

Facile access to stereodefined dienoates and cyclopropylenoates containing a trifluoromethyl group

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Received 19 May 2003; received in revised form 1 July 2003; accepted 4 July 2003

Abstract

Ethyl (2*E*,4*E*)-3-trifluoromethyl-2,4-dienoates **1a–e** and ethyl (*E*)-3-*trans*-alkylcyclopropyl-4,4,4-trifluoro-2-butenates **2a–e** were prepared from the *trans*-alkenylboronic acids **3a–e** and the *trans*-cyclopropylboronic acids **4a–e** with ethyl (*Z*)-3-iodo-4,4,4-trifluoro-2-butenate (**5**) by the Suzuki cross-coupling reaction in high yields (88–95%). The configurations of both **3a–e** or **4a–e** and **5** were retained in the reaction.

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Keywords: Dienoate; Cyclopropylenoate; Trifluoromethyl; Stereodefined; Suzuki cross-coupling

1. Introduction

Stereodefined dienoates and cyclopropylenoates are so attractive to chemists, not only because of their unique biological and physicochemical properties [1], but also their many versatile synthetic utilities [2]. Therefore, the exploration of practical and efficient method for their preparation is still significant. Trifluoromethylated compounds, especially, the stereodefined dienoates and cyclopropylenoates bearing a trifluoromethyl group exhibit biological properties in the area of pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals and materials science [3], the efficacy of many pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals is often enhanced by or are dependent on the presence of a trifluoromethyl group in the molecular structure [4]. Among the various approaches for the introduction of the trifluoromethyl group into a wide variety of organic compounds, halogen exchange reaction [5] and trifluoromethylation [6] are possible, but these suffer from somewhat low reactivity, selectivity, even hazards (toxic or explosive), and lose favor upon the application. A convenient strategy for producing trifluoromethylated compounds is the preparation and application of trifluoromethylated building blocks [7]. Jeong et al. [8a] reported the preparation of trifluoromethylated

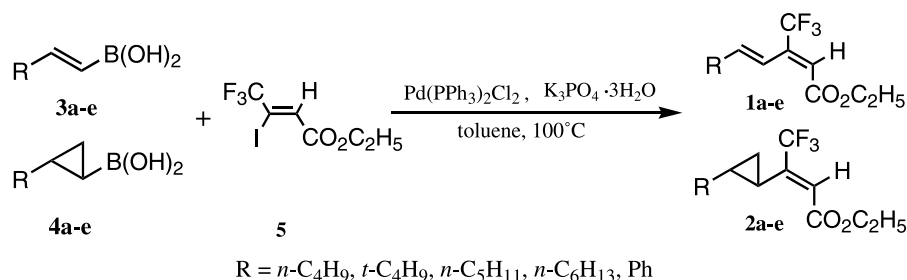
vinylstannanes reagents and their cross-coupling with aryl iodides and acyl chlorides for producing trifluoromethylated enone derivatives, but the toxic organotin reagents were involved; Qing and Zhang [8b] described a new method for the synthesis of ethyl (*Z*)-3-iodo-4,4,4-trifluoro-2-butenate (**5**) and its alkylation by the Sonogashira reaction; Gildas et al. [8c] reported a stereoselective access to functional dienes containing the trifluoromethyl group via the Still cross-coupling of the compound **5**; we also demonstrated a novel method for constructing aryl substituted α,β -unsaturated esters bearing a trifluoromethyl group in high yields by arylation of the compound **5** [8d]. As a continuous development of our previous work, herein, we wish to describe a facile access to stereodefined dienoates and cyclopropylenoates containing a trifluoromethyl group by alkylation and cyclopropanation of the compound **5** through the Suzuki cross-coupling reaction.

2. Results and discussion

2.1. Preparation of ethyl (*Z*)-3-iodo-4,4,4-trifluoro-2-butenate (**5**)

Hydroiodination of ethyl 4,4,4-trifluoro-2-butyrate [9] using 57% HI dropwise at $-5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ and stirring for 8 h [8b],

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Scheme 1. The Suzuki cross-coupling of **3** or **4** with the compound **5**.

or in the presence of NaI and HOAc under nitrogen and refluxing for 72 h [8c], respectively, compound **5** was achieved in good yields (80–85%) as a colorless oil without additional purification. It was found that both the methods provided the sole isomer, which was proved by the data of ¹⁹F NMR, HPLC and GC to be the compound **5**. The single peak of the CF₃ group in **5** ($\delta = -10.4$, for CF₃CO₂C₂H₅ utilized as an external standard, upfield being positive) at $\delta = -10.0$ showed that the CF₃ and CO₂C₂H₅ groups were *trans*-oriented [10a].

