Supporting Information

Fluoro-Julia Olefination as a Mild, High-Yielding Route to α -Fluoro Acrylonitriles

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GENERAL EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

THF was distilled over LiAlH₄ and then over sodium, and CH₂Cl₂ was distilled over CaCl₂. DMF and CH₃CN were obtained from commercial sources and were used without further purification. For reactions that were performed under a nitrogen atmosphere, glassware was flame dried under vacuum. Dry sodium hydride (95%) was used for the reactions, fluorinating reagent NFSI was obtained from Honeywell and fluorinating reagent Selectfluor was obtained from Air Products (both, NFSI and Selectfluor are commercially available). Ethyl (1,3-benzothiazol-2vlsulfanyl)acetate (**10**),¹ (1-phenyl-1*H*-tetrazol-5-ylsulfanyl)acetonitrile (**2b**),² (1-Boc-imidazole-4carboxaldehyde)³ and 1-Boc-indole-3-carboxaldehyde^{3,4} are known compounds and were synthesized as reported. Our syntheses of (1,3-benzothiazol-2-ylsulfanyl) acetonitrile $(2a)^5$ and ethyl (1,3-benzothiazol-2-ylsulfanyl)fluoroacetate $(\mathbf{8})^6$ described herein are minor modifications of reported literature procedures. All other reagents were obtained from commercial sources and used without further purification. Thin layer chromatography was performed on 250 µm silica plates and column chromatographic purifications were performed on 200-300 mesh silica gel. For products **25–27**, KMnO₄ stain⁷ was used for TLC detection. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded at 500 MHz in CDCl₃ and were referenced to residual CHCl₃ or to tetramethylsilane (TMS). ¹³C NMR spectrum of **4** was recorded at 125 MHz and was referenced to CDCl₃ (see page S15). ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded at 282 MHz using CFCl₃ as internal standard. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in parts per million and coupling constants (*J*) are in hertz.

(1,3-Benzothiazol-2-ylsulfanyl)acetonitrile (2a).⁵

To a solution of bromoacetonitrile (1, 1.00 g, 8.34 mmol, 1 molar equiv) in DMF (17.5 mL) at rt, the sodium salt of 2-mercapto-1,3-benzothiazole (2.05 g, 10.8 mmol, 1.3 molar equiv) was added and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 3 h (TLC showed complete consumption of the starting material). The reaction mixture was diluted with water and extracted with EtOAc (3x). The combined organic layer was thoroughly washed with water and brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using CH₂Cl₂ to yield **2a** as white solid (1.52 g, 89%). Mp (recrystallized from 10% EtOAc in hexanes) 78-79 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz): δ 7.94 (d, 1H, Ar-H, *J* = 8.2), 7.80 (d, 1H, Ar-H, *J* = 7.9), 7.47 (t, 1H, Ar-H, *J* = 7.6), 7.36 (t, 1H, Ar-H, *J* = 7.6), 4.20 (s, 2H, CH₂CN). HRMS (positive ion ESI): calcd. for C₉H₆N₂S₂Na⁺ (M⁺ + Na) 228.986461, found 228.985874.

Ethyl (1,3-Benzothiazol-2-ylsulfanyl)fluoroacetate (8) from Commercial Fluorinated Precursor 7.⁶

To a solution of ethyl bromofluoroacetate (**7**, 3.00 g, 16.2 mmol, 1 molar equiv) in DMF (40.0 mL) at rt, the sodium salt of 2-mercapto-1,3-benzothiazole (3.15 g, 16.6 mmol, 1.03 molar equiv) was added and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 1 h (TLC showed complete consumption of the starting material). The reaction mixture was diluted with water and extracted with EtOAc (3x). The combined organic layer was thoroughly washed with water and brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using CH₂Cl₂ to yield **8** as a clear thick pale yellow liquid (3.89 g, 88%). For characterization data please refer to synthesis of **8** via fluorination of **10** in the Experimental Section of the paper.

