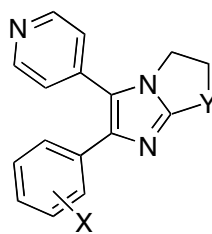
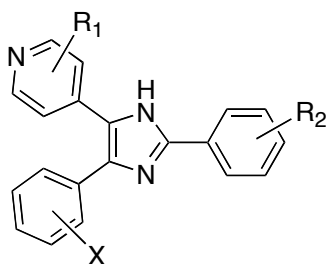
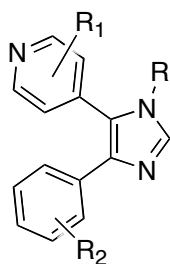


# Synthesis of Substituted Imidazoles via Organocatalysis

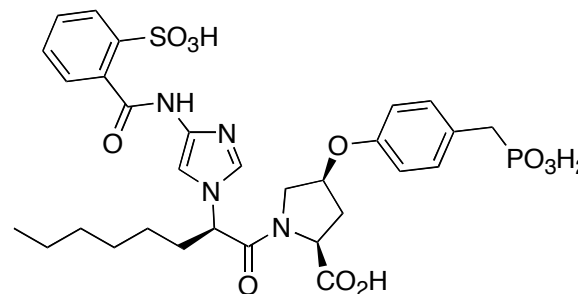
*Doug E. Frantz, Louis Morency, Arash Soheili, Jerry A. Murry,  
Edward J. J. Grabowski, and Richard D. Tillyer*

Department of Process Research,  
Merck Research Laboratories,  
Merck & Co.

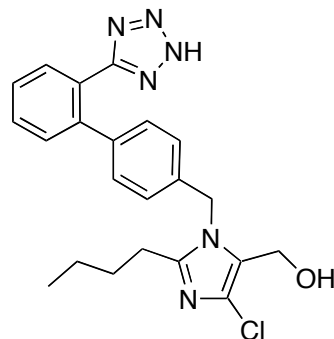
# Imidazoles as Targets in Medicinal Chemistry



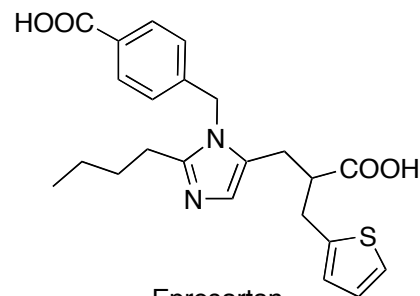
Imidazole CSAID Ligands -- SKB



Orally available Angiotensin II inhibitor -- Lilly



Losartan

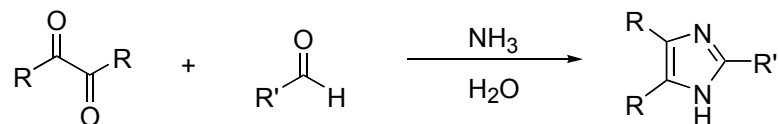


Eprosartan

p38 MAP kinase inhibitors

# Debus Reaction

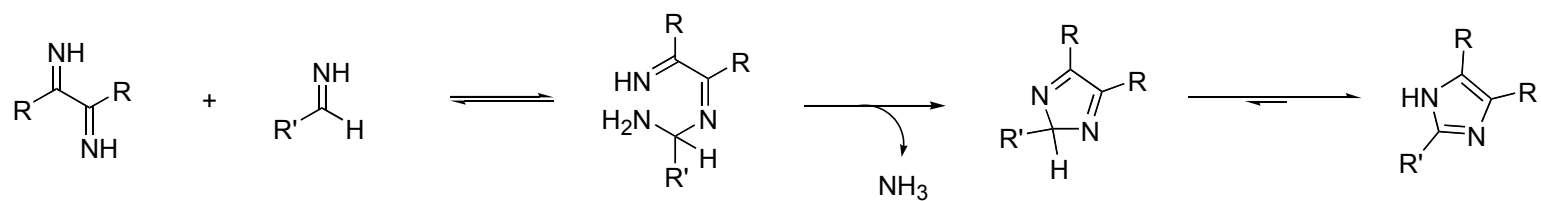
## Debus imidazole synthesis



reaction provides 2- monosubstituted, and 2,(3,4 *homo*)trisubstituted imidazoles

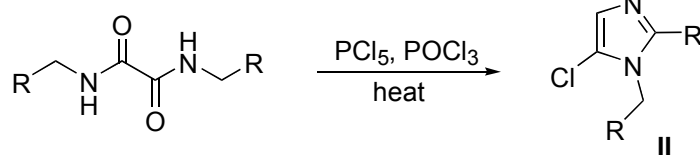
Debus, H. *Liebigs Ann. Chem.* **1858**, 107, 199.

