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propyl]pyrazole-3(5)-carboxylic acids and their derivatives.

Regioselective synthesis of trifluoromethylated 3-(pyrazolyl)indoles on the basis of 6-(trifluoromethyl)comanic acid

Boris I. Usachev^{*}, Dmitrii L. Obydennov, Vyacheslav Ya. Sosnovskikh

Department of Chemistry, Ural Federal University, pr. Lenina 51, 620083 Ekaterinburg, Russia

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ABSTRACT

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1. Introduction

Trifluoromethylated indoles are not a widely distributed group of compounds and attract attention due to two pharmacophoric fragments: the indole moiety and the trifluoromethyl group. 2-(Trifluoromethyl)indole and its 3-substituted derivatives have been synthesized via various approaches [1–20]. Most pertinent to the present research are the reactions involving phenylhydrazones of α -trifluoromethyl ketones [18–20].

The synthesis of trifluoromethylated indoles is of great significance in medicinal chemistry, because it is known, that some representatives of this group of compounds possess antidiabetic activity [21]. Moreover, various 3-(pyrazolyl)indoles, which were synthesized earlier using different approaches [22– 34], exhibit a broad spectrum of biological activity [24–35], but 4-[5-(indol-3-yl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide is the most potent inhibitor of PDK-kinase among other investigated 4-[5-hetaryl-3-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonanesulfonamides [36,37].

Recently we have found [38] that the reactions of nonsymmetrically substituted polyelectrophilic substrates such as 6-(trifluoromethyl)comanic acid and its derivatives **1** [39], with phenylhydrazine were exclusively selective based on the nature of the solvent. Treatment of these pyrones with PhNHNH₂ in a polar protic solvent gave 5-[3,3,3-trifluoro-2-(phenylhydrazono)pro-

A number of trifluoromethylated 3-(pyrazolyl)indoles was synthesized from 2-(trifluoromethyl)comanic

acid, its ethyl ester and amide via intermediate isomeric 5(3)-[3,3,3-trifluoro-2-(phenylhydrazono)-

pyl]-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid derivatives **2**, whereas in an aprotic solvent the reaction afforded the derivatives of the regioisomeric 3-[3,3,3-trifluoro-2-(phenylhydrazono)pro-pyl]-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazole-5-carboxylic acid **3**.

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Two approaches pointed above allow preparation of some CF₃indoles by the Fischer reaction using phenylhydrazones of α trifluoromethyl ketones as the substrates and either MeSO₃H (in AcOH) [18] or *p*-TsOH (in toluene) [19,20] as promotors. However, when we tried to use these approaches for **2a** to prepare the corresponding trifluoromethylated 3-(pyrazolyl)indole, only trace amounts of the expected indole were detected by ¹H and ¹⁹F NMR.

In this paper, we describe our results concerning the regioselective synthesis of some trifluoromethylated 3-(pyrazoly-l)indoles from phenylhydrazones **2** and **3**, and show a wide variety of novel compounds, which can be obtained by using only one, the base structure, 6-(trifluoromethyl)comanic acid **1a**. 2-Trifluoromethyl-3-(pyrazolyl)indoles are described for the first time (Scheme 1).

2. Results and discussion

We have found that phenylhydrazones **2** as well as **3** can be transformed into the first representatives of $2-CF_3-3-(pyrazoly-1)$ indoles, regioisomeric compounds **4** and **5**, respectively in 25–73% yield by heating in MeSO₃H in the presence of P₄O₁₀ (15%). 3-(Pyrazoly1)indoles **5**, derivatives of pyrazol-5-carboxylic acid, were synthesized by both approaches, via using MeSO₃H/AcOH¹⁸ and MeSO₃H/P₄O₁₀ (Scheme 2). The structures of indoles **4** and **5** were confirmed by NMR and IR spectroscopies, and elemental analysis.

^{*} Corresponding author. Tel.: +7 343 261 6824; fax: +7 343 261 5978. *E-mail address:* boris.usachev@mail.ru (B.I. Usachev).

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Scheme 1. Starting compounds for the synthesis of trifluoromethylated 3-(pyrazolyl)indoles.

In the ¹H NMR spectra (DMSO-*d*₆) the signals of the indole protons were similar to those observed for other 2-trifluoromethylindoles [14,18–20]. The pyrazole proton in derivatives of 1-phenylpyrazole-3-carboxylic acid **4** appeared as a singlet in a little higher field (δ 7.01–7.11) than the same proton in derivatives of 1-phenylpyrazole-5-carboxylic acid **5** (δ 7.16–7.24). In the ¹⁹F NMR spectra (DMSO-*d*₆, C₆F₆) of **4** and **5** the signal at about δ 105–106 corresponding to the trifluoromethyl group at the C-2 atom of the indole moiety was observed [14]. In the ¹³C NMR spectra of compound **4b**, atoms C-2 and C-3 of the indole ring appeared as characteristic quartets at δ 123.0 (²*J*_{C,F} = 36.7 Hz) and 105.0 (³*J*_{C,F} = 2.8 Hz). The carbon atom of the trifluoromethyl group appeared as quartet at δ 121.0 (¹*J*_{C,F} = 269.7 Hz).

