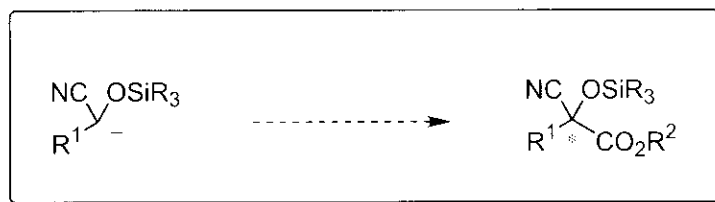


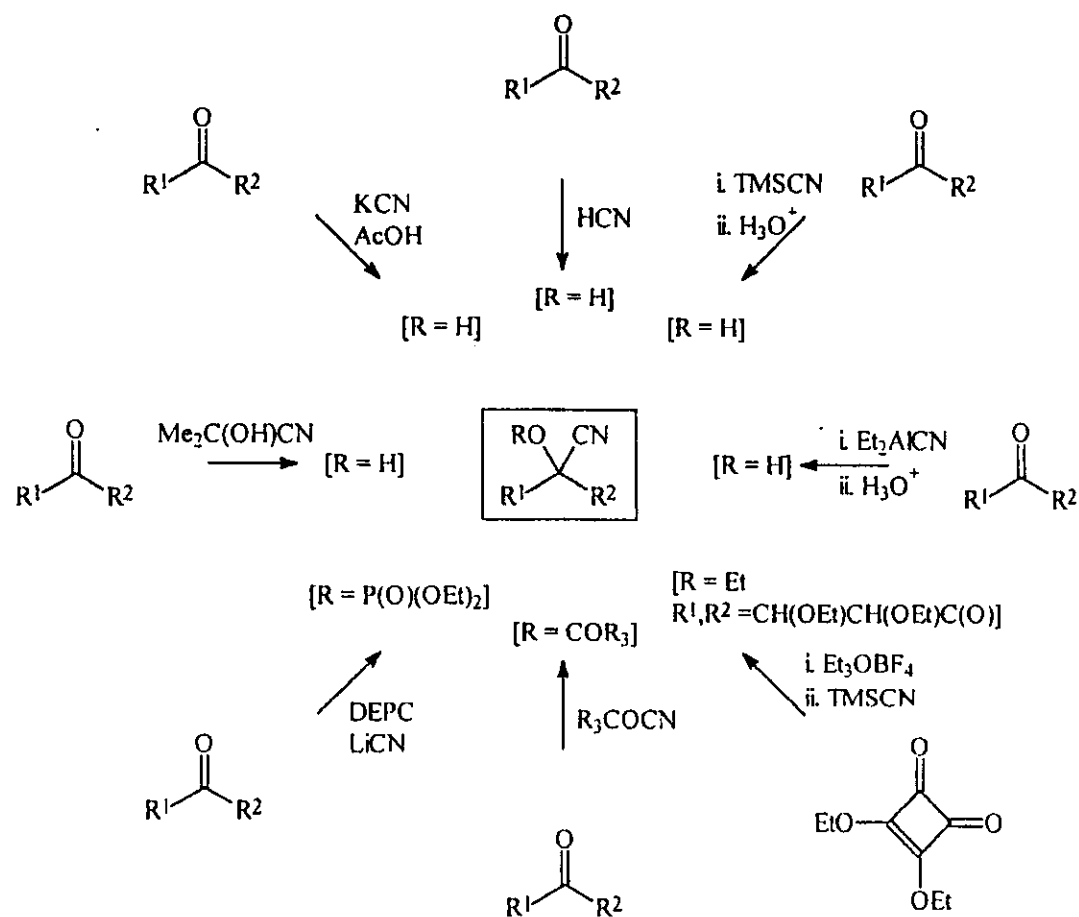
# Catalytic Asymmetric Acylation of (Silyloxy)nitrile Anions

David A. Nicewicz, Christopher M. Yates, and Jeffrey S. Johnson

*Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2002**, 43, 2652-2655.

