## Supporting Information

# Reactions of Silyl-Stabilized Sulfur Ylides with Organoboranes: 

Enantioselectivity, Mechanism and Understanding

Dean Howells, ${ }^{\dagger}$ Raphaël Robiette, ${ }^{\star}$ Guang Y. Fang, ${ }^{\dagger}$ Luke S. Knowles, ${ }^{\dagger}$ Michael D. Woodrow, ${ }^{\varsigma}$ Jeremy N. Harvey, ${ }^{\dagger}$ * Varinder K. Aggarwal ${ }^{\dagger \prime}$ * School of Chemistry, University of Bristol, Cantock's Close, Bristol, BS8 ITS, UK; Unité de Chimie organique et médicinale, Université catholique de Louvain; Pl. L. Pasteur 1, B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium; Medicinal Chemistry II, GlaxoSmithKline R\&D, Stevenage, SG1 2NY, UK<br>V.Aggarwal@bristol.ac.uk

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## General information

All air and water sensitive reactions were carried out in oven dried glassware under argon atmosphere. Solvents were dried by standard method. ${ }^{1}$ NMR spectra were recorded on Jeol 270 MHz or Jeol 400 MHz spectrometers using tetramethylsilane as the internal standard ( 0.00 ppm ). $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ was used as the internal standard for ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectra. CI mass spectra were obtained using a VG Platform mass spectrometer. IR spectra were obtained on a Perkin-Elmer Spectrum One FTIR spectrometer. Flash chromatography was performed using silica gel (Merck Kieselgel 60). Melting points were determined with a Kofler hot stage apparatus and were not corrected.
Triethylborane, tributylborane and triphenylborane were bought from Aldrich and used without further purification. Sulfide $\mathbf{7}^{2}$ and Sulfonium salts $\mathbf{8}^{2}$ and $\mathbf{1 0}^{3}$ were made according to literature procedures.

## General procedure for preparation of sulfonium salts from trimethylsilylmethyl triflate and corresponding sulfides

Trimethylsilylmethyl trifluoromethane sulfonate ( 5.0 mmol ) was added dropwise to the solution of the corresponding sulfide ( 2.0 equivalents when tetrahydrothiophene was used; and 1.1 equivalents while chiral sulfides were used) in dry DCM ( 1 mL ) under nitrogen atmosphere. After addition the reaction was stirred for four hours. To the mixture was then added diethyl ether ( 8 mL ), and the sulfonium salt was precipitated as a white solid. The supernatant was taken out and the solid was washed with ether ( $2 \times 5 \mathrm{~mL}$ ), and dried under reduced pressure.

## 1-(Trimethylsilyl-methyl)-tetrahydro-thiophenium trifluoro-methanesulfonate



The sulfonium salt 5 was obtained in $92 \%$ yield as white needles, mp $85-86{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (from DCM); $v_{\text {max }}$ (film)/cm ${ }^{-1} 29661246 ; \delta_{\mathrm{H}}\left(270 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) 3.74(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{dt}, J 12.9,7.3 \mathrm{~Hz}), 3.37(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{dt}, J 12.9,7.3$ $\mathrm{Hz}), 2.66(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 2.54-2.44(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 2.40-2.30(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 0.29(9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{Me}) ; \delta_{\mathrm{C}}\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$ 46.9, 28.5, 27.9, -1.3; $m / z(\mathrm{ESI}+) 175$ ( $100 \%, \mathrm{M}^{+}$); Found: C, 33.4; H 5.60. $\mathrm{C}_{9} \mathrm{H}_{19} \mathrm{SiS}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{~F}_{3}$ requires: C, 33.3; H, 5.60. bicyclo[2.2.1]heptane; trifluoro-methanesulfonate


The chiral sulfonium salt 6 was obtained in $96 \%$ as white needles; mp $129-131{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (from DCM); $v_{\text {max }}($ film $) / \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 2960,1732,1256 ; \delta_{\mathrm{H}}\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) 4.37(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{br}), 3.95(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 5.1 \mathrm{~Hz}), 3.13$ (1H, br), $2.89(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 15.0 \mathrm{~Hz}), 2.79(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 12.5 \mathrm{~Hz}), 2.59(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{dt}, J 18.7,3.7 \mathrm{~Hz}), 2.43-2.36$ $(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, J 3.7 \mathrm{~Hz}), 2.40(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 15.0 \mathrm{~Hz}), 2.27-2.11(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 2.23$ (1H, d, $J 11.4 \mathrm{~Hz}), 2.16$ ( $1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J$ $4.39 \mathrm{~Hz}), 1.98(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 18.7 \mathrm{~Hz}), 1.72-1.62(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 1.57-1.51(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 1.47-1.40(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 1.22$ $(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 1.12(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 0.26(9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}) ; \delta_{\mathrm{C}}\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) 215.8,73.3,60.8,58.7,50.0,45.0,44.2$, 43.0, 40.9, 33.2, 29.4, 27.2, 27.0, 24.3, 22.0, 19.6, -1.3; m/z (ESI): 337 ( $100 \% \mathrm{M}^{+}$); accurate mass found: 337.2016, $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{33} \mathrm{SOSi}$ requires: 337.2028.

