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ENVIRONMENTAL FRIENDLY SYNTHESIS OF BIS-PERFLUOROPYRIDINE AND PYRIMIDINE IN WATER

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Abstract – An easy, efficient and simple approach for the synthesis of some perfluoropyridine and pyrimidine derivatives by reaction of pentafluoropyridine and tetrafluoropyrimidine with mono and bidentate *N*-nucleophiles in the presence of potassium carbonate in water as a green solvent, at room temperature is reported. The structures of some products were unambiguously confirmed by X-ray crystallography.

INTRODUCTION

Organic reactions in aqueous media have attracted considerable attention in recent years, since they offer a powerful tool for minimizing waste production and harmful organic solvent dispersal.¹ Some particular properties of water make this solvent very attractive (e.g., non-toxicity, non-inflammability, high heat capacity, possibility of controlling pH, isolating insoluble solid products by filtration and recycling inorganic catalysts and itself), allowing organic processes in aqueous medium to be safer, very efficient, and highly selective.² Because water is natural, abundant, cheap, and readily available, it is thought to be an ideal solvent for both laboratory and industrial chemical processes.³ It is not only abundant, inexpensive, and environmentally benign but it also shows novel reactivity and selectivity for simple synthesis of biologically active compounds in the pharmaceutical or agrochemical industries.⁴⁻⁷ In fact, as clearly stated by Sheldon, it is generally recognized that “the best solvent is no solvent and if a solvent is needed it should preferably be water”.⁸ Traditionally, organic reactions are carried out in organic solvents (e.g., THF, DMF) and oftentimes at temperatures above ambient,⁹ although use of (potentially toxic) organic solvents is always the norm, which by definition fails to meet the "12 Principles of Green Chemistry".¹⁰

Syntheses of polyfunctional heterocyclic fused ring systems with low molecular weight are important in life science industries.^{11,12} Pentafluoropyridine has attracted considerable interest due to its synthetic utility. Various multi-functional pyridine derivatives and construction of new heterocyclic and macrocyclic systems could be accessed from simple reaction conditions.¹³⁻²⁰ These were including reaction of various

bifunctional nucleophiles with pentafluoropyridine. All five fluorine atoms in pentafluoropyridine may be substituted by an appropriate nucleophile due to its highly electron efficient aromatic ring system. The site-reactivity order of pentafluoropyridine is well known.²¹⁻²⁴

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In our earlier study, we have reported reaction of pentafluoropyridine derivatives with some unequal bidentate nucleophiles in acetonitrile under reflux condition.²⁵ Further, we also successfully utilized ultrasound for the preparation of some pentafluoropyridine derivatives via the reactions of different nucleophiles (mono and bidentate nucleophiles) with pentafluoropyridine in acetonitrile.²⁶ Herein, we wish to report a facile, green and efficient method for preparation of some tetrafluoropyridine and trifluoropyrimidine derivatives *via* reaction of mono and bidentate *N*-nucleophiles with pentafluoropyridine and tetrafluoropyrimidine respectively in water as a green solvent at room temperature.

The reaction of pentafluoropyridine **1** (X = CF) with 2-aminomethylpyridine in the presence of potassium carbonate in water as a solvent gave 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-*N*-(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)pyridin-4-amine **3a** in 80% yields (Table 1, entry 1).

The ¹⁹F NMR spectrum of **3a** had a chemical shift at -97.1 ppm, in which the resonance attributed to fluorine located ortho to ring nitrogen, similar to the shift observed for the analogous system. The corresponding resonance for fluorine located meta to ring nitrogen occurred at -164.0 ppm, similar to the shifts observed for the analogous systems.^{15,16}

The present methodology has been found successful in the nucleophilic substitution of aliphatic diamine with pentafluoropyridine to achieve bis-tetrafluoropyridine derivatives (Table 1, entries 2-4, compound **3b-d**). These reactions were also carried out in the presence of potassium carbonate in water solvent and identification of product was done by ¹H, ¹³C, ¹⁹F NMR analyses, mass spectra and elemental analyses.

