Tetrahedron Letters 51 (2010) 657-660

ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

## **Tetrahedron Letters**



journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/tetlet

# Synthesis of 3,5-diaryl-4-chlorophthalates by [4+2] cycloaddition of 1-ethoxy-2chloro-1,3-bis(trimethylsilyloxy)-1,3-diene with dimethyl acetylene dicarboxylate and subsequent site-selective Suzuki–Miyaura reactions

Obaid-Ur-Rahman Abid<sup>a</sup>, Muhammad Farooq Ibad<sup>a</sup>, Muhammad Nawaz<sup>a</sup>, Muhammad Adeel<sup>a,b</sup>, Nasim Hasan Rama<sup>c</sup>, Alexander Villinger<sup>a</sup>, Peter Langer<sup>a,d,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Institut für Chemie, Universität Rostock, Albert-Einstein-Str. 3a, 18059 Rostock, Germany

<sup>b</sup> Department of Chemistry, Gomal University, Dera Ismail Khan, N.W.F.P, Pakistan

<sup>c</sup> Department of Chemistry, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan

<sup>d</sup> Leibniz-Institut für Katalyse e. V. an der Universität Rostock, Albert-Einstein-Str. 29a, 18059 Rostock, Germany

## ARTICLE INFO

Article history: Received 13 October 2009 Revised 19 November 2009 Accepted 20 November 2009 Available online 26 November 2009

#### Keywords: Cyclocondensations Organochlorine compounds Suzuki–Miyaura reactions Silyl enol ethers

#### ABSTRACT

The [4+2] cycloaddition of 1-ethoxy-2-chloro-1,3-bis(trimethylsilyloxy)-1,3-diene with dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (DMAD) afforded dimethyl 4-chloro-3,5-dihydroxyphthalate. Site-selective Suzuki–Miyaura reactions of its bis(triflate) provide a convenient approach to 3,5-diaryl-4-chlorophthalates containing two different aryl groups.

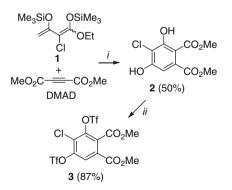
© 2009 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Aryl chlorides are of pharmacological importance and have been isolated as natural products.<sup>1</sup> In fact, arenes and hetarenes containing a chloride group often show a better pharmacological activity compared to their non-halogenated analogues.<sup>2</sup> In addition, the chloro group can be reacted in palladium(0)-catalyzed cross coupling reactions.<sup>3</sup> However, the synthesis of chlorinated arenes is not straightforward. The direct chlorination of arenes often suffers from several side-reactions, such as low regioselectivity and multiple chlorination. An alternative strategy for the regioselective synthesis of organochlorine compounds relies on the use of appropriate chlorine-containing building blocks in condensation and cyclization reactions. For example, Manzanares and co-workers reported the synthesis of a 4-chlorophenol by [4+2] cycloaddition of a chlorinated thiophene with dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate.<sup>4</sup>

1,3-Bis(trimethylsilyloxy)-1,3-butadienes (e.g., Chan's diene)<sup>5,6</sup> represent useful synthetic building blocks.<sup>7</sup> Recently, we reported the application of these dienes to the synthesis of chlorinated arenes and hetarenes.<sup>8</sup>

Herein, we report the facile synthesis of dimethyl 4-chloro-3,5dihydroxyphthalate by [4+2] cycloaddition of 1-ethoxy-2-chloro-1,3-bis(trimethylsilyloxy)-1,3-diene with dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (DMAD). Suzuki–Miyaura reactions of the bis(triflate) of this product proceed with very good site-selectivity<sup>9</sup> and provide a convenient approach to novel 3,5-diaryl-4-chlorophthalates which are not readily available by other methods.

The [4+2] cycloaddition of 1-ethoxy-2-chloro-1,3-bis(trimethylsilyloxy)-1,3-diene (1), readily available from ethyl 2-chloroacetoacetate in two steps, with DMAD afforded dimethyl 4-chloro-3,5-



**Scheme 1.** Synthesis of **2** and **3**. Reagents and conditions: (i) (1) **1** (1.0 equiv), DMAD (1.5 equiv),  $-78 \rightarrow 20$  °C, 20 h; (2) HCl (10%); (ii) (1) and **2** (1.0 equiv), pyridine (4.0 equiv), CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, -78 °C, 10 min; (2) Tf<sub>2</sub>O (2.4 equiv),  $-78 \rightarrow 0$  °C, 4 h.

