

1 H), 6.90 (d, $J = 5.1$ Hz, 1 H), 7.13 (d, $J = 5.1$ Hz, 1 H). Anal. Calcd for $C_{15}H_{23}NOS$: C, 64.68; H, 9.60; N, 5.80. Found: C, 64.86; H, 9.85; N, 5.66.

Treatment of 12o with Equimolar *n*-BuLi Followed by Benzaldehyde. In a manner similar to that described above, 12o (128 mg, 0.9 mmol) was treated with *n*-BuLi (0.66 mL, 1.1 mmol) and then benzaldehyde (117 mg, 1.1 mmol) in ether (11 mL) to give a mixture of 2-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-5-(α -hydroxybenzyl)-3-methylfuran (22o), 2-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-3-(2-hydroxy-2-phenylethyl)furan (27o), and 17o. Compound 22o and 27o were separated on a silica gel column (EtOAc/MeOH). The result is shown in Table IV.

22o: bp 100 °C (0.2 mmHg, Kugelrohr); IR (film) 3330, 1602 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 1.93 (s, 3 H), 2.20 (s, 6 H), 3.36, 3.39

(AB-q, $J = 13.7$ Hz, 2 H), 5.78 (s, 1 H), 5.81 (s, 1 H), 7.31–7.37 (m, 3 H), 7.42–7.45 (m, 2 H). Anal. Calcd for $C_{15}H_{19}NO_2$: C, 73.44; H, 7.81; N, 5.71. Found: C, 73.62; H, 7.83; N, 5.61.

27o: bp 100 °C (0.2 mmHg, Kugelrohr); IR (film) 3350, 1605 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 2.30 (s, 6 H), 2.78 (dd, $J = 8.1, 14.7$ Hz, 1 H), 2.90 (dd, $J = 2.9, 14.7$ Hz, 1 H), 3.37, 3.48 (AB-q, $J = 13.7$ Hz, 2 H), 7.22 (d, $J = 1.7$ Hz, 1 H), 7.21–7.25 (m, 5 H). Anal. Calcd for $C_{15}H_{19}NO_2$: C, 73.44; H, 7.81; N, 5.71. Found: C, 73.35; H, 7.98; N, 5.61.

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Preparation of New Classes of Aliphatic, Allylic, and Benzylic Zinc and Copper Reagents by the Insertion of Zinc Dust into Organic Halides, Phosphates, and Sulfonates

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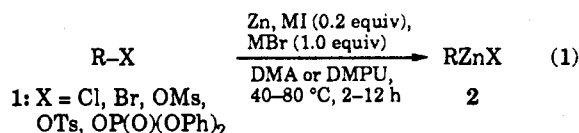
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The insertion of zinc dust into primary alkyl chlorides, bromides, phosphates, and sulfonates in a polar solvent (DMPU, DMA) and in the presence of a catalytic amount of LiI (0.2 equiv) provides new organozinc reagents of the type $RZnX$ ($X = Cl, Br, OSO_2R, OP(O)(OR)_2$) in excellent yields. After the transmetalation to the corresponding copper reagent $RCu(CN)_2ZnX$ using $CuCN \cdot 2LiCl$, the addition of electrophiles, such as Michael acceptors, affords the desired adducts. Similarly, various new allylic and benzylic zinc reagents were prepared without the formation of any Wurtz-coupling side product and reacted with various electrophiles.

Polyfunctional organozinc and copper reagents are important intermediates in organic synthesis.² They react efficiently with various classes of electrophiles^{2,3} allowing the construction of highly functionalized molecules without having to use extensively protection-deprotection or functional group interconversion methodologies. They are conveniently prepared by the insertion of zinc dust into alkyl iodides in THF between 25 and 50 °C.^{2,3} The less expensive alkyl bromides or chlorides are usually not reactive enough to insert zinc dust and require the use of highly activated zinc metal.⁴ We wish to report herein

reaction conditions allowing the insertion of zinc dust (Aldrich) to primary alkyl chlorides, bromides, sulfonates, or phosphates 1 (eq 1).



Thus, the treatment of the primary alkyl bromide with zinc dust in a polar solvent such as *N,N*-dimethylacetamide (DMA)⁵ or *N,N*-dimethylpropyleneurea (DMPU)⁶ in the presence of a catalytic amount of an alkali iodide (0.2 equiv) furnishes the corresponding alkylzinc bromide in excellent yields (>85%). Remarkably, the reaction can be extended to the preparation of new alkylzinc chlorides, tosylates, mesylates and diphenylphosphates 2 ($RZnX$; X

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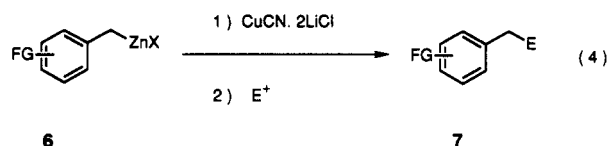
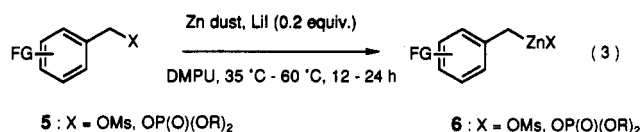
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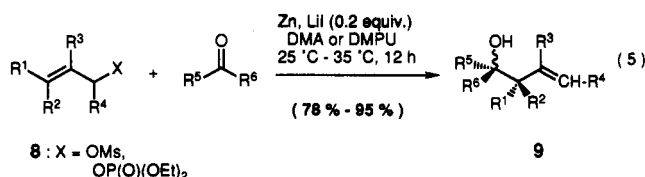
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whereas allyl bromide is converted to allylzinc bromide in almost quantitative yield (zinc, THF, 10 °C, 3 h),¹¹ substituted allylic bromides such as 2-(bromomethyl)hexene lead under similar reaction conditions (zinc, THF, 0 °C, 5 h) to appreciable amounts of Wurtz-coupling products. The use of allylic mesylates or the more stable¹² allylic phosphates 8 (X = OP(O)(OEt)₂) allows the generation of the corresponding allylic zinc organometallic under Barbier conditions^{13,14} in the presence of zinc (ca. 2.0 equiv), a catalytic amount of LiI (0.2 equiv), and the carbonyl compound in DMA or DMPU leading to homoallylic alcohols 9 in excellent yields (78–95%; eq 5 and Table III).



