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Compositions and processes for improving plant vigor are disclosed.



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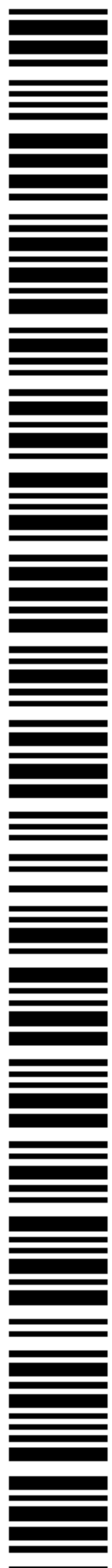
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INCREASING PLANT VIGOR

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application 60/961,319, filed July 20, 2007.

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention disclosed in this document is related to the field of pesticides, their use to control pests and their use to increase plant vigor.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

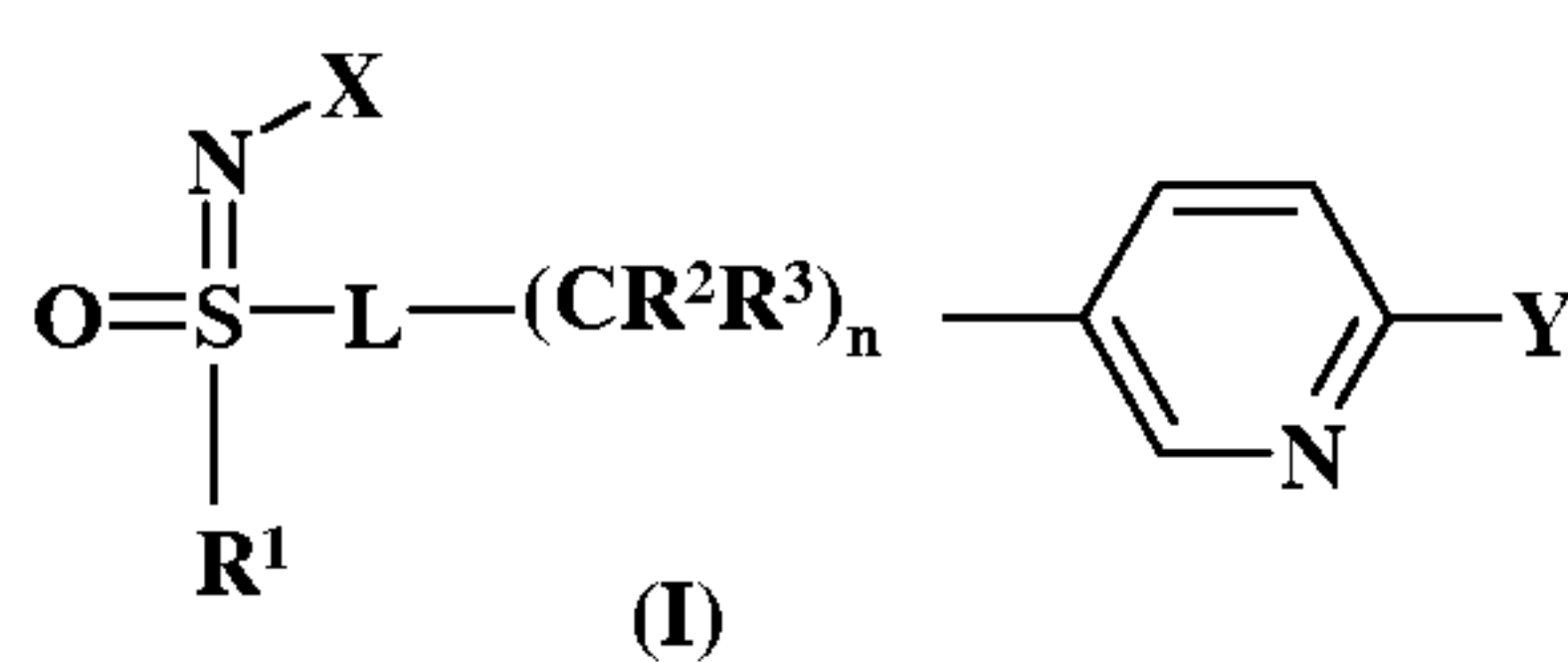
10 **Pests cause millions of human deaths around the world each year.** Furthermore, there are more than ten thousand species of pests that cause losses in agriculture. **These agricultural losses amount to billions of U.S. dollars each year.** Termites cause damage to various structures such as homes. **These termite damage losses amount to billions of U.S. dollars each year.** As final note, many
15 stored food pests eat and adulterate stored food. **These stored food losses amount to billions of U.S. dollars each year, but more importantly, deprive people of needed food.**

There is an acute need for new pesticides. Insects are developing resistance to pesticides in current use. Hundreds of insect species are resistant to
20 one or more pesticides. The development of resistance to some of the older pesticides, such as DDT, the carbamates, and the organophosphates, is well known. But resistance has even developed to some of the newer pesticides. Therefore, a need exists for new pesticides and particularly for pesticides that have

new modes of action. Furthermore, pesticides that can increase plant vigor are especially needed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention concerns compounds of the formula (I)



5

wherein

X represents NO₂, CN or COOR⁴;

L represents a single bond or R¹, S and L taken together represents a 4-, 5- or 6-membered ring;

10 R¹ represents (C₁-C₄) alkyl;

R² and R³ independently represent hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, fluoro, chloro or bromo;

n is an integer from 0-3;

Y represents (C₁-C₄) haloalkyl; and

15 R⁴ represents (C₁-C₃) alkyl.

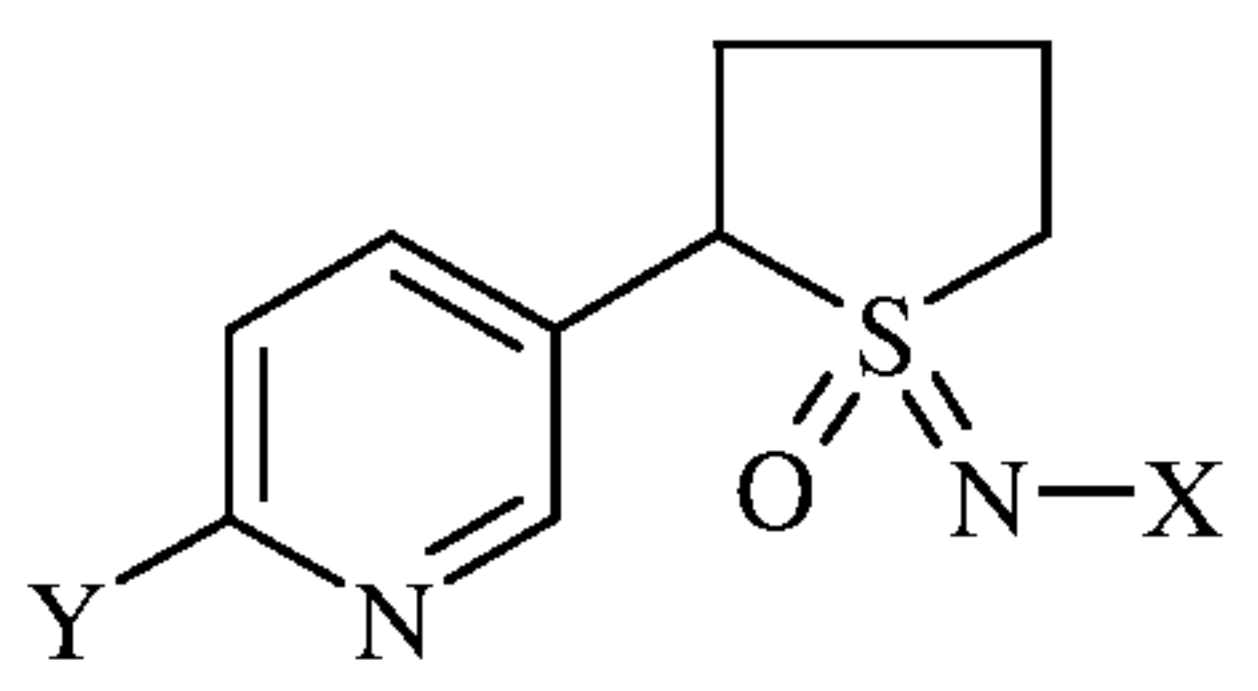
Preferred compounds of formula (I) include the following classes:

(1) Compounds of formula (I) wherein X is NO₂ or CN, most preferably CN.

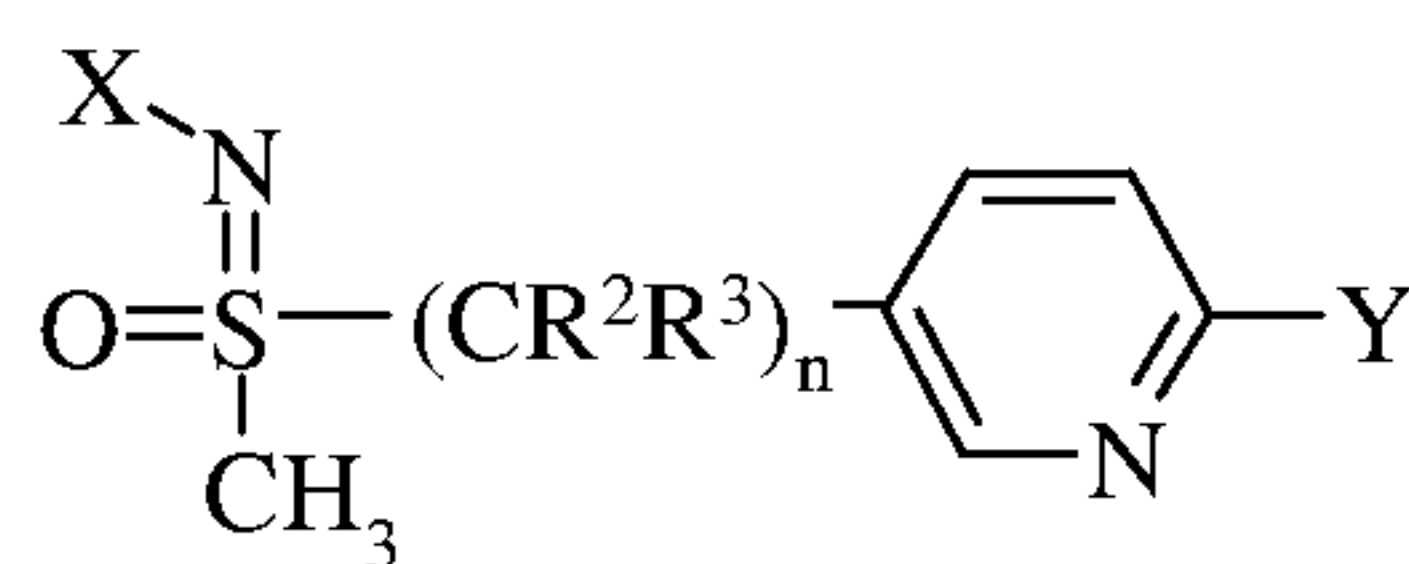
(2) Compounds of formula (I) wherein Y is CF₃.

(3) Compounds of formula (I) wherein R² and R³ independently represent hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

(4) Compounds of formula (I) wherein R¹, S and L taken together form
5 a saturated 5-membered ring, and n is 0, i.e., having the structure



(5) Compounds of formula (I) wherein R¹ represents CH₃ and L represents a single bond, i.e., having the structure



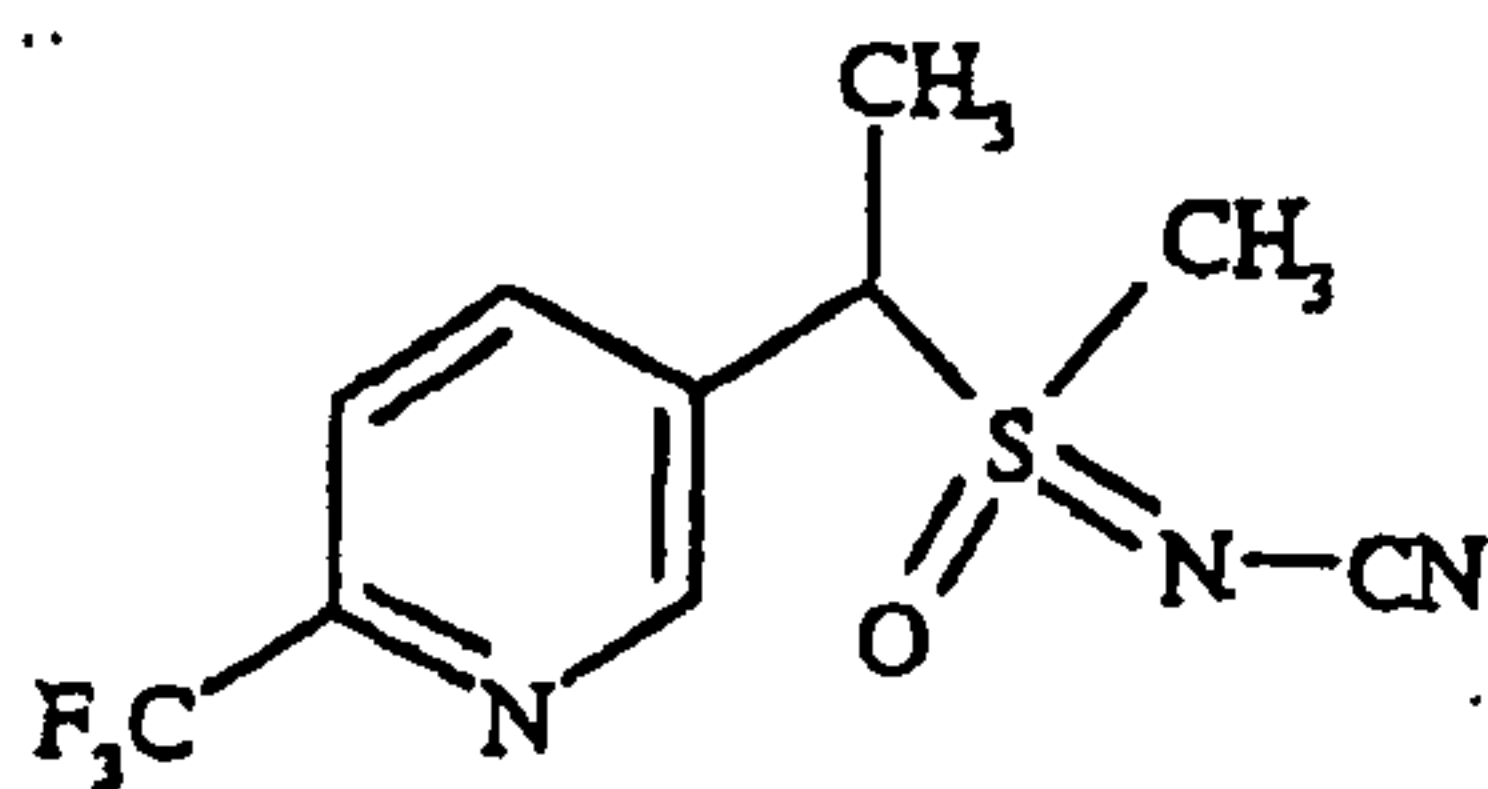
10 wherein n=1-3, most preferably n=1.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the most preferred compounds are generally those which are comprised of combinations of the above preferred classes.

The invention also provides new processes for preparing compounds of
15 formula (I) as well as new compositions and methods of use, which will be described in detail hereinafter.

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In one aspect, the invention provides a process to increase the weight of that portion of a plant that is above the ground said process comprising soaking a seed, which can germinate and begin to grow into said plant, in a solution that comprises a compound having the following formula



5

wherein said soaking occurs before said seed is planted.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The compounds disclosed herein are disclosed in U.S. patent application serial number 11/704,842 filed on February 9, 2007, (publication no 2007-0203191A1).

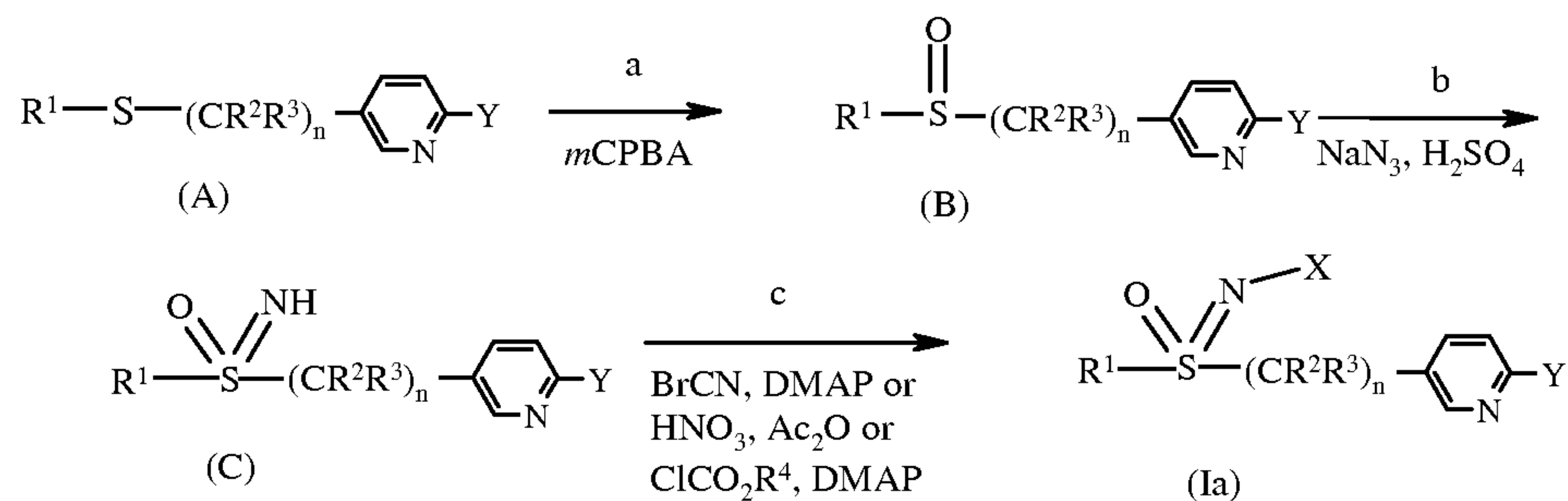
5 Throughout this document, all temperatures are given in degrees Celsius, and all percentages are weight percentages unless otherwise stated.

 Unless specifically limited otherwise, the term alkyl (including derivative terms such as alkoxy), as used herein, include straight chain, branched chain, and cyclic groups. Thus, typical alkyl groups are methyl, ethyl, 1-methylethyl, propyl,
10 1,1-dimethylethyl, and cyclopropyl. The term haloalkyl includes alkyl groups substituted with from one to the maximum possible number of halogen atoms, all combinations of halogens included. The term halogen includes fluorine, chlorine, bromine and iodine, with fluorine being preferred.

