

This is a self-archived version of an original article. This version may differ from the original in pagination and typographic details.

Author(s): Boraie, Ahmed T. A.; Haukka, Matti; Sopaih, Manar; Al-Majid, Abdullah Mohammed; Soliman, Saied M.; Barakat, Assem; Sarhan, Ahmed A. M.

Title: Straightforward One-Pot Synthesis of New 4-Phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthene-3(2H)-one Derivatives : X-ray Single Crystal Structure and Hirshfeld Analyses

Year: 2022

Version: Published version

Copyright: © 2022 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland.

Rights: CC BY 4.0

Rights url: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Please cite the original version:

Boraie, A. T. A., Haukka, M., Sopaih, M., Al-Majid, A. M., Soliman, S. M., Barakat, A., & Sarhan, A. M. (2022). Straightforward One-Pot Synthesis of New 4-Phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthene-3(2H)-one Derivatives : X-ray Single Crystal Structure and Hirshfeld Analyses. *Crystals*, 12(2), Article 262. <https://doi.org/10.3390/cryst12020262>

Article

Straightforward One-Pot Synthesis of New 4-Phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthene-3(2H)-one Derivatives: X-ray Single Crystal Structure and Hirshfeld Analyses

Ahmed T. A. Boraei ^{1,*}, Matti Haukka ², Manar Sopaih ¹, Abdullah Mohammed Al-Majid ³, Saied M. Soliman ⁴, Assem Barakat ^{3,*} and Ahmed A. M. Sarhan ⁵

¹ Chemistry Department, Faculty of Science, Suez Canal University, Ismailia 41522, Egypt; mnr SOPAIH@yahoo.com

² Department of Chemistry, University of Jyväskylä, P.O. Box 35, FI-40014 Jyväskylä, Finland; matti.o.haukka@jyu.fi

³ Department of Chemistry, College of Science, King Saud University, P.O. Box 2455, Riyadh 11451, Saudi Arabia; amajid@ksu.edu.sa

⁴ Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Alexandria University, Alexandria 21321, Egypt; saeed.soliman@alexu.edu.eg

⁵ Chemistry Department, Faculty of Science, Arish University, Al-Arish 45511, Egypt; asarhan@aru.edu.eg

* Correspondence: ahmed_boraei@science.suez.edu.eg (A.T.A.B.); ambarakat@ksu.edu.sa (A.B.); Tel.: +966-11467-5901 (A.T.A.B.); Fax: +966-11467-5992 (A.B.)



Citation: Boraei, A.T.A.; Haukka, M.; Sopaih, M.; Al-Majid, A.M.; Soliman, S.M.; Barakat, A.; Sarhan, A.A.M. Straightforward One-Pot Synthesis of New 4-Phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthene-3(2H)-one Derivatives: X-ray Single Crystal Structure and Hirshfeld Analyses. *Crystals* **2022**, *12*, 262. <https://doi.org/10.3390/cryst12020262>

Academic Editor: Klaus Merz

Received: 29 January 2022

Accepted: 11 February 2022

Published: 15 February 2022

Publisher's Note: MDPI stays neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.



Copyright: © 2022 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

Abstract: A straightforward one-pot route for the synthesis of a new 4-phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthene-3(2H)-one is reported from the direct hydrazinolysis of triketo ester and hydrazine hydrate in ethanol. 4-Phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthene-3(2H)-one was subjected to *aza*-Michael addition and *N*-alkylation on reaction with a set of alkylating agents in the presence of K_2CO_3 . Hydrazinolysis of 4-phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthene-3(2H)-one ester to hydrazide and conversion of hydrazide to thiosemicarbazide were successful. X-Ray single crystals analysis and 1H , ^{13}C NMR were used for unambiguous structure confirmation. The O ... H, N ... H, C ... N and C ... C in **2**, and the N ... H, C ... N, C ... C, C ... O and H ... H interactions in **6** are the most important in the molecular packing based on Hirshfeld analysis. Moreover, the presence of short C ... C and C ... N contacts in both compounds revealed the presence of π - π stacking interactions.

Keywords: fluoranthenes; polycyclic aromatic heterocycles; *aza*-Michael addition; *N*-alkylation; Hirshfeld Analyses

1. Introduction

Polycyclic aromatic heterocycles are a class of chemicals include multi-ring aromatic compounds. In particular, fluoranthenes [1–3] are an example of four fused aromatic heterocycles which recently received a lot of attention, because this core structure has remarkable applications such as organic electronics [4]. Fluoranthene is a building block which was found in many natural products, for example, daldinone E (fungus *Daldinia* sp.) [5], and hortein (which is a fungus *Hortaea werneckii* associated with the sponge *Aplysina aerophoba*) [6]. In a different application of fluoranthenes which was discovered as fluorescent probe (FLUN-550) is a new class of live cell permeant, nontoxic, selective staining and intracellular lipid droplets quantifications based fluoranthenes [7].

Design and synthesis of new substituted of fluoranthenes have been gaining a lot of interest in the last decade. The synthetic roads for this interesting scaffold reported in the literatures though transition metal mediated [8–19] or Diels–Alder reactions [20–23].

Indeed, the palladium compound, $Pd_2(dba)_3$ (20 mol%) was employed as active catalyst for the reaction between 1,8-dichloronaphthalenes and arylboronic acid at elevated temperature (up to 175 °C) to afford the fluoranthenes derivatives [24]. Another approach

that utilized the Pd-catalyst system was achieved for the synthesis of fluoranthenes which proceeded via three steps based on the inter- and intramolecular C-H arylation [25].

The Suzuki–Miyaura reaction also is considered one of the synthetic protocols for the synthesis of fluoranthenes derivatives initiating from 1,8-diiodonaphthalene in the presence of palladium catalysts [26]. Koutentis et al. also explored the chemistry of this interesting scaffold which synthesized the *aza*-analogues by the oxidative and non-oxidative cyclization approach [27]. Other approaches employed the silica sulphuric acid: a reusable solid catalyst for one pot synthesis of densely substituted pyrrole-fused isocoumarins under solvent-free conditions [28].

Recently, Boraie et al. have demonstrated a green and straightforward method for the synthesis of tatraazafluoranthrenones starting from ninhydrin and ethyl acetoacetate (β -ketoesters) in water as a green solvent [29].

In this article, we are validating the application of our previous published method and used other β -ketoesters (ethyl benzoylacetate) and ninhydrin for the synthesis of new tatraazafluoranthrenone analogues in straightforward, one-pot free catalyst route (Figure 1).

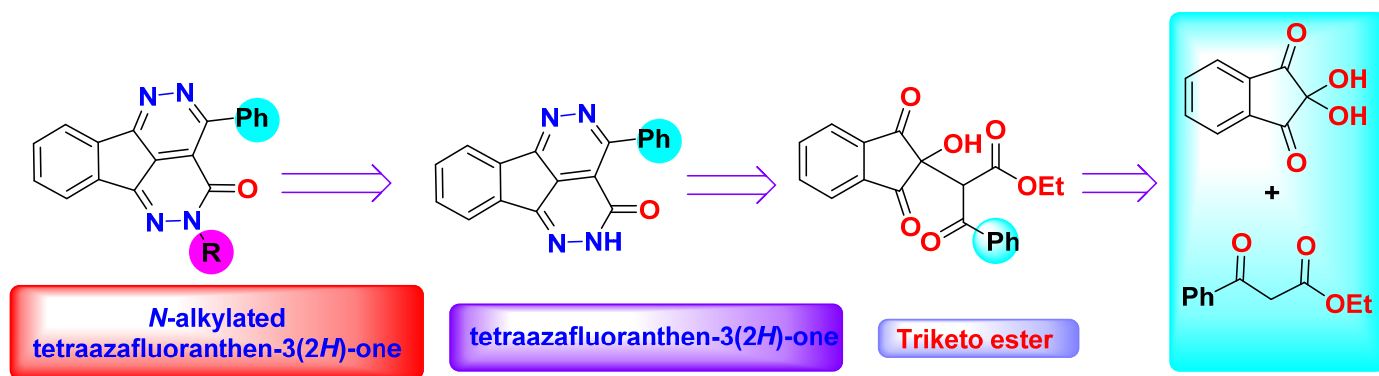


Figure 1. Retro-synthesis of the fluoranthenes.

