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REACTION MECHANISMS OF PLANAR DISILENES

Alex Seim

Mentor: Peter Gaspar

We have recently discovered many novel planar disilenes and have computationally modeled the structures of the molecules. Additionally, we have modeled the reaction mechanisms for a few of these planar disilenes and have shown that these molecules react in concerted 2+4 cycloadditions with reasonable activation barriers like their olefin counterparts. We are now looking to experimentally confirm our computational findings to answer the question of whether or not planar disilenes react via a concerted mechanism in 2+4 cycloadditions.