



An efficient and highly stereoselective synthesis of novel trifluoromethylated *trans*-dihydrofuro[2,3-*c*]pyrazoles using arsonium ylides

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ABSTRACT

An efficient approach of highly stereoselective synthesis of novel trifluoromethylated *trans*-4,5-dihydrofuro[2,3-*c*]pyrazoles has been described. Arsonium bromides **1** reacted smoothly with the electron-deficient alkenes (*Z*)-4-aryl-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-5(4*H*)-ones **2** to give products *trans*-dihydrofuro[2,3-*c*]pyrazoles **3** with high stereoselectivity and in good to excellent yields, using CH₂Cl₂ as solvent and K₂CO₃ as base.

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1. Introduction

Pyrazoles, including their fluorinated derivatives, have demonstrated a broad spectrum of biological activities and represented an important structural class in pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals.^{1–4} Much work has been done on the design and the synthesis of complex pyrazoles, giving particular relevance to the functionalization of the scaffold in different regions⁵ and in particular, to the synthesis of ring-condensed structures.⁶ Indeed, the preparation of pyrazole-fused ring derivatives is very important and challenging from the synthetic point of view.

Dihydrofurans belong to an important class of compounds, which show a wide range of biological activities and form the core structure of many natural products.⁷ Among them, 2,3-dihydrofurans have gained importance as structural features of natural products, such as aflatoxins,⁸ natural germination inhibitor (+)-erigeronic acid A,⁹ monomers for the synthesis of biodegradable polymers (e.g., naturally occurring polyethers),¹⁰ and other useful synthetic intermediates.^{7c}

In the course of investigations concerning the exploitation of novel bioactive molecules, the usual design was to combine the known pharmacophore into a single molecule as a central scaffold.^{3,6} Therefore, the integration of a pyrazole ring with CF₃-group and a substituted dihydrofuran ring in one molecule could lead to the novel trifluoromethylated dihydrofuro[2,3-*c*]pyrazoles, which may show a modified biological activity. The literature survey showed that there are no reports of CF₃-substituted dihydrofuro[2,3-*c*]pyrazoles and their stereoselective synthesis. Furthermore, arsonium ylides are known to show their high reactivity and high diastereoselectivity in heterocycle and carbocycle synthesis in the reactions with the electron-deficient alkenes.¹¹ Thus, in our continuing efforts of synthesizing new fluorinated compounds with promising biological properties,¹² herein, we reported an efficient synthetic method for the synthesis of novel trifluoromethylated *trans*-4,5-dihydrofuro[2,3-*c*]pyrazoles **3** via the high stereoselective reaction of arsonium bromides **1** and the electron-deficient alkenes (*Z*)-4-aryl-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-5(4*H*)-ones **2** in CH₂Cl₂ under reflux, using K₂CO₃ as base (Scheme 1).

2. Results and discussion

Choosing an appropriate solvent is of crucial importance for the successful organic reactions. To search the optimal solvent, the

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method was used to further elucidate the structures of **3**. It was proved that the 3D perspective view of the crystal structure of **3Ac** was unequivocally the *trans*-isomer by X-ray crystallographic analysis (Fig. 1).¹⁴

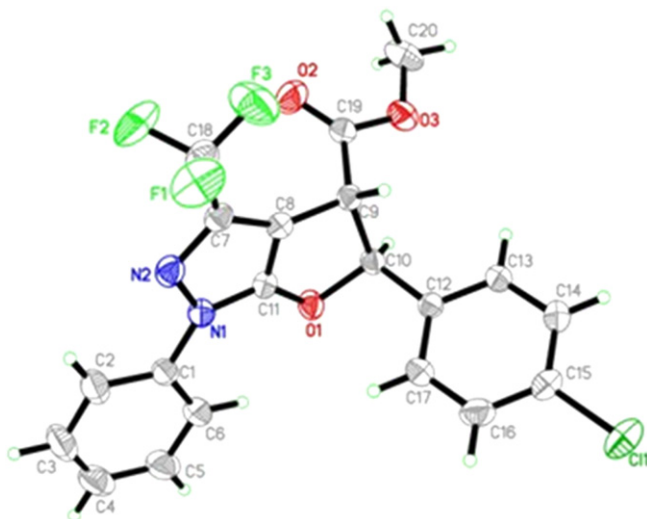


Fig. 1. X-ray structure of compound **3Ac**.

