Simple Synthesis of Dimethyl 4-Methyl-6-perfluoroalkylisophthalates and Dimethyl 5-Perfluoroalkylbiphenyl-2,4-dicarboxylates *via* Acyclic Precursors†

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Reaction of methyl propynoate 2 with acetylmethylenetriphenylphosphorane 1a or benzoylmethylenetriphenylphosphorane 1b at 90 °C gives methyl 5-oxo-2-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)hex-3-enoate 4a or methyl 4-benzoyl-2-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)but-3-enoate 4b as the main product, respectively. Phosphoranes 4a or 4b can further react with methyl perfluoroalkynoates 5a and 5b to afford dimethyl 2-(3-oxo-1-perfluoroalkylbut-1-enyl)-4-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)pent-2-enedioates 6a and 6b or dimethyl 2-(2-benzoyl-1-perfluoroalkylvinyl)-4-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)pent-2-enedioates 6c and 6d, respectively. Diemethyl 4-methyl-6-perfluoroalkylisophthalates 7a and 7b or dimethyl 5-perfluoroalkylbiphenyl-2,4-dicarboxylates 7c and 7d were prepared in high yield via intramolecular Wittig reaction of phosphoranes 6a/6b or 6c/6d in benzene or methanol. The structures of compounds 4a, 6a and 7a were confirmed by IR, MS and ¹H, ¹⁹F and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy and elemental analyses. Reaction mechanisms for the formation of compounds 4, 6 and 7 are proposed.

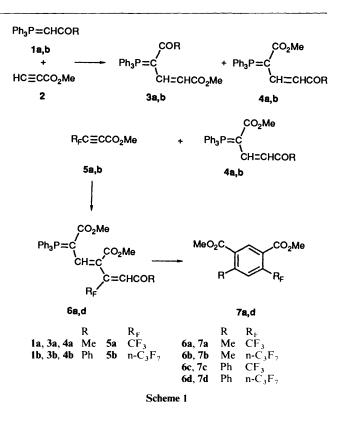
Polysubstituted arenes have been synthesized traditionally through substitution of aromatic ring compounds. However, this method suffered from long synthetic routes and the presence of complicated positional isomers. Therefore, to study the convenient and efficient syntheses of polysubstituted arenes is valuable in organic synthetic methodology. We have reported the syntheses of trisubstituted benzenes—methyl 2-perfluoroalkyl-6-methoxybenzoates,¹ methyl 1-alkoxy-3-perfluoroalkyl-2-naphthoates² and methyl 2,6-bisperfluoroalkylbenzoates ³ *via* acyclic precursors. It is a preferable method, attributed to its simplicity and the production of only a sole product with definite positional functional groups.

As a continuation of this study, a simple synthesis of tetrasubstituted benzenes—dimethyl 4-methyl-6-perfluoroalkylisophthalates 7a and 7b and dimethyl 5-perfluoroalkylbiphenyl-2,4-dicarboxylates 7c and 7d—will be reported in this paper.

Results and Discussion

Synthesis of the Precursors 6a–d.—Reaction of acetylmethylenetriphenylphosphorane 1a or benzoylmethylenetriphenylphosphorane 1b with methyl propynoate 2 at room temperature afforded a mixture of compounds 3a and 3b and 4a and 4b (Scheme 1). Compounds 3 and compounds 4 were the products of 1,3-H migration and four-membered-ring rearrangement of the betaine A, respectively (Scheme 2). When the reaction was carried out at 90 °C compound 4a or 4b was the main product (Table 1). They could further react with methyl perfluoroalkynoates 5a and 5b at room temperature to produce compounds 6a–d, a phosphorus ylide possessing a conjugated six-carbon main chain with a terminal acyl group. These latter are acyclic precursors in the synthesis of aromatic compounds through an intramolecular Wittig reaction.

