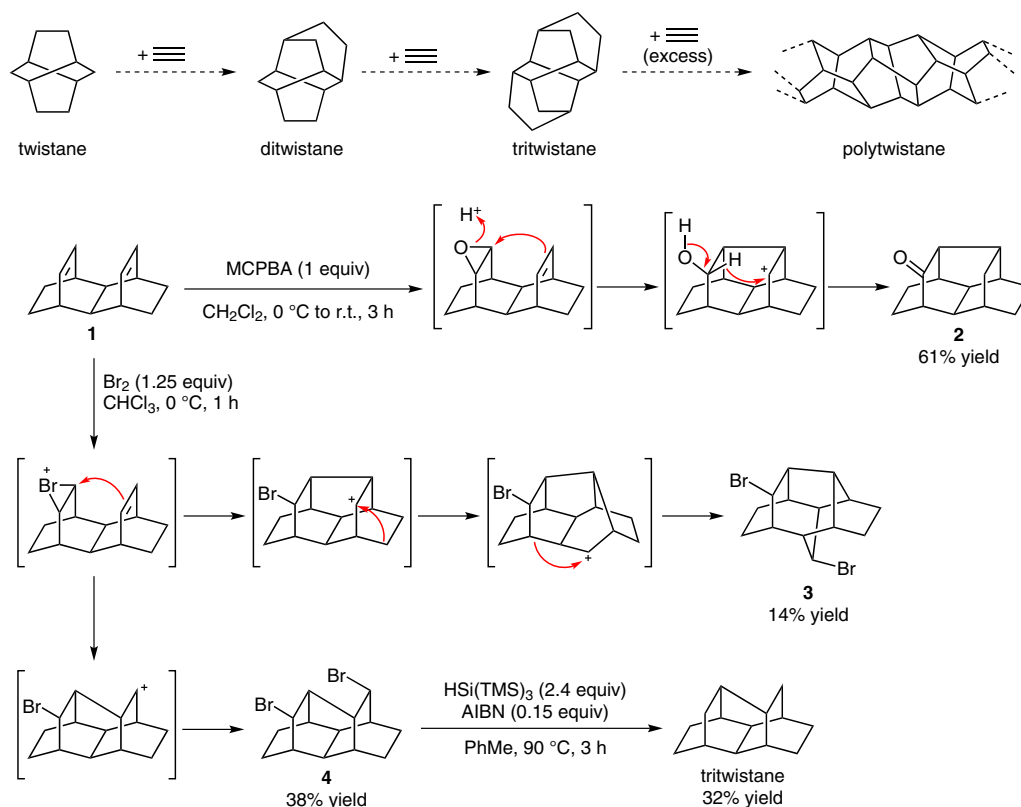


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Come On, Let's Do the Twist



Significance: The authors previously posited ‘polytwistane’ as a polymer of fused twistane units. Its rigidity, chirality, and relation to acetylene have made polytwistane an attractive synthetic goal. Twistane, ditwistane, and substituted oligotwistanes have been previously synthesized, but this paper reports the first preparation of unsubstituted tritwistane.

Comment: The authors target the synthesis of tritwistane from diene **1** (or a tetrachloro derivative of **1**). A recurring obstacle is the regioselectivity of the cyclization step. The two pathways are described as ‘U-shaped’ or ‘N-shaped’, and only the latter yields twistane linkages. Future strategies to favor the N-shaped cyclization will facilitate synthesis of higher oligotwistanes.