2. Materials and Methods

General Information

“Stuart Melting Point apparatus [SMP10], Bibby Scientific Ltd., (Wilmington, DE, USA) was used for measuring melting points in open capillaries and were uncorrected. Monitoring of reactions progress was done using TLC Merck aluminum-precoated silica gel plates (60 Å, F₂₅₄). Product spot visualization was achieved using UV light. NMR spectra were detected using Bruker spectrometer at 400 MHz for ¹H NMR and at 100 MHz for ¹³C NMR calibrated by (TMS, 0 ppm) as internal standard” (Supplementary Materials).

Synthesis of Ethyl 2-(2-hydroxy-1,3-dioxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-2-yl)-3-oxo-3-phenylpropanoate (1)

This compound was synthesized and characterized according to the reported procedures [30,31].

Synthesis of 4-Phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthren-3(2*H*)-one (2)

A mixture of triketo ester 1 [6.4 g, 18.2 mmol] and hydrazine hydrate [3.0 mL] was heated under refluxed in ethanol [10.0 mL] until ppt appeared (about 0.5–1 our). The reaction mixture cooled to room temperature and the formed solid was filtered, dried, and recrystallized from DMF/EtOH.

Yield (3.0 g, 55%), m.p. >300 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 13.22 (s, 1H), 8.23 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.69–7.68 (m, 2H), 7.55–7.54 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 158.1, 157.9, 157.1, 145.0, 137.3, 135.8, 135.7, 132.9, 131.7, 130.6, 130.4, 128.2, 127.6, 123.8, 123.1, 118.9; Elemental analysis (CHN) calculated for [C₁₈H₁₀N₄O]: C, 72.48, H, 3.38, N, 18.78, O, 5.36 found C, 72.61, H, 3.42, N, 18.65.

Michael Addition procedure

A mixture of Michael donor **2** (0.6 g, 2.0 mmol) and Michael acceptor-acrylonitrile (0.12 g, 2.2 mmol) was refluxed in ethanol (10.0 mL) containing Et₃N (0.31 mL, 2.2 mmol) for 6 h. The mixture was cooled, the solid was filtered, and recrystallized from ethanol.

3-(3-Oxo-4-phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthren-2(3*H*)-yl)propanenitrile (**3**)

Yield (0.55 g, 77%), m.p. 229–230 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.26 (s, 1H), 8.02 (s, 1H), 7.91 (s, 2H), 7.72 (s, 2H), 7.57 (s, 3H), 4.46 (s, 2H), 3.06 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 158.1, 157.2, 156.7, 144.7, 137.3, 135.5, 133.1, 132.2, 130.6, 130.4, 128.1, 127.2, 124.0, 123.4, 118.9, 118.2, 48.3, 16.9; Elemental analysis (CHN) calculated for [C₂₁H₁₃N₅O]: C, 71.79; H, 3.73; N, 19.93, O, 4.55 found C, 71.81; H, 3.83; N, 19.71.

Alkylation procedure

A mixture of tetraazafluoranthren-3(2*H*)-one **2** (0.6 g, 2.0 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (0.3 g, 2.2 mmol), in equal volumes of dry acetone/DMF (10 mL) was stirred for one hour, then alkyl halide (2.2 mmol) was added portion wise, and the reaction mixture was left on stirring overnight (the reaction is monitored by TLC and reflux is fixed if reaction did not complete). Then, the solvent was removed, water was added for complete precipitation and the formed solid was collected by filtration, dried, and recrystallized from EtOH or DMF/EtOH.

2-Allyl-4-phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthren-3(2*H*)-one (**4**)

Yield (0.54 g, 79%), m.p. 190–191 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.34–8.26 (m, 1H), 7.99–7.98 (m, 3H), 7.66–7.54 (m, 5H), 6.13–6.04 (m, 1H), 5.37 (d, *J* = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 5.30 (d, *J* = 10.2 Hz, 1H), 4.91 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.1, 157.5, 156.3, 144.7, 137.3, 135.5, 134.8, 132.2, 131.8, 131.4, 130.5, 130.3, 128.0, 126.8, 124.00, 123.0, 119.1, 117.6, 55.6; Elemental Analysis calculated for [C₂₁H₁₄N₄O]: C, 74.54; H, 4.17; N, 16.56, O, 4.73 found C, 74.69; H, 4.30; N, 16.61.

2-Benzyl-4-phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthren-3(2*H*)-one (**5**)

Yield (0.64 g, 83%), m.p. 224–225 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.24 (s, 1H), 8.00 (s, 1H), 7.88 (s, 2H), 7.69 (s, 2H), 7.55 (s, 3H), 7.39 (s, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 19.8 Hz, 3H), 5.41 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 158.2, 157.3, 156.8, 144.8, 137.4, 137.2, 135.7, 132.9, 132.0, 130.6, 130.3, 128.9, 128.1, 127.9, 127.3, 123.9, 123.3, 118.4, 56.0; Elemental Analysis calculated for [C₂₅H₁₆N₄O]: C, 77.30; H, 4.15; N, 14.42, O, 4.12 found C, 77.43; H, 4.21; N, 14.31.

2-Pentyl-4-phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthren-3(2*H*)-one (**6**)

Yield (0.45 g, 61%), m.p. 116–117 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.29–8.28 (m, 1H), 7.99–7.97 (m, 3H), 7.65–7.54 (m, 5H), 4.29 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.95–1.74 (m, 2H), 1.41–1.40 (m, 4H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.1, 157.5, 156.4, 144.2, 137.2, 135.7, 134.9, 132.2, 131.3, 130.4, 130.3, 128.0, 126.6, 124.0, 122.8, 117.5, 53.4, 28.9, 28.5, 22.4, 14.0; Elemental analysis (CHN) calculated for [C₂₃H₂₀N₄O]: C, 74.98; H, 5.47; N, 15.21, O, 4.34 found C, 75.11; H, 5.63; N, 15.30.

Ethyl 2-(3-oxo-4-phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthren-2(3*H*)-yl)acetate (**7**)

Yield (0.63 g, 81%), m.p. 189–190 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.31 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.99–7.96 (m, 3H), 7.75–7.53 (m, 4H), 4.96 (s, 2H), 4.27 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.0, 158.1, 157.4, 156.8, 145.3, 137.5, 135.2, 134.7, 132.3, 131.8, 130.5, 130.3, 128.0, 127.3, 124.1, 123.2, 117.6, 62.0, 52.8, 14.2; Elemental Analysis calculated for [C₂₂H₁₆N₄O₃]: C, 68.74; H, 4.20; N, 14.58, O, 12.49 found C, 68.88; H, 4.14; N, 14.41.

Synthesis of 2-(3-Oxo-4-phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthren-2(3*H*)-yl)acetohydrazide (**8**)

Tetraazafluoranthren-3(2*H*)-one ethyl ester **7** (0.77 g, 2.0 mmol) and hydrazine hydrate 80% (2.0 mL) was refluxed in ethanol (10 mL) for 2 hours, left to cool, the formed solid product was collected by filtration, dried, and recrystallized from EtOH.

