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PREPARATION OF 3-(TRIFLUOROMETHYL)COUMARINS

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PREPARATION OF 3-(TRIFLUOROMETHYL)COUMARINS

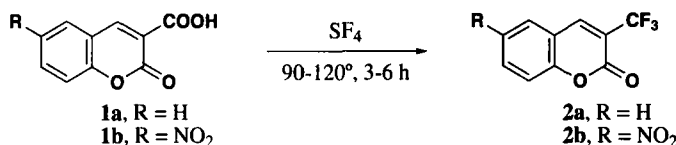
Submitted by Wojciech Dmowski* and Krystyna Piasecka-Maciejewska
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Coumarins constitute an important class of naturally occurring compounds with useful pharmacological activity.^{1,2} Numerous coumarins were used as steroid receptor modulators³ and photopolymerization initiators⁴. Some attention has been paid to trifluoromethyl substituted coumarins as fluorescent markers for synthetic proteinases^{5,6} and also as laser dyes.⁷ Recently, a

number of coumarins, inclusive of fluorine containing ones, were patented as optical molecular sensors.⁸ In all these applications only 4-trifluoromethyl substituted coumarins were used; they were synthesised by the zinc chloride catalysed condensation of phenols with 4,4,4-trifluoroacetoacetate (Pechmann reaction).^{5,6} Enantioselective cathodic reduction of 4-(trifluoromethyl)coumarin with alkaloids as chiral catalysts was investigated; this resulted in 4-(trifluoromethyl)-3,4-dihydrocoumarin as the main product (28% yield and 8.4% ee).⁹ A number of 3-perfluoroalkyl substituted coumarins were prepared by a sodium hydroxymethanesulfinate (Rongalite) initiated reactions of perfluoroalkyl iodides with coumarins¹⁰ or by reactions of coumarins with perfluoroalkanesulphinates¹¹ in the presence of oxidants but no 3-(trifluoromethyl)coumarins were obtained by those methods. The only successful preparation of 3-trifluoromethyl substituted coumarins reported so far involves reactions of coumarins with bis(trifluoroacetyl) peroxide.¹²

It is well known that trifluoromethyl substituted heterocycles could be easily prepared by treatment of heterocyclic carboxylic acids with sulfur tetrafluoride.¹³ In the present communication we report preparation of 3-(trifluoromethyl)coumarin (**2a**) and 3-(trifluoromethyl)-6-nitrocoumarin (**2b**) by treatment of the corresponding, commercially available, coumarin-3-carboxylic acids (**1a**) and (**1b**) with sulfur tetrafluoride.



The reactions require temperature within the range of 90-120° to proceed with satisfactory rate. Considerable amount of polymeric material was formed under such conditions, nevertheless, a column chromatography on silica gel allowed compounds **2** to be isolated with reasonable yields and of high purity.

The method is complementary to that utilizing bis(trifluoroacetyl) peroxide¹² and seems to be general and useful for the synthesis 3-(trifluoromethyl)coumarins from coumarin-3-carboxylic acids which are readily available by condensation of 2-hydroxybenzaldehydes with diethyl malonate.¹⁴

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Mps were determined in capillaries and are uncorrected. ¹H- and ¹⁹F-NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ with a Varian Gemini 200 spectrometer at 200 and 188 MHz, respectively; chemical shifts are in p.p.m. from internal TMS for protons and from internal CFCl₃ for fluorine nuclei (positive upfield). IR spectra were measured with a Perkin-Elmer Spectrum 2000 instrument.

General Procedure.- Coumarin-3-carboxylic acid **1a** or **1b** (1.90 or 2.35 g, 10 mmol) was placed in a 30 mL capacity stainless steel autoclave fitted with a needle valve, the autoclave was cooled in an

acetone-Dry Ice bath, evacuated, then sulfur tetrafluoride (*ca.* 10 g, 90 mmol) was condensed into it. The autoclave was agitated in a rocking furnace at 90° for 3 hrs (for **1a**) or at 120° for 6 hours (for **1b**). After completion of the reaction, gaseous products were let off (SF₄, SOF₂, HF) at RT and the yellow semisolid residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL). The solution was washed with aqueous NaHCO₃ then dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. Evaporation of the solvent gave a yellow solid which was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel using a hexane-CH₂Cl₂ mixture (1:1) as the eluent to give compounds **2a** and **2b** as white crystalline substances.

3-(Trifluoromethyl)coumarin (2a): Yield 0.78 g (36%), mp. 122-123°. IR (CCl₄): 1764.7 cm⁻¹ (vs, CO). ¹H NMR (200 MHz): δ 7.38 (m, 2H, arom.), 7.65 (m, 2H, arom.), 8.17 (s, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (188 MHz): δ 67.7 (s, CF₃).

Anal. Calcd for C₁₀H₅F₃O₂: C, 56.09; H, 2.35; F, 26.32. Found: C, 56.10; H, 2.32; F, 26.34

3-(Trifluoromethyl)-6-nitrocoumarin (2b): Yield 0.82 g (32%), mp. 184-185°. IR (CCl₄): 1777.1 cm⁻¹ (vs, CO). ¹H NMR (200 MHz): δ 7.56 (d, ³J_{HH} = 9.0 Hz, 1H, arom.), 8.26 (s, 1H), 8.56 (complex, 2H, arom.). ¹⁹F NMR (188 MHz): δ 67.0 (s, CF₃).

Anal. Calcd for C₁₀H₄F₃NO₄: C, 46.35; H, 1.56; F, 21.99; N, 5.41. Found: C, 46.30; H, 1.52; F, 22.00; N, 5.35

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**A SIMPLIFIED SYNTHESIS
OF ETHYL 5-CHLORO-4-FLUORO-1H-INDOLE-2-CARBOXYLATE
AND ETHYL 5-CHLORO-6-FLUORO-1H-INDOLE-2-CARBOXYLATE**

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During a search for novel anti-HIV-1 agents, we planned the synthesis of the indolyl aryl sulfones **7** and **8**, whose preparation required ethyl 5-chloro-6-fluoro-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (**5**) and ethyl 5-chloro-4-fluoro-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (**6**) as starting materials, respectively (*Fig. 1*).¹

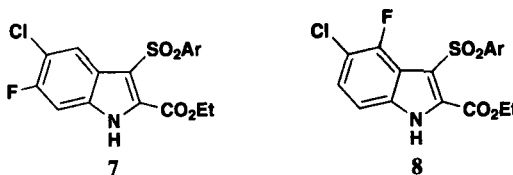


Fig. 1

Compounds **5** and **6** were obtained according to literature procedures^{2,3} from commercially available 3-fluoroaniline in five steps *via* 4-chloro-3-fluoroaniline (**2**) as a key intermediate. This compound was obtained by hydrolysis of *N*-pivaloyl 4-chloro-3-fluoroaniline (**1**) prepared as reported⁴ by chlorination of *N*-pivaloyl 3-fluoroaniline⁵ with *N*-chlorosuccinimide. Coupling of the diazonium salt of 4-