There are no data in the literature on the reaction of nonannulated 2-trifluoromethyl-4-pyrones with hydrazine. We have investigated the reaction of **1a** with N_2H_4 under various conditions and found that the use of hydrazine as a free base led to a complex



Scheme 2. Synthesis of regioisomeric trifluoromethylated 3-(pyrazolyl)indoles.

mixture of products, whereas the use of N₂H₄·2HCl (2.2 equiv) in water according to ¹H NMR spectra gave a mixture of regioisomeric pyrazoles 6 and 7 (Scheme 3). Insoluble in water isomer 6 was easily separated from the reaction mixture by filtration (30% yield) and soluble isomer 7 was not isolated, but transformed rapidly to phenylhydrazone 8 by treatment of the residue, prepared after evaporation of water from the filtrate, with excess phenylhydrazine hydrochloride (56% vield). Analogously, compound 6 was transformed into the corresponding phenylhydrazone 9 (63% yield) by treatment with excess PhNHNH₂·HCl. The stable enol form of ketone 6 (according to the ¹H NMR spectrum) can be explained by the formation of strong intramolecular hydrogen bond (IHB) between the enol OH group and pyrazole nitrogen atom. In the ¹H NMR spectra of **6** singlets due to the vinyl (δ 6.39) and pyrazole (δ 6.82) protons were observed. The labile protons appeared as broad signals at δ 9.55 and 13.30. In the 19 F NMR spectrum of compound 6, the trifluoromethyl group appeared as a singlet at δ 101.5 confirming that this compound belongs to class of CF₃-pyrazoles [40,41]. Phenylhydrazones of α -trifluoromethyl ketones such as **2**, **3** and **8** are the *E*-isomers (CF₃ is a more bulky



Scheme 3. Synthesis of N-unsubstituted trifluoromethylated 3-pyrazolylindoles.



Fig. 1. Molecular structure of 3b and its packing diagram (X-ray data, CCDC 822163).

group than CH₂), and this postulate was confirmed earlier for phenylhydrazones of other α -trifluoromethyl ketones, bearing an α' -CH₂ group [20]. The *E*-isomeric structure of such phenylhydrazones of α -trifluoromethyl ketones was unambiguously confirmed by X-ray crystallographic analysis of phenylhydrazone 3b (Fig. 1, CCDC 822163). In contrast to 8, phenylhydrazone 9 is a mixture of the E- and Z-isomers (ratio 3:2, ¹H NMR data). Both of these isomers were isolated from the mixture separately in analytically pure forms. In the ¹H NMR spectrum of **9** two sets of signals of (E)-9 and (Z)-9 were observed. The characteristic NH proton of the phenvlhvdrazonic moiety in major isomer (E)-9 appeared as a singlet at δ 10.26 confirming the *E*-isomeric structure (almost the same values have phenvlhvdrazones 2 and 3)[38]. The value of 10.26 indicates that even the substitution of the CF₃ group in the phenylhydrazonic moiety by the CO₂H group has almost no influence on the chemical shift of the NH proton. The methylene and pyrazole protons in (*E*)-**9** appeared as singlets at δ 4.05 and 6.26, respectively. Minor isomer (Z)-9 was presented in the 1 H NMR spectrum by singlets of the methylene and pyrazole protons at δ 3.84 and 6.44, respectively, and a very low-field signal of the phenylhydrazonic NH proton (δ 12.2) due to the formation of the IHB between NH and C=O. The same low-field signal of the NH proton was observed in the spectra of a structurally similar dicarboxylic acid, bearing at the α -position a phenylhydrazonic substituent (δ 12.1) [38]. Heating the mixture of (*E*)-9 and (*Z*)-9 in MeSO₃H/P₄O₁₀ afforded 3-[3-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazol-5-yl]indole-2-carboxylic acid 10 in 35% yield. Regioisomeric indole 11 was prepared from 8 in 39% yield using the same approach. The use as a reaction medium MeSO₃H/AcOH do not allow preparation of 10 or 11 even in a smaller yields due to resinification of the reaction mixtures. The structures of the regioisomeric indoles 10 and 11 were confirmed by spectral methods and elemental analysis.

Thus, it has been shown, that the consecutive interaction of 6-(trifluoromethyl)comanic acid as a CF₃-pyrone with hydrazine as a binucleophile, and then with phenylhydrazine, and treatment of the intermediates under the conditions of the Fischer reaction gives 3-[3-(trifluoromethyl)-5-yl]indole-2-carboxylic acid **10** and regioisomeric 5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)indol-3-yl]-1*H*-pyrazole-3carboxylic acid **11**. These reactions can be considered as a novel approach for the regioselective synthesis of various trifluoromethylated 3-(hetaryl)indoles on the basis of 2-CF₃-4-pyrones. The use in this approach of other binucleophiles (instead of hydrazine) could give a lot of new CF₃-indoles functionalized in position-3 with various heterocycles.

Recently we described a simple synthesis of 2-(trifluoromethyl)-4-pyrone **12a** and -thiopyrone **12b** from **1a** [42]. We have explored the reaction of **12** with phenylhydrazine and found that pyrone **12a** gave a mixture of phenylhydrazones of 1,1,1trifluoro-3-(1-phenylpyrazol-5-yl)propan-2-one **(13)** (16%) and 1,1,1-trifluoro-5-(1-phenylpyrazol-3-yl)propan-2-one (14) (21%), whereas thiopyrone 12b led to the formation only compound 13 in 14% yield (no isomer 14 was detected in a crude sample of compound 13 prepared from 12b) (Scheme 4). Compounds 13 and 14 could be easily recognized using as an indicator the values of the vicinal coupling constants between H³-H⁴ and H⁴-H⁵ in the ¹H NMR spectra. According to literature, in case of 13 the value of ${}^{3}J_{H3,H4}$ has to be 1.6–2.0 Hz, whereas in case of 14 the value of ${}^{3}J_{H4,H5}$ should be >2.0 Hz [22,23]. The observed value of the coupling constant of 1.8 Hz for 13 and 2.1 Hz for 14 proves these structures. Heating 13 in MeSO₃H in the presence of P₄O₁₀ gave 3-(1-phenylpyrazol-5-yl)-2-(trifluoromethyl)indole 15 in 60% yield. The same reaction conducted in MeSO₃H/AcOH afforded 15 in 65%



Scheme 4. Synthesis of regioisomeric trifluoromethylated 3-(pyrazolyl)indoles using 2-(trifluoromethyl)-4H-pyran-4-one and -4H-thiopyran-4-one.

