Convenient Syntheses of *Benzo*-Fluorinated Dibenz[*b*,*f*]azepines: Rearrangements of Isatins, Acridines and Indoles

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- 1. General Experimental

All reactions were carried out under an inert nitrogen or argon atmosphere unless otherwise stated. Reactions were monitored using thin layer chromatography (TLC) performed on Merck Silica gel 60 F_{254} plates. Fluorinated reagents were purchased from Fluorochem: all other reagents were purchased from SigmaAldrich and used as received. All reaction solvents were purchased from Fisher Scientific and used as received. ¹H, ¹³C and ¹⁹F NMR Spectra were obtained using a Bruker Avance instrument operating at 400, 100 and 376 MHz respectively. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral data are reported in ppm (δ) relative to their residual solvent peaks. For ¹H NMR the chemical shifts are relative to 7.26 (CDCl₃) and 2.50 (DMSO-d₆); for ¹³C NMR the chemical shifts are relative to 77.00 (CDCl₃) and 39.50 (DMSO-d₆).¹ Coupling constants (*J*) are reported in Hz. High resolution mass spectrometry for the N-aryl indoles and Iminostilbenes were performed by the National Mass Spectrometry Service based in Swansea; all other samples were obtained in electrospray mode (ES) with a micromass LCT mass spectrometer operating in the positive or negative ion mode as indicated. Elemental analyses for the N-aryl indoles and iminostilbenes were performed by Mr. Stephen Boyer of London Metropolitan University, all other analyses were performed by Mr. Steven Apter of the University of Liverpool. Infra red spectra were recorded on a Jasco FTIR ATR spectrometer. Melting points were recorded

using Bibby-Sterlin Stuart SMP3 melting point apparatus. Flash chromatography was performed on VWR silica gel (40-63 μ m).

2. Experimental Procedures



1-(4-Fluorophenyl)indoline-2,3-dione 10: Isatin (4 g, 27.19 mmol) and CuO (4.33 g, 54.37 mmol) were suspended in dimethylacetamide (DMA) (70 mL). 1-Bromo-4-fluorobenzene (4.19 mL, 38.06 mmol) was added dropwise over 1 h, then the reaction mixture was heated to 150 °C (\pm 5 °C) for 24 h. The reaction was then filtered through Celite® 521 and the filtrate poured into an ice-water slurry (700 mL).ii then stirred for 30 min. The resulting red/brown precipitate was isolated by

filtration, dried, redissolved in acetone and filtered for a second time through Celite® 521 to remove any insoluble material. The filtrate was concentrated and purified by column chromatography (dichloromethane) to afford the product as an orange crystalline solid (3.93 g, 60 %). ¹H NMR (400.13 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.61 (dt, *J* = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.57 - 7.51 (m, 2 H), 7.47 - 7.40 (m, 2 H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1 H) and 6.79 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR [100.62 MHz, DMSO d₆] δ 182.6, 161.4 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} = 245.4 Hz), 157.5, 151.2, 138.0, 129.6 (d, ⁴*J*_{CF} = 3.0 Hz), 128.9 (d, ³*J*_{CF}= 9.0 Hz), 124.6, 123.6, 117.6, 116.6 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 22.8 Hz) and 110.6; ¹⁹F NMR (376.46 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ -112.82; *m*/*z* [CI, NH₃] 259; Found: m/*z*, 259.0878. C₁₄H₁₂FN₂O₂ (MNH₄⁺) req. m/*z*, 259.0883; Found: C 69.66, H 3.31, N 5.78; C₁₄H₈FNO₂ req. C 69.71, H 3.34, N 5.81%; v_{max} (cm⁻¹) [ground solid] 1736 (s), 1604 (s),1506 (m), 1460 (m), 1180 (m, C-F stretch), 835 (m) and 756 (m); m.p. = 236 °C.