The ¹⁹F NMR spectra of **3b**, **3c** and **3d** had a chemical shift at -95.42, -94.22 and -94.58 ppm, in which the resonance attributed to fluorine located ortho to ring nitrogen, similar to the shift observed for the analogous system. The corresponding resonance for fluorine which was located meta to ring nitrogen occurred at -154.23, -164.71 and -164.85 ppm, similar to the shifts observed for the analogous systems.

Similarly, the reaction of aliphatic diamine with tetrafluoropyrimidine (Table 1, X = N) in the presence of potassium carbonate in water solvent gave bis-trifluoropyrimidine derivatives from regiospecific substitution of fluorine attached to the 4-position of tetrafluoropyrimidine similar to reported earlier work²⁷ (Table 1, entries 5-9, compound **3e-i**). The structures of **3e-i** could be determined by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy which showed three resonances in the range -47.66 - -48.75, -80.66 - -89.74 and -180.12 - -181.16 ppm for F-5, F-2 and F-6 respectively in a 1:1:1 ratio. A consideration of the ¹⁹F NMR substituent chemical shifts from literature data²⁷ and this work, confirmed the structure of **3e-i**.

Table 1. Reaction of pentafluoropyridine with various bidentate *N*-nucleophiles in water

X = N, C-F

Entry	X	Nucleophile	Product	Yield (%)	Time (h)
1	CF			80	5
2	CF			90	3
3	CF			90	4
4	CF			90	4
5	N			95	3
6	N			90	4
7	N			90	4
8	N			95	4
9	N			90	4

The structures of compounds **3a** and **3b** were also confirmed by X-ray crystallography. Molecular structures and ORTEP plots of compounds **3a** and **3b** are shown in Figures 1 and 2, respectively.