Table 1				
Trifluoromethylated	pyrazole	and	indole	derivatives.

Entry	Reagent	Product	Yield %	Mp °C	$\delta_{\rm F}$ ppm (DMSO- d_6 , C ₆ F ₆)
1	1a	2a	64	230-232	96.7
2	1b	2b	58	199-200	96.7
3	1a	3a	30	222-223	96.6
4	1b	3b	34	106	96.6
5	1c	3c	19	201-203	96.6
6	2a	4a	45 ^a	242-243	105.3
7	2b	4b	40 ^a	205-206	105.3
8	3a	5a	73 ^a , 46 ^b	240-241	106.2
9	3b	5b	65 ^a , 71 ^b	152-153	106.2
10	3c	5c	60 ^{a,b}	207-208	106.2
11	1a	6	30	231-232	101.5
12	1a	8	56	166–167	96.5
13	6	9	80	170–190	102.2, 102.3
14	6	(E)- 9	37	196–197	102.2
15	6	(Z)- 9	28	172–173	102.3
16	9	10	35 ^a	256-257	102.6
17	8	11	39 ^a	222-224	106.2
18	12a,b	13	16 ^c , 14 ^d	166–167	96.7
19	12a	14	21	67–68	96.6
20	13	15	60 ^a , 65 ^b	192–193	105.3
21	14	16	60 ^a , 58 ^b	214-215	106.2

 $^{a}\,$ The reaction was conducted in MeSO_{3}H/P_{4}O_{10}.

^b The reaction was conducted in AcOH/MeSO₃H.

^c Prepared from **12a**.

^d Prepared from **12b**.

yield. Isomeric indole 16 was synthesized in 60% (MeSO_3H/P_4O_{10}) and 58% (MeSO_3H/AcOH) yields.

The results of the syntheses of the CF₃-compounds as well as their $\delta_{\rm F}$ values are given in Table 1. The ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy is a good method to determine the regiochemistry of CF₃-3-(pyrazolyl)indoles. The table data show that the fluorines of the trifluoromethyl group at the second position of 3-(pyrazolyl)indoles tend to appear at about δ 105–106. In the case of the starting regioisomeric phenylhydrazones, the $\delta_{\rm F}$ values for **2** are similar to those observed for **3** (96.7 versus 96.6), whereas the $\Delta\delta_{\rm F}$ value between the corresponding regioisomeric indoles **4** and **5** reaches 0.9 (105.3 versus 106.2).

3. Conclusion

Thus, we have managed to achieve regiocontrolled synthesis of trifluoromethylated indoles based on 6-(trifluoromethyl)comanic acid, which are of interest for medicinal chemistry. The first representatives of 2-CF₃-3-(pyrazolyl)indoles were prepared.

4. Experimental

4.1. General

¹H, ¹⁹F and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AVANCE DRX-400 spectrometer. Chemical shifts for ¹H NMR spectra are reported in parts per million (ppm) downfield from TMS, shifts for ¹⁹F NMR spectra are reported in ppm downfield from internal C_6F_6 . Coupling constants (*J*) are given in Hertz (Hz). The terms s, d, t, q, m refer to singlet, doublet, triplet, quartet, multiplet; br refers to a broad signal. Infrared spectra (IR) were recorded on Nicolet 6700 spectrometer, equipped with attenuated total reflection accessory (ATR), absorbance frequencies are given at maximum of intensity in cm⁻¹. Elemental analyses were performed with PE 2400 instrument. High resolution mass spectra were obtained on a MAT-8200 spectrometer, using EI at 70 eV. Single-crystal XRD was performed with graphite-monochromatic Mo K_α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å) on a Bruker X8 APEX II CCD diffractometer at *T* = 295(2) K.

4.2. 5-[3,3,3-Trifluoro-2-(phenylhydrazono)propyl]-1-phenyl-1Hpyrazol-3-carboxylic acid (2a)³⁸

A mixture of acid **1a** (1.0 g, 4.8 mmol) and PhNHNH₂·HCl (1.53 g, 10.6 mmol) was refluxed in 10% HCl (10 mL) for 10 min. After cooling the mixture to room temperature, the resulting residue was filtered off and washed with water. The crude product was recrystallized from toluene to give **2a** (1.19 g, 64%) as a colorless solid, mp 230–232 °C; $\delta_{\rm F}$ (376.5 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 96.7 (s, CF₃).