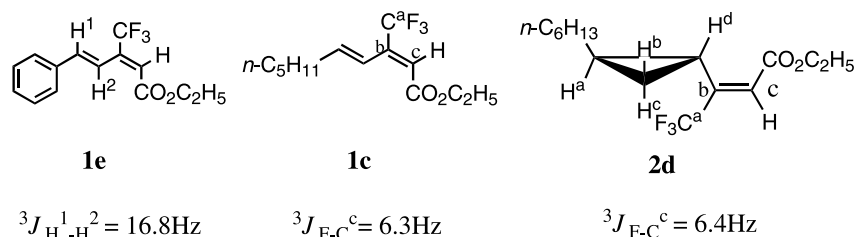
2.2. The Suzuki cross-coupling of *trans*-alkenylboronic acids **3a–e** or *trans*-cyclopropylboronic acids **4a–e** with the compound **5**

The *trans*-alkenylboronic acids **3a–e** are easily available and handled, because of their stability to moisture and air. The *trans*-cyclopropylboronic acids **4a–e** are achieved by the cyclopropanation of the *trans*-alkenylboronic acids **3a–e** through the Simmon–Smith reaction [11]. The Suzuki cross-coupling of **3a–e** or **4a–e** with the compound **5** were investigated (Scheme 1).

It was found that using Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ as a catalyst and K₃PO₄·3H₂O as a base in toluene, the cross-coupling **3a–e** or **4a–e** with the compound **5** takes place at 100 °C to produce the corresponding cross-coupling products **1a–e** or **2a–e** in high yields (88–95%). The results are shown in Table 1. The stereo hindrance was observed in the cross-coupling of **4b** with **5** (entry 7, R = *t*-Bu, 33%). The data at Table 1 showed that all of the cross-coupling products **1a–e** or **2a–e** were obtained as the sole isomer, because a single peak of the CF₃ group was observed in the ¹⁹F NMR spectrum [10a,10b].

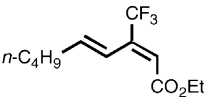
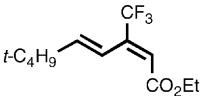
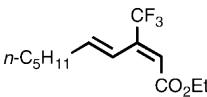
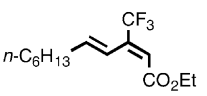
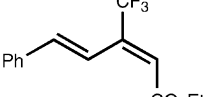
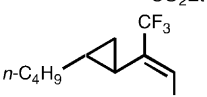
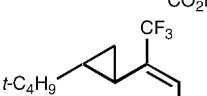
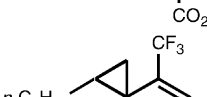
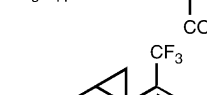
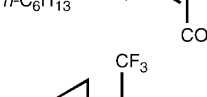
The ¹H NMR spectra indicate that the H–H coupling constant (³J_{H–H} = 15–17 Hz) of the products **1a–e** is bigger than *cis* H–H coupling constant (³J_{H–H} = 10–11 Hz). For example, the coupling constant of the olefinic protons H¹ and H² in the product **1e** (entry 5, R = Ph) is 16.8 Hz (Scheme 2), this is a typical coupling constant of *trans*-olefinic protons [12]. Thus, the configuration of the alkenyl function in **1e** is *4E*-isomer. The ¹³C NMR spectra exhibit that the coupling constant ³J_{F–C}^c is beyond 5.0 Hz (Scheme 2), typically, ³J_{F–C}^c is 6.3 Hz for **1c** and 6.4 Hz for **2d**, these strongly support that the CF₃ and CO₂C₂H₅ groups in **1c** or **2d** are arranged to be the different side of the double bonds [10c]. The configurations of the cyclopropyl group in **2** are determined by the 2D ¹H–¹H NOESY spectra (Scheme 2). One of the cyclopropyl protons H^a ($\delta = 1.15$ – 1.50) in the product **2d** (entry 9, R = *n*-C₆H₁₃) showed a very strong NOE interaction with H^c ($\delta = 1.05$ – 1.12) and no NOE interaction with the other two protons H^b ($\delta = 0.80$ – 0.95) and H^d ($\delta = 2.20$ – 2.26), therefore the configuration of the cyclopropyl group in **2d** is the sole *trans*-isomer [13]. All these facts suggest the configurations of both the *trans*-alkenylboronic acids **3a–e** or the *trans*-cyclopropylboronic acids **4a–e** and the compound **5** are retained in the cross-coupling [14].