2-Fluoroacridine-9-carboxylic acid 11: 1-(4-Fluorophenyl)indoline-2,3dione (3.044 g, 12.63 mmol) was dissolved in ethanol (100 mL) and 60 % $KOH_{(aq)}$ (25 mL) added cautiously to the mixture forming a clear, yellow solution. The reaction was then heated to gentle reflux overnight, during which

time the mixture became dark yellow-brown. After 45 h the reaction was cooled to room temperature, concentrated and re-dissolved in water (400 mL). The alkaline solution (~ pH 14) was washed with ether (3 × 100 mL). The aqueous phase was then acidified with 2 M HCl to pH 1-2 and the resulting precipitate isolated by filtration, washed with ether and dried. Product that remained in the acidified aqueous phase was extracted with a 1:1 mixture of EtOAc/THF (3 × 100 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried (sodium sulphate), filtered and evaporated. The desired acridine-9-carboxylic acid was obtained as a yellow solid (2.50 g, 82 %); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 8.37 (dd, *J* = 5.6, 9.6 Hz, 1 H), 8.29 - 8.25 (m, 1 H), 8.16 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 8.00 - 7.91 (m, 2 H) and 7.83 - 7.77 (m, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (100.13 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 167.7, 159.9 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} = 249.6 Hz), 147.2, 145.1, 132.3 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 9.1 Hz), 131.2, 129.0, 128.2, 125.1, 122.9 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 28.3 Hz), 121.4 and 107.5 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 23.2 Hz); ¹⁹F

NMR (376.56 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ = -110.15; m/z [ES⁻]: [M-H]⁺ 240, [2M-H]⁻ 481; Found: m/z, 240.0461; C₁₄H₇FNO₂ [M-H]⁺ req. m/z, 240.0421; v_{max} (cm⁻¹) (ground solid) 3367 (m), 1188 (s), 825, 758; m.p. 254 °C.

2-[(4-Fluorophenyl)amino]benzoic acid 12: Isolated as a by-product from the preceding reaction: dark orange solid; ¹H NMR (400MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 13.01 (br s, 1 H), 9.54 (br s, 1 H), 7.91 (dd, J = 1.5, 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.37 (ddd, J = 1.6, 7.1, 8.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.32 - 7.24 (m, 2 H), 7.23 - 7.14 (m, 2 H), 7.07 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.79 - 6.74 (m, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100.13 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 169.9, 158.4 (d, ¹ $J_{CF} = 240.1$ Hz), 147.6, 136.7 (d, ⁴ $J_{CF} = 2.4$ Hz), 134.2, 131.8, 124.2 (d, ³ $J_{CF} = 8.0$ Hz), 117.1, 116.0 (d, ² $J_{CF} = 22.4$ Hz), 133.2, 112.2; ¹⁹F NMR (376.56 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ -199.29; *m*/*z* [CI+NH₃] 232; Found: m/z, 232.0777; C₁₃H₁₁FNO₂ [M+H]⁺ req. m/z, 232.0774; m.p. 148-150 °C



2-Fluoroacridine-9-carboxylic acid methyl ester 13: Using standard Schlenk techniques, 2-fluoroacridine-9-carboxylic acid (2.30 g, 9.45 mmol) was dissolved in freshly distilled thionyl chloride (70 mL). The solution was then heated to 80 °C, and stirred under an inert atmosphere for 14 hours. The

thionyl chloride was removed *in vacuo* and the residue dissolved in methanol and left to stir for 2 h at room temperature in an inert atmosphere, then the methanol was removed: the residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ and washed with saturated aq. NaHCO₃, water and brine. The organic extract was dried over sodium sulphate, filtered and evaporated. The crude methyl ester was isolated pure after column chromatography in ether/hexane (1:2) as a beige solid (1.69 g, 70 %); ¹H NMR (400MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 8.27 (dd, 1 H, *J* = 9.4, 5.5 Hz), 8.25 (d, 1 H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 8.03 (d, 1 H, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.80 (ddd, 1 H, *J* = 8.7, 6.7, 1.4 Hz) and 7.66-7.60 (m, 3H), 4.21 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100.13 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 167.5, 160.5 (d ¹*J*_{CF} = 251.5 Hz), 148.1 (d, ⁴*J*_{CF} = 2.23 Hz), 146.1, 135.8 (d, *J*_{CF} = 7.9 Hz), 132.8 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz), 130.1 (d, *J* = 12.6 Hz), 127.8, 124.8, 122.8 (d, *J* = 10.4 Hz), 122.7, 122.3, 122.0, 107.4 (d, *J* = 23.8 Hz) and 53.1; ¹⁹F NMR (376.56 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ -109.99; *m*/*z* [CI + NH₃] 256, 198; Found: m/z, 256.0777; C₁₅H₁₁FNO₂ (MH⁺) req. m/z, 256.0774; Found: C, 70.44 ; H, 4.01; N, 5.44; C₁₅H₁₀FNO₂ req. C 70.58; H, 3.95; N, 5.49 %; v_{max} (cm⁻¹) [ground solid] 1720 (s), 1462 (m), 1215 (s), 1171 (s), 827 (m), 760 (m); m.p. 147 °C.