(1,3-Benzothiazol-2-ylsulfanyl)fluoroacetonitrile (6a).⁵

For analytical purposes, a small sample of crude **6a** was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, 50% ethyl acetate in hexanes). White solid, mp (recrystallized from 3% EtOAc in hexanes) 48-49 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz): δ 8.01 (d, 1H, Ar-H, *J* = 7.9), 7.85 (d, 1H, Ar-H, *J* = 7.9), 7.52 (t, 1H, Ar-H, *J* = 7.6), 7.43 (t, 1H, Ar-H, *J* = 7.6), 7.31 (d, 1H, CHF, ²*J*_{FH} = 49.4). ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz): δ -156.9 (d, ²*J*_{FH} = 48.8). HRMS (positive ion ESI): calcd. for C₉H₅FN₂S₂H⁺ (M⁺ + H) 224.995094, found 224.994774.

(1-Phenyl-1*H*-tetrazol-5-ylsulfanyl)fluoroacetonitrile (6b).²

A stirred solution of (1-phenyl-1*H*-tetrazol-5-ylsulfanyl)acetonitrile (**2b**, 0.600 g, 2.76 mmol,1 molar equiv) in dry toluene (24 mL), was cooled to -78 °C (dry-ice/*iso*-PrOH) and under nitrogen, *t*-BuLi (1.79 mL of a 1.7 M solution in pentane, 3.04 mmol, 1.1 molar equiv) was added to the reaction mixture. After 12 min solid NFSI (1.05 g, 3.32 mmol, 1.2 molar equiv) was added. The mixture was allowed to stir at -78 °C for 50 min, then warmed to rt and stirring was continued for an additional 1 h. Sat aq NH₄Cl was added to the mixture and the layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3x), and the combined organic layer was washed with sat aq NAHCO₃ and brine. The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The ¹H NMR of the crude reaction mixture showed the presence of starting **2b** and monofluoro derivative **6b**, and ¹⁹F NMR showed monofluoro **6b** and difluoro derivative. Purification of the crude reaction mixture by column chromatography (silica gel, eluted by CH₂Cl₂) afforded **6b** as a thick, pale-reddish liquid (0.294

g, 45%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz): δ 7.64-7.62 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 7.52-7.50 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.27 (d, 1H, CHF, ²*J*_{FH} = 48.8). ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz): δ -157.7 (d, ²*J*_{FH} = 47.0).

Compound	¹⁹ F NMR data (CDCI ₃)	Ionization method and
		HRMS data or lit. reference
<i>E</i> - and <i>Z</i> -12.	282 MHz: δ -122.5 (d, ³ J _{FH} =15.3, <i>E</i>	HRMS (positive ion APPI):
F	isomer), δ -122.1 (d, ${}^{3}J_{\text{FH}}$ = 36.6, Z	calcd. for $C_{13}H_8FN^+$ (M^+)
CN	isomer)	197.063529, found
		197.063385
<i>E</i> - and <i>Z</i> -13.	282 MHz: δ -121.9 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 35.2,	Lit. ref.: 8, 9
F	Z isomer), δ -122.6 (d, ${}^{3}J_{\text{FH}}$ = 17.6,	
ĊN	<i>E</i> isomer)	
<i>E</i> - and <i>Z</i> -14.	282 MHz: δ -126.2 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 36.6,	Lit. ref.: 9, 10
F	Z isomer), δ -127.1 (d, ${}^{3}J_{\text{FH}}$ = 18.3,	
MeO	<i>E</i> isomer)	
<i>E</i> - and <i>Z</i> -15.	282 MHz: δ -122.3 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 15.3,	HRMS (positive ion ESI):
OMe	<i>E</i> isomer), δ -124.11 (d, ${}^{3}J_{\text{FH}}$ = 36.6,	Exact mass of sodiated dimer
F	Z isomer)	calcd. for $(C_{10}H_8FNO)_2Na^+$ $(M_2^+)_2Na^+$
ĊN		+ Na) 377.107205, found
		377.107102
<i>E</i> - and <i>Z</i> -16.	282 MHz: δ -120.4 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 15.3,	HRMS (positive ion APPI):
Me	<i>E</i> isomer), δ -123.0 (d, ${}^{3}J_{\text{FH}}$ = 36.6,	calcd. for $C_{10}H_8FN^+$ (M ⁺)
- The second sec	Z isomer)	161.063529, found
CN CN		161.063284
<i>E</i> - and <i>Z</i> -17.	282 MHz: δ -115.3 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 15.3,	Lit. ref.: 10
F	<i>E</i> isomer), δ -115.7 (d, ${}^{3}J_{\text{FH}}$ = 33.6,	
O ₂ N CN	Z isomer)	
<i>E</i> - and <i>Z</i> -18.	282 MHz: δ -117.0 (d, ${}^{3}J_{\text{FH}}$ = 12.2,	Lit. ref.: 10
	<i>E</i> isomer), δ -120.1 (d, ${}^{3}J_{\text{FH}}$ = 30.5,	
	Z isomer)	

