Benzo[*b*]fluorenes Formed in the Thermal Cyclization of 3-Ene-1,6-diynes

Michael Schmittel[a,*], Marc Strittmatter[a], Wolfdieter A. Schenk[b], Michael Hagel[b]

[a] Institut für Organische Chemie der Universität Würzburg, Am Hubland, D-97074 Würzburg

[b] Institut für Anorganische Chemie der Universität Würzburg, Am Hubland, D-97074 Würzburg, Germany

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A three-step preparation of the benzofluorene core is presented. The last step involves thermal cyclization of 3-ene-1,6-diyne (**7**) leading to the formation of four benzofluorene derivatives, one of which has been investigated by X-ray analysis. The harsh thermal conditions indicate that the cyclization of **7** might not proceed *via* a biradical intermediate as would be anticipated by a mechanistic proposal from Ueda.

* Reprint requests to Prof. Dr. M. Schmittel. E-mail: mjls@chemie.uni-wuerzburg.de