## Green Chemistry

Cite this: DOI: 10.1039/c2gc36166c

www.rsc.org/greenchem



# One-pot fluorination followed by Michael addition or Robinson annulation for preparation of α-fluorinated carbonyl compounds<sup>†</sup>

Wen-Bin Yi,\*<sup>a</sup> Xin Huang,<sup>b</sup> Chun Cai<sup>a</sup> and Wei Zhang\*<sup>b</sup>

*Received 26th July 2012, Accepted 8th September 2012* DOI: 10.1039/c2gc36166c

Fluorination followed by the Michael addition or Robinson annulation of 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds is introduced for the synthesis of acyclic and cyclic  $\alpha$ -fluoro- $\beta$ -ketoesters and  $\alpha$ -fluoro-1,3-diketones. The decarboxylation step can also be added to the reaction sequence. High efficiency is achieved by the microwave heating and atom economic one-pot synthesis.

#### 1. Introduction

Fluorination of organic compounds is a topic of current interest in medicinal chemistry.<sup>1</sup> Shown in Scheme 1 are  $\alpha$ -fluorinated carbonyl molecules including intermediate **1a** for schizophrenia and anxiety agents,<sup>2</sup> intermediate **1b** for the human Kv1.1/Kv $\beta$ 1 potassium channel inhibitor,<sup>3</sup> antimalarial candidate compound **1c**,<sup>4</sup> aromatase inhibitor **1d** as a promising candidate for the treatment



<sup>a</sup>School of Chemical Engineering, Nanjing University of Science and Technology, Xiao Ling Wei Street, Nanjing 210094, People's Republic of China. E-mail: yiwenbin@mail.njust.edu.cn; Fax: +86-25-84315030; Tel: +86-25-84315514

<sup>b</sup>Department of Chemistry, University of Massachusetts Boston, 100 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125, USA.

E-mail: wei2.zhang@umb.edu; Fax: +1-617-287-6030;

*Tel:* +1-617-286-6147

†Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available. See DOI: 10.1039/c2gc36166c

of estrogen-dependent breast cancer,<sup>5</sup> intermediate 1e for cytotoxic agent COTC,<sup>6</sup> retinal-protein bacteriorhodopsin 1f,<sup>7</sup> and antibacterial erythromycin compound 1g.8 User friendly 1-chloromethyl-4-fluoro-1,4-diazoniabicyclo[2.2.2]octanebis-(tetrafluoroborate) (Selectfluor<sup>TM</sup>) and N-fluorobenzenesulfonimide (NSFI) are popular fluorination reagents.<sup>9,10</sup> Presented in this paper is a new reaction sequence including Selectfluor<sup>TM</sup>based fluorination followed by Michael addition or Robinson annulation reactions for the synthesis of  $\alpha$ -fluoro- $\beta$ -ketoesters or  $\alpha$ -fluoro-1,3-diketones. It is a one-pot synthesis which combines the construction of molecular frameworks and the introduction of fluorine in a single operation. To the best of our knowledge, there is no such transformation reported in the literature. One-pot synthesis is an atom economic way to prepare molecules with substitution and skeleton diversities.<sup>11</sup> It eliminates waste generated from intermediates purification and is a favorable approach for green organic synthesis.12

#### 2. Results and discussion

Our first attempt of one-pot synthesis was to explore the fluorination and Michael addition reactions. This reaction sequence could generate fluorinated quaternary carbon existing in compounds **1a–c** and **1g** (Scheme 1).  $\beta$ -Ketoesters **2a**, **2b** and **2c** were selected for fluorination and then for Michael addition with chalcones **3a–g**.  $\beta$ -Ketoesters reacted with Selectfluor<sup>TM</sup> smoothly under microwave heating.<sup>13</sup> Addition of CsCO<sub>3</sub> and chalcones to the reaction mixture followed by additional microwave heating afforded **4a–i** in quantitative yields (Table 1).<sup>14</sup> Other than CsCO<sub>3</sub>, bases such as KOH and Et<sub>3</sub>N also worked well for the Michael addition reactions.