# Proposed Mechanism of the Debus Reaction



# Wallach Reaction

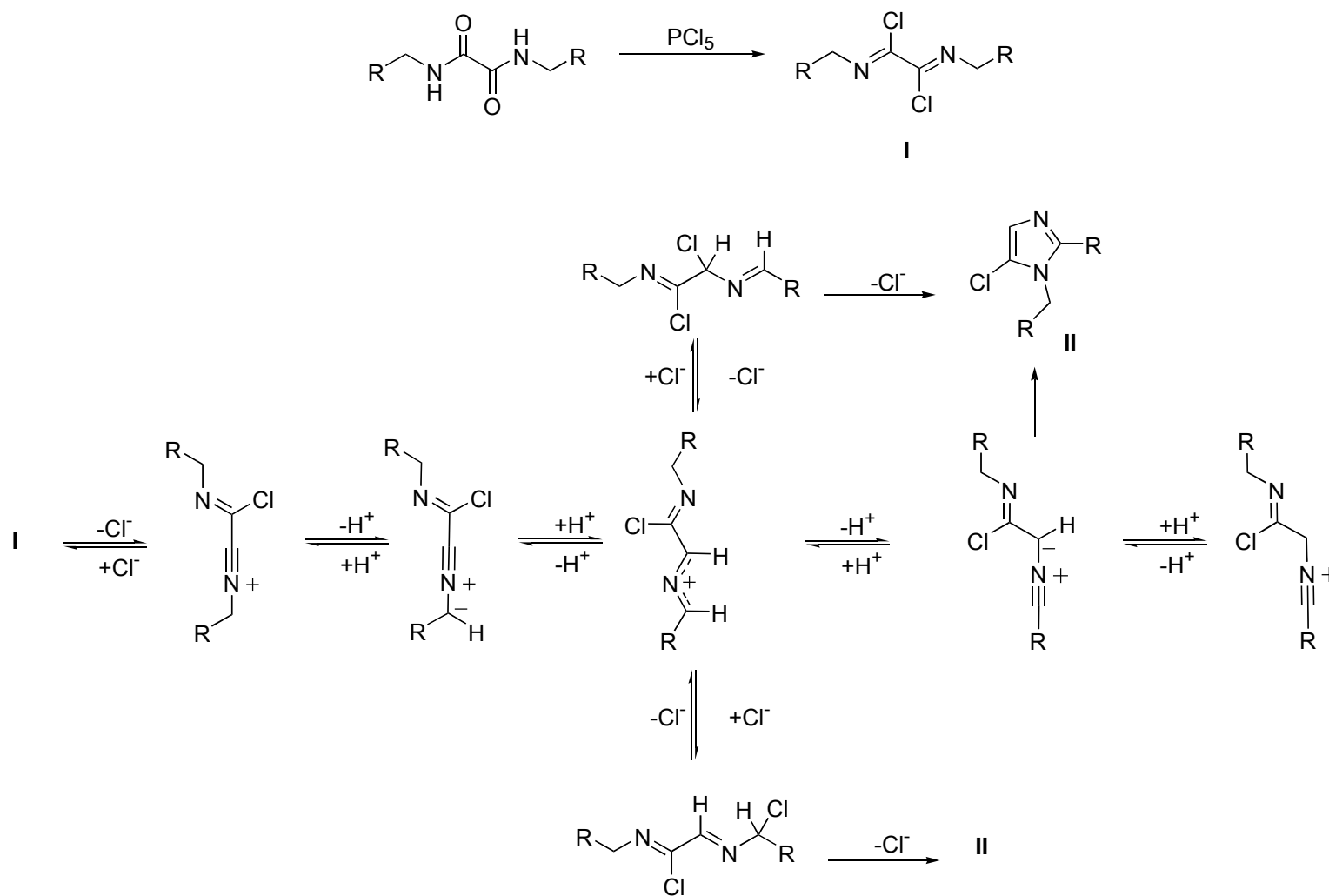
## Wallach chloroimidazole synthesis



Provides 1,2 disubstituted chloroimidazoles

Wallach, O. *Ber. Dtsch. Chim. Ges.* **1881**, 14, 420.

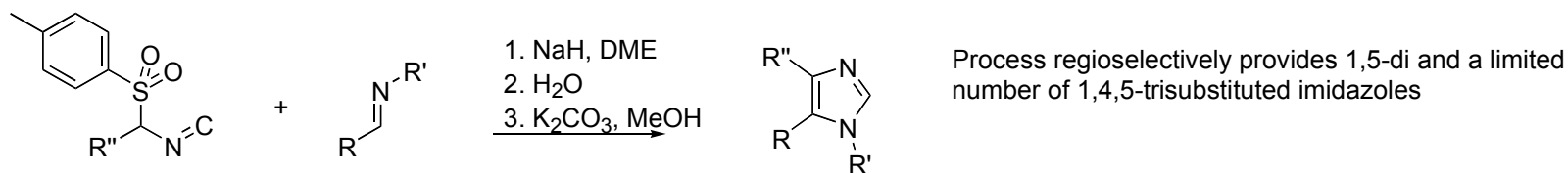
# Proposed Mechanism of the Wallach Reaction



Benincori, T.; Brenna, E.; Sannicolo, F. *J. Chem Soc. Perk. Trans. I* **1993**, 675-679.

# TosMIC Based Imidazole Synthesis

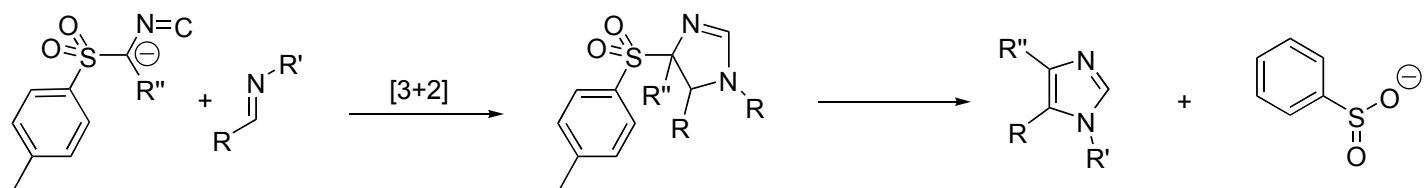
Synthesis from TosMIC



TosMIC = tosylmethyl isocyanide

van Leusen, A. M.; Wildeman, J.; Oldenziel, O. H. *J. Org. Chem.* **1977**, *42*, 1153-9

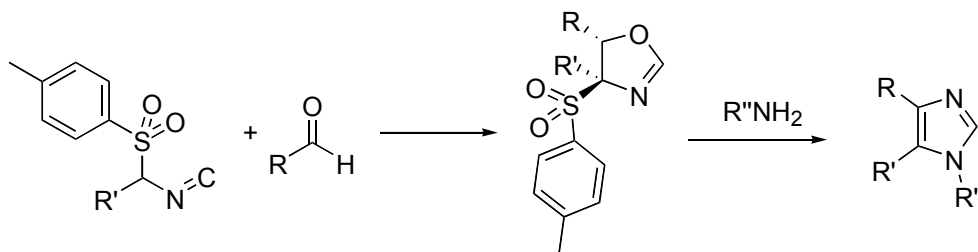
# Mechanism of TosMIC based Imidazole Synthesis