4.3. Ethyl 1-phenyl-5-[3,3,3-trifluoro-2-(2-phenylhydrazono)propyl]-1H-pyrazol-3-carboxylate (2b)

Ester **1b** (1.0 g, 4.2 mmol) was added to a solution of freshly distilled phenylhydrazine (1.0 g, 9.3 mmol) in ethanol (5 mL). The reaction mixture was kept at room temperature for 4 days, and then mixed with 20% HCl (2 mL). The residue was filtered off, treated with hot ethanol (20 mL) acidified with HCl (3 drops). After cooling the mixture to ambient temperature the resulting residue was filtered off and washed with ethanol (5 mL) to give 2b (1.03 g, 58%) as a colourless powder, mp 199-200 °C; v_{max} (KBr) 3239, 1724, 1622, 1603, 1532, 1501, 1490, 1476 cm⁻¹; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) 1.27 (3H, t, *J* 7.1 Hz, Me), 4.05 (2H, s, CH₂), 4.27 (2H, q, / 7.1 Hz, OCH₂), 6.51 (1H, S, =CH), 6.93 (1H, tt, J 7.3, 1.0 Hz, Ar), 7.13-7.32 (4H, m, Ar), 7.50-7.65 (5H, m, Ph), 10.26 (1H, s, NH); $\delta_{\rm F}$ (376.5 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 96.7 (s, CF₃); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆, without proton decoupling) 14.10 (qt, Me, ¹J 126.9, ²J 2.6 Hz), 22.38 (t, CH₂, ¹J 132.2 Hz), 60.45 (tq, OCH₂, ¹J 148.2, ²J 4.5 Hz), 108.11 (dt, C4, ¹J 179.3, ³J 3.2 Hz), 113.48 (dt, C2', C6', ¹J 160.7, ²J 5.7 Hz), 121.26 (dt, C4', ¹J 160.5, ²J 7.6 Hz), 121.93 (qt, CF₃, ¹J_{CF} 272.6, ³J 4.3 Hz), 125.10 (ddd, C2", C6", ¹J 164.2, ²J 7.6, 4.9 Hz), 125.61 (qtd, C–CF₃, ²J_{CF} 33.2, ²J 7.2, ³J 3.0 Hz), 128.94 (dt, C4", ¹J 162.5, ²J 7.3 Hz), 129.15 (dd, C3', C5', ¹J 159.4, ²J 8.2 Hz), 129.44 (dd, C3", C5", ¹J 163.8, ²J 7.7 Hz), 138.24 (q, C5, ²/ 8.4 Hz), 138.47 (td, C1", ²/ 9.0, ⁴/ 1.5 Hz), 143.13 (d, C3, ²J 3.9 Hz), 143.78 (q, C1', ²J 8.2 Hz), 161.37 (t, C=0, ³J 3.3 Hz); [Found: C, 60.47; H, 4.45; N, 13.65. C₂₁H₁₉F₃N₄O₂ requires C, 60.57; H, 4.60; N, 13.46%].

4.4. 1-Phenyl-3-[3,3,3-trifluoro-2-(2-phenylhydrazono)propyl]-1Hpyrazole-5-carboxylic acid (**3a**)³⁸

A mixture of acid **1a** (1.0 g, 4.8 mmol) and freshly distilled phenylhydrazine (1.15 g, 10.6 mmol) was refluxed in dry dioxane (30 mL) for 1.5 h. After cooling the reaction mixture to room temperature, the excess solvent was evaporated, the residue was treated with 5% HCl (20 mL). The water layer was decanted, the crude product was triturated with CCl₄, and then filtered off and washed with CCl₄ to give **3a** (0.56 g, 30%) as colourless solid, mp 222–223 °C; $\delta_{\rm F}$ (376.5 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 96.6 (s, CF₃).

4.5. Ethyl 1-phenyl-3-[3,3,3-trifluoro-2-(2-phenylhydrazono)propyl]-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (**3b**)

A mixture of ester **1b** (1.0 g, 4.2 mmol) and freshly distilled phenylhydrazine (1.07 g, 9.3 mmol) was refluxed in toluene (8 mL) for 12 h. The excess solvent was then evaporated (rest volu $me \sim 5 mL$) and the residue was mixed with CCl_4 (5 mL). The resulting solution was cooled to 0 °C, the residue was recrystallized from toluene to give **3b** (0.59 g, 34%) as colourless crystals, mp 106 °C; $\nu_{\rm max}$ (KBr) 3293, 1736, 1604, 1542, 1528, 1504 cm⁻¹; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.23 (3H, t, J 7.1 Hz, Me), 3.82 (2H, s, CH₂), 4.22 (2H, q, J 7.1 Hz, OCH₂), 6.90 (1H, s, =CH), 6.92 (1H, tt, J 7.5, 1.0 Hz, Ar), 7.02-7.06 (2H, m, Ar), 7.21-7.25 (2H, m, Ar), 7.35-7.39 (2H, m, <u>Ph</u>-pyraz.), 7.45–7.49 (3H, m, <u>Ph</u>-pyraz.), 9.56 (1H, s, NH); $\delta_{\rm F}$ $(376.5 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3)$ 92.9 (s, CF₃); δ_{H} (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 1.14 (3H, t, J 7.1, Me), 4.03 (2H, s, CH₂), 4.16 (2H, q, J 7.1 Hz, OCH₂), 6.88 (1H, s, =CH), 6.90 (1H, tt, / 7.3, 1.0 Hz, Ar), 7.16-7.20 (2H, m, Ar), 7.25-7.30 (2H, m, Ar), 7.40–7.49 (5H, m, Ph), 10.28 (1H, s, NH); $\delta_{\rm F}$ $(376.5 \text{ MHz}, \text{DMSO-}d_6)$ 96.6 (s, CF₃); δ_C (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 13.95 (Me), 24.27 (CH₂), 61.41 (OCH₂), 111.47 (C4), 113.56 (C2', C6'), 121.60 (C4'), 121.84 (q, CF₃, ¹J_{C,F} 272.0 Hz), 125.93 (C2", C6"), 128.03 (q, C-CF₃, ²*I*_{CF} 34.1 Hz), 128.63 (C3', C5'), 128.97 (C4"), 129.20 (C3", C5"), 135.06 (C5), 139.80 (C1"), 143.75 (C1'), 146.45 (C3), 158.61 (C=O); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 13.72 (Me), 23.11 (CH₂), 60.98 (OCH₂), 111.31 (C4), 113.32 (C2', C6'), 120.99 (C4'), 122.12 (q, CF₃, ¹J_{CF} 272.5 Hz), 125.61 (C2", C6"), 127.67 (q, C-CF₃, ²J_{CF} = 32.5 Hz), 128.43 (C4"), 128.57 (C3', C5'), 129.14 (C3", C5"), 133.82 (C5), 139.70 (C1"), 144.00 (C1'), 146.43 (C3), 158.24; [Found: C, 60.57; H, 4.61; N, 13.53. C₂₁H₁₉F₃N₄O₂ requires C, 60.57; H, 4.60; N, 13.46%]; the structure was solved from X-ray data by direct method with SHELXS-97 program and refined by full matrix least-squares on F2 with SHELXL-97 program [43]. All nonhydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically, and hydrogen atoms were located and included at their calculated position. The CCDC deposition number is 822163. Unit cell parameters: *a* = 21.788(2), b = 4.4981(3), c = 23.391(3). The crystal system is monoclinic, space group P21/c.

