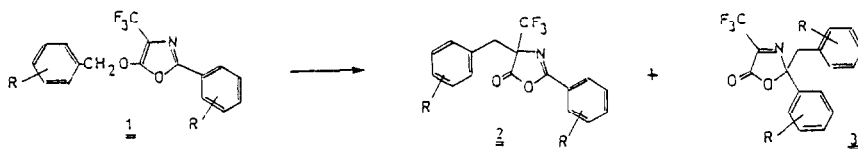


NEW SYNTHETIC PATHWAYS TO TRIFLUOROMETHYL
SUBSTITUTED ISOQUINOLINES, HYDROXYISOQUINOLINES AND
CYCLOHEPTATRIENO-[b] PYRROLES

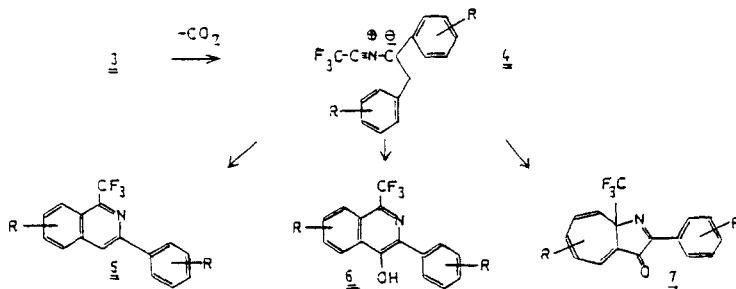
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5-Benzyloxy-4-trifluoromethyloxazoles **1** are thermolabile compounds. They rearrange to give 4-benzyl-4-trifluoromethyl-5(4H)-oxazolones **2** and 2-benzyl-4-trifluoromethyl-5(2H)-oxazolones **3**, in certain cases at room temperature even in the crystalline state [1]. The rearrangement involves a benzyl group migration from oxygen to carbon. Mixed products in "crossing experiments" indicate that the rearrangement is not a sigmatropic process.



On thermolysis compounds **3** undergo a [3+2] cycloreversion process to yield nitrile ylides **4**, which act as 1,3-dipoles or as carbenes, depending on the substituent pattern present at the benzylic moiety, to give **5**, **6**, and **7**, respectively. Mechanistic aspects are discussed [2].



- 1 K. Burger, K. Gaa, K. Geith and Ch. Schierlinger, *Synthesis* in press.
- 2 K. Burger, Ch. Schierlinger, K. Gaa, K. Geith and N. Sewald, publication in preparation.