Acid and base catalysed aldol condensations. Conditions, mechanism and synthetic applications of the following reactions, Claisen reaction, Claisen – Schmidt reaction, Knovenagel reaction, Perkin reaction, Reformatsky reaction, Stobbes condensation, Darzen's glycidic ester synthesis, Mannich reaction and Wittig reaction).

### Aldol condensation

Condensation of a carbonyl with an enolate or an enol. A simple case is addition of an enolate to an aldehyde to afford an alcohol, thus the name aldol.

### Schmidt reaction

Conversion of ketones to amides using HN<sub>3</sub> (hydrazoic acid).

$$N_2 \uparrow + R^2 \xrightarrow{\stackrel{}{=} \stackrel{}{N_+}} \stackrel{R^1}{\longrightarrow} H^+ + \stackrel{HO}{\longrightarrow} \stackrel{R^1}{\stackrel{}{=} \stackrel{}{N}}$$

nitrilium ion intermediate (Cf. Ritter intermediate)

### Knoevenagel condensation

Condensation between carbonyl compounds and activated methylene compounds catalyzed by amines.

$$R-CHO + CH_{2}(CO_{2}R^{1})_{2} \xrightarrow{N} H$$

$$R \rightarrow CO_{2}R^{1} \xrightarrow{OH} R \rightarrow CO_{2}H$$

$$R \rightarrow CO_{2}R^{1} \xrightarrow{OH} R \rightarrow CO_{2}H$$

$$R \rightarrow CO_{2}R^{1} \xrightarrow{OH} R \rightarrow CO_{2}R^{1})_{2} \xrightarrow{H} CO_{2}R^{1}$$

$$R \rightarrow CO_{2}R^{1} \xrightarrow{H} CO_{2}R^{1} \xrightarrow{H} CO_{2}R^{1}$$

### Claisen condensation

Base-catalyzed condensation of esters to afford β-keto esters.

#### Mannich reaction

Three-component aminomethylation from amine, formaldehyde and a compound with an acidic methylene moiety.

When R = H, the 'Me<sub>2</sub>N=CH<sub>2</sub> salt is known as Eschenmoser's salt

$$R^1$$
 enolization  $R^1$   $R^2$   $R^2$   $R^3$   $R^4$   $R^2$ 

The Mannich reaction can also operate under basic conditions:

Mannich Base

Example 1, asymmetric Mannich reaction<sup>4</sup>

Example 2, asymmetric aza-Mannich reaction<sup>13</sup>

#### Darzens glycidic ester condensation

 $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -Epoxy esters (glycidic esters) from base-catalyzed condensation of  $\alpha$ -haloesters with carbonyl compounds.

Example 14

### Perkin reaction

Cinnamic acid synthesis from aryl aldehyde and acetic anhydride.

Example 19

#### Reformatsky reaction

Nucleophilic addition of organozinc reagents generated from  $\alpha$ -haloesters to carbonyls.

#### Stobbe condensation

Condensation of diethyl succinate and its derivatives with carbonyl compounds in the presence of a base.

Example 112

#### Wittig reaction

Olefination of carbonyls using phosphorus ylides.

$$Ph_{3}P + R^{1} \xrightarrow{R^{1}} Ph_{3}P \xrightarrow{R^{$$

"puckered" transition state, irreversible and concerted

$$\begin{array}{c} Ph_3P = O \\ R & R^3 \\ R^1 & R^2 \end{array} \longrightarrow \begin{array}{c} Ph_3P = O \\ R & R^3 \end{array}$$
oxaphosphetane intermediate

Example 1<sup>3</sup>

#### Benzilic acid rearrangement

Rearrangement of benzil to benzylic acid via aryl migration.

Final deprotonation of the carboxylic acid drives the reaction forward.

#### Baeyer-Villiger oxidation

General scheme:

$$R^1$$
  $R^2$   $H^0$   $R^3$   $R^1$   $R^2$   $H^3$   $H^4$   $H^5$   $H^5$ 

The most electron-rich alkyl group (more substituted carbon) migrates first. The general migration order:

tertiary alkyl > cyclohexyl > secondary alkyl > benzyl > phenyl > primary alkyl > methyl >> H.

For substituted aryls:

 $p ext{-MeO-Ar} > p ext{-Me-Ar} > p ext{-Cl-Ar} > p ext{-Br-Ar} > p ext{-MeOAr} > p ext{-O}_2 N ext{-Ar}$ 

#### Example 1:

### Birch reduction

The Birch reduction is the 1,4-reduction of aromatics to their corresponding cyclohexadienes by alkali metals (Li, K, Na) dissolved in liquid ammonia in the presence of an alcohol.

#### Benzene ring bearing an electron-donating substituent:

#### Benzene ring with an electron-withdrawing substituent:

$$\begin{array}{c|c} & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\$$

# BS 6<sup>th</sup> Named Reaction ( Active Methylene) CHEM 373

### Reduction of carbonyl carbons to methylene

There are two principle methods for reducing the carbonyl group of a ketone to a simple methylene ( $CH_2$ ) carbon. The mechanism for the **Clemmensen reduction** is not well understood, but you will be asked to propose a mechanism for the **Wolff-Kishner reduction** 

### The Clemmensen reduction:

### **Wolff-Kishner reduction**