<sup>\*</sup> Corresponding author. Tel.: +49 381 4986410; fax: +49 381 4986412. *E-mail address:* peter.langer@uni-rostock.de (P. Langer).

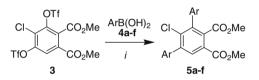
<sup>0040-4039/\$ -</sup> see front matter  $\odot$  2009 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved. doi:10.1016/j.tetlet.2009.11.088

dihydroxyphthalate (**2**) in 50% yield (Scheme 1).<sup>10</sup> The latter was transformed into bis(triflate) **3** in high yield.<sup>11</sup>

The Suzuki reaction of **3** with boronic acids **4a–f** (2.4 equiv) afforded the novel 3,5-diaryl-4-chlorophthalates **5a–f** in good yields (Scheme 2, Table 1). The best yields were obtained when using the arylboronic acid (2.4 equiv), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (0.03 equiv) catalyst and K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (3.0 equiv) base in 1,4-dioxane (110 °C, 6 h).<sup>12,13</sup>

The S–M coupling of **3** with arylboronic acids **4a,b,g–j** (1.1 equiv) afforded the 5-aryl-4-chloro-3-(trifluoromethylsulfonyloxy)phthalates **6a–f** in good yields and with very good siteselectivity (Scheme 3, Table 2).<sup>12,14</sup> The formation of the opposite regioisomers was not observed. The site-selectivity can be explained by steric reasons. 3,5-Diaryl-4-chlorophthalates **7a,b**, containing two different aryl groups Ar<sup>1</sup> and Ar<sup>2</sup>, were prepared directly from bis(triflate) **3** by the application of a one-pot procedure (Scheme 4, Table 3). The Suzuki reaction of **3** with arylboronic acid **4e** (1.1 equiv, 90 °C) and subsequent addition of arylboronic acids **4a,k** (1.3 equiv, 110 °C) to the in situ formed mono-coupling product afforded products **7a,b** in acceptable yields.<sup>15,16</sup>

The structures of products **5–7** were established by 2D NMR experiments (NOESY, and HMBC). The structures of **5a** and **7a** were independently confirmed by X-ray crystal structure analyses (Figs. 1 and 2).<sup>17</sup>



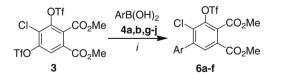
Scheme 2. Synthesis of 5a–f. Reagents and conditions: (i) 3 (1.0 equiv), 4a–f (2.4 equiv),  $K_3PO_4$  (3.0 equiv), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (3 mol %), 1,4-dioxane, 110 °C, 6 h.

Table 1

Synthesis of **5a–f** 

4,5	Ar	<b>5</b> <sup>a</sup> (%)
a	$4-(CF_3)C_6H_4$	77
b	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	75
с	$4-ClC_6H_4$	63
d	$3-(CF_3)C_6H_4$	49
e	$4-EtC_6H_4$	67
f	$4-MeC_6H_4$	72

<sup>a</sup> Yields of isolated products.

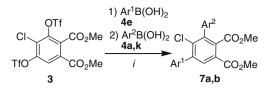


**Scheme 3.** Synthesis of **6a–f**. Reagents and conditions: (i) **3** (1.0 equiv), **4a,b,g–j** (1.1 equiv), K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (1.5 equiv), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (3 mol %), 1,4-dioxane, 90 °C, 8 h.

Table 2 Synthesis of 6a-f

4	6	Ar	<b>6</b> <sup>a</sup> (%)
g	а	2-(MeO)C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	47
b	b	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	65
h	с	3,4-(MeO) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	47
а	d	$4 - (CF_3)C_6H_4$	63
i	е	$3,5-(Me)_2C_6H_3$	61
j	f	2,6-(MeO) <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	48

<sup>a</sup> Yields of isolated products.



**Scheme 4.** One-pot synthesis of **7a,b**. Reagents and conditions: (1) **3** (1.0 equiv), **4e** (1.1 equiv),  $K_3PO_4$  (1.5 equiv), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (3 mol %), 1,4-dioxane, 90 °C, 8 h; (2) **4a,k** (1.3 equiv),  $K_3PO_4$  (1. 5 equiv), 110 °C, 6 h.

