

# Aluminum oxide-induced gas-phase ring-opening in methyl substituted *gem*-difluorocyclopropanes, leading to 2-fluorobuta-1,3-dienes and vinylacetylenes\*

N. V. Volchkov,\* M. B. Lipkind, M. A. Novikov, and O. M. Nefedov

N. D. Zelinsky Institute of Organic Chemistry, Russian Academy of Sciences,  
47 Leninsky prosp., 119991 Moscow, Russian Federation.  
Fax: +7 (499) 135 6390. E-mail: volchkov@ioc.ac.ru

A gas-phase pyrolysis of methyl-substituted *gem*-difluorocyclopropanes in a flow-tube reactor in the presence of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> at 185–250 °C gives 2-fluorobuta-1,3-dienes and vinylacetylenes.

**Key words:** *gem*-difluorocyclopropanes, gas-phase pyrolysis, cyclopropyl-allylic rearrangement, 2-fluorobuta-1,3-dienes, vinylacetylenes, organofluorine compounds.

*gem*-Chlorofluoro-, *gem*-dichloro-, and *gem*-dibromocyclopropanes are known to undergo thermal and catalytic transformations, leading to dihaloalkenes,<sup>1–4</sup> halo-dienes,<sup>1,4–8</sup> or haloarenes.<sup>1,9–13</sup> These transformations proceed with a cyclopropyl-allylic rearrangement, which includes opening of a cyclopropane ring and migration of halogen or dehydrohalogenation. For *gem*-chlorofluorocyclopropanes, such processes, as a rule, involve the cleavage of the less strong chlorine-carbon bond.<sup>1,3,5–10</sup> At the same time, the processes of cyclopropyl-allylic transformation were considered uncharacteristic of *gem*-difluorocyclopropanes because of the strong C–F bond, limiting the possibility of this reaction to proceed. In this connection, the thermal transformations of *gem*-difluorocyclopropanes, as a rule, follow alternative directions, including various rearrangements without cleavage of the C–F bond and with preservation of the difluoromethylene fragment in the products<sup>1d,14,15</sup> or thermal fragmentation with elimination of difluorocarbene.<sup>15–17</sup> A formal exception from this rule are thermal reactions of labile *gem*-difluorocyclopropanes included in the bicyclo[3.1.0]hexene structures (the products of cycloaddition of difluorocarbene to cyclopentadiene or indene), leading to fluoroarenes and resulting from the three-membered ring opening and dehydrofluorination.<sup>9,13</sup> However, there is a suggestion<sup>13</sup> that these reactions can proceed by a biradical process rather than by a typical mechanism of cyclopropyl-allylic transformation. In the present work, we report a discovered possibility to effect skeleton transformations of simple methyl-substituted *gem*-difluorocyclopropanes, which follow a usual type

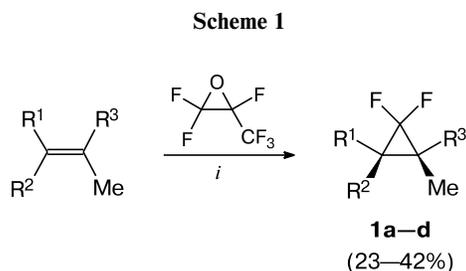
of cyclopropyl-allylic transformation with obtaining of 2-fluorobuta-1,3-dienes, when this reaction is initiated by aluminum oxide under the gas-phase pyrolysis conditions.

## Results and Discussion

Earlier, we<sup>18,19</sup> carried out comparative studies to identify specific features of the gas-phase thermal transformations of methyl-substituted *gem*-chlorofluorocyclopropanes in flow-tube reactors containing quartz (SiO<sub>2</sub>) or Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> as a filling. We found that in the reactor with SiO<sub>2</sub>, *gem*-chlorofluorocyclopropanes under the gas-phase pyrolysis conditions at 430–460 °C undergo the skeleton transformations with the formation of 2-fluorobuta-1,3-dienes as a result of the cyclopropane ring opening and dehydrochlorination. Conversely, in the presence of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> the same *gem*-chlorofluorocyclopropanes at 150–250 °C yield 2-chlorobuta-1,3-dienes as a result of the ring opening and dehydrofluorination, probably, due to the ability of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> to efficiently activate the cleavage the C–F bond. It seemed interesting to study a possibility of such activating effect of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> for the gas-phase thermal transformations of *gem*-difluorocyclopropanes.

As the starting compounds, we used *cis*-3,3-difluoro-1,2-dimethylcyclopropane (**1a**), *trans*-3,3-difluoro-1,2-dimethylcyclopropane (**1b**), 1-chloro-2,2-difluoro-1-methylcyclopropane (**1c**), and 2,2-difluoro-1,1-dimethylcyclopropane (**1d**), which were obtained in 23–42% yields by the addition of difluorocarbene, generated from hexafluoropropylene oxide, under conditions of its gas-phase copyrolysis with *cis*-but-2-ene, *trans*-but-2-ene, 2-chloropropene, or isobutylene (Scheme 1).

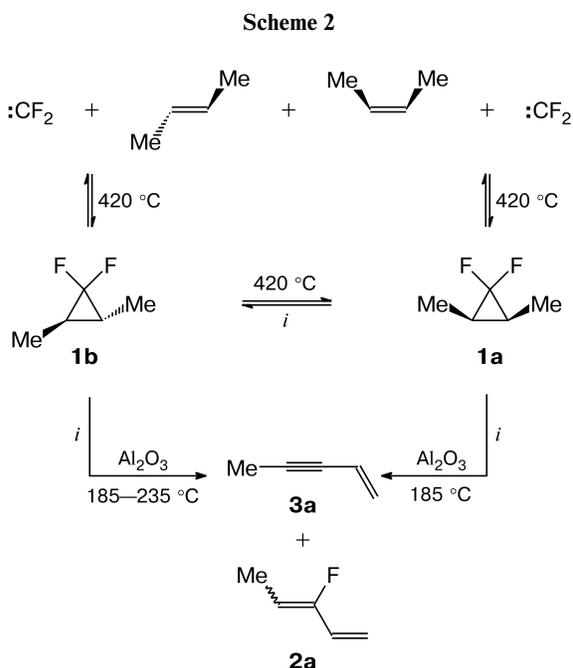
\* Dedicated to Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences V. I. Minkin on the occasion of his 80th birthday.