## Synthesis of sulfonium salt 9



The sulfonium salt 9 was obtained as a brown oil ( $0.24 \mathrm{~g}, 1.1 \mathrm{mmol}, 100 \%$ crude) which then was left under high vacuum for about 2 hours and dried over $\mathrm{P}_{4} \mathrm{O}_{10}$ for a week prior to use. $v_{\max }$ (film) $/ \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 2964,2845,1223 . \delta_{\mathrm{H}}\left(400 \mathrm{MHz} ; \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) 5.10(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 4.91(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 4.27(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 4.14$ (1H, m), 3.62 (1H, m), $3.54(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 3.35(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{dd}, J 13.5,4.0 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), 3.02 (1H, ddd, J 13.5, 4.0, 2.0 $\mathrm{Hz}), 2.79(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 13.5 \mathrm{~Hz}), 2.72(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m} \mathrm{Hz}), 2.57(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 13.0 \mathrm{~Hz}), 1.97-1.74(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 1.74-$ $1.65(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 1.69(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 1.52(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 0.32(9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}) ; \delta_{\mathrm{C}}\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) 128.1,123.8,75.4$, 62.8, 57.5, 41.0, 39.5, 27.2, 25.9, 23.7, 20.4, 15.7, 0.0; m/z (ESI): 299 ( ${ }^{+}$, 100\%) found 299.1859 for $\mathrm{C}_{16} \mathrm{H}_{31} \mathrm{OSSi}$ required 299.1860.

## Phenyl-trimethylsilyl-methanol ${ }^{4}$ from sulfonium salt 5



To a solution of dry sulfonium triflate $5(0.16 \mathrm{~g}, 0.50 \mathrm{mmol})$ in dry THF ( 4 mL ) at $-78{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ was added 1.0 M LiHMDS in THF $(0.60 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.60 \mathrm{mmol})$. After 5 min the reaction was cooled to -98
${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and 0.25 M triphenylborane in THF ( $2.4 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.60 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was added. The reaction was then allowed to warm to rt and stirred overnight. Thereafter, the reaction mixture was cooled to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and a solution of premixed $30 \% \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ in water ( 2.5 mL ) and $2.0 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{NaOH}(2.5 \mathrm{~mL}$ ) was added dropwise. The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight; after which it was extracted with diethyl ether ( $2 \times 20 \mathrm{~mL}$ ), organic phase were combined and washed with 1.0 M $\mathrm{NaOH}(2 \times 10 \mathrm{~mL})$, dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$ and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by column chromatography ( $2 \%$ ethyl acetate in petrol, $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.26$ ) to give the title compound in $61 \%$ yield as a colorless oil; $v_{\text {max }}($ film $) / \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 3419,3061,1246 ; \delta_{\mathrm{H}}\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$ $7.31(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 7.7 \mathrm{~Hz}), 7.20-7.16(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 4.53(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}), 1.73(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{br}), 0.01(9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}) ; \delta_{\mathrm{C}}(100 \mathrm{MHz}$, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) 144.4, 128.3, 125.9, 125.0, 70.7, -4.0.

## Phenyl-trimethylsilyl-methanol from sulfonium 6 or 9

To a solution of dry chiral sulfonium triflate $\mathbf{6 / 9}(0.50 \mathrm{mmol})$ in dry THF $(8 \mathrm{~mL})$ at $-78{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ was added 1.0 MLiHMDS in THF $(0.60 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.60 \mathrm{mmol})$. After 5 min the reaction was cooled to -98 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and 0.25 M triphenylborane in THF ( $2.40 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.60 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was added. The reaction was then allowed to warm to rt and stirred overnight. Thereafter, the reaction mixture was cooled to $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and a solution of premixed $30 \% \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ in water ( 2.5 mL ) and $2.0 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{NaOH}(2.5 \mathrm{~mL}$ ) was added dropwise. The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight; after which it was extracted with diethyl ether ( $2 \times 20 \mathrm{~mL}$ ), organic phase were combined and washed with 1.0 M $\mathrm{NaOH}(2 \times 10 \mathrm{~mL})$, dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$ and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by column chromatography ( $2 \%$ ethyl acetate in petrol, $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.26$ ) to give the title compound in $66 \%$ yield ( $41 \%$ yield when salt 9 was used) as a colorless oil.

