Mechanochemical Generation of HCN from $\text{K}_3[\text{Fe(CN)}_6]$: A Novel Strecker Protocol

**Significance:** A Strecker reaction of carbonyl compounds, primary amines, and potassium ferricyanide was carried out in the presence of SiO$_2$ under ball-milling conditions to give the corresponding $\alpha$-aminonitriles in 56–73% yield (eq. 1, 11 examples). The hydration of $\alpha$-aminonitrile $A$ also proceeded under ball-milling conditions to afford the corresponding amino amide in 51% yield (eq. 2).

**Comment:** In situ generation of HCN was found to take place through mechanochemical activation of potassium ferricyanide [$\text{K}_3[\text{Fe(CN)}_6]$] by ball-milling in the presence of SiO$_2$. The resulting HCN was trapped in situ by a Strecker reaction with benzaldehyde and benzylamine to give $A$. 