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# Transformation of 5-acylated *N*-fluoroalkyl-1,2,3-triazoles to trifluoromethylated ring-fused isoquinolines, 1,3-oxazines, and 1,3-oxazin-6-ones *via* ketenimines†

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A one-pot multistep methodology leading to trifluoromethylated cyclopenta[*c*]isoquinolines, indeno[1,2-*c*]isoquinolines, 6,6-difluoro-1,3-oxazines, or 1,3-oxazin-6-ones, based on the reaction of 5-acylated *N*-pentafluoroethyl-substituted 1,2,3-triazoles is presented. A thermal ring opening of the starting triazoles, followed by a 1,2-acyl shift formed reactive ketenimines which cyclized after a rearrangement in a substrate-specific manner to provide new trifluoromethylated heterocyclic products.

## Introduction

Isoquinolines with fused 5-membered rings, 6*H*-1,3-oxazines, or oxazin-6-ones constitute important classes of biologically active compounds known as anti-tubercular, anti-inflammatory, sedative agents, or enzyme inhibitors (Fig. 1).<sup>1–5</sup> Despite the few known synthetic strategies to indeno[1,2-*c*]isoquinolines<sup>1,6–8</sup> or cyclopenta[*c*]isoquinolines,<sup>9</sup> the preparation of 2-trifluoromethyl-5-membered ring-fused isoquinolines was described for only one specific example.<sup>10</sup> Similarly, non-fluorinated fully substituted 6*H*-1,3-oxazin-6-ones can be synthesized from β-lactams,<sup>11</sup> isoxazolones,<sup>12–14</sup> cyclopropanones<sup>15</sup> or ynamides.<sup>16</sup> However, 2-trifluoromethyl-substituted 1,3-oxazin-6-ones or 1,3-oxazines remain unexplored (Fig. 1). Since trifluoromethylated heteroaromatics of novel structures are highly valued chemicals, which find use in medicinal chemistry<sup>17–20</sup> and agrochemistry<sup>21–23</sup> research programmes, we set out to investigate the synthetic approaches towards the proposed novel trifluoromethylated heteroarenes shown in Fig. 1.

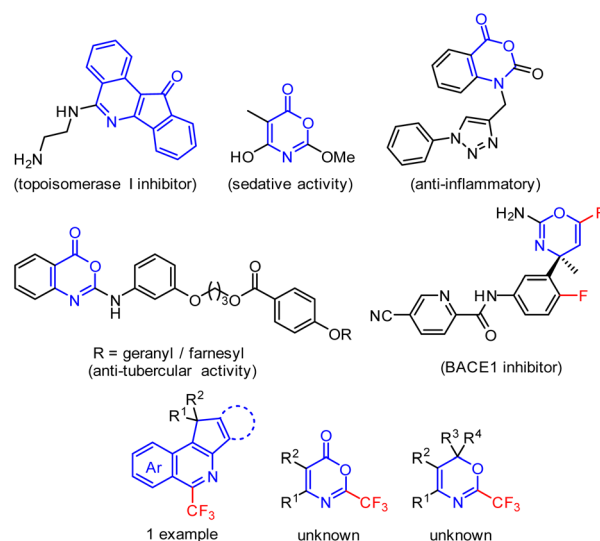
We recently reported a denitrogenation strategy for multi-substituted *N*-fluoroalkylated 1,2,3-triazoles<sup>24–31</sup> with Brønsted or Lewis acids proceeding *via* vinyl cation intermediates and leading to various *N*-alkenyl compounds.<sup>10,24,30–32</sup> We also showed that *N*-fluoroalkyl 1,2,3-triazoles in microwave reaction

conditions undergo a rearrangement to form ketenimines,<sup>33</sup> which can further cyclize to isoquinolines (Scheme 1).<sup>34</sup>

Herein, we propose a new synthetic methodology to prepare trifluoromethylated 5-membered ring fused isoquinolines, 6,6-difluoro-1,3-oxazines or 1,3-oxazin-6-ones from 5-acyl-*N*-pentafluoroethyl-1,2,3-triazoles involving ketenimine intermediates (Scheme 1).

