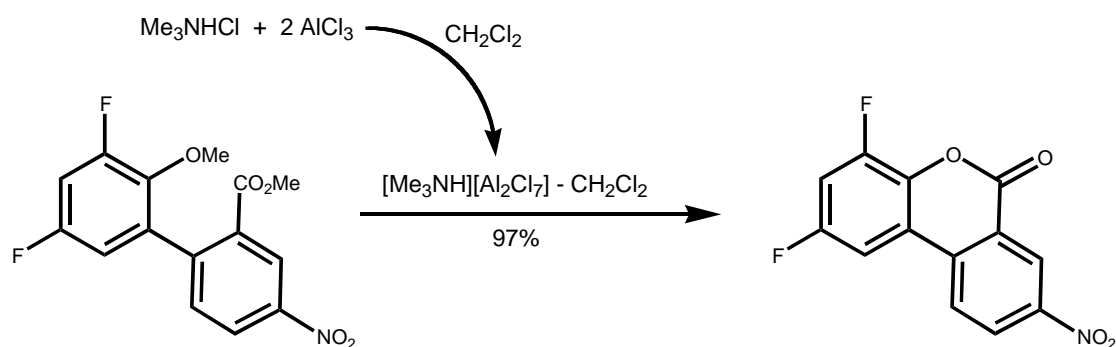


Use of Ionic Liquids as Reagents for Demethylation - Lactonisation

Process chemists at Organon published a paper on the use of ionic liquids for the cleavage of aromatic methyl ethers, in 2003¹. The reagent also seems to be effective for the cleavage of aromatic benzyl and allyl ethers. The same group have now published a follow up paper² describing a one-pot demethylation – lactonisation sequence effected with an ionic liquid to produce substituted benzo[*c*]chromen-6-ones. In addition this method has been carried out on a multi-kilogram scale (6.75kg of substrate) as shown below.



1. G.J. Kemperman,* T.A. Roeters, and P.W Hilberink (Organon), *Eur. J. Org. Chem.*, 2003, 1681-1686.
2. G.J. Kemperman,* B. Ter Horst, D. Van de Goor, T.A. Roeters, J. Bergwerff, R. Van der Eem, and J. Basten (Organon), *Eur. J. Org. Chem.*, 2006, 3169-3174.