*i.* 320–350 °C, a flow-tube reactor.

R<sup>1</sup> = R<sup>3</sup> = H, R<sup>2</sup> = Me (**a**); R<sup>1</sup> = Me, R<sup>2</sup> = R<sup>3</sup> = H (**b**);  
R<sup>1</sup> = R<sup>2</sup> = H, R<sup>3</sup> = Cl (**c**); R<sup>1</sup> = R<sup>2</sup> = H, R<sup>3</sup> = Me (**d**)

It is known<sup>15</sup> that *cis*- and *trans*-3,3-difluoro-1,2-dimethylcyclopropanes **1a,b** under pyrolysis conditions in a static reactor at 297–345 °C undergo only a reversible *cis*-*trans* isomerization, accompanied by a competing fragmentation with the elimination of difluorocarbene and formation of but-2-enes. We obtained similar results in the pyrolysis of difluorocyclopropanes **1a** and **1b** in a flow-tube reactor. Thus, the gas-phase pyrolysis of *cis*-3,3-difluoro-1,2-dimethylcyclopropane (**1a**) in a quartz flow-tube reactor at 420 °C gave a pyrolysate containing (according to the GLC and NMR data) 35% of the starting cyclopropane **1a**, 45% of *trans*-3,3-difluoro-1,2-dimethylcyclopropane (**1b**), 5% of *cis*-but-2-ene, and 6% of *trans*-but-2-ene (Scheme 2). The pyrolysis of *trans*-3,3-difluoro-1,2-dimethylcyclopropane (**1b**) at 420 °C gave virtually the same composition of the pyrolysate, which contained 34% of **1a**, 47% of the starting **1b**, 5% of *cis*-but-2-ene, and 6% of *trans*-but-2-ene.



*i.* A flow-tube reactor.

Essentially different results were obtained in the gas-phase pyrolysis of 3,3-difluoro-1,2-dimethylcyclopropanes (**1a,b**) carried out in the reactor partially filled with granulated Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. Under these conditions, the pyrolysis of isomer **1a** at 185 °C led to a mixture of *Z*- and *E*-isomers of 3-fluoropenta-1,3-diene (**2a**) in a 63% total yield (the ratio *Z*-**2a** : *E*-**2a** = 8 : 1) and pent-1-en-3-yne (**3a**) (5% yield) with almost complete conversion of the starting cyclopropane (see Scheme 2, Table 1). The pyrolysis of isomer **1b** under similar conditions at 185 °C led also to isomeric 3-fluoropenta-1,3-dienes **2a** (the ratio *Z*-**2a** : *E*-**2a** = 7 : 1) in a 49% total yield and pent-1-en-3-yne (**3a**) (7% yield), with the conversion of the starting cyclopropane being about 91%. When the temperature of pyrolysis of **1b** was elevated to 235 °C, its conversion was more than 99%, whereas the yield of enyne **3a** increased to 13% and the yield of fluorodienes **2a** decreased to 38% (see Table 1).

Similar transformations were observed in the pyrolysis of 1-chloro-2,2-difluoro-1-methylcyclopropane (**1c**). But in contrast to compounds **1a,b**, chlorodifluoro derivative **1c** turned out to be able to undergo the cyclopropyl-allylic-type skeleton transformations both in the presence of aluminum oxide and in an empty quartz reactor. However, the opening of the three-membered carbocycle took different directions for the two versions of the reaction conditions (Scheme 3). Thus, together with the fragmentation to difluorocarbene and 2-chloropropene **6** as a principal process, the pyrolysis of **1c** in an empty quartz reactor in the flow of nitrogen at 450 °C also included the skeleton cyclopropyl-allylic isomerization, which gave 3-chloro-3,3-difluoro-2-methylpropene (**4**) and 3-chloro-1,1-difluoro-2-methylpropene (**5**) formed by the ring opening at the C(2)–C(3) bond opposite to the CCl(Me)

**Table 1.** Yields of the products of the gas-phase pyrolysis of difluorocyclopropanes **1a–d** in a quartz flow-tube reactor containing Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, depending on the pyrolysis temperature

<b>1</b>	<i>T</i> <sup>a</sup> /°C	<i>C</i> <sup>b</sup> (%)	Product yields <sup>c</sup> (%)			
<b>1a</b>	185	>99	<b>2a</b> (63)	<b>3a</b> (5)	—	—
			( <i>Z/E</i> = 8)	—	—	—
<b>1b</b>	185	91	<b>2a</b> (49)	<b>3a</b> (7)	—	—
			( <i>Z/E</i> = 7)	—	—	—
<b>1c</b>	235	>99	<b>2a</b> (38)	<b>3a</b> (13)	—	—
			( <i>Z/E</i> = 7)	—	—	—
<b>1d</b>	190	72	<b>2c</b> (36)	<b>3c</b> (4)	—	—
			<b>2c</b> (48)	<b>3c</b> (8)	—	—
<b>1d</b>	200	85	<b>2d</b> (33)	<b>3d</b> (10)	<b>7</b> (7)	<b>8</b> (2)
			<b>2d</b> (32)	<b>3d</b> (7)	<b>7</b> (13)	<b>8</b> (3)
			<b>2d</b> (29)	<b>3d</b> (4)	<b>7</b> (19)	<b>8</b> (5)

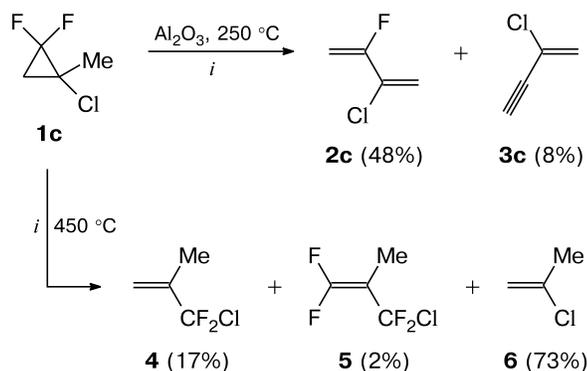
<sup>a</sup> Pyrolysis temperature.