The success of one-pot fluorination and Michael addition encouraged us to extend the scope for Robinson annulation which could lead to cyclic compounds similar to **1b–f** shown in Scheme 1. Methyl acetoacetate **2d** and chalcone **3a** were used for the method development (Table 2). Different bases including hydroxides, carbonates, and amines were attempted for the Robinson annulation.<sup>15</sup> Reactions with NaOH or KOH gave **5a** in less than 20% yield. Reactions with amines such as Et<sub>3</sub>N,

 Table 1
 One-pot fluorination and Michael addition<sup>a</sup>



<sup>*a*</sup> β-Ketoester (1 mmol), chalcone (1 mmol), Selectfluor<sup>TM</sup> (1 mmol),  $Cs_2CO_3$  (0.5 equiv.), microwave heating at 90 °C for 15 min. <sup>*b*</sup> Isolated yield. <sup>*c*</sup> KOH (0.5 equiv.). <sup>*d*</sup> Et<sub>3</sub>N (0.5 equiv.).

 Table 2
 Optimization of fluorination and Robinson annulation<sup>a</sup>



Entry	Base	Time (min)	Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)	
1	NaOH	20		
2	КОН	20	17	
3	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	30	38	
4	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	30	61	
5	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	30	89	
6	Et <sub>3</sub> N	60	24	
7	DABCO	60	21	
8	DMAP	60	37	
9	DIPEA	60	19	
10	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	30	$39^c$	
11	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	60	87	
12	$Cs_2CO_3$	30	$90^d$	

<sup>*a*</sup> **2d** (1 mmol), **3a** (1 mmol), Selectfluor<sup>TM</sup> (1 mmol), base 1 mmol, microwave heating at 90 °C. <sup>*b*</sup> Isolated yield, dr > 20/1. <sup>*c*</sup> NSFI was used. <sup>*d*</sup> 1.5 equiv. of base.

DABCO, DMAP and DIPEA also gave low yield. Cesium carbonate performed better than potassium and sodium carbonates and produced **5a** in 89% yield. A similar reaction using NSFI instead of Selectfluor<sup>TM</sup> gave the product in 39% yield (Table 2, entry 10). For the reaction with Selectfluor<sup>TM</sup>, no significant

improvement was observed by increasing the reaction time or amount of base (Table 2, entries 11 and 12).

Under the optimized condition of using Selectfluor<sup>TM</sup> as a fluorination agent and CsCO<sub>3</sub> as a base, reactions of  $\beta$ -ketoester **2d** and 1,3-diketone **2e** with  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated ketones gave the corresponding product **5a**–**f** in 80–89% isolated yield (Table 3). The Robinson annulation was further extended for the reaction of  $\beta$ -ketoester **2a** and  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated ketones **3h** and **3i** (Scheme 2). In this case, the acidic proton for the cyclization comes from the  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated ketones instead of the  $\beta$ -ketoester shown in Table 3. The reaction condition was slightly modified by using CsCO<sub>3</sub> and sodium ethoxide as bases to promote the cyclization to give products **5g** and **5h** in 83% and 86% yields, respectively.

We thought it could be possible to perform decarboxylation at the end of fluorination and Robinson annulation reactions. It was found that decarboxylation could be easily achieved by heating the reaction mixture of Robinson annulation at 120 °C for 1 h. Thus, reactions of 2d with 3a, 3c, and 3g using  $Cs_2CO_3$  and NaOEt as bases under microwave heating at 120 °C gave decarboxylation products 5i–k in 81%, 87% and 84% yields, respectively (Scheme 3).

Table 3 One-pot fluorination and Robinson annulation



Entry	$\mathbb{R}^1$	R <sup>2</sup>	Product	Time (min)	$\mathrm{Yield}^{b}\left(\%\right)$
1	OMe	Ph	5a	30	89
2	OMe	4-MeO-Ph	5b	30	87
3	OMe	PhCH=CH	5c	30	82
4	Me	Ph	5d	15	86
5	Me	4-MeO-Ph	5e	15	82
6	Me	PhCH=CH	5f	15	80

<sup>*a*</sup> **2d** or **2e** (1 mmol),  $\alpha$ ,β-unsaturated ketone (1 mmol), Selectfluor<sup>TM</sup> (1 mmol), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1 mmol), microwave heating at 90 °C. <sup>*b*</sup> Isolated yield, dr > 20/1.