Based on the published results,^{15,16} a plausible mechanism of this reaction was hypothesized as shown in Scheme 2. Firstly, the Michael addition of arsonium ylide **4**, derived from arsonium salt **1** with K_2CO_3 as base, to compound **2**, can potentially lead to two possible intermediates **5** or **6**. Due to the steric repulsion between two bulky groups (R and Ar) in the intermediate of **5**, the intermediate **6** should be more stable and favored. However, the size of R group could still influence the stability of the intermediate **6**. The bigger size of R group could lead to the more intense repulsion between R and CF_3 -group in the conformation of **6**. As a result, arsonium bromide **1** with small R group as methyl or methoxy gave the higher yield in shorter time as shown in Table 2. The intramolecular ring closure of the intermediate **6** provided transient *trans*-cyclopropane **7** as a typical donor–acceptor cyclopropane.¹⁵ The donor group Ar served to stabilize the partial positive charge on zwitterion **8** that was created as the C_1 – C_2 bond cleavage of **7**. Subsequently, the oxygen anion in intermediate **9**, formed through enolation of **8**, attacked the carbon cation stereoselectively to give the final cyclized product *trans*-isomer **3**. *cis*-Isomer was not obtained due to the repulsion interaction between R and Ar groups, which are both situated on the same side of the dihydrofuran ring in the structure of **11**. Furthermore, the reason that compound **2** more readily underwent reaction when R_1 or R_2 was the electron-withdrawing group was attributed to that the carbon cation in zwitterion **8** was more electrophilic and thus showed higher activity owing to the electron-withdrawing effect.

3. Conclusion

In summary, an efficient method for the stereoselective synthesis of new CF_3 -substituted *trans*-dihydrofuro[2,3-*c*]pyrazoles was first developed. This protocol provided a new avenue for developing pyrazole-fused derivatives. The best result was obtained with arsonium bromides, (*Z*)-4-aryl-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-5(4*H*)-ones, K_2CO_3 base, and DCM solvent under reflux. A possible reaction pathway is proposed, which proceeds through a tandem Michael addition, cyclopropanation, the opening of three-membered ring, and stereoselective cyclization.

4. Experimental

4.1. General information

All reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial sources and used without further purification, except that arsonium bromides **1**^{13c} and (*Z*)-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-5(4*H*)-one derivatives **2**¹⁷ were prepared according to the known literature. Melting points were recorded on a WRS-1 instrument and uncorrected. 1H , ^{19}F , and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DRX-500 MHz spectrometer. All chemical shifts are reported in parts per million downfield (positive) of the standard: C_6F_6 for ^{19}F , TMS for 1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra. IR spectra were obtained on an AVATAR370 FT-IR spectrometer. Elemental analysis was performed on an Elementar Vario EL-III instrument. LRMS was run on an Agilent LC/MSD SL mass spectrometer. HRMS was run on an APEXIII 7.0 TESLA FTMS mass spectrometer. X-ray analysis was performed on a Bruker Smart Apex2 CCD spectrometer. Compounds previously described in the literature were characterized by comparing their 1H NMR spectra to the published data. All yields reported in this publication refer to isolated ones of compounds and their purity was determined by 1H NMR.