In conclusion, we have provided a facile access to stereo-defined dienoates and cyclopropylenoates containing a trifluoromethyl group. This method has many attractive features: the easily availability of starting materials, mild conditions, high yields and effective stereoselectivity. The further research on synthesis of optically active cyclopropylenoates bearing a trifluoromethyl group is in the continuous study.



Scheme 2. H–H and F–C coupling constants.

Table 1
The Suzuki cross-coupling of **3** or **4** with **5**

Entry	R	Products	δ_F (ppm) ^a	Yields (%) ^b	
1	<i>n</i> -C ₄ H ₉	3a 	1a	−13.8	93
2	<i>t</i> -C ₄ H ₉	3b 	1b	−14.4	90
3	<i>n</i> -C ₅ H ₁₁	3c 	1c	−13.8	92
4	<i>n</i> -C ₆ H ₁₃	3d 	1d	−14.0	95
5	Ph	3e 	1e	−14.2	93
6	<i>n</i> -C ₄ H ₉	4a 	2a	−12.4	91
7	<i>t</i> -C ₄ H ₉	4b 	2b	−12.6	33
8	<i>n</i> -C ₅ H ₁₁	4c 	2c	−12.6	89
9	<i>n</i> -C ₆ H ₁₃	4d 	2d	−12.6	90
10	Ph	4e 	2e	−12.6	88

^a CF₃CO₂H as an external standard, upfield being positive.

^b Isolated yields, based on the compound **5**.

3. Experimental

3.1. General

All experiments were carried out under nitrogen atmosphere. The compound **5** was prepared according to the Qing and Gildas methods, respectively [8b,8c]. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a AM300 (300 MHz) spectrometer using CDCl₃ as solvent with TMS as an internal standard. ¹⁹F NMR spectra were obtained on a Varian-360L (60 MHz) spectrometer with CF₃CO₂H as an external standard and upfield shift was designated as positive. Infrared spectra were taken on a PE-938G Spectrometer using KBr

disc. Mass spectra were taken on a HP5989A Mass spectrometer using EI (70 eV). Element analyses were determined on a Foss-Heraeus Vario EL instrument.

3.2. Typical procedure for preparation of **1a–e** and **2a–e**

To a solution of **5** (0.5 mmol) in toluene (3 ml), the *trans*-alkenylboronic acid **3** or the *trans*-cyclopropylboronic acid **4** (0.55 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (11.0 mg, 0.015 mmol), and K₃PO₄·3H₂O (400.0 mg, 1.5 mmol) were added under a nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 8 h. The mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, water (10 ml) was added, and the mixture was

extracted with ether (3 × 5 ml). The combined organic layer was washed with brine (3 × 5 ml) and dried over MgSO₄. After removal of the solvent on a rotary evaporator, the residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (petroleum ether:ethyl acetate = 30:1 (v/v) as the elutant) to yield **1a–e** or **2a–e** as light yellow oils (88–95%).

Ethyl (2*E*,4*E*)-3-trifluoromethyl-2,4-nonadienoate (**1a**) ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.42–7.00 (m, 1H), 6.46–6.16 (m, 1H), 6.04 (s, 1H), 4.16 (q, 2H), 2.50–2.00 (m, 2H), 1.70–0.65 (m, 10H); ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃) δ –13.8 (s, CF₃); MS, *m/z* (rel. int.): 250 (*M*⁺, 2.9), 222 (22.6), 205 (2.1), 177 (1.9), 135 (100.0), 91 (71.9); IR (KBr) 2960–2860, 1725, 1640, 1275–1130, 1060, 960, 880 cm⁻¹; Anal. Calcd. for C₁₂H₁₇F₃O₂: C, 57.60; H, 6.85. Found: C, 57.44; H, 6.66.