Scheme 3

#### 3. Experimental

Chemicals and solvents were purchased from commercial sources and used as received. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a 300 MHz Varian NMR spectrometer. The ratio of the diastereomers was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR. Only the peaks from the major diastereomer are given below. LC-MS was performed on the Agilent 2100 system with a  $C_{18}$  column for separation. Mass spectra were recorded in APCI (atmospheric pressure chemical ionization). Flash chromatography separations were performed on the Yamazen system with Agela silica gel columns.

#### Typical procedure for one-pot fluorination and Michael addition

The β-ketoester **2a** (192 mg, 1 mmol) was added to a solution of Selectfluor<sup>TM</sup> (354 mg, 1 mmol) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (2 mL). After irradiation in a Biotage Initiator microwave reactor at 90 °C for 40 min, the chalcone **3a** (208 mg, 1 mmol) and Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (50 mol %, 163 mg) were added and the mixture was then stirred at 90 °C for 15 min. EtOAc (10 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL) were added. The organic layer was washed with aqueous HCl (2 M, 10 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL), and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After evaporation of the solvent, the residue was purified by flash column chromatography (6 : 1 hexane–EtOAc) to give fluorinated adduct **4a** (401 mg, 96%).

Ethyl 1,5-diphenyl-2-fluoro-3-phenyl-1,5-pentanedione-2-carboxylate (4a). White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 1.27 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.43 (m, 1H), 3.76 (m, 1H), 4.31 (q, J =7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.80 (m, 1H), 7.11–7.69 (m, 13H), 7.90–8.12 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 13.7, 13.9, 39.6, 45.0, 45.2, 62.7, 63.2, 127.3, 127.8, 128.2, 128.3, 128.5, 128.6, 128.7, 129.1, 129.2, 129.6, 129.9, 130.0, 130.1, 133.1, 133.2, 133.3, 134.2, 172.4, 196.5, 200.3; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CFCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 167.5, 167.6; MS (ACPI) m/z: 419.1 (M<sup>+</sup> + 1).

**Ethyl 1,5-diphenyl-2-fluoro-3-(4'-methylphenyl)-1,5-pentanedione-2-carboxylate (4b).** White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 1.02 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 3.25 (m, 1H), 3.62 (m, 1H), 3.97 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.82 (m, 1H), 7.06–7.25 (m, 1H), 7.26–7.70 (m, 11H), 7.92 (d, 1H), 8.10 (d, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 13.7, 21.1, 39.9, 44.3, 44.6, 62.6, 128.1, 128.5, 128.7, 129.0, 129.4, 129.7, 130.0, 130.1, 133.0, 134.0, 134.2, 137.3, 172.1, 196.6, 200.2; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CFCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 168.1, 168.3; MS (ACPI) m/z: 433.2 (M<sup>+</sup> + 1).

Ethyl 1-phenyl-2-fluoro-3-phenyl-5-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-1,5pentanedione-2-carboxylate (4c). White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  1.26 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.32 (m, 1H), 3.63 (m, 1H), 4.29 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.79 (m, 1H), 6.88 (m, 2H), 7.10–7.50 (m, 8H), 7.61–7.90 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  13.9, 39.1, 45.1, 55.5, 63.2, 113.6, 113.7, 127.3, 128.2, 128.6, 129.1, 129.2, 129.9, 130.4, 133.2, 195.0, 200.3, 215.9; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CFCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  167.9, 168.0; MS (ACPI) m/z: 449.1 (M<sup>+</sup> + 1).

**Ethyl 1-phenyl-2-fluoro-3-phenyl-5-(4'-methylphenyl)-1,5-pentanedione-2-carboxylate (4d).** White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 1.23 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 3.39 (m, 1H), 3.73 (m, 1H), 4.33 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.82 (m, 1H), 7.09–7.49 (m, 10H), 7.50–7.81 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 13.6, 13.9, 21.6, 39.3, 39.4, 39.7, 44.7, 45.0, 45.3, 62.6, 63.1, 127.2, 127.7, 128.1, 128.2, 128.6, 129.0, 129.1, 129.2, 129.6, 129.8, 129.9, 129.9, 130.0, 133.1, 134.1, 137.2, 137.7, 143.8, 144.0, 196.0, 199.4, 200.2, 215.8; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CFCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 167.5, 167.9; MS (ACPI) m/z: 433.2 (M<sup>+</sup> + 1).