 The compounds of this invention can exist as one or more stereoisomers.
15 The various stereoisomers include geometric isomers, diastereomers and enantiomers. Thus the compounds of the present invention include racemic mixtures, individual stereoisomers and optically active mixtures. It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that one stereoisomer may be more active than the others. Individual stereoisomers and optically active mixtures may be
20 obtained by selective synthetic procedures, by conventional synthetic procedures using resolved starting materials or by conventional resolution procedures.

 The compounds of formula (Ia), wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , X, and Y are as previously defined and L is a single bond, can be prepared by the methods illustrated in Scheme A:

Scheme A



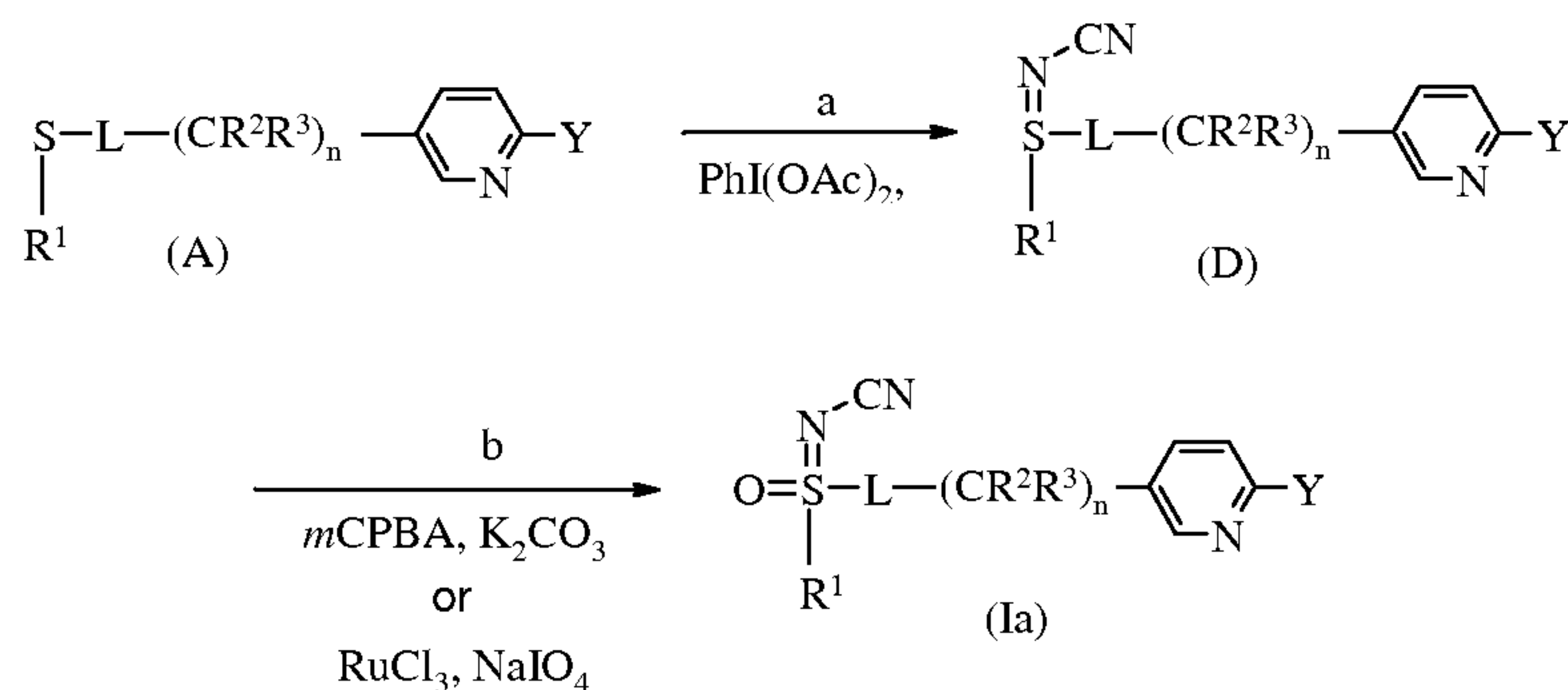
In step *a* of Scheme A, sulfide of formula (A) is oxidized with *meta*-chloroperoxybenzoic acid (*m*CPBA) in a polar solvent below 0 °C to provide
 5 sulfoxide of formula (B). In most cases, dichloromethane is the preferred solvent for oxidation.

In step *b* of Scheme A, sulfoxide (B) is iminated with sodium azide in the presence of concentrated sulfuric acid in an aprotic solvent under heating to provide sulfoximine of formula (C). In most cases, chloroform is the preferred
 10 solvent for this reaction.

In step *c* of Scheme A, the nitrogen of sulfoximine (C) can be either cyanated with cyanogen bromide in the presence of a base, or nitrated with nitric acid in the presence of acetic anhydride under mildly elevated temperature, or carboxylated with alkyl (R^4) chloroformate in the presence of base such as 4-
 15 dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP) to provide *N*-substituted sulfoximine (Ia). Base is required for efficient cyanation and carboxylation and the preferred base is DMAP, whereas sulfuric acid is used as catalyst for efficient nitration reaction.

The compounds of formula (Ia), wherein X represents CN and R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and Y are as previously defined, can be prepared by the mild and efficient
 20 method illustrated in Scheme B.

Scheme B



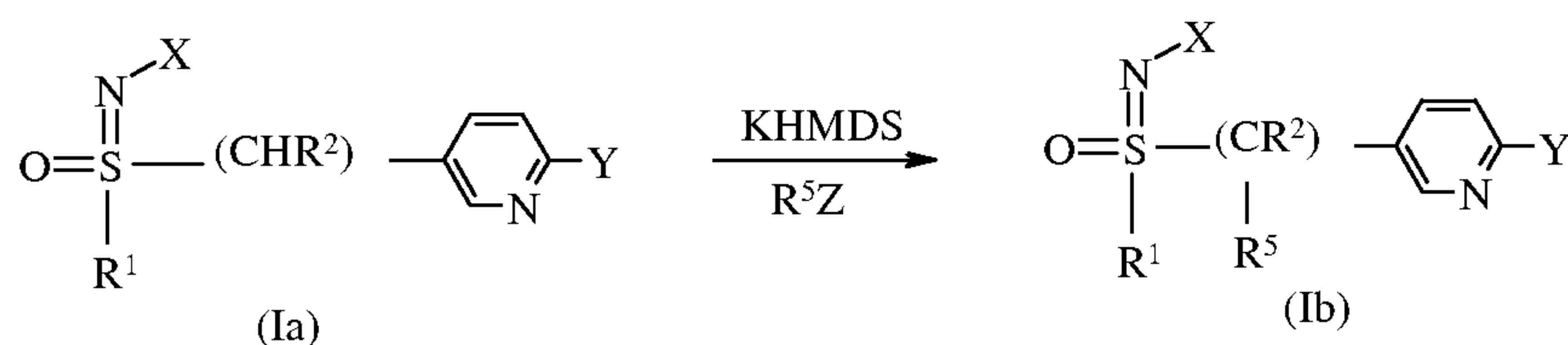
In step *a* of Scheme B, sulfide is oxidized with iodobenzene diacetate in the presence of cyanamide at 0 °C to give sulfilimine (D). The reaction can be carried out in a polar aprotic solvent like CH_2Cl_2 .

In step *b* of Scheme B, the sulfilimine (D) is oxidized with *m*CPBA. A base such as potassium carbonate is employed to neutralize the acidity of *m*CPBA. Protic polar solvents such as ethanol and water are used to increase the solubility of the sulfilimine starting material and the base employed. The sulfilimine (D) can also be oxidized with aqueous sodium or potassium periodate solution in the presence of catalyst ruthenium trichloride hydrate or similar catalyst. The organic solvent for this catalysis can be polar aprotic solvent such as CH_2Cl_2 , chloroform, or acetonitrile.

The α -carbon of the *N*-substituted sulfoximine of formula (Ia), i.e., $n=1$, $\text{R}^3 = \text{H}$ in the (CR^2R^3) group adjacent to the *N*-substituted sulfoximine function can be further alkylated or halogenated (R^5) in the presence of a base such as potassium hexamethyldisilamide (KHMDs) to give *N*-substituted sulfoximines of formula (Ib), wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , X, L and Y are as previously defined and Z is an appropriate leaving group, as illustrated in Scheme C. The preferred leaving

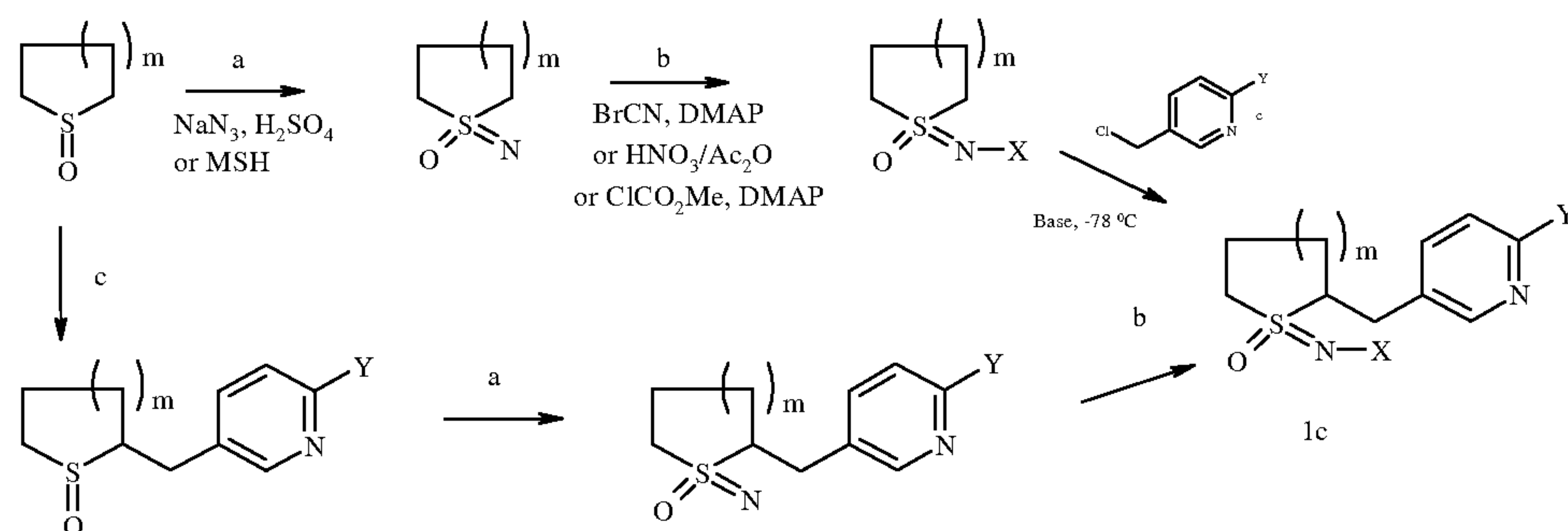
groups are iodide ($R^5 = \text{alkyl}$), benzenesulfonimide ($R^5 = \text{F}$), tetrachloroethene ($R^5 = \text{Cl}$), and tetrafluoroethene ($R^5 = \text{Br}$).

Scheme C



5 Sulfoximine compounds of formula (Ic) wherein R^1 , S and L taken together form a saturated 4-, 5- or 6-membered ring and $n=1$ can be prepared by the methods illustrated in Scheme D wherein X and Y are as previously defined and m is 0, 1, or 2.

10 Scheme D



In step *a* of Scheme D, which is similar to step *b* of Scheme A, sulfoxide is iminated with sodium azide in the presence of concentrated sulfuric acid or with *O*-mesitylsulfonylhydroxylamine in a polar aprotic solvent to provide sulfoximine.

15 Chloroform or dichloromethane are the preferred solvents.

In step *b* of Scheme D, similar to step *c* of Scheme A, the nitrogen of sulfoximine can be either cyanated with cyanogen bromide, or nitrated with nitric acid followed by treatment with acetic anhydride under refluxing conditions, or

carboxylated with methyl chloroformate in the presence of base such as DMAP to provide *N*-substituted cyclic sulfoximine. Base is required for efficient cyanation and carboxylation and the preferred base is DMAP, whereas sulfuric acid is used as catalyst for efficient nitration reaction.

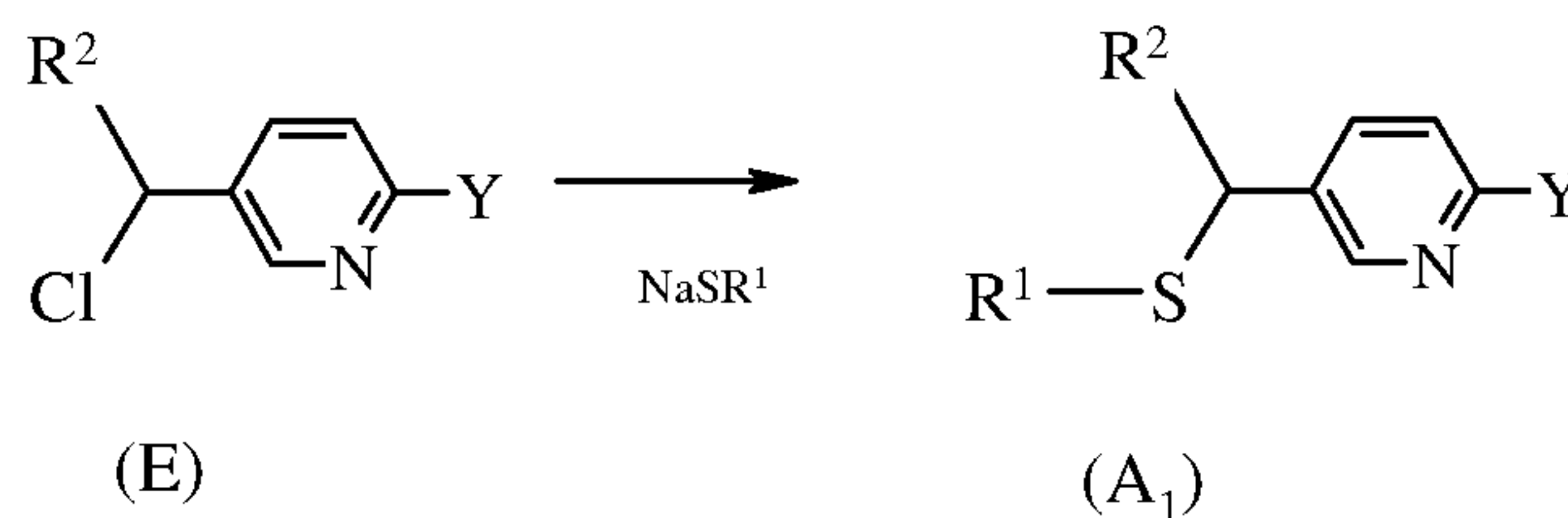
5 In step *c* of Scheme D, the α -carbon of *N*-substituted sulfoximine can be alkylated with a heteroaromatic methyl halide in the presence of a base such as KHMDS or butyl lithium (BuLi) to give the desired *N*-substituted sulfoximines. The preferred halide can be bromide, chloride or iodide.

Alternatively, the compounds of formula (Ic) can be prepared by a first α -
10 alkylation of sulfoxides to give α -substituted sulfoxides and then an imination of the sulfoxide followed by *N*-substitution of the resulting sulfoximine by using the steps *c*, *a* and *b* respectively as described above for Scheme D.

The starting sulfides (A) in Scheme A can be prepared in different ways as illustrated in Schemes E, F G, H, I and J.

15 In Scheme E, the sulfide of formula (A₁), wherein R¹, R² and Y are as previously defined, n=1, and R³ = H, can be prepared from the chloride of formula (E) by nucleophilic substitution with the sodium salt of an alkyl thiol.

Scheme E

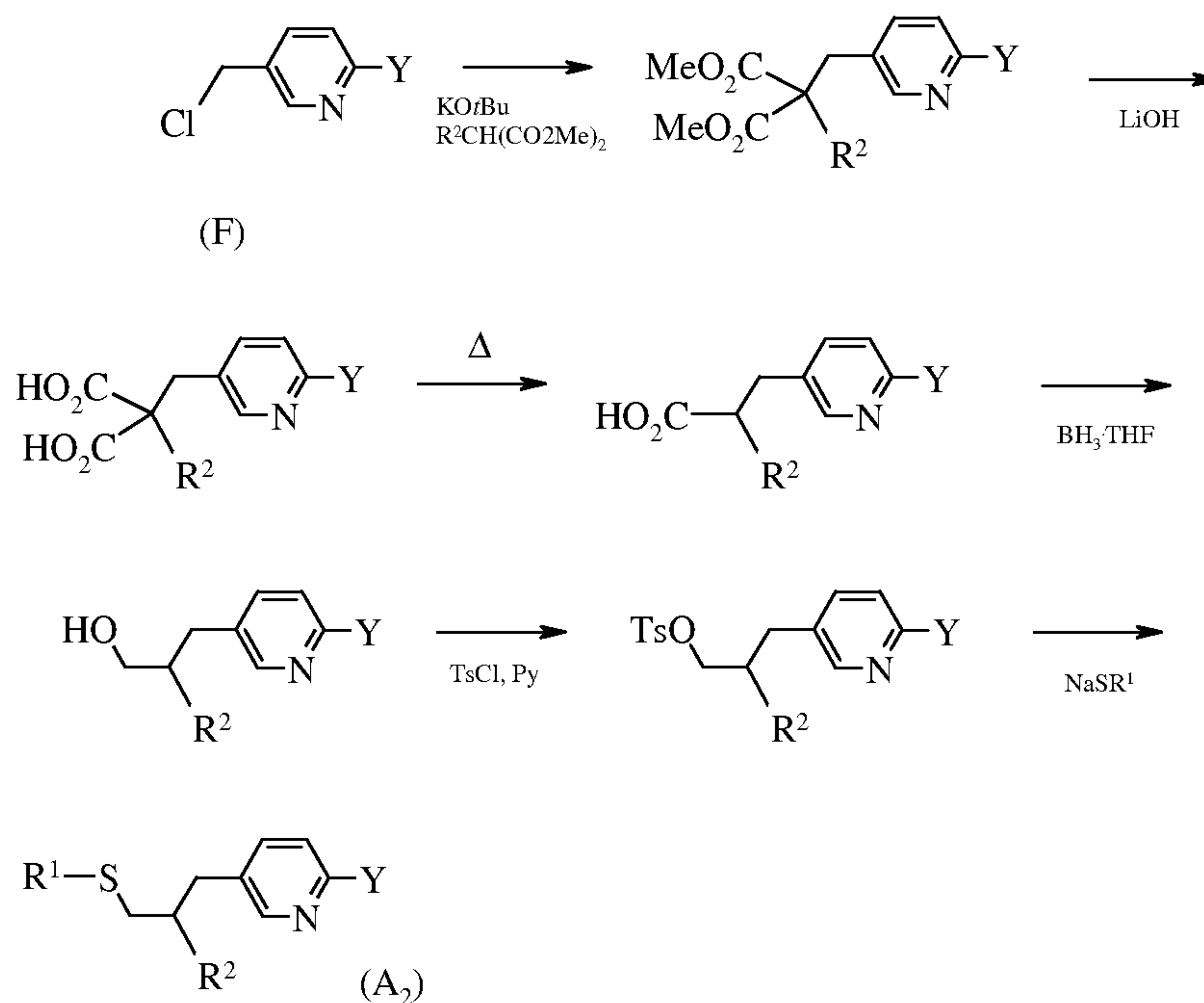


20

In Scheme F, the sulfide of formula (A₂), wherein R¹, R² and Y are as previously defined, n=3, and R³ = H, can be prepared from the chloride of formula

(F) by reacting with a 2-mono substituted methyl malonate in the presence of base such as potassium *tert*-butoxide to provide 2,2-disubstituted malonate, hydrolysis under basic conditions to form a diacid, decarboxylation of the diacid by heating to give a monoacid, reduction of the monoacid with borane-tetrahydrofuran complex to provide an alcohol, tosylation of the alcohol with toluenesulfonyl chloride (tosyl chloride) in the presence of a base like pyridine to give a tosylate and replacement of the tosylate with the sodium salt of the desired thiol.

