


☐

I'm not robot


reCAPTCHA

Continue

Journal of apocryphal chemistry

So, here's today's Darwin Eats Cake. Enjoy! So, this paper from the Journal of Apocryphal Chemistry should be on the reading list for each journal club. Or at least the journal clubs that should take place in the various legislative houses around the country. The authors, O. Hai of the Institute for Theoretical Experiments and I.B. Hakkenshit of the Department of Chemistry at Miskatonic University (as well as the Institute for Theoretical Experiments), have provided simple instructions for synthesizing pseudoephedrine (the active ingredient in Sudafed) from N-methylamphetamine (the active ingredient in crystal meth). The authors note that government regulations stemming from the war on drugs have made it difficult to obtain pseudoephedrine. However, they found that it is quite easy to get N-methylamphetamine, and suggest this simple way to use it to generate the popular, now contraband, nasal dewell. Or, in their pitch-perfect description: In recent years, it has become increasingly difficult to get psuedoephedrine in many states because of its use as a precursor for the illegal drug N-methylamphetamine (also known by various names including crystal meth, meth, ice, etc.) [1,2]. While in the past many stores were able to sell pseudoephedrine, new laws in the United States have limited sales to pharmacies, with the medicine kept behind the counter. Pharmacies require signatures and examination of government issued ID to buy pseudoephedrine. Since the hours of availability of such pharmacies are often limited, it would be of great interest to have a simple synthesis of pseudoephedrine from reagents that may be more easily procured. A quick search of several neighborhoods in the United States showed that while pseudoephedrine is difficult to obtain, N-methylamphetamine can be procured almost any time at short notice and in quantities enough for the synthesis of useful amounts of the desired material. Furthermore, according to government-maintained statistics, N-methylmfetamine is becoming an increasingly attractive starting material for pseudoephedrine, as the availability of N-methylamphetamine has remained high while prices have fallen and purity has increased [2]. We present here a convenient series of transformations using reagents that can be found in most well-stocked organic chemistry laboratories to produce psuedoephedrine from N-methylamphetamine. While N-methylamphetamine itself is a powerful decongestant, it is less desirable in a medical environment due to its severe side effects and addictive properties [3]. Such side effects may include insomnia, agitation, irritability, dry mouth, sweating, and palpitations. Other side effects may include violent urges or, in the same way, the desire to be successful in business or finance. It is a side effects of N-methylamphetamine. Read the full here. via the entire Twitter. So, tomorrow (Tuesday, February 28), I will speak at The Colorado School of Mines in Golden, CO. about the Ronin Institute. I'll talk about my own motives for founding the institute, the need for independent scholarship, and the potential future of institutions like this. If you're in the area, come on down! (Or, up, probably.) Here is the official summary from the organizer, Alejandro Weinstein: The Ronin Institute, or how to reinvent the academic world of Dr. Jon Wilkins, Ronin Institute 4:30 P.M., Tuesday, February 28, 2012 Alderson Hall Room 151 Abstract: After more than 10 years of work in traditional research institutions (Harvard University and the Santa Fe Institute), Dr. Wilkins founded the Ronin Institute with the goal of creating an organization that can help connect and support researchers who, by choice or by chance, do not have a connection to a university or other research institute. In this lecture, Dr. Wilkins will share his motivation to found the institute, his long-term vision, and how the Ronin Institute fits into the current academic ecosystem. About the President: Dr. Wilkins is an external professor at the Santa Fe Institute and founder of the Ronin Institute. He earned an A.B. degree in physics from Harvard College in 1993, an MS degree in biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin in 1998 and a Ph.D. in biophysics from Harvard University in 2002. His interests are in evolutionary theory, broadly defined. His previous work has focused on choleescent theory and genomic imprints. His current research has continued in these areas, and has expanded into areas such as human language and demographic history, altruism, cultural development and statistical inference. So, the latest if faster than light neutrino saga is that the discovery may have been the result of measuring bias as a result of faulty wiring. Which is a little sad. As Jason Kottke noted, Neutrinos? More like Nintendo . . . they forgot to blow the cartridge. Anyway, Dev made an effort to explain the situation to Guillaume, and I thought I'd share their conversation with you: So, here's an update for you on the development of the Ronin Institute. I have written about the concept and motivation for Ronin in the past (eg here, here, and here). In short, the goal is to establish an institute to support scientific research outside the traditional (university/government lab/research institute) environment. The Ronin Institute