4.2. General procedure for preparation of compound **2**

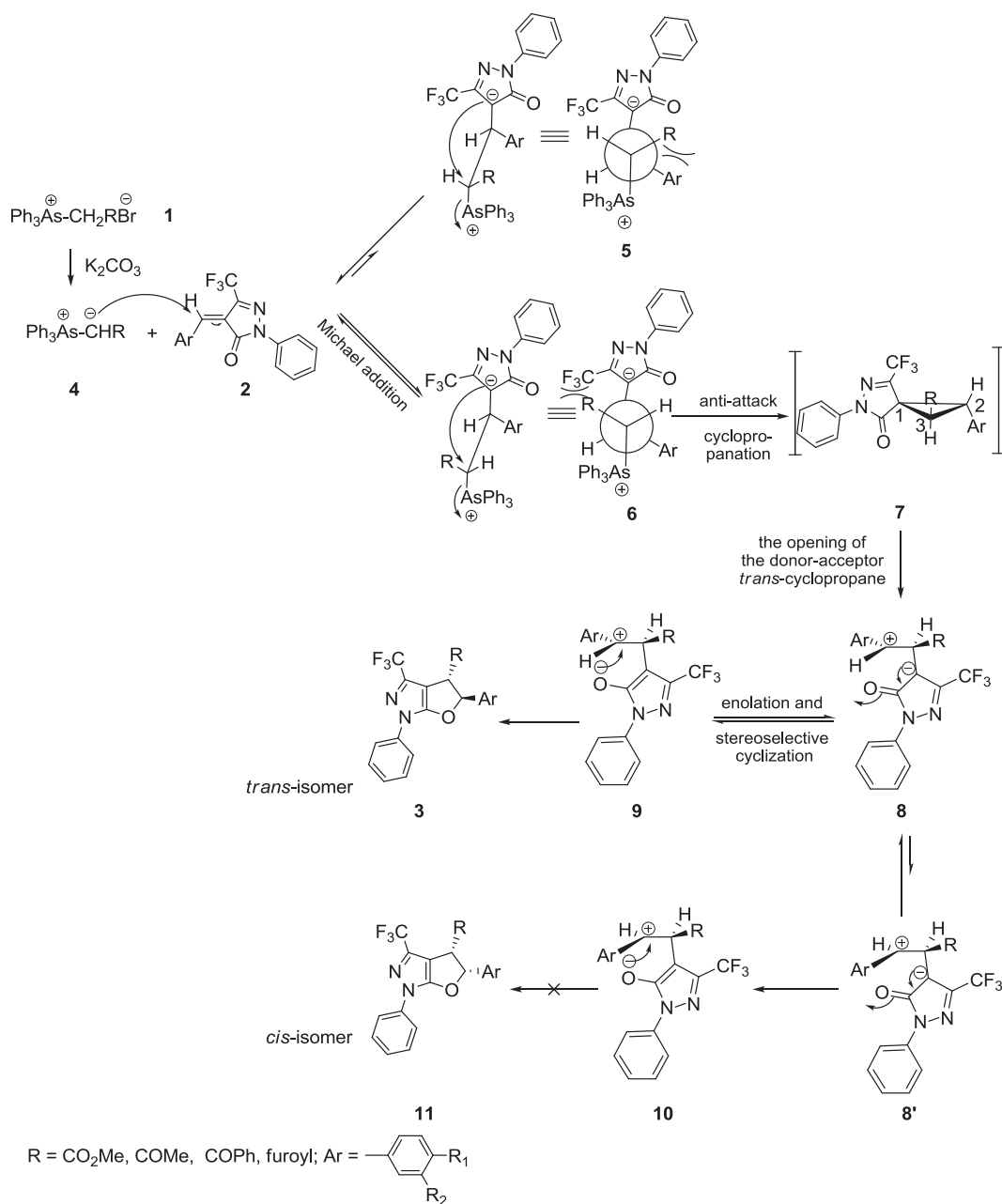
Ethyl 4,4,4-trifluoroacetoacetate 9.20 g (0.05 mol) and phenylhydrazine 5.40 g (0.05 mol) were mixed and refluxed in AcOH (30 mL) for 6 h. Then the mixture was cooled to room temperature. After filtration, the residue was recrystallized from ethanol to give the pure 1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyrazolin-5-one 10.23 g, yield 90%.

Aromatic aldehyde (0.012 mol) and 1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyrazolin-5-one 2.28 g (0.010 mol) were heated in an oil-bath at 160–170 °C for 4–6 h. The reaction mixture was cooled, triturated in ethyl ether (20 mL) and filtered off. The colored filter cake was recrystallized to afford the corresponding (*Z*)-4-aryl-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-5(4*H*)-ones **2** as colored crystals. The *Z* configuration of compound **2** was confirmed by single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis.¹⁴

4.2.1. (*Z*)-4-(4-Methylbenzylidene)-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-5(4*H*)-one (2a**).** Red solid; yield: 67%; mp: 156.3–157.8 °C; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 2.47 (s, 3H), 7.27–7.29 (m, 1H), 7.35 (d, $J=8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.44–7.47 (m, 2H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.91 (d, $J=8.0$ Hz, 2H), 8.46 (d, $J=8.0$ Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : –63.37 (s, CF_3) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 161.2, 150.2, 146.6, 140.8 (q, $^2J_{C-F}=37.5$ Hz), 137.6, 135.0, 130.2, 129.9, 129.0, 126.1, 120.4, 119.9 (q, $^1J_{C-F}=270.0$ Hz), 119.8, 22.1 ppm; IR (KBr): ν 3042, 1693, 1589, 1547, 1497, 1432, 1334, 1317, 1178, 1128, 1113, 959, 817, 754 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z (%): 331 (M^+); Anal. Calcd for $C_{18}H_{13}F_3N_2O$: C 65.45; H 3.97; found: C 65.50; H 3.90.

4.2.2. (*Z*)-4-Benzylidene-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-5(4*H*)-one (2b**).** Red solid; yield: 59%; mp: 132.1–133.9 °C; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 7.26–7.30 (m, 1H), 7.44–7.47 (m, 2H), 7.54–7.57 (m, 2H), 7.62–7.65 (m, 1H), 7.77 (s, 1H), 7.91 (d, $J=7.5$ Hz, 2H), 8.53 (d, $J=7.5$ Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : –63.45 (s, CF_3) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 161.1, 150.7, 140.8 (q, $^2J_{C-F}=37.5$ Hz), 137.5, 134.6, 132.5, 129.0, 127.9, 126.3, 123.1, 121.5, 120.0 (q, $^1J_{C-F}=262.5$ Hz), 119.9 ppm; IR (KBr): ν 1699, 1608, 1596, 1499, 1433, 1319, 1176, 1149, 1118, 959, 753, 688 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z (%): 317 (M^+); Anal. Calcd for $C_{17}H_{11}F_3N_2O$: C 54.56; H 3.51; found: C 54.61; H 3.57.

