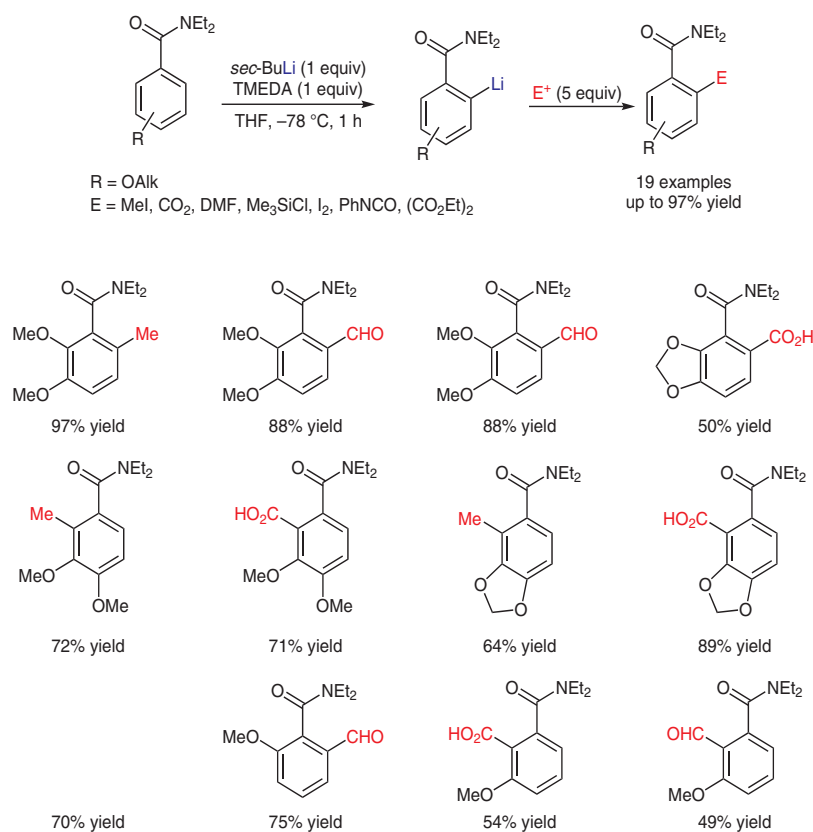
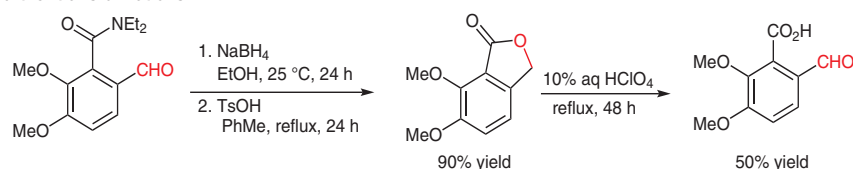


Directed *ortho*-Lithiation of Benzamides



Further transformations:



Significance: Snieckus and co-workers reported a regiospecific *ortho*-lithiation of various *N,N*-diethylbenzamides using *sec*-BuLi and TMEDA in THF. The formed lithiated species were trapped with a range of electrophiles and the desired products were obtained in moderate to excellent yield.

Comment: The authors demonstrated the utility of this methodology for the synthesis of naturally occurring alkaloids. Thus, a formylated product was converted by successive reduction and cyclization into meconine in 90% yield. Subsequent hydrolysis furnished opianic acid in 50% yield.