

8a and **8b** are potential precursor for isocyanobutadiyne. They were obtained by the reaction of ethynyl(trimethyl)silylmagnesium bromide with **2a** and **2b**, respectively, followed by a desilylation of the isolated and fully characterized isocyanide complexes **7a** and **7b**. Suitable single crystals for a X-ray structure analyses could be obtained of both complexes. Pentadiynenitrile the isomer of the target molecule was the only detected product of the pyrolysis experiments.

The synthesis of a precursor for the next higher homologues isocyanohexatriyne was possible by monolithiation of 1,4-bis(trimethylsilyl)butadiyne, with methyl lithium, reaction with **2b** followed by desilylation of the isolated and fully characterized complex **12**. The unstable **13** was obtained only in small amounts and could be characterized solely by nmr spectroscopy.

A precursor for isocyanopropynenitrile **5** which hitherto had only been obtained in an argon matrix and characterized by infrared-spectroscopy could be synthesized in high yields allowing detailed pyrolysis experiments. The "free" ethenyl isocyanide as well as the target molecule isocyanopropynenitrile **5** could be isolated by fractional condensation of the pyrolysis products. The unstable 3-chloro-2-fluoro-3-isocyano-2-propenenitrile **4** could be characterized by mass- and one- and two-dimensional nmr spectroscopy. The unambiguous experimental characterization of the binary carbon-nitrogen compound **5** was possible by mass spectroscopy, high resolution infrared-spectroscopy in the region of 2400 - 2000 cm^{-1} and above all, by millimeter-wave-spectroscopy which is particularly informative for linear molecules. The synthesis and pyrolysis of the isomers with a ^{13}C - or ^{15}N marked nitril function allowed the determination of the rotational constants of ten different isotopomers of **5**. By using these spectroscopic constants it was possible to determine the ground state structure. The C-N-single bond distance to the isocyanide group is 130.6(1) pm which is the shortest ever found experimentally.

The extensive numerous rotational spectroscopic data could allow to detect cyanoisocyanoacetylene **5** in interstellar medium by radioastronomy in the near future. Such a detection would expand the knowledge of interstellar chemistry.