## **CONCEPT: EGLINTON REACTION**

- The Eglinton Coupling Reaction involves the coupling between 2 identical terminal alkynes with a Cu catalyst and base.
  - □ The reaction uses a Cu catalyst in the formation of a \_\_\_\_\_ product.
  - □ Like coupling reactions, the driving forces are forming of \_\_\_\_\_ products and the catalyst's electron count.
  - □ Unlike the other coupling reactions, it doesn't use a catalytic cycle and instead \_\_\_\_\_\_

Eglinton Coupling Reaction
$$R_1 \xrightarrow{\qquad} H + R_2 \xrightarrow{\qquad} H \xrightarrow{\qquad} Cu(I), [Cu(II)] \text{ cat.} \qquad R_1 \xrightarrow{\qquad} R_2$$

$$pyridine$$

- □ The R₁ group of the terminal alkyne is represented by a(n) *vinyl*, *aryl* + \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_ group.
- □ The R₂ group of the terminal alkyne is represented by a(n) vinyl, aryl + \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_ group.

**EXAMPLE:** Determine the product from the following Eglinton Coupling Reaction.

## **Coupling Mechanism**

1) **Deprotonation**: The slight acidity of the terminal alkyne hydrogen allows it to be deprotonated by the pyridine base.

2) Substitution: The alkylnide ion formed during deprotonation undergoes a substitution with CuOAc.

3) Radicalization: The newly formed C—Cu bond undergoes homolytic cleavage in order to form an alkylnide radical.

$$R_1$$
—Cu +  $AcO$  OAc

4) **Dimerization**: The final step involves the dimerization of the two alkylnide radicals that have been formed.

$$R_1 \longrightarrow + R_2 \longrightarrow \cdots$$

## **CONCEPT: EGLINTON REACTION**

**PRACTICE:** Determine compounds **A** and **B** from the following reaction sequence.

$$CI$$

$$\frac{1) \text{ NaNH}_2 \text{ (excess)}}{2) \text{ H}_2\text{O}} \rightarrow \mathbf{A} \xrightarrow{\text{Cu(OAc)}_2} \mathbf{B}$$

**PRACTICE:** Predict the product formed from the following intramolecular Eglinton reaction.