(2-Fluoro-9,10-dihydroacridin-9-yl)methanol 14: 2-Fluoroacridine-9carboxylic acid methyl ester (1.05 g, 4.12 mmol) was dissolved in anhydrous THF (60 mL) to which LiAlH₄ (1 M in THF, 5.15 mL) was added dropwise under an inert atmosphere. The reaction was then slowly heated to 80 °C and maintained at that temperature for 3 h. The reaction was then quenched by addition of H₂O (0.4 mL) followed by 15% aq. NaOH (0.4 mL) and further H₂O (1.2 mL). The resulting precipitate was filtered off, then the filtrate was diluted with EtOAc, washed with water and sat. aq. NaHCO₃ followed by drying over sodium sulphate, filtration and evaporation to yield the crude product. Purification by column chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexane, 1:4) yielded the alcohol as a pale, rather air-sensitive yellow solid (0.89 g, 92 %); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 7.18 (dq, *J* = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 2 H), 6.97 - 6.92 (m, 2 H), 6.88 (dt, *J* = 8.4, 2.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.75 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.68 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 4.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.08 (br s, 1 H), 4.07 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1 H) and 3.62 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (100.13 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 157.7 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} = 238.4 Hz), 139.8, 136.01 (d, ⁴*J*_{CF} = 1.8 Hz), 129.1, 127.9, 121.86 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 6.9 Hz), 120.97, 119.34, 115.5 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 22.4 Hz), 114.3 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 22.9 Hz), 114.2 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 7.8 Hz), 113.7, 67.4 and 45.5; ¹⁹F NMR (376.56 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ -123.84; *m*/*z* (CI) [M+H]⁺ 230, 212, 198; Found: m/*z*, 230.0981; V_{max} (cm⁻¹) [ground solid] 3291 (m), 1485 (s), 1313 (m), 1227 (m), 814 (m), 748 (m); m.p. 130 °C.

Characterisation of compound 15 is given below.

General experimental procedure for the synthesis of *N*-aryl Indoles.

N-Aryl indoles were prepared with modification of the procedure reported by Ma *et al*² as follows:

The appropriate indole (2.2 mmol), K_2CO_3 (5.0 mmol), CuI (0.1 mmol) and L-proline (0.2 mmol) were dissolved in DMSO (4 mL). The mixture was heated gently to 100 °C (± 5 °C) under an inert atmosphere for 10 min, then iodobenzene (2.0 mmol) was added dropwise over 20 min and the reaction left to stir for 24 h. Upon completion the cooled solution was partitioned between EtOAc and H₂O and the aqueous layer extracted with EtOAc (×2); the combined organic phases were washed with brine and dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated. The crude material was subsequently purified by column chromatography to give the pure product.



1-(3-Fluorophenyl)-1*H***-indole (NAI-3'-F):** Pale yellow oil, 78 %; (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.69-7.67 (m, 1H, H), 7.59-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.42 (dt, *J*=8.2, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, *J*=3.3 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.15 (m, 4H), 7.03 (tdd, *J* = 8.3, 2.5, 0.9 Hz, 1H) and 6.69 (d, *J*= 3.3, 0.8Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR [100.62 MHz, CDCl₃] δ 163.5 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} = 247.5 Hz), 141.6 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 10.0 Hz), 135.9, 131.2 (d, *J* =

9.3 Hz), 129.8, 127.9, 123.0, 121.6, 121.0, 120.0 (d, ${}^{4}J_{CF}$ =3.1 Hz), 113.5 (d, 2*J*CF = 21.1 Hz), 111.8 (d, ${}^{2}J_{CF}$ = 23.8 Hz), 110.7 and 104.6; 19 F NMR [376.46 MHz, CDCl₃] δ -111.23 (s); Found: C, 79.69; H, 4.81; N, 6.52; C₁₄H₁₀FN req. C, 79.60; H, 4.77; N, 6.63 %; Found: m/z, 212.0872; C₁₄H₁₁FN [M + H]⁺ req. m/z, 212.0870; v_{max} (cm⁻¹, neat) 1546.63 (s), 1461.78 (m) and 1203.36 (m).



