



Pergamon

Tetrahedron Letters 41 (2000) 6959–6963

TETRAHEDRON  
LETTERS

## Reaction of polyfluorinated imines with trifluoromethyltrimethylsilane. Direct synthesis of *N*-(perfluoro-*t*-butyl)amines

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Received 29 June 2000; accepted 15 July 2000

### Abstract

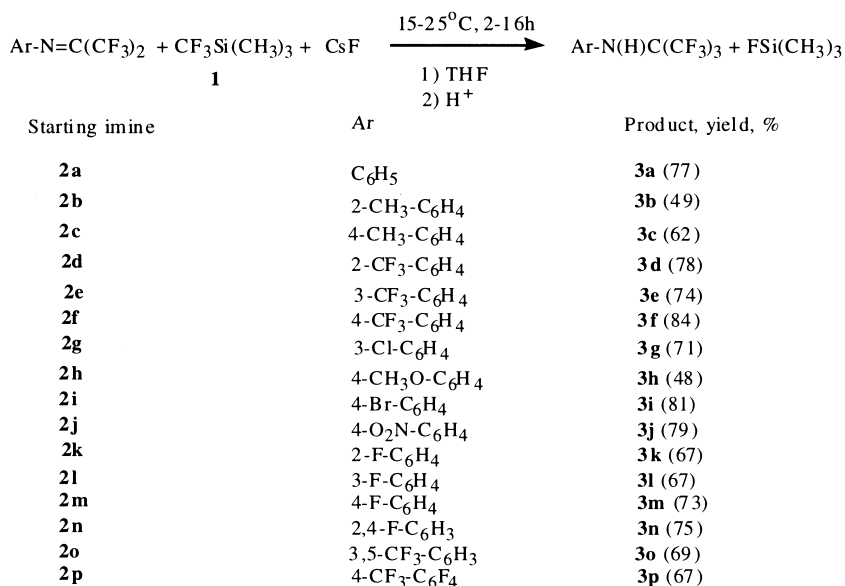
The reaction of *N*-arylimines of hexafluoroacetone and  $\text{CF}_3\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3$  (**1**) in the presence of CsF results in a 48–84% yield formation of  $\text{ArN}(\text{H})\text{C}(\text{CF}_3)_3$ . The reaction requires an equimolar amount of CsF and rapidly proceeds in solvents such as THF or monoglyme. Interaction of  $\text{CF}_3\text{N}=\text{C}(\text{CF}_3)_2$  with excess of **1** leads to the formation of novel amine  $[(\text{CF}_3)_3\text{C}]_2\text{NH}$ . Stable salt of this amine is isolated in a reaction of isomeric  $\text{CF}_3\text{CF}_2\text{N}=\text{CFCF}_3$  with an excess of **1** in the presence of CsF. © 2000 Published by Elsevier Science Ltd.

Trifluorotrimethylsilane (**1**) is a powerful trifluoromethylating agent,<sup>1</sup> which has been used (usually under catalysis by fluoride anion) for the introduction of a  $\text{CF}_3$  group into a variety of organic substrates, including aldehydes,<sup>2–4</sup> hydrocarbon and polyfluorinated ketones,<sup>5–7</sup> esters,<sup>7</sup> and sulfur-based electrophiles.<sup>3,7,8</sup> However, imines were reported to have a sluggish reactivity towards **1**.<sup>1,9–11</sup> Trifluoromethylation of imines using **1** could be achieved, either under special conditions (in the presence of trimethylsilylimidazole<sup>12</sup>) or by use of substrates with an activated C=N bond, such as nitrones,<sup>9</sup> azirines<sup>10</sup> or perfluoro-2,6-dimethyl-1-azacyclohexene.<sup>13</sup> Imines of polyfluorinated ketones  $\text{R}_f(\text{R}_f')\text{C}=\text{NR}$  (readily available from reaction of polyfluoroketones with either amines<sup>14</sup> or arylisocyanates<sup>15–17</sup>) known to have a C=N bond highly reactive towards nucleophiles<sup>18,19</sup> due to its polarization by two perfluoroalkyl groups.

In this work it is found that *N*-arylimines of hexafluoroacetone (**2a–p**) rapidly react with reagent **1** in the presence of equimolar amounts of CsF to give corresponding aryl-*N*-perfluoro-*t*-butyl amines **3a–p** in moderate to high yield.

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† Publication No. 8089.



(1)

Despite the fact that aryl amines **3** are high boiling point liquids (with the exception of **3j** being a solid), they can be purified by distillation. All <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra of amines **3** contain a signal of (CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>C fragment around -70 ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of compounds **3a,b,h** contain a resonance around 70 ppm with corresponding splitting pattern (J<sub>C-F</sub> = 27–29 Hz, decet) assigned to the tertiary carbon of *F-t*-butyl group (see Table 1). Typically, mass spectra (EI) of amines **3** exhibit a signal of parent ion, along with intense signals corresponding to subsequent loss of CF<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>, C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub>H<sup>+</sup> and CF<sub>3</sub>CN<sup>+</sup> fragments by molecular ion. IR spectra of amines **3** exhibit a doublet around 3400 and 3450 cm<sup>-1</sup> assigned to N–H group. The structure of **3j** is firmly established by X-ray diffraction.