Yield (0.67 g, 90%), m.p. 287–288 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.26 (s, 1H), 8.30–8.27 (m, 1H), 8.04–8.02 (m, 1H), 7.90–7.87 (m, 2H), 7.74–7.72 (m, 2H), 7.62–7.51 (m, 3H), 4.81 (s, 2H), 4.31 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 166.3, 158.2, 156.9, 144.8, 137.3, 135.5, 133.1, 132.2, 130.6, 130.5, 128.2, 127.5, 124.0, 123.4, 118.3, 55.0; Elemental Analysis calculated for [C₂₀H₁₄N₆O₂]: C, 64.86; H, 3.81; N, 22.69, O, 10.91 found C, 64.99; H, 3.93; N, 22.61.

Synthesis of 2-(2-(3-Oxo-4-Phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthren-2(3*H*)-yl)acetyl)-*N*-phenylhydrazine-1-carbothioamide (**9**)

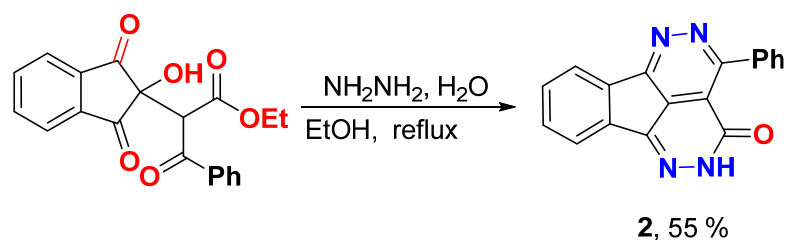
To the tetraazafluoranthene-hydrazide **8** (0.74 g, 2.0 mmol) in ethanol (10 mL), phenyl isothiocyanate (0.26 mL, 2.2 mmol) was added. The mixture was refluxed for 4 hours, then cooled. The solid product was collected by filtration, dried, and recrystallized from DMF/EtOH.

Yield (0.82 g, 82%), m.p. >300 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.40 (s, 1H), 9.82 (s, 1H), 9.36 (brs, 1H), 8.31–8.29 (m, 1H), 8.10–7.95 (m, 1H), 7.94–7.87 (m, 2H), 7.79–7.69 (m, 2H), 7.66–7.50 (m, 3H), 7.41–7.39 (m, 2H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 5.03 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 181.0, 166.9, 158.1, 157.2, 157.0, 144.8, 139.3, 137.2, 135.4, 133.1, 132.2, 130.6, 128.6, 128.2, 127.2, 125.6, 124.0, 123.4, 118.0, 55.6; Elemental Analysis calculated for [C₂₇H₁₉N₇O₂S]: C, 64.15; H, 3.79; N, 19.39; O, 6.33; S, 6.34 found C, 64.31; H, 3.71; N, 19.29; S, 6.37.

3. Results and Discussion

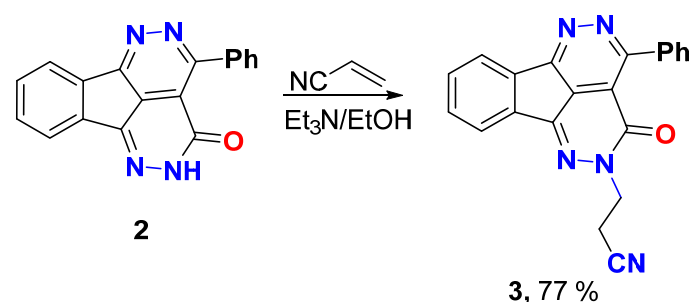
3.1. Chemistry

Hydrazinolysis of triketo ester **1** by hydrazine hydrate in ethanol under reflux for 0.5–1 h, fascinatingly, gave 4-phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthren-3(2*H*)-one **2** in moderate yield (55%) (Scheme 1). The ¹H NMR displayed, in addition to the aromatic proton signals between δ 8.23 and 7.55 ppm, a signal at δ 13.22 ppm for NH. The ¹³C NMR showed all carbons between δ 158.1 and 118.9 ppm.



Scheme 1. Synthesis of 4-phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthren-3(2*H*)-one **2**.

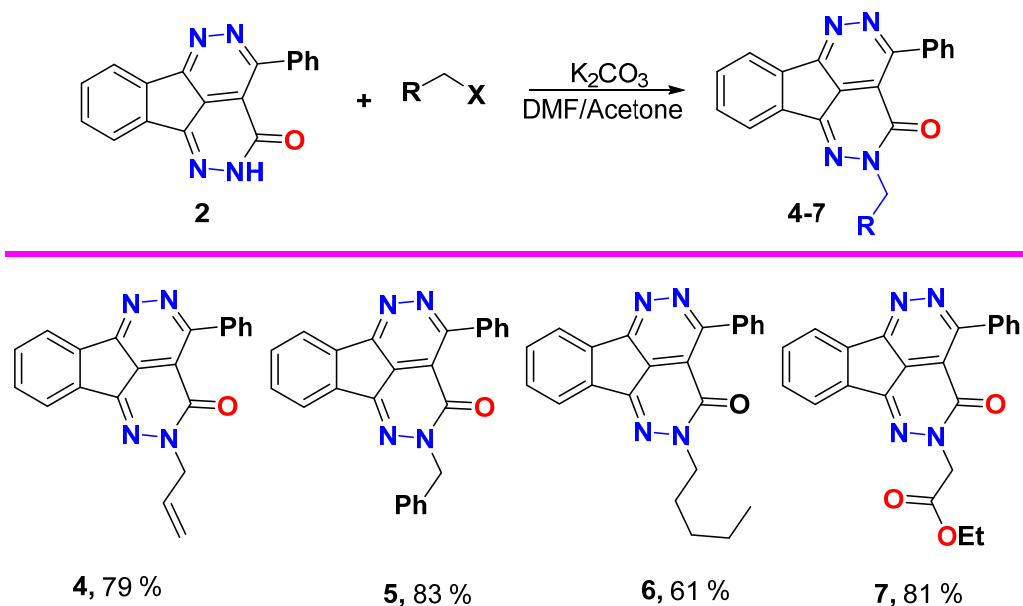
Aza-Michael addition was explored from the addition of **2** to acrylonitrile in ethanol and the presences of Et₃N to give the Michael adduct **3** in good yield (Scheme 2). The Michael adduct revealed two new signals at δ 4.46 and 3.06 ppm in ¹H NMR and their respective carbons appeared at δ 48.3 and 16.9 ppm in ¹³C NMR which strongly support *aza*-Michael addition, not *oxa*-Michael addition.



Scheme 2. *Aza*-Michael addition of compound **2** to acrylonitrile.

Alkylation of 4-phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthren-3(2*H*)-one **2** with allyl bromide, benzyl bromide, amyl bromide, and ethyl chloroacetate was done in acetone/DMF and use of K₂CO₃ as proton capturer which led to *N*-alkylation and formation of *aza*-alkylated products **4–7** in good yields (Scheme 3). The allylated product **4** spectra demonstrated that the allyl group protons as: The sp² vinylic methine proton CH₂=CH- appeared as multiplet between 6.13 and 6.14 ppm, the vinylic sp² methylene protons H₂C=CH- were found as two doublet signals, one of them at 5.37 ppm with coupling constant value 17.2 Hz for

the trans proton, and the other was deduced at 5.30 ppm with 3J value 10.2 Hz for the cis proton. The allylic sp^3 methylene protons NCH_2 was established as doublet at 4.91 ppm. The allylic carbon atom NCH_2 was detected at δ 55.6 ppm. The benzylated compound **5** showed the benzyl methylene protons as singlet at 5.41 ppm and the corresponding benzylic methylene carbon at δ 56.0 ppm. The amylated tetraazafluoranthren-3(2*H*)-one **6** showed the amyl group protons at δ 4.29, 1.95–1.74, 1.41–1.40, and 0.93 ppm and the respective amyl carbons at δ 53.4, 28.5, 22.4, and 14.0 ppm. The esterified product **7** showed a singlet signal at 4.96 ppm for NCH_2 , a quartet signal at δ 4.29 ppm for OCH_2 , and a triplet signal at δ 1.26 ppm for CH_3 . The ^{13}C NMR displayed the carbonyl carbon of the ester group at δ 168.0 ppm, the OCH_2 at 62.0 ppm, NCH_2 at δ 52.8 ppm, and CH_3 at δ 14.2 ppm.