Synthesis of Isophthalates 7a–d.—Phosphoranes 6a/b or 6c/d were heated in benzene in a sealed tube at 140–160 or 210–220 °C, respectively, whereupon an intramolecular Wittig reaction took place to form aromatic ring compounds 7a/b or 7c/d in high yield. The reaction temperature could be much



lower and the reaction time much shorter if the reaction were to be carried out in methanolic solution. Interestingly, even when aq. methanol is used as solvent substrates 6 still undergo aromatic cyclization rather than hydrolysis of the P–C bond (Table 2).

Structural Confirmation of Compound 7a and the Reaction Mechanism.—According to spectral analyses of compound 7a, it is a tetrasubstituted benzene. The four substituents are a methyl group, a trifluoromethyl group, and two methoxy-carbonyl groups. Two aromatic hydrogens with chemical shifts δ 7.64 and 8.36 are situated *para* to each other. The relative positions of the four functional groups were ascertained by the following methods:

[†] This paper is the 19th report on our studies of the Chemistry and Application of Phosphonium and Arsonium Ylides.

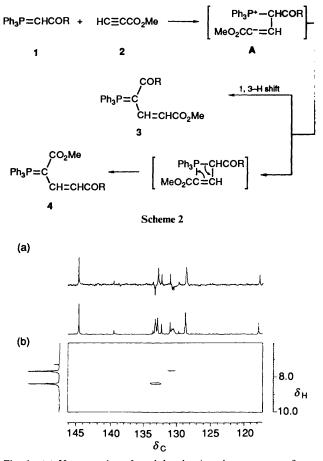


Fig. 1 (a) Heteronuclear *J*-modulated spin echo spectrum of compound 7a. (b) ${}^{13}C{}^{-1}H$ Shift correlation 2D-NMR spectrum of compound 7a.

Table 1Reaction of phosphoranes 1 with methyl propynoate 2

Phosphorane	Conditions	Product	
		Yield (%)	3:4
1a (0-5 °C, CHCl ₃	81	1:0.1
1a	r.t., CH ₂ Cl ₂	85	1:0.43
1a	90 °C, MeOCH, CH, OMe	82	1:4.6
1b	r.t., CH ₂ Cl ₂	92	1:1.5
1b	90 °C, MeOCH, CH, OMe	82	1:8.5
1b	90 °C, CH_2Cl_2 , sealed tube	97	1:12

" Room temperature.

(a) Through heteronuclear J-modulated spin echo spectroscopy (Fig. 1a), it appears that two aromatic carbons with chemical shifts $\delta_{\rm C}$ 130.38 and 133.02 are bonded to two hydrogens. From a $^{13}{\rm C}^{-1}{\rm H}$ shift-correlation 2D-NMR experiment (Fig. 1b), the carbon atom with chemical shift $\delta_{\rm C}$ 130.38 is correlated to the hydrogen with chemical shift at δ 7.64, while the carbon at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 133.02 is correlated to the hydrogen at δ 8.36. The former carbon appears as a quartet with coupling constant 5.48 Hz, this coincides with the $^{3}J_{\rm CF}$ splitting (Fig. 2). Therefore the trifluoromethyl group is situated *ortho* to the hydrogen with δ 7.64.

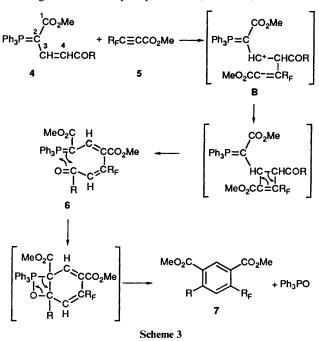
(b) From a ¹H COSYLR 2D-NMR spectrum (Fig. 3), the correlation between the methyl group with δ 2.70 and the aromatic proton at δ 7.64 is greater than that with the hydrogen at δ 8.36. Therefore the methyl group and the aromatic proton at δ 7.64 are *ortho* to each other.