# Extension of the TosMIC Chemistry

An Extension of the TosMIC chemistry



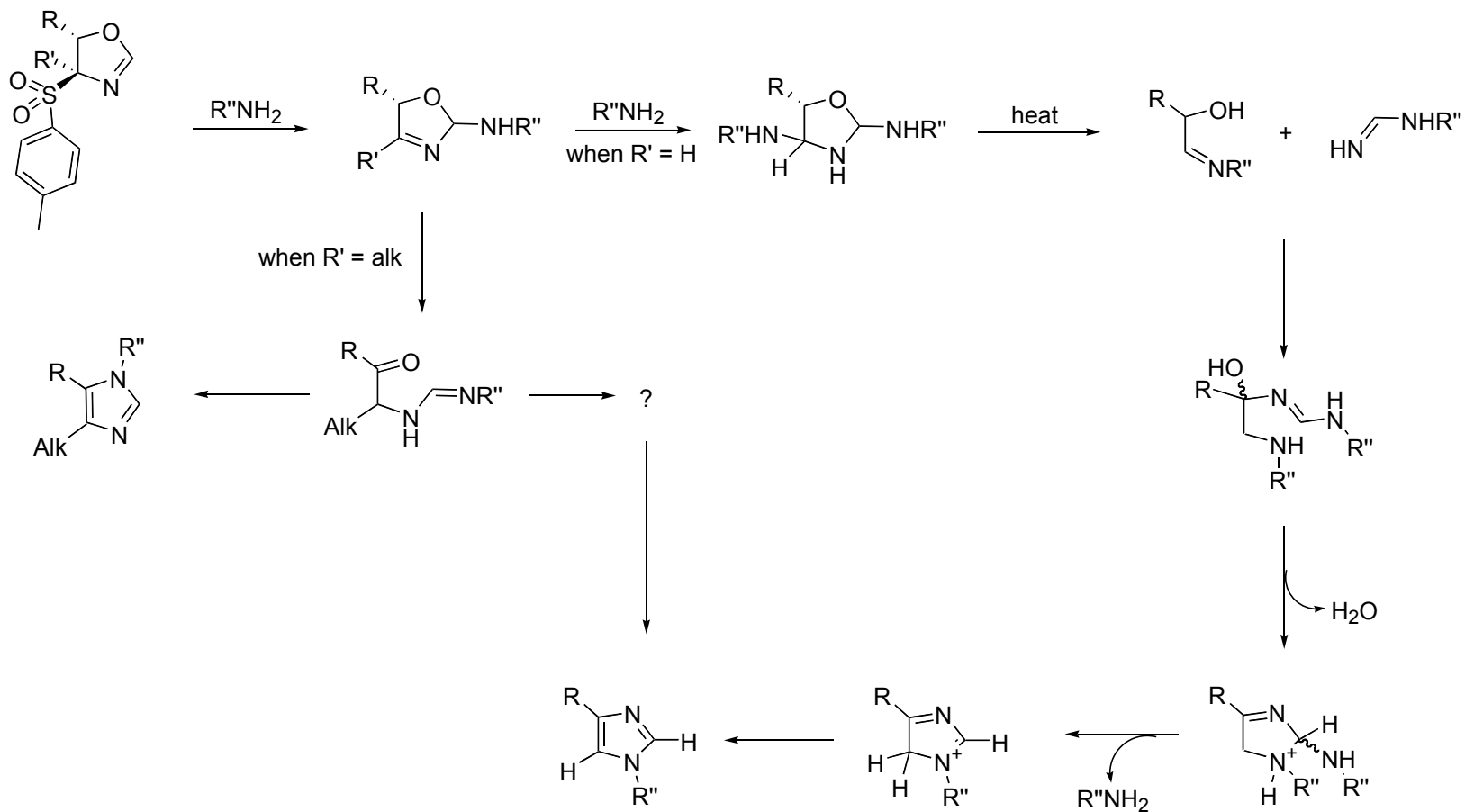
Horne, D. A.; Yakushijin, K.; Buchi, G. *Heterocycles*, **1994**, 139

R' = H or Alk  
R'' = H or Alk  
R and R' cannot both = Alk

Process regioselectively provides 4, 1,4, and 4,5 mono- and disubstituted imidazoles

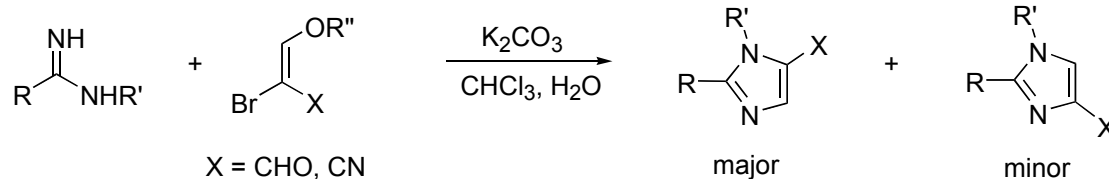
1,4,5 trisubstituted imidazoles are not easily made with this methodology as a regioisomeric mixture of products results.