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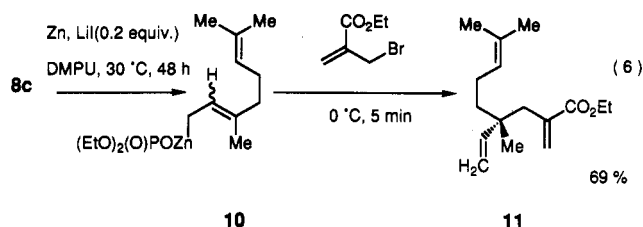
(12) Allylic phosphates are readily prepared from the corresponding alcohols ((EtO)₂P(O)Cl (1.05 equiv), Pyr (2 equiv), 0 °C, 4 h, 95% yield) and are considerably more stable and easier to handle than the corresponding mesylates: (a) Poulter, C. D.; Satterwhite, D. M. *Biochemistry* 1977, 16, 5471. (b) Poulter, C. D.; King, C.-H. R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1982, 104, 1422. For a recent use of allylic phosphates as electrophiles see: (c) Yanagisawa, A.; Nomura, N.; Yamamoto, H. *Synlett* 1991, 513. (d) Lithium halides react rapidly with allylic phosphates in DMF at 25 °C to afford the corresponding allylic halide with retention of the stereochemistry of the double bond: Araki, S.; Ohmori, K.; Butsugan, Y. *Synthesis* 1984, 841.

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No homocoupling products were produced under these conditions even in the case of disubstituted allylic precursors (entries 5–8 of Table III). The new carbon-carbon bond was formed from the most substituted end of the allylic system leading to a mixture of diastereoisomers with moderate diastereoselectivity (4:1–9:1). This diastereoselectivity can be substantially improved by replacing zinc dust with chromium chloride allowing a very convenient construction of homoallylic alcohols bearing quaternary carbon centers with a defined stereochemistry.¹⁵

The preparation of the allylic organometallic in a first step followed in a second step by the addition of an electrophile is also possible. Thus, the treatment of 8c with Zn (3.0 equiv) in the presence of LiI (0.2 equiv) in DMPU (30 °C, 48 h) provides the allylic zinc phosphate 10 which reacts readily with ethyl α-(bromomethyl)acrylate⁸ (0 °C, 0.1 h) affording the unsaturated ester 11 in 69% yield (eq 6).



In summary, we have developed the preparation of several new classes of aliphatic, allylic, and benzylic zinc organometallics RZnX (X ≠ iodide) starting from readily available organic precursors. Especially noteworthy is the absence of Wurtz-coupling side products in the preparation of benzylic and allylic zinc derivatives starting from the corresponding sulfonates or phosphates. These procedures will significantly extend the scope of organozinc preparations and should find broad synthetic applications.

Experimental Section

General. All reactions were carried out under an inert atmosphere. The solvents and cosolvents THF, DMPU, and DMA were distilled from CaH₂. Anhydrous LiI, LiBr, CsI, and NaBr (Aldrich) were dried for 1 h at 120 °C (0.1 mmHg) before use. The tosylates, mesylates,¹⁶ and phosphates¹² as well as 2-(ethylthio)-1-nitrocyclohexene,^{3f,17} (E)-2-(phenylsulfonyl)nitroethylene,^{3f,17} 3-iodocyclohexenone,⁷ *tert*-butyl-α-(bromomethyl)acetylene,⁸ 2-butyl-2-propenol,¹⁸ and 1-nitropentene¹⁹ were prepared according to the literature.

Typical Procedure: Preparation of an Alkylzinc-Copper Sulfonate and Its Reaction with an Electrophile. Preparation of 3-(3,7-Dimethyl-6-octenyl)-2-cyclohexenone (4f).

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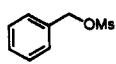
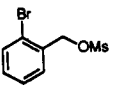
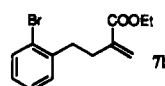
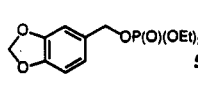
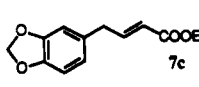
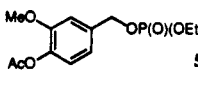
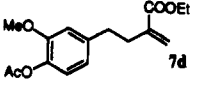
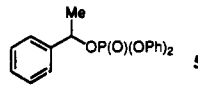
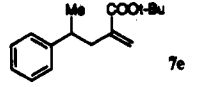
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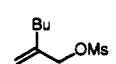
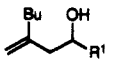
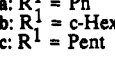
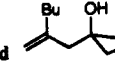
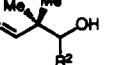
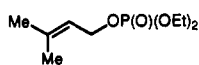
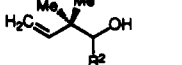
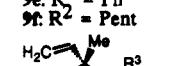
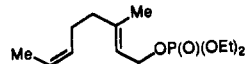
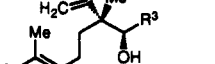
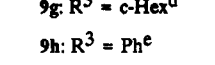
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Table II. Products 7 Obtained by the Reaction of Benzylic Mesylates or Phosphates with Zinc Dust in the Presence of LiI in DMPU, Followed by the Addition of CuCN•2LiCl and an Electrophile

entry	benzylic precursor 5	reactn condns ^a (°C, h)	electrophile	products 7	yield ^b (%)
1	 5a	(35,12)		 7a	95
2	 5b	(60,24)		 7b	86 ^c
3	 5c	(50,12)	H-C≡C-COOEt	 7c	84
4	 5d	(60,24)		 7d	82 ^c
5	 5e	(40,24)		 7e	72

^a Reaction conditions used to prepare the zinc organometallic reagent. ^b All yields refer to isolated yields of compounds being over 98% pure by GC analysis. ^c The addition of LiBr (1.0 equiv) was necessary to promote the zinc insertion.

Table III. Homoallylic Alcohols 9 Prepared by the Reaction of Allylic Mesylates or Phosphates with a Carbonyl Compound and Zinc in DMA or DMPU

entry	allylic precursor 8	reactn condns	aldehyde or ketone	alcohol 9	yield ^a (%)
1		(25,48) ^b	PhCHO		88
2	8a	(35,24) ^b	c-HexCHO		80
3	8a	(35,24) ^b	PentCHO		81
4	8a	(35,24) ^b	cyclohexanone		80
5		(25,12) ^b	PhCHO		95
6	8b	(25,12) ^c	PentCHO		85
7		(25,12) ^c	c-HexCHO		78
8	8c	(25,12) ^c	PhCHO		95

^a All yields refer to isolated yields of compounds being over 98% pure by GC analysis. ^b Reactions performed in DMPU. ^c Reactions performed in DMA. ^d Mixture of two diastereoisomers, 9:1 (1R*,2R*/1R*,2S*). ^e Mixture of two diastereoisomers, 4:1 (1S*,2S*/1S*,2R*).