4-Fluoro-1-phenyl-1*H***-indole (NAI-4-F):** Pale yellow oil, 70 %; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.4 - 7.5 (m, 4 H), 7.3 - 7.4 (m, 1 H), 7.3 (dd, *J*=8.3, 0.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.3 (d, *J*=3.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.1 (dt, *J*=8.1, 5.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.8 (ddd, *J*=10.2, 7.9, 0.5 Hz, 1 H) and 6.8 (dd, *J*=3.3, 0.8 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.4 (d, *J*=248.8 Hz), 139.4 (s), 138.4 (d, *J*=11.1 Hz), 129.6 (s), 127.9 (s), 126.8 (s), 124.4 (s), 122.8 (d, *J*=7.7 Hz), 118.3 (d, *J*=24.5 Hz), 106.6 (d, *J*=3.5 Hz), 105.2 (s),

105.0 (s), 99.5 (s) and 99.4 (s); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -122.2 (s); Found: C, 79.73; H, 4.91; N, 6.14; C₁₄H₁₀FN req. C, 79.60; H, 4.77; N, 6.63 %.



1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-1*H***-indole (NAI-4'-F) 18:** Colourless oil, 81 %; ¹H NMR [400.13 MHz, CDCl₃] δ 7.67-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.42 (m, 1H) 7.40-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.10 (m, 5H) and 6.64 (dd, *J* =3.3, 0.7 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR [100.62 MHz, CDCl₃] δ 161.3 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} = 246.2 Hz, C^{4'}), 136.4 (s), 136.2 (d, ⁴*J*_{CF} = 3.0 Hz, C^{1'}), 129.5 (s), 128.3 (s, C²), 126.4 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 8.4 Hz, C^{2',6'}), 122.8 (s), 121.5 (s), 120.7 (s), 116.7 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 22.7 Hz, C^{3',5'}), 110.5 (s) and 103.9 (s); ¹⁹F NMR [376.46

MHz, CDCl₃] δ -115.59 (s); Found: C, 79.73; H, 4.91; N, 6.14; C₁₄H₁₀FN req. C, 79.60; H, 4.77; N, 6.63 %; Found: m/z, 212.0873; C₁₄H₁₁FN [MH⁺] req. m/z, 212.0870.

5-Fluoro-1-phenyl-1*H***-indole (NAI-5-F):** Pale yellow oil, 76 %; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.54- 7.43 (m, 5 H), 7.38 - 7.30 (m, 3 H), 6.95 (dt, *J* = 2.5, 9.1 Hz, 1 H) and 6.63 (dd, *J* = 0.6, 3.2 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.1 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} =234.6 Hz), 139.6, 132.5, 129.7, 129.6 (d, ³*J*_{CF} =13.8 Hz), 129.4, 126.7, 124.3, 111.2 (d, ³*J*_{CF} =9.6 Hz), 110.6 (d, ²*J*_{CF} =26.1 Hz), 105.8

(d, ${}^{2}J_{CF}$ =23.4 Hz) and 103.4 (d, ${}^{4}J_{CF}$ = 4.6 Hz); ${}^{19}F$ NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -122.40; Found: C, 79.70; H, 4.82; N, 6.72; C₁₄H₁₀FN req. C, 79.60; H, 4.77; N, 6.63 %; Found: m/z, 212.0868; C₁₄H₁₁FN [MH⁺] req. m/z, 212.0870.



6-Fluoro-1-phenyl-1*H***-indole (NAI-6-F):** Pale yellow oil, 83 %; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.58 (dd, J = 5.4, 8.7 Hz, 1 H), 7.55 - 7.45 (m, 4 H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.31 (d, J = 3.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.25 - 7.21 (m, 1 H), 6.93 (dt, J = 2.3, 9.0 Hz, 1 H) and 6.65 (d, J = 3.3 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.2 (d, ¹ $J_{CF} = 236.5$ Hz), 139.4, 135.8 (d, ³ $J_{CF} = 12.3$ Hz), 129.7,

128.4 (d, ${}^{4}J_{CF}$ =3.8 Hz), 126.7, 125.6, 124.2, 121.8 (d, ${}^{3}J_{CF}$ =10.0 Hz), 109.1 (d, ${}^{2}J_{CF}$ =24.9 Hz), 103.6 and 97.0 (d, ${}^{2}J_{CF}$ =26.5 Hz); ${}^{19}F$ NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -120.65; Found: C, 79.48; H, 4.85; N, 6.7; C₁₄H₁₀FN req. C, 79.60; H, 4.77; N, 6.63 %; Found: m/z, 212.0869; C₁₄H₁₁FN [MH⁺] req. m/z, 212.0870.