4.6. 1-Phenyl-3-[3,3,3-trifluoro-2-(2-phenylhydrazono)propyl]-1Hpyrazole-5-carboxamide (3c)

A mixture of amide **1c** (0.50 g, 2.4 mmol) and freshly distilled phenylhydrazine (0.58 g, 5.7 mmol) in ethanol (2.5 mL) was refluxed for 7 h. Then the reaction mixture was diluted with water (15 mL) and conc. HCl (2 mL), and the water layer was decanted. The residue was triturated with CCl₄ (5 mL) to give a yellow precipitate, which was filtered off and recrystallized from toluene to give **3c** (0.18 g, 19%) as a colourless solid, mp 201–202 °C; ν_{max} (KBr) 3282, 1710, 1614, 1555, 1528, 1501 cm⁻¹; δ_{H} (400 MHz, DMSO- d_{6}) 4.00 (2H, s, CH₂), 6.74 (1H, s, =CH), 6.89 (1H, tt, *J* 7.3 Hz, Ar), 7.17–7.30 (4H, m, Ar), 7.34–7.47 (5H, m, Ph), 7.54 (1H, s, CON<u>H</u>H), 8.07 (1H, s, CON<u>H</u>H), 10.29 (1H, s, NNH); δ_{F} (376.5 MHz, DMSO- d_{6}) 96.6 (s, CF₃); *m/z* (EI, 70 eV) 387 (100, M⁺), 291 (20), 252 (25); HRMS (EI, 70 eV): M⁺, found 387.13114.

 $C_{19}H_{16}F_3ON_5$ requires 387.13070; [Found: C, 58.80; H, 4.27; N, 18.13. $C_{19}H_{16}F_3N_5O$ requires C, 58.91; H, 4.16; N, 18.08%].

4.7. (Z)-3-[5-(Trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-3-yl]-2-hydroxyacrylic acid (6)

A mixture of acid **1a** (1.0 g, 4.8 mmol) and N₂H₄·2HCl (0.52 g, 5.0 mmol) was heated in water (10 mL) at 60 °C for 4 h. The precipitated residue was filtered off, washed with water (3 mL) and dried to give **6** (0.32 g, 30%) as white solid, mp 231–232 °C; ν_{max} (ATR) 3414, 1701, 1659 cm⁻¹; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 6.39 (1H, s, =CH), 6.82 (1H, s, =CH–pyraz.), 9.55 (1H, s, NH), 10.50–11.28 (1H, br s, OH), 13.27 (1H, br s, CO₂H); $\delta_{\rm F}$ (376.5 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 101.5 (s, CF₃); [Found: C, 37.71; H, 2.23; N, 12.62. C₇H₅F₃N₂O₃ requires C, 37.85; H, 2.27; N, 12.61%].

4.8. 3-[2-(Phenylhydrazono)-3,3,3-trifluoropropyl]-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylic acid (8)

A mixture of the residue, isolated after evaporation of water from the filtrate from **6** (0.70 g, mp 205–215 °C) and PhNHNH₂·HCl (0.29 g, 2.0 mmol) was heated at 70 °C for 1 h. The resulting residue was filtered off and recrystallized from toluene to give **8** (0.51 g, 56%) as a colourless solid, mp ~167 °C; ν_{max} (ATR) 3466, 1716, 1665, 1615 cm⁻¹; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 3.96 (2H, s, CH₂), 6.53 (1H, s, =CH), 6.90 (1H, t, *J* 7.3 Hz, Ph), 7.18 (2H, d, *J* 7.7 Hz, Ph), 7.28 (2H, dd, *J* 7.3, 7.7 Hz, Ph), 10.24 (1H, s, NH), 13.40 (1H, br s, CO₂H); $\delta_{\rm F}$ (376.5 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 96.54 (c, CF₃); [Found: C, 50.24; H, 3.46; N, 17.55. C₁₃H₁₁F₃N₄O₂ requires C, 50.00; H, 3.55; N, 17.94%].

4.9. (E)- and (Z)-2-(2-Phenylhydrazono)-3-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-3-yl]propanoic acid (9)

A mixture of ketone **9** (250 mg, 1.1 mmol) and PhNHNH₂·HCl (180 mg, 1.2 mmol) in ethanol (4 mL) was heated at 50 °C for 4 h. Then the reaction mixture was diluted with water (10 mL), the precipitate was filtered off to give a mixture of (*E*)-**9** and (*Z*)-**9** (3:2) (280 mg, 80%) as a colourless powder, mp 170–190 °C; [Found: C, 50.18; H, 3.37; N, 17.65. $C_{13}H_{11}F_3N_4O_2$ requires C, 50.00; H, 3.55; N, 17.94%].