## 1-Trimethylsilyl-pentan-1-ol ${ }^{5}$ from sulfonium 5



To a solution of dry sulfonium triflate $5(164 \mathrm{mg}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ in dry THF $(5 \mathrm{~mL})$ at $-78{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ was added 1.0 m LiHMDS in THF ( $0.60 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.60 \mathrm{mmol}$ ). After 5 min the reaction was cooled to -98 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and 1.0 M tributylborane in THF ( $0.60 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.60 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was added. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred overnight. To the reaction mixture was added a premixed $30 \% \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ in water ( 2.5 mL ) and $2.0 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{NaOH}(2.5 \mathrm{~mL})$ dropwise at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and stirred at room temperature for 4 hours. The mixture was extracted with diethyl ether ( $2 \times 20 \mathrm{~mL}$ ), organic phases were combined and washed with brine ( 20 mL ), dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, concentrated in vacuo to give clear oil, which was then purified by column chromatography ( $5 \%$ diethyl ether in pentane, $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.15$ ) gave the alcohol as an colorless oil in $63 \%$ yield; $\delta_{\mathrm{H}}\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) 3.27$
(1H, td, $J 8.3,5.4 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), 1.56-1.45 (3H, m), 1.42-1.11 (3H, m), 1.17 ( $1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{br}$ ), $0.89(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J 7.3 \mathrm{~Hz})$, 0.02 ( $9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}$ ); $\delta_{\mathrm{C}}\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) 66.3,33.3,29.1,22.8,14.2,-3.8$.

## 1-Trimethylsilyl-pentan-1-ol from sulfonium 6

To a solution of dry sulfonium triflate $6(0.23 \mathrm{~g}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ in dry DCM ( 2 mL ) at $-78{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ was added 1.0 m LiHMDS in THF ( $0.60 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.60 \mathrm{mmol}$ ). After 5 min the reaction was cooled to -98 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and 1.0 M tributylborane in THF ( $0.60 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.60 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was added. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred overnight. To the reaction mixture was added a premixed $30 \% \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ in water $(2.5 \mathrm{~mL})$ and $2.0 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{NaOH}(2.5 \mathrm{~mL})$ dropwise at $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$; and the reaction mixture was then stirred at room temperature for 4 hours; thereafter the mixture was extracted with diethyl ether ( $2 \times 20 \mathrm{~mL}$ ), organic phases were combined and washed with brine ( 20 mL ), dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, concentrated in vacuo to give clear oil, which was then purified by column chromatography ( $5 \%$ diethyl ether in pentane, $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.15$ ) to give the alcohol as an colorless oil in 72\% yield.

## The Cross-over experiment with silyl-stabilized sulfonium ylide:

1) Adding triphenylborane to ylide 5 first then adding triethylborane:


To a solution of dry sulfonium triflate 5 ( $163 \mathrm{mg}, 0.50 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) in dry THF ( 5 mL ) was added 1.0 M LiHMDS in THF ( $0.55 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.55 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) at $-78^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ under nitrogen atmosphere. After 20 mins 0.25 M triphenylborane in THF ( $3.0 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.75 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was added over a 1 min period and reaction was stirred at $-78{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 30 min followed by addition of 1.0 M triethylborane in THF ( $0.75 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.75$ mmol ). The reaction mixture was stirred at $-78{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for another 30 mins before being warmed to room temperature over 1 hour period. After the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours the premixed aqueous solution of $1.0 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{NaOH}(1.5 \mathrm{~mL})$ and $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}(0.5 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added at 0 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, and stirred overnight at room temperature. The mixture was extracted with ether ( $2 \times 10 \mathrm{~mL}$ ), washed with $1.0 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{NaOH}(2 \mathrm{x} 5 \mathrm{~mL})$, brine ( 10 mL ), dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$ and concentrated in vacuo . The crude product was further purified by column chromatography ( $2 \%$ diethyl ether in pentane) to gave Phenyl-trimethylsilyl-methanol in 72\% yield.

## 2) Adding triethylborane to ylide 5 first then adding triphenylborane:



To a solution of dry sulfonium triflate $5(0.16 \mathrm{~g}, 0.50 \mathrm{mmol})$ in dry THF ( 5 mL ) was added 1.0 M LiHMDS in THF ( $0.55 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.55 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) at $-78{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ under nitrogen atmosphere. After 20 mins 0.25 M triethylborane in THF ( $3.0 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.75 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was added over a 1 min period and reaction was stirred at $-78{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 30 min followed by addition of 1.0 M triphenylborane in THF ( $0.75 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.75 \mathrm{mmol}$ ). The reaction mixture was stirred at $-78{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for another 30 mins before being warmed to room temperature over 1 hour period. After the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours the premixed aqueous solution of $1.0 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{NaOH}(1.5 \mathrm{~mL})$ and $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}(0.5 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added at 0 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, and stirred overnight at room temperature. The mixture was extracted with ether ( 2 x 10 mL ), washed with $1.0 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{NaOH}(2 \mathrm{x} 5 \mathrm{~mL})$, brine ( 10 mL ), dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$ and concentrated in vacuo . The crude product was further purified by column chromatography ( $2 \%$ diethyl ether in pentane) to gave Phenyl-trimethylsilyl-methanol in 44\% yield.