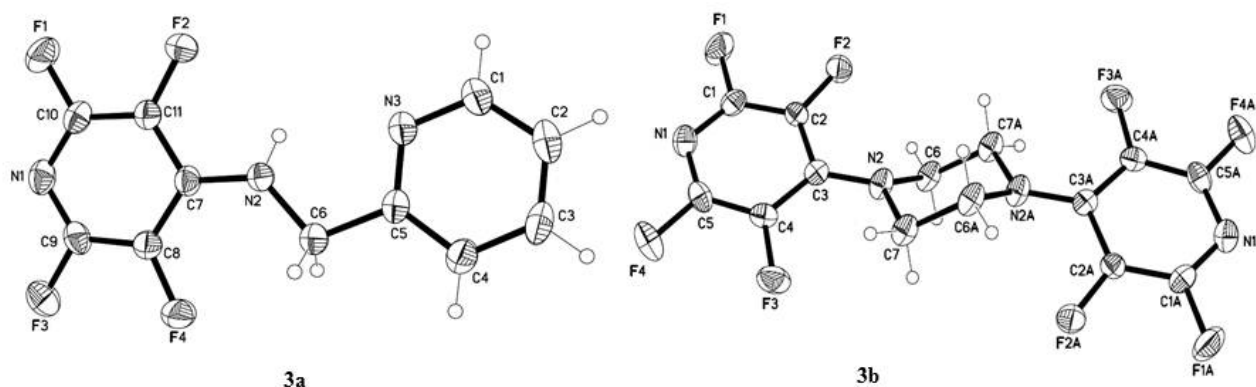


Figure 1. Molecular structures of **3a** and **3b**

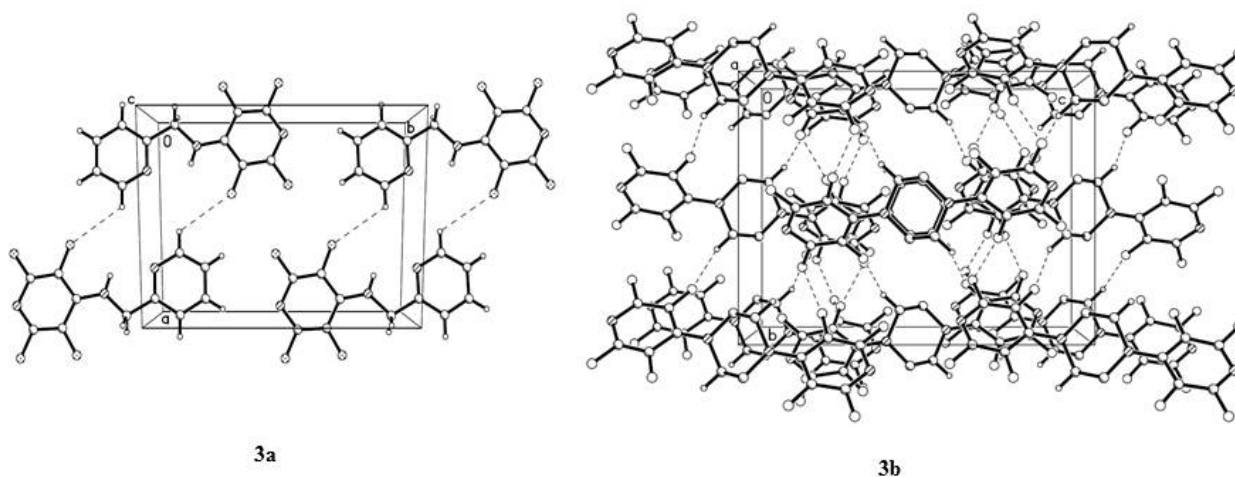


Figure 2. Packing in a crystal of **3a** and **3b**

The asymmetric unit of the compound **3b** comprised half of the molecule in which the center of symmetry was located in the middle of piperazine ring. In the crystal packing of **3b**, molecules were connected together by the intermolecular C–H...F and C–F... π interactions, forming a 3-D network. The interesting feature of the crystal structure of **3b** is the weak intermolecular F(2)...F(4) [2.858(2) Å] interaction which is shorter than the sum of the van der Waals radius [2.94 Å] of F atoms.²⁸ The asymmetric unit of the compound **3a** comprised a molecule of compound **3a**. In the crystal packing of **3a**, molecules were connected together by the intermolecular C–H...F interaction into a 1-D chain along the b-axis of the unit cell (Table 2). The crystal packing also showed intermolecular π ... π interaction with centroid to centroid distance of 3.7008(16) Å [Cg(1)...Cg(2)] = 3.7008(16) Å; Cg1 = N1/C7–C11; Cg2 = N3/C1–C5 (i) $3/2-x, -1/2+y, 3/2-z$.²⁹

Table 2. Hydrogen bonding parameters

	D–H···A	H···A (Å)	D···A (Å)	D–H···A (°)
3b	C(6)–H(6A)···F(2)	2.26	2.893(3)	122
	C(6)–H(6A)···F(3) ⁱ	2.52	3.175(3)	125
3a	N(2)–H(1)···N(3)	2.11(3)	2.593(3)	118(2)

(i) -1/2-x, -1/2+y, z

In conclusion, as has been shown in this paper, water can be used as a green solvent for preparation of some perfluoropyridine and pyrimidine derivatives in high yield at room temperature.

EXPERIMENTAL

Melting points were determined in open capillary tubes by an Electrothermal IA 9000 melting point apparatus. FT-IR spectra of all the final products were recorded on a Bruker instrument by using the KBr self-supported pellet technique. The ¹³C NMR, ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance-300 75, and 125 MHz for ¹³C NMR, 300, 400, and 500 MHz for ¹H NMR. NMR spectra were obtained in solution of DMSO-*d*₆ and CDCl₃ using tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal standard. The ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded at 470 MHz. In the ¹⁹F NMR spectra, upfield shifts were quoted as negative and referenced to CFCl₃. Mass spectra were taken by a Micromass Platform II: EI mode (70 eV). Elemental analyses were obtained on an Exeter Analytical CE-440 elemental analyser. Medium pressure ('flash') column chromatography was performed using silica (Merck #60). Silica plates (Merck) were used for TLC analysis.