3,7-Dimethyl-6-octenyl *p*-toluenesulfonate (1e) (1.55 g, 5 mmol), LiI (0.13 g, 1 mmol), and LiBr (0.44 g, 5 mmol) were added at 25 °C to a zinc dust (Aldrich) suspension (0.98 g, 15 mmol in 4 mL of DMA) previously activated with 1,2-dibromoethane (0.10 mL) and Me₃SiCl (0.05 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 12 h until GC analysis of a hydrolyzed aliquot showed the complete consumption of the starting tosylate and the formation of 2,6-dimethyl-2-octene. After the excess zinc was settled, the zinc reagent solution was added via syringe to a solution of CuCN (0.4 g, 4.5 mmol) and LiCl (0.38 g, 9 mmol) in 2 mL of THF at -40 °C. The reaction mixture was then warmed to 0 °C, and 3-iodo-2-cyclohexenone⁷ (0.78 g, 3.5 mmol) was added at -78 °C. After 12 h at -30 °C, the reaction mixture was worked up as usual and the residue was purified by flash chromatography (hexane/Et₂O (6:1)) to give the analytically pure product 4f (0.78 g, 85% yield); see entry 6 of Table I: IR (neat) 2925 (s), 2869 (m), 2856 (m), 1672 (s), 1626 (w) cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 200 MHz) δ 5.84 (s, 1 H), 5.05 (m, 1 H), 2.27 (m, 6 H), 1.94 (m, 4 H), 1.65 (s, 3 H), 1.57 (s, 3 H), 1.32 (m, 5 H), 0.87 (d, 3 H, *J* = 7.8 Hz); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75.5 MHz) δ 199.3, 166.5, 131.0, 125.4, 124.4, 37.1, 36.6,

35.4, 33.9, 31.9, 29.5, 25.4, 25.2, 22.5, 19.1, 17.3; MS (EI, 70 eV) 234 (8), 163 (4), 123 (100), 110 (30), 82 (7); exact mass calcd for C₁₆H₂₆O 234.1984, obsd 234.1983.

Ethyl 7-Nitro-6-phenylheptanoate (4a). Oil; 0.83 g (85% yield) prepared from ethyl 5-bromopentanoate (1.05 g, 5.0 mmol) and nitrostyrene (0.52 g, 3.5 mmol). Reaction conditions: 5 °C, 12 h. Purified by flash chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 5/1): IR (neat) 2981 (w), 2937 (m), 1732 (s), 1553 (s), 1379 (m) cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.29 (m, 3 H), 7.17 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 4.53 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 7.6, 2.0 Hz), 4.07 (q, 2 H, *J* = 7.1 Hz), 3.43 (quint, 1 H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 2.22 (t, 2 H, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 1.70 (q, 2 H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 1.55 (m, 2 H), 1.29 (m, 2 H), 1.20 (t, 3 H, *J* = 7.1 Hz); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75.5 MHz) δ 173.1, 139.2, 128.7, 127.4, 127.3, 80.6, 59.9, 44.0, 33.7, 32.4, 26.1, 24.4, 13.9; MS (CI, NH₄⁺) 297 (MNH₄⁺, 100), 280 (4), 263 (21), 248 (7), 136 (10); exact mass calcd for C₁₅H₂₁NO₄H⁺ 280.1549, obsd 280.1548.

Ethyl 5-[1-(2-Nitro-1-cyclohexenyl)]pentanoate (4b). Oil, 0.73 g (87% yield) prepared from ethyl 4-bromobutanoate (0.98 g, 5.0 mmol) and 1-(ethylthio)-2-nitrocyclohexene^{3f} (0.65 g, 3.5 mmol). Reaction conditions: 0 °C, 12 h. Purified by flash

chromatography (hexane/Et₂O = 19/1); IR (neat) 2979 (m), 2942 (s), 2867 (m), 1734 (s), 1515 (s), 1421 (w), 1329 (s), 1271 (m), 1139 (m), 784 (w) cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 4.13 (q, 2 H, *J* = 7.1 Hz), 2.56 (m, 2 H), 2.31 (m, 6 H), 1.85 (m, 2 H), 1.68 (m, 4 H), 1.26 (t, 3 H, *J* = 7.1 Hz); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 90 MHz) δ 172.9, 145.9, 141.3, 60.2, 33.7, 30.2, 26.4, 22.8, 22.1, 21.4, 14.0; MS (CI, CH₄) 242 (MH⁺, 16), 224 (14), 194 (87), 178 (16), 166 (37), 149 (100), 136 (35), 121 (29), 107 (32). Anal. Calcd for C₁₂H₁₉NO₄: C, 59.73; H, 7.94; N, 5.80. Found: C, 59.35; H, 7.74; N, 5.40.

1-Chloro-5-(nitromethyl)octane (4c). Oil, 0.55 g (76% yield) prepared from 1-bromo-4-chlorobutane (0.86 g, 5.0 mmol) and 1-nitropentene¹⁹ (0.40, 3.5 mmol). Reaction conditions: 0 °C, 12 h. Purified by flash chromatography (hexane/Et₂O = 20/1): IR (neat) 2959 (s), 2935 (s), 2872 (m), 1557 (s), 1546 (s), 1383 (m) cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 4.28 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 7.0, 2.2 Hz), 3.50 (t, 2 H, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 2.18 (m, 1 H), 1.73 (quint, 2 H, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 1.37 (m, 8 H), 0.88 (t, 3 H, *J* = 6.0 Hz); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 90 MHz) δ 79.2, 44.2, 36.9, 33.1, 32.2, 30.3, 23.2, 19.2, 13.9; MS (CI, CH₄) 208 (MH⁺, 22), 161 (100), 125 (25); exact mass calcd for C₉H₁₈ClNO₂H⁺ 208.1104, obsd 208.1118.

