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Synthesis of New Reagents for the Detection of Amino Acids and Fingerprints

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SYNTHESIS OF NEW REAGENTS FOR THE DETECTION OF AMINO ACIDS AND FINGERPRINTS Björn Borup and Forrest J. Frank*, Illinois Wesleyan University P.O.Box 2900, Bloomington, IL 61701

DFO (1,8-Diazafluoren-9-one) is a new reagent for the detection of latent fingerprints. It reacts with amino acids present in fingerprints to give a fluorescent product, and is an improvement over ninhydrin which has been used in forensic laboratories for years. The object of this work was to synthesize new analogs of ninhydrin and DFO. The preparation of 9Hcyclopenta[b]pyrazine-9-one (1) did not succeed. The compound 9Hcyclopenta[1,2-b]pyrazine[3,4-b]pyridine-9-one (3) an analog of DFO is being synthesized via cyclopenta[b]pyridine-5,6,7-trione (2) an analog of ninhydrin.

