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Synthesis and characterisation of unusual tetraaminoalkenes (enetetramines)

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Abstract

Two general routes are described for the synthesis of the title compounds from the reaction of either (A) the dimethyl acetal of *N,N*-dimethylformamide and an appropriate *N,N*-bis(secondary amine), or (B) sodium hydride and a 4,5-dihydroimidazolium or tetrahydropyrimidinium salt. The following new compounds have been made: *trans*-R[graphic omitted]=[graphic omitted]R [R = Et and R' = Me (**1a**) or CH₂Ph (**1b**)] and R[graphic omitted]=[graphic omitted]R [*n*=*m*= 2 and R = Me (**2a**) or CH₂Ph (**2b**); *n*= 3, *m*= 2, and R = CH₂Ph (**3**); or *n*= 2, *m*= 3, and R = CH₂Ph (**4**)].

X-Ray data on crystalline [graphic omitted]R₂ (R = CH₂Ph) and (**2b**)[data in parentheses] show a short C=C bond, 1.319(8)Å[1.329(5)Å], long C_{sp²}-N bonds, av. 1.437(11)Å[1.424(4)Å], with each of the four nitrogen atoms in a pyramidal sp³ environment.

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