(E)-Ethyl 6-Nitro-5-hexenoate (4d). Oil, 1.10 g (79% yield) prepared from ethyl 4-iodobutanoate (2.42 g, 10.0 mmol) and (E)-1-nitro-2-(phenylsulfonyl)ethylene^{3f,17} (1.60 g, 7.5 mmol). Reaction conditions: -40 °C, 1 h. Purified by flash chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 9/1): IR (neat) 2983 (m), 2940 (m), 1732 (s), 1650 (m), 1526 (s), 1354 (s) cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.23 (dt, 1 H, *J* = 13.8, 6.9 Hz), 6.98 (d, 1 H, *J* = 13.4 Hz), 4.12 (q, 2 H, *J* = 7.1 Hz), 2.35 (m, 4 H), 1.84 (quint, 2 H, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 1.24 (t, 3 H, *J* = 7.1 Hz); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75.5 MHz) δ 172.4, 141.2, 140.0, 60.3, 33.1, 27.4, 22.8, 14.0; MS (CI, CH₄ and NH₄⁺) 205 (MNH₄⁺, 5), 188 (20), 170 (21), 153 (12), 142 (100). Anal. Calcd for C₉H₁₃NO₄: C, 51.33; H, 7.00; N, 7.48. Found: C, 51.73; H, 6.87; N, 6.79.

(E)-Ethyl 6-Carbethoxyhex-2-enoate (4e).^{3c} Oil, 0.58 g (78% yield) prepared from ethyl 4-chlorobutanoate (0.75 g, 5.0 mmol) and ethyl propiolate (0.34 g, 3.5 mmol). Reaction conditions: -20 °C, 12 h. Purified by flash chromatography (hexane/Et₂O = 9/1): ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 200 MHz) δ 6.92 (dt, 1 H, *J* = 15.6, 6.8 Hz), 5.82 (dd, 1 H, *J* = 15.6, 1.3 Hz), 4.17 (m, 4 H), 2.39 (m, 4 H), 1.79 (quint, 2 H, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 1.24 (m, 6 H); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75.5 MHz) δ 172.7, 166.1, 147.4, 122.0, 60.1, 59.9, 33.3, 31.1, 23.1, 14.0.

1-(4-Chlorobutyl)-2-nitrocyclohexene (4g). Oil, 0.65 g (85% yield) prepared from 4-chlorobutyl methanesulfonate (0.93 g, 5.0 mmol) and 1-(ethylthio)-2-nitrocyclohexene^{3f} (0.65 g, 3.5 mmol). Reaction conditions: 25 °C, 12 h. Purified by flash chromatography (hexane/Et₂O = 20/1): IR (neat) 2866 (m), 1549 (w), 1513 (s), 1358 (m) cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 3.55 (t, 2 H, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 2.55 (br s, 2 H), 2.27 (m, 4 H), 1.69 (m, 8 H); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75.5 MHz) δ 145.8, 141.4, 44.4, 33.0, 32.3, 30.3, 26.5, 24.9, 22.2, 21.5; MS (CI, NH₄⁺) 235 (MNH₄⁺, 100), 202 (16), 188 (11), 166 (10), 150 (6), 136 (86); exact mass calcd for C₁₀H₁₆NO₃³⁶CINH₄⁺ 235.1213, obsd 235.1195.

3-[1-(5-Carbomethoxypentyl)]cyclohex-2-enone (4h). Oil, 0.67 g (86% yield) prepared from 5-carbomethoxypentyl methanesulfonate (1.12 g, 5.0 mmol) and 3-iodocyclohex-2-enone⁷ (0.78 g, 3.5 mmol). Reaction conditions: -10 °C, 12 h. Purified by flash chromatography (hexane/Et₂O = 3/1): IR (neat) 2939 (s), 2865 (m), 1739 (s), 1671 (s), 1625 (m) cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 360 MHz) δ 5.82 (t, 1 H, *J* = 1.3 Hz), 3.63 (s, 3 H), 2.25 (m, 8 H), 1.95 (quint, 2 H, *J* = 6.2 Hz), 1.61 (quint 2 H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 1.49 (quint, 2 H, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 1.31 (m, 2 H); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 90 MHz) δ 199.1, 173.4, 165.7, 125.2, 51.0, 37.3, 36.9, 33.3, 29.2, 28.2, 26.1, 24.2, 22.3; MS (EI, 70 eV) 224 (8), 165 (8), 136 (8), 123 (100), 110 (42); exact mass calcd for C₁₃H₂₀O₃ 224.1412, obsd 224.1403.

Methyl 6-[1-(2-Nitro-1-cyclohexenyl)]hexanoate (4i). Oil, 1.12 g (82% yield) prepared from 5-carbomethoxypentyl methanesulfonate (1.12 g, 5.0 mmol) and 1-(ethylthio)-2-nitrocyclohexene^{3f} (0.65 g, 3.5 mmol). Reaction conditions: 0 °C, 12 h. Purified by flash chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 49/1): IR (neat) 2944 (s), 2864 (m), 1734 (s), 1649 (w), 1510 (s), 1345 (s) cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 360 MHz) δ 3.66 (s, 3 H), 2.55 (m, 2 H), 2.26 (m, 6 H), 1.72 (m, 2 H), 1.64 (m, 4 H), 1.50 (m, 2 H), 1.35 (m, 2 H); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 90 MHz) δ 173.7, 145.2, 142.40, 51.1, 33.7, 33.6, 30.3, 28.9, 27.2, 26.3, 24.4, 22.0, 21.3; MS (CI, NH₄⁺) 273 (MNH₄⁺, 84), 226 (10), 205 (13), 136 (100); exact mass calcd for C₁₃H₂₁NO₄H⁺ 256.1549, obsd 256.1546.

tert-Butyl 2-Methyleneundecanoate (4j). Oil, 0.76 g (85% yield) prepared from diphenyl octyl phosphate (1.81 g, 5.0 mmol) and *tert*-butyl α-(bromomethyl)acrylate⁸ (0.77 g, 3.5 mmol). Reaction conditions: -20 °C, 12 h. Purified by flash chromatography (hexane/Et₂O = 49/1): IR (neat) 3012 (w), 2928 (s), 2855 (s), 1715 (s), 1631 (w) cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 6.01 (s, 1 H), 5.42 (s, 1 H), 2.24 (t, 2 H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.49 (s, 9 H), 1.46 (m, 2 H), 1.26 (m, 12 H), 0.87 (t, 3 H, *J* = 6.7 Hz); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75.5 MHz) δ 166.6, 142.9, 122.7, 80.1, 32.0, 31.8, 29.5, 29.4, 29.2, 28.6, 28.1, 22.6, 13.9; MS (CI, NH₄⁺) 272 (MNH₄⁺, 34), 255 (10), 216 (10), 136 (100); exact mass calcd for C₁₈H₃₀O₂H⁺ 255.2324, obsd 255.2331.