<sup>b</sup> Conversion of **1**.

<sup>c</sup> The yields were calculated from the NMR spectra of the mixtures of products with an added internal standard (fluorobenzene).

fragment and 1,2-migration of the Cl atom to the methylene or difluoromethylene fragment. No cleavage of the C—F bond took place, and the difluoromethylene fragment remained preserved in the reaction products.

Scheme 3



*i*. A flow-tube reactor.

*Note.* The product yields were calculated based on the results of analysis of mixtures of products by GLC and NMR.

The gas-phase pyrolysis of **1c** in the presence of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  at 190–250 °C took fundamentally different direction, leading to 3-chloro-2-fluorobuta-1,3-diene (**2c**) as the main product (36–48% yield), as well as (chlorovinyl)acetylene **3c** (4–8% yield, see Scheme 3, Table 1). No formation of chlorodifluoropropenes **4** and **5** was observed. Thus, in contrast to homogeneous pyrolysis, the transformation of **1c** in the presence of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  proceeded through the ring opening at the C(1)—C(3) bond opposite to the difluoromethylene fragment and is accompanied by the dehydrofluorination.

2,2-Difluoro-1,1-dimethylcyclopropane (**1d**), which does not undergo noticeable transformations under the gas-phase pyrolysis conditions at temperatures below 300 °C in an empty quartz reactor, at 440 °C eliminates difluorocarbene, forming isobutylene as a main product in 30% yield, with the conversion of the starting cyclopropane **1d** being about 54% (Scheme 4). At the same time, the pyrolysis of **1d** in a flow-tube reactor containing  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  at 220 °C gave 2-fluoro-3-methylbuta-1,3-diene

(**2d**) (33% yield), isopropenylacetylene (**3d**) (10% yield), 3-methylbut-3-en-2-one (**7**) (7% yield), and 3-methylbutan-2-one (**8**) (2% yield) with the conversion of the starting cyclopropane **1d** about 85% (see Scheme 4, Table 1).

The results obtained allow us to draw a conclusion that, in contrast to the homogeneous thermal transformations, the heterogeneous pyrolysis of methyl-substituted *gem*-difluorocyclopropanes in the presence of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  proceeds with the formation of 2-fluorobuta-1,3-dienes, typical products of the cyclopropyl-allylic transformation. Apparently, this occurs as a result of the activation by the aluminum oxide of the very strong C—F bond, which initiates the cyclopropane ring opening and dehydrofluorination. The ability of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  to efficiently activate cleavage of the C—F bond is also indicated by the formation of vinylacetylenes **3a–d** observed in the course of the reaction, which formally are the products of dehydrofluorination of fluorodienes **2a–d**. The formation of considerable amounts of ketones **7** and **8** in the pyrolysis of compound **1d** in the presence of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , probably, results from the partial hydrolysis of vinylacetylene **3d** or fluorodiene **2d** upon the reaction with water formed in the reaction of hydrogen fluoride with the surface hydroxy groups of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ . Such acid-catalyzed hydrolytic transformations of alkynes, including vinylacetylenes, to ketones are well known.<sup>20</sup>

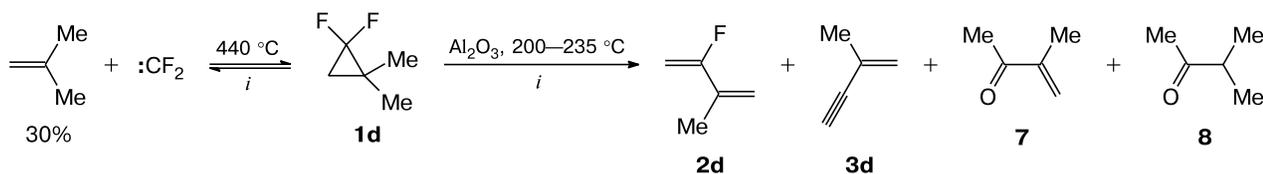
## Experimental

Commercially available isobutylene (99%), *cis*-but-2-ene (99%), *trans*-but-2-ene (99%), 2-chloropropene (98%) (Aldrich), and hexafluoropropylene oxide (99.9%, Poly-Trade Ltd., Russia) were used without additional purification, as well as commercial AOA-1  $\gamma$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (cylindrical grains 5 × (6–8) mm) (Reakhim, Russia).

GLC analysis was carried out on a Crystal 2000M chromatograph (a Macherey-Nagel OPTIMA-1 capillary column, 30 m × 0.25 mm, carrier gas helium, flame-ionizing detector).

<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>19</sup>F, and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM 300 spectrometer (300.1, 282.4, and 75.4 MHz, respectively) for solutions in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  containing  $\text{Me}_4\text{Si}$ . Mass spectra were recorded on a Finnigan MAT INCOS-50 instrument (EI, 70 eV, direct injection) or a Trace GC Ultra instrument equipped with a Finnigan MAT DSQII mass detector (EI, 70 eV, temperature of the system 200 °C, an ion trap as a source of ions) and a Thermo TR-5ms SQC capillary chromatographic column (15 m × 0.25 mm).

Scheme 4



*i*. A flow-tube reactor.

