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Directed Lithiation of *N*,*N*-Diethylbenzamides. Regiospecific Synthesis of Contiguously Tri- and Tetra-Substituted Alkoxybenzenes

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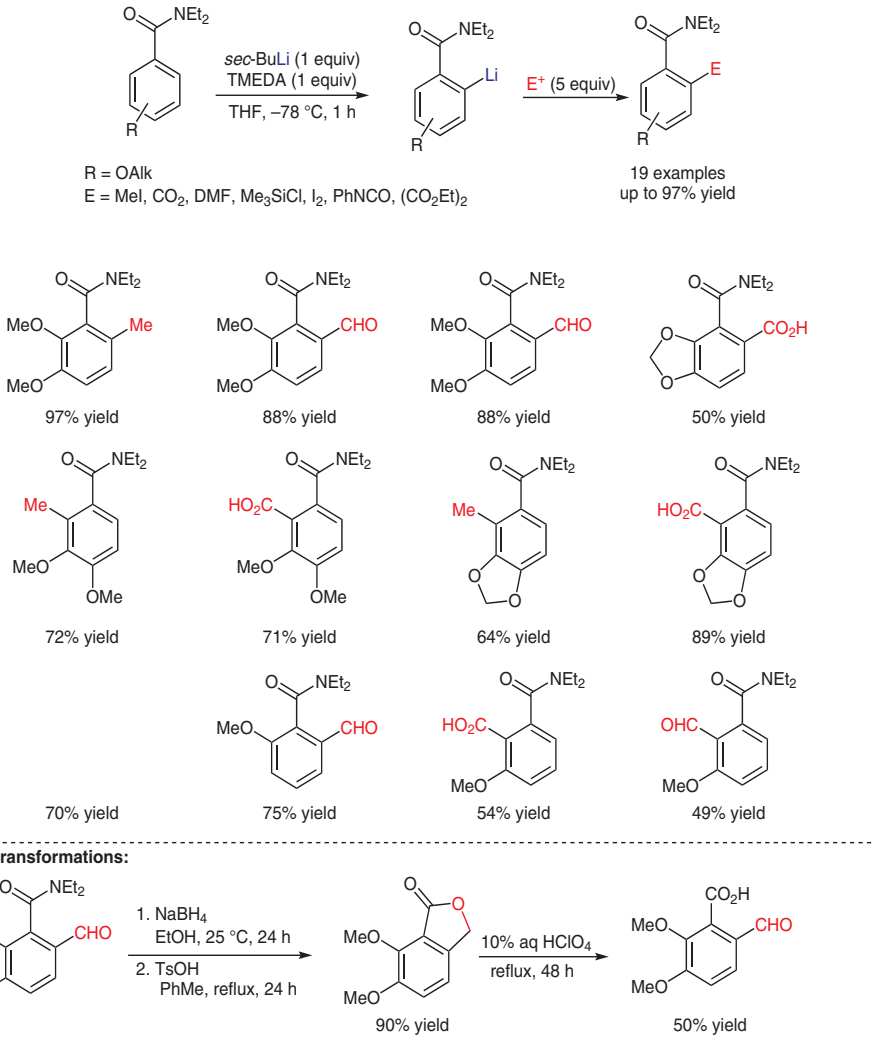
Directed *ortho*-Lithiation of Benzamides



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.

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Metals in Synthesis

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