6-Fluoro-1-(3-fluorophenyl)-1*H***-indole (NAI-3',6-F):** Pale yellow oil, 75 %; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56 (dd, *J* = 5.4, 8.7 Hz, 1 H), 7.45 (dt, *J* = 6.3, 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.29 - 7.20 (m, 3 H), 7.17 (td, *J* = 2.3, 9.7 Hz, 1 H), 7.05 (ddt, *J* = 0.9, 2.5, 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.94 (ddd, *J* = 2.3, 8.8, 9.3 Hz, 1 H) and 6.64 (dd, *J* = 0.8, 3.3 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ

163.2 (d, ${}^{1}J_{CF}$ =248.1 Hz), 160.3 (d, ${}^{1}J_{CF}$ =238.5 Hz), 140.9 (d, ${}^{3}J_{CF}$ =10.0 Hz), 135.6 (d, ${}^{3}J_{CF}$ =12.3 Hz), 131.0 (d, ${}^{3}J_{CF}$ =9.2 Hz), 128.0 (d, ${}^{4}J_{CF}$ =3.5 Hz), 125.8 (s), 122.0 (d, ${}^{3}J_{CF}$ =10.0 Hz), 119.5 (d, ${}^{4}J_{CF}$ =3.1 Hz), 113.5 (d, ${}^{2}J_{CF}$ =21.1 Hz), 111.3 (d, ${}^{2}J_{CF}$ =23.8 Hz), 109.4 (d, ${}^{2}J_{CF}$ =24.5 Hz), 104.3 (s) and 97.0 (d, ${}^{2}J_{CF}$ =27.2 Hz); ${}^{19}F$ NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -110.8, -119.9; Found: C, 73.37; H, 4.03; N, 5.94 ; C₁₄H₉F₂N req. C, 73.36; H, 3.96; N, 6.11 %; Found: m/z, 230.0772; C₁₄H₁₀F₂N [MH⁺] req. m/z, 230.0776.



5-Fluoro-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H***-indole** (**NAI-4',5-F**) **19:** Pale yellow oil, 85%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38- 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.27 - 7.36 (m, 3H), 7.15 - 7.22 (m, 2H), 6.94 (td, *J*=9.1, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (dd, *J*=3.2 and 0.7 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.9 (d, ¹*J*_{CF}=247.7 Hz), 157.7 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} =235.4 Hz), 135.6 (d, ⁴*J*_{CF}=2.7 Hz), 132.7, 129.5, 129.4, 126.1 (d, ³*J*_{CF}=8.4 Hz), 116.5 (d, ²*J*_{CF}=23.4 Hz), 110.9 (d, ⁴*J*_{CF}=6.5 Hz), 110.7 (d, ²*J*_{CF}=23.0

Hz), 105.9 (d, ${}^{2}J_{CF}$ =23.4 Hz) and 103.4 (d, ${}^{4}J_{CF}$ =4.6 Hz); ${}^{19}F$ NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -115.3, -124.5; C₁₄H₉F₂N req. C, 73.36; H, 3.96; N 6.11 %; Found: m/z, 230.0777; C₁₄H₁₀F₂N [MH⁺] req. m/z, 230.0776.

General experimental procedures for the synthesis of iminostilbenes.^{3, 4}

Method A: (*For the acridinemethanol route only*): A suspension of P_2O_5 (0.9 g, 6.34 mmol) in xylene (30 mL) was placed under an inert atmosphere and heated to 150 °C with stirring. (2-fluoro-9,10-dihydro-acridin-9-yl) methanol **14** (0.205 g, 0.895 mmol) was dissolved in xylene (50 mL) and added to the reaction over 2 h via a pressure equalizing dropping funnel. After addition was complete, the reaction mixture was stirred for a further 15 min, cooled to room temperature, poured into an ice/water slurry (300 mL) and vigorously stirred for 10 min. The reaction mixture was then extracted with ethyl acetate (2 × 60 mL) and the combined organic extracts washed with water, saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and brine. The crude extract was then purified by column chromatography with 1:9 EtOAc/hexane to deliver **15** (0.11g, 58%).