# Modified TosMIC Imidazole Mechanism



# Synthesis of Imidazoles from Amidines

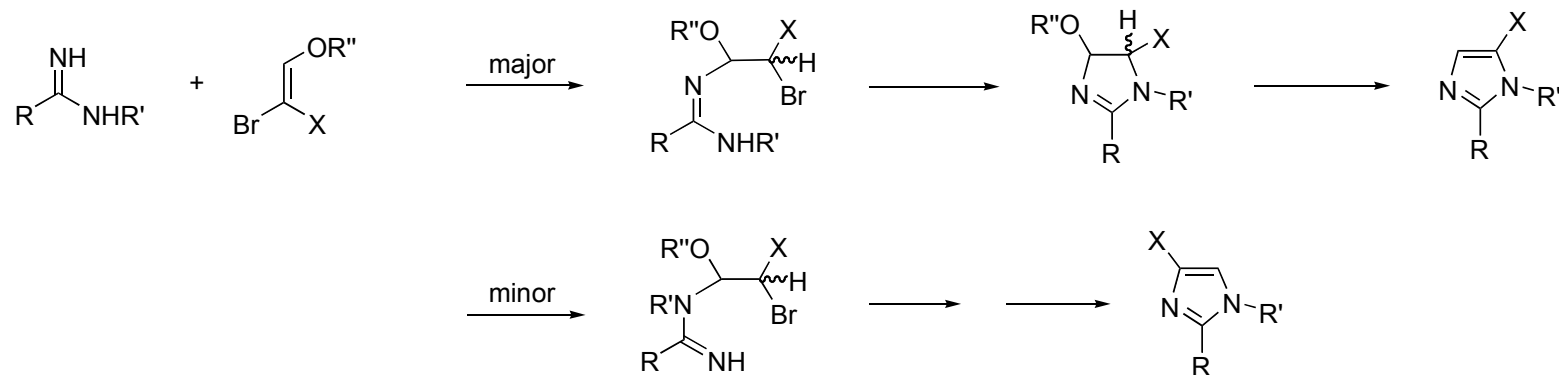
## Selective synthesis of 1,2,5 substituted imidazoles



modest yields, good selectivity  
amenable to the synthesis of  
multikilogram quantities of  
pharmaceutical intermediates

Shilcrat, S. C.; Mokhallalati, M. K.; Fortunak, J. M. D.; Pridgen, L. N. *J. Org. Chem.* **1997**, *62*, 8449.

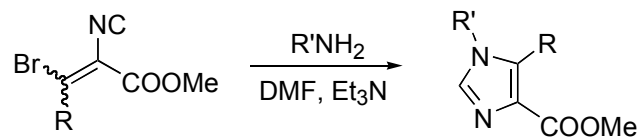
# Imidazoles from Amidines -- Mechanism



# Imidazole carboxylates from BICAs

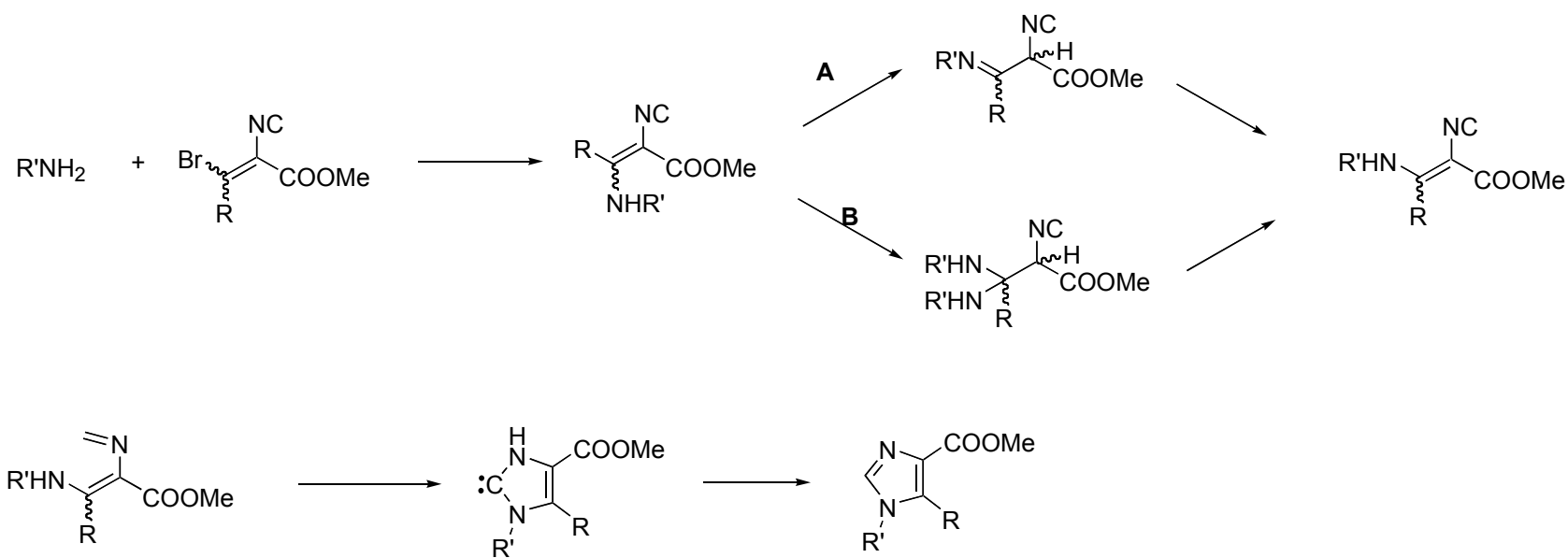
**1,5 imidazole carboxylates** from amines and 3-bromo-2-isocyanoacrylates (**BICAs**)

Complementary to the amidine methodology



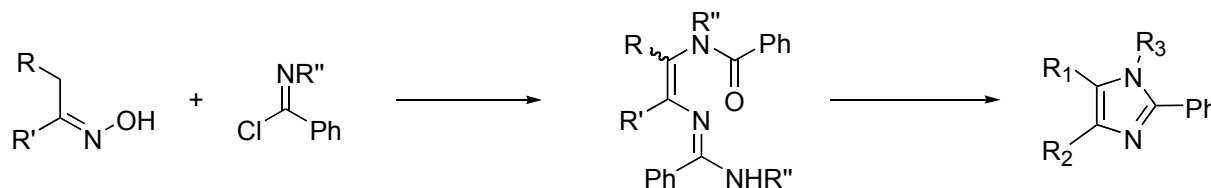
Nunami, K.-I.; Yamada, M.; Fukui, T.; Matsumoto, K. *J. Org. Chem.* **1994**, *59*, 7635.