Starting Materials

All starting materials were commercially available.

General procedure for preparation of compound 3a-i

Potassium carbonate (0.2 mmol) was added to the mixture of nucleophile (0.1 mmol) in water (3 mL). Then pentafluoropyridine or tetrafluoropyrimidine (0.1 mmol for **3a** and 0.2 mmol for other compounds) was added and the resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for a few hours. After completion of the reaction as indicated by TLC, CHCl₃ (20 mL) and brine (20 mL) were added then the organic layer collected. The CHCl₃ was evaporated and column chromatography on silica gel using EtOAc-hexane (1:5) as eluent (for compound **3f** and **3h**) or recrystallization from EtOAc (for all compounds except **3f** and **3h**) gave the product.

2,3,5,6-Tetrafluoro-*N*-(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)pyridin-4-amine **3a**

(0.06 g, 80%) as a white solid; mp 112-115 °C; Anal. Calcd for C₁₁H₇F₄N₃: C, 51.4; H, 2.7; N, 16.4%.

Found: C, 51.3; H, 2.5; N, 16.3; δ_F (470 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆); -97.0 (2F, m, F-2), -164.0 (2F, m, F-3); δ_H (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆); 4.71 (d, 2H, $^3J_{HH} = 6.2$ Hz, CH₂), 7.30 (1H, m, Ar-H), 7.32 (1H, d, $^3J_{HH} = 7.9$ Hz, Ar-H), 7.83-8.20 (1H, m, Ar-H), 7.91 (s, NH), 8.53 (1H, d, $^3J_{HH} = 4.4$ Hz, Ar-H); δ_C (125 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆); 48.3 (t, $^4J_{CF} = 3.6$ Hz, CH₂), 120.6 (s, Ar-C), 122.3 (s, Ar-C), 130.8 (ddd, $^1J_{CF} = 242.3$, $^2J_{CF} = 35.7$, $^3J_{CF} = 18.6$ Hz, C-3), 136.9 (s, Ar-C), 138.5 (m, C-4), 143.6 (ddd, $^1J_{CF} = 233.8$, $^2J_{CF} = 18.6$, $^3J_{CF} = 9.5$ Hz, C-2); 149.0 (s, Ar-C), 158.1 (s, Ar-C); MS (EI⁺), *m/z* (%) = 237.06 (M-20, 2), 191 (65), 71 (43), 55 (100).

1,4-Bis(perfluoropyridin-4-yl)piperazine 3b

(80%), white solid, mp 198-200 °C; Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₈F₈N₄: C, 43.76; H, 2.10; N, 14.58% Found: C, 43.63; H, 1.95; N, 14.36%; δ_F (470 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆); -95.42 (4F, m, F-2), -154.23 (4F, m, F-3); δ_H (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆); 3.59 (8H, s, CH₂); δ_C (125 MHz, CDCl₃); 46.24 (s, CH₂), 137.61 (dd, $^1J_{CF} = 245.0$, $^2J_{CF} = 32.3$ Hz, C-3), 138.36 (m, C-4), 145.00 (ddd, $^1J_{CF} = 230.0$, $^2J_{CF} = 29.1$, $^3J_{CF} = 7.8$ Hz, C-2).