Scheme F



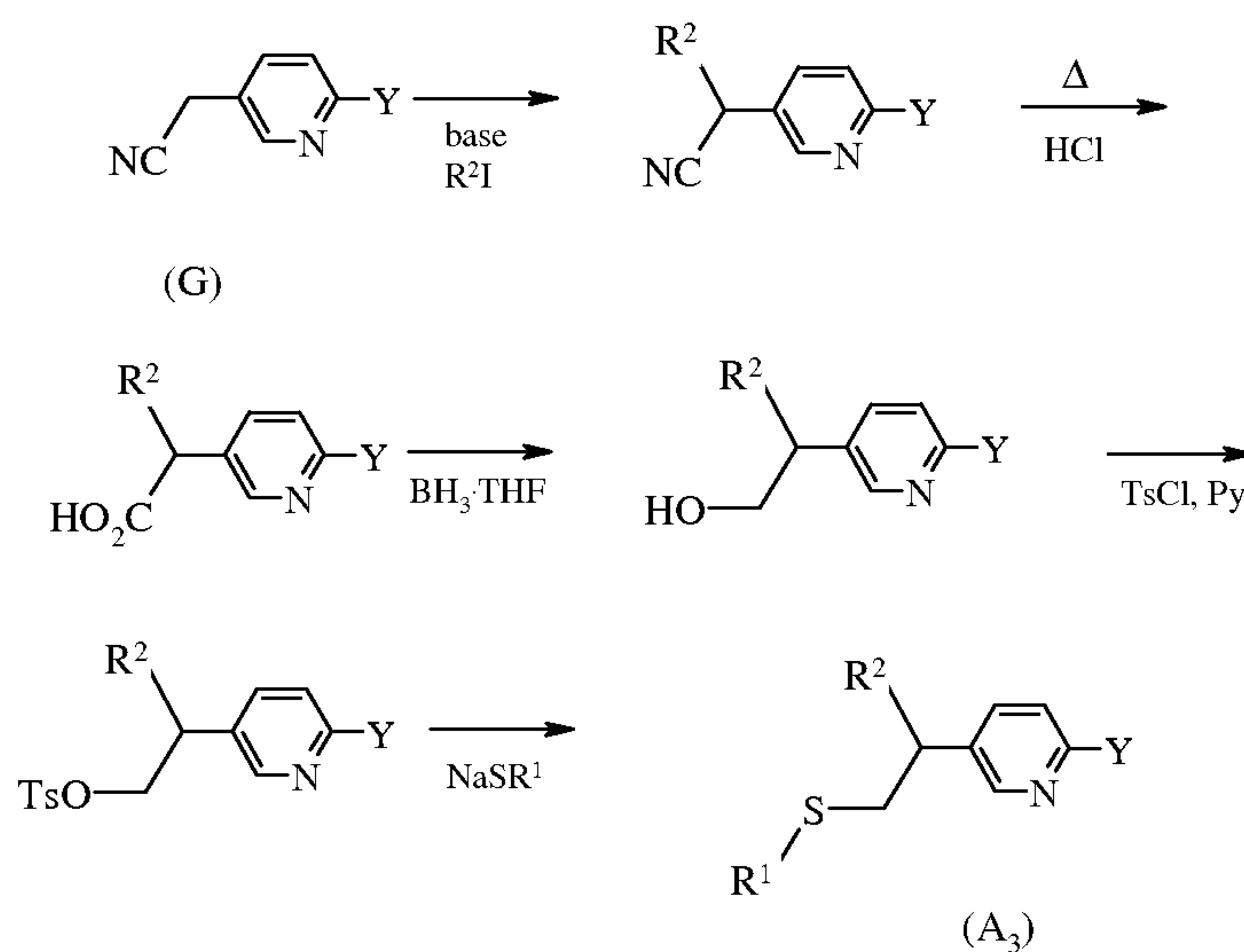
10

In Scheme G, the sulfide of formula (A₃), wherein R¹, R² and Y are as previously defined, n=2, and R³ = H, can be prepared from the nitrile of formula (G) by deprotonation with a strong base and alkylation with an alkyl iodide to give α-alkylated nitrile, hydrolysis of the α-alkylated nitrile in the presence of a strong acid like HCl to give an acid, reduction of the acid with borane-tetrahydrofuran

15

complex to provide an alcohol, tosylation of the alcohol with tosyl chloride in the presence of a base like pyridine to give a tosylate and replacement of the tosylate with the sodium salt of the desired thiol.

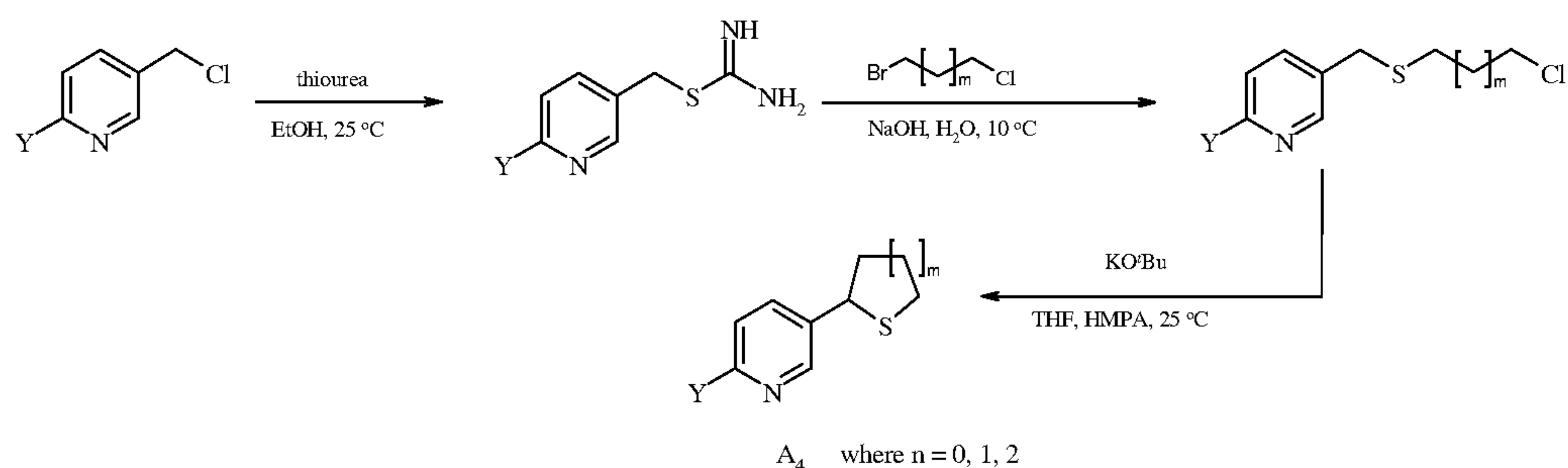
Scheme G



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In Scheme H, the sulfide of formula (A₄), wherein R¹, S and L taken together represents a 4-, 5- or 6-membered ring (m = 0, 1, or 2) and n is 0 can be prepared from the corresponding substituted chloromethyl pyridine by treatment with thiourea, hydrolysis and subsequent alkylation with the appropriate bromo
 10 chloroalkane (m = 0, 1, or 2) under aqueous base conditions, and cyclization in the presence of a base like potassium-*t*-butoxide in a polar aprotic solvent such as THF.

Scheme H

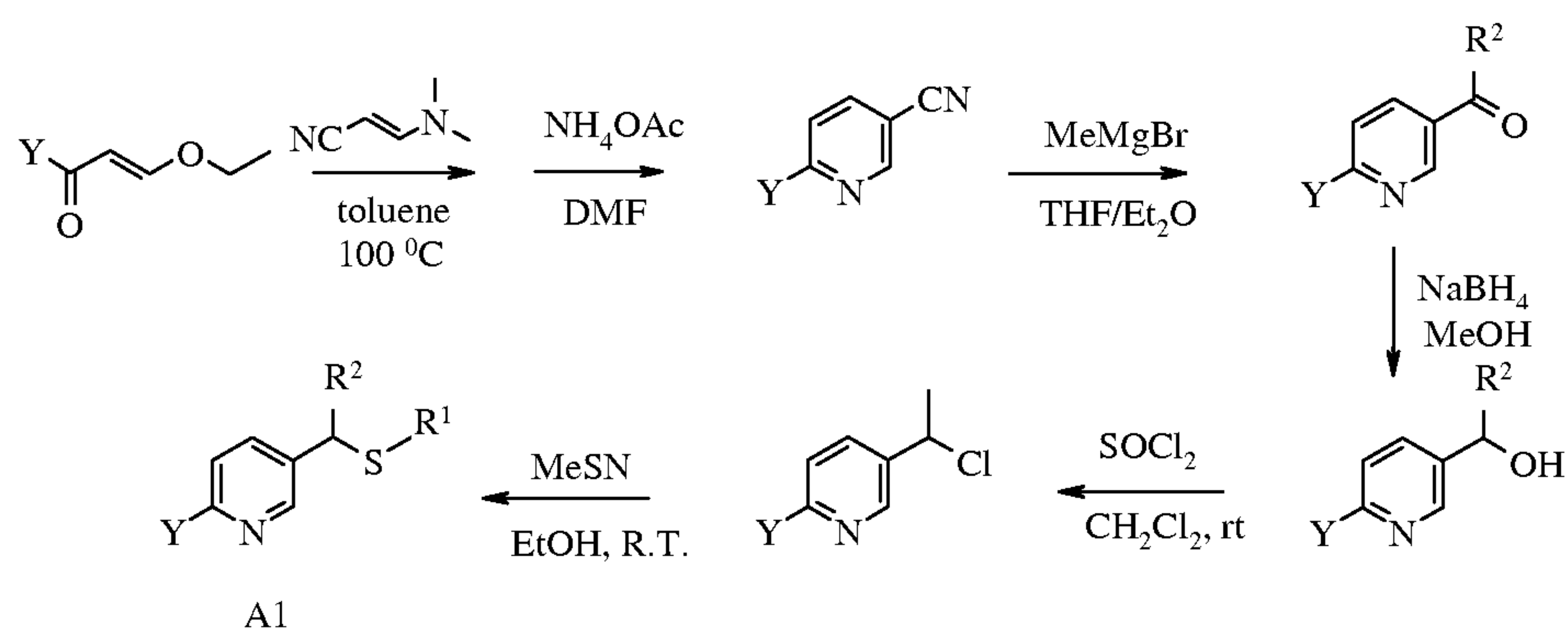


Sulfides of formula (A_1), wherein $R^1, R^2 = CH_3$, Y as previously defined, and $R^3 = H$, can be prepared alternatively via methods illustrated in Scheme I.

- 5 Accordingly, the appropriate enone is coupled with dimethyl-aminoacrylonitrile and cyclized with ammonium acetate in DMF to yield the corresponding 6-substituted nicotinonitrile. Treatment with methylmagnesium bromide, reduction with sodium borohydride, chlorination with thionyl chloride, and nucleophilic substitution with the sodium salt of an alkyl thiol provide desired sulfides (A_1).

10

Scheme I

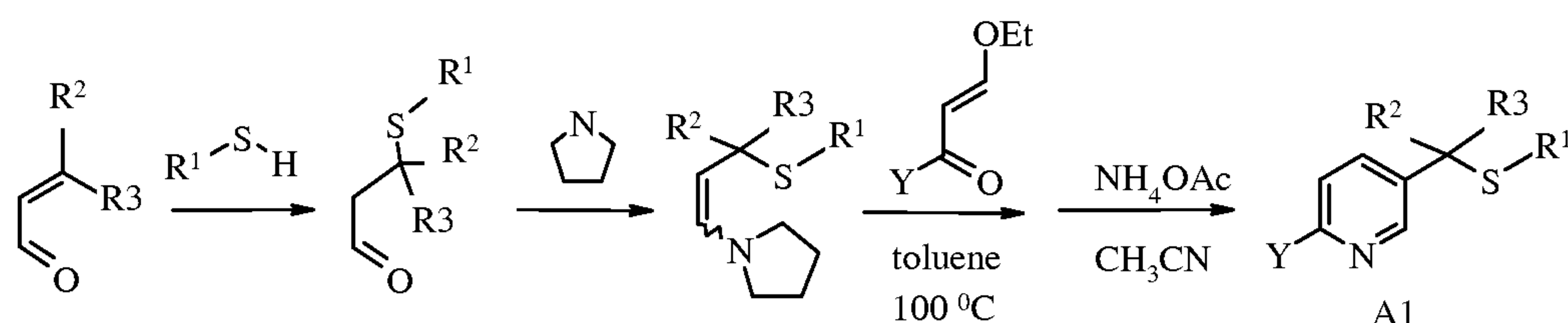


- 15 Sulfides of formula (A_1), wherein $R^1 = \text{methyl or ethyl}$, R^2 and R^3 independently represent hydrogen, methyl or ethyl, and Y is as previously defined can be prepared via a variation of Scheme I, depicted in Scheme J, wherein enamines, formed from the addition of an amine, e.g., pyrrolidine, with the

Michael adduct of certain sulfides with appropriately substituted α,β -unsaturated aldehydes, are coupled with substituted enones and cyclized with ammonium acetate in acetonitrile to yield the desired sulfides (A_1).

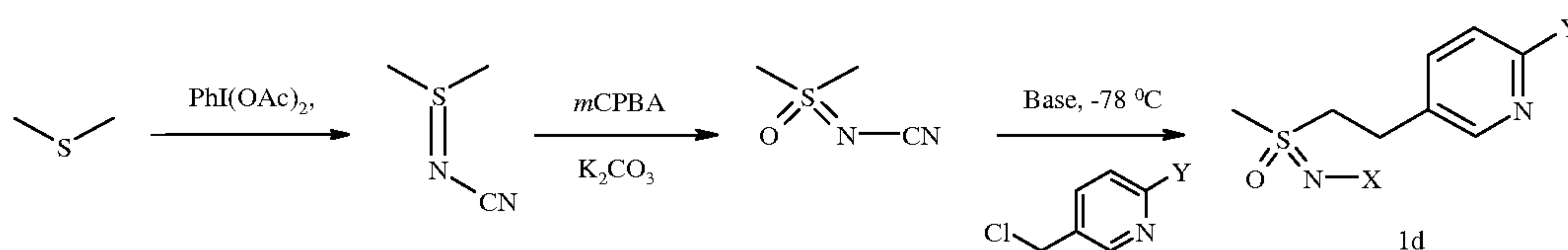
Scheme J

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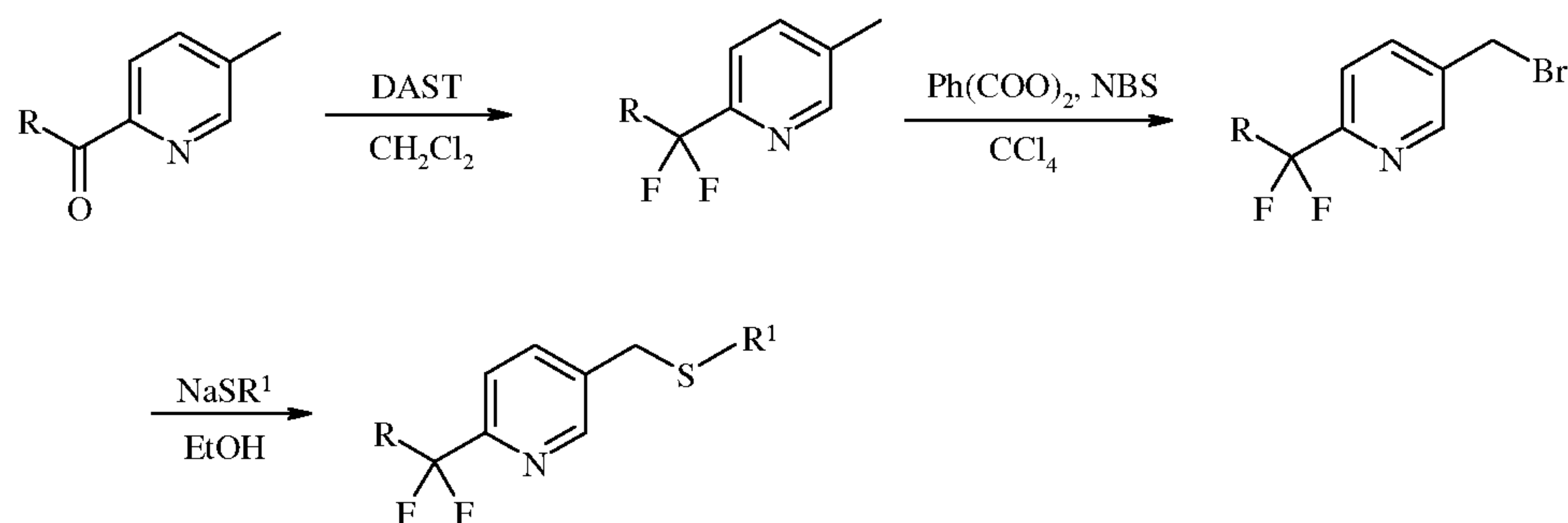
Sulfoximine compounds of the formula (Id) wherein $n = 2$, R^1 and R^2 are hydrogen, L is a single bond, and X and Y are as previously defined can be prepared by the method illustrated in Scheme K. Dimethylsulfide is oxidized with iodobenzene diacetate in the presence of cyanamide at 0 °C to give the corresponding sulfilimine. The reaction can be carried out in a polar aprotic solvent like CH_2Cl_2 or THF. The sulfilimine is then oxidized with *m*CPBA. A base such as potassium carbonate is employed to neutralize the acidity of *m*CPBA. Protic polar solvents such as ethanol and water are used to increase the solubility of the sulfilimine starting material and the base employed. The α -carbon of the *N*-substituted sulfoximine can be alkylated with a heteroaromatic methyl halide in the presence of a base such as KHMDS or butyl lithium (BuLi) to give the desired *N*-substituted sulfoximine. The preferred halide can be bromide, chloride or iodide.