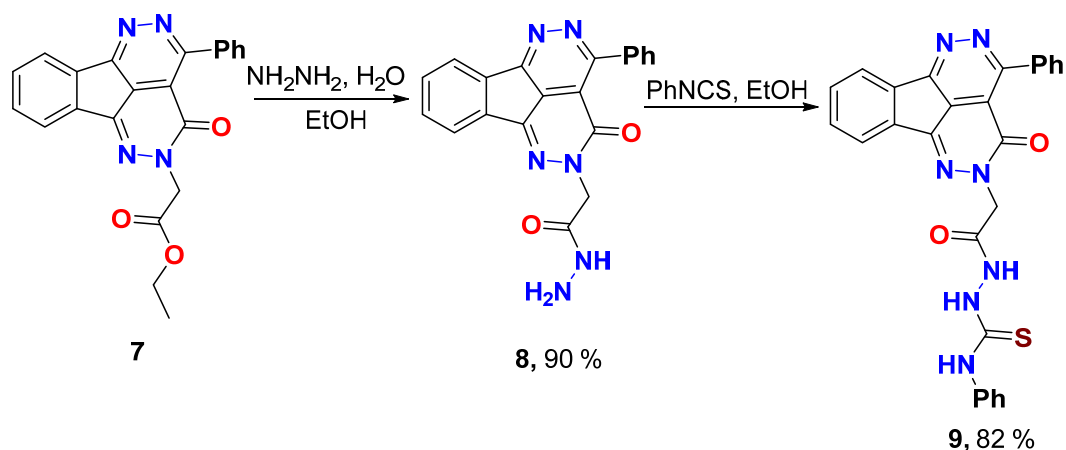


Scheme 3. Aza-alkylation of 4-phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthren-3(2*H*)-one **2** with a set of alkylating agents.

Reaction of 4-phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthren-3(2*H*)-one ester **7** with hydrazine hydrate afforded the hydrazide **8** which was subjected to reaction with phenyl isothiocyanate in ethanol to afford the thiosemicarbazide **9** (Scheme 4). The 4-phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthren-3(2*H*)-one hydrazide **8** displayed the hydrazide group protons at δ 9.26 and 4.31 ppm for NH and NH_2 , respectively, in addition to the NCH_2 protons at δ 4.81 ppm. The ^{13}C NMR showed the carbonyl carbon of the hydrazide group at δ 166.3 ppm and the NCH_2 methylene carbon at δ 55.0 ppm. The 4-phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthren-3(2*H*)-one thiosemicarbazide **9** showed the three NH protons signals at δ 10.40, 9.82, and 9.36 ppm. The respective ^{13}C NMR detected the thiocarbonyl carbon ($C=S$) at δ 181.0 ppm, the carbonyl carbon ($C=O$) at δ 166.9 ppm, and the NCH_2 methylene carbon at δ 55.6 ppm.

3.2. X-ray Discerption of Compounds **2** and **6**

The X-ray structure of **2** is presented in Figure 2A. The structure of **2** crystallized in the orthorhombic crystal system and *Pbca* space group with lattice parameters: $a = 12.82600(10)$ Å, $b = 7.80290(10)$ Å and $c = 26.6306(2)$ Å, and unit cell volume of 2665.19(4) Å³ and $Z = 8$ (Table 1). There are four fused ring systems which are almost coplanar. The phenyl ring attached to this fused system is twisted from its mean plan by 47.96°. Selected geometric parameters of **2** are listed in Table 2.



Scheme 4. Hydrazinolysis of 4-phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthren-3(2H)-one ester and thiosemicarbazide formation.

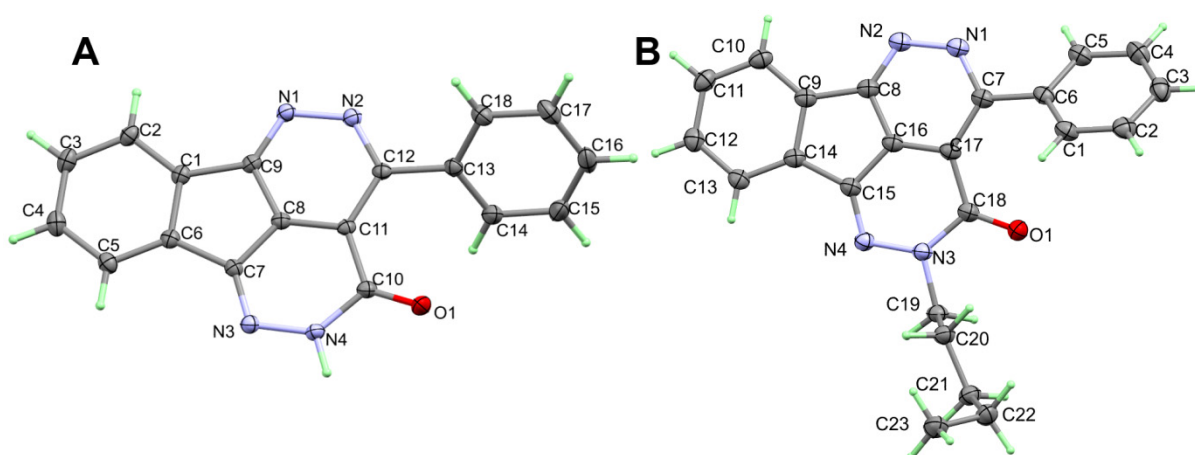


Figure 2. ORTEP of compounds **2** (A) and **6** (B).

The supramolecular structure of **2** is dominated by the N4-H4 ... N1 hydrogen bonding interactions leading to the hydrogen bonding polymer shown in the upper part of Figure 2. The hydrogen bond parameters are listed in Table 3. In addition, the hydrogen bonded chains are stacked to each other via significant amount of π - π contacts. The shortest π - π stacking interactions are listed in Table 4. Hence, the supramolecular structure of **2** could be described by 1D hydrogen bonding polymer along the b-direction (Figure 3; upper part) combined with π - π stacking interactions along the a-direction (Figure 3; lower part).

The X-ray structure of **6** is presented in Figure 2B. The structure of **6** crystallized in the less symmetric monoclinic crystal system and $P2_1/c$ space group with lattice parameters: $a = 5.26840(10)$ Å, $b = 15.21900(10)$ Å, $c = 22.7155(2)$ Å, $\alpha = \gamma = 90$ while $\beta = 93.6920(10)$ and unit cell volume of $1817.54(4)$ Å³ and $Z = 4$. Selected geometric parameters of **6** are listed in Table 2. In this case, the mean plane of the almost coplanar fused ring system and the phenyl ring attached to it are twisted from one another by 40.66° . The value of the twist angle is less than that in **2**. The packing in **6** is dominated by π - π stacking interactions shown in Figure 4 and the shortest interactions between the stacked π -system are listed in Table 4.