Table 2Preparation of 7a-d

Reactant	Solvent	Temp. (<i>T</i> /°C)	Time (<i>t</i> /h)	Product	Yield (%)
6a	Benzene	165	30	7a	93
6a	MeOH-water (9:1)	140	30	7a	90
6a	MeOH	140	13	7a	95
6a	MeOH	120	3	7a	86
6b	Benzene	140	20	7b	98
6c	Benzene	220	8	7c	91
6c	MeOH-water (9:1)	160	9	7c	82
6d	Benzene	220	8	7d	90
6d	MeOH-water	160	9	7d	77

According to the above facts, it follows that compound **7a** is dimethyl 4-trifluoromethyl-6-methylisophthalate.

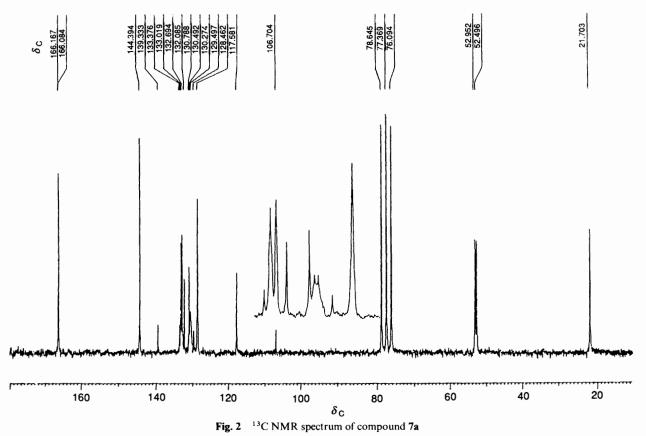
Compound 7 is formed through elimination of a molecular of Ph_3PO from compound 6, therefore the structure of compound 6a may be proposed from the structure of isophthalate 7a, *i.e.* as dimethyl 2-(3-oxo-1-trifluoromethylbut-1-enyl)-2-(triphenyl-phosphoranylidene)pent-2-enedioate. The spectral data of 6a are also in accord with the above proposition. Thus, the reaction mechanism of the formation of compounds 6 is suggested as follows: first, the C-4 of the phosphoranes 4 attacks C- β of esters 5 to give betaine **B**, which then undergoes a four-membered-ring rearrangement to form phosphorane 6 (Scheme 3).



Experimental

M.p.s and b.p.s are uncorrected. M.p.s. were measured with WRS-1 Digital Melting Point Apparatus made by Shanghai Physical Optical Instrument Factory (SPOIF), China. IR spectra were recorded on a 7400 spectrometer (Shanghai Analytical Instrument Factory, China) for samples as KBr discs or liquid films. NMR spectra were determined with an AC-100SC or an AMX-600 spectrometer for solutions in CDCl₃ with tetramethylsilane as internal standard for ¹H NMR, and trifluoroacetic acid as the external reference for ¹⁹F NMR. J Values are given in Hz. Mass spectra were run on a Finnigan-Mat 4510 spectrometer.

Acetylmethylenetriphenylphosphorane 1a,⁴ benzoylmethylenetriphenylphosphorane 1b,⁴ methyl propynoate 2^5 and



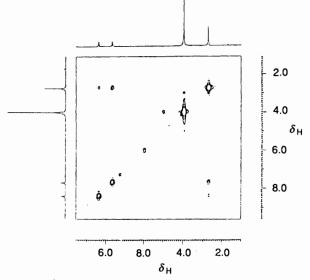


Fig. 3 ¹H COSYLR 2D-NMR spectrum of compound 7a

methyl perfluoroalk-2-ynoates **5a** and **5b**⁶ were prepared according to the respective literature method. Light petroleum refers to the fraction boiling in the range 60-90 °C.