Scheme K



In Scheme L, sulfides of formula (A₁), wherein Y is a fluoroalkyl group, R¹ is as previously defined, and n=1 can be prepared from the 6- acylpyridine or 6- formyl pyridine by reaction with diethylaminosulfur trifluoride (DAST). Subsequent halogenation of the 3-methyl group with NBS followed by
 5 nucleophilic substitution with the sodium salt of an alkyl thiol furnishes the desired sulfide.

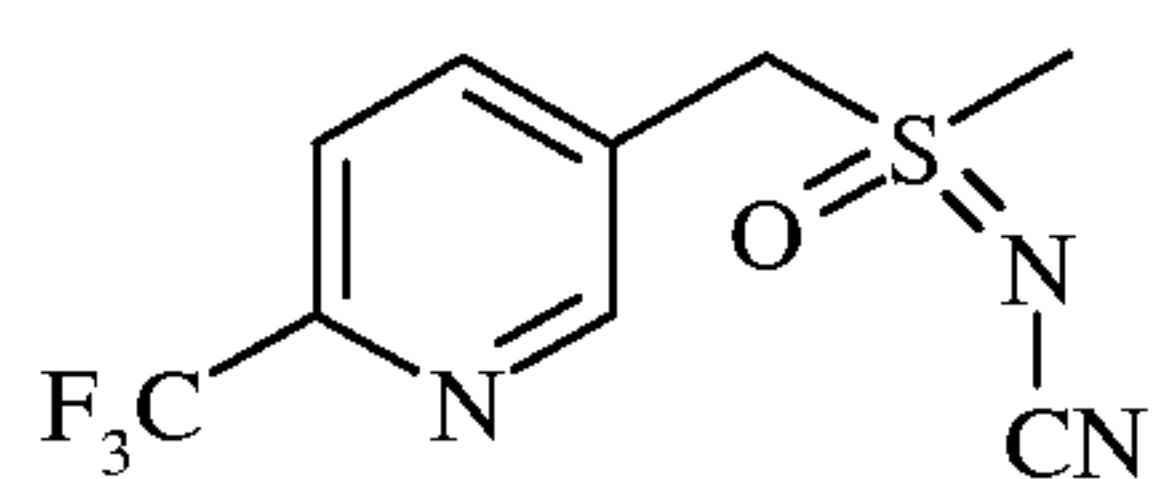
Scheme L



EXAMPLES

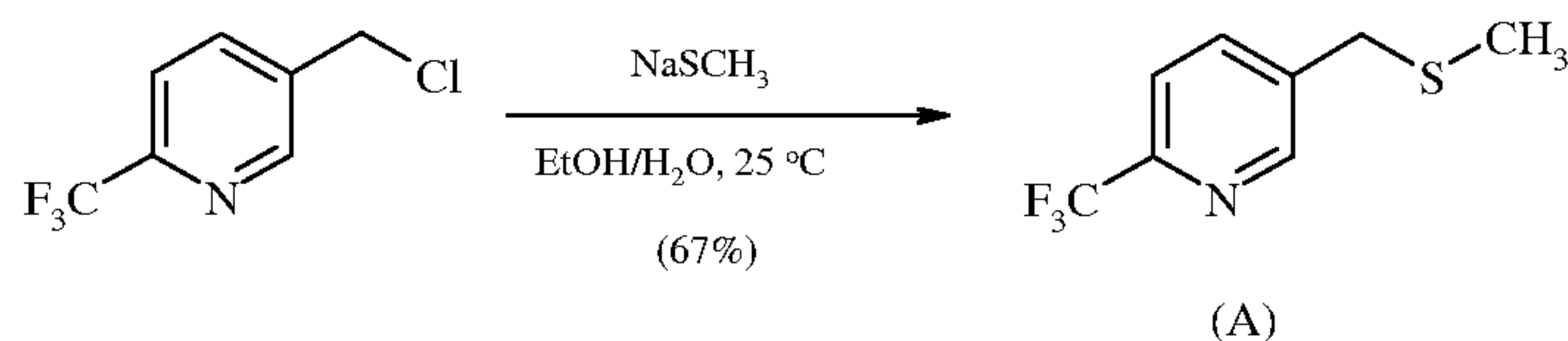
The examples are for illustration purposes and are not to be construed as limiting the invention disclosed in this document to only the embodiments
 15 disclosed in these examples.

Example I. Preparation of [(6-trifluoromethylpyridin-3-yl)methyl](methyl)-oxido- λ⁴-sulfanylidene cyanamide (1)



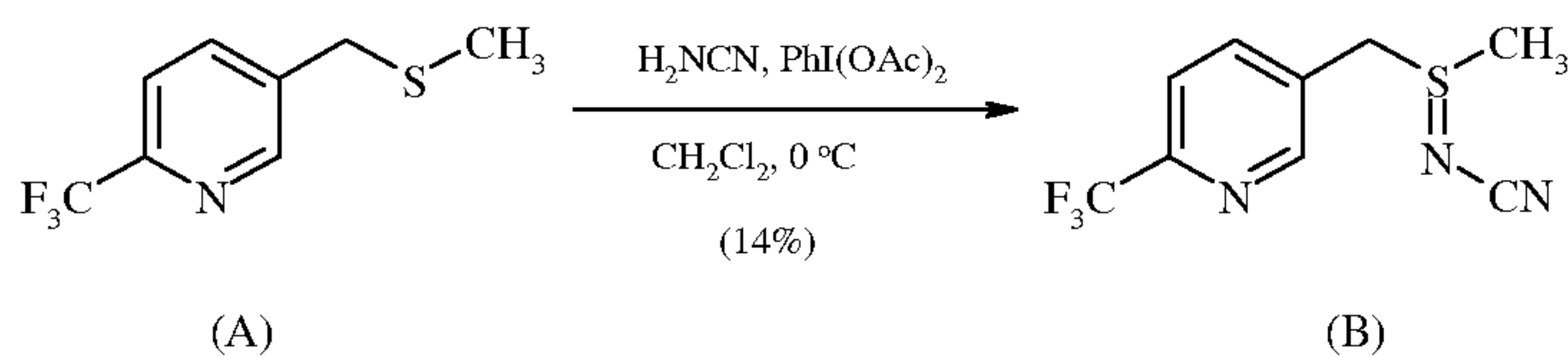
(1)

(A)



To a solution of 3-chloromethyl-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyridine (5.1 g, 26 mmol) in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO; 20 mL) was added in one portion sodium thiomethoxide (1.8 g, 26 mmol). A violent exothermic reaction was observed which resulted in the reaction turning dark. The reaction was stirred for 1 hr, then additional sodium thiomethoxide (0.91 g, 13 mmol) was added slowly. The reaction was stirred overnight, after which it was poured into H₂O and several drops of conc. HCl were added. The mixture was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 50 mL) and the organic layers combined, washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude product was purified by chromatography (Prep 500, 10% acetone/hexanes) to furnish the sulfide (A) as a pale yellow oil (3.6 g, 67%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.6 (s, 1H), 7.9 (d, 1H), 7.7 (d, 1H), 3.7 (s, 2H), 2.0 (s, 3H); GC-MS: mass calcd for C₈H₈F₃NS [M]⁺ 207. Found 207.

(B)

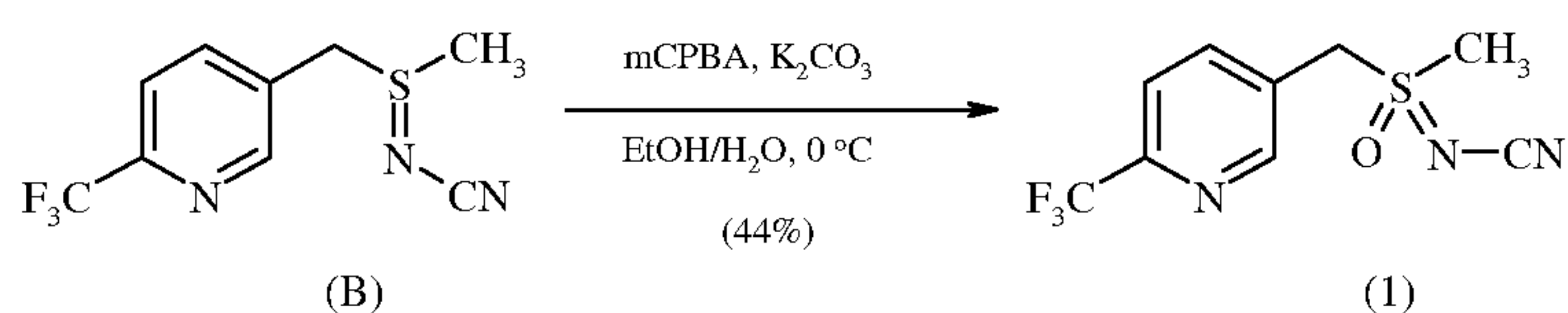


To a solution of sulfide (A) (3.5 g, 17 mmol) and cyanamide (1.4 mg, 34 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL) at 0 °C was added iodobenzenediacetate (11.0 g, 34 mmol) all at once. The reaction was stirred for 30 min, then allowed to warm to room temperature overnight. The mixture was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) and washed with H₂O. The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (4 x 50 mL), and the combined CH₂Cl₂ and ethyl acetate layers dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude product was triturated with hexanes and purified by

chromatography (chromatotron, 60% acetone/hexanes) to furnish the sulfilimine (B) as a yellow gum (0.60 g, 14%). IR (film) 3008, 2924, 2143, 1693 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.8 (s, 1H), 8.0 (d, 1H), 7.8 (d, 1H), 4.5 (d, 1H), 4.3 (d, 1H), 2.9 (s, 3H); LC-MS (ESI): mass calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_9\text{F}_3\text{N}_3\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 248.04.

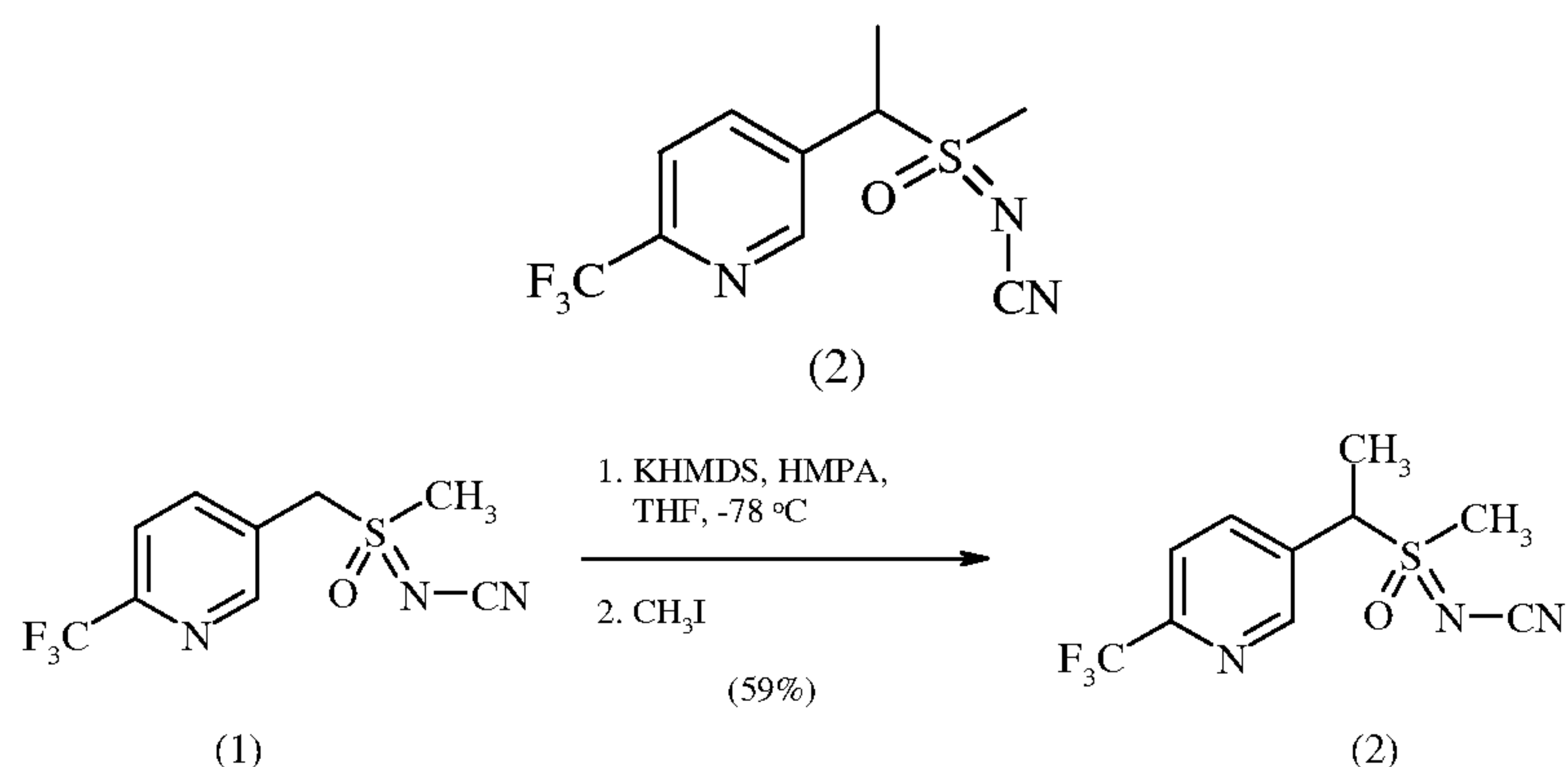
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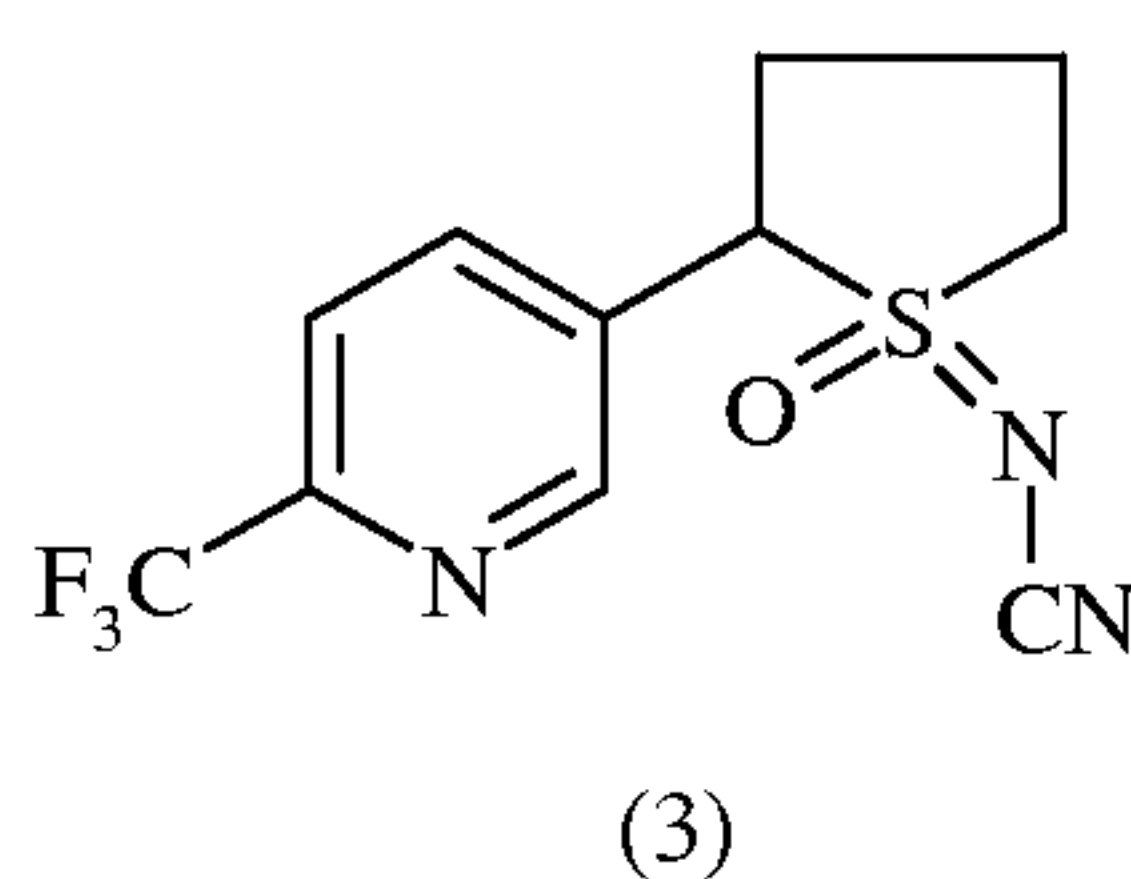
To a solution of *m*-chloroperbenzoic acid (mCPBA; 80%, 1.0 g, 4.9 mmol) in EtOH (10 mL) at 0 °C was added a solution of K_2CO_3 (1.4 g, 10 mmol) in H_2O (7 mL). The solution was stirred for 20 min, then a solution of sulfilimine (B) (0.60 g, 2.4 mmol) in EtOH (20 mL) was added all at once. The reaction was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min, then allowed to warm to room temperature over the course of 1 hr. The reaction was then quenched with aq. sodium bisulfite and the mixture was concentrated to remove ethanol. The resulting mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 and the combined organic layers dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated. The crude product was purified by chromatography (chromatotron, 50% acetone/hexanes) to furnish the sulfoximine (1) as an off-white solid (0.28 g, 44%). Mp = 135-137 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.8 (s, 1H), 8.1 (d, 1H), 7.8 (d, 1H), 4.7 (m, 2H), 3.2 (s, 3H); LC-MS (ELSD): mass calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_9\text{F}_3\text{N}_3\text{OS}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 264.04. Found 263.92.

Example II. Preparation of [1-(6-trifluoromethylpyridin-3-yl)ethyl](methyl)-oxido- λ^4 -sulfanylidene cyanamide (2).