Table 3			
Synthesis	of	7a,1	b

4	7	Ar <sup>1</sup>	Ar <sup>2</sup>	<b>7</b> <sup>a</sup> (%)	
e, a e, k	a b	4-EtC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> 4-EtC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	4-(CF <sub>3</sub> )C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> 3-FC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	57 53	

<sup>a</sup> Yields of isolated products.

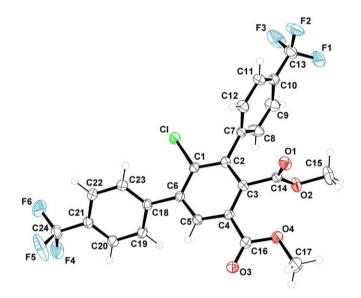


Figure 1. Crystal structure of 5a.

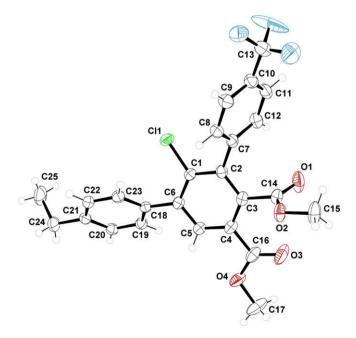


Figure 2. Crystal structure of 7a.

In conclusion, we reported a convenient approach to dimethyl 4-chloro-3,5-dihydroxyphthalate by [4+2] cycloaddition of 1-ethoxy-2-chloro-1,3-bis(trimethyl-silyloxy)-1,3-diene with dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (DMAD). The Suzuki–Miyaura coupling of the bis(triflate) of the product proceeds with very good site-selectivity and provides a convenient approach to 3,5-diaryl-4-chlorophthalates containing two different aryl groups. The preparative scope of the methodology is currently being studied.

## Acknowledgements

Financial support by the State of Pakistan (HEC scholarships for O.-U.-R. A., M.F.I.), by the DAAD (scholarship for O.-U.-R. A. and M.N.) and by the State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is gratefully acknowledged.