**Ethyl 1,5-diphenyl-2-fluoro-3-(4'-nitrophenyl)-1,5-pentanedione-2-carboxylate** (4e). Yellowish solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 1.26 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.22 (m, 1H), 3.68 (m, 1H), 4.33 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.89 (m, 1H), 7.35–7.68 (m, 9H), 7.76–7.90 (m, 2H), 8.04–8.18 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 13.8, 14.1, 39.3, 39.7, 63.0, 63.6, 117.3, 123.3, 123.4, 128.0, 128.5, 128.7, 128.8, 128.8, 129.3, 130.0, 130.1, 130.7, 130.9, 133.5, 134.0, 134.6, 163.8, 164.1, 195.8, 200.2, 212.5; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CFCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 166.8, 167.7; MS (ACPI) m/z: 464.1 (M<sup>+</sup> + 1).

**Ethyl 1-(4'-methylphenyl)-2-fluoro-3,5-diphenyl-1,5-pentanedione-2-carboxylate (4f).** White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 1.26 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 3.38 (m, 1H), 3.75 (m, 1H), 4.30 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.81 (m, 1H), 7.12–7.65 (m, 12H), 7.89 (d, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 13.9, 21.7, 39.6, 45.0, 63.1, 127.3, 128.0, 128.2, 128.3, 128.6, 129.0, 129.4, 129.9, 133.2, 196.1, 199.4, 200.2; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CFCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 167.0, 167.2; MS (ACPI) m/z: 433.2 (M<sup>+</sup> + 1).

**Ethyl** 1-(4'-nitrophenyl)-2-fluoro-3,5-diphenyl-1,5-pentanedione-2-carboxylate (4g). Yellowish solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 1.32 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.39 (m, 1H), 3.74 (m, 1H), 4.34 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.81 (m, 1H), 7.14–7.69 (m, 9H), 7.90 (m, 2H), 8.15 (m, 1H), 8.38 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 13.6, 13.9, 39.2, 39.3, 39.8, 45.2, 45.5, 63.1, 63.6, 123.2, 123.7, 127.7, 128.0, 128.4, 128.6, 128.6, 129.5, 129.8, 129.9, 129.9, 131.0, 131.1, 133.2, 133.3, 136.4, 137.0, 149.6, 171.6, 172.5, 196.1; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CFCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 169.0, 169.1; MS (ACPI) m/z: 464.2 (M<sup>+</sup> + 1).

**Ethyl** 1-phenyl-2-fluoro-3,5-di(4'-methoxyphenyl)-1,5-pentanedione-2-carboxylate (4h). White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 1.26 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.31 (m, 1H), 3.63 (m, 1H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 4.28 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.68 (m, 1H), 6.67–6.91 (m, 4H), 7.27 (m, 4H), 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.71 (m, 1H), 7.90 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 13.8, 13.9, 39.2, 39.7, 44.5, 44.8, 55.0, 55.4, 62.6, 63.1, 113.5, 113.6, 113.7, 128.2, 128.6, 129.1, 129.2, 129.6, 130.0, 130.0, 130.4, 130.6, 130.9, 131.0, 134.1, 158.6, 163.5, 195.1, 195.2, 199.5, 200.3; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CFCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 167.6, 167.7; MS (ACPI) m/z: 479.2 (M<sup>+</sup> + 1). **Ethyl 1-phenyl-2-fluoro-3-phenyl-5-styryl-1,5-pentanedione-2carboxylate (4i).** White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  1.29 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.06 (m, 1H), 3.35 (m, 1H), 4.32 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.70 (m, 1H), 6.65 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.10–7.53 (m, 14H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  13.7, 13.9, 41.6, 45.0, 45.3, 63.2, 125.8, 127.4, 127.8, 128.2, 128.3, 128.6, 128.9, 129.1, 129.2, 129.5, 129.8, 129.9, 130.0, 130.0, 130.5, 130.6, 133.3, 134.2, 137.5, 142.9, 143.1, 196.4, 199.5, 200.2; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CFCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  168.0, 168.1; MS (ACPI) m/z: 445.2 (M<sup>+</sup> + 1).