Typical Procedure: Preparation of a Benzylic Zinc-Copper Phosphate (ArCH₂Cu(CN)ZnOP(O)(OEt)₂) and Its Reaction with an Electrophile. Preparation of (E)-Ethyl 4-[3,4-(Methylenedioxy)phenyl]but-2-enoate (7c). Diethyl 3,4-(methylenedioxy)benzyl phosphate 5c (1.44 g, 5 mmol) and LiI (0.13 g, 1 mmol) were added to a zinc dust suspension (0.98 g, 15 mmol) in DMA (4 mL) activated as described above. After 12 h at 50 °C, the formation of the zinc reagent was complete. After a transmetalation with CuCN·2LiCl (see above), addition of ethyl propiolate (0.39 g, 4 mmol; 0 °C, 5 min), usual workup, and flash chromatography (hexane/Et₂O = 19/1), the unsaturated ester 7c (0.79 g, 84% yield; entry 3 of Table II) was obtained as a pure oil (>98% pure by GC analysis): IR (neat) 2902 (m), 2779 (w), 1715 (s), 1654 (s) cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 200 MHz) δ 7.04 (dt, 1 H, *J* = 16.4, 6.5 Hz), 6.75 (d, 1 H, *J* = 7.7 Hz), 6.63 (m, 2 H), 5.94 (s, 2 H), 5.78 (dt, 1 H, *J* = 15.5, 1.6 Hz), 4.17 (q, 2 H, *J* = 7.1 Hz), 3.42 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 6.7, 1.6 Hz), 1.27 (t, 3 H, *J* = 7.1 Hz); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75.5 MHz) δ 166.4, 147.9, 147.2, 146.4, 131.4, 122.3, 121.7, 109.2, 108.4, 100.9, 60.2, 38.0, 14.1; MS (EI, 70 eV) 234 (100), 205 (21), 189 (38), 159 (51), 131 (90), 103 (60); exact mass calcd for C₁₃H₁₄O₄ 234.0892, obsd 234.0887.

3-Benzylcyclohex-2-enone (7a). Oil, 0.62 g (95% yield) prepared from benzyl methanesulfonate (0.93 g, 5.0 mmol) and 3-iodocyclohex-2-enone⁷ (0.78 g, 3.5 mmol). Reaction conditions: -30 °C, 12 h. Purified by flash chromatography (hexane/Et₂O = 5/1): IR (neat) 3061 (w), 3028 (w), 2928 (m), 1669 (s), 1626 (s) cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 360 MHz) δ 7.29 (m, 3 H), 7.14 (d, 2 H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 5.86 (s, 1 H), 3.50 (s, 2 H), 2.34 (t, 2 H, *J* = 6.7 Hz), 2.25 (t, 2 H, *J* = 5.9 Hz), 1.94 (m, 2 H); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 90 MHz) δ 198.6, 163.8, 136.6, 128.5, 128.1, 126.3, 43.8, 36.7, 28.6, 22.1; MS (EI, 70 eV) 186 (65), 168 (8), 158 (100), 129 (72), 115 (38), 91 (37); exact mass calcd for C₁₃H₁₄O 186.1045, obsd 186.1040.

Ethyl 4-(2-Bromophenyl)-2-methylenebutanoate (7b). Oil, 0.85 g (86% yield) prepared from (2-bromophenyl)methyl methanesulfonate (1.62 g, 5.0 mmol) and ethyl α-(bromomethyl)acrylate⁸ (0.68 g, 3.5 mmol). Reaction conditions: -20 °C, 12 h. Purified by flash chromatography (hexane/Et₂O = 32/1): IR (neat) 3057 (w), 2981 (m), 1717 (s), 1631 (m) cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 360 MHz) δ 7.52 (d, 1 H, *J* = 7.7 Hz), 7.23 (m, 2 H), 7.05 (m, 1 H), 6.17 (s, 1 H), 5.52 (s, 1 H), 4.22 (q, 2 H, *J* = 7.1 Hz), 2.92 (t, 2 H, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 2.61 (t, 2 H, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 1.32 (t, 3 H, *J* = 7.1 Hz); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 90 MHz) δ 166.9, 140.6, 139.7, 132.7, 130.4, 127.6, 127.3, 125.3, 124.4, 60.5, 35.2, 32.1, 14.1; MS (EI, 70 eV) 282 (1), 169 (100), 157 (47), 129 (42); exact mass calcd for C₁₃H₁₅O₂⁷⁹Br 282.0255, obsd 282.0252.

Ethyl 4-(4-Acetoxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-2-methylenebutanoate (7d). Oil, 0.84 g (82% yield) prepared from diethyl (4-acetoxy-3-methoxyphenyl)methyl phosphate (1.66 g, 5.0 mmol) and ethyl α-(bromomethyl)acrylate⁸ (0.77 g, 3.5 mmol). Reaction conditions: -20 °C, 12 h. Purified by flash chromatography (hexane/Et₂O = 24/1): IR (neat) 2981 (m), 2939 (m), 2845 (w), 1767 (s), 1710 (s), 1630 (m) cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 200 MHz) δ 6.86 (m, 3 H), 6.16 (s, 1 H), 5.52 (s, 1 H), 4.21 (t, 2 H, *J* = 7.1 Hz), 3.80 (s, 3 H), 2.68 (m, 4 H), 2.28 (s, 3 H), 1.30 (t, 3 H, *J* = 7.0 Hz); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75.5 MHz) δ 168.9, 166.9, 150.9, 140.3, 140.1, 138.1, 125.0, 122.4, 120.5, 112.8, 60.6, 55.8, 34.9, 33.8, 20.5, 14.1; MS (EI, 70 eV) 292 (1), 250 (15), 137 (100); exact mass calcd for C₁₈H₂₀O₅ 292.1311, obsd 292.1317.

tert-Butyl 2-Methylene-4-phenylpentanoate (7e). Oil, 0.62 g (72% yield) prepared from diphenyl 1-phenylethyl phosphate (1.77 g, 5.0 mmol) and *tert*-butyl α-(bromomethyl)acrylate⁸ (0.77 g, 3.5 mmol). Reaction conditions: -20 °C, 12 h. Purified by flash chromatography (hexane/Et₂O = 49/1): IR (neat) 2975 (s), 1712 (s), 1630 (m), 1603 (w) cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz)

δ 7.25 (m, 5 H), 6.03 (s, 1 H), 5.30 (s, 1 H), 3.00 (m, 1 H), 2.54 (m, 2 H), 1.51 (s, 9 H), 1.27 (d, 3 H, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3 , 75.5 MHz) δ 166.3, 146.6, 140.7, 128.1, 126.9, 125.8, 124.9, 80.1, 41.0, 39.0, 28.0, 21.1; MS (CI, NH_4^+) 264 (MNH_4^+ , 19), 208 (100), 136 (70); exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_2\text{H}^+$ 247.1698, obsd 247.1698.