## Results and discussion

Denitrogenation of *N*-fluoroalkylated 1,2,3-triazoles to ketenimines by microwave heating<sup>33</sup> was extended to 5-acylated



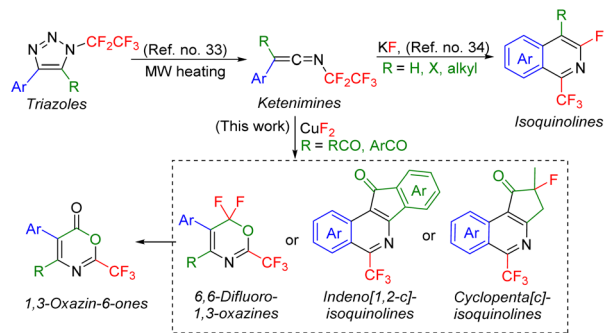
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Fig. 1 Selected examples of bioactive 5-membered ring fused isoquinolines or 1,3-oxazine and 1,3-oxazin-6-ones and compounds of interest – their trifluoromethylated derivatives.





**Scheme 1** Microwave-assisted transformation of *N*-pentafluoroethyl-1,2,3-triazoles to trifluoromethylated isoquinolines via ketenimines (previous work) or to (fused)isoquinolines, 1,3-oxazines, or 1,3-oxazin-6-ones (this work).

triazoles.<sup>24</sup> Thus, microwave heating of 5-methacryloyl-substituted triazole **1a** resulted in the formation of a mixture of ring-fused 1-trifluoromethylisoquinolines **2a** and **3a**, presumably *via* ketenimine **A**, imidoyl fluoride **B** and isoquinoline **C** intermediates (Table 1, entry 1). The addition of fluoride salts can enhance the 1,3-fluorine shift of **A** to **B**, therefore an optimization study was conducted to improve the selectivity of the reaction. Copper(II) fluoride was identified as the most effective fluoride additive (entry 8). A combination of potassium fluoride and sodium hydroxide was used to obtain dehydrofluorinated 1-trifluoromethyl-isoquinoline **3a** (entry 9).

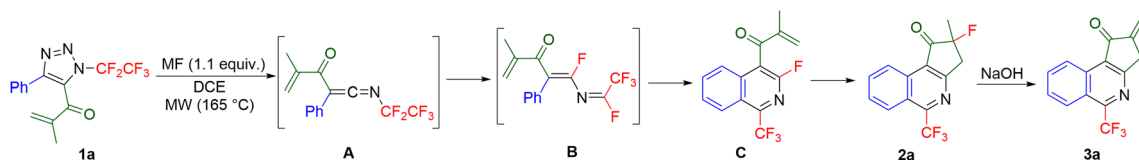
A small library of 4-aryl-5-methacryloyl triazoles, obtained from the intercepted click reaction of aromatic copper(I) acetylides, azidopentafluoroethane and methacrylic chloride in the presence of DIPEA (see ESI† for details), was subjected to

the reaction providing ring-fused isoquinolines **2** in moderate to good yields (Scheme 2). The structure of derivative **2c** was confirmed by crystallography. Substrate with electron-acceptor group (nitro) on the aryl ring did not form the product (**2e**). Additionally, two examples of dehydrofluorinated isoquinolines **3** were prepared albeit in moderate to low yields.

When electron-rich 5-(3,5-dimethoxybenzoyl)-substituted 1,2,3-triazoles were used, ring-fused 1-trifluoromethyl-isoquinolines **4** bearing various substituents on the isoquinoline ring formed in good yields (Scheme 2).