#### **References and notes**

- For pharmacologically active chlorinated natural products and drugs, see: (a) Gribble, G. W. Environ. Sci. Technol. 1994, 28, 310A; (b) Gribble, G. W. J. Chem. Ed. 1994, 71, 907; (c) Gribble, G. W. Acc. Chem. Res. 1998, 31, 141; (d) Gribble, G. W. Acc. Chem. 1996, 68, 1699; (e) Gribble, G. W. J. Nat. Prod. 1992, 55, 1353; Griseofulvin (f) Osborne, C. S.; Leitner, I.; Hofbauer, B.; Fielding, C. A.; Favre, B.; Ryder, N. S. Antimicrob. Agents Chemother. 2006, 50, 2234; (g) Takano, R.; Sugano, K.; Higashida, A.; Hayashi, Y.; Machida, M.; Aso, Y.; Yamashita, S. Pharm. Res. 2006, 23, 1144; (h) Xue, C.; Li, T.; Deng, Z.; Fu, H.; Lin, W. Pharmazie 2006, 61, 1041; (i) Phelps, J. B.; Hoffman, W. P.; Lee, C.; Murphy, G. P.; Garriott, M. L. Mutat. Res. 2004, 561, 153; (j) Rosefort, C.; Fauth, E.; Zankl, H. Mutagenesis 2004, 19, 277; (k) Kinobe, R. T.; Dercho, R. A.; Vlahakis, J. Z.; Brien, J. F.; Szarek, W. A.; Nakatsu, K. J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther. 2006, 319, 277; (l) Albaugh, D.; Albert, G.; Bradford, P.; Cotter, V.; Froyd, J. J. Antibiot. 1998, 51, 317; Dihydronidulin (m) Finlay-Jones, P. F.; Sala, T.; Sargent, M. V. J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1 1981, 874.
- For an example from our laboratory, see: (a) Albrecht, U.; Lalk, M.; Langer, P. Bioorg. Med. Chem. 2005, 13, 1531; (b) Nguyen, V. D.; Wolf, C.; Mäder, U.; Lalk, M.; Langer, P.; Lindequist, U.; Hecker, M.; Antelmann, H. Proteomics 2007, 7, 1391.
- Metal-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling Reactions; de Meijere, A., Diederich, F., Eds.; Springer: Weinheim, 2004.
- 4. Corral, C.; Lissavetzky, J.; Manzanares, I. Synthesis 1997, 29.
- 5. For a review of 1,3-bis(silyl enol ethers), see: Langer, P. Synthesis 2002, 441.
- (a) Chan, T.-H.; Brownbridge, P. J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun. 1979, 578; (b) Krägeloh, K.; Simchen, G. Synthesis 1981, 30.
- For a review of [3+3] cyclizations, see: Feist, H.; Langer, P. Synthesis 2007, 327.
   For the synthesis and reactions of a 4-chloro-1,3-bis(trimethylsilyloxy)-1,3-butadiene, see: (a) Reim, S.; Langer, P. Tetrahedron Lett. 2008, 49, 2329; For an isolated example of a 2-chloro-1,3-bis(trimethylsilyloxy)-1,3-butadiene, see: (b) Savard, J.; Brassard, P. Tetrahedron Lett. 1979, 20, 4911; For [3+3] cyclizations of 1,3-bis(silyloxy)-1,3-dienes with 2-chloro-3-silyloxy-2-en-1-ones, see: (c) Yawer, M. A.; Hussain, I.; Reim, S.; Ahmed, Z.; Ullah, E.; Iqbal, I.; Fischer, C.; Reinke, H.; Görls, H.; Langer, P. Tetrahedron 2007, 63, 12562; For synthetic applications of 2-chloro-1,3-bis(silyloxy)-1,3-butadienes, see: (d) Reim, S.; Adeel, M.; Hussain, I.; Yawer, M. A.; Villinger, A.; Langer, P. Tetrahedron Lett. 2008, 49, 4901.
- 9. For a review of site-selective palladium(0)-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions of polyhalogenated substrates, see: Schröter, S.; Stock, C.; Bach, T. *Tetrahedron* **2005**, *61*, 2245.
- 10. Dimethyl 4-chloro-3,5-dihydroxyphthalate (2): Diene 1 (463 mg, 1.5 mmol) was added to DMAD (319 mg, 0.27 mL, 2.25 mmol) at -78 °C. The mixture (neat) was allowed to warm to 20 °C for 20 h with stirring. To the mixture was added hydrochloric acid (10%) and dichloromethane (30 mL each). The organic and the aqueous layers were separated and the latter was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic layers were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the filtrate was concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography to give **2** as a crystalline colourless solid (195 mg, 50%), mp = 127–129 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 3.82 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.85 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 6.57 (s, 1H, OH), 1.55 (s, 1H, OH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (62.90 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 52.8 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 53.0 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 103.5 (C), 107.5 (CH), 109.3, 135.0 (C), 156.6, 158.7 (C-OH), 168.6, 169.0 (C=O). IR (ATR, cm<sup>-1</sup>): v = 2984 (w), 2954 (w), 2905 (w), 2847 (w), 1792 (w), 1722 (s), 1668 (m), 1435 (m), 1328 (m), 1243 (s), 1067 (s), 844 (m). MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%): 262 (M<sup>+</sup>, <sup>37</sup>Cl, 9), 260 (M<sup>+</sup>, <sup>35</sup>Cl, 15), 228 (53), 198 (23), 170 (100), 153 (23), 89 (25). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>9</sub>ClO<sub>6</sub>: C 46.08, H 3.48. Found: C 46.21, H 3.31.
- 11. Dimethyl 4-chloro-3,5-bis(trifluoromethylsufonyloxy)phthalate (3): To a solution of 2 (1.0 equiv) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL/mmol) was added pyridine (4.0 equiv) at −78 °C under an argon atmosphere. After 10 min, Tf<sub>2</sub>O (2.4 equiv) was added at −78 °C. The mixture was allowed to warm up to 0 °C and stirred for 4 h. The reaction mixture was filtered and the filtrate was concentrated in vacuo. The products of the reaction mixture were isolated by rapid column chromatography (flash silica gel, heptanes/EtOAc). Starting with 2 (2.080 g, 8.0 mmol), pyridine (2.6 mL, 32.0 mmol), CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and Tf<sub>2</sub>O (3.2 mL, 19.2 mmol),