N,N'-Bis-(2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-pyridin-4-yl)-butane-1,4-diamine 3c

(0.04 g, 90%), white solid, mp 67-68 °C; Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₀F₈N₄: C, 43.53; H, 2.61; N, 14.51% Found: C, 43.45; H, 2.55; N, 14.46%; δ_F (475 MHz, CDCl₃); -94.22 (4F, m, F-2), -164.71 (4F, m, F-3); δ_H (500 MHz, CDCl₃); 1.73 (4H, m, CH₂), 3.57 (4H, t, $^3J_{HH} = 5.2$ Hz, CH₂), 4.62 (2H, bs, NH); δ_C (125 MHz, CDCl₃); 22.79 (s, CH₂), 39.15 (t, $^4J_{CF} = 4.1$ Hz, CH₂), 125.97 (ddd, $^1J_{CF} = 246.2$, $^2J_{CF} = 34.5$, $^3J_{CF} = 2.8$ Hz, C-3), 133.31 (m, C-4), 139.43 (ddd, $^1J_{CF} = 225.5$, $^2J_{CF} = 19.4$, $^3J_{CF} = 15.2$ Hz, C-2); MS (EI⁺), *m/z* (%) = 386 (M⁺, 10), 191 (30), 178 (100), 131 (24), 81 (14).

2,3,4,5,6-Pentafluoro-*N*-(2-methyl-5-(perfluorophenylamino)pentyl)benzenamine 3d

(0.053 g, 89%), white solid, mp 59-61 °C; Anal. Calcd for C₁₆H₁₄F₈N₄: C, 46.38, H, 3.41, N, 13.52% Found: C, 46.43; H, 3.25; N, 13.39%; δ_F (375 MHz, CDCl₃); -94.58 (m, 4F, F-2), -164.85 (m, 4F, F-3); δ_H (400 MHz, CDCl₃); 1.06 (3H, d, $^3J_{HH} = 6.8$ Hz, CH₃), 1.28 (2H, m, CH₂), 1.51 (2H, m, CH₂), 1.76 (1H, m, CH) 3.32 (2H, m, CH₂), 3.52 (2H, m, CH₂), 4.6 (2H, bs, NH). δ_C (100 MHz, CDCl₃); 17.41 (s, CH₃), 25.83, 28.46, 31.15 (s, CH₂), 34.48 (s, CH), 45.15 (t, $^4J_{CF} = 4.2$ Hz, NCH₂), 50.88 (t, $^4J_{CF} = 9.8$ Hz, NCH₂), 131.27 (dd, $^1J_{CF} = 242.3$, $^2J_{CF} = 34.0$, C-3), 137.81 (m, C-4), 144.47 (dm, $^1J_{CF} = 248.2$ Hz, C-2); MS (EI⁺), *m/z* (%) = 414 (M⁺, 50), 395 (100), 324 (70), 305 (26), 276 (23).

N-(2-(2,5,6-Trifluoropyrimidin-4-ylamino)ethyl)-2,5,6-trifluoropyrimidin-4-amine 3e

(0.029 g, 92%), white solid, mp 188-190 °C; Anal. Calcd for C₁₀H₆F₆N₆: C, 37.05; H, 1.87; N, 25.92% Found: C, 37.01; H, 1.81; N, 25.82%; δ_F (188 MHz, CDCl₃); -48.75 (2F, d, $^3J_{FF} = 25.5$ Hz, F-5), -89.74 (2F, d, $^4J_{FF} = 16.3$ Hz, F-2), -180.12 (2F, dd, $^3J_{FF} = 25.5$, $^4J_{FF} = 16.3$ Hz, F-6); δ_H (400 MHz, CDCl₃); 3.56 (4H, s, CH₂), 7.99 (2H, bs, NH); δ_C (100 MHz, CDCl₃); 60.29 (s, CH₂), 128.16 (ddd, $^1J_{CF} = 253.8$, $^2J_{CF} = 23.6$, $^3J_{CF} = 9.1$ Hz, C-5), 155.01 (ddd, $^1J_{CF} = 214.1$, $^2J_{CF} = 21.8$, $^3J_{CF} = 4.0$ Hz, C-6), 155.32 (ddd, $^1J_{CF} = 230.2$, $^2J_{CF} = 20.5$, $^3J_{CF} = 8.8$ Hz, C-2), 156.97 (m, C-4); MS (EI⁺), *m/z* (%) = 324 (M⁺, 2), 175 (42), 163 (37), 161 (100), 114 (15).