# BICA Mechanism



# Hetero Cope Rearrangement -- A Strategy to Highly Substituted Imidazoles

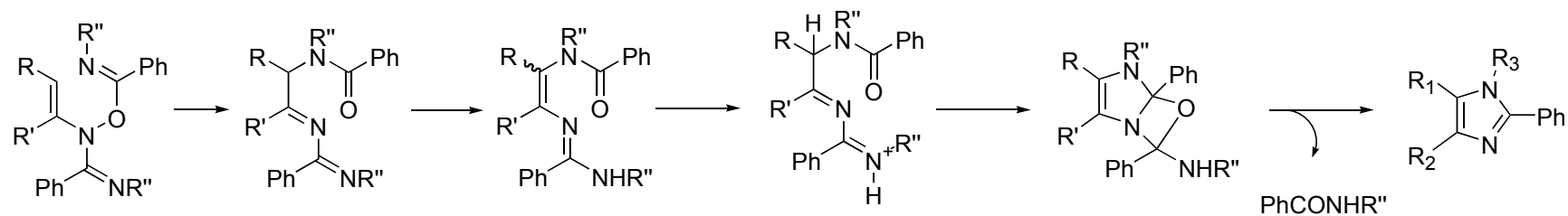
Hetero-Cope Rearrangements to regioselectively provide highly Substituted imidazoles



highly regioselective synthesis of tetrasubstituted imidazoles. Limited by R-group requirements.

Lantos, I.; Zhang, W.-Y.; Shui, X.; Eggleston, D. S. *J. Org Chem.* , **1993**, *58*, 7092.

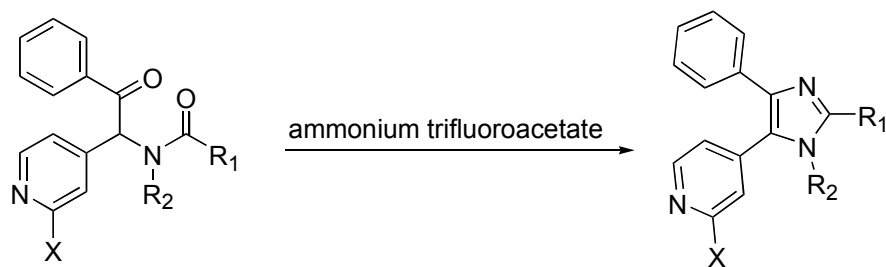
# Mechanism of the Hetero Cope Rearrangement Approach





# Highly Substituted Imidazoles From $\alpha$ -Ketoamides

Regioselective synthesis of tetrasubstituted imidazoles from  $\alpha$ -ketoamides under neutral reaction conditions

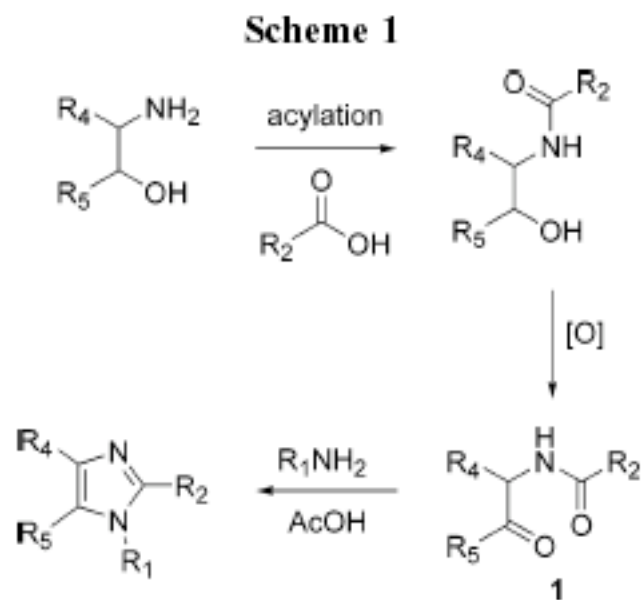


Methodology tolerates variance at positions 1,2 and 5 quite well.

Position 4 usually, but not always, aromatic.