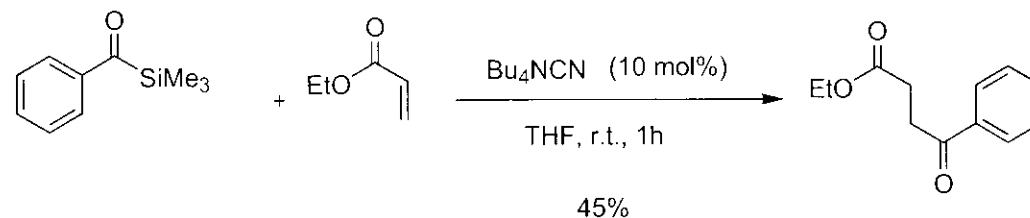
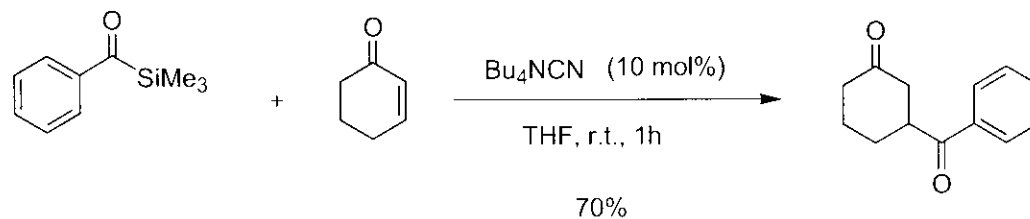
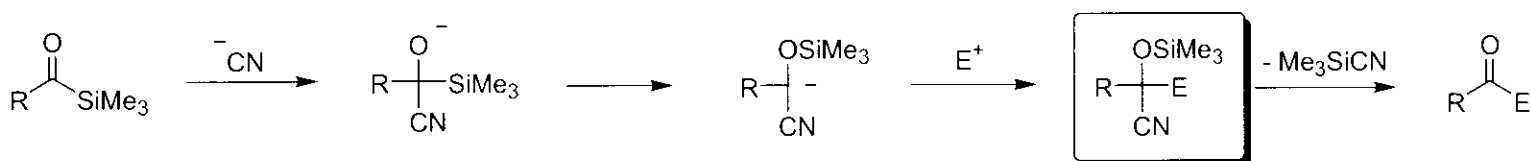


## Some Common Methods for Hydrocyanation and Cyanation of Carbonyl Compounds



For a review on Cyanohydrins see: Gregory, R. J. H. *Chem. Rev.* **1999**, *99*, 3649.

## Formation of Protected Cyanohydrins *via* Brook Rearrangement of Acylsilanes

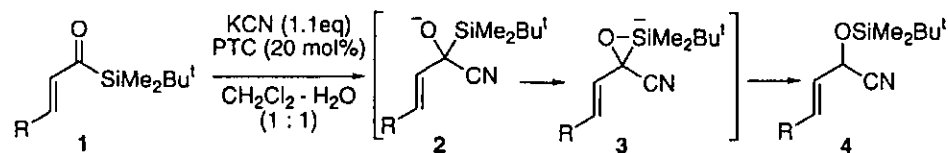


deg'Innocenti, A.; Ricci, A.; Mordini, A.; Reginato, G.; Colotta, V.  
*Gazz. Chem. Ital.* **1987**, *117*, 645.

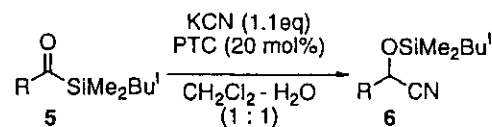
For a recent review on the Brook rearrangement: Moser, W. H. *Tetrahedron* **2001**, *57*, 2065.

# Formation of Protected Cyanohydrins *via* Brook Rearrangement of Acylsilanes

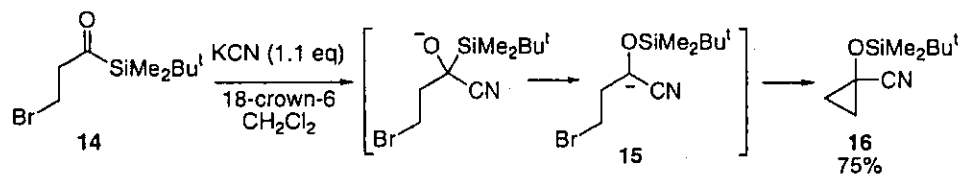
*cyanohydrin isolation and interception of reactive intermediates*



1	R	yield (%)	
		<i>n</i> -Bu <sub>4</sub> NBr	<i>n</i> -Bu <sub>4</sub> PBr
a	Me	75	82
b	<i>i</i> -Pr	56	93
c	<i>c</i> -C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	85	95
d	<i>c</i> -C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>11</sub>	64	96
e	<i>t</i> -Bu	85	95



