Ketenimines from Isocyanides and Allyl Carbonates: Palladium-Catalyzed Synthesis of β , γ -Unsaturated Amides and Tetrazoles

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The reaction of allyl ethyl carbonates with isocyanides in the presence of a catalytic amount of $Pd(OAc)_2$ provided ketenimines through β -hydride elimination of the allyl imidoylpalladium intermediates. The insertion of the isocyanide into the π -allyl Pd complex proceeded via an unusual η^1 -allyl Pd species. The resulting ketenimines were hydrolyzed to β , γ -unsaturated carboxamides during purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel or converted in situ into 1,5-disubstituted tetrazoles by [3+2] cycloaddition with hydrazoic acid or trimethylsilyl azide.



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