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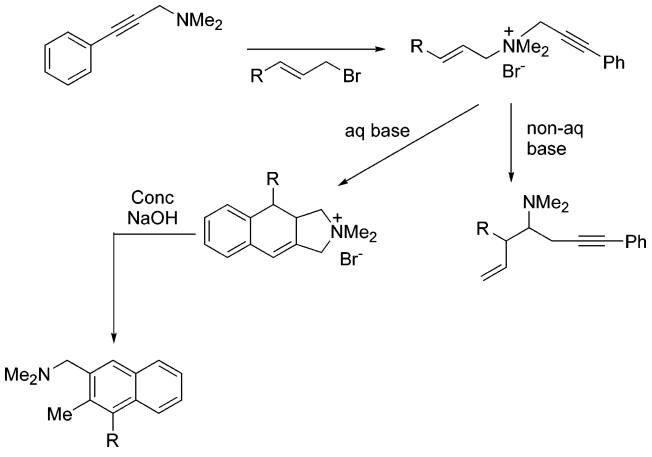
Editorial

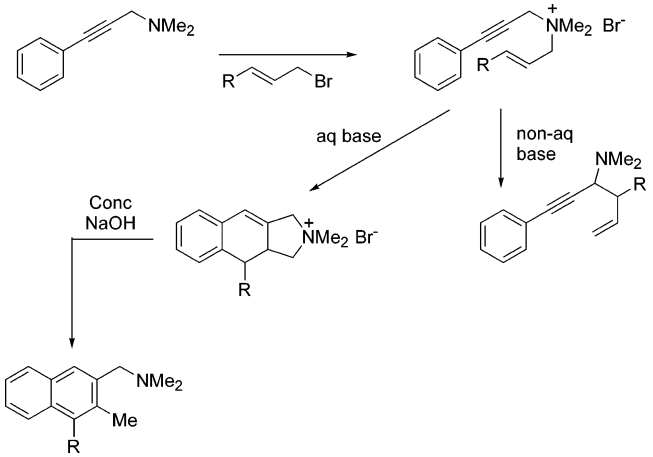
Easier-To-Read Reaction Schemes

I often get frustrated when reading published papers if the reaction scheme is difficult to follow. You know what I mean—each structure is presented in a different orientation so that the chemistry is hard to follow. A typical example is shown in Scheme 1. In case you are wondering who the author is, its me, and dates from 1981. It was not originally published in this way, but I have redrawn it to show how NOT to do reaction schemes. Rotation, inversion, flipping are common and detract from one's ability to read the paper quickly.

Scheme 1



Scheme 2



In contrast, Scheme 2 shows how the scheme should be drawn. Surely with structure-drawing packages, this must be the easiest for the author as well as for the reader. Could I ask all authors to check their schemes before submitting articles to ensure that they are easy to read.

This issue contains two special sections: one on safety and the other on crystallisation/polymorphism. May I thank all the contributors to these sections for their papers and many thanks also to all the reviewers who refereed these papers in sometimes very short time frames.

Trevor Laird
Editor

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