**Synthesis of gem-difluorocyclopropanes 1a–d.** *cis*-3,3-Difluoro-1,2-dimethylcyclopropane (**1a**).<sup>21,22</sup> The gas flows of hexafluoropropylene oxide (5.17 mmol min<sup>-1</sup>), *cis*-but-2-ene (3.41 mmol min<sup>-1</sup>), and nitrogen (70 mL min<sup>-1</sup>) were supplied with a constant consumption during 180 min into a quartz flow-tube reactor (400 mm in length and 22 mm in internal diameter) heated in a tube oven to 318–320 °C. The products coming out of the reactor were collected in a trap cooled to -35–-45 °C. The condensate obtained was slowly warmed to room temperature to remove the gaseous components, then sequentially washed with 10% aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and water, dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The residue (26.53 g) obtained after filtering off the drying agent was distilled to give *cis*-3,3-difluoro-1,2-dimethylcyclopropane (**1a**) 14.92 g (23%), b.p. 54–56 °C. The product contained ~1% of *trans*-3,3-difluoro-1,2-dimethylcyclopropane (**1b**). <sup>1</sup>H NMR of **1a** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300.1 MHz), δ: 1.49 (m, 2 H); 1.04 (m, 6 H, 2 CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>19</sup>F NMR of **1a** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 282.4 MHz), δ: -127.9, -156.8 (both br.d, CF<sub>2</sub>, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>F,F</sub> = 153 Hz). MS, *m/z* (*I*<sub>rel</sub> (%)): 106 [M]<sup>+</sup> (6), 91 [M - Me]<sup>+</sup> (100).

*trans*-3,3-Difluoro-1,2-dimethylcyclopropane (**1b**).<sup>21,22</sup> Similarly, the copyrolysis of a mixture of *trans*-but-2-ene (3.41 mmol min<sup>-1</sup>), hexafluoropropylene oxide (5.17 mmol min<sup>-1</sup>), and nitrogen (70 mL min<sup>-1</sup>) at 320–322 °C for 180 min gave a crude product (27.42 g), which was treated as described above and distilled to yield *trans*-3,3-difluoro-1,2-dimethylcyclopropane (**1b**) (15.72 g, 24%) (b.p. 45–47 °C). The product contained ~1% of *cis*-3,3-difluoro-1,2-dimethylcyclopropane (**1a**). <sup>1</sup>H NMR of **1b** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300.1 MHz), δ: 1.15 (m, 6 H, 2 CH<sub>3</sub>); 1.05 (m, 2 H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR of **1b** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 282.4 MHz), δ: -142.5 (m, CF<sub>2</sub>). MS, *m/z* (*I*<sub>rel</sub> (%)): 106 [M]<sup>+</sup> (9), 91 [M - Me]<sup>+</sup> (100).

**1-Chloro-2,2-difluoro-1-methylcyclopropane (1c).** Similarly, the copyrolysis of 2-chloropropene (consumption 1.62 mmol min<sup>-1</sup>) and hexafluoropropylene oxide (consumption 2.78 mmol min<sup>-1</sup>) in the flow of nitrogen (70 mL min<sup>-1</sup>) at 320–325 °C for 240 min gave a crude product (38.52 g), which was treated as described above and distilled to yield 1-chloro-2,2-difluoro-1-methylcyclopropane (**1c**) (15.51 g, 31%) (b.p. 60–62 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300.1 MHz), δ: 1.71 (m, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>); 1.69–1.51 (m, 2 H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 282.4 MHz), δ: -136.1, -139.5 (both br.d, CF<sub>2</sub>, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>F,F</sub> = 154 Hz). MS, *m/z* (*I*<sub>rel</sub> (%)): 111 [M - Me]<sup>+</sup> (8), 91 [M - Cl]<sup>+</sup> (100), 71 (10), 65 (15).

**2,2-Difluoro-1,1-dimethylcyclopropane (1d).**<sup>21</sup> Similarly, the copyrolysis of isobutylene (consumption 3.63 mmol min<sup>-1</sup>) and hexafluoropropylene oxide (consumption 5.83 mmol min<sup>-1</sup>) in the flow of nitrogen (70 mL min<sup>-1</sup>) for 240 min gave a crude product (48.32 g), which was treated as described above and distilled to yield 2,2-difluoro-1,1-dimethylcyclopropane (**1d**) (38.83 g, 42%) (b.p. 40–41 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300.1 MHz), δ: 0.98 (t, 2 H, *J* = 8.6 Hz); 1.20 (m, 6 H, 2 CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 282.4 MHz), δ: -140.2 (m, CF<sub>2</sub>). MS, *m/z* (*I*<sub>rel</sub> (%)): 106 [M]<sup>+</sup> (5), 91 [M - Me]<sup>+</sup> (100).

**Pyrolysis of gem-difluorocyclopropanes 1a–d** was carried out in flow-tube reactors in a flow of nitrogen 70 mL min<sup>-1</sup> at atmospheric pressure. Reactor *A* was a 350 mm quartz tube with an internal diameter of 16 mm; reactor *B* was the same quartz tube, filled in the middle part with a layer (10 g, 7.5 cm long) of γ-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> cylindrical grains, the lower and the upper parts were filled with quartz pieces.

**Pyrolysis of gem-difluorocyclopropanes 1a–d in reactor A.** *cis*-3,3-Difluoro-1,2-dimethylcyclopropane (**1a**) (2.60 g, 24.53 mmol) was added with a syringe at a constant rate over

30 min into an empty flow-tube quartz reactor *A* heated to 420 °C at atmospheric pressure in the flow of nitrogen (70 mL min<sup>-1</sup>). The pyrolysis products coming out of the reactor were collected in a trap cooled with a mixture of solid CO<sub>2</sub>–propan-2-ol. The pyrolysate (2.02 g) contained (GLC and NMR data) 35 wt.% of the starting cyclopropane **1a**, 45% of *trans*-3,3-difluoro-1,2-dimethylcyclopropane **1b**, 5% of *cis*-but-2-ene, and 6% of *trans*-but-2-ene, as well as some minor unidentified products (a total of 8%).

Similarly, the pyrolysis of *trans*-3,3-difluoro-1,2-dimethylcyclopropane (**1b**) (2.60 g, 24.53 mmol) in reactor *A* at 420 °C over 30 min gave a pyrolysate (2.07 g) containing (GLC and NMR data) 47 wt.% of the starting *trans*-3,3-difluoro-1,2-dimethylcyclopropane (**1b**), 34% of *cis*-3,3-difluoro-1,2-dimethylcyclopropane (**1a**), 5% of *cis*-but-2-ene, and 5% of *trans*-but-2-ene, as well as some minor unidentified products (a total of ~9%).

