

## A GENERAL HYDROCYANATION OF ACTIVATED TERMINAL ALKYNES

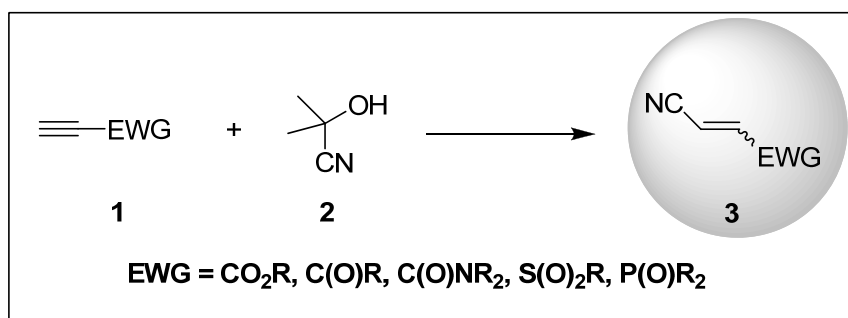
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The current synthetic approaches to  $\beta$ -substituted acrylonitriles depend on the nature of the  $\beta$ -substituent. While unactivated alkynes afford the corresponding  $\beta$ -substituted acrylonitriles via metal catalysis, acrylonitriles bearing different electron withdrawing groups (EWG) at the  $\beta$ -position are often obtained by diverse and indirect stepwise methods.

In this communication we report the first general organocatalytic hydrocyanation of activated alkynes **1** to obtain synthetically and pharmaceutically important  $\beta$ -substituted acrylonitriles **3** using acetone cyanohydrin **2** as a safer source of cyanide ion [1].



Acknowledgements: The authors thank the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO) and the European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) (CTQ2015-63894-P). S. D. H. thanks La Laguna University and Cajasierte for a pre-doctoral contract.

[1] Manuscript under preparation.