## **Supporting Information**

for

# Nucleophilic fluoroalkylation/cyclization route to fluorinated phthalides

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General methods, synthetic procedures, <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra for known compound 1a and full characterization of all new compounds

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#### 1. General remarks

All reactions were carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere in flame-dried glassware. Syringes which were used to transfer anhydrous solvents or reagents were purged with argon prior to use. Starting materials, reagents, and dry solvent were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded using Me<sub>4</sub>Si as an internal standard (δ 0 ppm). <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl<sub>3</sub> on JEOL JNM-ECS300 (300 MHz), JEOL JNM-ECS400 (400 MHz) and JEOL JNM-ECA600 (600 MHz) spectrometers using CFCl<sub>3</sub> as an internal standard (δ 0 ppm). Splitting patterns were reported as s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet; br, broad.

### 2. Experimental procedures

**3-(Trifluoromethyl)phthalide (1a)** [CAS Registry No. 76284-62-3] <sup>1</sup>

Conditions A: To a mixture of 2-cyanobenzaldehyde (65.6 mg, 0.50 mmol), KF (20.9 mg, 0.36 mmol), and DMF (2.5 mL) was added trifluoromethyl(trimethyl)silane (85.3 mg, 0.60 mmol) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature in an atmosphere of nitrogen for 1 h and quenched with 1 M HCl (2.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 6 h. The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate. Then, the combined organic phase was washed with water, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Purification

by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/ethyl acetate = 5/1) gave 95.9 mg (0.474 mmol, 95%) of 3-(trifluoromethyl)phthalide (**1a**) as a colorless oil; Mp 40.2-41.6 °C; IR (neat) 1780 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  5.68 (1H, q, J = 5.7 Hz), 7.66-7.72 (2H, m), 7.78-7.82 (1H, m), 8.00 (1H, d, J = 7.6 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -77.0 (3F, s); EI-MS m/z (%) 202 (M<sup>+</sup>, 1), 155 (6), 133 (100), 105 (19), 77 (14).

#### 3-(Pentafluoroethyl)phthalide (1b)

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure A using 2-cyanobenzaldehyde (65.6 mg, 0.50 mmol), KF (20.9 mg, 0.36 mmol), and DMF (2.5 mL) was added pentafluoroethyl(trimethyl)silane (115.3 mg, 0.60 mmol) and purified by column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate = 5/1) to give colorless solid (97.0 mg, 0.385 mmol, 77%); Mp 60.8-62.9 °C; IR (neat) 1775 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  5.76 (1H, dd, J = 2.4, 17.6 Hz), 7.65-7.73 (2H, m), 7.79-7.83 (1H, m), 8.00 (1H, d, J = 7.6 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  74.9 (dd, J = 25.8, 33.0 Hz), 111.5 (ddq, J = 261, 253, 37.8 Hz), 118.3 (qt, J = 286, 34.5 Hz), 124.0 (d, J = 2.9 Hz), 126.0, 126.4, 131.2, 134.9, 140.5, 168.1; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -130.6 (1F, dd, J = 17.6, 282 Hz), -122.4 (1F, d, J = 282 Hz), -82.8-81.9 (3F, m); EI-MS m/z (%) 252 (M<sup>+</sup>, 1), 205 (8), 133 (100), 105 (91), 77 (96). Anal. Calcd for  $C_{10}H_5O_2F_5$ : C, 47.64; H, 2.00. Found: C, 47.50; H, 2.17.