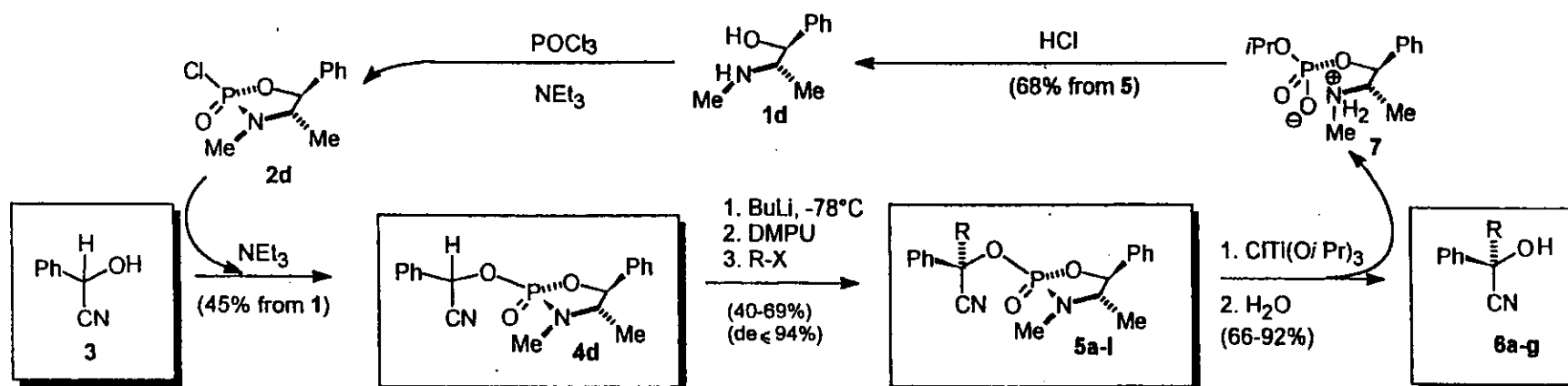
5	R	yield (%)	
		<i>n</i> -Bu <sub>4</sub> NBr	<i>n</i> -Bu <sub>4</sub> PBr
a	Ph	68	95
b	Me	65	74
c	CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> OMe	65	76



Takeda, K.; Ohnishi, Y. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2000**, *41*, 4169.

# First Enantioselective Synthesis of Tertiary Cyanohydrins

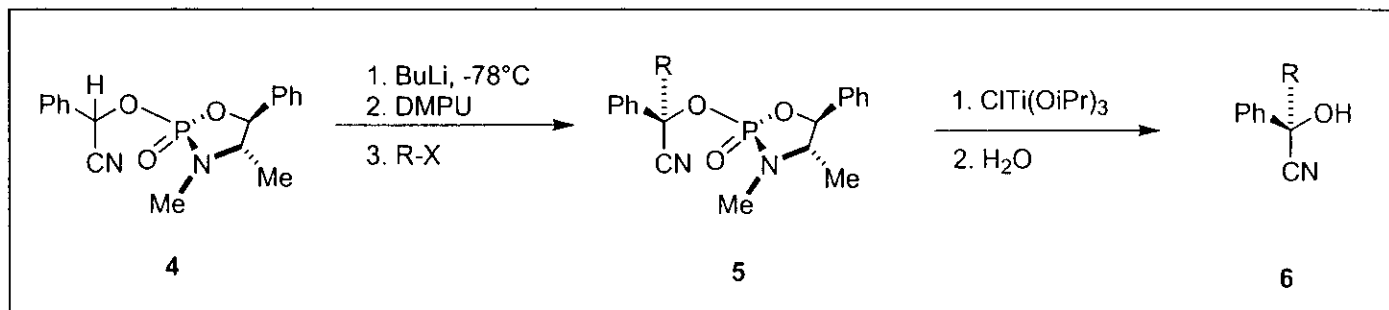
*pseudoephedrine based chiral phosphate auxiliary*



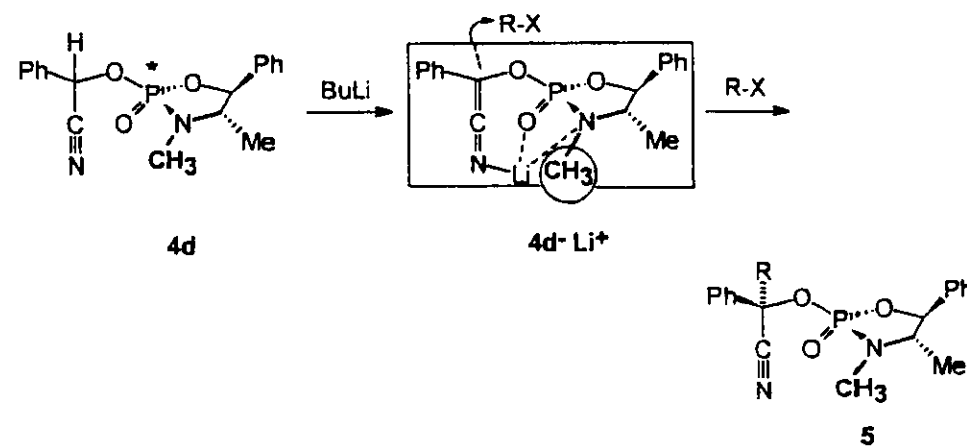
Scheme 3. Transformation of racemic aldehyde cyanohydrin 3 into optically active ketone cyanohydrins 6 with recycling of the ephedrine auxiliary 1.