4.2.3. (*Z*)-4-(4-Chlorobenzylidene)-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-5(4*H*)-one (2c**).** Red solid; yield: 78%; mp: 166.8–167.9 °C (lit.¹⁷: 166.0–167.0 °C); 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$):



Scheme 2. Proposed mechanism for the formation of product **3**.

δ 7.27–7.30 (m, 1H), 7.44–7.51 (m, 4H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, $J=7.5$ Hz, 2H), 8.49 (d, $J=8.5$ Hz, 2H) ppm.

4.2.4. (Z)-4-(4-Bromobenzylidene)-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-5(4H)-one (2d). Red solid; yield: 80%; mp: 177.7–179.0 °C (lit.¹⁷: 157.0–159.0 °C); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.27–7.30 (m, 1H), 7.44–7.47 (m, 2H), 7.66–7.68 (m, 3H), 7.88 (d, $J=7.5$ Hz, 2H), 8.40 (d, $J=8.5$ Hz, 2H) ppm.

4.2.5. (Z)-4-(4-Fluorobenzylidene)-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-5(4H)-one (2e). Red solid; yield: 48%; mp: 112.4–113.7 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.21 (m, 2H), 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.90 (d, $J=8.0$ Hz, 2H), 8.60–8.62 (m, 2H) ppm; ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ : -63.46 (s, CF₃), -100.09 (m, Ar-F) ppm; ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ : 166.3 (d, ¹ $J_{\text{C-F}}=250.0$ Hz), 161.1, 148.9, 140.4 (q, ² $J_{\text{C-F}}=37.5$ Hz), 137.6, 137.4, 129.0, 126.3, 121.4 (q,

¹ $J_{\text{C-F}}=275.0$ Hz), 119.8, 118.7, 116.4 (d, ² $J_{\text{C-F}}=21.2$ Hz) ppm; IR (KBr): ν 1698, 1596, 1556, 1498, 1434, 1322, 1245, 1174, 1162, 1137, 1119, 1096, 961, 850, 753 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z (%): 334 (M⁺); Anal. Calcd for C₁₇H₁₀F₄N₂O: C 61.08; H 3.02; found: C 61.10; H 3.05.

4.2.6. (Z)-4-(3-Chlorobenzylidene)-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-5(4H)-one (2f). Red solid; yield: 43%; mp: 163.3–164.9 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.24–7.28 (m, 1H), 7.42–7.49 (m, 4H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.86–7.88 (m, 2H), 8.46–8.78 (m, 2H) ppm; ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ : -63.58 (s, CF₃) ppm; ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ : 161.0, 148.8, 140.5 (q, ² $J_{\text{C-F}}=37.5$ Hz), 137.3, 135.7, 132.3, 131.2, 130.1, 129.0, 126.4, 121.9, 120.0 (q, ¹ $J_{\text{C-F}}=275.0$ Hz), 119.9, 118.6 ppm; IR (KBr): ν 1700, 1610, 1590, 1570, 1489, 1431, 1305, 1252, 1200, 1149, 1004, 965, 876, 754 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z (%): 350 (M⁺); Anal. Calcd for C₁₇H₁₀ClF₃N₂O: C 58.22; H 2.87; found: C 58.24; H 2.88.

4.3. General procedure for preparation of compound 3

To 5 mL DCM, arsonium bromide **1** (1.8 mmol), (*Z*)-4-aryl-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-5(4*H*)-one derivative **2** (1.0 mmol), and K_2CO_3 (2.0 mmol) were added. The mixture was stirred under reflux. After the completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC), the solid was filtered off and the filtrate was concentrated by a rotary evaporator. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel, using petroleum ether (60–90 °C)/ethyl acetate as eluent to give the desired product **3**.

4.3.1. trans-Methyl 1-phenyl-5-*p*-tolyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-furo[2,3-*c*]pyrazole-4-carboxylate (3Aa). White solid; yield: 78%; mp: 76.3–77.9 °C; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 2.38 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 4.31 (d, $J=6.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, $J=6.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.23–7.45 (m, 7H), 7.80 (d, $J=8.0$ Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ –62.80 (s, CF_3) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 170.7, 160.0, 140.0, 137.4, 136.2 (q, $^2J_{C-F}=38.8$ Hz), 135.2, 130.0, 126.1, 129.4, 127.0, 125.9, 122.7 (q, $^1J_{C-F}=267.5$ Hz), 119.6, 100.1, 52.9, 51.0, 21.3 ppm; IR (KBr): ν 2950, 2938, 1734, 1601, 1543, 1523, 1485, 1457, 1407, 1250, 1220, 1176, 1127, 943, 805, 754 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z (%): 402 (M^+); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{21}H_{17}F_3N_2O_3$ [($M+Na$) $^+$]: 425.1099; found: 425.1084.

