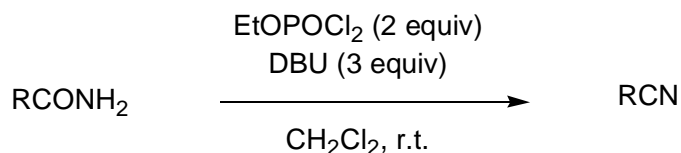


Convenient Conditions for Conversion of Primary Amides to Nitriles

Taiwanese chemists* have reported simple and mild conditions for the dehydration of primary amides to nitriles, using ethyl chlorophosphate and base:



Yields are high, both aryl and alkyl amides are successfully converted, and an epimerisable chiral centre next to the amide/nitrile functionality remains intact (i.e. homochiral). An alternative solvent to CH₂Cl₂ would make this even more attractive.

* C.-W. Kuo et al., Chem. Commun., 2007, 301-303.