## The Cross-over experiment with phenyl-stabilized sulfonium ylide

## 1) Addtion of triethylborane to ylide 10 followed by adding triphenylborane gave 1Phenyl propan-1-ol ${ }^{6}$



To a solution of dry sulfonium tetrafluoroborate $\mathbf{1 0}(133 \mathrm{mg}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ in dry THF ( 5 mL ) was added 1.0 M LiHMDS in THF ( $0.55 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.55 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) at $-78{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ under nitrogen atmosphere. After 20 mins the reaction mixture was cooled to $-105^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and 1.0 m triethylborane in THF ( $0.75 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.75$ mmol ) was added over a 1 min period and reaction was stirred at $-105^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 30 min . Then 0.25 M triphenylborane in THF ( $3.0 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.75 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was added and the reaction was stirred at $-105{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 30 min before warmed to room temperature over a 1 hour time, and was stirred at rt for 2 h . A premixed solution of $1.0 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{NaOH}(1.5 \mathrm{~mL})$ and $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}(30 \% \mathrm{w} / \mathrm{w}, 0.5 \mathrm{~mL})$ and added to the reaction at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, and the mixture was stirred overnight at rt. The reaction was extracted with diethyl ether ( 2 $\times 10 \mathrm{~mL}$ ), washed with $1.0 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{NaOH}\left(2 \mathrm{x} 5 \mathrm{~mL}\right.$ ) and brine ( 10 mL ), dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$ and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by column chromatography ( $10 \%$ ethyl acetate in petrol, $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.18$ ) to give the alcohol as a colourless oil in $70 \%$ yield; $\delta_{\mathrm{H}}(400 \mathrm{MHz}$, $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) 7.35-7.22(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H}), 4.57(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J=7.0 \mathrm{~Hz}), 1.85-1.66(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 1.09-0.85(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}) ; \delta_{\mathrm{C}}(100$ $\left.\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) 140.0,128.6,128.2,126.0,76.8,32.7,8.2$.

## 2) Addtion of triphenylborane to ylide 10 followed by adding triethylborane gave diphenylmethanol ${ }^{6}$



To a solution of dry sulfonium tetrafluoroborate $10(0.13 \mathrm{~g}, 0.50 \mathrm{mmol})$ in dry THF ( 5 mL ) was added 1.0 M LiHMDS in THF ( $0.55 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.55 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) at $-78^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ under nitrogen atmosphere. After 20 mins the reaction mixture was cooled to $-105^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and 0.25 M triphenylborane in THF ( $3.0 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.75$ mmol ) was added over a 1 min period and reaction was stirred at $-105^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 30 min . Then 1.0 m triethylborane in THF ( $0.75 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.75 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was added and the reaction was stirred at $-105{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 30 min before warmed to room temperature over a 1 hour time, and was stirred at rt for 2 h . A premixed solution of $1.0 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{NaOH}(1.5 \mathrm{~mL})$ and $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}(30 \% \mathrm{w} / \mathrm{w}, 0.5 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added to the reaction at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, and the resulting mixture was stirred overnight at rt. The reaction was extracted with diethyl ether ( $2 \times 10 \mathrm{~mL}$ ), washed with $1.0 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{NaOH}(2 \times 5 \mathrm{~mL})$ and brine ( 10 mL ), dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$ and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (5\% ethyl acetate in petrol, $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}=0.22$ ) to give the alcohol as a colourless oil in $76 \%$ yield. $\delta_{\mathrm{H}}(400 \mathrm{MHz}$, $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) 7.40-7.27(10 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 5.85(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J=2.0 \mathrm{~Hz}), 2.23(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J=2.0 \mathrm{~Hz}) ; \delta_{\mathrm{C}}(100 \mathrm{MHz}$, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) 141.3, 129.1, 128.6, 126.2, 76.0.

## Isodesmic reactions





| Eq. 3 - Eq. 2 - Eq. 1 (informative of steric effects) |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| R | $\Delta \mathrm{E}(\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol})$ |
| H | 0.0 |
| Ph | 14.3 |
| TMS | 14.1 |

## NBO analysis

NBO analysis has been performed on every transition structure at the B3LYP/6-31G* level of theory using Jaguar 6.0 pseudospectral program package.