#### 3-(Pentafluorophenyl)phthalide (1d)

The title compound was prepared according to the procedure A using 2-cyanobenzaldehyde (65.6 mg, 0.50 mmol), KF (20.9 mg, 0.36 mmol), and DMF (2.5 mL) was added pentafluorophenyl(trimethyl)silane (144.2 mg, 0.60 mmol) and purified by column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate = 5/1) to give colorless solid (129.6 mg, 0.432 mmol, 86%); Mp 110.0-112.6 °C; IR (neat) 1760 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.74 (1H, s), 7.34 (1H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.61 (1H, t, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.70-7.74 (1H, m), 8.00 (1H, d, J = 7.6 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  71.9, 110.3 (t, J = 12.0 Hz), 122.0, 125.6, 126.1, 130.1, 134.7, 137.8 (d, J = 245 Hz), 145.0 (d, J = 250 Hz), 145.5 (d, J = 250 Hz),

146.7, 169.3;  $^{19}$ F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -160.6--160.5 (2F, m), -151.0 (1F, t, J = 23.0 Hz), -142.8 (2F, dd, J = 6.0, 23.0 Hz); EI-MS m/z (%) 300 (M $^{+}$ , 1), 255 (9), 237 (19), 133 (11), 105 (100), 77 (23). Anal. Calcd for  $C_{14}H_5O_2F_5$ : C, 56.02; H, 1.68. Found: C, 55.95; H, 1.77.

#### 3-(Heptafluoropropyl)phthalide (1c)

Conditions B: To a mixture of 2-cyanobenzaldehyde (65.6 mg, 0.50 mmol), triethylamine (50.5 mg, 0.50 mmol), and DMF (2.5 mL) was added heptafluoropropyl(trimethyl)silane (145.3 mg, 0.60 mmol) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature in an atmosphere of nitrogen for 1 h and quenched with 4 M HCl (2.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 1 h. The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate. Then, the combined organic phase was washed with water, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/ethyl acetate = 5/1) gave 90.5 mg (0.300 mmol, 60%) of 3-(heptafluoropropyl)phthalide (1c) as colorless solid; Mp 45.0-46.2 °C; IR (neat) 1782 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 5.83 (1H, d, J = 18.4 Hz), 7.68-7.73 (2H, m), 7.78-7.82 (1H, m), 8.00 (1H, d, J = 7.6 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  75.0 (dd, J = 26.0, 34.0 Hz), 108.8 (tq, J = 265, 36.7 Hz), 113.3 (ddt, J = 252, 264, 30.7 Hz), 117.5 (qt, J = 286, 33.0 Hz), 124.2, 126.1, 126.3, 131.2, 134.9,140.5, 168.2; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -127.2 (1F, d, J = 298 Hz), -126.6 (1F, d, J = 291 Hz), -125.7 (1F, d, J = 291 Hz), -120.2 (1F, d, J = 298 Hz), -80.9 (3F, t, J = 15.4 Hz); EI-MS m/z (%) 302 (M<sup>+</sup>, 1), 169 (7), 133 (100), 105 (63), 77 (78). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>5</sub>O<sub>2</sub>F<sub>5</sub>: C, C 43.73; H, 1.67. Found: C, 43.29; H, 1.81.

#### (-)-3-(Trifluoromethyl)phthalide ((-)-1a)

To a mixture of ethyl 2-formylbenzoate (**10**; 89.1 mg, 0.50 mmol), **9b** (15.8 mg, 0.025 mmol),  $^2$  tetramethylammonium fluoride (9.3 mg, 0.10 mmol), toluene (4.0 mL), and dichloromethane (2.0 mL) was added trifluoromethyl(trimethyl)silane (141.3 mg, 1.0 mmol) at -60 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature in an atmosphere of

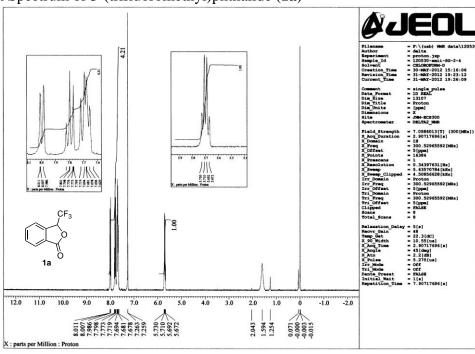
nitrogen at -60 °C for 24 h and quenched with sat. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl aq (5 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate. Then, the combined organic phase was washed with water, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, to the residue was added DMF (2.5 mL) and 1 M HCl (2.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 6 h. The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate. Then, the combined organic phase was washed with water, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1) gave 78.8 mg (0.39 mmol, 78% yield, 27% ee) of 3-(trifluoromethyl)phthalide (**1a**) as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  5.68 (1H, q, J = 5.7 Hz), 7.66-7.72 (2H, m), 7.78-7.82 (1H, m), 8.00 (1H, d, J = 7.6 Hz); HPLC condition: Chiralcel OD-H, hexane/2-propanol = 9/1, flow = 1.0 mL/min, wavelength = 224 nm, temp. = 30 °C, t<sub>R</sub> = 8.5 min for (-)-**1a** and t<sub>R</sub> = 12.0 min for (+)-**1a**. <sup>1</sup>