4.3.2. trans-Methyl 1,5-diphenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-furo[2,3-*c*]pyrazole-4-carboxylate (3Ab). White solid; yield: 82%; mp: 70.1–70.7 °C; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 3.84 (s, 3H), 4.33 (d, $J=6.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, $J=6.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.28–7.31 (m, 1H), 7.47–7.46 (m, 7H), 7.81–7.83 (m, 2H) ppm; ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ –62.80 (s, CF_3) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 170.6, 160.0, 138.3, 137.3, 136.2 (q, $^2J_{C-F}=38.8$ Hz), 129.5, 129.2, 127.0, 125.8, 121.3 (q, $^1J_{C-F}=267.5$ Hz), 119.6, 100.0, 52.9, 51.0 ppm; IR (KBr): ν 2958, 2941, 1730, 1601, 1545, 1486, 1459, 1408, 1253, 1180, 1126, 948, 832, 753 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z (%): 388 (M^+); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{20}H_{15}F_3N_2O_3$ [($M+Na$) $^+$]: 411.0944; found: 411.0927.

4.3.3. trans-Methyl 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-furo[2,3-*c*]pyrazole-4-carboxylate (3Ac). White solid; yield: 81%; mp: 93.7–94.4 °C; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 3.86 (s, 3H), 4.28 (d, $J=6.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, $J=6.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.31–7.49 (m, 7H), 7.81 (d, $J=7.5$ Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ –62.85 (s, CF_3) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 170.4, 160.0, 137.2, 136.8, 136.2 (q, $^2J_{C-F}=38.8$ Hz), 129.5, 127.2, 120.6 (q, $^1J_{C-F}=267.5$ Hz), 118.8, 98.9, 53.2, 51.0 ppm; IR (KBr): ν 2956, 1724, 1603, 1543, 1489, 1459, 1409, 1251, 1178, 1137, 1126, 1091, 951, 809, 756 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z (%): 422 (M^+); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{20}H_{14}ClF_3N_2O_3$ [($M+Na$) $^+$]: 445.0551; found: 445.0547.

4.3.4. trans-Methyl 5-(4-bromophenyl)-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-furo[2,3-*c*]pyrazole-4-carboxylate (3Ad). White solid; yield: 85%; mp: 96.5–97.0 °C; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 3.83 (s, 3H), 4.25 (d, $J=6.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, $J=6.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.26–7.32 (m, 3H), 7.43–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.56 (d, $J=8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.78 (d, $J=7.5$ Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ –62.84 (s, CF_3) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 170.4, 159.5, 137.2, 136.2 (q, $^2J_{C-F}=38.8$ Hz), 132.3, 129.5, 127.4, 127.1, 123.7, 120.4 (q, $^1J_{C-F}=267.5$ Hz), 98.9, 53.0, 50.9 ppm; IR (KBr): ν 2956, 1725, 1602, 1543, 1488, 1459, 1250, 1178, 1138, 1126, 1111, 950, 834, 757 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z (%): 466 (M^+); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{20}H_{14}BrF_3N_2O_3$ [($M+Na$) $^+$]: 489.0015; found: 489.0032.

4.3.5. trans-Methyl 5-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-furo[2,3-*c*]pyrazole-4-carboxylate (3Ae). White solid; yield: 84%; mp: 93.0–94.3 °C; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 3.83 (s, 3H), 4.31 (d, $J=6.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, $J=6.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.15 (m, 2H), 7.30–7.36 (m, 1H), 7.44–7.48 (m, 4H), 7.81–7.83 (m, 2H) ppm; ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ –62.84 (s, CF_3), –111.43 (m, Ar–F) ppm;

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 170.4, 163.2 (d, $^1J_{C-F}=247.5$ Hz), 159.5, 137.3, 136.2 (q, $^2J_{C-F}=38.8$ Hz), 134.2, 129.5, 127.4, 127.0, 120.6 (q, $^1J_{C-F}=267.5$ Hz), 118.7, 116.0, 99.2, 53.0, 51.0 ppm; IR (KBr): ν 2964, 1727, 1601, 1545, 1512, 1485, 1456, 1408, 1253, 1223, 1180, 1130, 1039, 950, 840, 756 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z (%): 406 (M^+); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{20}H_{14}F_4N_2O_3$ [($M+Na$) $^+$]: 429.0825; found: 429.0833.