Schrader, T. *Chem. Eur. J.* **1997**, *3*, 1273.

# First Enantioselective Synthesis of Tertiary Cyanohydrins

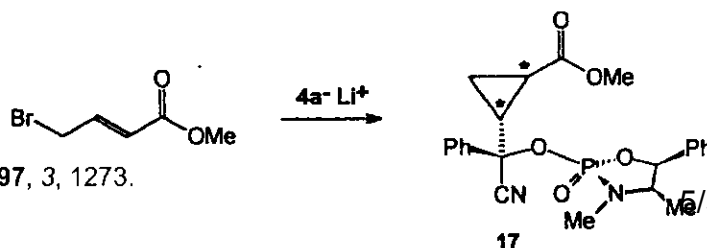
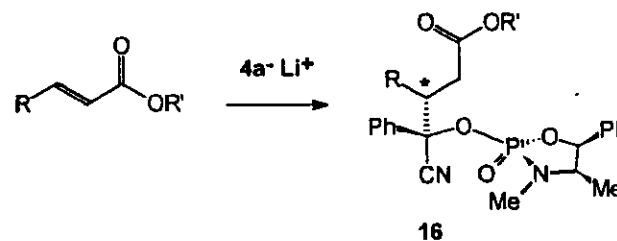
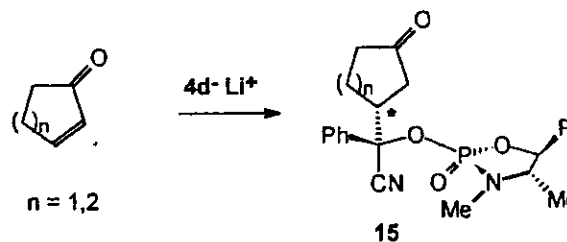
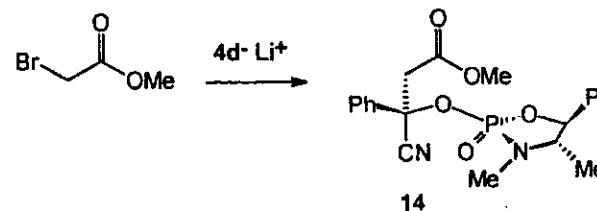
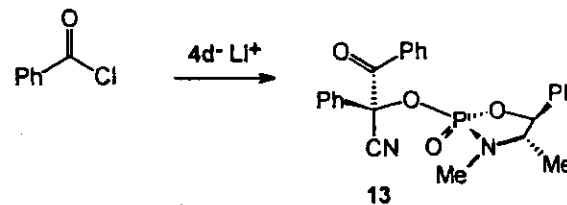


R	X	5	Yield (%)	de (%)	6	Yield (%)	ee (%) [a]
allyl	Br	a	47	90	a	79	
methyl	I	b	69	83	b	66	> 96
<i>n</i> -propyl	I	c	58	82	c	92	
propargyl	Br	d	65	82	d	72	
benzyl	Br	e	58	82	e	85	> 96
3-phenylpropyl	I	f	54	80	f	44	
(-)-myrtenyl	Br	g	49	48	g	58	
<i>n</i> -octyl	I	h	48	81			
3,3-dimethylallyl	Br	i	40	94			
2-bromoallyl	Br	k	38	71			
cinnamyl	Br	l	45	90			



Schrader, T. *Chem. Eur. J.* **1997**, *3*, 1273.

