**Significance:** Rational design of organic molecules with improved photo-physical properties, such as high quantum yields and tunable fluorescence wavelength, is of great interest in modern science and technology. In this paper, the authors report a one-pot synthesis of 2,5-disubstituted-1,3a,6a-triazapentalenes. By a cascade sequence utilizing a copper(I)-catalyzed 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition followed by intramolecular cyclization and elimination, the authors managed to obtain the desired 1,3a,6a-triazapentalene skeleton.

**Comment:** The authors report the synthesis of a series of 2,5-disubstituted-1,3a,6a-triazapentalenes. These novel compounds allowed the authors to probe the effects of electron-donating and -withdrawing substituents on the photo-physical properties of 1,3a,6a-triazapentalene derivatives. Introduction of substituents in the 5-position led to a dramatically increased quantum yield. A correlation between the Hammet $\sigma_p$-value of the $R_2$-substituent and the quantum-yield tendency could furthermore be estimated.

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