***N*-(3-(2,5,6-Trifluoropyrimidin-4-ylamino)propyl)-2,5,6-trifluoropyrimidin-4-amine 3f**

(0.031 g, 85%), Oily; Anal. Calcd for C₁₁H₈F₆N₆: C, 39.06; H, 2.38; N, 24.85% Found: C, 38.92; H, 2.16; N, 24.71%; δ_F (376 MHz, CDCl₃); -47.73 (2F, d, $^3J_{FF} = 25.5$ Hz, F-5), -87.16 (2F, d, $^4J_{FF} = 16.7$ Hz, F-2), -180.31 (2F, dd, $^3J_{FF} = 25.5$, $^4J_{FF} = 16.7$ Hz, F-6); δ_H (400 MHz, CDCl₃); 1.92 (2H, pent, $^3J_{HH} = 6.5$ Hz, CH₂), 3.61 (4H, t, $^3J_{HH} = 6.5$ Hz, CH₂), 6.40 (2H, bs, NH); δ_C (100 MHz, CDCl₃); 29.45, 38.17 (s, CH₂), 128.08 (ddd, $^1J_{CF} = 250.6$, $^2J_{CF} = 23.0$, $^3J_{CF} = 9.2$ Hz, C-5), 153.37 (ddd, $^1J_{CF} = 294.8$, $^2J_{CF} = 19.8$, $^3J_{CF} = 12.7$ Hz, C-6), 155.19 (ddd, $^1J_{CF} = 218.7$, $^2J_{CF} = 21.8$, $^3J_{CF} = 4.0$ Hz, C-2), 157.30 (m, C-4); MS (EI⁺), *m/z* (%) = 338 (M⁺, 2), 175 (40), 161 (100), 114 (36).

***N*-(3-(2,5,6-Trifluoropyrimidin-4-ylamino)propyl)-2,5,6-trifluoropyrimidin-4-amine 3g**

(0.032 g, 90%), white solid, mp 118-121 °C; Anal. Calcd for C₁₂H₁₀F₆N₆: C, 40.92; H, 2.86; N, 23.86% Found: C, 40.80; H, 2.72; N, 23.80%; δ_F (188 MHz, CDCl₃); -48.10 (2F, d, $^3J_{FF} = 25.1$ Hz, F-5), -80.66 (2F, d, $^4J_{FF} = 16.3$ Hz, F-2), -180.45 (2F, dd, $^3J_{FF} = 25.1$, $^4J_{FF} = 16.3$ Hz, F-6); δ_H (400 MHz, CDCl₃); 1.56 (4H, m, CH₂), 3.46 (4H, t, $^3J_{HH} = 7.2$ Hz, CH₂), 8.37 (2H, bs, NH); δ_C (100 MHz, CDCl₃); 26.28, 31.21 (s, CH₂), 127.95 (ddd, $^1J_{CF} = 250.4$, $^2J_{CF} = 22.6$, $^3J_{CF} = 7.5$ Hz, C-5), 155.10 (ddd, $^1J_{CF} = 214.7$, $^2J_{CF} = 23.3$, $^3J_{CF} = 3.3$ Hz, C-6), 155.80 (ddd, $^1J_{CF} = 236.7$, $^2J_{CF} = 20.6$, $^3J_{CF} = 10.9$ Hz, C-2), 156.9 (m, C-4); MS (EI⁺), *m/z* (%) = 352 (M⁺, 2), 161 (100).

