

## Part 2. Mechanistic aspects of the reduction of *S*-alkyl-thionocarbonates in the presence of triethylborane and air

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### Procedure for the preparation of deuterated triethylborane

Deuterated triethylborane **8**: To a flame-dried 3-necked round-bottom flask, equipped with an addition funnel and a Vigreux distillation apparatus, were added successively magnesium turnings (3.71 g, 152.80 matg), freshly distilled boron trifluoride dimethyletherate (3.48 g, 2.81 mL, 30.56 mmol), a crystal of iodine and anhydrous diethyleneglycol dibutyl ether 20 mL, b.p. 256 °C). The reaction was initiated by addition of pure ethylbromide-*d*<sub>5</sub> (few drops) while vigorously stirring the reaction mixture under argon atmosphere. The remaining ethylbromide-*d*<sub>5</sub> (10.45 g, 91.68 mmol) was dissolved in anhydrous diethyleneglycol dibutyl ether (15 mL) and was slowly added over a period of 2 h, giving rise to a noticeable warming. The reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C for an additional period of 2 h. The distillation was achieved under argon directly from the reaction mixture, at atmospheric pressure, and afforded pure Et<sub>3</sub>B-*d*<sub>15</sub> (1.90 g, 55 %). B.p. 93-97 °C. Pure Et<sub>3</sub>B-*d*<sub>15</sub> **8** was used to prepare 1 M solutions in anhydrous benzene and deuterated benzene. These solutions were prepared under inert atmosphere (glove bag) and stored in Sure-Pac cylinders.

<sup>2</sup>H NMR (76.8 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ=6.25 (s, 6D), 6.02 (s, 9D). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ=19.94-17.64 (m, CD<sub>2</sub>), 7.34 (hept, *J*=18.3 Hz). <sup>11</sup>B (160.5 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ=87.47 (s, W<sub>1/2</sub>=82 Hz, internal standard: BF<sub>3</sub>.Et<sub>2</sub>O in a sealed capillary).

### Procedures for the reduction with deuterated triethylboranes

Methods A and B have been described in Part 1 of this series.