### Typical procedure for one-pot fluorination and Robinson annulation

The β-ketoester **2d** (116 mg, 1 mmol) was added to a solution of Selectfluor<sup>TM</sup> (354 mg, 1 mmol) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (2 mL). After stirring at 90 °C for 40 min on a Biotage Initiator microwave instrument, the chalcone **3a** (208 mg, 1 mmol) and Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (100 mol%, 326 mg) were added and the mixture was then stirred at 90 °C for 30 min. EtOAc (10 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL) were added. The organic layer was washed with aqueous HCl (2 M, 10 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL), and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After evaporation of the solvent, the residue was purified by flash column chromatography (6 : 1 hexane–EtOAc) to give fluorinated cyclohexenone compound **5a** (288 mg, 89%).

Methyl 2-ene-cyclohexanone-3,5-diphenyl-6-fluoro-6-carboxylate (5a). White liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 3.18 (m, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.84 (m, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.78 (m, 1H), 6.38 (s, 1H), 7.25–7.42 (m, 7H), 7.48–7.64 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 32.5, 32.6, 48.7, 48.9, 52.9, 122.4, 123.3, 126.2, 126.3, 127.4, 127.8, 128.3, 128.4, 128.7, 128.9, 130.7, 130.9, 136.1, 137.2, 161.3, 191.2; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CFCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 166.2, 166.3; MS (ACPI) *m/z*: 325.1 (M<sup>+</sup> + 1).

Methyl 2-ene-cyclohexanone-3-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-5-phenyl-6-fluoro-6-carboxylate (5b). White liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 3.15 (m, 1H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.79 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 6.62 (s, 1H), 6.97 (m, 2H), 7.37 (m, 5H), 7.64 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 32.5, 32.6, 48.9, 49.1, 53.0, 55.6, 114.5, 121.6, 127.7, 128.0, 128.1, 128.3, 128.6, 128.9, 129.2, 129.4, 136.4, 160.8, 162.2, 192.0, 199.7, 200.9; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CFCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 166.1, 166.2; MS (ACPI) *m/z*: 355.2 (M<sup>+</sup> + 1).

Methyl 2-ene-cyclohexanone-3-styryl-5-phenyl-6-fluoro-6-carboxylate (5c). White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 3.05 (m, 2H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.71 (m, 1H), 6.21 (s, 1H), 6.92–7.12 (m, 2H), 7.37–7.53 (m, 10H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 28.6, 28.8, 47.0, 47.3, 53.0, 122.7, 126.5, 126.6, 128.3, 128.5, 128.9, 128.9, 129.1, 129.2, 129.2, 131.1, 131.2, 136.9, 137.6, 161.4, 190.4, 190.7; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CFCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 165.6, 165.7; MS (ACPI) m/z: 351.2 (M<sup>+</sup> + 1).

**3,5-Diphenyl-6-fluoro-6-acetyl-2-ene-cyclohexanone (5d).** White liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  2.03 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 3H), 3.08 (dd, J = 4.8 Hz, J = 18 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (dd, J = 4.8 Hz, J = 18 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (dd, J = 4.8 Hz, J = 18 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (m, 1H), 6.58 (s, 1H), 7.26–7.48 (m, 8H), 7.56–7.61 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  28.6, 28.8, 31.7, 31.8, 47.0, 47.3, 122.5, 122.7, 126.5, 126.6, 128.3, 128.5,

128.9, 129.0, 129.1, 129.2, 129.2, 131.1, 131.2, 136.9, 137.6, 161.4, 190.4, 190.7;  $^{19}{\rm F}$  NMR (CFCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  164.2, 172.2, 172.4; MS (ACPI) m/z: 309.1 (M<sup>+</sup> + 1).