Table 1. Crystal data of **2** and **6**.

| Identification Code | 2 | 6 |
|---|--|---|
| CCDC | 2,129,954 | 2,129,955 |
| empirical formula | C ₁₈ H ₁₀ N ₄ O | C ₂₃ H ₂₀ N ₄ O |
| Fw | 298.30 | 368.43 |
| temp (K) | 120(2) K | 120(2) |
| λ (Å) | 1.54184 Å | 1.54184 |
| Cryst. Syst. | Orthorhombic | Monoclinic |
| space group | <i>Pbca</i> | <i>P2₁/c</i> |
| <i>a</i> (Å) | 12.82600(10) | 5.26840(10) |
| <i>b</i> (Å) | 7.80290(10) | 15.21900(10) |
| <i>c</i> (Å) | 26.6306(2) | 22.7155(2) |
| α, β, γ (deg) | $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90$ | $\alpha = \gamma = 90$; $\beta = 93.6920(10)$ |
| <i>V</i> (Å ³) | 2665.19(4) | 1817.54(4) |
| <i>Z</i> | 8 | 4 |
| ρ_{calc} (Mg/m ³) | 1.487 | 1.346 |
| μ (Mo K α) (mm ⁻¹) | 0.787 | 0.677 |
| No. reflns. | 37,511 | 46,295 |
| Unique reflns. | 2802 | 3840 |
| Completeness to $\theta = 67.684^\circ$ | 100% | 100% |
| GOOF (<i>F</i> ²) | 1.057 | 1.052 |
| <i>R</i> _{int} | 0.0290 | 0.0377 |
| <i>R</i> ₁ ^a (<i>I</i> $\geq 2\sigma$) | 0.0328 | 0.0356 |
| <i>wR</i> ₂ ^b (<i>I</i> $\geq 2\sigma$) | 0.0958 | 0.0901 |

^a $R_1 = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|$. ^b $wR_2 = \{\sum [w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / \sum [w(F_o^2)^2]\}^{1/2}$.

Table 2. Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for **2**.

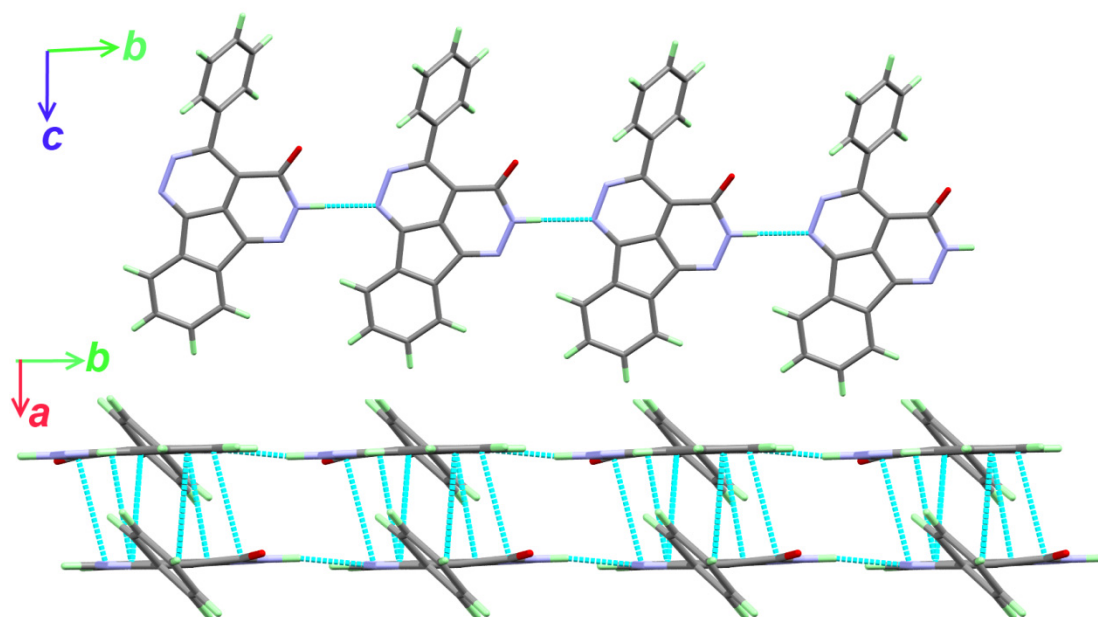
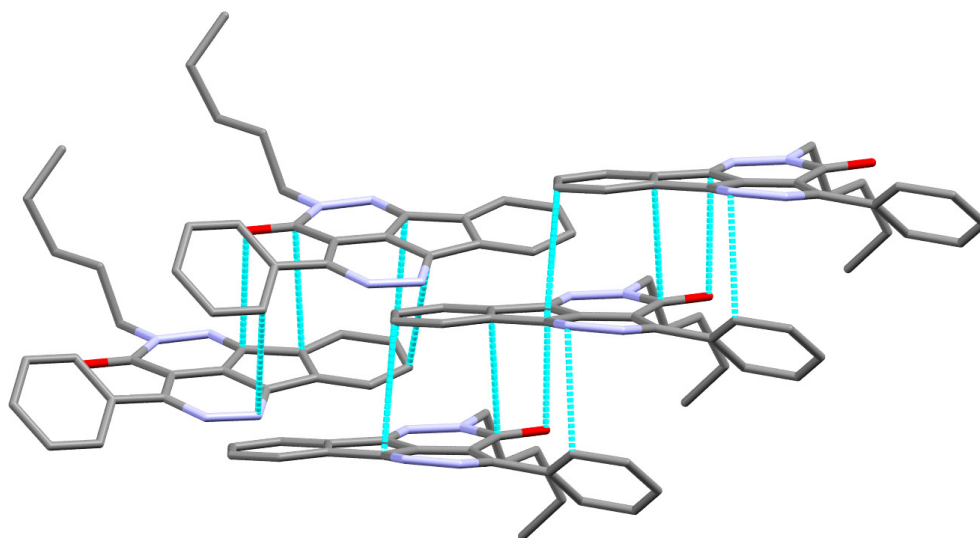
| 2 | |
|------------|------------|
| O(1)-C(10) | 1.2109(12) |
| N(1)-C(9) | 1.3153(13) |
| N(1)-N(2) | 1.3726(12) |
| N(2)-C(12) | 1.3361(13) |
| N(3)-C(7) | 1.3034(14) |
| N(3)-N(4) | 1.3660(12) |
| N(4)-C(10) | 1.4089(12) |
| 6 | |
| O(1)-C(18) | 1.2207(13) |
| N(1)-C(7) | 1.3415(13) |
| N(1)-N(2) | 1.3709(12) |
| N(2)-C(8) | 1.3168(13) |
| N(3)-N(4) | 1.3716(12) |
| N(3)-C(18) | 1.4137(13) |
| N(3)-C(19) | 1.4696(12) |

Table 3. Hydrogen bonds for **2** [Å and °].

| D-H...A | d(D-H) | d(H...A) | d(D...A) | \angle (DHA) |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------------|
| N(4)-H(4)...N(1)#1 | 0.927(18) | 1.992(18) | 2.9135(12) | 172.3(13) |
| Symmetry code: #1 <i>x, y-1, z</i> | | | | |

Table 4. π - π stacking for **2** and **6** [\AA and $^\circ$].

| Contacts | Length | Contacts | Length |
|------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| | 2 | | 6 |
| C1 ... C7 | 3.387 | N2 ... C5 | 3.195 |
| C1 ... C8 | 3.378 | C11 ... C8 | 3.344 |
| C3 ... C10 | 3.334 | C12 ... C15 | 3.303 |
| C6 ... C9 | 3.337 | C14 ... C18 | 3.301 |

**Figure 3.** Packing via N-H ... N hydrogen bonds and π - π stacking (lower) in **2**.**Figure 4.** π - π stacking (lower) in **2**.

