1,  $^1H$  NMR data).** Yield 283 mg (87%), m.p. 128–136 °C. Found (%): C, 44.02; H, 6.93; N, 19.11.  $C_8H_{15}N_2O_4$ . Calculated (%): C, 44.23; H, 6.96; N, 19.34.  $^1H$  NMR (acetone- $d_6$ ),  $\delta$ : *E,E*-isomer: 1.62 (s, 3 H,  $CH_3CNO_2$ ); 1.80 (s, 6 H,  $CH_3C=N$ ); 2.83 (d, 2 H,  $CH_AH_B$ ,  $J = 15.4$  Hz); 3.00 (d, 2 H,  $CH_AH_B$ ,  $J = 15.4$  Hz); 9.89 (s, 2 H, OH).  $^{13}C$  NMR,  $\delta$ : *E,E*-isomer: 14.9 ( $CH_3C=N$ ); 22.7 ( $CH_3$ ); 45.5 ( $CH_2$ ); 89.0 ( $CNO_2$ ); 152.4 ( $C=N$ ); *E,Z*-isomer: 14.7 ( $CH_3C=N$ , E); 20.9 ( $CH_3C=N$ , Z); 22.4 ( $CH_3CNO_2$ ); 38.8 ( $CH_2$ , Z); 46.1 ( $CH_2$ , E); 89.2 ( $CNO_2$ ); 151.9, 152.3 ( $C=N$ , E, Z).  $^{14}N$  NMR,  $\delta$ : 17.4 ( $NO_2$ , E,E and E,Z).

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