4.10. (E)-2-(2-Phenylhydrazono)-3-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-1Hpyrazole-3-yl]propanoic acid ((E)-9)

A mixture of (*E*)-**9** and (*Z*)-**9**, prepared as described above, was heated in toluene (10 mL) until the toluene boiled. The hot mixture was filtered to give (*E*)-**9** (130 mg, 37%) as a colourless solid, mp 196–197 °C; ν_{max} (ATR) 3229, 1720, 1603, 1577, 1499 cm⁻¹; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 4.05 (2H, s, CH₂), 6.26 (1H, s, =CH), 6.92 (1H, t, *J* 6.9 Hz, Ph), 7.29 (2H, t, *J* 7.2 Hz, Ph), 7.34 (2H, d, *J* 7.2 Hz, Ph), 10.26 (1H, s, NNH), 12.2 (1H, br s, NH-pyraz.), 13.49 (1H, s, CO₂H); $\delta_{\rm F}$ (376.5 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 102.2 (c, CF₃).

4.11. (Z)-2-(2-Phenylhydrazono)-3-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-1Hpyrazol-3-yl]propanoic acid ((Z)-9)

The filtrate from (*E*)-**9** was collected in a glass, the solvent was evaporated, and the resulting residue was recrystallized from AcOH–H₂O (1:1) to give (*Z*)-**9** (0.10 g, 28%) as a colourless solid, mp 172–173 °C; ν_{max} (ATR) 3273, 1664, 1649, 1541, 1535 cm⁻¹; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 3.84 (2H, s, CH₂), 6.44 (1H, s, =CH), 6.92 (1H, t, *J* 6.9 Hz, Ph), 7.18 (2H, d, *J* 8.0 Hz, Ph), 7.25–7.29 (2H, m, Ph), 12.18 (1H, s, NNH), 13.46 (1H, s, CO₂H); $\delta_{\rm F}$ (376.5 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 102.3 (c, CF₃).

4.12. 1-Phenyl-5-[3,3,3-trifluoro-2-(2-phenylhydrazono)propyl]-1H-pyrazole (13)

A mixture of pyrone **12a** (160 mg, 0.98 mmol) and freshly distilled phenylhydrazine (250 mg, 2.3 mmol) was kept at 120 °C within 1 h. After cooling to room temperature the mixture was mixed with ethanol (1 mL), the resulting residue was filtered off, washed with ethanol, dried and recrystallized from toluene (5 mL) to give **13** (50 mg, 16%) as a colourless solid, mp 166–167 °C; ν_{max} (KBr) 1625, 1605, 1537, 1502, 1455 cm⁻¹; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 4.03 (2H, s, CH₂), 6.11 (1H, d, J 1.8 Hz, H-4-pyraz.), 6.92 (1H, tt, J 7.3, 1.1 Hz, H-4'), 7.17 (2H, dd, J 8.6, 1.1 Hz, H-2', H-6'), 7.29 (2H, dd, J 8.4, 7.4 Hz, H-3', H-5'), 7.45 (1H, tt, J 6.9, 1.8 Hz, H-4''), 7.54–7.60 (4H, m, Ar), 7.61 (1H, d, J 1.8 Hz, H-3-pyraz.); 10.02 (c, 1H, NH); $\delta_{\rm F}$ (376.5 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 96.7 (s, CF₃); [Found: C, 62.67; H, 4.29; N, 16.14. C₁₈H₁₅F₃N₄ requires C, 62.79; H, 4.39; N, 16.27%]. The reaction of thiopyrone **12b** with phenylhydrazine in ethanol (reflux 4 h) gave pyrazole **13** in 14% yield.

4.13. 1-Phenyl-3-[3,3,3-trifluoro-2-(2-phenylhydrazono)propyl]-1H-pyrazole (14)

The residue, isolated after evaporation of toluene from the filtrate from **13** was crystallized from ethanol to give **14** (71 mg, 21%) as a colourless solid, mp 67–68 °C; ν_{max} (ATR) 1598, 1552, 1518, 1499, cm⁻¹; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 4.02 (2H, s, CH₂), 6.38 (1H, d, J 2.1 Hz, H-4-pyraz.), 6.90 (1H, t, J 7.2 Hz, H-4'), 7.21 (2H, d, J 7.8 Hz, H-2', H-6'), 7.28 (3H, m, H-3', H-5', H-4''), 7.48 (2H, t, J 7.8 Hz, H-2'', H-6''), 7.79 (2H, d, J 7.9 Hz, H-3'', H-5''), 8,45 (1H, d, J 2.1 Hz, H-5-pyraz.); 10.28 (c, 1H, NH); $\delta_{\rm F}$ (376.5 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 96.6 (s, CF₃); [Found: C, 62.79; H, 4.39; N, 16.27. C₁₈H₁₅F₃N₄ requires C, 62.61; H, 4.33; N, 16.26%].

4.14. Syntheses of 2-CF₃-3-(pyrazolyl)indoles

Method A (using MeSO₃H/P₄O₁₀): A CF₃-phenylhydrazone (0.48 mmol) was added to a mixture of MeSO₃H (1.0 g) and P₄O₁₀ (0.17 g). The reaction mixture was heated at 60 °C for 6 h. The resulting solution was diluted with water (10 mL), the residue was filtered off, and dried. Compounds **4a,b**, **5b** and **15** were solved in hot toluene (5 mL), the hot solution was then passed through a layer of silica gel (0.7 cm³), and the layer washed with hot toluene (10 mL). After removal of the solvent, the solid residue was recrystallized from a solvent. After crystallization, the majority of the synthesized 3-(pyrazolyl)indoles contained 5–8% of the solvent (toluene or another). Therefore, all crystallized indoles were dried at 130 °C for 6 h.