Similarly, the pyrolysis of 1-chloro-2,2-difluoro-1-methylcyclopropane (**1c**) (3.00 g, 23.70 mmol) at 450 °C over 30 min gave a pyrolysate (2.01 g) containing (GLC, NMR, and GC-MS data) 2 wt.% of the starting cyclopropane **1c**, 66% of 2-chloropropene **6**, 25% of 3-chloro-3,3-difluoro-2-methylpropene (**4**), 3% of 3-chloro-1,1-difluoro-2-methylpropene (**5**). The yields (in the mixture) were 17% (**4**), 2% (**5**), 73% (**6**).

**3-Chloro-3,3-difluoro-2-methylpropene (4).** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300.1 MHz), δ: 5.53 (m, 1 H); 5.20 (m, 1 H); 1.69–1.51 (m, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 282.4 MHz), δ: -55.8 (m, 2 F, CF<sub>2</sub>Cl). MS, *m/z* (*I*<sub>rel</sub> (%)): 126, 128 [M]<sup>+</sup> (27, 9), 91 [M - Cl]<sup>+</sup> (100), 71 (**4**), 65 (20).

**3-Chloro-1,1-difluoro-2-methylpropene (5).** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300.1 MHz), δ: 4.10 (m, 2 H); 2.19 (m, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 282.4 MHz), δ: -90.3 (d, 1 F, =CF<sub>2</sub>, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>F,F</sub> = 41 Hz); -91.3 (d, 1 F, =CF<sub>2</sub>, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>F,F</sub> = 41 Hz).

Similarly, the pyrolysis of 2,2-difluoro-1,1-dimethylcyclopropane (**1d**) (2.60 g, 24.53 mmol) at 440 °C in the flow of nitrogen (70 mL min<sup>-1</sup>) over 30 min gave a pyrolysate (1.83 g) containing (GLC and NMR data) 66 wt.% of the starting cyclopropane **1d**, 26% of isobutylene, and several unidentified minor products, each in the amount of 0.1–4% (a total of about 8%). Isobutylene (0.41 g, 30%) was isolated from the mixture by distillation, collecting it in a trap cooled with a mixture of solid CO<sub>2</sub>–propan-2-ol.

**Pyrolysis of gem-difluorocyclopropanes 1a–d in reactor B (in the presence of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>).** A quartz flow-tube reactor *B* containing Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (10 g) was heated over 1 h at 450–550 °C in the flow of N<sub>2</sub> (300 mL min<sup>-1</sup>) for the activation (removal of water) of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, then the reactor was cooled in the flow of N<sub>2</sub> to 185 °C. Then, *cis*-3,3-difluoro-1,2-dimethylcyclopropane (**1a**) (3.00 g, 28.30 mmol) was passed at a constant rate through the reactor at 185 °C in the flow of N<sub>2</sub> (70 mL min<sup>-1</sup>) over 45 min, using a syringe. The pyrolysis products coming out of the reactor were collected in a trap cooled with a mixture of CO<sub>2</sub>–propan-2-ol. The pyrolysate (1.97 g) was sequentially washed with 10% aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and water, dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and distilled to obtain a mixture of the products (1.68 g, b.p. 45–52 °C) containing according to the <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra (calculated using fluorobenzene as an internal standard) the starting cyclopropane **1a** (0.27 mmol), (*Z*)-3-fluoropenta-1,3-diene (**Z-2a**) (15.62 mmol), (*E*)-3-fluoropenta-1,3-diene (**E-2a**) (1.95 mmol), and pent-1-en-3-yne **3a** (1.53 mmol). The yields (in the mixture) were 55% (**Z-2a**), 8% (**E-2a**), 5% (**3a**).

**(Z)-3-Fluoropenta-1,3-diene (Z-2a).**<sup>19</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300.1 MHz), δ: 6.09 (ddd, 1 H, CH=, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 27.8 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 17.4 Hz,

$J_3 = 11.8$  Hz); 5.43 (d, 1 H,  $=\text{CH}_2$ ,  $J_1 = 17.4$  Hz); 5.09 (d, 1 H,  $=\text{CH}_2$ ,  $J_1 = 11.8$  Hz); 4.83 (dq, 1 H,  $\text{CH}=\text{CF}$ ,  $J_1 = 37$  Hz,  $J_2 = 6.9$  Hz); 1.72 (dd, 3 H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ,  $J_1 = 6.9$  Hz,  $J_2 = 1.5$  Hz).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 282.4 MHz),  $\delta$ :  $-127.1$  (dd, 1 F,  $J_1 = 37.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 27.8$  Hz). MS,  $m/z$  ( $I_{\text{rel}}$  (%)): 86 [ $\text{M}]^+$  (100), 85 (65), 71 (15), 66 (60), 65 (40) (for the mixture with **Z-2a** and **E-2a**).

**(E)-3-Fluoropenta-1,3-diene (E-2a)**.<sup>19</sup>  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300.1 MHz),  $\delta$ : 6.44 (ddd, 1 H,  $\text{CH}=\text{}$ ,  $J_1 = 26.5$  Hz,  $J_2 = 16.5$  Hz,  $J_3 = 12.0$  Hz); 5.55 (d, 1 H,  $=\text{CH}_2$ ,  $J = 16.5$  Hz); 5.20 (m, 1 H,  $\text{CH}=\text{CF}$ ); 5.22 (d, 1 H,  $=\text{CH}_2$ ,  $J = 12.0$  Hz); 1.70 (m, 3 H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 282.4 MHz),  $\delta$ :  $-120.8$  (dd, 1 F,  $J_1 = 26.5$ ,  $J_2 = 23.0$  Hz). MS,  $m/z$  ( $I_{\text{rel}}$  (%)): 86 [ $\text{M}]^+$  (100), 85 (65), 71 (15), 66 (60), 65 (40) (for the mixture with **Z-2a** and **E-2a**).

