The Coupling-Isomerization Approach to Enimines and the First Sequential Three-Component Access to 2-Ethoxy Pyridines*

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The coupling-isomerization reaction (CIR) of electron-deficient halides 1 with N-[1-(hetero)aryl-prop-2-ynyl] tosyl amides 2 leads to the formation of N-tosyl enimines 3, in good to excellent yields. These electron deficient heterodienes are perfectly suited for Diels-Alder reactions with inverse electron demand. In the sense of a one-pot reaction a three-component CIR-cyclocondensation sequence of 1, 2\textsubscript{a}, and diethyl ketene acetal gives rise to the formation of 2-ethoxy 6-(p-anisyl)pyridines 4 in moderate to good yields.

\textit{Key words:} Alkynes, Catalysis, Cross-Couplings, Cyclocondensation, Pyridines