**3-(4'-Methoxyphenyl)-5-phenyl-6-fluoro-6-acetyl-2-ene-cyclohexanone (5e).** White liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  2.02 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 3H), 3.04 (dd, J = 4.8 Hz, J = 18 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (dd, J = 4.8 Hz, J = 18 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (m, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 6.53 (s, 1H), 6.55–7.00 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.41 (m, 5H), 7.53–7.58 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  28.3, 28.6, 31.1, 32.0, 46.7, 47.0, 55.4, 113.7, 114.3, 114.3, 120.3, 120.5, 121.7, 128.0, 128.1, 128.3, 128.7, 128.9, 129.0, 129.0, 129.3, 130.3, 130.8, 136.8, 143.9, 160.4, 161.9, 162.0, 190.2, 190.4, 207.2; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CFCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  164.0, 172.0, 172.1; MS (ACPI) m/z: 339.1 (M<sup>+</sup> + 1).

**3-Styryl-5-phenyl-6-fluoro-6-acetyl-2-ene-cyclohexanone** (5f). White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  2.01 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 3H), 3.10 (m, 1H), 3.93 (m, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 6.22 (s, 1H), 6.93–7.12 (m, 2H), 7.33–7.53 (m, 10H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  28.3, 28.6, 28.6, 46.4, 46.6, 48.4, 48.6, 125.1, 125.2, 127.5, 128.0, 128.3, 128.4, 128.8, 129.0, 129.0, 129.0, 129.0, 129.7, 129.7, 135.4, 135.5, 136.9, 137.3, 137.4, 158.2, 199.5; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CFCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  163.6, 171.4, 171.6; MS (ACPI) m/z: 335.1 (M<sup>+</sup> + 1).

**Ethyl** 2-ene-cyclohexanone-3,5-diphenyl-4-fluoro-4-carboxylate (5g). White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 1.08 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.80 (m, 1H), 3.52 (m, 1H), 4.08 (m, 3H), 6.52 (s, 1H), 7.24–7.55 (m, 10H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 14.0, 14.1, 39.3, 39.4, 49.0, 49.3, 62.8, 117.6, 127.7, 127.9, 127.9, 128.3, 128.6, 128.7, 128.7, 128.9, 129.0, 129.5, 129.6, 130.4, 135.7, 197.0; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CFCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 178.7, 178.8; MS (ACPI) m/z: 309.1 (M<sup>+</sup> + 1).

**Ethyl** 2-ene-cyclohexanone-3-phenyl-5-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4fluoro-4-carboxylate (5h). Yellowish solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 1.08 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.42–3.79 (m, 1H), 3.78 (m, 2H), 4.21 (m, 1H), 4.41 (m, 1H), 5.66 (m, 1H), 7.17–7.74 (m, 7H), 7.83–7.94 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 14.0, 14.1, 37.4, 44.8, 51.1, 59.6, 59.6, 88.1, 88.9, 91.6, 106.7, 127.6, 128.0, 128.2, 128.8, 128.9, 128.9, 129.0, 129.4, 129.4, 131.2, 133.1, 134.1, 134.3, 141.1, 170.1; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CFCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 178.7, 178.8; MS (ACPI) m/z: 372.1 (M<sup>+</sup>).

**3,5-Diphenyl-6-fluoro-2-ene-cyclohexanone** (5i). Yellowish liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  3.18 (dd, J = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (dd, J = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (m, J = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 4.96–5.03 (dd, J = 2.7 Hz, J = 20.1 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 7.18–7.47 (m, 10H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  31.7, 31.8, 45.5, 45.7, 90.6, 93.0, 123.1, 126.5, 127.9, 128.3, 128.4, 128.8, 129.0, 129.1, 130.9, 137.9, 138.7, 160.1, 193.5; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CFCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  199.9, 200.2; MS (ACPI) m/z: 267.1 (M<sup>+</sup> + 1).