is now incorporated in the state of New Jersey. The official name of the company is The Ronin Institute for Independent Scholarship Incorporated. It's obviously a mouthful. As it turns out, having something like Incorporated or Corporation is a requirement for a corporation name in New Jersey. So it seems that the standard practice is to have two names for your business. One is the official legal name. Then, you file additional paperwork to establish a legal alias (like The Ronin Institute), which you can put on your checks, letterhead, etc. Now some of you can read this and say, Why the heck are you forming a business? After all, the whole concept here is that independent scientists want and need to be independent, not a company overlord. In fact, a company may sound worse than a university when you think of issues like academic freedom. Well, it turns out that incorporating is the first step in establishing a nonprofit. For the Ronin Institute, the incorporation paperwork was filed on February 13. I have just finished work with the other people who will form the original board to sort out the statutes of the institute. The next step will be to file the federal application for tax-exempt status. At that time, we will have a fully formed non-profit, and we can seriously begin work on changing the way research is done in the country and in the world. Why am I telling you all this? For those of you who are interested specifically in the Ronin Institute and its mission – and especially those among you who may eventually be interested in going up – I want to keep you updated on our progress. There may also be some of you out there who are interested in the idea of independent scholarship, and are looking to form your own non-profit research institute. For you, I want to give a sense of how the process works. Over the next few weeks, I hope to post information on creating statutes, setting up a board, and preparing the federal filings. In the meantime, here is an adorable video of an adorable baby aardvark! Video via Jezebel. This post crossposts on Ronin Blog. So, you know that meme that has gone around, where there is no profession, or group of people, and then a series of pictures showing how different people perceive them? Are you tired of it yet? No? Well, then, bookmark this page, and come back when you are. Just remember, the first to go meta wins!! So, I really have nothing to add to this. (Via Daily Kos) So, this guy BarQuestion (real name, not BarQuestion) does these awesome little animations every year on Valentine's Day for Danielle, his onetime girlfriend, then fiancée. There doesn't seem to be one up yet for 2012, which hopefully means she gets a private screening on her honeymoon. It came out nastiest than I thought. Here are the videos from 2009 and 2010, which kind of tie together. Check out the full series from 2007-2011 here. So, it's almost Valentine's Day here in the States, and you forgot to buy something for husband / fiancée / boy- and/or girl-friend. Fortunately, we have you covered. Just print out these handy-dandy Valentine's Day cards, and you're ready. If you're in Australia, Valentine's Day is already half over, and while you also forgot to buy something for your special someone, you'll get away with it, because may never know what day it is. High resolution versions are available over at Darwin Eats Cake. So, have you ever wondered what would actually happen if you spliced fly genes into the human genome? It would actually probably work something like this. (SMB) Whoever is behind the Journal of Apocryphal Chemistry tries to do everyone a good deed before we get into the allergy season. After detailing the increasingly stringent controls on the sale of pseudephedrin, they propose a synthetic route based on a more readily available starting material: methamphetamine. A quick search of several neighborhoods in the United States showed that while pseudephedrin is difficult to obtain, N-methylmethamphetamine can be procured at almost any time at short notice and in quantities enough for the synthesis of useful amounts of the desired material. In addition, according to government statistics, N-methylmethamphetamine is becoming an increasingly attractive starting material for pseudephedrin, as the availability of N-methylmethamphetamine has remained high while prices have fallen and purity has increased. We present here a convenient series of transformations using reagents found in most well-stocked organic chemistry laboratories. . . 1985 paper in J. Chem. Soc. Chem. Comm., is not exactly trailer-park chemistry, though. (I note that they have referenced a little wrong as well, there was no ordinary J. Chem. Soc. 1985). It involves a chromium carbon yl complex of the aryl ring, the formation of a chiral lithium dianion, and oxidation of it with MoOPH, which would give you pseudephedrin after decomplexation. There is no way to say whether these reactions have actually been run, of course. Based on the literature precedent, it may work, although I would be concerned about maintaining chirality dianion. (For what it's worth, the authors are also aware of this problem, and argue that selectivity was unaffected). Their bigger point is. I look forward to seeing more from this essay author, O. Hai and .B. Hakkenshit. I see less interesting things in my RSS feed every day of the week. Week.