Preparation of Methyl 5-Oxo-2-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)hex-3-enoate **4a**.—To a solution of acetylmethylenetriphenylphosphorane **1a** (4 mmol) in anhydrous 1,2-dimethoxyethane (DME) (40 cm³) was added a solution of methyl propynoate **2** (4.4 mmol) in anhydrous DME (4 cm³) and the mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 4 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was separated on a silica gel G column with EtOAc-light petroleum (1:1-2:1) as eluent to give compound **3a** (0.23 g, 14.6%) and title compound **4a** (1.08 g, 67.4%). Further purification was by recrystallization from benzene-light petroleum.

Methyl 5-oxo-4-(*triphenylphosphoranylidene*)*hex-2-enoate* **3a** had m.p. 211–213 °C (Found: C, 74.55; H, 5.8. $C_{25}H_{23}O_3P$ requires C, 74.62; H, 5.76%); v_{max}/cm^{-1} 1680, 1578, 1567 and 1545; δ_H 2.40 (3 H, s, COMe), 3.57 (3 H, s, OMe), 5.13 (1 H, d, ³J_{HH} 15.3, =CH) and 7.17–7.60 (16 H, m, ArH and =CH); δ_C 28.63 (d, ³J_{PC} 8.19, COMe), 50.52 (s, CO₂Me), 77.45 (d, ¹J_{PC} 109.77, P=C), 100.50 (d, ²J_{PC} 13.84, =C), 125.02 (d, ¹J_{PC} 91.37, Ar), 128.94 (d, ³J_{PC} 12.28, Ar), 132.31 (d, ⁴J_{PC} 2.37, Ar), 133.42 (d, ²J_{PC} 9.84, Ar), 145.06 (d, ³J_{PC} 16.09, =C), 169.67 (s, CO₂Me) and 193.17 (d, ²J_{PC} 5.92, COMe); *m/z* 402 (M⁺, 19.21%), 387 (30), 371 (11), 359 (2), 343 (100) and 262 (6).

Methyl 5-*oxo*-2-(*triphenylphosphoranylidene*)*hex*-3-*enoate* **4a** had m.p. 168–170 °C (Found: C, 74.6; H, 5.7%); v_{max}/cm^{-1} 1673, 1667, 1640, 1604, 1597, 1560, 1550, 1515 and 1510; $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.94 (3 H, s, COMe), 3.48 (3 H, s, OMe), 6.75 (1 H. d, ³J_{HH} 14.7, =CH), 7.03 (1 H, dd, ³J_{HH} 14.7, ³J_{PH} 17.1, =CH) and 7.35–7.68 (15 H, m, ArH); $\delta_{\rm C}$ 26.74 (s, COMe), 50.01 (s, CO₂Me), 60.05 (d, ¹J_{PC} 119.25, P=C), 113.58 (d, ³J_{PC} 13.55, =C), 124.59 (d, ¹J_{PC} 97.25, Ar), 129.08 (d, ³J_{PC} 12.31, Ar), 132.76 (d, ⁴J_{PC} 2.59, Ar), 133.64 (d, ²J_{PC} 9.82, Ar), 145.71 (d, ²J_{PC} 14.81, =C), 168.35 (d, ²J_{PC} 15.59, CO₂Me) and 196.44 (s, COMe); *m*/*z* 402 (M⁺, 11.23%), 387 (5), 370 (9), 359 (3), 343 (4) and 262 (100).

Preparation of Methyl 4-Benzoyl-2-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)but-3-enoate **4b**.—To a solution of benzoylmethylenetriphenylphosphorane **1b** (0.38 g, 1 mmol) in anhydrous methylene dichloride (10 cm³) was added methyl propynoate **2** (0.084 g, 1 mmol) and the mixture was heated at 90 °C for 5 h in a sealed tube. The solvent was removed and the residue was separated on a silica gel G column with EtOAc-light petroleum (1:1-2:1) as eluent to give compound **3b** (0.034 g, 7.4%) and title compound **4b** (0.414 g, 89.2%). Further purification was by recrystallization from benzene-light petroleum.

