## Category

Synthesis of Materials and **Unnatural Products** 

# **Key words**

anthracenes

gold-catalyzed cyclization

C. SHU, C.-B. CHEN, W.-X. CHEN, L.-W. YE\* (XIAMEN UNIVERSITY, P. R. OF CHINA) Flexible and Practical Synthesis of Anthracenes through Gold-Catalyzed Cyclization of o-Alkynyldiarylmethanes Org. Lett. 2013, 15, 5542-5545.

# **Gold-Catalyzed Synthesis of Anthracenes**

## Proposed mechanistic pathways:

Significance: The gold-catalyzed synthesis of anthracene derivatives from their corresponding o-alkynyldiarylmethanes is reported. Compared to previously reported syntheses, the presented method is a mild and atom-economic approach that enables access to functionalized anthracenes from a wide substrate scope in good yields.

Comment: In addition to anthracenes, the authors report the synthesis of a tetracene derivative (see above) from a naphthalene-containing substrate, thus demonstrating the potential of this synthetic strategy in the synthesis of functionalized extended acenes.

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