4.3.6. trans-Methyl 5-(3-chlorophenyl)-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-furo[2,3-*c*]pyrazole-4-carboxylate (3Af). White solid; yield: 80%; mp: 94.5–95.6 °C; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 3.85 (s, 3H), 4.27 (d, $J=6.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, $J=6.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.29–7.47 (m, 7H), 7.80 (d, $J=7.5$ Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ –62.84 (s, CF_3) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 170.3, 159.5, 140.2, 137.2, 136.2 (q, $^2J_{C-F}=38.8$ Hz), 135.1, 130.5, 129.5, 127.1, 125.8, 123.8, 120.6 (q, $^1J_{C-F}=267.5$ Hz), 118.8, 98.6, 53.0, 51.0 ppm; IR (KBr): ν 2955, 1742, 1600, 1542, 1486, 1457, 1408, 1261, 1209, 1178, 1132, 1042, 950, 788, 759 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z (%): 422 (M^+); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{20}H_{14}ClF_3N_2O_3$ [($M+Na$) $^+$]: 445.0551; found: 445.0547.

4.3.7. (trans-1-Phenyl-5-*p*-tolyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-furo[2,3-*c*]pyrazole-4-yl)ethanone (3Ba). White solid; yield: 80%; mp: 95.9–96.5 °C; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 2.36 (s, 3H, CH_3), 2.37 (s, 3H), 4.32 (d, $J=5.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, $J=5.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.21–7.30 (m, 5H), 7.42–7.45 (m, 2H), 7.80 (d, $J=7.5$ Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ –61.78 (s, CF_3) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 203.8, 160.0, 139.6, 137.3, 135.7 (q, $^2J_{C-F}=40.0$ Hz), 135.5, 129.8, 129.4, 127.0, 125.8, 120.8 (q, $^1J_{C-F}=267.5$ Hz), 118.8, 99.3, 58.5, 28.8, 21.3 ppm; IR (KBr): ν 2937, 2922, 1709, 1601, 1540, 1484, 1457, 1407, 1273, 1179, 1113, 1040, 950, 810, 754 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z (%): 386 (M^+); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{21}H_{17}F_3N_2O_2$ [($M+Na$) $^+$]: 409.1123; found: 409.1135.

4.3.8. (trans-1,5-Diphenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-furo[2,3-*c*]pyrazole-4-yl)ethanone (3Bb). White solid; yield: 83%; mp: 97.2–97.7 °C; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 2.39 (s, 3H), 4.34 (d, $J=5.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, $J=5.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.29–7.31 (m, 1H), 7.39–7.46 (m, 7H), 7.82 (d, $J=8.5$ Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ –61.71 (s, CF_3) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 203.7, 160.0, 138.5, 137.3, 135.7 (q, $^2J_{C-F}=38.8$ Hz), 129.5, 129.2, 127.1, 125.6, 120.8 (q, $^1J_{C-F}=267.5$ Hz), 118.8, 99.0, 58.6, 28.8 ppm; IR (KBr): ν 2910, 1718, 1598, 1552, 1488, 1453, 1400, 1271, 1186, 1125, 1041, 947, 765, 699 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z (%): 372 (M^+); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{20}H_{15}F_3N_2O_2$ [($M+Na$) $^+$]: 395.0972; found: 395.0978.

4.3.9. (trans-5-(4-Chlorophenyl)-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-furo[2,3-*c*]pyrazole-4-yl)ethanone (3Bc). White solid; yield: 82%; mp: 111.0–113.0 °C; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 2.39 (s, 3H), 4.27 (d, $J=5.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, $J=5.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.29–7.32 (m, 3H), 7.38 (d, $J=8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.43–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.80 (d, $J=8.0$ Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ –61.68 (s, CF_3) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 203.4, 160.0, 137.2, 137.0, 135.7 (q, $^2J_{C-F}=38.8$ Hz), 135.3, 129.5, 129.4, 127.2, 127.1, 120.7 (q, $^1J_{C-F}=267.5$ Hz), 118.8, 98.0, 58.6, 28.7 ppm; IR (KBr): ν 2931, 1714, 1600, 1543, 1492, 1458, 1405, 1273, 1185, 1116, 1089, 961, 819, 758 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z (%): 406 (M^+); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{20}H_{14}ClF_3N_2O_2$ [($M+Na$) $^+$]: 429.0591; found: 429.0588.

4.3.10. (trans-5-(4-Bromophenyl)-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-furo[2,3-*c*]pyrazole-4-yl)ethanone (3Bd). White solid; yield: 89%; mp: 112.7–113.1 °C; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 2.41 (s, 3H), 4.27 (d, $J=5.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, $J=5.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.26–7.35 (m, 3H), 7.46–7.49 (m, 2H), 7.57 (d, $J=8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.82 (d, $J=8.0$ Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ –61.68 (s, CF_3) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 203.4, 160.0, 137.5, 137.2, 135.7 (q, $^2J_{C-F}=38.8$ Hz), 132.4, 129.5, 127.3, 127.2, 123.5, 120.7 (q, $^1J_{C-F}=267.5$ Hz), 118.8, 98.0, 58.5, 28.8 ppm; IR (KBr): ν 2921, 1707,

1600, 1540, 1487, 1458, 1406, 1269, 1242, 1193, 1125, 1040, 960, 805, 755 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z (%): 450 (M^+); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrF}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ [($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$]: 473.0078; found: 473.0083.