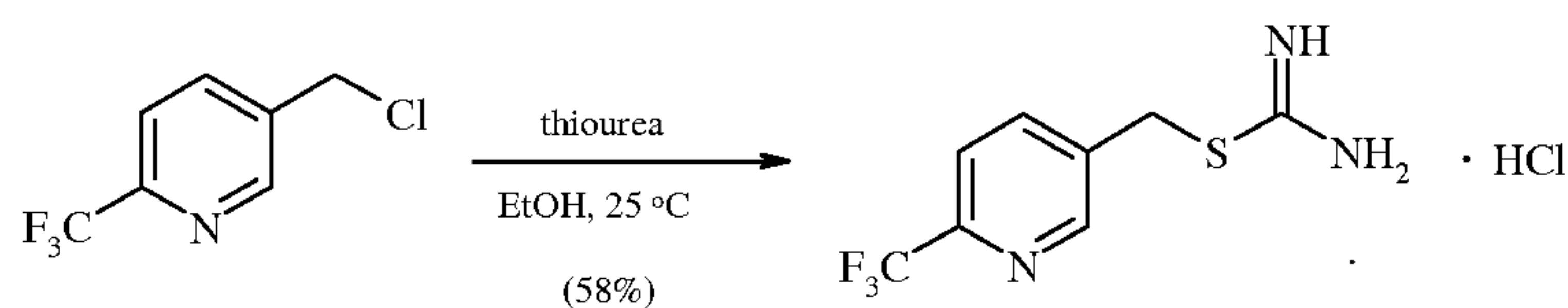


5 To a solution of sulfoximine (1) (50 mg, 0.19 mmol) and hexamethylphosphoramide (HMPA; 17 μ L, 0.10 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (THF; 2 mL) at -78 °C was added potassium hexamethyldisilazane (KHMDS; 0.5 M in toluene, 420 μ L, 0.21 mmol) dropwise. The solution was stirred at -78 °C for an additional 20 min, after which iodomethane (13 μ L, 0.21 mmol) was added. The
 10 reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature over the course of 1 hr, after which it was quenched with satd. aq. NH₄Cl and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, concentrated, and the crude product purified by chromatography (chromatotron, 70% acetone/CH₂Cl₂) to furnish the sulfoximine (2) as a 2:1 mixture of diastereomers (colorless oil; 31 mg, 59%). ¹H
 15 NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (major diastereomer) 8.8 (s, 1H), 8.1 (d, 1H), 7.8 (d, 1H), 4.6 (q, 1H), 3.0 (s, 3H), 2.0 (d, 3H); (minor diastereomer) 8.8 (s, 1H), 8.1 (d, 1H), 7.8 (d, 1H), 4.6 (q, 1H), 3.1 (s, 3H), 2.0 (d, 3H); LC-MS (ELSD): mass calcd for C₁₀H₁₀F₃N₃OS [M+H]⁺ 278.06. Found 278.05.

Example III. Preparation of 2-(6-trifluoromethylpyridin-3-yl)-1-oxido-tetrahydro-1H-1λ⁴-thien-1-ylidenecyanamide (3)



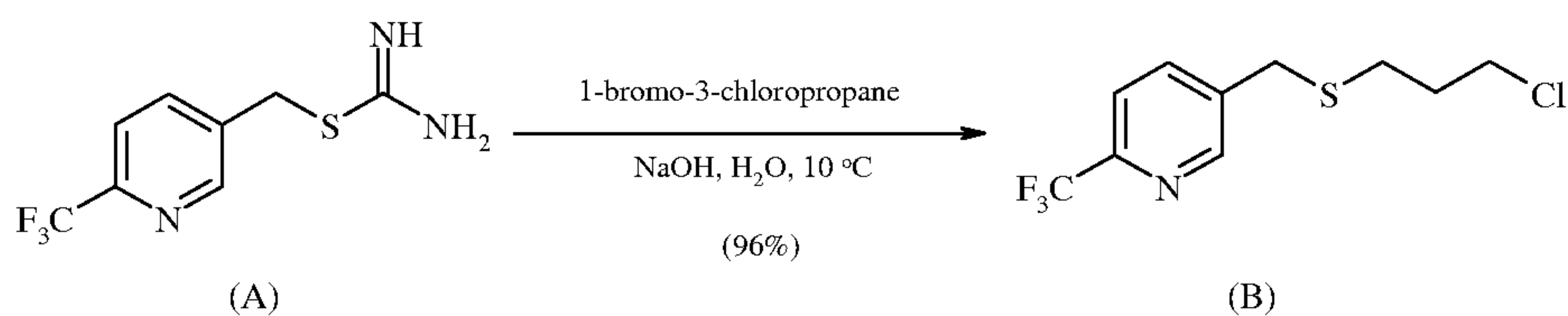
(A)



5

To a suspension of thiourea (1.2 g, 16 mmol) in EtOH (25 mL) was added a solution of 3-chloromethyl-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyridine in EtOH (10 mL). The suspension was stirred at room temperature for 2 days, during which a white precipitate formed. The precipitate was filtered to give the desired amidine hydrochloride as a white solid (2.4 g, 58%). Mp = 186-188 °C. No further attempt
10 was made to purify the product. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.9 (bs, 4H), 8.4 (s, 1H), 7.6 (d, 1H), 7.3 (d, 1H), 4.2 (s, 2H); LC-MS (ELSD): mass calcd for C₈H₈F₃N₃S [M+H]⁺ 236.05. Found 236.01.

(B)

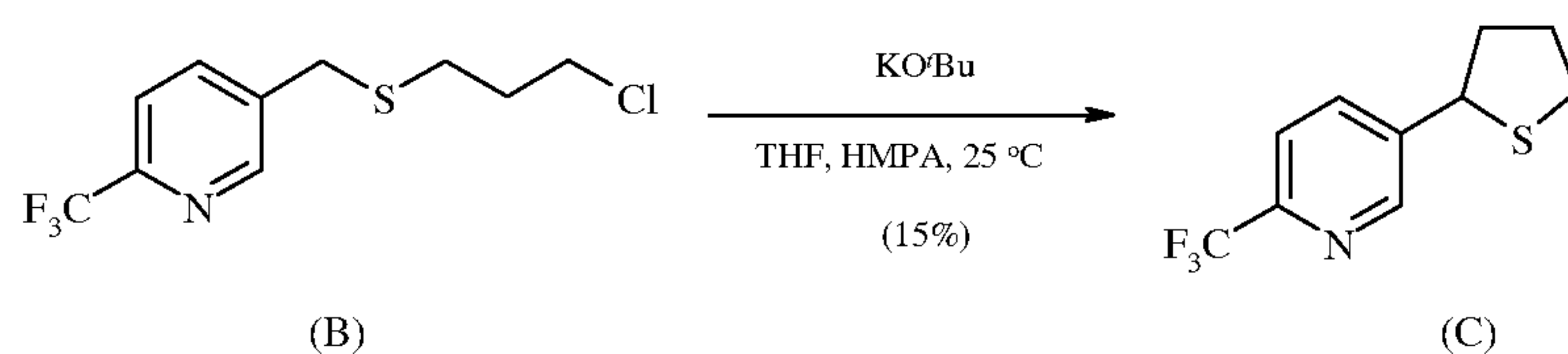


15

To a solution of amidine hydrochloride (A) (1.8 g, 6.8 mmol) in H₂O (12 mL) at 10 °C was added 10 N NaOH (0.68 mL, 6.8 mmol), which resulted in the formation of a white precipitate. The suspension was heated at 100 °C for 30 min,

then cooled back down to 10 °C. Additional 10 N NaOH (0.68 mL, 6.8 mmol) was then added, followed by 1-bromo-3-chloropropane (0.67 mL, 6.8 mmol) all at once. The reaction was stirred at room temperature overnight, then extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated to furnish the sulfide (B) as a colorless oil (1.7 g, 96%). No further attempt was made to purify the product. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.6 (s, 1H), 7.8 (d, 1H), 7.6 (d, 1H), 3.8 (s, 2H), 3.6 (t, 2H), 2.6 (t, 2H), 2.0 (quint, 2H).

(C)

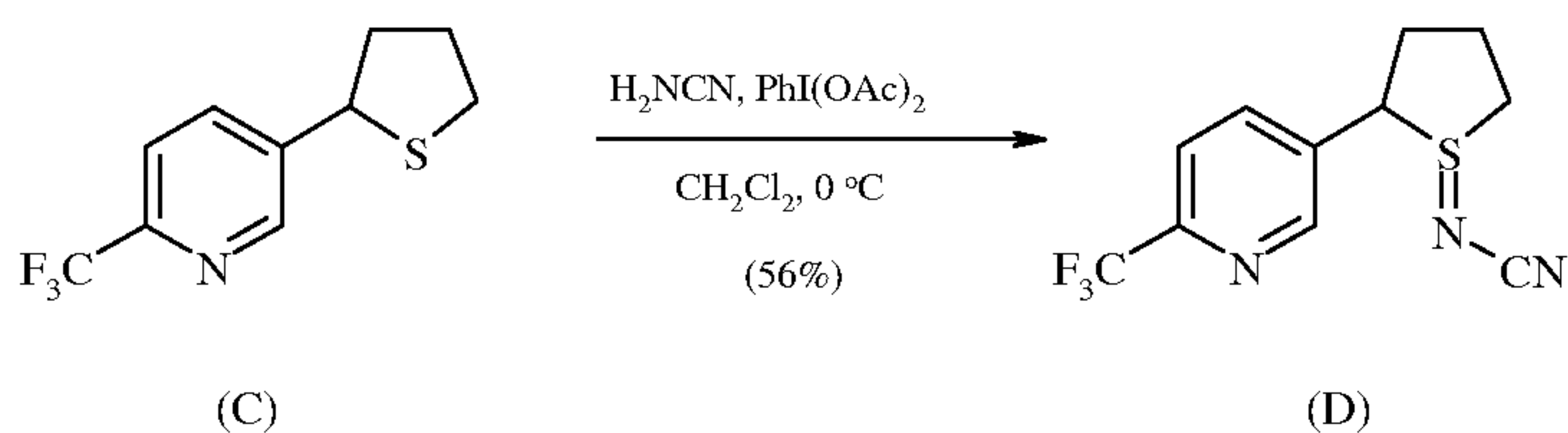


10

To a suspension of potassium *tert*-butoxide (1.5 g, 13 mmol) in THF (12 mL) was added HMPA (1.7 mL, 10 mmol) followed by a solution of sulfide (B) (1.8 g, 6.7 mmol) in THF (3 mL) dropwise. The reaction was allowed to stir at room temperature overnight, followed by concentration and purification by chromatography (Biotage, 40% EtOAc/hexanes) to furnish cyclized product (C) as an orange oil (230 mg, 15%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.7 (s, 1H), 8.0 (d, 1H), 7.6 (d, 1H), 4.6 (dd, 1H), 3.2 (m, 1H), 3.1 (m, 1H), 2.5 (m, 1H), 2.3 (m, 1H), 2.1-1.9 (m, 2H).

15

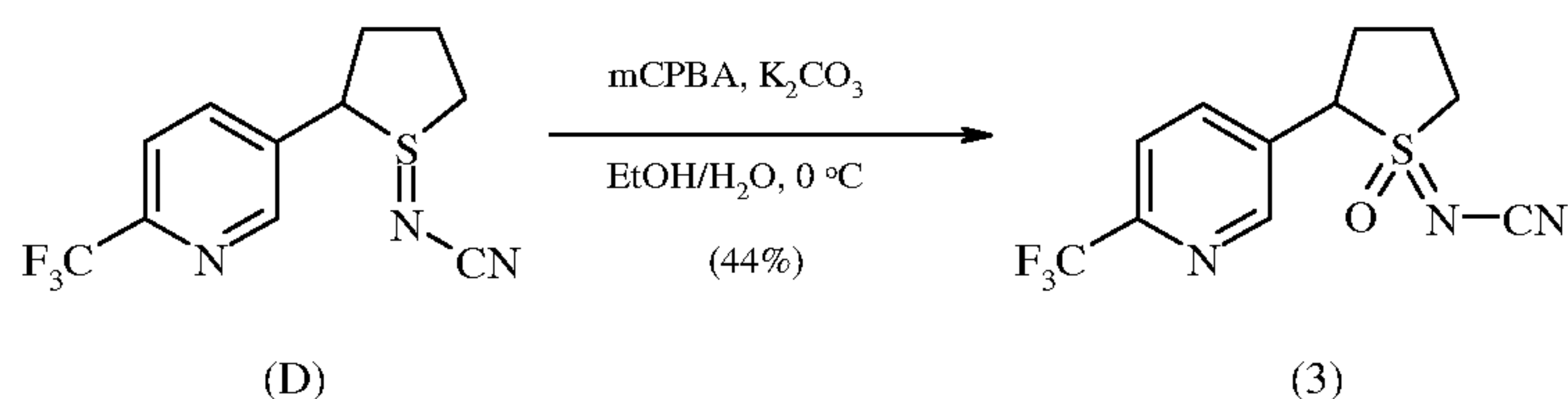
(D)



20

To a solution of sulfide (C) (230 mg, 0.99 mmol) and cyanamide (83 mg, 2.0 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (5 mL) at 0 °C was added iodobenzenediacetate (350 mg, 1.1 mmol) all at once. The reaction was stirred for 3 hr, then concentrated and the crude product purified by chromatography (chromatotron, 50% acetone/hexanes) to furnish the sulfilimine (D) as an orange oil (150 mg, mixture of diastereomers, 56%). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.8 (s, 1H), 7.9 (d, 1H), 7.8 (d, 1H), 4.8 (dd, 1H), 3.5 (m, 2H), 2.9-2.7 (m, 2H), 2.6 (m, 1H), 2.3 (m, 1H).

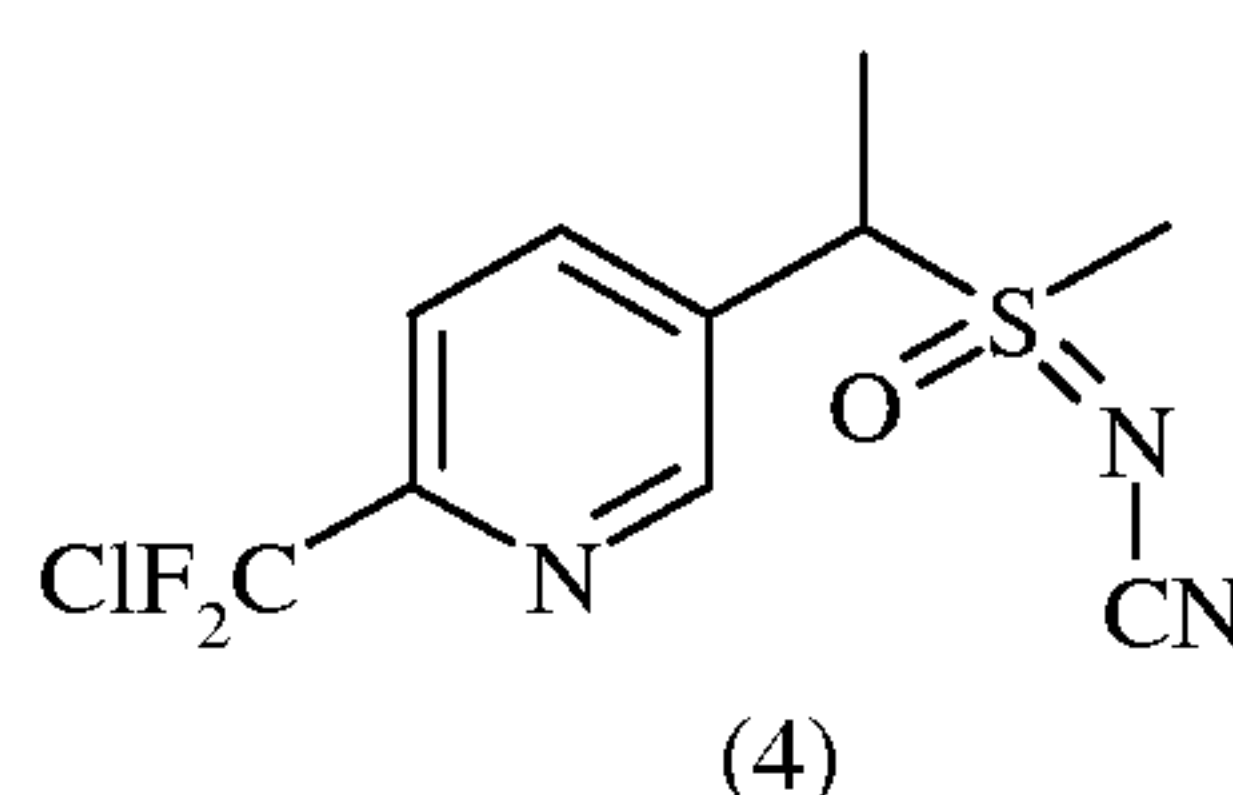
(E)



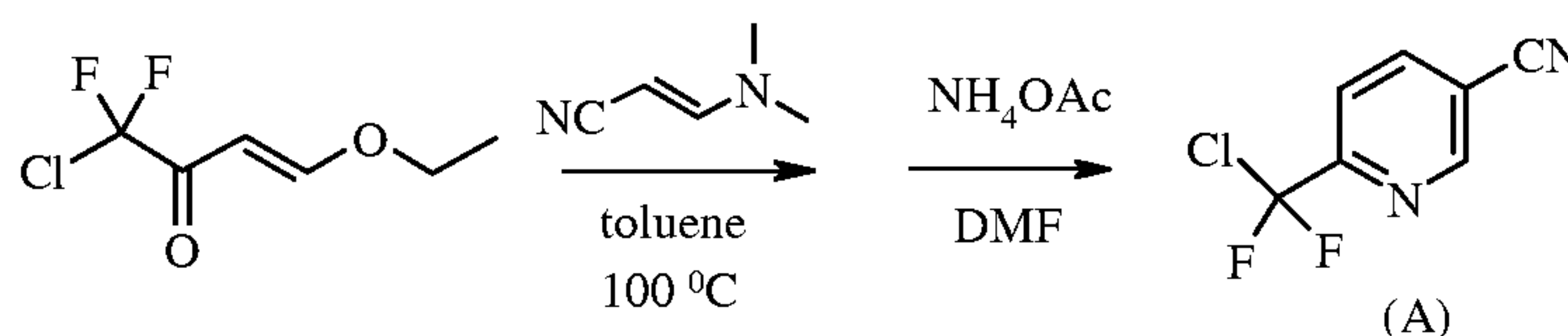
To a solution of mCPBA (80%, 180 mg, 0.82 mmol) in EtOH (3 mL) at 0 °C was added a solution of K_2CO_3 (230 mg, 1.7 mmol) in H_2O (1.5 mL). The solution was stirred for 20 min, then a solution of sulfilimine (D) (150 mg, 0.55 mmol) in EtOH (2 mL) was added all at once. The reaction was stirred at 0 °C for 45 min, after which the solvent was decanted into a separate flask and concentrated to give a white solid. The solid was slurried in CHCl_3 , filtered, and concentrated to furnish pure sulfoximine (3) as a colorless oil (72 mg, 44%). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (1.5:1 mixture of diastereomers) 8.8 (s, 2H), 8.0 (d, 2H), 7.8 (d, 2H), 4.7 (q, 1H), 4.6 (q, 1H), 4.0-3.4 (m, s, 4H), 3.0-2.4 (m, 8 H); LC-MS (ELSD): mass calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{11}\text{F}_3\text{N}_3\text{OS}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 290.06. Found 289.99.

