

# ELECTROCHEMICAL FERRIER REARRANGEMENT IN FLOW

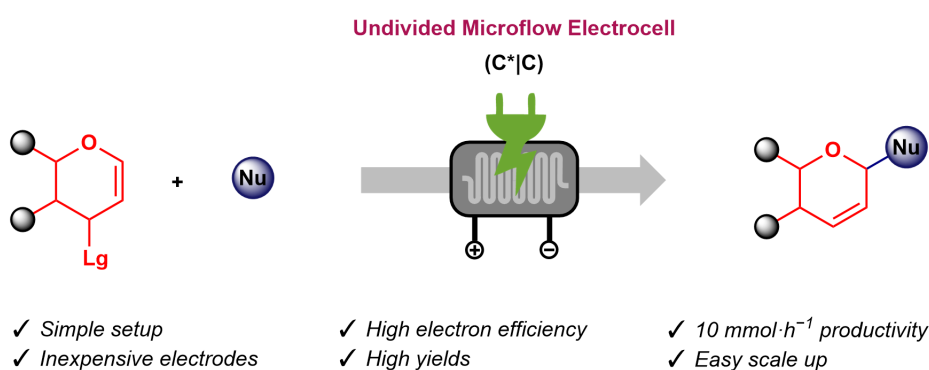
Mihhail Fokin<sup>1</sup>, Pallav Suman<sup>1</sup>, Daniele Mazzarella<sup>2</sup>, Maksim Ošek<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Tallinn University of Technology, School of Science, Department of Chemistry and Biotechnology, Estonia

<sup>2</sup>University of Rome Tor Vergata, Department of Chemical Sciences and Technologies, Italy  
mifoki@taltech.ee

Synthetic organic chemistry is a crucial field of research, as it provides methods for the synthesis of a wide range of chemical compounds, including those used in industrial processes, biologically active molecules, and pharmaceutical drugs. As multiple synthetic routes often exist for any given compound, electrochemistry enabled in continuous-flow processes stands out as an exceptional approach for accessing certain compounds, offering very high productivity while remaining environmentally friendly.

Herein, we report a flow-enabled electrochemical Ferrier rearrangement (**Fig. 1**), a transformation that typically relies on stoichiometric amounts of toxic oxidants or strong acids, but in our case performed with only catalytical amount of charge and electrolyte.<sup>1</sup> This work demonstrates how medically relevant compounds, such as 2,3-unsaturated glycosyl derivatives, can be obtained using electrochemistry integrated into a continuous-flow process. This approach not only outperforms the earlier batch version of the transformation in terms of yield and productivity, but also represents a significant advancement in the field of flow electrochemistry research.<sup>2</sup>



**Fig. 1.** Flow-enabled electrochemical Ferrier rearrangement

## Acknowledgements

This work was supported by the Ministry of Education and Research of Estonia through the Centre of Excellence in Circular Economy for Strategic Mineral and Carbon Resources (SOURCES, TK228, 01.01.2024–31.12.2030) and by the Estonian Research Council grants (PSG828, PRG1031 and Estonian sub-project ETAG24073 of NordForsk project AGRI-WASTE2H2). The authors would also like to thank the Department of Chemistry and Biotechnology for supporting the conference visit, and Nora Deil for the assistance with disaccharide synthesis.

**Keywords:** Organic chemistry, Flow synthesis, Flow electrochemistry, electrochemical synthesis, sugar chemistry, Ferrier rearrangement

[1] P. Suman, M. Fokin, K. H. Hunt, T. Kanger, D. Mazzarella, M. Ošek, "Electrochemical Ferrier rearrangement of glycols in flow", *Communications Chemistry*, accepted.

[2] C. Qi, G. Goti, A. Sartorel, L. Dell'Amico, and D. Mazzarella, "Electrochemical ferrier rearrangement of glycols," *Organic Letters*, vol. 26, no. 43, pp. 9328–9333, Oct. 2024, doi: 10.1021/acs.orglett.4c03511.