MECHANISMS OF SOLVOLYTIC ELIMINATION REACTIONS.
A SHORT REVIEW

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We are interested in the borderline between stepwise and one-step alkene-forming and imine-forming elimination reactions and have discussed this subject in a number of recent papers.1,2 Such questions as what can induce a change in mechanism from a stepwise route involving an intermediate of carbocationic or carbanionic type to a one-step, concerted process have been addressed. It has been concluded that relatively acidic substrates could undergo a direct deprotonation by the solvent water, either by a concerted E2 reaction or through the carbanion.