Method B (For the N-aryl indoles): Polyphosphoric acid (1 mL per 100 mg aryl indole) was purged with argon and heated to 100 °C for 30 min. The N-aryl indole was then added to the gently stirring reaction mixture via a syringe and the reaction mixture left to stir at 110 °C (± 5 °C) for 36 to 72 h, with monitoring of reaction progress by partition TLC. Once judged to have reached completion the reaction mixture was allowed to cool slowly to 35 °C, poured cautiously into an ice-cold, saturated, aqueous NaHCO₃ solution and vigorously stirred for 1 h. The crude product was extracted with dichloromethane (2×100 mL) then the combined organic phases were washed with water, NaHCO₃ and brine. After concentration *in vacuo*, the combined crude material was purified by column chromatography using EtOAc/hexane 1:9.



1-Fluoro-5*H***-dibenz[***b***,***f***]azepine 22**: Prepared by method B using 4-fluoro-1-phenyl-1*H*-indole (1.012 g, 4.77 mmol) and hot polyphosphoric acid (10.152 g, 5.06 mL). The product was isolated as orange/yellow solid (0.245 g, 24 %); when starting from 1-(3-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-indole (1.219 g, 5.59 mmol), the

product was formed as a mixture with 3-fluoro-5*H*-dibenz[*b*,*f*]azepine and was separated by gradient elution with hexane \rightarrow 1:4 EtOAc/hexane (0.223 g, 18 %); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.03 - 7.10 (m, 1 H), 6.98 (td, *J*=8.1, 6.1 Hz, 1 H), 6.84 - 6.93 (m, 2 H), 6.48 - 6.60 (m, 3 H), 6.43 (d, *J*=1.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.31 (d, *J*=7.4 Hz, 1 H) and 5.03 (br s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.7 (d, ¹*J*_{CF}=248.4 Hz), 151.0 (d, ³*J*_{CF}=5.4 Hz), 148.0 (s), 133.1 (d, ⁴*J*_{CF}=1.5 Hz), 130.6 (s), 130.1 (d, ³*J*_{CF}=10.7 Hz), 129.8 (s), 129.6 (s), 123.7 (d, ³*J*_{CF}=8.4 Hz), 123.4 (s), 119.6 (s), 118.0 (d, ²*J*_{CF}=14.6 Hz), 114.8 (d, ⁴*J*_{CF}=2.7 Hz) and 109.7 (d, ²*J*_{CF}=23.0 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -116.99; Found: m/z, 211.0807; C₁₄H₁₀FN [M⁺] requires m/z, 211.0797; m/z 212 [MH⁺]. Combined yield with **23**, 42%.



2-Fluoro-5*H***-dibenz[***b***,***f***]azepine 15: Prepared by method A, orange solid (v. s.; 0.110 g, 58 %) and method B, by two independent routes, also isolated as an orange solid. From1-(4-fluorophenyl)-1***H***-indole (2.018 g, 9.56 mmol)**

was obtained after purification 15 (0.810 g, 40.1 %); from 5-fluoro-1-phenyl-1H-indole (1.144 g, 5.42

mmol) was obtained after purification **15** (0.534 g, 47 %); ¹H NMR (400 MHz ,CDCl₃) δ 7.08 (dt, J = 1.9, 7.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.95 - 6.86 (m, 2 H), 6.76 (dt, J = 2.8, 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.62 (dd, J = 2.9, 9.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.55 (dd, J = 0.4, 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.49 (dd, J = 4.8, 8.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.44 (d, A of AB J = 11.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.30 (d, B of AB, J = 11.8 Hz, 1H) and 4.94 (br s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 240.2$ (d, ¹ $_{J_{CF}} = 240.2$ Hz), 148.8, 144.5 (d, ⁴ $_{J_{CF}} = 2.3$ Hz), 133.8, 131.9 (d, ³ $_{J_{CF}} = 7.6$), 131.2 (d, ⁴ $_{J_{CF}} = 1.7$), 130.9, 130.1, 129.9, 123.6, 120.6 (d, ³ $_{J_{CF}} = 8.2$ Hz), 119.7, 116.7 (d, ² $_{J_{CF}} = 22.8$ Hz) and 115.8 (d, ² $_{J_{CF}} = 22.5$ Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = -122.78$; Found: C, 79.73; H, 4.81; N, 6.60; C₁₄H₁₀FN requires C, 79.60; H 4.77; N, 6.63 %; Found: m/z, 212.0879; C₁₄H₁₁FN [M+H]⁺ requires m/z, 212.0876.