NPA charge at $\mathrm{C}^{1}$ (a.u.)

| $\mathbf{R}$ | Ate complex | TS | SCharge $^{\text {a }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| H | -0.825 | -0.531 | 0.294 |
| Ph | -0.569 | -0.288 | 0.281 |
| TMS | -1.118 | -0.764 | 0.354 |

${ }^{2}$ 万charge $=$ charge in TS - charge in ate complex

## Energies and geometries

All geometries (cartesian coordinates in $\AA$ ) were obtained after geometry optimization at the B3LYP/6-31G* level of theory. Energies (in a.u.) were obtained after single point calculations at the indicated level of theory.
For geometries and energies related to non-substituted and phenyl-substituted ylides reactions with $\mathrm{BMe}_{3}$, see Supporting Information of Chem. Comm. 2006, 741-743.

## TMSCHSMe 2

| $\mathrm{E}\left(\mathrm{B} 3 \mathrm{LYP} / 6-31 \mathrm{G}^{*}\right)=$ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| -925.918120 |  |  |
| $\mathrm{E}\left(\mathrm{MP} 2 / 6-311+\mathrm{G}^{* *}\right)=$ |  |  |
| -924.182168 |  |  |
| S -3.45010 | 1.71240 | 0.04213 |
| C -5.05101 | 1.20004 | -0.74574 |
| H -4.79222 | 0.51431 | -1.55480 |
| H -5.6781 | 0.68563 | -0.01119 |
| H -5.57212 | 2.07633 | -1.14399 |
| C -4.23379 | 2.84104 | 1.29126 |
| H -4.8923 | 2.26597 | 1.94930 |
| H -3.41718 | 3.27346 | 1.87263 |
| H -4.7972 | 3.63077 | 0.78435 |
| C -2.72298 | 0.41589 | 0.79133 |
| H -3.34577 | -0.14576 | 1.49077 |
| Si -0.96852 | -0.04850 | 0.4712 |


| C | 0.07441 | 0.02827 | 2.06117 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| H | 1.10270 | -0.31532 | 1.88728 |
| H | 0.12373 | 1.05084 | 2.45460 |
| H | -0.35345 | -0.60453 | 2.84935 |
| C | -0.83644 | -1.83300 | -0.17550 |
| H | 0.20993 | -2.14115 | -0.30083 |
| H | -1.30626 | -2.54339 | 0.51686 |
| H | -1.33771 | -1.94193 | -1.14483 |
| C | -0.18590 | 1.11386 | -0.81101 |
| H | 0.85682 | 0.82409 | -0.99207 |
| H | -0.70908 | 1.07789 | -1.77388 |
| H | -0.18307 | 2.15744 | -0.47468 |

TMSCH(SMe $\mathbf{S H M e}_{3}$

```
E(B3LYP/6-31G*) =
-1070.53370
E(MP2/6-311+G**) =
-1068.356486
```

| C | -11.86148 | 1.41258 | 1.35297 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| H | -12.67278 | 2.15270 | 1.28947 |
| B | -10.74610 | 2.01489 | 2.57703 |
| Si | -11.12905 | 1.16199 | -0.42245 |
| C | -13.17038 | -0.10581 | 3.59240 |
| H | -13.78748 | 0.76911 | 3.79876 |
| H | -13.72191 | -1.03216 | 3.77674 |
| H | -12.26388 | -0.07568 | 4.19192 |
| С | -14.35952 | -0.11428 | 1.13055 |
| H | -14.86418 | 0.80669 | 1.43455 |
| H | -14.28020 | -0.16125 | 0.04596 |
| H | -14.90521 | -0.98690 | 1.49972 |
| C | -9.85111 | 3.20573 | 1.87532 |
| H | -10.45308 | 4.04064 | 1.48357 |
| H | -9.20351 | 3.64171 | 2.65091 |
| H | -9.17399 | 2.89131 | 1.06834 |
| C | -11.61608 | 2.74179 | 3.78004 |
| H | -12.39492 | 3.42447 | 3.39975 |
| H | -12.10526 | 2.09009 | 4.51813 |

C -11.86148 1.412581 .35297 $-12.67278-2.152701 .28947$ B -10.74610 2.014892 .57703 S -11.12905 $1.16199-0.42245$ H -13.78748 0.769113 .79876 Н -13.72191 -1.032163 .77674 4.19192 C -14.35952 -0.114281 .13055 1.43455 H -14.90521 -0.986901 .49972 C $\quad-9.85111 \quad 3.205731 .87532$ -10.45308 4.040641 .4835 H $\quad-9.20351 \quad 3.64171 \quad 2.65091$ H $-9.17399 \quad 2.89131 \quad 1.06834$ H -12 $39492-342447-3.39975$ H -12.10526 2.090094 .51813