 Table 1.
 ¹⁹F NMR data and HRMS data (or lit. reference for known compounds) of 12–27.

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NO ₂ F CN		
<i>E</i> - and <i>Z</i> -19.	282 MHz:δ -118.8 (d. ³ J _{FH} = 15.3.	HRMS (EI): calcd. for
F	<i>E</i> isomer), δ -114.3 (s, Ar-F, <i>E</i>	$C_9H_5F_2N^+$ (M ⁺) 165.0390,
F	isomer), δ -119.8 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 36.6, Z	found 165.0402
ĊN	isomer), δ -114.7 (s, Ar-F, Z	
	isomer)	
<i>E</i> - and <i>Z</i> -20.	282 MHz: δ -122.8 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 29.4,	HRMS (positive ion APPI):
S	Z isomer), δ -129.0 (d, ${}^{3}J_{\text{FH}}$ = 11.7,	calcd. for $C_7H_4FNS^+$ (M ⁺)
CN CN	<i>E</i> isomer)	153.004299, found
		153.004145
<i>E</i> - and <i>Z</i> -21.	282 MHz: δ -117.9 (d, ${}^{3}J_{\text{FH}}$ = 33.6,	HRMS (positive ion ESI):
N F	Z isomer), δ -125.3 (d, ${}^{3}J_{\text{FH}}$ = 15.3,	calcd. for $C_{11}H_{12}FN_3O_2Na^+$ (M ⁺
	<i>E</i> isomer)	+ Na) 260.080576, found
0-10		260.080458
<i>E</i> - and <i>Z</i> -22.	282 MHz: δ -119.2 (d, ³ J _{FH} = 33.6,	HRMS (positive ion ESI):
	() 111)	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
	Z isomer), δ -125.9 (d, ${}^{3}J_{\text{FH}}$ = 12.2,	calcd. for $C_{16}H_{15}FN_2O_2Na^+$ (M ⁺
	<i>Z</i> isomer), δ -125.9 (d, ${}^{3}J_{\text{FH}}$ = 12.2, <i>E</i> isomer)	calcd. for $C_{16}H_{15}FN_2O_2Na^+$ (M ⁺ + Na) 309.100977, found
	Z isomer), δ -125.9 (d, ${}^{3}J_{\text{FH}}$ = 12.2, E isomer)	calcd. for $C_{16}H_{15}FN_2O_2Na^+$ (M ⁺ + Na) 309.100977, found 309.100939
	Z isomer), δ -125.9 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 12.2, E isomer)	calcd. for $C_{16}H_{15}FN_2O_2Na^+$ (M ⁺ + Na) 309.100977, found 309.100939
$ \begin{array}{c} $	<i>Z</i> isomer), δ -125.9 (d, ${}^{3}J_{\text{FH}}$ = 12.2, <i>E</i> isomer) 282 MHz: δ -128.5 (d, ${}^{3}J_{\text{FH}}$ = 35.2,	calcd. for C ₁₆ H ₁₅ FN ₂ O ₂ Na ⁺ (M ⁺ + Na) 309.100977, found 309.100939 HRMS (positive ion ESI):
F = and Z = 2a	Z isomer), δ -125.9 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 12.2, E isomer) 282 MHz: δ -128.5 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 35.2, Z isomer), δ -129.6 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 17.6,	calcd. for $C_{16}H_{15}FN_2O_2Na^+$ (M ⁺ + Na) 309.100977, found 309.100939 HRMS (positive ion ESI): calcd. for $C_{13}H_{10}FFeN^+$ (M ⁺)
F = and Z = Z	Z isomer), δ -125.9 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 12.2, <i>E</i> isomer) 282 MHz: δ -128.5 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 35.2, <i>Z</i> isomer), δ -129.6 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 17.6, <i>E</i> isomer)	calcd. for $C_{16}H_{15}FN_2O_2Na^+$ (M ⁺ + Na) 309.100977, found 309.100939 HRMS (positive ion ESI): calcd. for $C_{13}H_{10}FFeN^+$ (M ⁺) 255.014121, found
$\overrightarrow{F}_{Fe} (\overrightarrow{F}_{CN})$	Z isomer), δ -125.9 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 12.2, <i>E</i> isomer) 282 MHz: δ -128.5 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 35.2, <i>Z</i> isomer), δ -129.6 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 17.6, <i>E</i> isomer)	calcd. for $C_{16}H_{15}FN_2O_2Na^+$ (M ⁺ + Na) 309.100977, found 309.100939 HRMS (positive ion ESI): calcd. for $C_{13}H_{10}FFeN^+$ (M ⁺) 255.014121, found 255.014173