**3-Styryl-5-phenyl-6-fluoro-2-ene-cyclohexanone (5j).** Yellowish liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  2.90 (dd, J = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 3.13 (m, 1H), 3.55 (m, 1H), 5.12–5.33 (dd, J = 12.6 Hz, J = 48.3 Hz, 1H), 6.21 (s, 1H), 6.96 (m, 2H), 7.26–7.55 (m, 10H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  32.9, 33.0, 46.7, 46.9, 91.3, 93.9, 126.0, 127.0, 127.4, 127.5, 127.6, 127.8, 128.1, 128.5, 128.8, 128.9, 130.0, 129.6, 130.9, 135.4, 137.0, 139.0,

155.6, 193.8, 200.4;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (CFCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  196.6, 196.7; MS (ACPI) m/z: 293.2 (M<sup>+</sup> + 1).

**3-(4'-Methoxyphenyl)-5-phenyl-6-fluoro-2-ene-cyclohexanone** (**5k**). Yellowish liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  3.12 (dd, J = 4.8 Hz, J = 18 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (dd, J = 1.8 Hz, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 4.91–5.09 (dd, J = 2.7 Hz, J = 20.1 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (m, 5H), 7.50 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  31.2, 32.3, 45.2, 45.5, 55.4, 90.4, 92.8, 114.3, 121.0, 127.6, 128.0, 128.2, 128.2, 128.8, 129.7, 130.9, 138.7, 159.3, 161.8, 171.9, 193.1, 199.5; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CFCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  199.7, 200.0; MS (ACPI) *m/z*: 297.1 (M<sup>+</sup> + 1).

#### 4. Conclusions

We have developed a green and efficient one-pot synthesis procedure for fluorination of 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds followed by Michael addition or Robinson annulation with  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated ketones for the synthesis of acyclic and cyclic  $\alpha$ -fluoro- $\beta$ -ketoesters and  $\alpha$ -fluoro-1,3-diketones. The decarboxylation can also be included in the one-pot reaction process by using a stronger base and heating the reaction at a higher temperature. High efficiency is realized by the microwave reaction combined with atom economic one-pot synthesis.

#### Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the support from the Center for Green Chemistry at the University of Massachusetts Boston. W.Y. acknowledges the financial support of NUST Research Funding (2011ZDJH07), Jiangsu Provincial Natural Science Foundation of China for Key Projects (BK2010070) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (20902047).

#### References

- I. Ojima, Fluorine in Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.
- 2 J. F. Austin, S.-G. Kim, C. J. Sinz, W.-J. Xiao and D. W. C. MacMillan, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A., 2004, 101, 5482–5487.
- 3 D. Sarantakis, J. J. Bicksler and J. C. Wu, US 20060014826, 2006.
- 4 A. Abad, C. Agullo, A. C. Cunat, A. Gonzalez-Coloma and D. Pardo, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.*, 2010, 2182–2198.
- 5 P. P. Roy and K. Roy, J. Pharm. Pharmacol., 2010, 62, 1717-1728.
- 6 P. Paolo, V. Manuela, V. Mario and I. Antonella, WO 2000069846, 2000.
- 7 J. Liu, N. L. Shelton and R. S. H. Liu, Org. Lett., 2002, 4, 2521-2524.
- 8 L. T. Phan, R. F. Clark, M. Rupp, Y. S. Or, D. T. W. Chu and Z. Ma, Org. Lett., 2000, 2, 2951–2954.
- 9 D. Cahard, X. Xu, S. Couve-Bonnaire and X. Pannecoucke, *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 2010, **39**, 558–568.
- 10 J. Ma and D. Cahard, Chem. Rev., 2008, 108, 1-43.
- 11 P. A. Wender, V. A. Verma, T. J. Paxton and T. H. Pillow, Acc. Chem. Res., 2008, 41, 40–49.
- 12 W. Zhang and B. Cue, W. Green Techniques for Organic Synthesis and Medicinal Chemistry, Wiley, 2012.
- 13 J. C. Xiao and J. M. Shreeve, J. Fluorine Chem., 2005, 126, 475–478.
- 14 L. Dubois, F. C. Acher and I. McCort-Tranchepain, Synlett, 2012, 23, 791–795.
- 15 P. V. Frank, B. Kalluraya and S. Shetty, Der Pharmacia Lettre, 2011, 3, 388–392.