Methyl 4-benzoyl-4-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)but-2-enoate **3b** had m.p. 219–220 °C (Found: C, 77.8; H, 5.4. C₃₀H₂₅O₃P requires C, 77.57; H, 5.42%); v_{max}/cm⁻¹ 1693, 1689, 1583, 1577, 1542 and 1537; $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.46 (3 H, s, OMe), 4.47 (1 H, d, ${}^{3}J_{\rm HH}$ 15.3, =CH) and 7.35–7.81 (21 H, m, ArH + =CH); $\delta_{\rm C}$ 50.40 (s, Me), 75.65 (d, ${}^{1}J_{PC}$ 106.34, P=C), 101.50 (d, ${}^{2}J_{PC}$ 10.32, =C), 124.59 (d, ${}^{1}J_{PC}$ 90.70, Ar), 128.99 (d, ${}^{3}J_{PC}$ 12.64, Ar), 132.43 (d, ${}^{4}J_{PC}$ 2.69, Ar), 133.55 (d, ${}^{2}J_{PC}$ 9.67, Ar), 128.20 (d, ${}^{4}J_{PC}$ 4.51, Ar), 129.89 (s, Ar), 131.79 (s, Ar), 141.04 (d, ${}^{3}J_{PC}$ 9.44, Ar), 146.03 (d, ${}^{3}J_{PC}$ 13.37, =C), 169.30 (s, CO_2Me) and 191.93 (d, ${}^2J_{PC}$ 6.57, COPh); m/z464 (M⁺, 29.22%), 449 (45), 405 (100) and 262 (24)

Methyl 4-benzoyl-2-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)but-3-enoate 4b had m.p. 197.8-198.8 °C (Found: C, 77.8; H, 5.2%); v_{max}/cm^{-1} 1674, 1516, 1508 and 1488; δ_{H} 3.47 (3 H, s, OMe) and 7.31–7.92 (22 H, m, ArH + =CH); m/z 464 (M⁺, 24.48%), 433 (6), 405 (5), 359 (4) and 262 (100).

Preparation of Dimethyl 2-(3-Oxo-1-perfluoroalkylbut-1-envl)-4-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)pent-2-enedioates 6a/6b and Dimethyl 2-(2-Benzoyl-1-perfluoroalkylvinyl)-4-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)pent-2-enedioates 6c/6d.—General procedure. To a solution of compound 4a or 4b (1.0 mmol) in anhydrous methylene dichloride (15 cm³) was added a methyl perfluoroalkynoate 5a or 5b (1.5 mmol) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature under nitrogen for 48 h. The solvent was removed, and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel and elution with EtOAc-light petroleum (2:1). Further purification by recrystallization from benzenehexane or EtOAc-light petroleum gave compounds 6a-d.

Dimethyl 2-[3-oxo-1-(trifluoromethyl)but-1-enyl]-4-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)pent-2-enedioate 6a. This compound (58%) had m.p. 187-188 °C (Found: C, 65.1; H, 5.0. C₃₀H₂₆F₃O₅P requires C, 64.98; H, 4.73%); v_{max}/cm^{-1} 1688, 1683, 1670, 1620, 1613 and 1543; $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.28 (3 H, s, COMe), 3.29 (3 H, s, CO₂Me), $3.49(3 \text{ H}, \text{s}, \text{CO}_2\text{Me}), 6.55(1 \text{ H}, \text{s}, =\text{CH}), 7.22(1 \text{ H}, \text{d}, {}^3J_{\text{PH}}19.2),$ =CH), 7.52-7.55 (6 H, m, ArH) and 7.60-7.65 (9 H, m, ArH); $\delta_{\rm F}$ -11.35 (3 F, s, CF₃); $\delta_{\rm C}$ 29.75 (s, COMe), 49.44 (s, CO₂Me), 51.26 (s, CO₂Me), 63.18 (d, ¹J_{PC} 123.89, P=C), 102.05 $(q, =C), 124.47 (d, {}^{1}J_{PC} 92.16, Ar), 124.39 (q, {}^{1}J_{CF} 295.29, CF_{3}),$ 129.08 (s, Ar), 132.74 (d, =C), 133.66 (s, Ar), 133.71 (s, Ar), 139.60 (q, ${}^{2}J_{CF}$ 48.07, =C), 145.91 (q, ${}^{3}J_{CF}$ 16.62, =C), 167.16 (d, ${}^{2}J_{PC}$ 15.11, CO₂Me), 168.21 (s, CO₂Me) and 199.62 (s, COMe); m/z 554 (M⁺, 3%), 523 (2), 495 (100) and 59 (43).