**Pent-1-en-3-yne (3a)**.<sup>23</sup>  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300.1 MHz),  $\delta$ : 5.83–5.18 (m, 1 H,  $\text{C}=\text{CH}-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$ ); 5.56 (d, 1 H,  $=\text{CH}_2$ ,  $J = 17.5$  Hz); 5.39 (d, 1 H,  $=\text{CH}_2$ ,  $J = 11.0$  Hz); 1.96 (s, 3 H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ). MS,  $m/z$  ( $I_{\text{rel}}$  (%)): 66 [ $\text{M}]^+$  (100), 63 (15), 51 (7).

Similarly, the pyrolysis of *trans*-3,3-difluoro-1,2-dimethylcyclopropane (**1b**) (3.00 g, 28.30 mmol) at 185 °C gave a pyrolysate (2.02 g), which was treated as described above and distilled to obtain a mixture of the products (1.71 g, b.p. 44–54 °C) containing according to the  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectra (calculated using fluorobenzene as an internal standard) the starting cyclopropane **1b** (2.58 mmol), **Z-2a** (12.13 mmol), **E-2a** (1.99 mmol), and enyne **3a** (2.07 mmol). The yields (in the mixture) were **Z-2a** (43%), **E-2a** (6%), **3a** (7%).

Similarly, the pyrolysis of *trans*-3,3-difluoro-1,2-dimethylcyclopropane (**1b**) (3.00 g, 28.30 mmol) in reactor **B** at 235 °C gave a pyrolysate (1.72 g), which was treated as described above and distilled to obtain a mixture of the products (1.22 g, b.p. 47–59 °C) containing the starting cyclopropane **1b** (0.23 mmol), **Z-2a** (9.23 mmol), **E-2a** (1.37 mmol), and propenylacetylene **3a** (3.76 mmol). The yields (in the mixture) were 33% (**Z-2a**), 5% (**E-2a**), 13% (**3a**).

Similarly, the pyrolysis of 1-chloro-2,2-difluoro-1-methylcyclopropane (**1c**) (3.00 g, 23.72 mmol) in reactor **B** in the presence of aluminum oxide upon addition at a constant rate at 190 °C over 45 min resulted in a pyrolysate (2.25 g), which was sequentially washed with aqueous solution of  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  and water, dried with  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and distilled to give a mixture of the products (1.94 g, b.p. 48–59 °C) containing according to the  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectra (calculated using fluorobenzene as an internal standard) the starting cyclopropane **1c** (6.75 mmol), 3-chloro-2-fluorobuta-1,3-diene (**2c**) (8.56 mmol), and 2-chlorobut-1-ene-3-yne (**3c**) (0.88 mmol). The yields (in the mixture) were 36% (**2c**), 4% (**3c**).

Similarly, the pyrolysis of cyclopropane **1c** (3.00 g, 23.72 mmol) in reactor **B** at 250 °C gave a pyrolysate (2.13 g), which was sequentially washed with aqueous solution of  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  and water, dried with  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and distilled to give a mixture of the products (1.71 g, b.p. 48–57 °C) containing the starting cyclopropane **1c** (0.73 mmol), 3-chloro-2-fluorobuta-1,3-diene (**2c**) (11.35 mmol), and 2-chloro-1-buten-3-yne (**3c**) (1.95 mmol). The yields (in the mixture) were 48% (**2c**), 8% (**3c**).

**3-Chloro-2-fluorobuta-1,3-diene (2c)**.<sup>19</sup>  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300.1 MHz),  $\delta$ : 5.81 (m, 1 H,  $-\text{CCl}=\text{CH}_2$ ); 5.52 (m, 1 H,  $-\text{CCl}=\text{CH}_2$ ); 5.13 (d, 1 H,  $-\text{CF}=\text{CH}_2$ ,  $J = 47.1$  Hz); 4.96 (d, 1 H,  $-\text{CF}=\text{CH}_2$ ,  $J = 16.9$  Hz).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 282.4 MHz),  $\delta$ :  $-110.1$  (dd, 1 F,  $J_1 = 47.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 16.9$  Hz). MS,  $m/z$  ( $I_{\text{rel}}$  (%)): 108, 106 [ $\text{M}]^+$  (32, 100), 71 [ $\text{M}^+ - \text{Cl}$ ] (62).

**2-Chloro-1-buten-3-yne (3c)**.<sup>24</sup>  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300.1 MHz),  $\delta$ : 5.75 (br.s, 1 H,  $=\text{CH}_2$ ); 5.69 (br.s, 1 H,  $=\text{CH}_2$ ); 3.13 (s, 1 H,  $\text{C}\equiv\text{CH}$ ). MS,  $m/z$  ( $I_{\text{rel}}$  (%)): 88, 86 [ $\text{M}]^+$  (33, 100), 51 [ $\text{M}^+ - \text{Cl}$ ] (92).

Similarly, the pyrolysis of 2,2-difluoro-1,1-dimethylcyclopropane (**1d**) (3.00 g, 28.30 mmol) in reactor **B** at 200 °C upon addition at a constant rate over 45 min gave a pyrolysate (1.93 g), which was sequentially washed with 10% aqueous  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  and water and dried with  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  to yield a mixture of the products (1.73 g) containing according to the  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectra (calculated using fluorobenzene as an internal standard) the starting cyclopropane **1d** (4.24 mmol), 2-fluoro-3-methylbuta-1,3-diene (**2d**) (9.45 mmol, isopropenylacetylene **3d** (2.88 mmol), 3-methylbut-3-en-2-one (**7**) (1.85 mmol), and 3-methylbutan-2-one (**8**) (0.60 mmol). The yields (in the mixture) were 33% (**2d**), 10% (**3d**), 7% (**7**), 2% (**8**).

Similarly, the pyrolysis of cyclopropane (**1d**) (3.00 g, 28.30 mmol) at 220 °C gave a pyrolysate (1.87 g), which was sequentially washed with 10% aqueous  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  and water and dried with  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  to yield a mixture of the products (1.68 g) containing the starting cyclopropane **1a** (2.28 mmol), diene **2d** (9.18 mmol), isopropenylacetylene **3d** (1.78 mmol), ketone **7** (3.60 mmol), and ketone **8** (0.98 mmol). The yields (in the mixture) were **2d** (32%), **3d** (7%), **7** (13%), **8** (3%).