20

Example IV. Preparation of (1-{6-[chloro(difluoro)methyl]pyridin-3-yl}ethyl)(methyl)-oxido- λ^4 -sulfanylidene cyanamide (4).



(A)

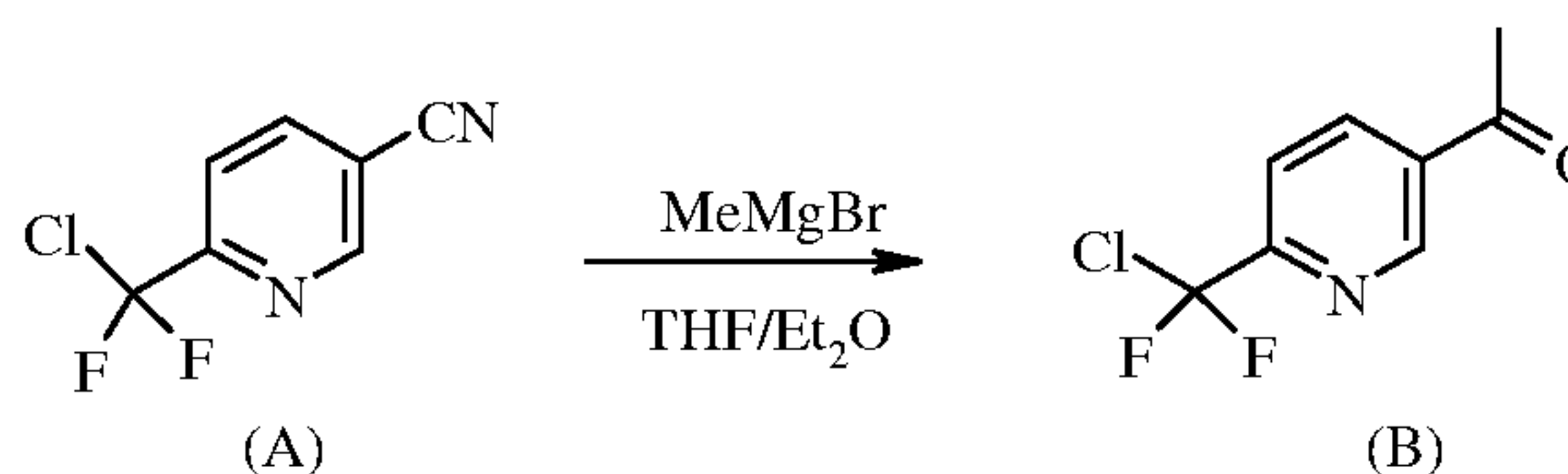


5

(3E)-1-Chloro-4-ethoxy-1,1-difluorobut-3-en-2-one (7.36 g, 40 mmol) was dissolved in dry toluene (40 mL) and treated with 3-dimethylaminoacrylonitrile (4.61 g, 48 mmol) at room temperature. The solution was heated at about 100 °C for 3.5 hr. The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure and the remaining mixture was re-dissolved in DMF (20 mL), treated with ammonium acetate (4.62 g, 60 mmol) and stirred at room temperature overnight. Water was added to the reaction mixture and the resulting mixture was extracted with ether-CH₂CH₂ (1 : 2, v/v) twice. The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried, filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified on silica gel to give 3.1 g of 6-[chloro(difluoro)methyl]nicotinonitrile (A) as light colored oil in 41% yield. GC-MS: mass calcd for C₇H₃ClF₂N₂ [M]⁺ 188. Found 188.

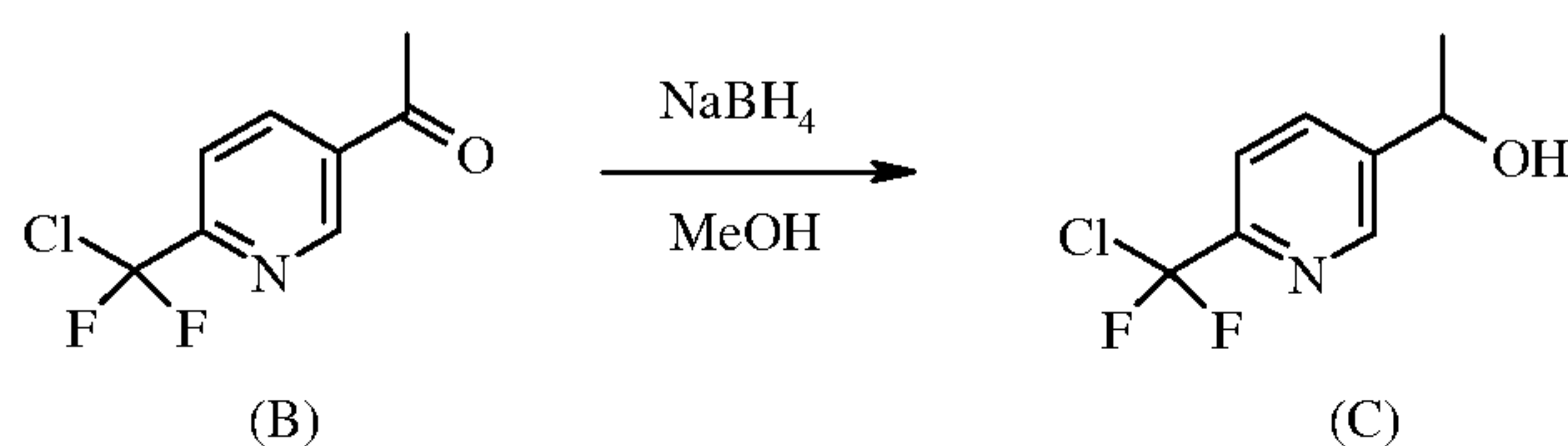
15

(B)



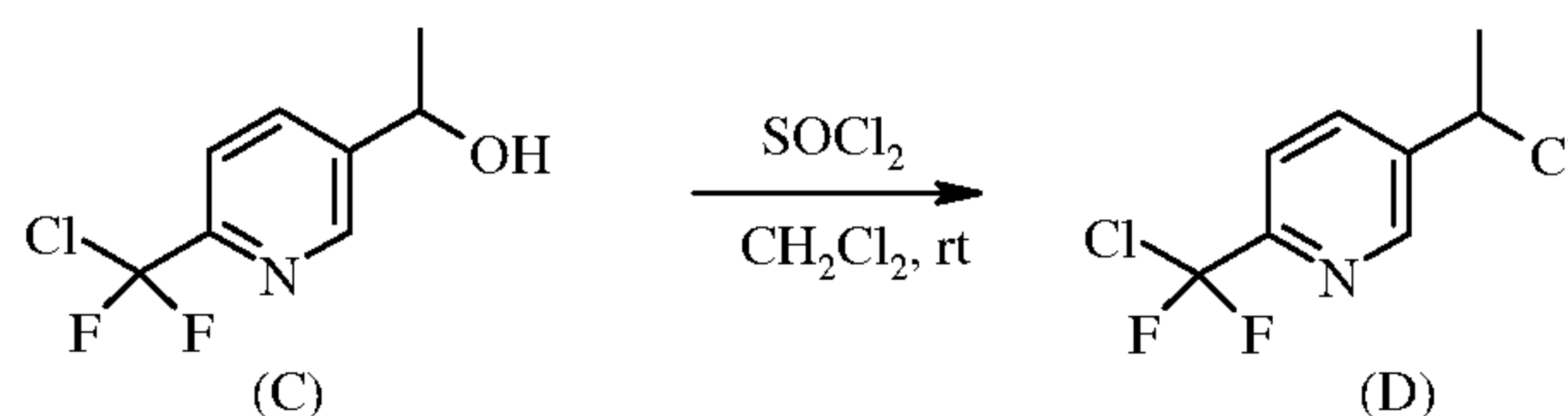
6-[Chloro(difluoro)methyl]nicotinonitrile (A) (3.0 g, 15.8 mmol) was dissolved in anhydrous ether (25 mL) and cooled in an ice-water bath. A solution of 3 M of methylmagnesium bromide in hexane (6.4 mL, 19 mmol) was added through a syringe. After the addition was over, the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 5 hr and then at room temperature for 10 hr. The reaction was quenched slowly with 1 N citric acid aqueous solution at 0 °C and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 hr. The pH was adjusted back to pH 7 with saturated NaHCO₃ aqueous solution. The two phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate twice. The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The remaining mixture was purified on silica gel eluted with 15% acetone in hexane to give 0.88 g of the desired product 1-{6-[chloro(difluoro)methyl]pyridin-3-yl}-ethanone (B) as brownish oil in 30% yield. GC-MS: mass calcd for C₈H₆ClF₂NO [M]⁺ 205. Found 205.

15 (C)



To a solution of 1-{6-[chloro(difluoro)methyl]pyridin-3-yl}ethanone (B) (0.85 g, 4.14 mmol) in MeOH (10 mL) at 0 °C was added NaBH₄ (0.16 g, 4.14 mmol). The mixture was stirred for 30 min and 2 M HCl aqueous solution was added until pH reached 7. Solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the remaining mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 x 50 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, concentrated, and dried *in vacuo* to give 0.798 g of analytically pure 1-{6-[chloro(difluoro)methyl]-pyridin-3-yl}ethanol (C) on GC-MS as a light yellow oil in 93% yield. GC-MS: mass calcd for C₈H₆ClF₂NO [M]⁺ 207. Found 207.

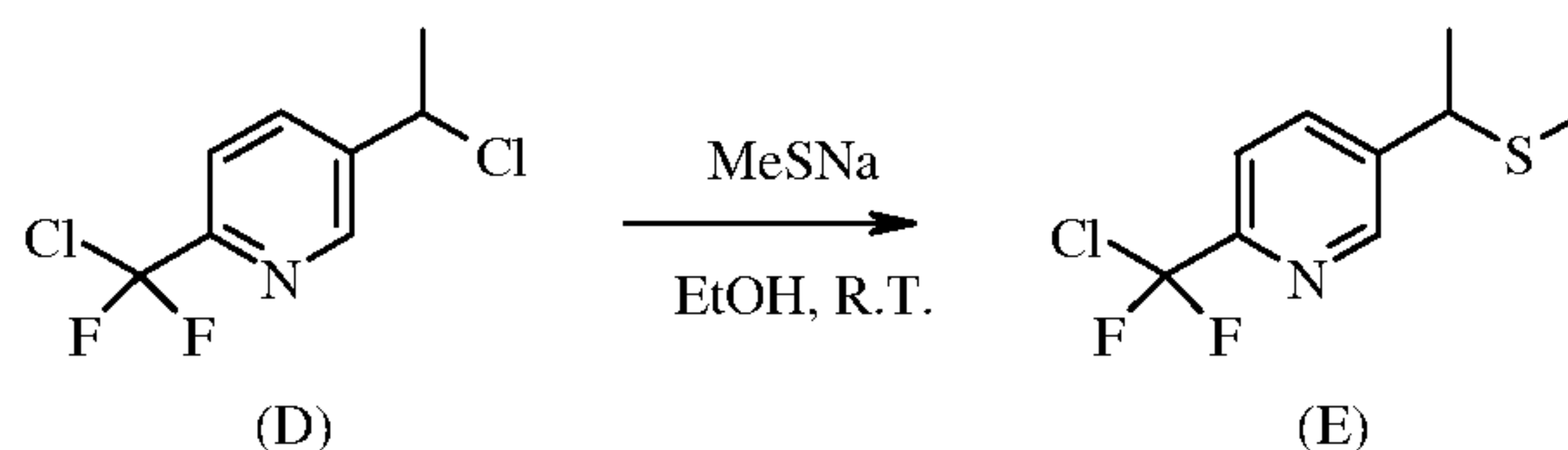
(D)



To a solution of 1-{6-[chloro(difluoro)methyl]-pyridin-3-yl}ethanol (0.78 g, 3.77 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (40 mL) was added thionyl chloride (0.54 mL, 7.54 mmol) dropwise at room temperature. After 1hr, the reaction was quenched slowly with saturated NaHCO₃ aqueous solution and the two phases were separated. The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, concentrated, and dried in vacuum to give 0.83 g of the crude 2-[chloro(difluoro)methyl]-5-(1-chloroethyl)pyridine (D) as brown oil in 98% yield, which was directly used for the next step reaction.

GC-MS: mass calcd for C₈H₇Cl₂F₂N [M]⁺ 225. Found 225.

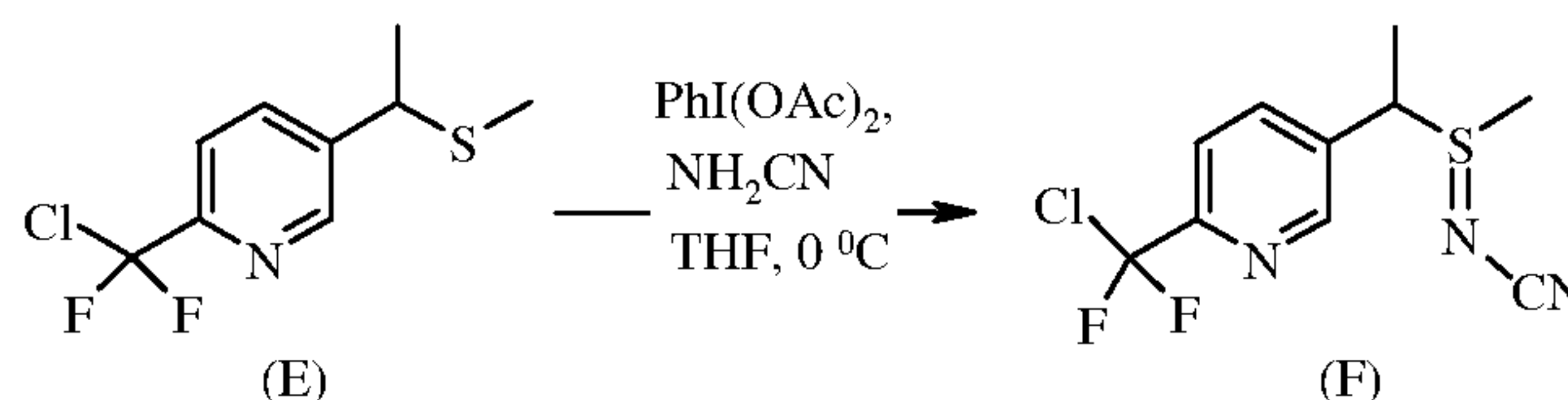
(E)



To a solution of 2-[chloro(difluoro)methyl]-5-(1-chloroethyl)pyridine (D) (0.81 g, 3.6 mmol) in ethanol (10 mL) was added sodium thiomethoxide (0.52 g, 7.4 mmol) under stirring in one portion at 0 °C. After 10 min, the mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred overnight. The solvent ethanol was then removed under reduced pressure and the residue was re-taken into ether/CH₂Cl₂ and brine. The two phases were separated and the organic layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ one more time. The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, concentrated, purified on silica gel using 5% ethyl acetate in hexane to give 0.348 g of the 2-[chloro(difluoro)methyl]-5-[1-

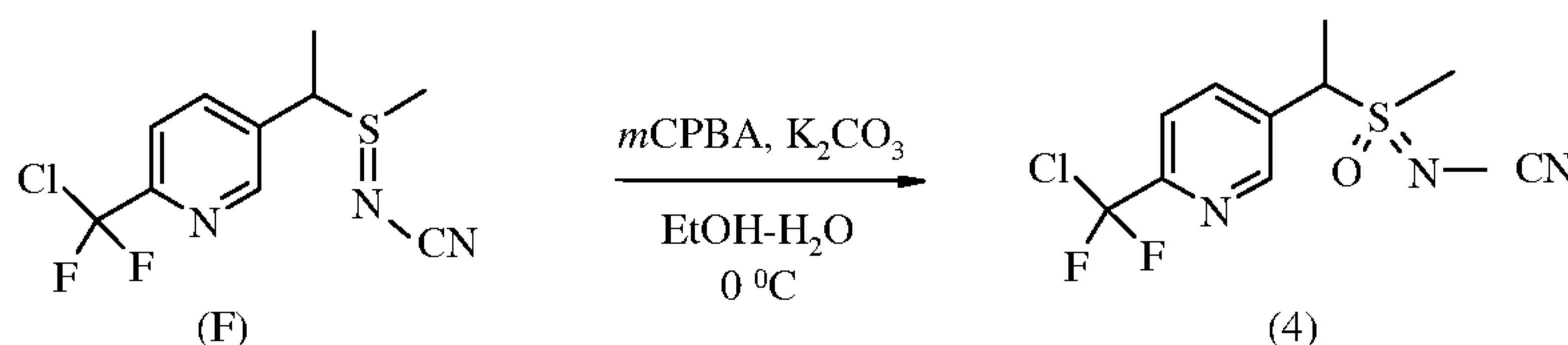
(methylthio)ethyl]pyridine (E) in 40% yield GC-MS: mass calcd for $C_9H_{10}ClF_2NS$ $[M]^+$ 237. Found 237.

(F)



5 To a stirred solution of 2-[chloro(difluoro)methyl]-5-[1-(methylthio)-ethyl]pyridine (E) (0.32 g, 1.35 mmol) and cyanamide (0.058 g, 1.35 mmol) in THF (7 mL) was added iodobenzene diacetate (0.44 g, 1.35 mmol) in one portion at 0 °C and the resulting mixture was stirred at this temperature for 1 hr and then at room temperature for 2 hr. The solvent was then removed under reduced
10 pressure and the resulting mixture was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 , washed with half-saturated brine, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , filtered, concentrated, and purified on silica gel using 50% acetone in hexane to give 0.175 g of (1-{6-[chloro-(difluoro)methyl]pyridin-3-yl}ethyl)(methyl)- λ^4 -sulfanylidene cyanamide (F) as light-yellow oil in 48% yield. 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.71 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H) 7.78 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (q, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (s, 3H), 1.92 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H); LC-MS: mass calcd for $C_{10}H_{10}ClF_2N_3S$ $[M+1]^+$ 278. Found 278.