All other investigated 5-acylated 1,2,3-triazoles except strongly electron-rich 5-(3,5-dimethoxybenzoyl)- or 5-methacryloyl-substituted ones afforded different products under the thermal denitrogenation conditions. Thus, 5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-substituted triazole underwent a unique transformation presumably *via* ketenimine **D**, followed by 1,3-aryl group transfer to ketene **E**,<sup>35</sup> 1,5-fluorine shift to intermediate **F**, and cyclization involving another 1,5-fluorine shift to 6,6-difluoro-2-trifluoromethyl-1,3-oxazine **5a** or a product of its hydrolysis 1,3-oxazin-6-one **6a** (Table 2). Short reaction time (5 min) and no additive favoured the formation of product **5a**, while a longer reaction time (20 min) and the use of CuF<sub>2</sub> favoured the product of hydrolysis **6a**. Four examples of 1,3-oxazines **5** were prepared in moderate to good yields, including the crystal structure of **5c** and nine examples of 1,3-oxazinones **6** were synthesized in moderate to high yields including the crystal structure of **6g** (Scheme 3). While the presence of an alkenyl group led to oxazinone **6d** with this substitution in position 4, the products with alkyl groups in position 4 or 5 or an alkenyl group in position 5 did not form. Also, products **6** with the difluoromethyl or ethoxycarbonyl groups in position 2 did not form.

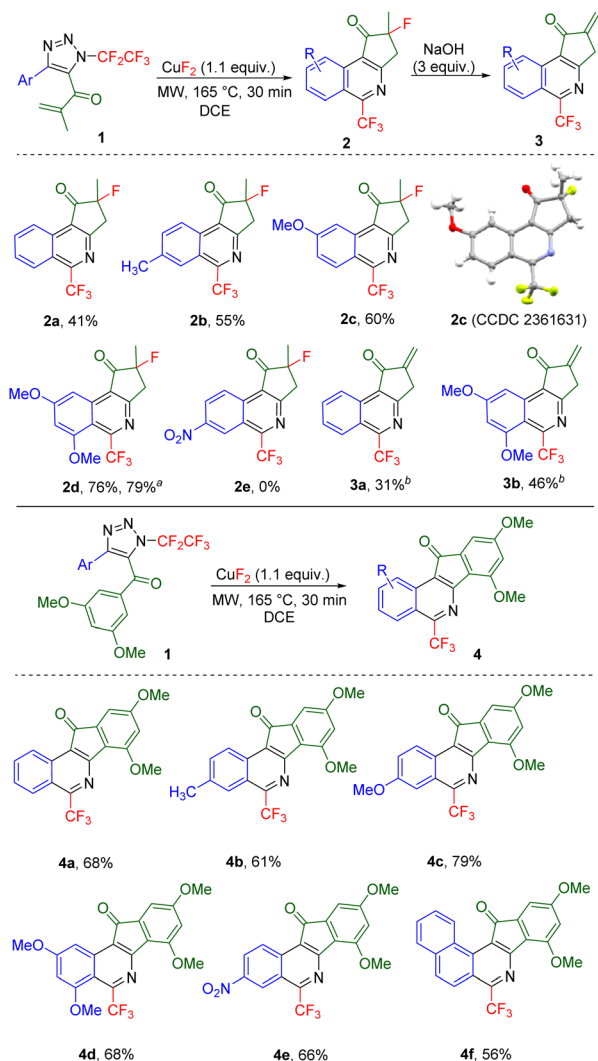
**Table 1** Optimization of the reaction conditions leading to cyclopenta[*c*]isoquinolines **2a** and **3a** from 5-acylated triazole **1a**