H -10.93385 3.373044 .36930 C $\quad-9.754230 .836913 .15437$ H -9.092621 .271373 .91899 H -10.24276 -0.01904 3.65293 H $-9.090210 .39806 \quad 2.39634$ С $-9.43158 \quad 0.33089-0.41263$ H -9.47056 -0.65731 0.06041 H H -8.681950 .921880 .11877 C -11.08881 $2.84152-1.29335$ H -10.40670 $3.54631-0.81293$ H -10.76591 $2.70655-2.33369$ H -12.08506 $3.30033-1.31670$ C - $-12.21478 \quad 0.05245-1.54157$ H -11.70241 -0.05914 -2.50614 H -12.36744 $-0.96187-1.15167$ H -13.19614 0.49308 -1.75836 S -12.67135 -0.14462 1.83469

## TS

E(B3LYP/6-31G*) =
-1070.525340
E(MP2/6-311+G**) $=$
-1068.331199
S -2.28480 0.665421 .74035
C -2.55472 1.266993 .44033 H -2.71290 0.387724 .06967 H -1.68339 1.820243 .79297 $\begin{array}{lllll}\text { H } & -3.45053 & 1.89368 & 3.47141\end{array}$ С -2.03866 2.237070 .85346 H -1.15890 2.753441 .23584 H -1.88645 1.99026 -0.19881 H -2.93407 2.856420 .95642 B $1.091940 .96200 \quad 1.98593$ C $-0.01062-0.177951 .95835$ H -0.30632 -0.52093 2.95857 Si - $0.24333-1.563610 .63729$ C $-0.85874-0.83441-1.00165$ H -0.84336 -1.60924 -1.77859 H $-1.88858-0.46266-0.94251$ H $-0.21495-0.01491-1.33882$ C $1.36950-2.48900 \quad 0.27494$ H $1.16884-3.27112-0.46924$ H 2.13931 -1.82709 -0.13414 H $1.78215-2.976811 .16441$ C -1.49969 -2.83679 1.27343 H -1.62651 -3.64657 0.54379 H -1.16189 -3.29452 2.21169 H -2.48850 -2.39852 1.45082 C 1.611561 .530340 .54547 H $1.843110 .74437-0.18945$ $\begin{array}{lllll}\text { H } & 0.89633 & 2.20976 & 0.05636\end{array}$ H $2.53697 \quad 2.112730 .66758$ C $2.25817-0.137472 .62305$ H $2.59007-0.947641 .97138$ H $3.109430 .54426 \quad 2.75473$ H 2.01972 -0.55452 3.60877 C $\begin{array}{llll} & 0.91691 & 2.13019 & 3.12424\end{array}$ H 1.873732 .648993 .28349 H 0.200272 .923672 .86019 H $\quad 0.612631 .743404 .11039$

## $\mathbf{M e}_{2} \mathbf{B C H}(\mathrm{Me}) \mathrm{TMS}$

E(B3LYP/6-31G*) = -592.593897
$\mathrm{E}\left(\mathrm{MP2} / 6-311+\mathrm{G}^{* *}\right)=$ -591.169815

B -1.69967 -1.93411 0.02142 C $\quad-0.13182-1.95080 \quad 0.00968$ H $\quad 0.21268$-2.05791 -1.03279 C $\quad-2.50967-2.46728 \quad 1.27716$ H -2.05188 -2.20626 2.23983 H -3.56115 -2.15745 1.29687 H -2.50563 -3.56960 1.24343 C $-2.51978-1.42712-1.23636$ H -3.25180 -0.65497 -0.95820 H $-1.91940-1.04887-2.07129$ H -3.12540 -2.26513 -1.61796 Si $0.52579-0.196190 .47176$ $\begin{array}{lllll}\text { C } & 2.42208 & -0.21476 & 0.39247\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{lllll}\text { H } & 2.86141 & -0.89372 & 1.13194\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llllll}\text { H } & 2.77989 & -0.52372 & -0.59727\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{lllll}\text { H } & 2.82136 & 0.78813 & 0.58953\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{lllll}\text { C } & -0.00638 & 0.28714 & 2.22699\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{lllll}\text { H } & 0.31783 & -0.45143 & 2.96991\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { H } & 0.43330 & 1.25100 & 2.51190\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { H } & -1.09523 & 0.38434 & 2.31082\end{array}$
C $-0.101291 .11294-0.74710$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { H } & 0.34447 & 2.08904 & -0.51791\end{array}$
H $\quad 0.16770$ 0.86366 -1.78061
H -1.19002 1.22961 -0.70926
$\begin{array}{lllll}\text { C } & 0.54447 & -3.03092 & 0.88829\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{lllll}\text { H } & 1.63773 & -3.00965 & 0.80980\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { H } & 0.29151 & -2.91100 & 1.94817\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{lllll}\text { H } & 0.22288 & -4.03978 & 0.59901\end{array}$

## $\mathrm{CH}_{4}$

$\mathrm{E}\left(\mathrm{MP} 2 / 6-311+\mathrm{G}^{* *}\right)=$ -40.379501

H -9.96454 0.16951 -0.12392
H -11.54798 0.33388 -0.93250
H -10.40204 1.70308-0.92671
C - 10.78449 0.85662 -0.34994
H -11.22318 1.220030 .58318