Method B (using AcOH/MeSO₃H): A CF₃-phenylhydrazone (0.62 mmol) was added to a mixture of AcOH (4 mL) and MeSO₃H (0.12 g, 1.24 mmol). The reaction mixture was refluxed, and then diluted with water (10 mL), the residue was filtered off, and dried. Compounds **5b** and **15** were solved in hot toluene (5 mL), the hot solution was then passed through a layer of silica gel (0.7 cm³), and the layer washed with hot toluene (10 mL). After removal of the solvent, the solid residue was recrystallized from a solvent. After crystallization, the majority of the synthesized 3-(pyrazolyl)indoles contained 5–8% of the solvent (toluene or another). Therefore, all crystallized indoles were dried at 130 °C for 6 h.

4.14.1. 5-[2-(Trifluoromethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid (4a)

Yield 45% (A), colourless solid (toluene), mp 242–243 °C; ν_{max} (ATR) 3284, 1689, 1599, 1534, 1485 cm⁻¹; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 7.01 (1H, s, pyraz.), 7.08 (1H, t, J 7.2 Hz, H-5), 7.21–7.35 (7H, m, H-6, H-4, Ph), 7.50 (1H, d, J 8.1 Hz, H-7), 12.70 (1H, s, NH), 13.0–13.1 (1H, br s, CO₂H); $\delta_{\rm F}$ (376.5 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 105.3 (s, CF₃); [Found: C,

61.67; H, 3.52; N, 11.07. C₁₉H₁₂F₃N₃O₂ requires C, 61.46; H, 3.26; N, 11.32%].

4.14.2. Ethyl 5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-3-carboxylate (4b)

Yield 40% (A), colourless solid (toluene–petroleum ether), mp 205–206 °C; ν_{max} (ATR) 3280, 1719, 1610 cm⁻¹; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 1.07 (3H, t, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH₃), 4.07 (2H, buried m, CH₂), 7.11 (1H, s, pyraz.), 7.12 (1H, td, *J* 7.6, 0.9 Hz, H-5), 7.19–7.22 (2H, m, H-6, Ph), 7.27–7.36 (4H, m, Ph), 7.42 (1H, d, *J* 8.1 Hz, H-4), 7.50 (1H, d, *J* 8.4 Hz, H-7); 12.30 (1H, br s, NH); $\delta_{\rm F}$ (376.5 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 105.3 (s, CF₃); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 14.2, 60.6, 105.0 (q, *J* 2.8 Hz), 112.1, 112.7, 119.8, 121.0 (q, *J* 269.7 Hz), 121.5, 123.0 (q, *J* 36.7 Hz), 124.0, 125.0, 126.1, 128.3, 129.0, 135.2, 135.3, 139.0, 143.6, 161.5; [Found: C, 63.01; H, 4.10; N, 10.25. C₂₁H₁₆F₃N₃O₂ requires C, 63.16; H, 4.04; N, 10.52%].

4.14.3. 3-[2-(Trifluoromethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylic acid (5a)

Yield 73% (A), 46% (B, reflux for 8 h), colourless solid (toluene), mp 240–241 °C; ν_{max} (ATR) 1700, 1597, 1577, 1527, 1501 cm⁻¹; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_{\rm 6}$) 7.20 (1H, s, pyraz.), 7.21 (1H, t, *J* 7.5 Hz, H-5), 7.36 (1H, t, *J* 7.7 Hz, H-6), 7.46–7.56 (4H, m, H-7, Ph), 7.60 (2H, d, *J* 7.4 Hz, Ph), 8.10 (1H, d, *J* 8.1 Hz, H-4); 12.50 (1H, s, NH), 13.33–13.66 (1H, br s, CO₂H); $\delta_{\rm F}$ (376.5 MHz, DMSO- $d_{\rm 6}$) 106.2 (s, CF₃); [Found: C, 61.60; H, 3.48; N, 11.09. C₁₉H₁₂F₃N₃O₂ requires C, 61.46; H, 3.26; N, 11.32%].

4.14.4. Ethyl 3-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (5b)

Yield 65% (A), 71% (B, reflux for 4 h), yellow solid (toluenepetroleum ether), mp 155–156 °C; ν_{max} (ATR) 3359, 1718, 1592, 1575, 1501 cm⁻¹; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) 1.20 (3H, t, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH₃), 4.24 (2H, q, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH₂), 7.22 (1H, t, *J* 7.5 Hz, H-5), 7.24 (1H, s, pyraz.), 7.37 (1H, t, *J* 7.5 Hz, H-6), 7.50–7.58 (4H, m, Ph), 7.59–7.64 (2H, m, Ph, H-7), 8.09 (1H, d, *J* 8.1 Hz, H-4), 12.53 (1H, br s, NH); $\delta_{\rm F}$ (376.5 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) 106.2 (s, CF₃); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) 13.8, 61.1, 108.6 (q, *J* 2.9 Hz), 111.4 (q, *J* 3.0 Hz), 112.5, 121.2, 121.3 (q, *J* 37.3 Hz), 121.8 (q, *J* 269.1 Hz), 121.9, 124.8, 125.5, 125.7, 128.5, 128.6, 133.9, 135.4, 139.9, 144.1, 158.4; [Found: C, 63.65; H, 3.85; N, 10.12. C₂₁H₁₆F₃N₃O₂ requires C, 63.16; H, 4.04; N, 10.52%].