Ethyl (2*E*,4*E*)-3-trifluoromethyl-6,6-dimethyl-2,4-heptadienoate (**1b**) ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.24–7.00 (m, 1H), 6.46–6.16 (m, 1H), 6.04 (s, 1H), 4.16 (q, 2H), 2.50–2.00 (m, 2H), 1.70–0.65 (m, 10H); ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃) δ –13.8 (s, CF₃); MS, *m/z* (rel. int.): 249 (*M*⁺ – 1, 7.4), 222 (10.4), 174 (21.3), 152 (29.8), 128 (31.4), 91 (73.8); IR (KBr) 2960–2860, 1725, 1640, 1275–1160, 1040, 965, 850 cm⁻¹; Anal. Calcd. for C₁₂H₁₇F₃O₂: C, 57.60; H, 6.85. Found: C, 57.37; H, 6.76.

Ethyl (2*E*,4*E*)-3-trifluoromethyl-2,4-decadienoate (**1c**) ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.55–7.15 (m, 1H), 6.56–6.20 (m, 1H), 6.06 (s, 1H), 4.16 (q, 2H), 2.46–2.02 (m, 2H), 1.85–0.65 (m, 12H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 163.90, 141.88, 139.66 (q, C^b, *J* = 28.7 Hz), 121.67 (q, C^a, *J* = 276.4 Hz), 117.35 (q, C^c, *J* = 6.3 Hz), 59.79, 33.04, 30.50, 27.72, 21.55, 13.08, 12.93; ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃) δ –13.8 (s, CF₃); MS, *m/z* (rel. int.): 250 (*M*⁺, 2.9), 222 (22.6), 205 (2.1), 177 (1.9), 135 (100.0), 91 (71.9); IR (KBr) 2960–2860, 1725, 1640, 1275–1130, 1060, 960, 880 cm⁻¹; Anal. Calcd. for C₁₃H₁₉F₃O₂: C, 59.08; H, 7.24. Found: C, 59.24; H, 7.25.

Ethyl (2*E*,4*E*)-3-trifluoromethyl-2,4-undecadienoate (**1d**) ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.42–7.04 (m, 1H), 6.52–6.16 (m, 1H), 6.10 (s, 1H), 4.20 (q, 2H), 2.50–2.00 (m, 2H), 1.70–0.60 (m, 14H); ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃) δ –14.0 (s, CF₃); MS, *m/z* (rel. int.): 279 (*M*⁺ + 1, 49.7), 249 (4.1), 233 (21.7), 193 (100.0), 165 (73.9), 115 (18.5); IR (KBr) 2760–2750, 1690, 1600, 1240–1100, 990, 940, 840 cm⁻¹; Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄H₂₁F₃O₂: C, 60.43; H, 7.55. Found: C, 60.56; H, 7.70.

Ethyl (2*E*,4*E*)-3-trifluoromethyl-5-phenyl-2,4-pentadienoate (**1e**) ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.10–8.0 (dd, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 7.56–7.26 (m, 5H), 7.06 (dd, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 6.22 (s, 1H), 4.20 (q, 2H), 1.32 (t, 3H); ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃) δ –14.2 (s, CF₃); MS, *m/z* (rel. int.): 270 (*M*⁺, 38.9), 241 (1.6), 225 (27.2), 197 (24.1), 177 (100.0), 146 (5.4), 128 (23.69); IR (KBr) 3120–3020, 1730, 1640, 1240–1120, 980, 885, 760, 700 cm⁻¹; Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄H₁₃F₃O₂: C, 62.22; H, 4.85. Found: C, 62.58; H, 4.96.

Ethyl (2*E*)-3-*trans*-*n*-butylcyclopropyl-4,4,4-trifluoro-2-butenolate (**2a**) ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 6.34 (s, 1H), 4.24 (q, 2H), 2.50–2.20 (m, 1H), 2.0–1.70 (m, 1H), 1.60–0.60 (m, 14H); ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃) δ –12.5 (s, CF₃); MS, *m/z* (rel. int.): 265 (*M*⁺ + 1, 100.0), 237 (11.9), 219 (41.7), 193

(28.8), 165 (27.5), 127 (27.9); IR (KBr) 3040–2860, 1726, 1640, 1285–1130, 1030, 880, 805 cm⁻¹; Anal. Calcd. for C₁₃H₁₉F₃O₂: C, 59.08; H, 7.25. Found: C, 58.84; H, 7.54.