# First Enantioselective Synthesis of Tertiary Cyanohydrins

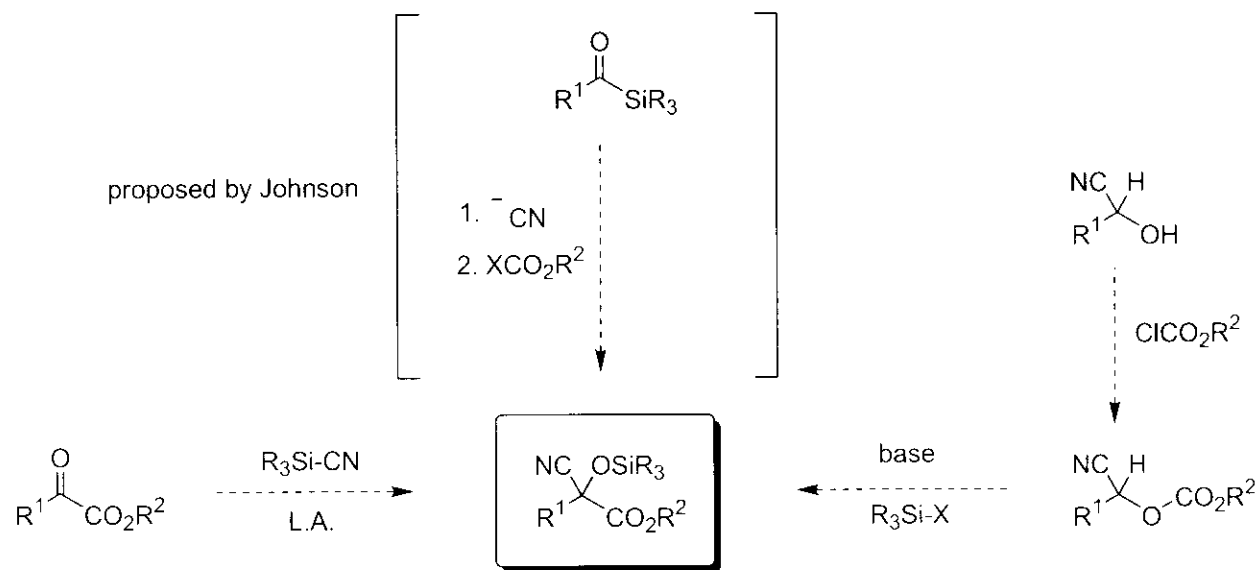


Electrophile	Product	Yield (%)	dr (%) [a]
benzoyl chloride	13	52	91:9
ethyl bromoacetate	14	53	83:17
2-cyclopentenone	15a	53	74:22:3: <1 [b]
2-cyclohexenone	15b	61	72:23:4: <1 [b]
ethyl crotonate	16a	55	80:13:5: <2 [b]
methyl cinnamate	16b	48	65:22:9: <4 [b]
methyl 4-bromocrotonate	17	69	55:27:12: <6 [c]

[a] dr = diastereomeric ratio. [b] Only three diastereomers could be detected; we assume an (*R*) configuration at C<sub>2</sub> for both major diastereomers. [c] No other diastereomers could be detected.

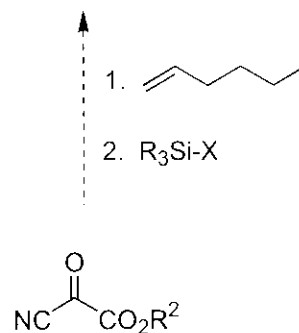
Schrader, T. *Chem. Eur. J.* 1997, 3, 1273.

# Synthetic Approaches to $\alpha$ -Cyano- $\alpha$ -hydroxy Esters



Wilkerson, H. C. *et. al.*  
*Org. Lett.* **2001**, 3, 553.

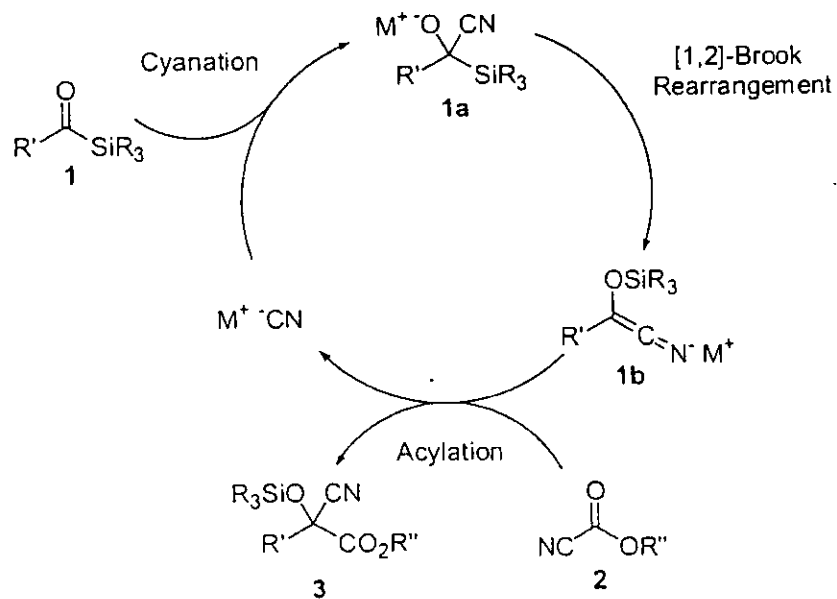
Babler, J. H.; Marcuccilli, C. J.; Oblong, J. E.  
*Synth. Commun.* **1990**, 20, 1831.



