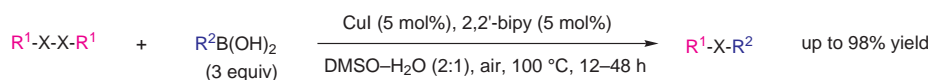


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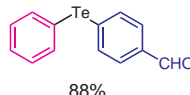
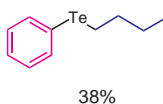
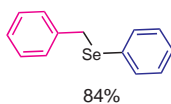
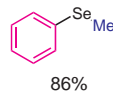
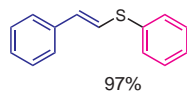
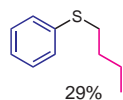
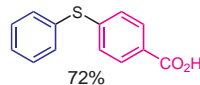
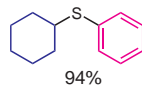
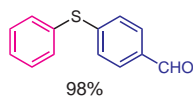
Convenient Synthesis of Unsymmetrical Organochalcogenides Using Organoboronic Acids with Dichalcogenides via Cleavage of the S–S, Se–Se, Te–Te Bond by a Copper Catalyst

J. Org. Chem. **2007**, *72*, 1241-1245.

Unsymmetrical Sulfides, Selenides, and Tellurides from Organoboronic Acids



R¹ = Ar, Bu, Bn
X = S, Se, Te
R² = Ph, Ar, Alk, *c*-Alk, etc.



Significance: This procedure allows a convenient and general transformation of various organoboronic acids into unsymmetrical sulfides, selenides, or tellurides. The mild reaction conditions ensure an excellent functional group tolerance, thus making this reaction useful for the combinatorial-like synthesis of biologically relevant molecules. The best yields are achieved with aryl chalcogenides and arylboronic acids; nevertheless, the scope of suitable substrates is quite broad. This is one of few useful methods for the preparation of unsymmetrical selenides and tellurides.

Comment: In the suggested reaction mechanism, the R¹B(OH)₂ is first converted into R¹Cu(I), which reacts with (R²S)₂ or its analogue to give R¹SR² and R²SCu, which after the oxidation by O₂ reacts with another molecule of an organoboron compound. The reaction, therefore, requires the presence of air. Dichalcogenides are much easier to handle than the corresponding thiols or selenols, as they are not air-sensitive.

Review: For a review on the Cu-mediated aryl-heteroatom bond formation, see: S. V. Ley, A. W. Thomas *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2003**, *42*, 5400-5449.

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copper

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of the month

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