The mixture was distilled at atmospheric pressure, collecting a fraction (1.06 g) with b.p. 37–45 °C, which contained ( $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR data) 17 mol.% of cyclopropane **1a**, 68 mol.% of fluorodiene **2d**, and 10 mol.% of isopropenylacetylene **3d**. The residue was distilled at reduced pressure to give a mixture of the products (0.32 g, b.p. 43–46 °C (135 Torr)) containing ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR data) 3-methylbut-3-en-2-one (**7**) (74%) and 3-methylbutan-2-one (**8**) (21%).

Similarly, the pyrolysis of cyclopropane (**1d**) (3.00 g, 28.30 mmol) in reactor **B** at 235 °C gave a pyrolysate (1.80 g), which was sequentially washed with 10% aqueous  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  and water and dried with  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  to obtain a mixture of the products (1.57 g) containing the starting cyclopropane **1d** (1.48 mmol), diene **2d** (8.22 mmol), isopropenylacetylene **3d** (1.20 mmol), ketone **7** (5.23 mmol), and ketone **8** (1.46 mmol). The yields (in the mixtures) were 29% (**2d**), 4% (**3d**), 19% (**7**), 5% (**8**).

The mixture was distilled at atmospheric pressure to collect a fraction (0.89 g) with b.p. 37–45 °C containing ( $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR data) 12 mol.% of cyclopropane **1d**, 75% of fluorodiene **2d**, and 8% of isopropenylacetylene **3d**. The residue was distilled at reduced pressure to give a mixture of the products (0.46 g, b.p. 42–46 °C (135 Torr)) containing ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR data) 3-methylbut-3-en-2-one (**7**) (78%) and 3-methylbutan-2-one (**8**) (18%).

**2-Fluoro-3-methylbuta-1,3-diene (2d)**.<sup>19</sup>  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300.1 MHz),  $\delta$ : 5.46 (m, 1 H,  $=\text{CH}_2$ ); 5.10 (m, 1 H,  $=\text{CH}_2$ ); 4.71 (d, 1 H,  $-\text{CF}=\text{CH}_2$ ,  $J = 17.8$  Hz); 4.55 (d, 1 H,  $-\text{CF}=\text{CH}_2$ ,  $J = 49.3$  Hz); 1.90 (m, 3 H, Me).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 282.4 MHz),  $\delta$ :  $-109.7$  (dd, 1 F,  $-\text{CF}=\text{CH}_2$ ,  $J_1 = 49.3$  Hz,  $J_2 = 17.8$  Hz). MS,  $m/z$  ( $I_{\text{rel}}$  (%)): 86 [ $\text{M}]^+$  (100), 85 (80), 71 (21), 65 (31), 51 (49).

**2-Methylbut-1-en-3-yne (3d)**.<sup>25,26</sup>  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300.1 MHz),  $\delta$ : 5.43 (m, 1 H,  $\text{C}=\text{CH}_2$ ); 5.33 (m, 1 H,  $\text{C}=\text{CH}_2$ ); 2.90 (s, 1 H,  $\text{C}\equiv\text{CH}$ ); 1.94 (m, 3 H, Me). MS,  $m/z$  ( $I_{\text{rel}}$  (%)): 66 [ $\text{M}]^+$  (100), 65 (84), 51 (36), 50 (30), 40 (45), 39 (70), 28 (36).

**3-Methylbut-3-en-2-one (7)**.<sup>27,28</sup>  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300.1 MHz),  $\delta$ : 5.94 (m, 1 H,  $\text{C}=\text{CH}_2$ ); 5.78 (m, 1 H,  $\text{C}=\text{CH}_2$ );

2.31 (m, 3 H, Me); 1.83 (m, 3 H, Me).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 50.3 MHz),  $\delta$ : 17.3 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 25.4 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 125.2 ( $\text{C}=\text{C}$ ), 145.2 ( $\text{C}=\text{C}$ ), 199.3 ( $\text{C}=\text{O}$ ). MS,  $m/z$  ( $I_{\text{rel}}$  (%)): 84 [ $\text{M}]^+$  (83), 69 (76), 43 (100), 41 (87), 39 (30).

**3-Methylbutan-2-one (8)<sup>29</sup>**.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300.1 MHz),  $\delta$ : 2.60 (m, 1 H, CH); 2.15 (s, 3 H, Me); 1.10 (d, 6 H, 2 Me,  $J=7.0$  Hz).  $^{13}\text{C}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 50.3 MHz),  $\delta$ : 17.6 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 26.8 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 40.9 (CH), 211.2 ( $\text{C}=\text{O}$ ). MS,  $m/z$  ( $I_{\text{rel}}$  (%)): 86 [ $\text{M}]^+$  (27), 71(5), 43(100), 41 (15), 39(5).

This work was financially supported by the Division of Chemistry and Material Sciences of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Program for Basic Research "Theoretical and Experimental Studies of the Chemical Bond Nature and Mechanisms of Principal Chemical Reactions and Processes") and the President of the Russian Federation Council for Grants (Program for State Support of Leading Scientific Schools of the Russian Federation, Grant NSh-1310.2014.3).

