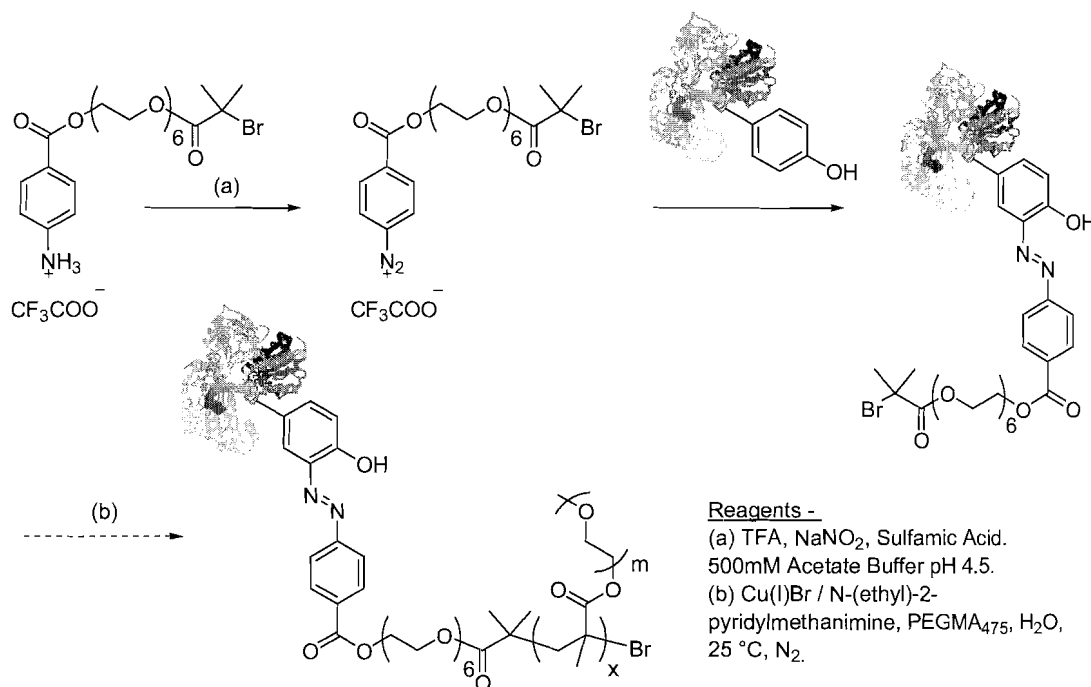


Diazo-Coupling PEGylation of tyrosine fragments: ATRP macroinitiators to polymer-(poly)peptide Conjugates.

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The covalent attachment of poly(ethylene glycol) (PEG) to protein therapeutics has given rise to several beneficial effects. PEG-protein therapeutics often possess reduced toxicity, immunogenicity, antigenicity and reduced rates of kidney clearance and proteolysis. Work conducted within our research group has shown the attachment of comb shaped PEG (POLYPEG[®]) to protein surfaces via amino-(1,2) and thiol-containing(3) amino acids. Francis *et al*(4) recently demonstrated a novel method of targeting tyrosine residues via a diazo-coupling reaction and we are currently using the same approach to synthesise protein macroinitiators for ATRP as a new route to protein-polymer conjugates.



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