The choice of the solvent is crucial for a trifluoromethylation reaction. For example, interaction of **2a** and **1** in CH<sub>3</sub>CN solvent proceeds rapidly but an isolated yield of corresponding amine does not exceed 20–25% due to extensive tar formation. However, in solvents such as THF and monoglyme a fast and slightly exothermic reaction rapidly proceeds (20–25°C, 2–3 h) producing amine **3a** in 77% yield. On the other hand, with ether as a solvent the reaction is quite slow and conversion of imine **2a**, even after several days at ambient temperature, does not exceed a few percent. In sharp contrast to trifluoromethylation of carbonyl compounds, often carried out in the presence of a catalytic amount of CsF,<sup>7</sup> the process represented by Eq. (1) requires an equimolar amount of CsF, since the interaction between **1** and **2** results in the formation of cesium salt of corresponding amine **3** (see below), which is converted into a final product during aqueous work-up of the reaction mixture. For example, trifluoromethylation of **2a** in the presence of 10 mol% of CsF results in a 10 to 15% conversion of starting material (THF, 12 h at 25°C), whereas the same reaction carried out in the presence of an equimolar amount of CsF is completed after 2–3 h at ambient temperature. The rate of reaction is sensitive to the nature of substituent in an aromatic ring of imine, and reaction between **1** and imines **2b** and **2h** carrying electron-donating substituents in phenyl ring (Ar = 2-CH<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>- and 4-CH<sub>3</sub>O-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-, respectively) is noticeably slower compared to **2a** and requires 10 to 16 h to achieve complete conversion of starting materials. On the other hand, the reaction of **1** and imines **2d–f** (Ar = 2-, 3-

Table 1  
Experimental data for amines **3a–3p**, **5** and **5a<sup>a</sup>**

Comp. no.	B.P./mmHg (m.p.)	<sup>19</sup> F NMR	<sup>1</sup> H NMR	IR (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Anal.% found (calc) or MS
<b>3a<sup>b</sup></b>	45–46/12	–68.96	3.85 (1H), 7.00–7.30 (5H)	3403, 3450	F, 54.97 (54.95)
<b>3b<sup>c</sup></b>	64/20	–69.21	2.33 (3H), 3.78 (1H), 7.08 (1H), 7.20 (3H)	3427, 3478	F, 52.29 (52.58)
<b>3c</b>	64–64.5/18	–68.88	2.18 (3H), 3.75 (1H), 6.90–7.10 (4H)	3403, 3450	C, 39.89 (40.63); H, 2.30 (2.48); F, 51.71 (52.58); N, 4.14 (4.31)
<b>3d</b>	50.5–51/19	–61.37 (3F, m), –69.13 (9F, q, 1.9 Hz)	4.73 (1H), 7.21 (1H), 7.36 (1H), 7.51 (1H), 7.64 (1H)	3477	F, 59.78 (60.13)
<b>3e<sup>d</sup></b>	65/19	–63.45 (3F), –68.86 (9F)	4.00 (1H), 7.26 (1H), 7.36 (3H)	3395, 3456	F, 60.48 (60.13)
<b>3f</b>	71–72/15	–62.88 (3F), –68.90 (9F)	4.15 (1H), 7.10 (2H), 7.49 (2H)	3405, 3453	C, 34.02 (34.85); H, 1.26 (1.33); F, 60.55 (60.13); N, 3.82 (3.69)
<b>3g</b>	73–74/16	–68.88	3.95 (1H), 6.90–7.30 (4H)	3400, 3433	F, 50.27 (49.48)
<b>3h<sup>e</sup></b>	63/5	–68.78	3.76 (1H), 3.82 (3H), 6.82 (2H), 7.12 (2H)	3411, 3477	F, 50.00 (50.12)
<b>3i</b>	83–83.5/19	–68.78	3.95 (1H), 7.04 (2H), 7.43 (2H)	3400, 3441	C, 30.56 (30.79); H, 1.46 (1.29); F, 43.58 (43.84); N, 3.53 (3.59)
<b>3j</b>	(83–84) <sup>f</sup>	–68.97	6.61 (1H), <sup>g</sup> 7.41 (2H), 8.22 (2H)	3390 <sup>h</sup>	C, 33.74 (33.72); H, 1.49 (1.42); N, 7.79 (7.87)
<b>3k</b>	43.5–44/17	–69.57 (9F), –127.75 (1F)	4.10 (1H), 6.80–7.20 (4H)	3400, 3450	F, 58.83 (57.72)
<b>3l</b>	50–51/18	–68.92 (9F), –112.19 (1F)	3.95 (1H), 6.68 (2H)	3400, 3444	329 (M <sup>+</sup> , 80%)
<b>3m</b>	56.5–57/18	–68.92 (9F), –116.32 (1F)	3.80 (1H), 6.93 (2H), 7.22 (2H)	3400, 3456	F, 57.65 (57.72)
<b>3n</b>	45–46/15	–69.51 (9F), –112.23 (1F), –120.55 (1F)	3.95 (1H), 6.88 (2H), 7.31 (1H)	3400, 3455	F, 59.95 (60.20)
<b>3o</b>	76/15	–63.90 (6F), –68.97 (9F)	4.25 (1H), 7.48 (2H), 77.60 (1H)	3406, 3456	C, 32.27 (32.23); H, 1.02 (0.90); N, 3.29 (3.13)
<b>3p</b>	76/110	–56.92 (3F), –69.94 (9F), –140.82 (2F), –143.11 (2F)	3.80	3397, 3425	C, 28.97 (29.29); H, 0.27 (0.22); N, 3.41 (3.10)
<b>5<sup>i</sup></b>	100–101	–69.89	2.89	3454	453 (M <sup>+</sup> , 3%)
<b>5a<sup>g</sup></b>	–	–71.49	–		