3.3. Analysis of Molecular Packing

Each crystal has its characteristic Hirshfeld surfaces which shed the light on the important intermolecular interactions which play important role in the crystal stability. In Figure 5, the different mapped surfaces of compounds **2** and **6** are summarized. The d_{norm} indicated a number of red spots related to intermolecular contacts shorter than the vdWs radii sum of the interacting atoms. In compound **2**, the most important contacts are

the O ... H, N ... H, C ... N and C ... C interactions. On the other hand, the N ... H, C ... N, C ... C, C ... O and H ... H interactions are the most important. Summary of these short contacts and the corresponding interaction distances are depicted in Table 5. The results revealed very well the presence of large number of C ... C and C ... N contacts in both compounds which confirm the presence of π - π stacking interactions. Generally, these contacts occurred at longer interaction distances in 2 compared to 6. In addition, the red/blue triangles in the shape index and large green area in curvedness are other evidences on the presence of π - π stacking interactions (region D in Figure 5).

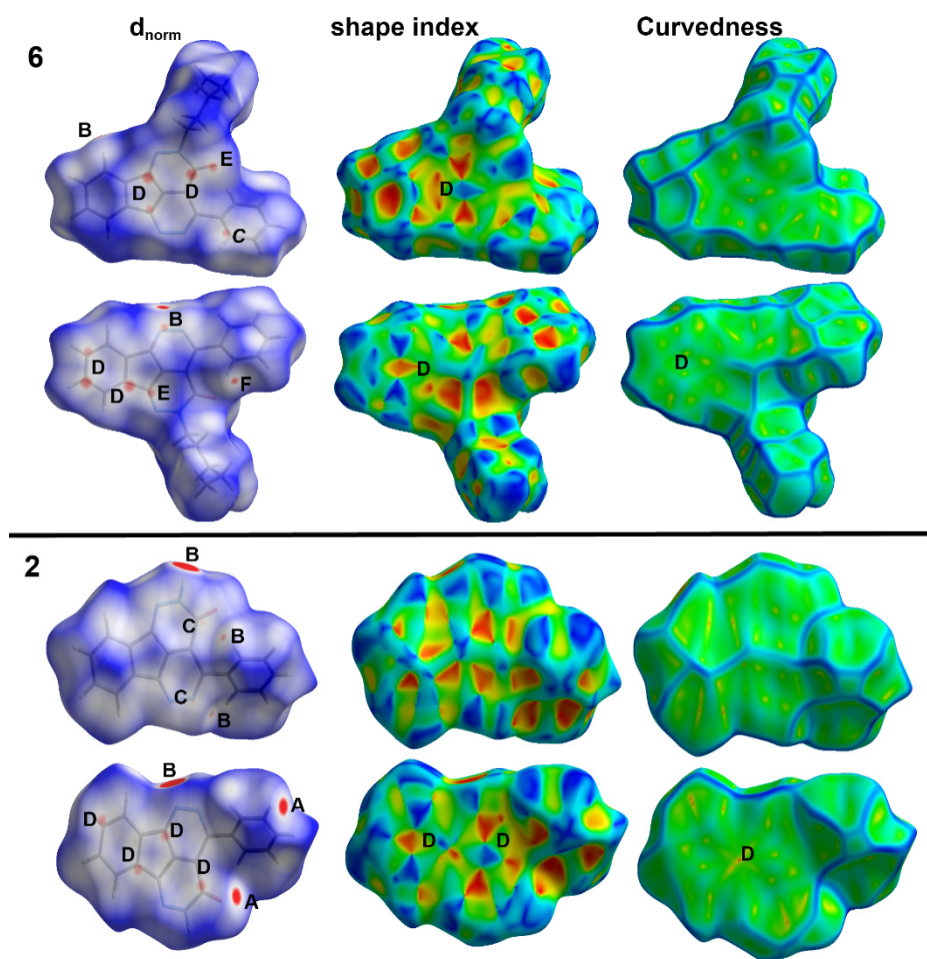


Figure 5. Hirshfeld maps of compounds 2 and 6. The most important interactions are (A) O ... H, (B) N ... H, (C) C ... N, (D) C ... C, (E) C ... O, and (F) H ... H.

Table 5. Short contacts in compounds 2 and 6.

| Contact | Distance | Contact | Distance |
|------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| 2 | | 6 | |
| N1 ... H1 | 1.911 | N2 ... H13 | 2.446 |
| N2 ... H14 | 2.584 | C5 ... N2 | 3.195 |
| O1 ... H17 | 2.405 | C11 ... C8 | 3.344 |
| C10 ... N2 | 3.227 | C12 ... C15 | 3.303 |
| C1 ... C7 | 3.387 | C14 ... C18 | 3.301 |
| C1 ... C8 | 3.378 | C15 ... O1 | 3.158 |
| C3 ... C10 | 3.334 | H1 ... H1 | 2.108 |
| C6 ... C9 | 3.337 | | |

On the other hand, analysis of the fingerprint plot gave a quantitative summary for all intermolecular contacts occurred in the crystal structure of compounds **2** and **6** (Figure 6). The decomposition of the fingerprint plot gave a quantitative summary for all contacts that occurred in the crystal structures of compounds **2** and **6** (Figure 7). It is clear that the most frequent contacts in both compounds are the H...H interactions. The percentages of H...H interactions are 53.6 and 32.4% in compounds **2** and **6**, respectively. The shortest H...H contacts in **6** are H1...H1 with interaction distance of 2.108 Å. In **2**, all H...H contacts are significantly long and are considered of less importance compared to compound **6**. The second most frequent contacts are the C...H interactions which comprised 15.9 and 23.1% from the whole interactions occurred in the crystal of **2** and **6**, respectively. In compound **2**, the percentages of the important O...H, N...H, C...N and C...C interactions are 3.5%, 13.6%, 2.2%, and 8.3%, respectively. Both O...H and N...H contacts appeared as sharp spikes in the fingerprint plot (Figure 6). As a result, these interactions are considered strong and play an important role in the crystal stability of **2** and the π - π stacking interactions as well. The spikes of the N...H and O...H interactions in **6** are less sharp, indicating weaker interactions than those that occurred in **2**. The percentages of the O...H, N...H, C...N and C...C interactions in **6** are 9.0, 15.8, 7.3, and 9.1%, respectively.