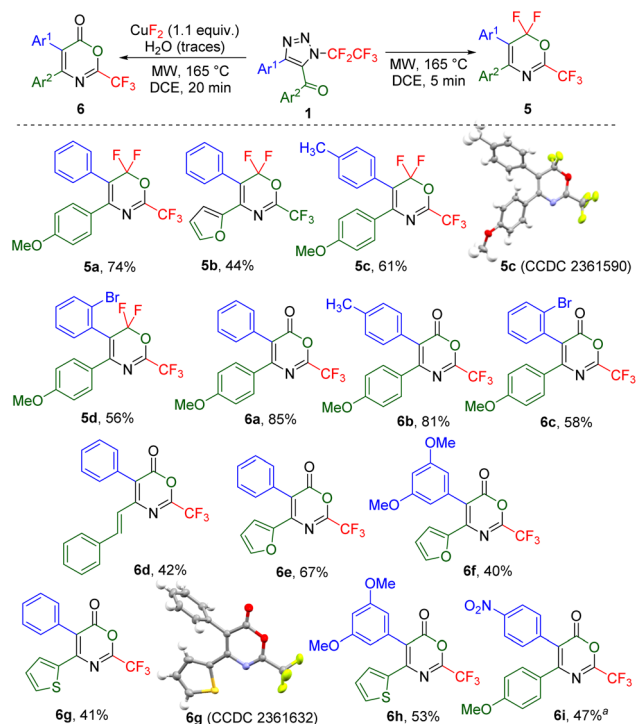
Entry	Time (min)	Additive	Ratio <b>2a</b> / <b>3a</b> <sup>a</sup>	<b>2a</b> Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)	<b>3a</b> Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)
1	120	—	48 : 52	n.d.	n.d.
2	60	KF	27 : 73	12	23
3	60	AlF <sub>3</sub>	37 : 63	n.d.	n.d.
4	60	CsF	42 : 58	n.d.	n.d.
5	60	AgF	78 : 22	42	10
6	60	NaF	54 : 46	n.d.	n.d.
7	60	FeF <sub>3</sub>	38 : 62	n.d.	n.d.
8	30	CuF <sub>2</sub>	84 : 16	41	12
9	30	KF <sup>c</sup>	13 : 87	Traces	31

<sup>a</sup> <sup>19</sup>F NMR ratio. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield. n.d. not determined. <sup>c</sup> With added NaOH (3 equiv.).





Scheme 2 Scope of products of the microwave-assisted transformation of 5-acyl-*N*-pentafluoroethylated 1,2,3-triazoles **1** (0.1–0.2 mmol) to cyclopenta[*c*]isoquinolines **2** and **3** or indeno[1,2-*c*]isoquinolines **4**. <sup>a</sup>2.11 mmol scale. <sup>b</sup>Using KF (1.1 equiv.) and NaOH (3 equiv.) instead of CuF<sub>2</sub>.



Scheme 3 Scope of products of the microwave-assisted transformation of 5-acyl-*N*-pentafluoroethyl-1,2,3-triazoles **1** (0.1–0.25 mmol) to 6,6-difluoro-1,3-oxazines **5** and 1,3-oxazin-6-ones **6**. <sup>a</sup>195 °C, 120 min.

## Conclusions

In conclusion, thermal denitrogenation of *N*-pentafluoroethylated 4-substituted-5-acyl-1,2,3-triazoles in the presence of copper(II) fluoride affords depending on the nature of 5-acyl substitution 1-trifluoromethylcyclopenta[*c*]isoquinolines, indeno[1,2-*c*]isoquinolines, 2-trifluoromethyl-6,6-difluoro-1,3-oxazines, or products of their hydrolysis 2-trifluoromethyl-1,3-oxazin-6-ones. All these compounds result from the formation of ketenimine intermediates which undergo either 1,3-fluorine shift, S<sub>E</sub>Ar and S<sub>N</sub>Ar sequence, or 1,3-aryl shift, 1,5-fluorine shift, cyclization and another 1,5-fluorine shift sequence. The

Table 2 Optimization of the reaction conditions leading to 6,6-difluoro-1,3-oxazine **5a** and 1,3-oxazinone **6a**

Entry	CuF <sub>2</sub> (equiv.)	Reaction time (min)	Ratio 5a/6a <sup>a</sup>	5a Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)	6a Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)
1	0	20	78 : 22	28	n.d.
2	0	5	92 : 8	60	n.d.
3	1.1	10	8 : 92	n.d.	39
4	1.1	20	1 : 99	n.d.	85

<sup>a</sup> <sup>19</sup>F NMR ratio. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield. n.d. not determined.



presented methodology showcases advanced cyclization of ketenimine intermediates generated from triazoles and their application in the C–C bond formation for the synthesis of new heterocyclic structures.

## Data availability

The data supporting this article have been included as part of the ESI.†

## Author contributions

PB supervised the project. LJ contributed to experiments and product characterization. BK solved the crystal structures. LJ and PB jointly conceived the project, prepared the manuscript, and contributed to discussions.

## Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

## Acknowledgements

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