4.14.5. 3-[2-(Trifluoromethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxamide (**5c**)

Yield 60% (A) 60% (B, reflux for 4 h), colourless solid (toluene), mp 207–208 °C; ν_{max} (ATR) 3332, 3181 1664, 1626, 1601 cm⁻¹; δ_{H} (400 MHz, DMSO- d_{6}) 7.16 (1H, s, pyraz.), 7.17–7.27 (2H, m, Ph, H-5), 7.36 (1H, t, J 7.2 Hz, H-6), 7.43 (1H, m, H-7), 7.47–7.67 (4H, m, Ph), 7.66 (1H, c, N<u>H</u>H), 8.10 (1H, d, J 8.1 Hz, H-4), 8.24 (1H, c, NH<u>H</u>), 12.45 (1H, s, NH); δ_{F} (376.5 MHz, DMSO- d_{6}) 106.2 (s, CF₃); [Found: C, 61.82; H, 3.77; N, 14.97. C₁₉H₁₃F₃N₄O requires C, 61.62; H, 3.54; N, 15.13%].

4.14.6. 5-[2-(Trifluoromethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]-1H-pyrazole-3-carboxylic acid (11)

Yield 39% (A, the reaction mixture was kept at ambient temperature for 48 h), white solid (AcOH–H₂O), mp 222–224 °C; ν_{max} (KBr) 3289, 1708, 1604, 1533, 1500 cm⁻¹; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 6.90 (1H, s, pyraz.), 7.21 (1H, t, *J* 7.6 Hz, H-5), 7.36 (1H, t, *J* 7.4 Hz, H-6), 7.54 (1H, d, *J* 8.6 Hz, H-7), 7.89 (1H, br s, H-4), 12.45 (1H, s, NH-Ind), 12.18–14.52 (2H, br s, NH-pyraz., CO₂H); $\delta_{\rm F}$ (376.5 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 106.2 (s, CF₃); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 108.0, 112.5, 118.5, 120.8, 121.1, 121.4, 121.6, 121.8 (q, *J* 269.1 Hz), 124.8, 125.0, 125.8, 135.4, 161.4; [Found: C, 52.70; H, 2.97; N, 14.01. C₁₃H₈F₃N₃O₂ requires C, 52.89; H, 2.73; N, 14.23%].

4.14.7. 2-(Trifluoromethyl)-3-(1-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)-1H-indole (15)

Yield 60% (A), 65% (B, reflux for 4 h), white solid (toluenepetroleum ether), mp 192–193 °C; v_{max} (ATR) 3108, 1597, 1522, 1500, 1458 cm⁻¹; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 6.61 (1H, buried d, H-4'), 7.06 (1H, t, J 7.5 Hz, H-5), 7.14-7.23 (4H, m, Ph), 7.24-7.35 (3H, m, Ph, Ind), 7.50 (1H, d, / 8.3 Hz, H-7), 7.86 (1H, buried d, H-3'), 12.61 (1H, s, NH); $\delta_{\rm F}$ (376.5 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 105.3 (s, CF₃); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆) 106.4 (q, J 2.8 Hz), 110.4, 112.7, 120.0, 121.2 (q, J 269.5 Hz), 121.3, 122.6 (q, J 36.6 Hz), 123.4, 124.9, 126.2, 127.2. 128.9, 133.1, 135.4, 139.8, 140.3; [Found: C, 66.17; H, 3.79; N, 12.56. C₁₈H₁₂F₃N₃ requires C, 66.05; H, 3.70; N, 12.84%].

4.14.8. 2-(Trifluoromethyl)-3-(1-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)-1H-indole (16)

Yield 60% (A), 58% (B, reflux for 4 h), white solid (toluene), mp 214–215 °C; $\nu_{\rm max}$ (ATR) 3164, 1597, 1588, 1573, 1510 cm⁻¹; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) 6.79 (1H, buried d, H-4-pyraz.), 7.25 (1H, t, J 7.5 Hz, H-5), 7.32-7.40 (2H, m, Ar), 7.56 (3H, m, H-7, Ph), 7.95 (2H, d, J 7.9 Hz, H-2", H-6"), 8.19 (1H, d, J 8.1 Hz, H-4), 8.65 (1H, d, J 2.5 Hz, H-5-pyraz.), 12.41 (1H, s, NH); $\delta_{\rm F}$ (376.5 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 106.2 (s, CF₃); [Found: C, 66.56; H, 3.47; N, 12.86. C₁₈H₁₂F₃N₃ requires C, 66.05; H, 3.70; N, 12.84%].

4.15. 3-[3-(Trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]-1H-indole-2carboxylic acid (10)

Yield 35% (A, stirring at ambient temperature for 1 h and at 70 °C for 30 min), white powder (aqueous ethanol), mp 256– 257 °C; $\nu_{\rm max}$ (ATR) 3593, 3466, 3132, 1693, 1589 cm⁻¹; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) 6.99 (1H, s, pyraz.), 7.17 (1H, t, / 7.5 Hz, H-5), 7.34 (1H, t, / 7.5 Hz, H-6), 7.52 (1H, d, / 8.1 Hz, H-7), 7.18 (1H, d, / 8.1 Hz, H-4), 12.17 (1H, s, NH-pyraz.), 13.45 (1H, br s, CO₂H), 13.71 (1H, s, NH-Ind); $\delta_{\rm F}$ (376.5 MHz, DMSO- d_6) 102.6 (s, CF₃); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆) 103.6, 108.0, 112.8, 120.5, 121.0, 122.0 (q, J 268.0 Hz), 125.2, 125.4, 126.2, 135.8, 136.8, 140.9 (q, J 34.3 Hz), 162.5; [Found: C, 51.03; H, 3.03; N, 13.70. C₁₃H₈F₃N₃O₂·0.5H₂O requires C, 52.32; H, 2.89; N, 13.81%].

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