#### 3. References

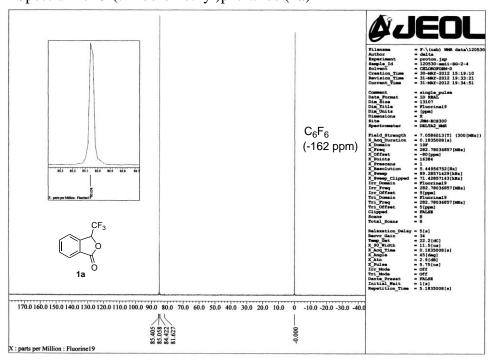
- 1) R. Pedrosa, S. Sayalero, M. Vicente, Tetrahedron 2006, 62, 10400.
- 2) S. Mizuta, N. Shibata, S. Akiti, H. Fujimoto, S. Nakamura, T. Toru, *Org. Lett.* **2007**, *9*, 3707.

## 4. Spectral Characterization Data

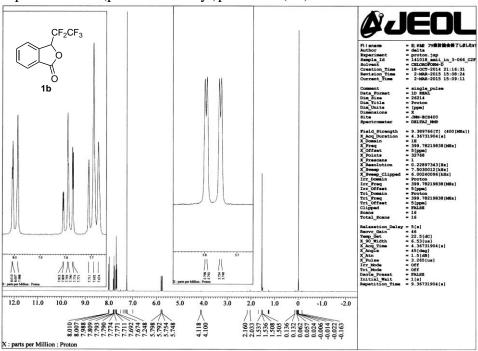
<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of 3-(trifluoromethyl)phthalide (**1a**)



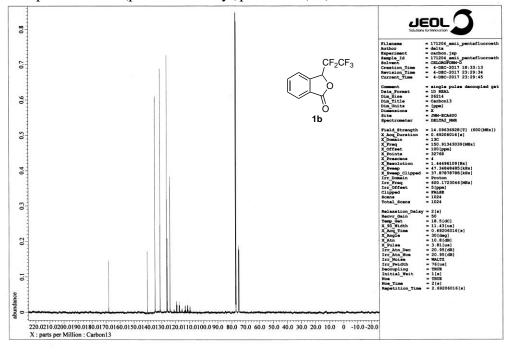
 $^{19}\mathrm{F}\ \mathrm{NMR}\ \mathrm{Spectrum}$  of 3-(trifluoromethyl)phthalide (1a)



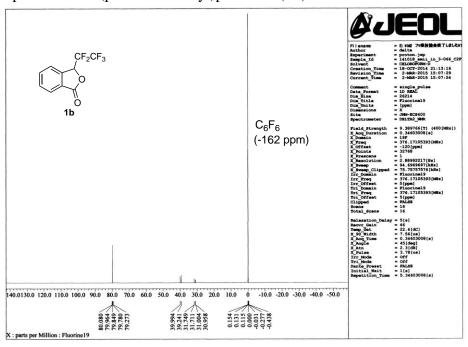
<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of 3-(pentafluoroethyl)phthalide (**1b**)