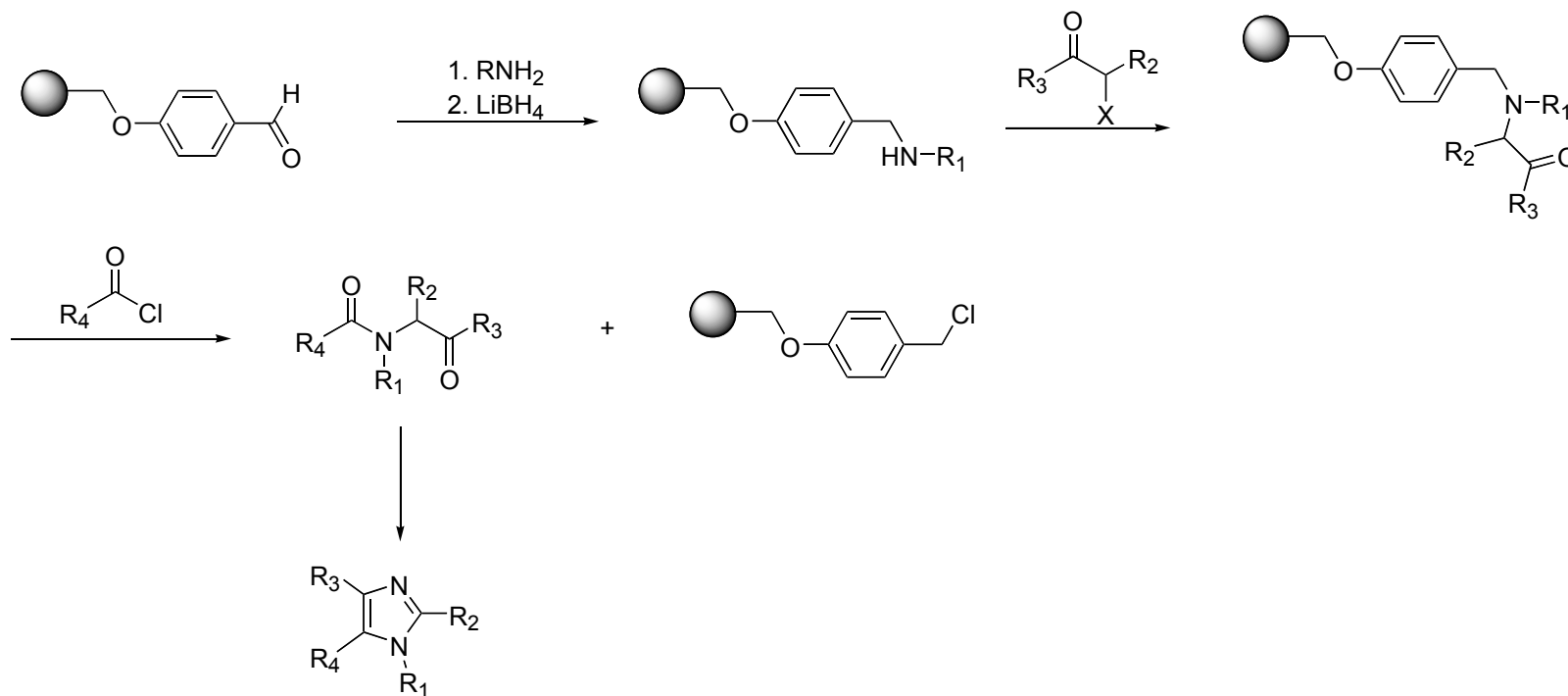
Claiborne, C. F.; Liverton, N. J.; Nguyen, K. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1998**, 39, 8939.

# Synthesis of $\alpha$ -Ketoamides... Nontrivial??



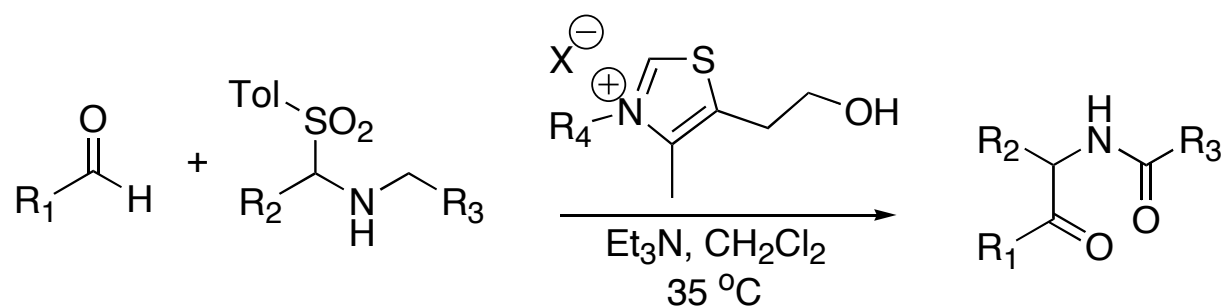
# A Traceless Synthesis of $\alpha$ -Ketoamides

A traceless entry into  $\alpha$ -ketoamides -- and tetrasubstituted imidazoles



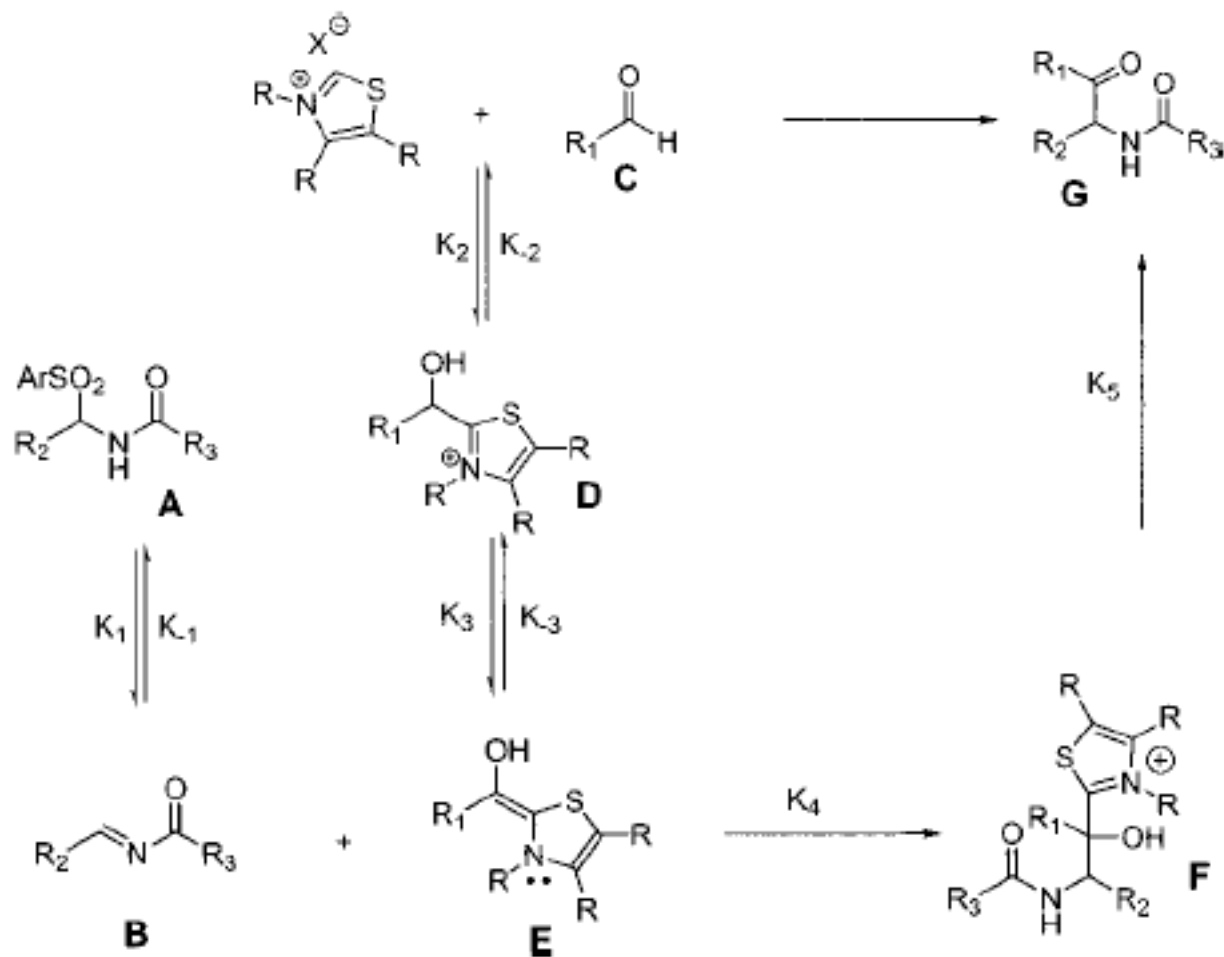
Lee, H. B.; Balasubramanian, S. *Org. Lett.* **2000**, 2, 323.