4.3.11. (*trans*-5-(4-Fluorophenyl)-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-furo[2,3-*c*]pyrazol-4-yl)ethanone (**3Be**). White solid; yield: 85%; mp: 117.1–119.3 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.38 (s, 3H), 4.28 (d, $J=5.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, $J=5.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.08–7.12 (m, 2H), 7.29–7.46 (m, 5H), 7.79 (d, $J=7.5$ Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -61.68 (s, CF_3), -111.43 (m, Ar-F) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 203.5, 163.2 (d, $^1J_{\text{C-F}}=247.5$ Hz), 159.8, 137.2, 135.7 (q, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}=38.8$ Hz), 134.4, 129.5, 127.7, 127.2, 120.0 (q, $^1J_{\text{C-F}}=267.5$ Hz), 118.8, 116.3, 98.3, 58.6, 28.8 ppm; IR (KBr): ν 2922, 1714, 1602, 1536, 1512, 1483, 1456, 1408, 1271, 1244, 1181, 1133, 1109, 1039, 960, 835, 757 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z (%): 390 (M^+); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{14}\text{F}_4\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ [($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$]: 413.0877; found: 413.0884.

4.3.12. (*trans*-1-Phenyl-5-*p*-tolyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-furo[2,3-*c*]pyrazol-4-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**3Ca**). Yellow oil; yield: 73%; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.41 (s, 3H), 5.32 (d, $J=6.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.78 (d, $J=6.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.26–7.34 (m, 5H), 7.44–7.51 (m, 4H), 7.65 (m, 1H), 7.83 (d, $J=7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.93 (d, $J=7.5$ Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -61.75 (s, CF_3) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 193.8, 150.4, 138.2 (q, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}=38.8$ Hz), 137.5, 137.2, 135.4, 134.1, 133.1, 132.2, 129.4, 129.1, 129.0, 128.8, 128.3, 127.3, 121.5, 121.1 (q, $^1J_{\text{C-F}}=267.5$ Hz), 96.2, 53.2, 20.9 ppm; IR (KBr): ν 2923, 1702, 1682, 1597, 1513, 1480, 1456, 1449, 1218, 1135, 1019, 974, 808, 761 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z (%): 448 (M^+); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{19}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ [($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$]: 471.1298; found: 471.1278.

4.3.13. (*trans*-1,5-Diphenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-furo[2,3-*c*]pyrazol-4-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**3Cb**). Yellow oil; yield: 75%; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 5.34 (d, $J=6.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d, $J=6.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.30–7.34 (m, 1H), 7.44–7.52 (m, 9H), 7.66 (m, 1H), 7.85 (m, 2H), 7.95 (m, 2H) ppm; ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -62.16 (s, CF_3) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 196.2, 160.3, 138.4, 137.4, 135.8 (q, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}=38.8$ Hz), 135.5, 134.2, 129.7, 129.4, 129.3, 129.0, 128.9, 127.0, 126.0, 120.5 (q, $^1J_{\text{C-F}}=267.5$ Hz), 118.9, 100.8, 53.2 ppm; MS (EI) m/z (%): 434 (M^+); IR (KBr): ν 1685, 1598, 1579, 1541, 1524, 1454, 1407, 1272, 1219, 1172, 1136, 1041, 1007, 760 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{17}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ [($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$]: 457.1134; found: 457.1134.

4.3.14. (*trans*-5-(4-Chlorophenyl)-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-furo[2,3-*c*]pyrazol-4-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**3Cc**). Yellow oil; yield: 76%; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 5.28 (d, $J=6.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, $J=6.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.31–7.38 (m, 3H), 7.43–7.53 (m, 6H), 7.67 (m, 1H), 7.82 (d, $J=7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.94 (d, $J=7.8$ Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -62.17 (s, CF_3) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 195.9, 160.0, 143.3, 138.0, 137.2 (q, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}=38.8$ Hz), 136.4, 135.5, 135.4, 134.4, 133.4, 133.0, 129.6, 129.3, 128.7, 128.5, 127.4, 122.4, 120.4 (q, $^1J_{\text{C-F}}=267.5$ Hz), 118.8, 99.8, 53.1 ppm; IR (KBr): ν 1685, 1671, 1597, 1481, 1456, 1448, 1215, 1133, 1013, 965, 824, 757 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z (%): 468 (M^+); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{16}\text{ClF}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ [($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$]: 491.0751; found: 491.0747.