## Me-Ph

E(MP2/6-311+G**) = -270.784091

H -12.183448 0.574911 .74834 H -12.421734 2.223061 .14135 C $-9.694846 \quad 0.35876-2.40297$ C -10.193376 $1.64940-2.22119$ C - 10.841946 1.99004 -1.03351 C - $11.001724 \quad 1.05354-0.00415$ C $-10.501152-0.23974-0.20204$ С $-9.851846-0.58576-1.38763$ H $-9.190887 \quad 0.09085-3.32790$ H -10.081188 $2.39310-3.00629$ H -11.229136 $2.99894-0.90292$ H -10.620311 -0.98465 0.58266 H $\quad-9.471532-1.59584-1.51866$ С -11.6775971 .433591 .29317
H -10.950771 1.808492 .02575

## $\mathrm{SiMe}_{4}$

$\mathrm{E}\left(\mathrm{MP} 2 / 6-311+\mathrm{G}^{* *}\right)=$ -448.211006

Si - 10.77537 $0.85702-0.37437$

H -12.15180 0.628261 .71568 H -12.19272 2.294341 .12250 C -9.73916 2.26589 -1.10568 Н -10.35142 $3.15593-1.29590$ H $-8.929992 .56171-0.42658$ Н -9.27973 1.97236 -2.05762 С -9.66553 -0.64878 -0.06710 H -8.85560 -0.41228 0.63390 Н -10.23418 -1.48559 0.35686 Н -9.20348 -1.00202 -0.99721 С -12.15299 0.38946 -1.58971 Н -11.74299 0.05547 -2.55082 Н -12.77476 -0.42406 -1.19618 H -12.81413 1.24121 -1.79168 С -11.543321 .421611 .26441 H -10.77187 1.700351 .99269

## $\mathbf{S}^{+} \mathbf{M e}_{3}$

$\mathrm{E}\left(\mathrm{MP} 2 / 6-311+\mathrm{G}^{* *}\right)=$ -516.766491

H -12.20278 -2.10452 2.84861 Н -10.74758 -1.62603 1.93541 C -13.87505 0.443442 .55274 H -13.39593 0.933193 .40360 H -14.48051 1.152061 .98256 H -14.50317 -0.387732 .88208 S -12.62214 -0.23858 1.41651
H -12.13806 1.918270 .50962 H -11.208761 .645562 .02772 C -11.552011 .201941 .09031 H -10.70850 0.852020 .49045 С -11.59222 -1.25882 2.52327 H -11.24873 -0.67158 3.37796

## $\mathbf{M e}_{2} \mathbf{S}^{+} \mathbf{C H}_{\mathbf{2}} \mathbf{P h}$

## E(MP2/6-311+G**) = -747.189107

Н -13.37913 -1.85264 2.72960 H -11.61300 -1.98548 2.52535 С -13.98264 0.697881 .29377 H -13.78008 1.346342 .14884 H -14.13186 1.284890 .38473 H -14.86134 0.072851 .46967 S -12.57514 -0.41901 1.00042 H -10.23942 0.041370 .90192 H -11.19175 1.282060 .06691 C -11.07083 0.743891 .01171
С -12.45245 -1.28995 2.59449
H -12.30203 -0.57457 3.40571
C $-10.68050 \quad 3.337444 .41052$
C -11.388743 .764333 .28520
C -11.52162 2.921402 .18350
C -10.946821 .639312 .19888
C -10.22446 1.224283 .33043
C -10.09451 2.070054 .43027
H -10.57329 3.997585 .26609
H -11.826404 .757723 .26071
H -12.04851 3.271761 .29864
H $\quad$-9.73919 0.250793 .34054
$\begin{array}{lllll}\text { H } & -9.52536 & 1.74578 & 5.29621\end{array}$

## $\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{~S}^{+} \mathbf{C H}_{2} \mathbf{T M S}$

$\mathrm{E}\left(\mathrm{MP} 2 / 6-311+\mathrm{G}^{* *}\right)=$

H $-14.74278-0.94370 \quad 1.00356$ H -14.32746 0.627381 .74173 C -12.15394 -1.62249-0.38037 H -12.38299 -1.02982 -1.26909 H -11.11459 -1.95816 -0.39567 H -12.81523 -2.48965 -0.30674 S -12.37921 -0.61929 1.12852 H -10.39831 0.511130 .57700 H -11.80339 $1.38050-0.06544$ C $-11.39913 \quad 0.88557 \quad 0.82492$ C $-14.10275-0.06178 \quad 0.92677$ H -14.23014 0.42862 -0.04125 Si -11.17695 $2.11427 \quad 2.33880$ C -10.281821 .162753 .69170 H -10.09456 1.820214 .54917 H -10.86147 0.309534 .06384 H -9.308370 .788893 .35366 C $-12.85616 \quad 2.73988 \quad 2.92402$ H -12.70004 3.546313 .65117 H -13.45945 3.160322 .11096 H -13.44617 1.972023 .43923 C $-10.13483 \quad 3.496291 .60475$ H $-9.907274 .23943 \quad 2.37861$ H -9.178073 .130341 .21509 H -10.654014 .019580 .79374