# Thiazolium Catalyzed Synthesis of $\alpha$ -Ketoamides



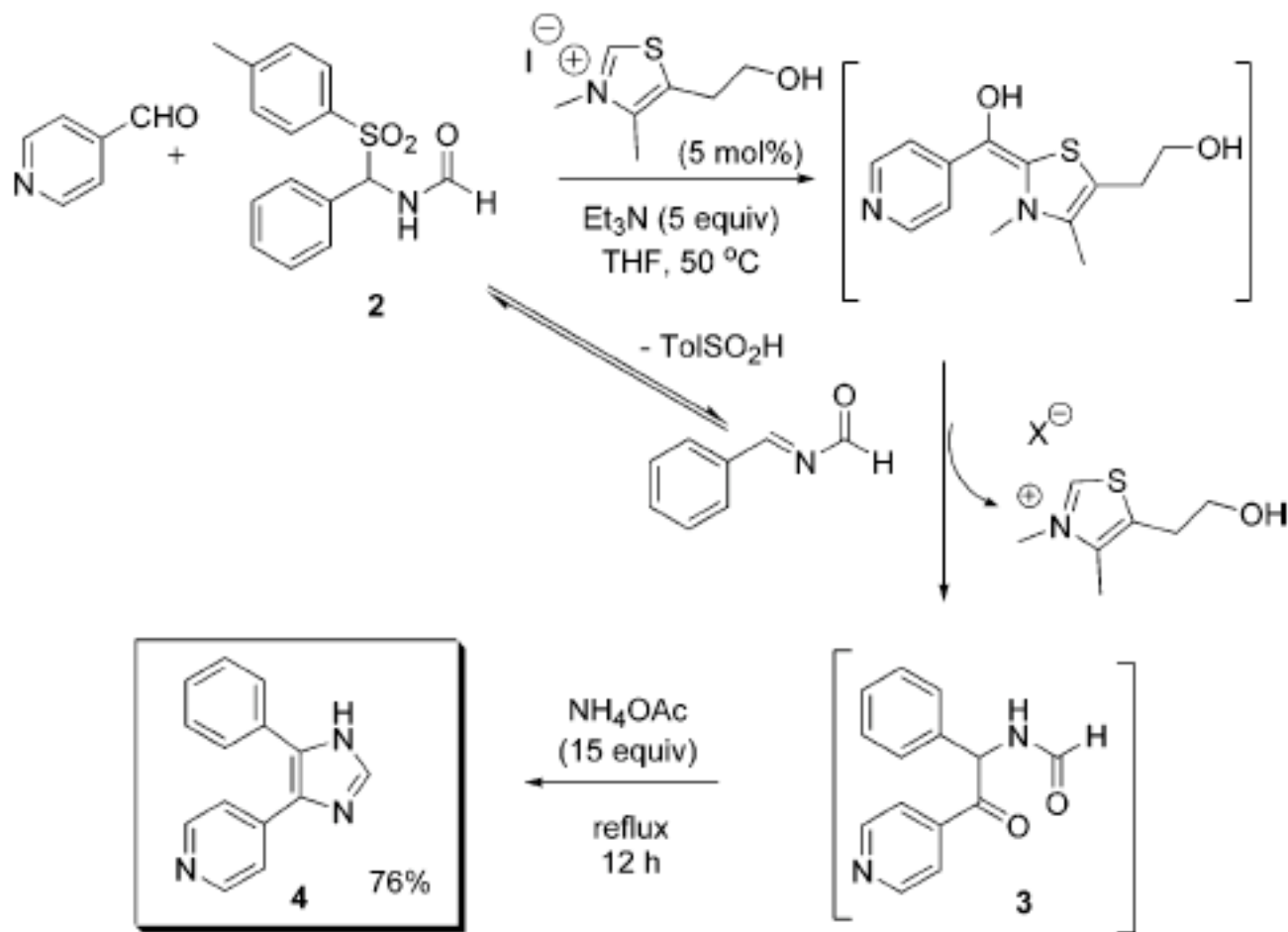
Murry, J. A.; Frantz, D. E.; Soheili, A.; Tillyer, R.; Grabowski, E. J. J.; Reider, P. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2001**, 9696.