$\overrightarrow{F}_{Fe} (\overrightarrow{F}_{CN})$ \overrightarrow{F}_{CN} \overrightarrow{F}_{CN} $\overrightarrow{F}_{Fe} (\overrightarrow{F}_{CN})$ \overrightarrow{F}_{CN} \overrightarrow{F}_{CN} \overrightarrow{F}_{CN}	Z isomer), δ -125.9 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 12.2, <i>E</i> isomer) 282 MHz: δ -128.5 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 35.2, <i>Z</i> isomer), δ -129.6 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 17.6, <i>E</i> isomer) 282 MHz: δ -126.6 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 30.5,	calcd. for $C_{16}H_{15}FN_2O_2Na^+$ (M ⁺ + Na) 309.100977, found 309.100939 HRMS (positive ion ESI): calcd. for $C_{13}H_{10}FFeN^+$ (M ⁺) 255.014121, found 255.014173 Lit. ref.: 8, 9
F = and Z = Z $F = and Z = Z$ $F = CN$ $F = CN$ $F = CN$ $F = CN$	Z isomer), δ -125.9 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 12.2, <i>E</i> isomer) 282 MHz: δ -128.5 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 35.2, <i>Z</i> isomer), δ -129.6 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 17.6, <i>E</i> isomer) 282 MHz: δ -126.6 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 30.5, <i>Z</i> isomer), δ -127.7 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 12.2,	calcd. for $C_{16}H_{15}FN_2O_2Na^+$ (M ⁺ + Na) 309.100977, found 309.100939 HRMS (positive ion ESI): calcd. for $C_{13}H_{10}FFeN^+$ (M ⁺) 255.014121, found 255.014173 Lit. ref.: 8, 9
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F = and Z = Z = Z $F = and Z = Z = Z$	Z isomer), δ -125.9 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH} = 12.2$, <i>E</i> isomer) 282 MHz: δ -128.5 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH} = 35.2$, <i>Z</i> isomer), δ -129.6 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH} = 17.6$, <i>E</i> isomer) 282 MHz: δ -126.6 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH} = 30.5$, <i>Z</i> isomer), δ -127.7 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH} = 12.2$, <i>E</i> isomer) 282 MHz: δ -123.9 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH} = 11.8$, <i>E</i> isomer), δ -125.8 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH} = 35.2$,	calcd. for $C_{16}H_{15}FN_2O_2Na^+$ (M ⁺ + Na) 309.100977, found 309.100939 HRMS (positive ion ESI): calcd. for $C_{13}H_{10}FFeN^+$ (M ⁺) 255.014121, found 255.014173 Lit. ref.: 8, 9 HRMS (positive ion APPI): calcd. for $C_{10}H_{15}FN^+$ (M ⁺)
F = and Z = Z = Z $F = and Z = Z = Z$	Z isomer), δ -125.9 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH} = 12.2$, <i>E</i> isomer) 282 MHz: δ -128.5 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH} = 35.2$, <i>Z</i> isomer), δ -129.6 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH} = 17.6$, <i>E</i> isomer) 282 MHz: δ -126.6 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH} = 30.5$, <i>Z</i> isomer), δ -127.7 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH} = 12.2$, <i>E</i> isomer) 282 MHz: δ -123.9 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH} = 11.8$, <i>E</i> isomer), δ -125.8 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH} = 35.2$, <i>Z</i> isomer)	calcd. for $C_{16}H_{15}FN_2O_2Na^+$ (M ⁺ + Na) 309.100977, found 309.100939 HRMS (positive ion ESI): calcd. for $C_{13}H_{10}FFeN^+$ (M ⁺) 255.014121, found 255.014173 Lit. ref.: 8, 9 HRMS (positive ion APPI): calcd. for $C_{10}H_{15}FN^+$ (M ⁺) 168.118304, found