4.3.15. (*trans*-5-(4-Bromophenyl)-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-furo[2,3-*c*]pyrazol-4-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**3Cd**). Yellow oil; yield: 80%; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 5.28 (d, $J=6.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, $J=6.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.29–7.34 (m, 3H), 7.46–7.53 (m, 5H), 7.58–7.60 (m, 1H), 7.65–7.68 (m, 1H), 7.83 (d, $J=7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.94 (d, $J=7.5$ Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -62.15 (s, CF_3) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 195.9, 160.0, 137.4, 137.3, 135.6, 135.2 (q, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}=38.8$ Hz), 134.4, 132.4, 129.5, 129.0, 127.6, 127.1, 123.7, 120.3 (q, $^1J_{\text{C-F}}=267.5$ Hz), 118.9, 99.8, 53.1 ppm; IR (KBr): ν 1681, 1658, 1605, 1542, 1485, 1457, 1446, 1265, 1219, 1120, 1009, 979, 819,

757 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z (%): 512 (M^+); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{16}\text{BrF}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ [($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$]: 535.0245; found: 535.0238.

4.3.16. (*trans*-5-(3-Chlorophenyl)-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-furo[2,3-*c*]pyrazol-4-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**3Cf**). Yellow oil; yield: 73%; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 5.27 (d, $J=6.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, $J=6.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.24–7.51 (m, 9H), 7.63–7.65 (m, 1H), 7.81 (d, $J=7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.94 (d, $J=7.4$ Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -62.17 (s, CF_3) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 196.0, 160.0, 143.3, 138.0, 137.2, 136.3 (q, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}=38.8$ Hz), 135.6, 135.4, 134.3, 133.4, 133.0, 129.6, 129.3, 128.7, 128.5, 127.4, 122.4, 120.4 (q, CF_3 , $^1J_{\text{C-F}}=267.5$ Hz), 118.8, 99.8, 53.1 ppm; IR (KBr): ν 1697, 1598, 1541, 1484, 1456, 1384, 1230, 1180, 1121, 1040, 950, 904, 757 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z (%): 468 (M^+); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{16}\text{ClF}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ [($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$]: 491.0751; found: 491.0747.

4.3.17. *trans*-(Furan-2-yl)(5-(*p*-tolyl)-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-furo[2,3-*c*]pyrazol-4-yl)methanone (**3Da**). Colorless oil; yield: 70%; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.38 (s, 3H), 5.11 (d, $J=6.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.58–6.59 (m, 1H), 6.82 (d, $J=6.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.22–7.32 (m, 6H), 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.80 (d, $J=8.0$ Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): -62.83 (s, CF_3) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): 184.4, 160.2, 151.5, 147.8, 139.7, 137.4, 135.7 (q, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}=38.8$ Hz), 135.4, 129.8, 129.3, 126.9, 126.1, 120.5 (q, $^1J_{\text{C-F}}=267.5$ Hz), 119.4, 118.9, 113.0, 100.2, 53.5, 21.3 ppm; IR (KBr): ν 2923, 1679, 1600, 1568, 1542, 1489, 1461, 1406, 1269, 1183, 1123, 1041, 1022, 814, 758 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z (%): 438 (M^+); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{17}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ [($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$]: 461.1089; found: 461.1077.

4.3.18. *trans*-(Furan-2-yl)(5-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-furo[2,3-*c*]pyrazol-4-yl)methanone (**3Dc**). Yellow oil; yield: 82%; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 5.07 (d, $J=6.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, $J=6.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.14–7.16 (m, 1H), 7.28–7.46 (m, 7H), 7.66–7.67 (m, 1H), 7.76–7.81 (m, 3H) ppm; ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -62.25 (s, CF_3) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 188.5, 160.2, 142.5, 137.3, 136.8, 136.4, 135.8 (q, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}=38.8$ Hz), 135.6, 133.8, 129.5, 128.7, 127.5, 127.2, 123.7, 120.5 (q, $^1J_{\text{C-F}}=267.5$ Hz), 118.9, 100, 54.6 ppm; IR (KBr): ν 1661, 1600, 1542, 1486, 1457, 1411, 1268, 1218, 1192, 1123, 1041, 969, 861, 762 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z (%): 458 (M^+); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClF}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ [($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$]: 481.0527; found: 481.0537.

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Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at doi:10.1016/j.tet.2012.01.030. These data include MOL files and InChIKeys of the most important compounds described in this article.

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14. CCDC-822551 (**3Ac**) and CCDC-797937 (**2a**) contain all crystallographic details of this publication and are available free of charge at or can be ordered from the following address: Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, GB-Cambridge CB21EZ; fax: +44 1223 336 033; or deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk. Unit cell parameters (**3Ac**): *a*: 7.935(2) Å; *b*: 15.050(4) Å; *c*: 16.356(4) Å; α : 90.000; β : 103.254(3); γ : 90.000; space group: *P2(1)/c*. Unit cell parameters (**2a**): *a*: 21.66(3) Å; *b*: 9.463(15) Å; *c*: 17.19(3) Å; α : 90.000; β : 116.564(19); γ : 90.000; space group: *C2/c*.
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