### References

- (a) H. Jendralla, *Cyclopropyl to allyl rearrangement*, in *Methods of Organic Chemistry (Houben-Weyl)*, Ed. A. de Meijere, Thieme, Stuttgart, 1997, Vol. E17c, 2313; (b) R. R. Kostikov, A. P. Molchanov, H. Hopf, *Top. Curr. Chem.*, 1990, **155**, 41; (c) M. Fedorynski, *Chem. Rev.*, 2003, **103**, 1099; (d) W. R. Dolbier, Jr., M. A. Battiste, *Chem. Rev.*, 2003, **103**, 1071; (e) R. Bartlet, Y. Quang, *Bull. Soc. Chim. Fr.*, 1969, 3729; (f) M. Schlosser, *Tetrahedron*, 1978, **34**, 3.
- (a) R. Fields, R. N. Haszeldine, D. Peter, *J. Chem. Soc. (C)*, 1969, 165–172; (b) K. A. Holbrook, K. A. W. Parry, *J. Chem. Soc. (B)*, 1970, 1019.
- (a) N. V. Volchkov, M. A. Novikov, M. B. Lipkind, O. M. Nefedov, *Mendeleev Commun.*, 2013, 19; (b) M. A. Novikov, N. V. Volchkov, M. B. Lipkind, O. M. Nefedov, *Russ. Chem. Bull. (Int. Ed.)*, 2013, **62**, 71 [*Izv. Akad. Nauk, Ser. Khim.*, 2013, 71].
- (a) G. C. Robinson, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1968, **33**, 607; (b) M. S. Baird, B. S. Mahli, L. Sheppard, *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. I*, 1990, 1881; (c) R. P. Clifford, K. A. Holbrook, *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 2*, 1972, 1972.
- N. V. Volchkov, M. B. Lipkind, A. V. Zabolotskikh, A. V. Ignatenko, O. M. Nefedov, *Mendeleev Commun.*, 2006, 153.
- P. Weyerstahl, D. Klamann, C. Finger, M. Fligge, F. Nerdel, J. Buddrus, *Chem. Ber.*, 1968, **101**, 1303.
- E. V. Guseva, N. V. Volchkov, Yu. V. Tomilov, O. M. Nefedov, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.*, 2004, **14**, 3136.
- T. B. Patrick, J. Rogers, K. Gorrell, *Org. Lett.*, 2002, **4**, 3155.
- O. M. Nefedov, N. V. Volchkov, *Mendeleev Commun.*, 2006, 121.
- (a) O. M. Nefedov, A. A. Ivashenko, *Bull. Acad. Sci. USSR, Div. Chem. Sci. (Engl. Transl.)*, 1968, **17**, 445 [*Izv. Akad. Nauk SSSR, Ser. Khim.*, 1968, 446]; (b) O. M. Nefedov, A. A. Ivashenko, *Bull. Acad. Sci. USSR, Div. Chem. Sci. (Engl. Transl.)*, 1968, **17**, 1346 [*Izv. Akad. Nauk SSSR, Ser. Khim.*, 1968, 1417]; (c) N. V. Volchkov, A. V. Zabolotskikh, A. V. Ignatenko, O. M. Nefedov, *Bull. Acad. Sci. USSR, Div. Chem. Sci. (Engl. Transl.)*, 1990, **39**, 1458 [*Izv. Akad. Nauk SSSR, Ser. Khim.*, 1990, 1609]; (d) N. V. Volchkov, A. V. Zabolotskikh, M. B. Lipkind, O. M. Nefedov, *Bull. Acad. Sci. USSR, Div. Chem. Sci. (Engl. Transl.)*, 1989, **38**, 1782 [*Izv. Akad. Nauk SSSR, Ser. Khim.*, 1989, 1935].
- W. E. Parham, R. R. Twelves, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1957, **22**, 730.
- M. Christl, M. Braun, H. Fischer, S. Groetsch, G. Muller, D. Leusser, S. Deuerlein, D. Stalke, M. Arnone, B. Engels, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.*, 2006, 5045.
- W. R. Dolbier, Jr., J. J. Keaffaber, C. R. Burkholder, H. Koroniac, J. Pradhan, *Tetrahedron*, 1992, **48**, 9649.
- (a) W. R. Dolbier, Jr., *Acc. Chem. Res.*, 1981, **14**, 195; (b) W. R. Dolbier, Jr., S. F. Sellers, *J. Am. Soc. Chem.*, 1982, **104**, 2494; (c) W. R. Dolbier, Jr., S. F. Sellers, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1982, **47**, 1; (d) J. C. Ferrero, E. A. R. De Staricco, E. H. Staricco, *J. Phys. Chem.*, 1975, **79**, 1242.
- W. R. Dolbier, Jr., H. O. Enoch, *J. Am. Soc. Chem.*, 1977, **99**, 4532–4533.
- J. M. Birchall, R. N. Haszeldine, D. W. Roberts, *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.*, 1967, 287.
- B. Atkinson, D. McKeagan, *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.*, 1966, 287.
- N. V. Volchkov, M. B. Lipkind, A. V. Zabolotskikh, O. M. Nefedov, *Bull. Acad. Sci. USSR, Div. Chem. Sci. (Engl. Transl.)*, 1990, **39**, 211 [*Izv. Akad. Nauk SSSR, Ser. Khim.*, 1990, 228].
- N. V. Volchkov, M. B. Lipkind, A. V. Zabolotskikh, O. M. Nefedov, *Russ. Chem. Bull. (Int. Ed.)*, 2014, **63**, 2250 [*Izv. Akad. Nauk, Ser. Khim.*, 2014, 2250].
- (a) I. V. Kozhernikov, *Chem. Rev.*, 1998, **98**, 171; (b) R. Mello, A. Alcalde-Aragones, M. E. Gonzalez-Nunez, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 2010, **51**, 4281.
- M. Kamel, W. Kimpenhaus, J. Buddrus, *Chem. Ber.*, 1976, **109**, 2351.
- R. A. Mitsch, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1965, **87**, 758.
- M. L. Brewitz, J. Llaverid, A. Yada, A. Fürstner, *Chemistry—A European J.*, 2013, **19**, 4532.
- R. Vestin, A. Borg, T. Lindblom, *Acta Chem. Scand.*, 1968, **22**, 687.
- E. Defranq, T. Zesiger, R. Tabacchi, *Helv. Chim. Acta*, 1993, **76**, 425.
- W. S. Trahanovsky, S. L. Emeis, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1975, **97**, 3773.
- R. Mello, A. Alcalde-Aragones, M. E. Gonzalez-Nunez, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 2010, **51**, 4281.
- C. Delseth, T. T.-T. Nguyen, J.-P. Kintzinger, *Helv. Chim. Acta.*, 1980, **63**, 498.
- D. Derouet, L. Cauret, J.-C. Brosse, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2001, **66**, 3767.

Received February 2, 2015