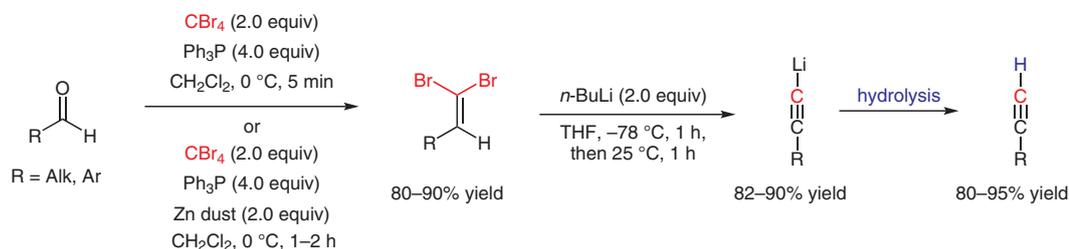


E. J. COREY\*, P. L. FUCHS (HARVARD UNIVERSITY, CAMBRIDGE, USA)

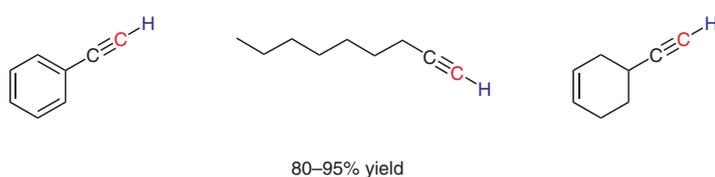
A Synthetic Method for Formyl → Ethynyl Conversion (RCHO → RC≡CH or RC≡CR')

*Tetrahedron Lett.* **1972**, *13*, 3769–3772.

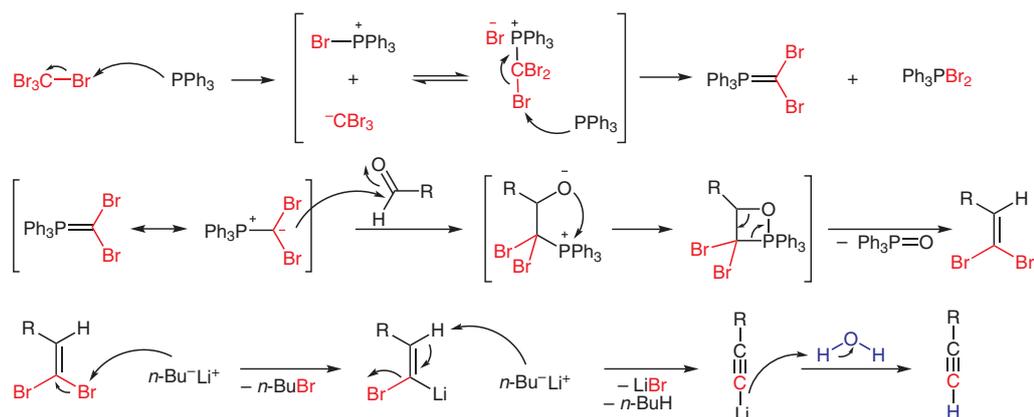
## Corey–Fuchs Alkyne Synthesis



### Selected examples:



### Proposed mechanism:



**Significance:** In 1972, Corey and Fuchs reported a convenient transformation of aldehydes to the corresponding one-carbon chain-extended alkynes using carbon tetrabromide and triphenylphosphine and subsequently  $n\text{-BuLi}$ . The method provides the desired alkynes in good yields.

**Comment:** The procedure comprises two steps. The synthesis of the dibromoolefin can be conducted in two ways in a Wittig-type reaction. In the second step, treatment of the prepared dibromoolefins with two equivalents  $n\text{-BuLi}$  furnishes the desired terminal alkynes. Remarkably, the intermediate lithium acetylide can also be treated with a variety of electrophiles.