Dimethyl 2-[1-(heptafluoropropyl)-3-oxobut-1-enyl]-4-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)pent-2-enedioate 6b. This compound (85%) had m.p. 147–148 °C (Found: C, 59.0; H, 4.2. C₃₂H₂₆F₇O₅P requires C, 58.74; H, 4.00%); v_{max}/cm⁻¹ 1700, 1692, 1684, 1678, 1645, 1640, 1550 and 1537; $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.32 (3 H, s, COMe), 3.34 (3 H, s, OMe), 3.46 (3 H, s, OMe), 6.48 (1 H, br s, =CH) and 7.42–7.65 (16 H, m, ArH + =CH); δ_F 3.87 (3 F, t, J 11, CF₃), 33.25 and 39.02 (2 F, AB, J_{AB} 264. 18, C|F₂CF₂CF₃) and 49.76 (s) and 50.03 (s), (2 F, unequal CF_2CF_3); m/z 654 (M⁺, 2%), 595 (49), 345 (39) and 51 (100).

Dimethyl 2-[2-benzoyl-1-(trifluoromethyl)vinyl]-4-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)pent-2-enedioate 6c This compound (92%) had m.p. 170-172 °C (Found: C, 68.0; H, 4.9. C₃₅H₂₈F₃O₅P requires C, 68.2; H, 4.58%) v_{min} cm⁻¹ 1650, 1630, 1600 and 1550, $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.33 (3 H, s, OME), 3.47 (3 H, s, OMe), 6.74 (1 H, s, =CH) and 7.26–7.52 (21 H, m, ArH + =CH); $\delta_{\rm F}$ – 13.62 (3 F, s, CF₃); m/z 616 (M⁺, 2%), 557 (22), 307 (100) and 278 (97).

Dimethyl 2-[2-benzoyl-1-(heptafluoropropyl)vinyl]-4-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)pent-2-enedioate 6d. This compound (97%) had m.p. 118-120 °C (Found: C, 62.2; H, 3.95. $C_{37}H_{28}F_7O_5P$ requires C, 62.02; H, 3.94%); v_{max}/cm^{-1} 1680, 1670, 1650 and 1600; $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.28 (3 H, s, OMe), 3.37 (3 H, s, OMe) and 7.08–7.99 (22 H, m, ArH + =CH); δ_F 3.52 (3 F, t, J 11, CF₃), 32.71 and 39.64 (2 F, AB, J_{AB} 256.15, CF₂CF₂CF₃) and 49.21 (s) and 49.53 (s), (2 F, unequal CF_2CF_3); m/z 716 (M⁺, 4%), 658 (100) and 278 (1).

Syntheses of Dimethyl Perfluoroalkylisophthalates 7a, b or Dimethyl 5-(Perfluoroalkyl)biphenyl-2,4-dicarboxylates 7c, d— Typical procedure. A solution of **6a** (1.5 mmol) in anhydrous benzene (5 cm³) was heated in a sealed tube at 165 °C for 30 h. After cooling, the solution was passed through a silica gel column and eluted with benzene to separate the product 7a from triphenylphosphine oxide. The product 7a was further purified by recrystallization from ethyl acetate-light petroleum. Compound 7b was a liquid product, purified by molecular distillation. When aq. methanol or methanol was used as reaction medium, the reaction temperature and time were as recorded in Table 2.