<i>E</i> - and <i>Z</i> -26.	282 MHz: δ -122.6 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 14.7,	Lit. ref.: 9
F	<i>E</i> isomer), δ -124.2 (d, ${}^{3}J_{\text{FH}}$ = 32.3,	
ĊN CN	Z isomer)	
<i>E</i> - and <i>Z</i> -27.	282 MHz: δ -122.8 (d, ${}^{3}J_{FH}$ = 15.3,	HRMS (EI): calcd. for
F	<i>E</i> isomer), δ -125.6 (d, ${}^{3}J_{\text{FH}}$ = 30.5,	$C_8H_{12}FN^+$ (M ⁺) 141.0954,
CN	Z isomer)	found 141.0955
		1

TLC Separation of *E*/*Z* Mixtures 12, 14, 16, 17, 21 and 26

- (E/Z)-12: SiO₂, 10% EtOAc in hexanes: R_f = 0.42; R_f = 0.49
- (*E*/*Z*)-**14**: SiO₂, 15% EtOAc in hexanes: $R_f = 0.38$; $R_f = 0.42$
- (E/Z)-**16**: SiO₂, hexanes: R_f = 0.17; R_f = 0.26
- (E/Z)-17: SiO₂, 25% EtOAc in hexanes: R_f = 0.64; R_f = 0.68
- (*E*/*Z*)-**21**: SiO₂, 25% EtOAc in hexanes: R_f = 0.23; R_f = 0.28
- (*E/Z*)-26: SiO₂, 10% EtOAc in hexanes: R_f = 0.44; R_f = 0.67

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Relar. delay 1.000 sec Pulse 45.0 degrees Acq. time 1.892 sec Width 10000.0 Hz 32 repetitions OBSERVE H1, 499.7707095 MHz DATA PROCESSING FT size 65536 Fotal time 1 min, 32 sec

















Pulse Sequence: s2pul Solvent: CDCL3 Ambient temperature Operator: barbara File: 1222-MS-04-318-pure INOVA-500 "riga"

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Relar, delay 4,000 sec Pulse 45.0 degrees Acq. time 1.892 sec Width 10000.0 Hz 12 repetitions OBSERVE H1, 499.7707226 MHz OBSERVE H1, 499.7707226 MHz DATA PROCESSING Line broadening 0.5 Hz FT size 65536 Fotal time 3 min, 8 sec