Typical Procedure: Barbier Reaction with Zinc, an Alkyl Phosphate, and an Aldehyde. Preparation of 7,7-Dimethylnon-8-en-6-ol (9f). Diethyl 3-methylbut-2-enyl phosphate (8b) (1.11 g, 5 mmol), hexanal (0.35 g, 3.5 mmol), and LiI (0.13 g, 1 mmol) were added at 25 °C to a zinc dust suspension (0.98 g, 15 mmol) in 4 mL of DMPU activated as described above. The reaction mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 12 h and worked up as usual. Purification by flash chromatography of the residue afforded the analytically pure alcohol 9f as an oil (0.51 g, 85% yield; see entry 6 of Table III): IR (neat) 3390 (s), 2941 (s), 2860 (s), 1638 (w) cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (CDCl_3 , 200 MHz) δ 5.81 (dd, 1 H, $J = 17.3$, 11.0 Hz), 5.06 (dd, 2 H, $J = 17.4$, 11.0 Hz), 3.24 (d, 1 H, $J = 10.0$ Hz), 1.49 (m, 3 H), 1.29 (m, 6 H), 1.00 (s, 6 H), 0.88 (t, 3 H, $J = 6.5$ Hz); ^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3 , 75.5 MHz) δ 145.7, 112.9, 78.4, 41.6, 31.9, 31.5, 26.7, 22.9, 22.6, 22.3, 13.9; MS (CI, NH_4^+) 188 (MNH_4^+ , 71), 170 (93), 153 (100) 136 (93); exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{22}\text{ONH}_4^+$ 188.2014, obsd 188.2001.

3-Methylene-1-phenylheptanol (9a). Oil, 0.36 g (88% yield) prepared from 2-methylenehexyl methanesulfonate (0.48 g, 2.5 mmol) and benzaldehyde (0.21 g, 2.0 mmol). Reaction conditions: 25 °C, 48 h. Purified by flash chromatography (hexane/ $\text{Et}_2\text{O} = 24/1$): IR (neat) 3387 (m) 2956 (s), 2929 (s), 2873 (s), 2860 (s), 1644 (m) cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.33 (m, 5 H), 4.94 (s, 1 H), 4.92 (s, 1 H), 4.80 (m, 1 H), 2.43 (m, 2 H), 2.20 (s, 1 H), 2.08 (t, 2 H, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 1.47 (m, 2 H), 1.32 (m, 2 H), 0.93 (t, 3 H, $J = 7.2$ Hz); ^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3 , 75.5 MHz) δ 146.4, 144.2, 128.2, 127.3, 125.7, 112.5, 71.5, 46.5, 35.4, 29.7, 22.2, 13.8; MS (CI, NH_4^+) 222 (MNH_4^+ , 10), 204 (91), 187 (79), 136 (33), 106 (100); exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{20}\text{ONH}_4^+$ 222.1858, obsd 222.1848.

1-Cyclohexyl-3-methyleneheptanol (9b). Oil, 0.63 g (85% yield) prepared from 2-methylenehexyl methanesulfonate (0.96 g, 5.0 mmol) and cyclohexanecarboxaldehyde (0.39 g, 3.5 mmol). Reaction conditions: 35 °C, 24 h. Purified by flash chromatography (hexane/ $\text{Et}_2\text{O} = 32/1$): IR (neat) 3434 (w), 2955 (s), 1643 (w) cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 4.88 (s, 1 H), 4.83 (s, 1 H), 3.45 (m, 1 H), 1.97 (m, 10 H), 1.26 (m, 10 H), 0.91 (t, 3 H, $J = 7.3$ Hz); ^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3 , 75.5 MHz) δ 147.3, 111.8, 72.6, 43.4, 41.3, 35.4, 29.8, 29.0, 28.1, 26.5, 26.2, 26.1, 22.3; MS (CI, NH_4^+) 228 (MNH_4^+ , 100), 211 (13), 193 (66); exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{26}\text{OH}^+$ 211.2062, obsd 211.2064.

8-Methylenedodecan-6-ol (9c). Oil, 0.56 g (81% yield) prepared from 2-methylenehexyl methanesulfonate (0.96 g, 5.0 mmol) and hexanal (0.35 g, 3.5 mmol). Reaction conditions: 35 °C, 24 h. Purified by flash chromatography (hexane/ $\text{Et}_2\text{O} = 24/1$): IR (neat) 3366 (m), 2957 (s), 2930 (s), 2860 (s), 1644 (m) cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 4.87 (s, 1 H), 4.82 (s, 1 H), 3.69 (m, 1 H), 2.16 (m, 4 H), 1.71 (s, 1 H), 1.38 (m, 12 H), 0.94 (m, 6 H); ^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3 , 75.5 MHz) δ 147.2, 111.8, 69.1, 44.7, 37.2, 35.8, 31.9, 30.0, 25.3, 22.5, 22.4, 13.8, 13.7; MS (CI, NH_4^+) 216 (MNH_4^+ , 74), 199 (19), 198 (17), 181 (100), 118 (52), 109 (17), 98 (67); exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{26}\text{ONH}_4^+$ 216.2327, obsd 216.2326.