F

3-Fluoro-5*H***-dibenz[***b***,***f***]azepine 23: Prepared by method B: 6-fluoro-1-phenyl-1***H***-indole (1.311 g, 6.01 mmol) yielded the product as an orange oil (0.624 g, 48 %). 1-(3-Fluorophenyl)-1***H***-indole (1.219 g, 5.59 mmol) yielded**

the product as a mixture with 1-fluoro-5*H*-dibenz[*b*,*f*]azepine and **23** was separated by gradient elution with hexane \rightarrow 1:4 EtOAc/hexane, 0.271 g (22 %); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.00 (ddt, *J*=11.4, 7.9, 4.5, Hz, 1 H), 6.80 (d, *J*=4.2 Hz, 2 H), 6.80 (dd, *J*=8.4, 6.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.50 (td, *J*=8.3, 2.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.50 (d, *J*=7.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.20 (s, 2 H), 6.20 (dd, *J*=9.7, 2.5 Hz, 1 H) and 4.9 (br s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.9 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} = 247.7 Hz), 150.0 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 9.2 Hz), 147.3 (s), 131.8 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 9.6 Hz), 131.2 (s), 131.1 (s), 130.5 (s), 129.6 (s), 129.5 (s), 125.8 (d, ⁴*J*_{CF} = 3.5 Hz), 123.4 (s), 119.3 (s), 109.3 (d, ²*J*_{CF}=21.1 Hz) and 106.5 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 24.5 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm - 114.32; Found: m/z, 211.0793; C₁₄H₁₀FN [M⁺] requires m/z, 211.0797; m/z 212 [MH⁺]. The combined yield with **22**, when starting from 1-(3-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-indole, was 40%.



1,7-Difluoro-5*H***-dibenz[***b***,***f***]azepine 25**: 6-fluoro-1-(3-fluorophenyl)-1*H*indole (1.008 g, 4.4 mmol) yielded the product as a mixture with 3,7-difluoro-5*H*-dibenz[*b*,*f*]azepine **24** and yielded, after isolation by column chromatography, **25** (0.166 g, 16 %) together with **24** (35%, v. i.);¹H NMR

(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.98 (td, *J*=8.1, 6.1 Hz, 1 H) 6.82 (dd, *J*=8.4, 6.4 Hz, 1 H) 6.52 - 6.62 (m, 2 H) 6.48 (d, *J*=1.0 Hz, 1 H) 6.34 (d, *J*=1.0 Hz, 1 H) 6.21 - 6.29 (m, 2 H) and 5.01 (br s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.0 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} = 248.7 Hz), 160.60 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} = 248.4), 149.9 (d, ⁴*J*_{CF} = 5.2 Hz), 149.6 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 9.1 Hz), 132.11 (s), 131.9 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 9.7 Hz), 130.2 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 10.8 Hz), 125.8 (d, ⁴*J*_{CF} = 3.3 Hz), 122.8 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 8.2 Hz), 122.8 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 8.8 Hz), 118.0 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 14.7 Hz), 114.8 (d, ⁴*J*_{CF} = 2.8 Hz), 110.1 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 23.1 Hz), 109.9 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 21.2 Hz) and 106.9 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 24.0 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR

(376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm -113.87, -116.84; Found: C, 73.25; H, 3.9; N, 6.0; C₁₄H₉F₂N requires C, 73.40; H, 3.9; N, 6.1%; Found: m/z, 229.0709; C₁₄H₉F₂N [M⁺] requires m/z, 229.0703.