**3** was isolated as viscous colourless oil (3.65 g, 87%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 3.86 (s, 3 H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.88 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.92 (s, 1H, ArH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (62.90 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 52.6 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 52.7 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 17.5 (q, <sup>1</sup>/<sub>CF</sub> = 321 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 117.6 (q, <sup>1</sup>/<sub>CF</sub> = 321 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 123.0 (CH), 126.5, 128.7, 130.0, 142.4. 145.8 (C), 167.7 (2C, C=O). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282.4 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = -71.99 (CF<sub>3</sub>), -73.20 (CF<sub>3</sub>), 1599 (w), 1567 (w), 1429 (s), 1395 (m), 1305 (m), 1277 (m), 1206 (s), 1129 (s), 1113 (s), 1005 (s), 961 (s), 919 (w), 859 (w), 820 (m), 787 (s), 751 (s), 732 (s), 698 (m), 651 (m), 593 (s), 574 (m). MS (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* (%): 524 (M<sup>+</sup>, 30), 493 (100), 460 (13), 429 (39), 391 (4), 365 (36), 299 (42), 271 (6), 238 (11), 199 (2), 171 (9), 143 (3), 84 (8), 69 (38), 59 (13). HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>7</sub>O<sub>10</sub>ClF<sub>6</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M<sup>+</sup>]: 523.90679, found 523.907255.