1-(2-Methylenehexyl)cyclohexanol (9d). Oil, 0.55 g (80% yield) prepared from 2-methylenehexyl methanesulfonate (0.96 g, 5.0 mmol) and cyclohexanecarboxaldehyde (0.34 g, 3.5 mmol). Reaction conditions: 35 °C, 24 h. Purified by flash chromatography (hexane/ $\text{Et}_2\text{O} = 32/1$): IR (neat) 2935 (s), 2929 (s), 1637 (w) cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 4.91 (s, 1 H), 4.79 (s, 1 H), 2.17 (s, 2 H), 2.09 (t, 2 H, $J = 7.4$ Hz), 1.45 (m, 15 H), 0.90 (t, 3 H, $J = 7.3$ Hz); ^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3 , 75.5 MHz) δ 146.8, 113.2, 70.9, 48.2, 37.9, 37.8, 30.3, 25.8, 22.4, 22.3, 13.8; MS (CI, NH_4^+) 214 (MNH_4^+ , 3), 196 (20), 179 (100); exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{24}\text{ONH}_4^+$ 214.2171, obsd 214.2165.

2,2-Dimethyl-1-phenylbut-3-enol (9e). Oil, 0.60 g (97% yield) prepared from diethyl 3-methylbut-2-enyl phosphate (1.11 g, 5.0 mmol) and benzaldehyde (0.37 g, 3.5 mmol). Reaction conditions: 35 °C, 12 h. Purified by flash chromatography (hexane/ $\text{Et}_2\text{O} = 16/1$): IR (neat) 3448 (s), 2965 (s), 2871 (m), 1636 (w) cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (CDCl_3 , 200 MHz) δ 7.30 (m, 5 H), 5.91 (dd, 1 H, $J = 17.4$, 10.8 Hz), 5.15 (d, 1 H, $J = 10.7$ Hz), 5.12 (d, 1 H, $J = 17.4$ Hz), 4.43 (d, 1 H, $J = 2.8$ Hz), 2.07 (d, 1 H, $J = 3.0$ Hz), 1.02 (s, 3 H), 0.97 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3 , 75.5 MHz) δ 145.1, 141.1,

127.8, 127.4, 127.3, 113.4, 80.7, 42.1, 24.2, 21.4; MS (CI, NH_4^+) 194 (MNH_4^+ , 19), 176 (57), 159 (100); exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{ONH}_4^+$ 194.1545, obsd 194.1542.

2,6-Dimethyl-1-cyclohexyl-2-ethylenehept-5-enol (9g). Mixture of Two Diastereoisomers ($1R^*,2R^*,2S = 9/1$). Oil, 0.68 g (78% yield) prepared from (*E*)-diethyl 3,7-dimethyl-2,6-octadienyl phosphate (1.45 g, 5.0 mmol) and cyclohexanecarboxaldehyde (0.39 g, 3.5 mmol). Reaction conditions: 25 °C, 12 h. Purified by flash chromatography (hexane/ $\text{Et}_2\text{O} = 16/1$): IR (neat) 3487 (m), 2967 (s), 2919 (s), 1731 (w), 1636 (w) cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 5.79 (dd, 1 H, $J = 17.6$, 10.9 Hz), 5.06 (m, 3 H), 3.11 (d, 1 H, $J = 10.0$ Hz), 1.87 (m, 2 H), 1.44 (m, 20 H), 1.04 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3 , 75.5 MHz) δ 144.0, 130.9, 124.9, 113.7, 81.7, 45.5, 39.3, 38.3, 33.4, 27.6, 26.7, 26.2, 25.4, 22.6, 18.9, 17.4; MS (EI, 70 eV) 250 (1), 123 (28), 95 (100), 83 (15); exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}$ 250.2297, obsd 250.2289.

2,6-Dimethyl-2-ethenyl-1-phenyl-5-heptanol (9h): Mixture of Two Diastereoisomers ($1R^*,2R^*/1R^*,1S^* = 4/1$). Oil, 0.87 g (95% yield) prepared from (*E*)-diethyl 3,7-dimethyl-2,6-octadienyl phosphate (8c) (1.45 g, 5 mmol) and benzaldehyde (0.37 g, 3.5 mmol). Reaction conditions: 25 °C, 12 h. Purified by flash chromatography (hexane/ $\text{Et}_2\text{O} = 16/1$): IR (neat) 3456 (m), 2969 (s), 2926 (s), 1638 (w) cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (CDCl_3 , 200 MHz) δ 7.30 (m, 5 H), 5.86 (dd, 1 H, $J = 18$, 12 Hz, major diast), 5.81 (dd, 1 H, $J = 17.7$, 8.7 Hz, minor diast), 5.29 (d, 1 H, $J = 11$ Hz, major diast), 5.20 (d, 1 H, $J = 11.8$ Hz, minor diast), 5.08 (m, 2 H), 4.42 (m, 1 H), 2.15 (bs, 1 H), 1.87 (q, 2 H, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 1.69 (s, 3 H), 1.58 (s, 3 H), 1.35 (m, ca. 2 H), 1.07 (s, 3 H, minor diast), 0.94 (s, 3 H, major diast); ^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3 , 75.5 MHz) δ 143.7, 142.8, 141.3, 140.7, 130.8, 130.7, 127.9, 127.7, 127.2, 127.1, 127.0, 125.0, 124.7, 115.2, 114.5, 80.5, 80.1, 45.6, 45.1, 37.3, 36.3, 25.5, 22.7, 22.5, 18.5, 17.4, 16.6; MS (CI, NH_4^+) 262 (MNH_4^+ , 34), 244 (10), 227 (100), 136 (72); exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{24}\text{ONH}_4^+$ 262.2171, obsd 262.2169.

Ethyl 4-Ethylene-4,8-dimethyl-2-methylenenon-7-enoate (11). Oil, 0.86 g (69% yield) prepared from (*Z*)-diethyl 3,7-dimethyl-2,6-octadienyl phosphate (8c) (1.45 g, 5 mmol) and ethyl α -(bromomethyl)acrylate⁸ (0.97 g, 5 mmol). Reaction conditions: 5 °C, 5 min. Purified by flash chromatography (hexane/ $\text{Et}_2\text{O} = 99/1$): IR (neat) 3083 (w), 2970 (s), 2919 (s), 1720 (s), 1628 (m) cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (CDCl_3 , 360 MHz) δ 6.13 (s, 1 H), 5.68 (dd, 1 H, $J = 17.5$, 10.8 Hz), 5.41 (s, 1 H), 5.06 (t, 1 H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 4.95 (d, 1 H, $J = 10.9$ Hz), 4.83 (d, 1 H, $J = 17.5$ Hz), 4.16 (q, 2 H, $J = 7.1$ Hz), 2.37 (q, 2 H, $J = 13.1$ Hz), 1.87 (m, 2 H), 1.66 (s, 3 H), 1.57 (s, 3 H), 1.30 (m, 5 H), 0.94 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3 , 50.3 MHz) δ 168.0, 145.7, 138.1, 130.9, 126.7, 124.7, 112.0, 60.4, 42.3, 40.9, 40.3, 25.5, 22.8, 21.1, 17.4, 14.0; MS (CI, NH_4^+) 268 (MNH_4^+ , 6), 251 (37), 222 (2), 205 (7), 136 (100); exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_2\text{H}^+$ 251.2011, obsd 251.2003.