## $\mathrm{B}^{-} \mathrm{Me}_{4}$

$\mathrm{E}\left(\mathrm{MP} 2 / 6-311+\mathrm{G}^{* *}\right)=$ -183.957876

B -10.52291 2.021472 .20686 C -10.06696 3.500631 .60701 H -10.92830 4.161171 .39485 H -9.416844 .063322 .30275 H -9.50248 3.423780 .65899 C -11.36257 2.233523 .62288 H -12.27809 2.840173 .49166

H -11.69274 1.278494 .07240 H -10.76745 2.746054 .40158 C -9.17197 1.101882 .49792 H -8.487531 .566373 .23220 H -9.413550 .100012 .89944 H -8.567950 .926901 .58814 H -11.82544 0.253131 .44551 H -12.41217 1.815670 .86890 С -11.49069 1.249581 .10105 H -10.98555 1.081270 .13150

## $\mathbf{M e}_{3} \mathbf{B}^{-} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathbf{P h}$

E(MP2/6-311+G**) =
-414.382770
B -10.62763 $2.04492 \quad 2.52164$ С -9.88230 $3.42615 \quad 2.00778$ H-10.59524 4.220271 .71843 H -9.24791 $3.86346 \quad 2.79925$ H -9.222093 .272741 .13760 C - 11.601042 .380093 .81755 H-12.37824 $3.13240 \quad 3.59123$ H-12.13492 1.490624 .19853 H-11.02673 2.781134 .67162 C -9.508030 .906072 .94203 H -8.860981 .258433 .76499 H -9.96295 -0.036933 .29767 $\begin{array}{llll}\text { H } & -8.82967 & 0.62935 & 2.11748\end{array}$ C - 11.656071 .441631 .30424 H-12.18007 0.565081 .71759 H -12.42387 2.207401 .10998 C -9.69640 $0.35313-2.41656$ C - $10.193781 .64422-2.22321$ C - $10.835971 .98623-1.03414$ C - $11.008681 .06052 \quad 0.01544$ C - $10.49719-0.23500-0.20539$ С $-9.85432-0.58360-1.39208$ H -9.19589 $0.08302-3.34495$ H-10.08186 $2.39216-3.00808$

H-11.21406 $2.99775-0.89974$ H -10.60796 -0.97643 0.58339
H -9.47373 -1.59694 -1.51964

## $\mathrm{Me}_{3} \mathrm{~B}^{-} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathbf{T M S}$

```
E(MP2/6-311+G**) =
-591.80071
```

В -10.658972 .185212 .53708 C -10.390913 .765542 .12075 H $-11.326414 .31351 \quad 1.90518$ $\begin{array}{llll}\text { H } & -9.89550 & 4.32236 & 2.93656\end{array}$ H $\quad$-9.74852 3.897061 .23328 C $-11.58382 \quad 2.15001 \quad 3.91325$ H -12.57029 2.630273 .77943 H -11.789571 .123264 .26725 H -11.10124 2.674244 .75827
C $\quad-9.217001 .42847 \quad 2.84169$
$\begin{array}{llll}\mathrm{H} & -8.69362 & 1.88334 & 3.70180\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { H } & -9.33308 & 0.35802 & 3.09008\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { H } & -8.50134 & 1.47307 & 2.00053\end{array}$ Si - 10.779130 .88568 -0.30159 C $\begin{array}{llll}-11.54367 & 1.39747 & 1.32575\end{array}$ H $-11.96544 \quad 0.464691 .74859$ H $-12.42924 \quad 2.01728 \quad 1.09021$ C -9.70617 2.21878 -1.14810 H -10.27065 $3.14731-1.29987$ H -8.83828 2.46866 -0.52760 H -9.34168 1.88121 -2.12876 $\begin{array}{lllll}\text { C } & -9.68155 & -0.67040 & -0.12996\end{array}$ H $-8.86531-0.489960 .57816$ Н -10.26173 -1.52174 0.25086 H $\quad-9.24240-0.97145-1.09167$ C -12.11727 $0.41643-1.60112$ H -11.67670 $0.07902-2.55050$ H -12.76170 -0.39166 -1.22911 H -12.76852 1.27236-1.82470

[^1]
[^0]:    $\dagger$ University of Bristol
    $\ddagger$ Université catholique de Louvain
    § Medicinal Chemistry II, GlaxoSmithKline R\&D, Stevenage

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