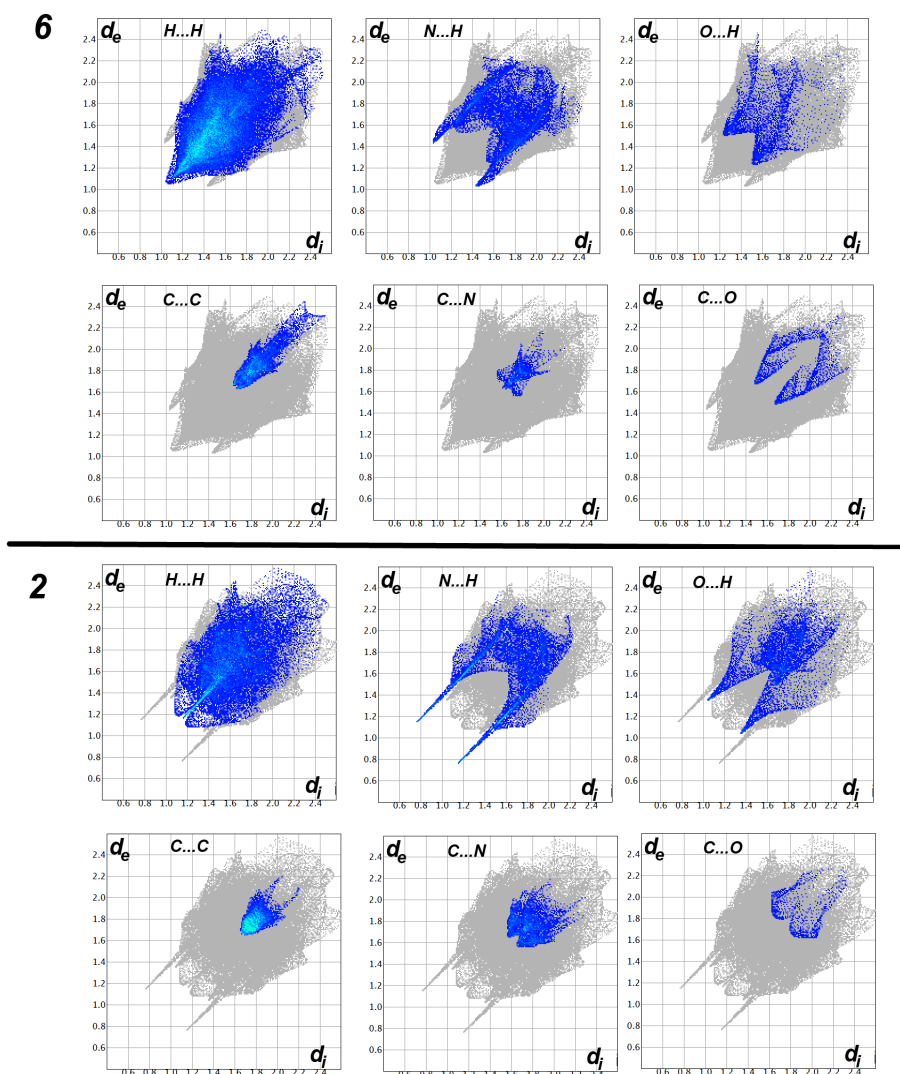


Figure 6. Decomposed fingerprint plots in compounds **2** and **6**.

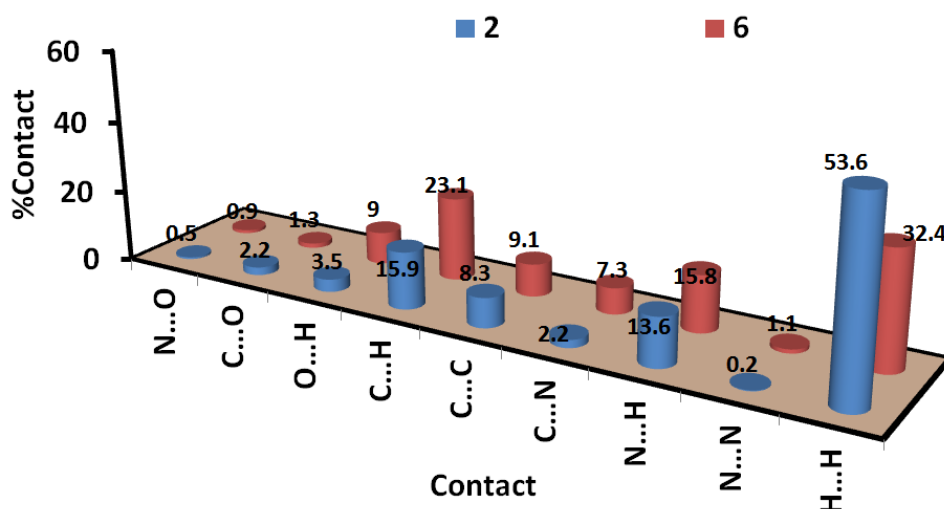


Figure 7. All intermolecular interactions in compounds 2 and 6.

4. Conclusions

In conclusion, this manuscript introduced a direct one-pot method for obtaining 4-phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthren-3(2*H*)-one from triketo ester to validate the application of our previous published method. Herein, another β -ketoester (ethyl benzoylacetate) was used for obtaining the triketo ester which used for the synthesis of tetraazafluoranthrone. On reaction with Michael acceptors like acrylonitrile, *aza*-Michael addition was produced. Alkylation of tetraazafluoranthren-3(2*H*)-one in the presence of K_2CO_3 led to *N*-alkylation, not *O*-alkylation, this evidence was deduced from the ^{13}C NMR signal around 50.00 ppm for NCH_2 . Hydrazinolysis of 4-phenyl-1,2,5,6-tetraazafluoranthren-3(2*H*)-one ester led to hydrazide formation which is converted to thiosemicarbazide by reaction with phenyl isothiocyanate. Different intermolecular interactions that occurred in the crystal structures of compound 2 and 6 were analyzed using Hirshfeld calculations.

Supplementary Materials: The following supporting information can be downloaded at: <https://www.mdpi.com/article/10.3390/cryst12020262/s1>, X-ray structure determinations; Figure S1: 1H NMR of 2; Figure S2: ^{13}C NMR of 2; Figure S3: 1H NMR of 3; Figure S4: ^{13}C NMR of 3; Figure S5: 1H NMR of 4; Figure S6: ^{13}C NMR of 4; Figure S7: 1H NMR of 5; Figure S8: ^{13}C NMR of 5; Figure S9: 1H NMR of 6; Figure S10: ^{13}C NMR of 6; Figure S11: 1H NMR of 7; Figure S12: ^{13}C NMR of 7; Figure S13: 1H NMR of 8; Figure S14: ^{13}C NMR of 8; Figure S15: 1H NMR of 9; Figure S16: ^{13}C NMR of 9.

Author Contributions: Conceptualization, A.T.A.B., A.B. and A.A.M.S.; methodology, M.S. and A.A.M.S.; software, M.H. and S.M.S.; validation, M.S. and A.A.M.S.; formal analysis, A.T.A.B., S.M.S. and M.H.; investigation, A.T.A.B. and A.A.M.S.; resources, A.T.A.B.; data curation, A.T.A.B. and M.H.; writing—original draft preparation, A.T.A.B., A.B.; writing—review and editing, A.B.; visualization, A.M.A.-M.; supervision, A.B.; project administration, M.S. and A.M.A.-M.; funding acquisition, A.M.A.-M. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This research was funded by Researchers Supporting Project (RSP2022R427), King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Institutional Review Board Statement: Not applicable.

Informed Consent Statement: Not applicable.

Data Availability Statement: Not applicable.

Acknowledgments: The authors would like to extend their sincere appreciation to the Researchers Supporting Project (RSP2022R427), King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