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Registry No. 1a, 14660-52-7; 1b, 2969-81-5; 1c, 6940-78-9; 1e, 41144-01-8; 1f, 115902-61-9; 1g, 110544-74-6; 1h, 115-88-8; 4a, 143238-77-1; 4b, 143238-78-2; 4c, 123464-45-9; 4d, 132839-63-5; 4e, 126761-20-4; 4f, 143238-79-3; 4g, 143238-80-6; 4h, 143238-81-7; 4i, 143238-82-8; 4j, 143238-83-9; 5a, 55791-06-5; 5b, 143238-84-0; 5c, 143238-85-1; 5d, 143238-86-2; 5e, 76263-88-2; 7a, 103130-93-4; 7b, 143238-87-3; 7c, 99557-74-1; 7d, 143238-88-4; 7e, 143238-89-5; 9a, 143238-90-8; 9b, 143238-91-9; 9c, 143238-92-0; 9d, 143238-93-1; 9e, 27644-02-6; 9f, 52922-12-0; 9g (isomer 1), 84363-95-1; 9g (isomer 2), 84363-96-2; 9h (isomer 1), 84363-97-3; 9h (isomer 2), 84363-98-4; 11, 143238-94-2; $\text{EtO}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{I}$, 7425-53-8; LiI, 10377-51-2; LiBr, 7550-35-8; CaI, 7789-17-5; (*E*)- $\text{PhSO}_2\text{CH}=\text{CHNO}_2$, 10193-29-3; $\text{HC}\equiv\text{CCOOEt}$, 623-47-2; NaI, 7681-82-5; NaBr, 7647-15-6; CaBr, 7787-69-1; CuCN, 544-92-3; $\text{EtO}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{Cl}$, 3153-36-4; PhCHO, 100-52-7; nitrostyrene, 102-96-5; 1-(ethylthio)-2-nitrocyclohexene, 90871-98-8; 1-nitropentene, 3156-72-7; 3-iodocyclohex-2-enone, 56671-82-0; *tert*-butyl α -(bromomethyl)acrylate, 53913-96-5; Zinc, 7440-66-6; ethyl α -(bromomethyl)acrylate, 17435-72-2; 2-methylenehexyl methanesulfonate, 143238-95-3; diethyl 3-methylbut-2-enyl phosphate, 64135-15-5; (*E*)-diethyl 3,7-di-

methyl-2,6-octadienyl phosphate, 60699-32-3; cyclohexane-carboxaldehyde, 2043-61-0; hexanal, 66-25-1; cyclohexanone, 108-94-1; lithium chloride, 7447-41-8.

Supplementary Material Available: A carbon NMR

spectrum of each new compound (24 pages). This material is contained in many libraries on microfiche, immediately follows this article in the microfilm version of the journal, and can be ordered from the ACS; see any current masthead page for ordering information.

Preparation of Polyfunctional Nitro Olefins and Nitroalkanes Using the Copper-Zinc Reagents $\text{RCu}(\text{CN})\text{ZnI}$

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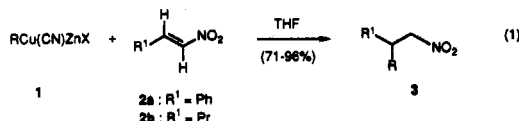
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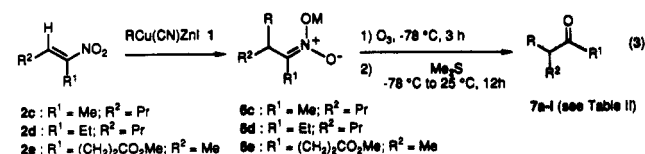
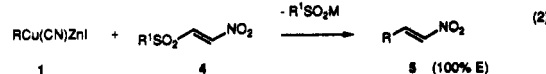
The addition of the copper-zinc reagents $\text{RCu}(\text{CN})\text{ZnX}$ to a variety of nitro olefins produces polyfunctional nitroalkanes in high yields. The intermediate zinc or copper nitronates can be directly submitted to a Nef reaction (O_3 , -78°C) and converted to polyfunctional ketones in a one-pot procedure. The addition of $\text{RCu}(\text{CN})\text{ZnX}$ to nitro olefins bearing a leaving group (RSO_2 , RS) in the β -position provides pure (*E*)-nitro olefins in excellent yields. The reaction has been applied for the stereoselective preparation of 1,3-nitrodienes and for a Diels-Alder reaction precursor.

Nitro olefins are exceptional Michael acceptors, and this property dominates the chemistry of this class of compounds.² They provide a unique and very general way for constructing polyfunctional nitro derivatives since a wide range of nucleophiles add in good yields to nitro olefins.³ Several types of organometallic reagents such as organolithium,²⁻⁴ -magnesium,⁵ -cadmium,⁶ -zinc,⁷ and -aluminum⁸ reagents as well as allylic or allenic tin⁹ and silicon¹⁰ derivatives add to nitro olefins in fair to excellent yields.

Copper reagents derived from organolithiums have also been used;¹¹ however, in this case the intermediate lithium nitronates are reactive enough to add to the remaining nitro olefin leading to a partial polymerization and to moderate yields of the Michael-adduct. In strong contrast, we have found that the copper compounds $\text{RCu}(\text{CN})\text{ZnX}$ 1 prepared from organozinc halides¹² add very cleanly to various nitro olefins 2 affording polyfunctional nitroalkanes 3 in excellent yields (eq 1).¹³



Obviously, the intermediate zinc nitronate is not reactive enough to induce a polymerization of the nitro olefin 2. It is also possible to add these reagents to nitro olefins 4 bearing a leaving group in the β -position^{14,15} providing a unique synthesis of pure (*E*)-nitro olefins of type 5 (eq 2).



Here we report the scope and limitations of these methods as well as a new one-pot reaction allowing us convert di-

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