***N*-(3-(2,5,6-Trifluoropyrimidin-4-ylamino)propyl)-2,5,6-trifluoropyrimidin-4-amine 3h**

(0.034 g, 90%), Oily; Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₁₆F₆N₆ requires C, 45.69; H, 4.09; N, 21.31% Found: C, 45.64; H, 4.02; N, 21.30%; δ_F (376 MHz, CDCl₃); -47.66 (2F, d, $^3J_{FF} = 25.1$ Hz, F-5), -87.87 (2F, d, $^4J_{FF} = 17.1$ Hz, F-2), -181.05 (2F, dd, $^3J_{FF} = 25.1$, $^4J_{FF} = 17.1$ Hz, F-6); δ_H (400 MHz, CDCl₃); 1.36 (6H, m, CH₂), 1.62 (4H, m, CH₂), 3.50 (4H, t, $^3J_{HH} = 7.2$ Hz, CH₂), 5.63 (2H, bs, NH); δ_C (100 MHz, CDCl₃); 26.74, 28.97, 29.34, 29.41, 41.72 (s, CH₂), 128.01 (ddd, $^1J_{CF} = 248.4$, $^2J_{CF} = 22.9$, $^3J_{CF} = 8.8$ Hz, C-5), 155.26 (ddd, $^1J_{CF} = 215.6$, $^2J_{CF} = 21.3$, $^3J_{CF} = 3.4$ Hz, C-6), 156.10 (ddd, $^1J_{CF} = 251.8$, $^2J_{CF} = 10.4$, $^3J_{CF} = 10.7$ Hz, C-2), 156.87 (m, C-4); MS (EI⁺), *m/z* (%) = 352 (M⁺, 2), 161 (100).

***N*-(3-(2,5,6-Trifluoropyrimidin-4-ylamino)propyl)-2,5,6-trifluoropyrimidin-4-amine 3i**

(0.036 g, 88%), white solid; mp 79-83 °C; Anal. Calcd for C₁₈H₂₂F₆N₆ requires C, 51.09; H, 4.71; N, 11.72% Found: C, 50.97; H, 4.96; N, 11.64%; δ_F (188 MHz, CDCl₃); -47.57 (2F, d, $^3J_{FF} = 25.5$ Hz, F-5), -87.67 (2F, d, $^4J_{FF} = 16.6$ Hz, F-2), -181.16 (2F, dd, $^3J_{FF} = 25.5$, $^4J_{FF} = 16.6$ Hz, F-6); δ_H (500 MHz, CDCl₃); 1.33 (12H, m, CH₂), 1.64 (4H, pent, $^3J_{HH} = 7.3$ Hz, CH₂), 3.51 (4H, t, $^3J_{HH} = 7.2$ Hz, CH₂), 5.53 (2H, bs, NH); δ_C (125 MHz, CDCl₃); 26.87, 29.35, 29.50, 29.57, 29.58, 41.83 (s, CH₂), 128.02 (ddd, $^1J_{CF} = 250.6$, $^2J_{CF} = 23.1$, $^3J_{CF} = 9.4$ Hz, C-5), 155.32 (ddd, $^1J_{CF} = 216.67$, $^2J_{CF} = 21.0$, $^3J_{CF} = 3.9$ Hz, C-6), 156.50 (ddd, $^1J_{CF} = 238.0$, $^2J_{CF} = 21.3$, $^3J_{CF} = 8.8$ Hz, C-2), 157.31 (m, C-4); MS (EI⁺), *m/z* (%) = 436 (M⁺, 2), 175 (55), 161 (100), 148 (34).

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29. The X-ray single crystal data for **3a** and **3b** were collected at 296 (1) K on STOE IPDS II diffractometers (Mo K α = 0.71073 Å). Cell parameters were retrieved using X-AREA software and refined using X-AREA on all observed reflections. Data reduction and correction for Lp (Lorentz-polarization) and decay were performed using X-AREA software. Absorption corrections were applied using MULABS in PLATON. All structures were solved by direct methods and refined by full-matrix least squares on F2 for all data using SHELXTL software. All calculations were performed by PLATON. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atoms were positioned geometrically and refined with riding model approximation with their parameters constrained to the parent atom with Uiso (H) = 1.2 Ueq (C). N-bound hydrogen atoms were located from the difference Fourier map and refined to their parent atoms.