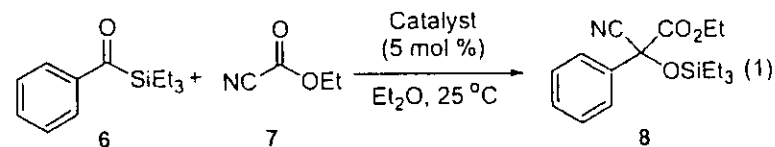
Achmatowicz, O.; Szymoniak, J.  
*Tetrahedron* **1982**, 38, 1299.



# Catalyzed Cyanation/Brook Rearrangement/C-Acylation Sequence



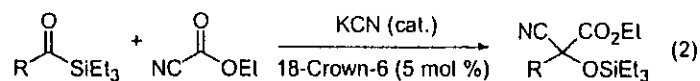
**Table 1.** Catalyst Evaluation for Cyanation/Brook Rearrangement/C-Acylation Reactions of Acylsilanes (Eq 1)<sup>a</sup>

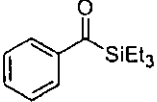
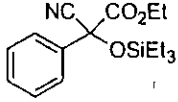
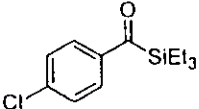
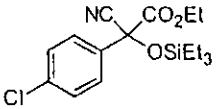
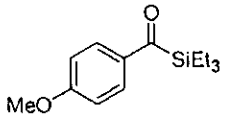
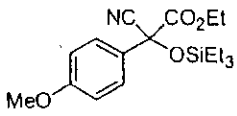
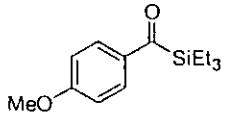
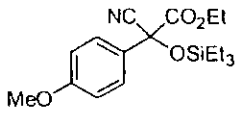
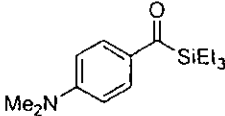
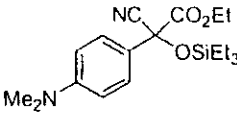
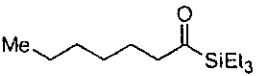
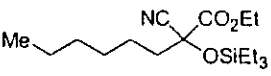
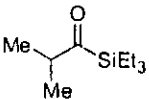
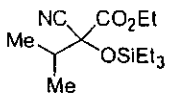


entry	catalyst	time (h)	yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	KCN	36	29 <sup>c</sup>
2	KCN/18-crown-6	4–5	86
3	KCN/Bu <sub>4</sub> NBr	15	83
4	KCN/Bu <sub>4</sub> PBr	15	74
5	quinuclidine	36	69 <sup>d</sup>
6	none	36	0

<sup>a</sup> PhC(O)SiEt<sub>3</sub> (1.0 equiv), NCCO<sub>2</sub>Et (1.1 equiv). <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield of analytically pure material. <sup>c</sup> Percent conversion based on <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy of the unpurified reaction mixture. <sup>d</sup> Catalyst concentration = 20 mol %. C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>8</sub>, 25 °C.

## Catalyzed Cyanation/Brook Rearrangement/C-Acylation Sequence

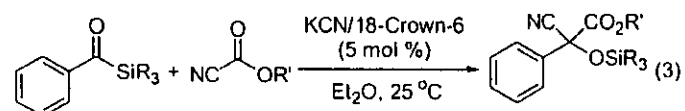


entry	acylsilane	product	solvent	temp (°C)	time (h)	yield <sup>b</sup> (%)
1			Et <sub>2</sub> O	25	2	81
2			Et <sub>2</sub> O	25	1	74
3			Et <sub>2</sub> O	25	12	62 <sup>c</sup>
4			C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>8</sub>	110	3	85 <sup>d</sup>
5			C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>8</sub>	110	24	97
6			Et <sub>2</sub> O	25	1.5	73 <sup>c</sup>
7			Et <sub>2</sub> O	25	1.5	61 <sup>c</sup>

Linghu, X.; Nicewicz, D. A.; Johnson, J. S. *Org. Lett.* **2002**, *4*, 2957.