(G)

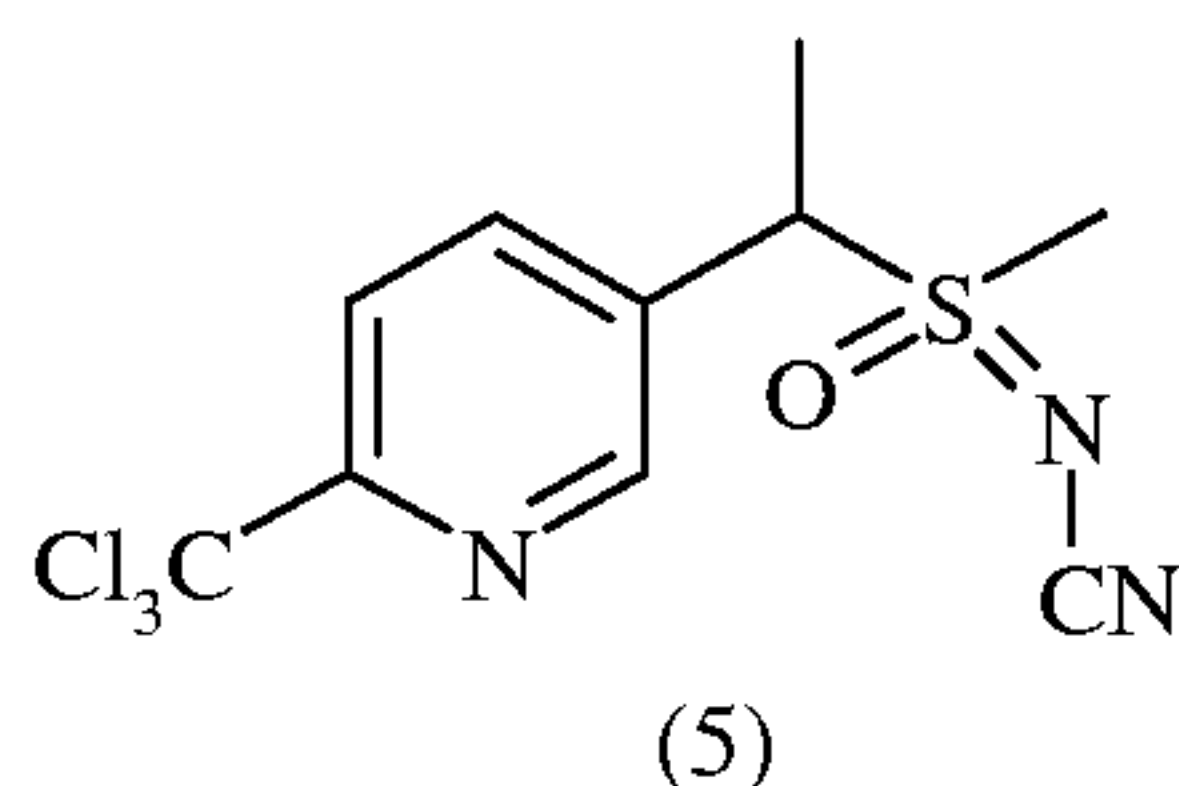


20 To a stirred solution of (1-{6-[chloro(difluoro)methyl]pyridin-3-yl}ethyl)-(methyl)- λ^4 -sulfanylidene cyanamide (F) (0.16 g, 0.6 mmol) in ethanol (10 mL) was added 20% potassium carbonate aqueous solution (1.24 g, 1.8 mmol) at 0 °C

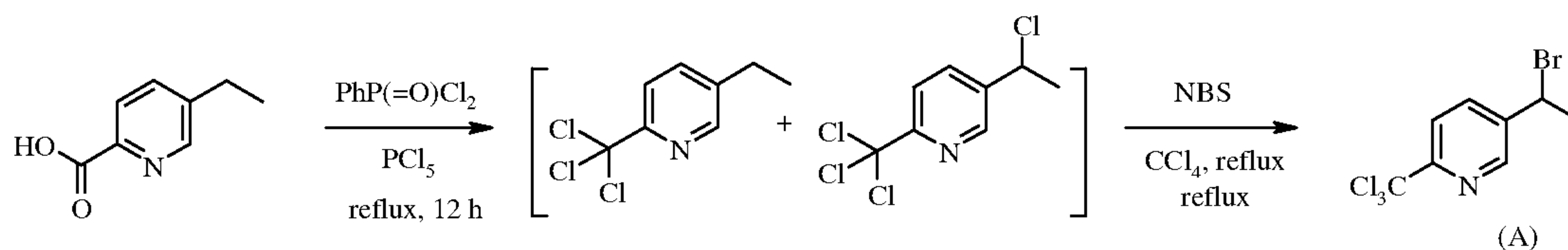
under stirring. After 10 min stirring, 80% mCPBA (0.19 g, ca 0.9 mmol) was added to the mixture, which was stirred at 0 °C for 2 hr after which the reaction was quenched with a spatula of solid sodium thiosulfate. Most of the solvent ethanol was removed under reduced pressure and an aqueous saturated NaHCO₃ -
 5 brine (1 : 1, v/v) solution was added and the mixture extracted with chloroform three times. The combined organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified on silica gel using 35-50% acetone in hexane as eluent to give 0.092 g of the product (1-{6-[chloro(difluoro)-methyl]pyridin-3-yl}ethyl)(methyl)oxido-λ⁴-sulfanylidene cyanamide (4) as
 10 colorless oil in 57% yield. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.79 (s, 1H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.73 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.16 and 3.11 (2 s, 3H, a mixture of two diastereomeric α-CH₃ groups between the sulfoximine and the pyridine tail), 2.00 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); LC-MS: mass calcd for C₁₀H₁₀ClF₂N₃OS [M-1]⁺ 292. Found 292.

15

Example V. Preparation of [1-(6-trichloromethylpyridin-3-yl)ethyl](methyl)-oxido- λ⁴-sulfanylidene cyanamide (5).



(A)

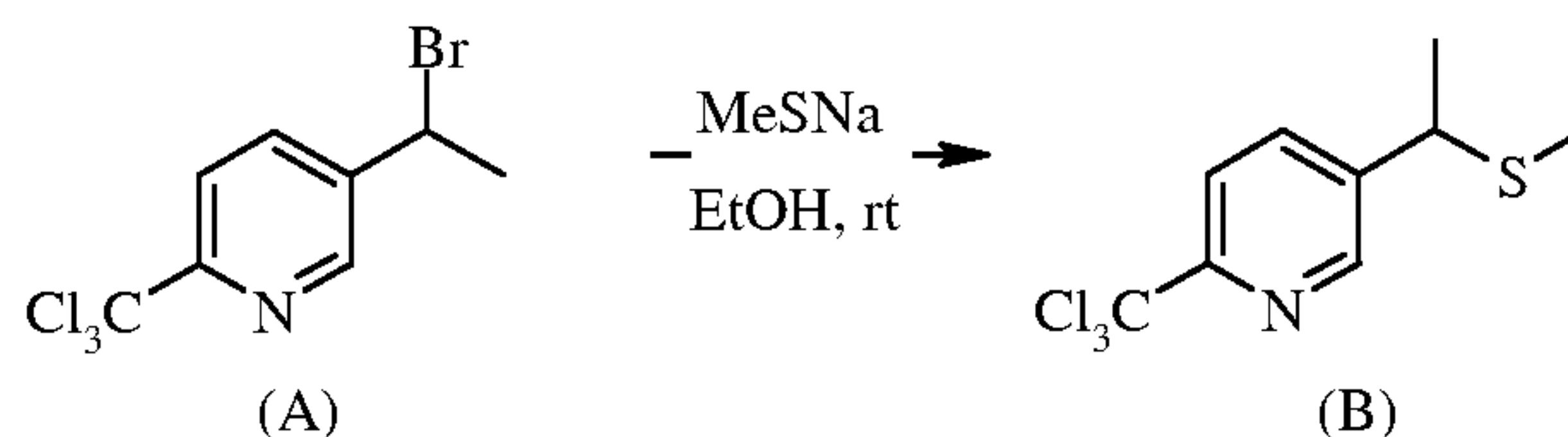


20

A mixture of 5-ethylpyridine-2-carboxylic acid (1.98 g, 13 mmol), phenylphosphonic dichloride (2.8 g, 14.3 mmol), phosphorus pentachloride (7.7 g, 32 mmol) was stirred and slowly heated. Once a clear yellow liquid was formed, the mixture was heated to reflux overnight. After cooling, the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The residue was carefully poured into saturated sodium carbonate aqueous solution cooled in an ice-water bath. The aqueous phase was then extracted with CH_2Cl_2 two times. The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , filtered, concentrated, and partially purified on silica gel eluted with 10% EtOAc in hexane to give 2.7 g of crude product containing both 5-ethyl-2-(trichloromethyl)pyridine and 5-(1-chloroethyl)-2-(trichloromethyl)pyridine in an approximate 3:1 ratio (GC data, masses calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_8\text{Cl}_3\text{N}$ and $\text{C}_8\text{H}_7\text{Cl}_4\text{N}$ $[\text{M}]^+$ 223 and 257 respectively. Found 223 and 257 respectively).

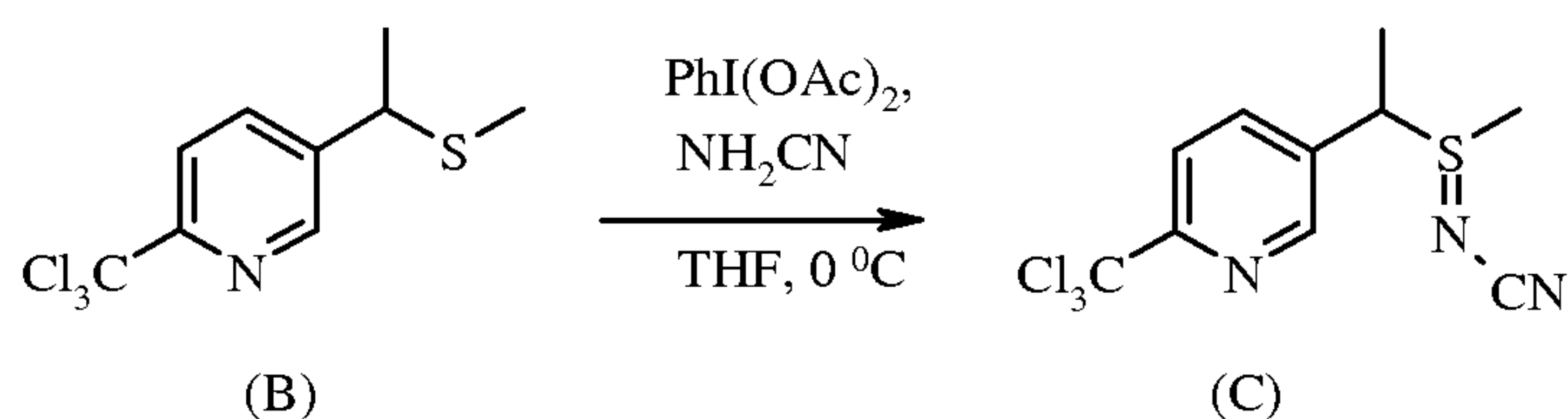
A mixture of the above-mentioned crude product (2.6 g) in carbon tetrachloride (100 mL) was then treated with 80% of *N*-bromosuccinimide (1.9 g, 11 mmol) and benzoylperoxide (0.66 g, 0.275 mmol) and then refluxed overnight. The solid was filtered off, the filtrate concentrated and the resulting residue purified on silica gel using 4% EtOAc in hexane to give 1.0 g of the desired product 5-(1-bromoethyl)-2-(trichloromethyl)pyridine (A) as a yellow solid. The combined yield for the two steps was 25%. GC-MS: mass calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_7\text{BrCl}_3\text{N}$ $[\text{M}-1-\text{Cl}]^+$ 266. Found 266.

(B)



A solution of 5-(1-bromoethyl)-2-(trichloromethyl)pyridine (A) (0.95 g, 3.14 mmol) in ethanol (15 mL) was treated with sodium thiomethoxide (0.44 g, 6.29 mmol) portion wise at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The solvent ethanol was then removed under a reduced pressure and the residue was re-taken into CH₂Cl₂ and brine. The two phases were separated and the organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, concentrated. The residue was purified on silica gel using 5% EtOAc in hexane to give 0.57 g of the partially pure 5-[1-(methylthio)ethyl]-2-(trichloromethyl)pyridine (B) in 67% crude yield. GC-MS: mass calcd for C₉H₁₀Cl₃NS [M]⁺ 269. Found 269.

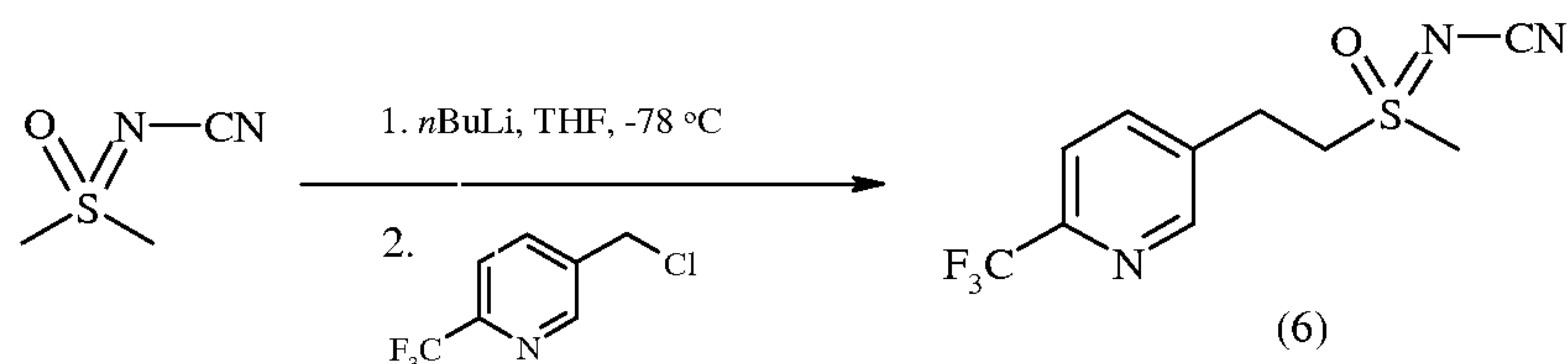
10 (C)



To a stirred solution of 5-[1-(methylthio)ethyl]-2-(trichloromethyl)pyridine (B) (0.55 g, 2.3 mmol) and cyanamide (0.097 g, 2.3 mmol) in THF (7 mL) cooled to 0 °C was added iodobenzene diacetate (0.75 g, 2.3 mmol) in one portion. The resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 hr and then at room temperature for 2 hr. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the resulting mixture was purified on silica gel using 50% acetone in hexane to give 0.254 g of (1E)-methyl{1-[6-(trichloromethyl)pyridin-3-yl]ethyl}-λ⁴-sulfanylidene cyanamide (C) as an off-white solid in 40% yield. ¹H NMR for the diastereomeric mixture (300 MHz, d₆-acetone) δ 8.87 (s, 1H), 8.21-8.25 (m, 2H), 4.65-4.76 (m, 1H), 2.86-2.66 (m, 3H), 1.88-1.92 (m, 3H).

15
20

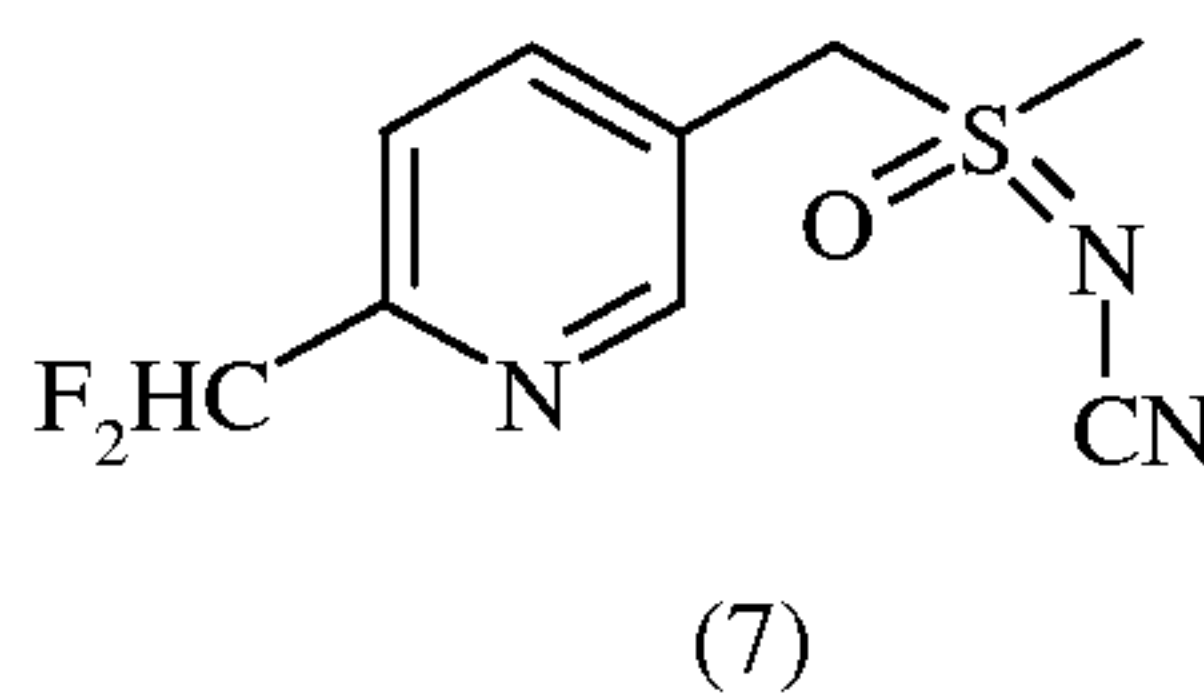
(C)



To a solution of sulfoximine (100 mg, 0.85 mmol) in THF (2 mL) at -78 °C was added nBuLi (2.5 M, 340 μL, 0.85 mmol) dropwise. The solution was
 5 let solution stir for 20 min, then 5-(chloromethyl)-2-trifluoromethyl pyridine (170 mg, 0.85 mmol) was added. The solution was let solution stir at -78 °C for additional 2 h, then quenched with satd aq ammonium chloride and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic extracts were dried over sodium sulfate, concentrated and purified by flash chromatography (40% EtOAc/ 80% hexanes) to
 10 furnish [2-(6-trifluoromethylpyridin-3-yl)ethyl](methyl)-oxido- λ⁴-sulfanylidene-cyanamide (**6**) as a yellow solid = 14.5 mg (6%); mp = 83-87 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.69 (d, 1H), 7.85 (dd, 1H), 7.74 (d, 1H), 3.58-3.79 (m, 2H), 3.38-3.46 (m, 2H), 3.30 (s, 3H); LC-MS (ELSD): mass calcd for C₁₀H₁₁F₃N₃OS [M+H]⁺, 278. Found 278.