Dimethyl 4-methyl-6-(trifluoromethyl)isophthalate 7a. This compound (93%) had m.p. 79-81 °C (Found: C, 52.15; H, 4.1. $C_{12}H_{11}F_{3}O_{4}$ requires C, 52.18; H, 4.01%; v_{max}/cm^{-1} 1745, 1716, 1620, 1585, 1560 and 1510; $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.70 (3 H, s, Me), 3.95 $(6 \text{ H}, \text{ s}, 2 \times \text{OMe}), 7.65 (1 \text{ H}, \text{ s}, \text{ArH}) \text{ and } 8.36 (1 \text{ H}, \text{ s}, \text{ArH});$ $\delta_{\rm F}$ -16.35 (3 F, s, CF₃); $\delta_{\rm C}$ 21.7 (s, Me), 52.50 (s, CO₂Me), 52.95 (s, CO₂Me), 123.02 (q, ¹J_{CF} 273.95, CF₃), 128.46 (m, Ar), 130.38 (q, ${}^{3}J_{CF}$ 5.48, Ar), 131.43 (q, ${}^{2}J_{CF}$ 32.65, Ar), 132.69 (s, Ar), 133.02 (s, Ar), 144.39 (s, Ar), 166.08 (s, CO₂Me) and 166.19 (s, CO_2Me); m/z 276 (M⁺, 54%), 245 (100), 217 (9) and 59 (13).

Dimethyl 4-heptafluoropropyl-6-methylisophthalate 7b. This compound (98%) had b.p. 145-165 °C*/267 Pa (Found: C, 44.6; H, 2.7. $C_{14}H_{11}F_7O_4$ requires C, 44.70: H, 2.95%); v_{max}/cm^{-1} 1740; δ_H 2.70 (3 H, s, Me), 3.91 (3 H, s, OMe), 3.94 (3 H, s, OMe), 7.51 (1 H, s, ArH) and 8.19 (1 H, s, ArH); δ_F 4.17 (3 F, t, J 10, CF₃), 29.57 (2 F, m, CF₂CF₂CF₃) and 47.29 (2 F, s, CF₂CF₃); *m*/*z* 376 (M⁺, 34%), 345 (100), 317 (3) and 59 (5).

Dimethyl 5-(trifluoromethyl-2,4-dicarboxylatebiphenyl 7c. This compound (91%) had m.p. 59-60 °C (Found: C, 60.3; H, 4.0. $C_{17}H_{13}F_{3}O_{4}$ requires C, 60.36; H, 3.87%); v_{max}/cm^{-1} 1745 and 1730; $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.72 (3 H, s, OMe), 3.98 (3 H, s, OMe), 7.40 (5 H, m, ArH), 7.78 (1 H, s, ArH) and 8.27 (1 H, s, ArH); $\delta_{\rm F}$ – 16.54 (3 F, s, CF₃); *m*/*z* 338 (M⁺, 62%), 307 (100) and 59 (27).

Dimethyl 5-(heptafluoropropyl)-2,4-dicarboxylatebiphenyl 7d. This compound (90%) had m.p. 80-82 °C (Found: C, 52.05; H, 3.0. $C_{19}H_{13}F_7O_4$ requires C, 52.07; H, 2.99%); v_{max}/cm^{-1} 1740 and 1725; $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.69 (3 H, s, OMe), 3.94 (3 H, s, OMe), 7.39 (5 H, m, ArH), 7.65 (1 H, s, ArH) and 8.08 (1 H, s, ArH); $\delta_{\rm F}$ 3.75 (3 F, t, CF₃), 29.17 (2 F, m, CF₂CF₂CF₃) and 46.93 (2 F, s, CF₂CF₃); m/z 438 (M⁺, 77.5%), 407 (100) and 59 (15).

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* Oil-bath temperature.

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