References

1. Stepień, M.; Gońka, E.; Żyła, M.; Sprutta, N. Heterocyclic nanographenes and other polycyclic heteroaromatic compounds: Synthetic routes, properties, and applications. *Chem. Rev.* **2017**, *117*, 3479–3716. [CrossRef]
2. Feng, X.; Pisula, W.; Müllen, K. Large polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons: Synthesis and discotic organization. *Pure Appl. Chem.* **2009**, *81*, 2203–2224. [CrossRef]
3. Plunkett, K. What about the five-membered ring? Cyclopentafused polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons as a building block for functional materials. *Synlett* **2013**, *24*, 898–902. [CrossRef]
4. Lee, Y.H.; Wu, T.C.; Liaw, C.W.; Wen, T.C.; Feng, S.W.; Lee, J.J.; Guo, T.F. Non-doped active layer, benzo [k] fluoranthene-based linear acenes, for deep blue-to green-emissive organic light-emitting diodes. *Org. Electron.* **2013**, *14*, 1064–1072. [CrossRef]
5. Du, L.; King, J.B.; Cichewicz, R.H. Chlorinated polyketide obtained from a *Daldinia* sp. Treated with the epigenetic modifier suberoylanilide hydroxamic Acid. *J. Nat. Prod.* **2014**, *77*, 2454–2458. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
6. Brauers, G.; Ebel, R.; Edrada, R.; Wray, V.; Berg, A.; Gräfe, U.; Proksch, P. Hortein, a new natural product from the fungus *Hortaea werneckii* associated with the Sponge *Aplysina aerophoba*. *J. Nat. Prod.* **2001**, *64*, 651–652. [CrossRef]
7. Goel, A.; Sharma, A.; Kathuria, M.; Bhattacharjee, A.; Verma, A.; Mishra, P.R.; Nazir, A.; Mitra, K. New fluoranthene FLUN-550 as a fluorescent probe for selective staining and quantification of intracellular lipid droplets. *Org. Lett.* **2014**, *16*, 756–759. [CrossRef]
8. Gu, X.; Luhman, W.A.; Yagodkin, E.; Holmes, R.J.; Douglas, C.J. Diarylindenotetracenes via a selective cross-coupling/C–H functionalization: Electron donors for organic photovoltaic cells. *Org. Lett.* **2012**, *14*, 1390–1393. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
9. Wu, H.; Fang, R.; Tao, J.; Wang, D.; Qiao, X.; Yang, X.; Hartl, F.; Li, H. Diacenaphthylene-fused benzo [1, 2-b: 4, 5-b'] dithiophenes: Polycyclic heteroacenes containing full-carbon five-membered aromatic rings. *Chem. Commun.* **2017**, *53*, 751–754. [CrossRef]
10. Rice, J.E.; Cai, Z.W. An intramolecular arene-triflate coupling reaction for the regiospecific synthesis of substituted benzofluoranthenes. *J. Org. Chem.* **1993**, *58*, 1415–1424. [CrossRef]
11. Reisch, H.A.; Bratcher, M.S.; Scott, L.T. Imposing curvature on a polyarene by intramolecular palladium-catalyzed arylation reactions: A simple synthesis of dibenzo[a,g]corannulene. *Org. Lett.* **2000**, *2*, 1427–1430. [CrossRef]
12. Wegner, H.A.; Scott, L.T.; de Meijere, A. A new Suzuki–Heck-Type coupling cascade: Indeno [1, 2, 3]-annelation of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. *J. Org. Chem.* **2003**, *68*, 883–887. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
13. Wu, Y.-T.; Linden, A.; Siegel, J.S. Formal [(2+2)+2] and [(2+2)+(2+2)] nonconjugated dienediyne cascade cycloadditions. *Org. Lett.* **2005**, *7*, 4353–4355. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
14. Pascual, S.; Bour, C.; de Mendoza, P.; Echavarren, A.M. Synthesis of fluoranthenes by hydroarylation of alkynes catalyzed by gold (I) or gallium trichloride. *Beilstein J. Org. Chem.* **2011**, *7*, 1520–1525. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
15. Chen, X.; Lu, P.; Wang, Y. Four iodine-mediated electrophilic cyclizations of rigid parallel triple bonds Mapped from 1, 8-Dialkynyl-naphthalenes. *Chem.–Eur. J.* **2011**, *17*, 8105–8114. [CrossRef]
16. Kawasumi, K.; Mochida, K.; Kajino, T.; Segawa, Y.; Itami, K. Pd(OAc)₂/o-Chloranil/M(OTf)_n: A catalyst for the direct C–H arylation of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons with boryl-, silyl-, and unfunctionalized arenes. *Org. Lett.* **2012**, *14*, 418–421. [CrossRef]
17. Chang, M.-Y.; Lee, T.-W.; Wu, M.-H. Polyphosphoric acid promoted synthesis of 10,11-Dihydrobenzo[j]fluoranthene-12-one. *Org. Lett.* **2012**, *14*, 2198–2201. [CrossRef]
18. Zhou, J.; Yang, W.; Wang, B.; Ren, H. Friedel–Crafts arylation for the formation of Csp²–Csp² bonds: A route to unsymmetrical and functionalized polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons from aryl triazenes. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2012**, *51*, 12293–12297. [CrossRef]
19. Ogawa, N.; Yamaoka, Y.; Yamada, K.-I.; Takasu, K. Synthesis of π -extended fluoranthenes via a KHMDS-promoted anionic-radical reaction cascade. *Org. Lett.* **2017**, *19*, 3327–3330. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
20. Chiechi, R.C.; Tseng, R.J.; Marchioni, F.; Yang, Y.; Wudl, F. Efficient Blue-Light-Emitting Electroluminescent Devices with a Robust Fluorophore: 7,8,10-Triphenylfluoranthene. *Adv. Mater.* **2006**, *18*, 325–328. [CrossRef]
21. Yan, Q.; Zhou, Y.; Ni, B.-B.; Ma, Y.; Wang, J.; Pei, J.; Cao, Y. Organic semiconducting materials from sulfur-hetero benzo[k]-fluoranthene derivatives: Synthesis, photophysical properties, and thin film transistor fabrication. *J. Org. Chem.* **2008**, *73*, 5328–5339. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
22. Goel, A.; Kumar, V.; Chaurasia, S.; Rawat, M.; Prasad, R.; Anand, R.S. Synthesis, electrochemical and optical properties of stable yellow fluorescent fluoranthenes. *J. Org. Chem.* **2010**, *75*, 3656–3662. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
23. Ding, L.; Ying, H.-Z.; Zhou, Y.; Lei, T.; Pei, J. Polycyclic imide derivatives: Synthesis and effective tuning of lowest unoccupied molecular orbital levels through molecular engineering. *Org. Lett.* **2010**, *12*, 5522–5525. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
24. Quimby, J.M.; Scott, L.T. Expanding the Suzuki–Heck-type coupling cascade: A new indeno [1, 2, 3]-annelation of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2009**, *351*, 1009–1013. [CrossRef]
25. Yamaguchi, M.; Higuchi, M.; Tazawa, K.; Manabe, K. Three-step synthesis of fluoranthenes through Pd-catalyzed inter- and intramolecular C–H arylation. *J. Org. Chem.* **2016**, *81*, 3967–3974. [CrossRef]
26. Pal, S.; Metin, O.; Turkmen, Y.E. Synthesis of fluoranthene derivatives via tandem Suzuki–Miyaura and intramolecular C–H Arylation reactions under both homogeneous and heterogeneous catalytic conditions. *ACS Omega* **2017**, *2*, 8689–8696. [CrossRef]
27. Koutentis, P.A.; Loizou, G.; Lo Re, D. Synthesis of triazafluoranthrenones via silver (I)-mediated nonoxidative and oxidative intramolecular palladium-catalyzed cyclizations. *J. Org. Chem.* **2011**, *76*, 5793–5802. [CrossRef]
28. Pathak, S.; Debnath, K.; Pramanik, A. Silica sulfuric acid: A reusable solid catalyst for one pot synthesis of densely substituted pyrrole-fused isocoumarins under solvent-free conditions. *Beilstein J. Org. Chem.* **2013**, *9*, 2344–2353. [CrossRef]

29. Boraie, A.T.; Ghabbour, H.A.; Sarhan, A.A.; Barakat, A. Expeditious green synthesis of novel 4-methyl-1, 2, 5, 6-tetraazafluoranthren-3 (2*H*)-one analogue from ninhydrin: *N/S*-alkylation and *aza*-Michael addition. *ACS Omega* **2020**, *5*, 5436–5442. [[CrossRef](#)]
30. Boraie, A.T.A.; Soliman, S.M.; Haukka, M.; Salama, E.E.; Sopaih, M.; Barakat, A.; Sarhan, A.A.M. Straightforward green synthesis of indeno-furan carboxylates from ninhydrin and β -ketoesters: X-Ray crystal structure, Hirshfeld and DFT investigations. *J. Mol. Struct.* **2022**, *1255*, 132433. [[CrossRef](#)]
31. Peet, N.P.; Huber, E.W.; Huffman, J.C. Reaction of ninhydrin with β -dicarbonyl compounds. *J. Heterocyclic Chem.* **1995**, *32*, 33–41. [[CrossRef](#)]