# Mechanism of $\alpha$ -Ketoamide Synthesis by Organocatalysis

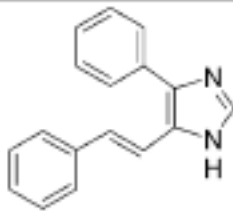
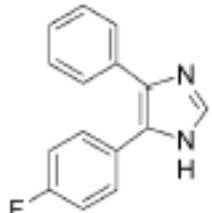
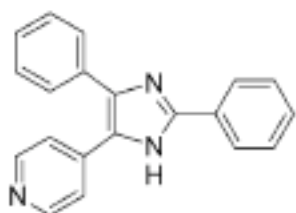
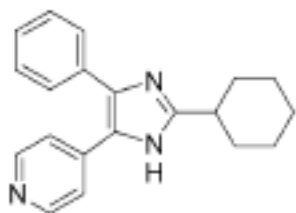


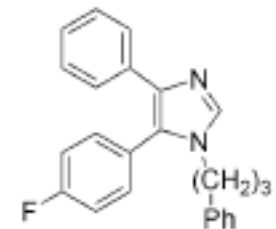
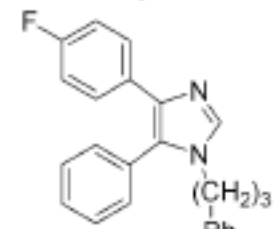
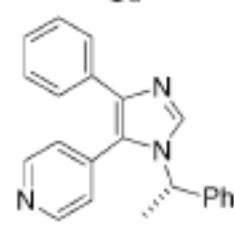
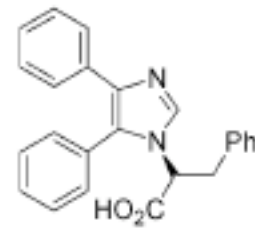
Murry, J. A.; Frantz, D. E.; Soheili, A.; Tillyer, R.; Grabowski, E. J. J.; Reider, P. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2001**, *123*, 9696.

# Regioselective, “One Pot” Synthesis of Substituted Imidazole



# One-Pot Synthesis of Di- and Trisubstituted Imidazoles

entry	product	isolated yield <sup>a</sup>
1	 <b>5</b>	47% <sup>b</sup> 68% <sup>c</sup>
2	 <b>6</b>	82% <sup>c</sup>
3	 <b>7</b>	78% <sup>c</sup>
4	 <b>8</b>	55% <sup>b</sup> 82% <sup>c</sup>

5	 <b>9</b>	35% <sup>b</sup> 58% <sup>c</sup>
6	 <b>10</b>	42% <sup>b</sup> 61% <sup>c</sup>
7	 <b>11</b>	83% <sup>c</sup> >98% ee
8	 <b>12</b>	48% <sup>b</sup> 73% <sup>c</sup> >98% ee

<sup>a</sup> Reaction yields and isolations were not optimized and represent the result of a single experiment. <sup>b</sup> Product isolated by crystallization from the crude product mixture. <sup>c</sup> Product isolated by SiO<sub>2</sub> chromatography.

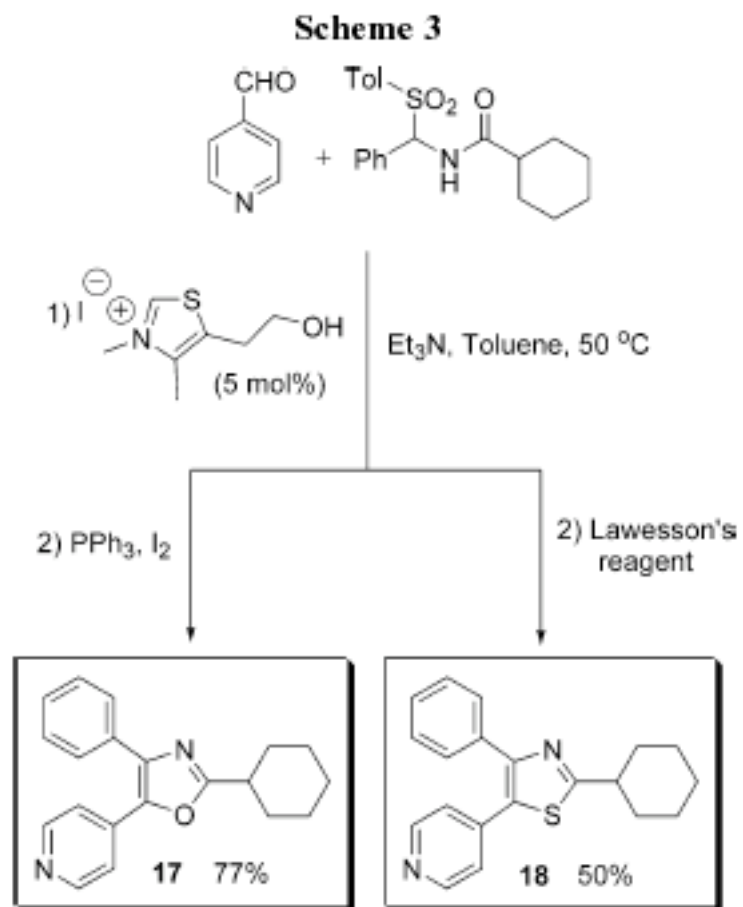
# Synthesis of Tetrasubstituted Imidazoles

entry	product	isolated yield <sup>a</sup>
1	 <b>13</b>	22%
2	 <b>14</b>	76%
3	 <b>15</b>	80%
4	 <b>16</b>	75%

<sup>a</sup> Reaction yields were not optimized and represent the result of a single experiment. Products isolated by SiO<sub>2</sub> chromatography.



# Application to the Synthesis of Substituted Oxazoles and Thiazoles



# Conclusions

- A rapid, one-pot, regioselective, organocatalyzed synthesis of highly functionalized imidazoles from  $\alpha$ -ketoamides has been described
- The methodology has been extended to the synthesis of substituted oxazoles and thiazoles