# Catalyzed Cyanation/Brook Rearrangement/C-Acylation Sequence

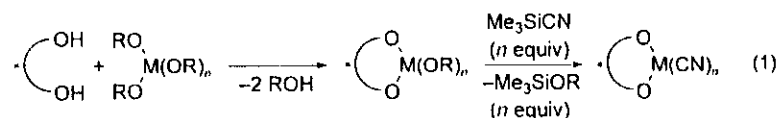
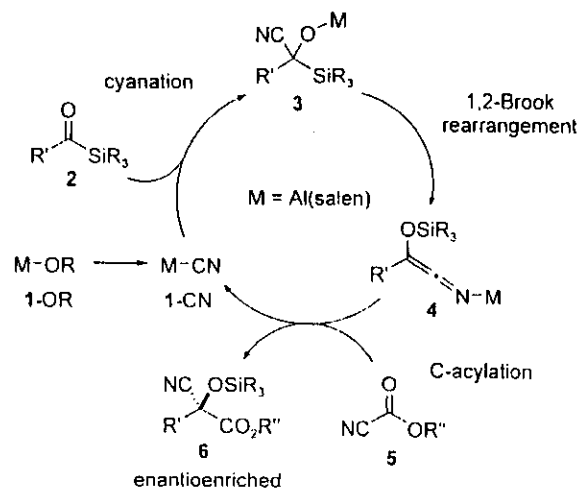
**Table 3.** Variation of Silane and Ester Substituents in Catalyzed Cyanation/Brook Rearrangement/C-Acylation Reactions (Eq 3)<sup>a</sup>



entry	acylsilane	(R')	product	time (h)	yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	SiMe <sub>2</sub> <sup>t</sup> Bu	Et		2	92
2	SiMe <sub>2</sub> <sup>t</sup> Bu	Bn		2	87
3	SiMe <sub>2</sub> <sup>t</sup> Bu	<sup>t</sup> Bu		1	87
4	SiEt <sub>3</sub>	Et		2	81
5	SiEt <sub>3</sub>	Bn		2	80
6	SiEt <sub>3</sub>	<sup>t</sup> Bu		12	72

<sup>a</sup> PhC(O)SiR<sub>3</sub> (1.0 equiv), NCCO<sub>2</sub>R' (1.1 equiv). <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield of analytically pure material; average of at least two experiments.

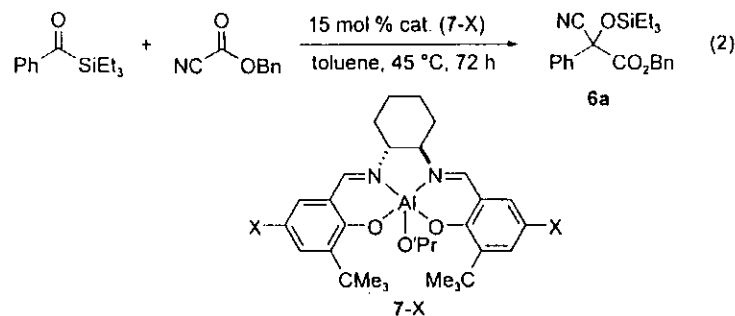
# Catalytic Asymmetric Acylation of (Silyloxy)nitrile Anions



**Table 1:** Optimization of catalyzed reactions of acylsilanes and cyanoformate esters [Eq. (2)].<sup>[a]</sup>

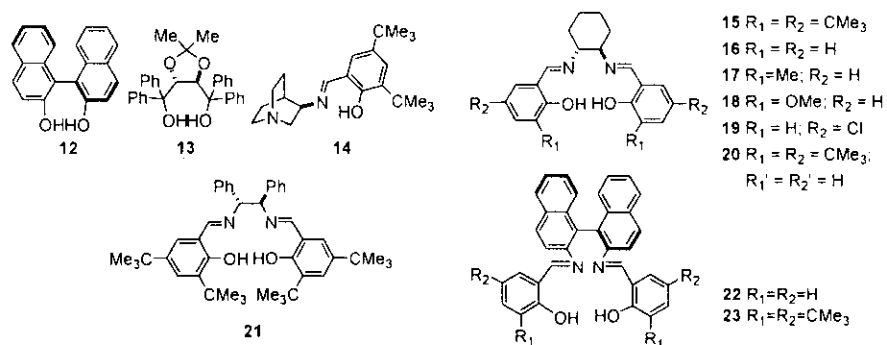
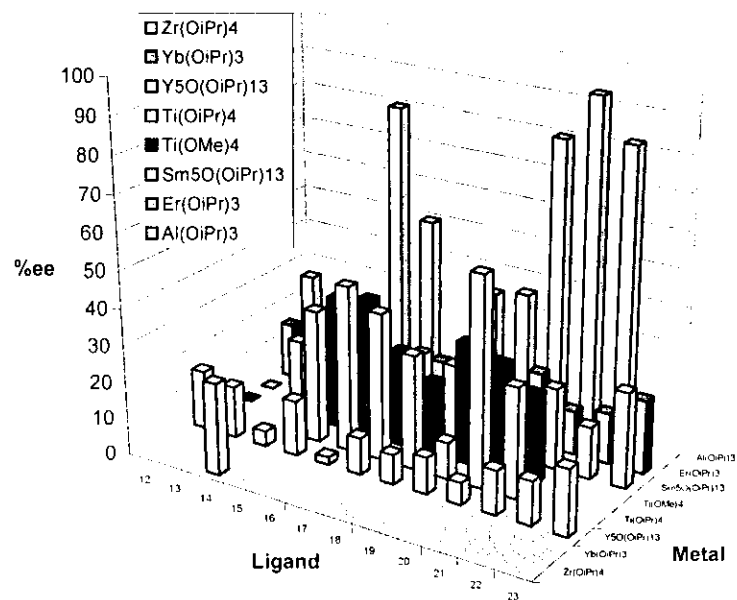
Entry	X in 7-X	$c_0(\text{PhC}(\text{O})\text{SiEt}_3)$ [M]	$ee^{[b]}$ [%]	Conv. [%] <sup>[c]</sup>
1	CMe <sub>3</sub>	2.5	26	> 95
2	CMe <sub>3</sub>	1.5	34	> 95
3	CMe <sub>3</sub>	0.5	46	80
4	NO <sub>2</sub>	2.5	44	> 95
5	NO <sub>2</sub>	1.5	54	90
6	NO <sub>2</sub>	0.5	54	30
7	Cl	2.5	56	> 95
8	Cl	1.5	62	> 95
9	Cl	0.5	67	> 95
10	Cl	0.05	79	> 95
11	OMe	0.05	70	> 95
12	NMe <sub>2</sub>	0.05	46	> 95