Ethyl (2*E*)-3-*trans*-*t*-butylcyclopropyl-4,4,4-trifluoro-2-butenolate (**2b**) ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 6.25 (s, 1H), 4.18 (q, 2H), 2.70–2.36 (m, 1H), 1.28 (t, 3H), 0.9 (s, 9H), 0.60–0.30 (m, 2H); ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃) δ –12.6 (s, CF₃); MS, *m/z* (rel. int.): 265 (*M*⁺ + 1, 28.9), 247 (1.9), 219 (9.7), 191 (11.3), 149 (13.5), 70 (100.0); IR (KBr) 3030–2860, 1726, 1640, 1285–1130, 1030, 885, 805 cm⁻¹; Anal. Calcd. for C₁₃H₁₉F₃O₂: C, 59.08; H, 7.25. Found: C, 58.86; H, 7.34.

Ethyl (2*E*)-3-*trans*-*n*-pentylcyclopropyl-4,4,4-trifluoro-2-butenolate (**2c**) ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 6.30 (s, 1H), 6.46–6.16 (m, 1H), 4.24 (q, 2H), 1.50–1.23 (m, 12H), 1.10–1.0 (m, 1H), 0.80 (t, 3H), 0.77–0.70 (m, 1H); ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃) δ –12.6 (s, CF₃); MS, *m/z* (rel. int.): 279 (*M*⁺ + 1, 3.7), 253 (2.2), 233 (2.5), 205 (4.5), 167 (18.5), 149 (55.3), 57 (100.0); IR (KBr) 3020–2850, 1740, 1635, 1285–1120, 1040, 880 cm⁻¹; Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄H₂₁F₃O₂: C, 60.43; H, 7.55. Found: C, 60.77; H, 7.35.

Ethyl (2*E*)-3-*trans*-*n*-hexylcyclopropyl-4,4,4-trifluoro-2-butenolate (**2d**) ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 6.30 (s, 1H), 4.15 (q, 2H), 2.26–2.20 (m, 1H), 1.50–1.15 (m, 14H), 1.12–1.05 (m, 1H), 0.95–0.85 (t, 3H), 0.76–0.62 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 164.23, 144.74 (q, C^b, *J* = 27.5 Hz), 121.85 (q, C^a, *J* = 276.2 Hz), 121.20 (q, C^c, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 59.80, 33.36, 30.83, 28.04, 27.92, 21.61, 20.95, 16.07, 13.88, 13.13, 13.03; ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃) δ –12.6 (s, CF₃); MS, *m/z* (rel. int.): 293 (*M*⁺ + 1, 100.0), 265 (5.9), 247 (13.5), 217 (3.8), 193 (45.7), 165 (46.9); IR (KBr) 3020–2860, 1736, 1640, 1285–1120, 1030, 880, 805 cm⁻¹; Anal. Calcd. for C₁₅H₂₃F₃O₂: C, 61.63; H, 7.93. Found: C, 61.41; H, 7.53.

Ethyl (2*E*)-3-*trans*-phenylcyclopropyl-4,4,4-trifluoro-2-butenolate (**2e**) ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.50–7.0 (m, 5H), 6.40 (s, 1H), 4.16 (q, 2H), 3.0–2.74 (m, 2H), 2.68–2.16 (m, 1H), 1.74–1.16 (m, 5H); ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃) δ –12.6 (s, CF₃); MS, *m/z* (rel. int.): 285 (*M*⁺ + 1, 100.0), 284 (*M*⁺, 3.8), 239 (25.8), 210 (74.4), 191 (100.0), 165 (74.3), 115 (56.0); IR (KBr) 3025–2860, 1740, 1630, 1290–1120, 1040, 896, 750, 700 cm⁻¹; Anal. Calcd. for C₁₅H₁₅F₃O₂: C, 63.38; H, 5.32. Found: C, 63.47; H, 5.16.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to National Natural Science Foundation of China for financial support.

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