- 12. General procedure for Suzuki-Miyaura reactions: A 1,4-dioxane solution (4 mL per 0.3 mmol of 3) of 3, K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> and arylboronic acid 4 was stirred at 110 °C or 90 °C for 6 or 8 h. After cooling to 20 °C, a saturated aqueous solution of NH<sub>4</sub>Cl was added. The organic and the aqueous layers were separated and the latter was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic layers were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the filtrate was concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography.
- 13. Dimethyl 4-chloro-3,5-di(4-tolyl)phthalate (5f): Starting with 3 (157 mg, 0.3 mmol), K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (191 mg, 0.9 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (3 mol %), methylphenylboronic acid (98 mg, 0.72 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (4 mL), 5f was isolated as a colourless solid (88 mg, 72%); mp = 139-141 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 2.33 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.35 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.51 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), (3.82 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.10–7.18 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.21–7.29 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.91 (s, 1H, ArH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (62.89 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 21.3 (ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 21.4 (ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 52.3 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 52.6 (OCH3), 125.3 (C), 128.7 (2CH), 128.9 (2CH), 129.2 (2CH), 129.4 (2CH), 131.7 (CH), 133.4, 135.7, 136.1, 137.4, 138.0, 138.1, 140.0, 142.2 (C), 165.3 (CO), 168.0 (CO). IR (ATR, cm<sup>-1</sup>): v = 3026 (w), 2949 (w), 2922 (w), 2859 (w), 2253 (w), 1906 (w), 1727 (s), 1613 (w), 1584 (w), 1552 (w), 1514 (m), 1434 (m), 1373 (w), 1340 (m), 1259 (s), 1237 (s), 1213 (m), 1145 (m), 1104 (m), 1069 (m), 102 (m), 93 (m), 909 (m), 890 (m), 814 (m), 733 (m), 730 (m), 720 (m), 634 (m), 554 (m). MS (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* (%): 411 (M+1, <sup>37</sup>Cl, 9), 410 (M<sup>+</sup>, <sup>37</sup>Cl, 36), 409 (M+1, <sup>35</sup>Cl, 26), 408 (M<sup>+</sup>, <sup>35</sup>Cl, 97), 380 (8), 379 (35), 378 (25), 377 (100), 347 (8), 345 (23), 318 (3), 290 (4), 289 (5), 255 (8), 239 (15), 226 (4), 204 (7), 178 (3), 126(9), 91 (2), 59 (1). HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>21</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Cl [M<sup>+</sup>]: 408.11229, found 408.112793.
- 14. Dimethyl 4-chloro-3-(2-methoxyphenyl)-5-(trifluoromethylsulfonyl-oxy)phthalate (Ga): Starting with 3 (157 mg, 0.3 mmol),  $K_3PO_4$  (95.4 mg, 0.45 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (3 mol %), 2-methoxyphenylboronic acid (50 mg, 0.33 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (4 mL), Ga was isolated as a colourless solid (68 mg, 47%), mp = 103-105 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 3.70 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.82 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.91 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.98 (dt, *J* = 7.4, 1.0 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.11 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.7 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.37 (dt, *J* = 7.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.86 (s, 1H, ArH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.46 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 52.0 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 52.3 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 54.9 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 110.0 (CH), 117.5 (q, *J* = 321 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 119.5 (CH), 124.7, 127.0, 128.5, (C), 129.3, 129.8, 131.2 (CH), 131.9, 141.2, 141.3, 155.4 (C), 163.1 (CO), 163.4 (CO). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282.4 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = -71.99 (CF<sub>3</sub>). IR (ATR, cm<sup>-1</sup>): v = 2955 (w), 2923 (w), 2849 (W), 1738 (s), 1730 (m), 1607 (w), 1582 (w), 1501 (w), 1468 (w), 1429 (w), 1325 (w), 1270 (s), 1242 (m), 1210 (m), 1164 (w), 1135 (m), 1112 (w), 1009 (w), 926 (w), 806 (m), 755 (m), 672 (w), 639 (w), 598 (m), 572 (w), 547 (w), 573 (w). MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%): 484 (M<sup>\*</sup>, <sup>37</sup>Cl, 40), 482 (M<sup>\*</sup>, <sup>35</sup>Cl, 100), 451 (25), 415 (2), 387 (4), 317 (27), 289 (20), 250 (16), 229 (5), 195 (6), 168 (6), 139 (6), 69 (9), 59 (5). HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>8</sub>ClF<sub>3</sub>S [M<sup>\*</sup>]: 482.00445, found 482.005219.
- 15. General procedure for the synthesis of **7a,b**: The reaction was carried out in a pressure tube. To a dioxane suspension (4 mL) of **3** (236 mg, 0.45 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (3 mol %) and Ar<sup>1</sup>B(OH)<sub>2</sub> (0.5 mmol) was added K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (143 mg, 0.67 mmol), and the resultant solution was degassed by bubbling argon through the solution for 10 min. The mixture was heated at 90 °C under Argon atmosphere for 8 h. The mixture was cooled to 20 °C. Ar<sup>2</sup>B(OH)<sub>2</sub> (0.6 mmol) and K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (143 mg, 0.67 mmol) were added. The reaction mixtures were heated under an Argon atmosphere for 6 h at 110 °C. They were diluted with water and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 × 25 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the filtrate was concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, EtOAc/heptanes).
- 16. Dimethyl 4-chloro-3-(4-ethylphenyl)-5-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-phthalate (**7a**): Starting with **3** (236 mg, 0.45 mmol), K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (143 mg, 0.67 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (3 mol %), 4-ethylphenylboronic acid (75 mg, 0.5 mmol), 1,4-dioxane (4 mL) and 4-trifluoromethylphenylboronic acid (114 mg, 0.6 mmol), **7a** was isolated as colourless crystals (122 mg, 57%), mp = 138-140 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 1.22 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.65 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.48 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.82 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.21–7.32 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.35–7.38 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.60–7.63 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.97 (s, 1H, ArH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (62.89 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 15.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 52.4 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 52.7 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 124.0 (q, *J* = 272 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 125.0 (q, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CF</sub> = 3.7 Hz, 2CH), 125.7 (C), 127.8 (2CH), 129.2 (2CH), 130.2 (2CH), 130.6 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CF</sub> = 32.5 Hz, C), 132.4 (CH), 135.4, 135.8, 136.8, 138.5 (C), 140.0 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, C), 142.5, 144.6 (C), 165.1, 167.6 (CO). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282.4 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = -62.7 (CF<sub>3</sub>). IR (ATR, cm<sup>-1</sup>): v = 3026 (w), 2949 (w), 2922 (w), 2859 (w), 2253 (w), 1906 (w), 1727 (s), 1613 (w), 1584 (w), 1552 (w), 1514 (m), 1434 (m), 1373 (w), 1340 (m), 1259 (s), 1237 (s), 1213 (m), 1145 (m), 1104 (m), 1069 (m), 1021 (m), 969 (m), 909 (m), 890 (m), 814 (m), 783 (m), 730 (m), 720 (m), 634 (m), 554 (m). MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%): 479 (M+1, <sup>37</sup>CI, 9), 478 (M<sup>\*</sup>, <sup>37</sup>CI, 36), 477 (M+1, <sup>35</sup>CI, 29), 476 (M<sup>\*</sup>, <sup>35</sup>CI, 99), 461 (30), 447 (41), 445 (100), 415 (5), 387 (4), 343 (5), 300 (7), 229 (6), 215 (8), 199 (4), 163 (1), 151 (3), 119 (4), 59 (2), 29 (1). HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>4</sub>ClF<sub>3</sub> [M]\*: 476.1002, calcd for [M+H]\*:

477.1075 found 477.10693, and calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>20</sub>ClF<sub>3</sub>NaO<sub>4</sub> [M+Na] \*: 499.08944 found 499.08927.
17. CCDC 754590 and CCDC 754591 contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The

Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/ data\_request/cif.