15

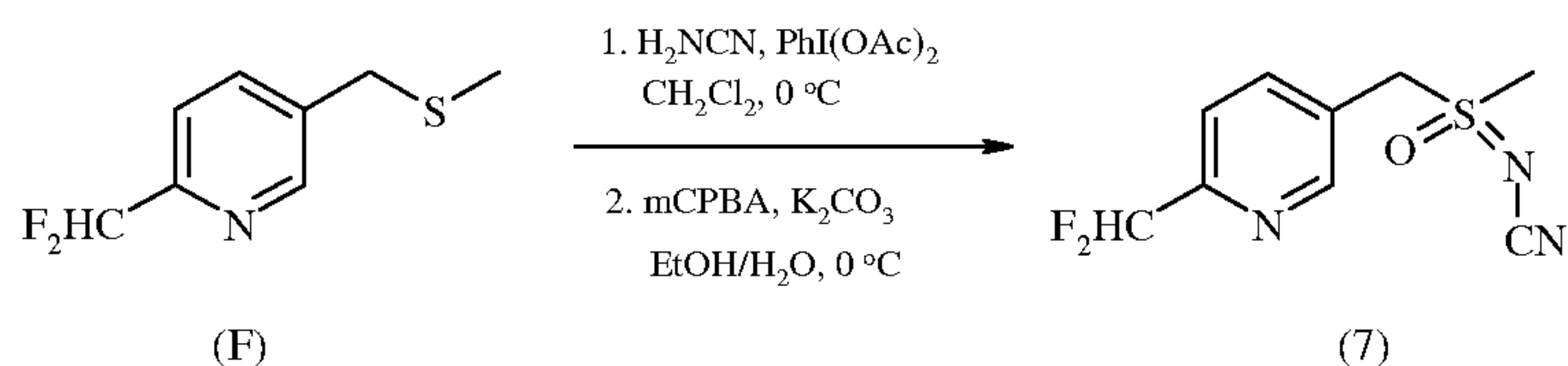
Example VII. Preparation of [(6-difluoromethylpyridin-3-yl)methyl](methyl)-oxido- λ⁴-sulfanylidene-cyanamide (**7**)



(A)

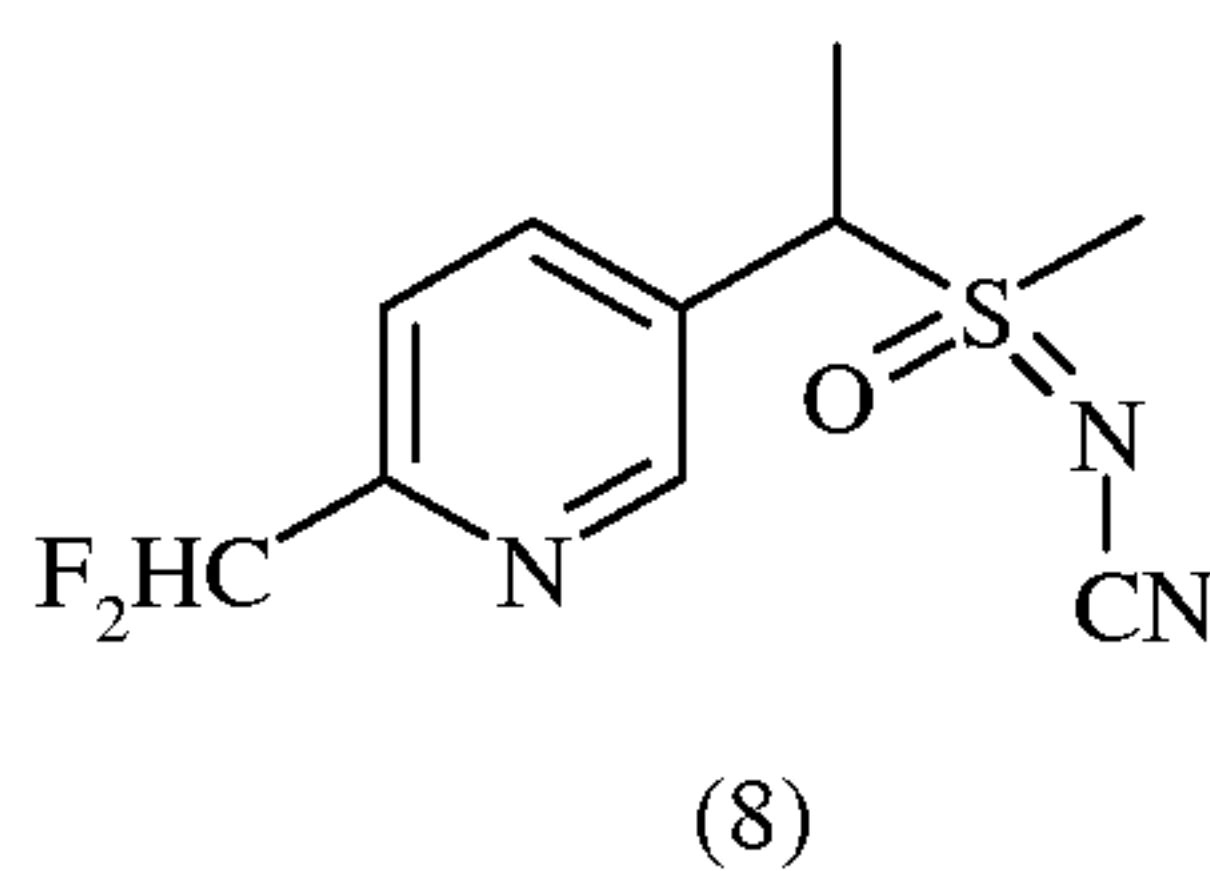
(300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.6 (s, 1H), 7.8 (d, 1H), 7.6 (d, 1H), 6.6 (t, 1H), 3.7 (s, 2H), 2.0 (s, 3H).

(G)

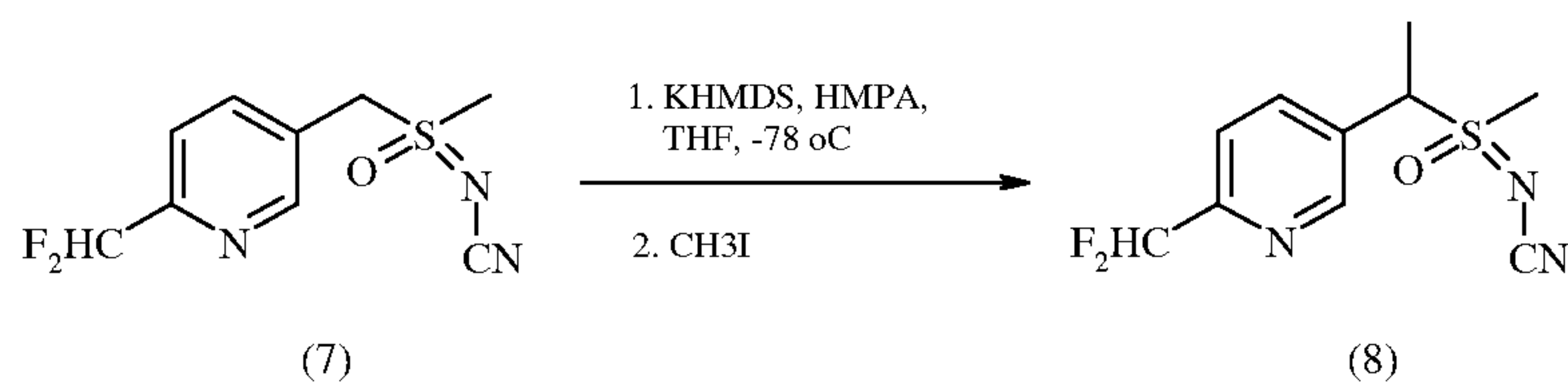


5 [(6-Difluoromethylpyridin-3-yl)methyl](methyl)-oxido- λ^4 -
 sulfanylidene-1-cyanamide (7) was synthesized from 2-difluoromethyl-5-
 methylthiomethylpyridine (F) in two steps as described in Examples I-B and I-C.
 Isolated as a white solid (51% yield). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.7 (s, 1H),
 8.0 (d, 1H), 7.8 (d, 1H), 6.7 (t, 1H), 4.7 (dd, 2H), 3.2 (s, 3H); LC-MS (ELSD):
 10 mass calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{10}\text{F}_2\text{N}_3\text{OS}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, 246. Found 246.

Example VIII. Preparation of [1-(6-difluoromethylpyridin-3-yl)ethyl](methyl)-oxido- λ^4 -sulfanylidene-1-cyanamide (8)

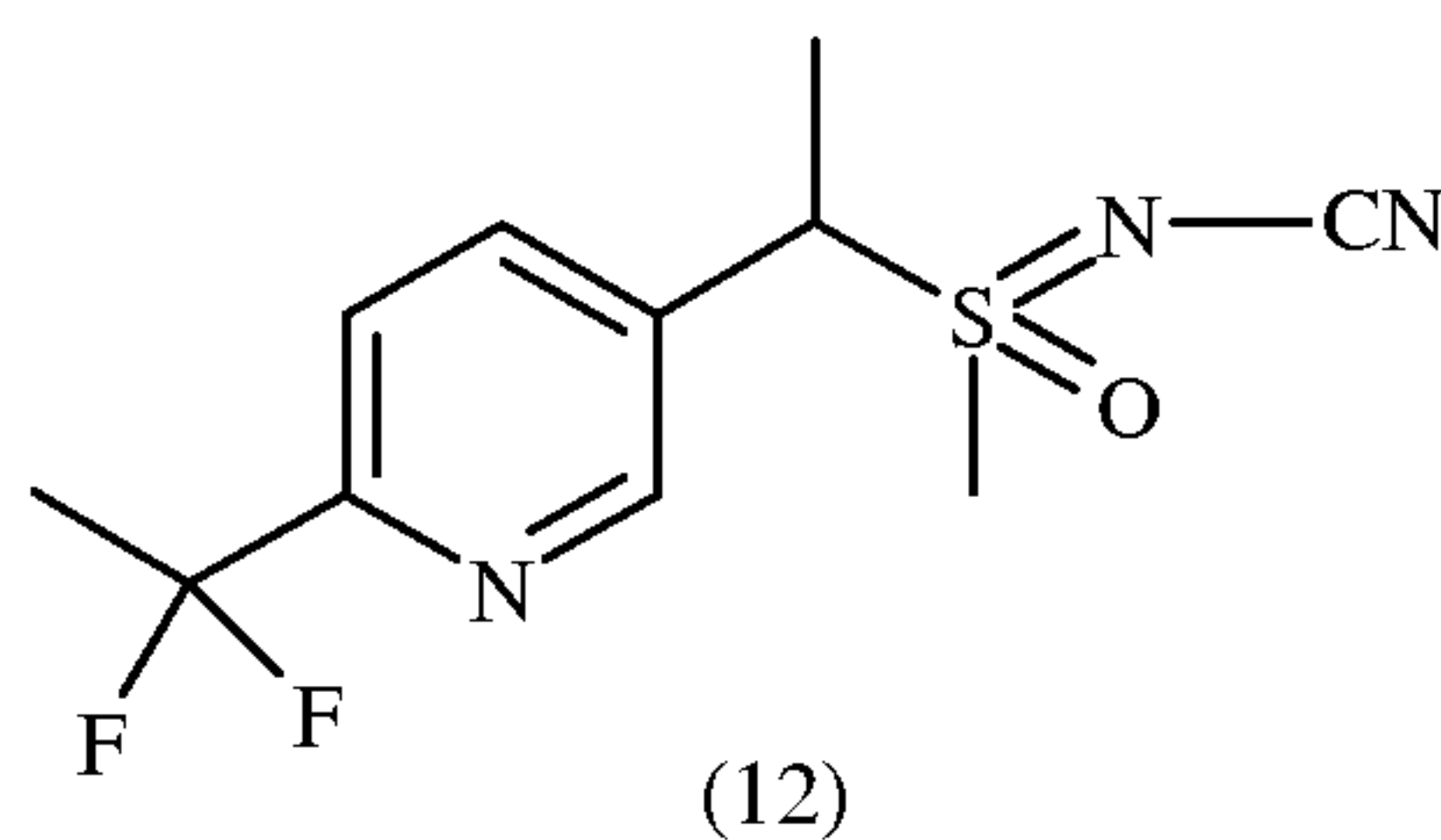


15 (A)



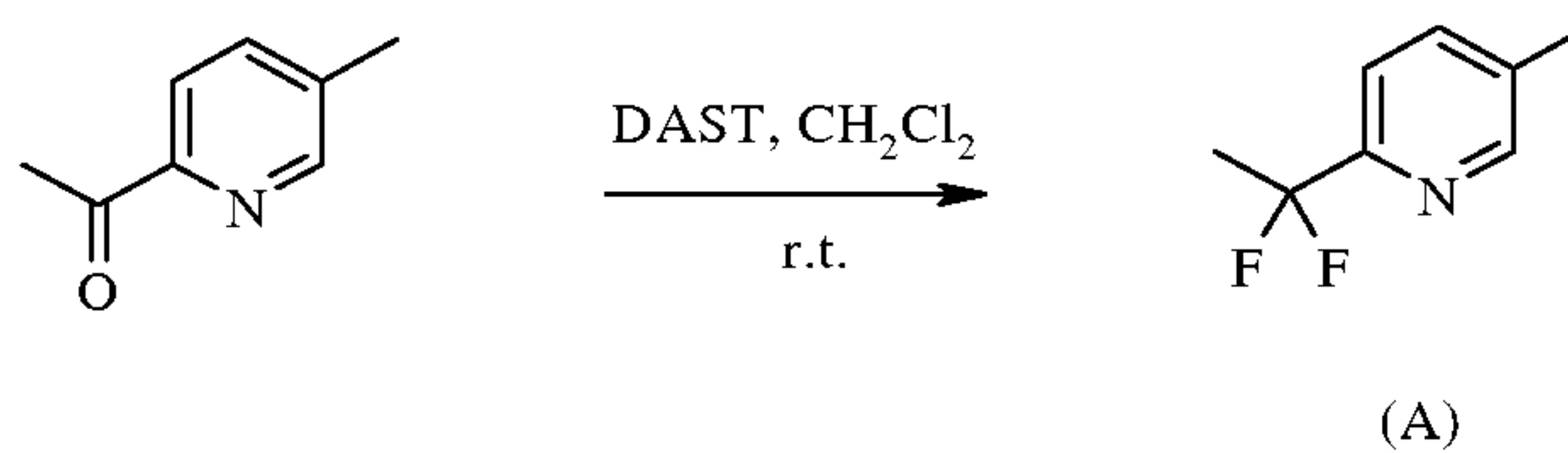
 [1-(6-difluoromethylpyridin-3-yl)ethyl](methyl)-oxido- λ^4 -sulfanylidene
 cyanamide (8) was synthesized from [(6-difluoromethylpyridin-3-

Example XII. Preparation of [6-(1,1-difluoroethyl)pyridin-3-yl]ethyl(methyl)-oxido- λ 4-sulfanylidene cyanamide (12)



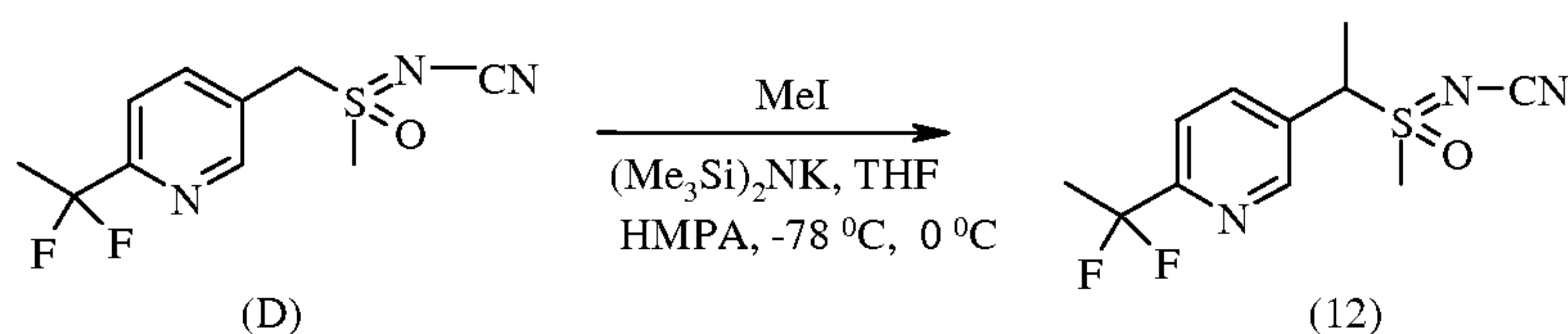
(A)

5



To a solution 5-methyl-2-acetylpyridine (9.9 g, 73.3 mmol) in molecule
 sieves-dried CH_2Cl_2 (150 mL) was added diethylamino sulfolnyltrifluoride
 (DAST) (25.8 g, 260 mmol) at room temperature and the mixture was stirred at
 10 room temperature overnight. More DAST (12 g, 74 mmol) was added and the
 reaction continued for two more days after which an additional DAST (3.8 g, 23
 mmol) was added and the reaction continued for another 3 days. After the reaction
 was quenched slowly with saturated NaHCO_3 at 0 °C, the organic phase was
 separated, dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified
 15 on silica gel eluted with 8% EtOAc in hexane to give 3.91 g of 2-(1,1-
 difluoroethyl)-5-methylpyridine (A) as a light brownish oil in 34% yield. GC-MS:
 mass calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_9\text{F}_2\text{N}$ $[\text{M}]^+$ 157. Found 157.

(E)



To a solution of [(6-(1,1-difluoroethyl)pyridin-3-yl)methyl](methyl)-oxido- λ^4 -sulfanylidene cyanamide (D) (0.55 g, 2.0 mmol) and HMPA (0.09 mL, 0.55 mmol) in 20 mL anhydrous THF was added 0.5 M potassium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide in toluene (4.4 mL, 2.2 mmol) at $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ dropwise. After 45 min, iodomethane (0.14 mL, 2.2 mmol) was added in one portion via a syringe. Ten minutes later, the temperature was allowed to rise to $0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ and mixture continued to stir for 1.5 h. The reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NH_4Cl , diluted with brine, extracted once each with EtOAc and CH_2Cl_2 . The combined organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by preparative HPLC to give 0.15 g of the desired [6-(1,1-difluoroethyl)pyridin-3-yl]ethyl[(methyl)-oxido- λ^4 -sulfanylidene cyanamide (12) in 26% yield. LC-MS: mass calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_2\text{N}_3\text{OS}$ $[\text{M}]^+$ 273.31. Found $[\text{M}+1]^+$ 274.21.

Increasing Plant Vigor.

Compound A