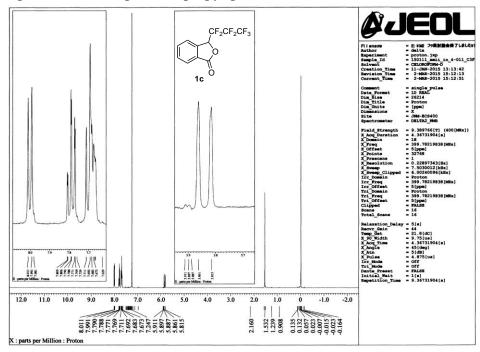
 $^{13}\mathrm{C}$  NMR Spectrum of 3-(pentafluoroethyl)phthalide (1b)



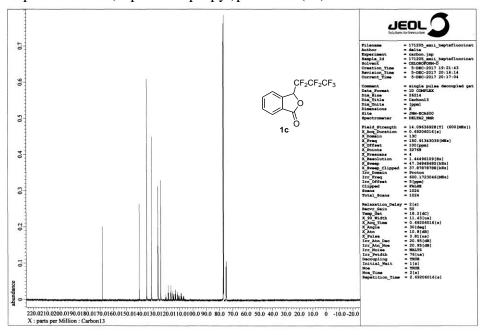
<sup>19</sup>F NMR Spectrum of 3-(pentafluoroethyl)phthalide (**1b**)



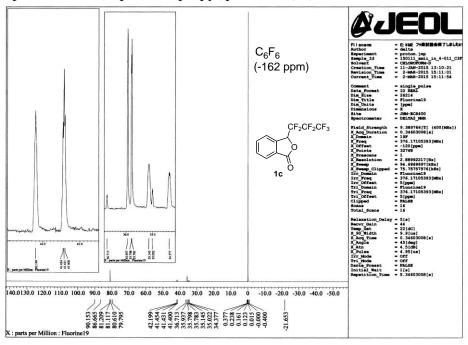
 $^{1}\text{H NMR Spectrum of 3-(heptafluoropropyl)phthalide (1c)}$ 



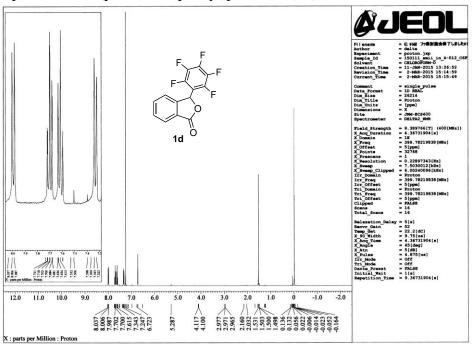
<sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectrum of 3-(heptafluoropropyl)phthalide (**1c**)



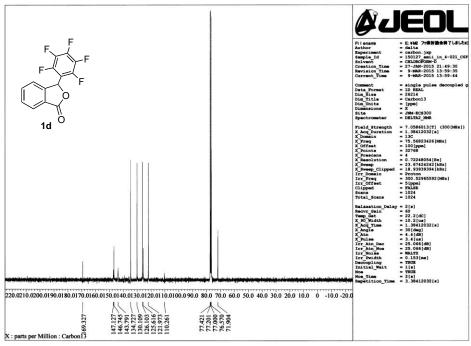
 $^{19}$ F NMR Spectrum of 3-(heptafluoropropyl)phthalide (1c)



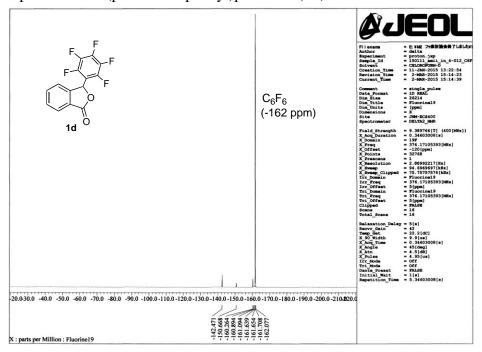
<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of 3-(pentafluorophenyl)phthalide (**1d**)



<sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectrum of 3-(pentafluorophenyl)phthalide (**1d**)



 $^{19}$ F NMR Spectrum of 3-(pentafluorophenyl)phthalide (1d)



HPLC Analytical Data of 3-(trifluoromethyl)phthalide (1a)