<sup>a</sup> NMR solvent is CDCl<sub>3</sub> unless specified.

<sup>b</sup> <sup>13</sup>C NMR {H}: 69.99 (decet, 25 Hz), 121.28 (q, 300 Hz), 125.54, 128.52, 139.38.

<sup>c</sup> <sup>13</sup>C NMR {H}: 16.30, 70.30 (decet, 27 Hz), 121.28 (q, 290 Hz), 125.19, 125.34, 130.48, 132.96, 139.38.

<sup>d</sup> See also Ref. 24.

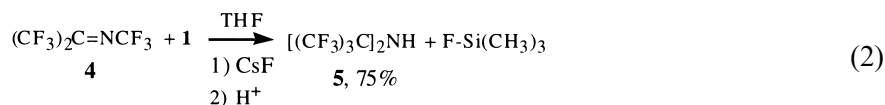
<sup>e</sup> <sup>13</sup>C NMR {H}: 54.14, 70.19 (decet, 27 Hz), 113.70, 121.25 (q, 293 Hz), 128.91, 131.52.

<sup>f</sup> Crystallized from hexane.

<sup>g</sup> In deuterioacetone.

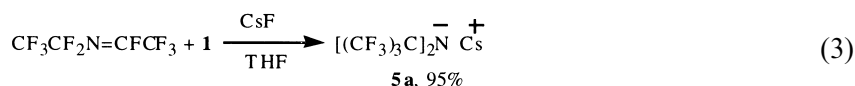
and 4-CF<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-, respectively) is much faster. It is exothermic and rapidly proceeds under mild conditions (10–25°C, 2 h). Trifluoromethylation of imine **2p**<sup>20</sup> proceeds under similar conditions producing perfluorinated amine **3p** in 67% yield.

All attempts to prepare corresponding perfluoro-*t*-butyl amine from CH<sub>3</sub>N=C(CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub><sup>14</sup> failed, since even under mild conditions in THF as a solvent, exothermic and hard to control reaction leads to rapid darkening of the reaction mixture and extensive tar formation, although perfluorinated imine CF<sub>3</sub>N=C(CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (**4**) (known to exist in equilibrium with isomer containing terminal C=N bond<sup>21</sup>) under similar conditions rapidly reacts with several mols of **1**. The reaction of **4**, **1** and CsF (ratio 1:4:1.1, respectively, 10–25°C, 2–3 h) results in high yield formation of a novel representative of stable perfluorinated secondary amine-bis (*F-t*-butyl)-amine (**5**) (Eq. (2)).



The formation of **5** is a result of multiple sequential nucleophilic trifluoromethylations of imine **4** leading to complete replacement by the CF<sub>3</sub> groups of fluorine substituents in  $\alpha$ -position to nitrogen.

Stable salt **5a** is isolated in the reaction of isomeric *F*-3-azapentene-2<sup>22</sup> and excess of reagent **1** after filtration of reaction mixture and removal of solvent (Eq. (3)).



Compound **5a** is a white solid sparingly soluble in polar organic solvents (acetonitrile, acetone, THF) and stable under normal conditions in the absence of moisture. The structure of **5a** is confirmed by X-ray analysis.

Although the majority of known compounds containing -C(CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (with very few exceptions<sup>23,24</sup>) have been prepared utilising the chemistry of highly toxic perfluoroisobutene,<sup>25,26</sup> this methodology cannot be applied for direct synthesis of amines carrying the -C(CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> group at nitrogen, while described in this work, a reaction of hexafluoroacetone imines with **1** provides a direct and simple route to *N*-perfluoro-*t*-butyl amines.

In a typical experiment, a mixture of 0.05 mol of imine and 0.055 mol of **1** is added dropwise to a stirred mixture of 0.06 mol of dry CsF in 70 ml of THF to keep the temperature between 15 to 25°C. The reaction mixture is agitated at ambient temperature for 2–3 h (12–16 h for **2b** and **2h**), until the complete conversion of imine is achieved (GC), diluted with 150 ml of 10% hydrochloric acid, and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2×50 ml). The organic layer is dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, the solvent removed and the residue distilled.

## Acknowledgements

The author thanks Dr. Grushin for stimulating discussions, W. Marshall for carrying out X-ray analysis of **3j** and **5a** and R. Smith Jr. for technical support.

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