2,8-Difluoro-5*H***-dibenz[***b***₃***f***]azepine 20:** 5-fluoro-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-indole (1.214 g, 5.34 mmol) yielded the product as an orange solid after purification (0.797 g, 66 %);¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.77

(ddd, J = 8.5, 8.0, 2.9 Hz, 2 H), 6.63 (dd, J = 9.1, 2.9 Hz, 2 H), 6.49 (dd, J = 8.6, 4.8 Hz, 2 H), 6.38 (s, 2 H) and 4.86 (br s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.2 (d, ¹ $J_{CF} = 240.8$ Hz), 144.2 (d, ⁴ $J_{CF} = 2.4$ Hz) 132.1 (d, ⁴ $J_{CF} = 1.9$ Hz), 131.2 (d, ³ $J_{CF} = 7.7$ Hz), 120.3 (d, ² $J_{CF} = 8.1$ Hz), 116.4 (d, ² $J_{CF} = 22.9$ Hz) and 115.8 (d, ² $J_{CF} = 22.5$ Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -122.31; Found: C, 73.25; H, 3.9; N, 6.0; C₁₄H₉F₂N requires C, 73.40; H, 3.9; N, 6.1%; Found: m/z, 230.0779; C₁₄H₁₀F₂N [M+H]⁺ requires m/z, 230.0781.



3,7-Difluoro-5*H***-dibenz[b_x f]azepine 24:** 6-fluoro-1-(3-fluorophenyl)-1*H*indole (1.008 g, 4.4 mmol) yielded the product as a mixture with 1,7difluoro-5*H*-dibenz[$b_x f$]azepine 25; after isolation by column

chromatography there was obtained **24** (0.351 g (35 %); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.77 (dd, *J*=8.4, 6.4 Hz, 2 H), 6.53 (dd, *J*=18.9, 2.5 Hz, 2 H), 6.21 (dd, *J*=9.7, 2.5 Hz, 2 H), 6.16 (s, 2 H) and 4.89 (br s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.9 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} = 248.1 Hz), 152.2 (d, ⁴*J*_{CF} = 3.0 Hz), 149.0 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 10.0 Hz), 131.8 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 9.6 Hz), 130.2 (s), 109.7 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 21.1 Hz) and 106.7 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 24.2 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -114.06; Found: C, 73.30; H, 3.8; N, 5.95; C₁₄H₉F₂N requires C, 73.40; H, 3.9; N, 6.1%; combined yield with **25**, 51%.



2,7-Difluoro-9-methylacridine 21: Isolated as a by-product from the preparation of **20**; yield variable, see text; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.21 (dd, *J* = 5.7, 9.7 Hz, 2 H), 7.76 (dd, *J* = 2.8, 10.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.56 (ddd,

J = 9.6, 7.3, 2.7 Hz, 2 H) and 2.98 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 160.1$ (d, ¹ $J_{CF} = 257.6$ Hz), 145.4 (s), 140.5 (s), 133.2 (d, ³ $J_{CF} = 8.4$ Hz), 125.9 (d, ³ $J_{CF} = 10.0$ Hz), 121.3 (d, ² $J_{CF} = 28.4$ Hz), 106.5 (d, ² $J_{CF} = 23.0$ Hz) and 14.1 (s); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = -111.72$; Found: m/z, 230.0777; C₁₄H₁₀F₂N [M+H]⁺ requires m/z, 230.0781.

3. NMR Spectroscopic Data.

























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![](_page_50_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_51_Figure_0.jpeg)

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mdd

-180

-160

-140

-120

-100

- 89

- ⁶

-40

-20

![](_page_53_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_54_Figure_0.jpeg)

azepine pSpin) rc 24 66	24 F NAME ISB-3,7-F NAME ISB-3,7-F NAME ISB-3,7-F EXPNO 191 PROCNO 191 PROCNO 20110606 111 PROCNO 20110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110606 1110700 1110700 1110700 1110700 1110700 1100000000	DUNYENT CUCLS NS 16 16 DS 75187,969 Hz SNH 75187,969 Hz 75187,969 Hz 7298,2 0 8 C 0.9716798 sec RG 7298,2 0 DN 6.650 usec DE 6.00 usec 1E294,3 K	D1 1.0000000 sec d11 0.0300000 sec d12 0.0300000 sec d12 0.0302000 sec n1 19 NUC1 19 P1 18.00 usec	FLI 376.460844 MHE SFO1 376.460844 MHE CPDPRG2 MAILZIE NUC2 11 PCPD2 80.00 USEC PL2 -3.00 dB PL12 400.1316605 MHz SF02 400.1316605 MHz SF02 800.00 MHz MDW EM	1.00 USB 0.30 Hz 0.30
3,7-difluoro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepine ?19CPD.liv CDCl3 {F:\Av400TopSpin} rc 24					

-180 ppm

-160

-140

-120

-100

- 89

- 69

- 4

-20

![](_page_56_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_57_Figure_0.jpeg)

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