[a] PhC(O)SiEt<sub>3</sub> (1.0 equiv), BnO<sub>2</sub>CCN (2.0 equiv). [b] Determined by CSP-SFC. [c] Determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy.



Nicewicz, D. A.; Yates, C. M.; Johnson, J. S. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2004**, *43*, 2652.

# Catalytic Asymmetric Acylation of (Silyloxy)nitrile Anions



Nicewicz, D. A.; Yates, C. M.; Johnson, J. S. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2004**, *43*, 2652.

# Catalytic Asymmetric Acylation of (Silyloxy)nitrile Anions

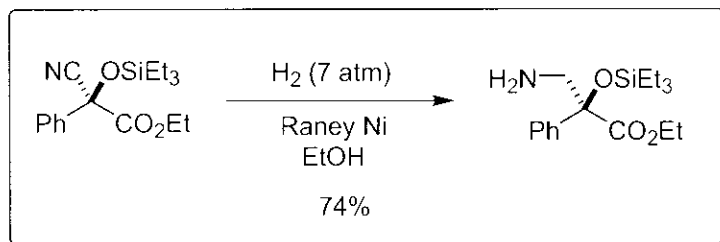
Table 2: Catalytic asymmetric cyanation/Brook rearrangement/C-acylation of acylsilanes [Eq. (3)].<sup>[a]</sup>

Entry	Ar	SiR <sub>3</sub>	R'	Product	Yield [%] <sup>[b]</sup>	ee [%] <sup>[c]</sup>
1	Ph	SiEt <sub>3</sub>	Bn		83	79 <sup>[d]</sup>
2	Ph	Si <sup>t</sup> BuMe <sub>2</sub>	Bn		82 <sup>[d]</sup>	64 <sup>[d]</sup>
3	Ph	SiEt <sub>3</sub>	Et		93 <sup>[f]</sup>	77 <sup>[d, g]</sup>
4	4-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	SiEt <sub>3</sub>	Bn		79	80 <sup>[h]</sup>
5	2-naphthyl	SiEt <sub>3</sub>	Bn		90	62 <sup>[h]</sup>
6	4-MeOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	SiEt <sub>3</sub>	Bn		84 <sup>[h]</sup>	82 <sup>[h]</sup>
7	4-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	SiEt <sub>3</sub>	Bn		87	64 <sup>[h, i]</sup>
8	4-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	SiEt <sub>3</sub>	Et		87	61 <sup>[d, g]</sup>
9	4-FC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	SiEt <sub>3</sub>	Bn		81	78 <sup>[h, i]</sup>
10	4-NCC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	SiEt <sub>3</sub>	Bn		70	64 <sup>[h]</sup>

Nicewicz, D. A.; Yates, C. M.; Johnson, J. S. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2004, 43, 2652.

## Summary

- Cyanohydrins are valued in organic synthesis for their umpolung reactivity.
- They also have vast potential as chiral building blocks so access to enantiopure substrates is desirable.
- The first catalytic asymmetric reaction of protected cyanohydrins has been developed.
- This domino sequence of cyanation/Brook rearrangement/C-acylation may serve as an efficient synthetic route for accessing enantioenriched and protected  $\beta$ -amino- $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -aryl acids following reduction.



- Future work will focus on trapping the chiral (silyloxy)nitrile anions in other stereoselective bond forming reactions.