

## Supporting Information

### **Copper-Mediated Aerobic (Phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylation of Arylboronic Acids with Difluoromethyl Phenyl Sulfone**

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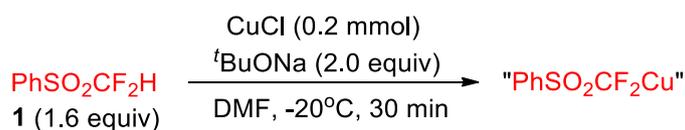
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## 1. General Information

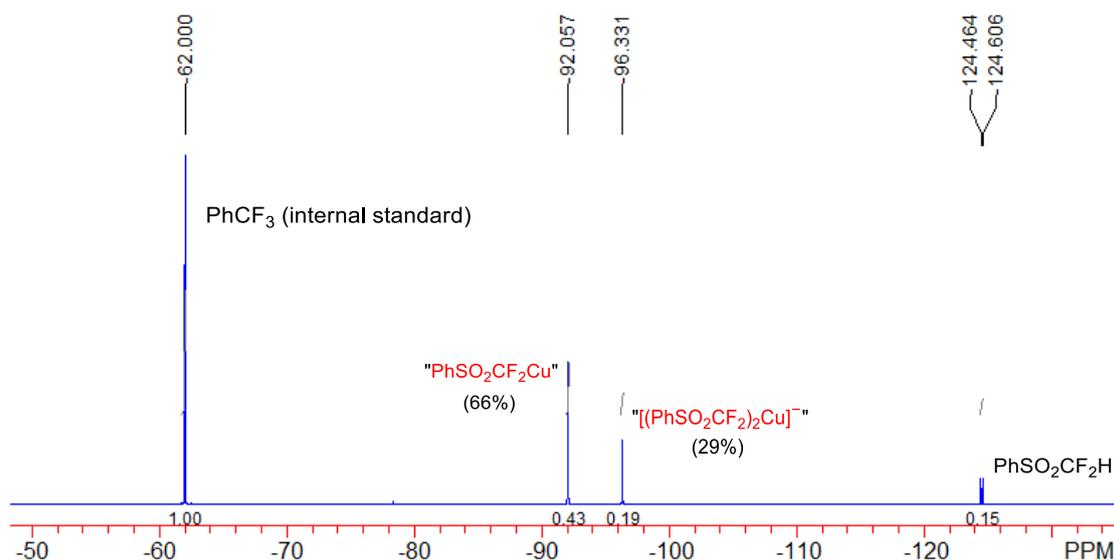
Commercial reagents were used without further purification. DMF and NMP were distilled over CaH<sub>2</sub>, and stored over activated molecular sieve. CuCl and CuI were purified according to reported procedures.<sup>[1]</sup> Difluoromethyl phenyl sulfone (**1**) was prepared using known procedure.<sup>[2]</sup> <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra were recorded on a 400 MHz NMR spectrometer. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy chemical shifts were determined relative to internal Me<sub>4</sub>Si (TMS) at δ 0.0 or to the signal of the residual protonated solvent CDCl<sub>3</sub> δ 7.26. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy chemical shifts were determined relative to internal TMS at δ 0.0. For the isolated compounds, <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectroscopy chemical shifts were determined relative to CFC<sub>3</sub> at δ 0.0; for the reaction mixtures, <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectroscopy chemical shifts were determined relative to PhCF<sub>3</sub> at δ -62.0. Data for <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra are recorded as follows: chemical shift (δ, ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet, q = quartet, br = broad). FT-IR spectra were obtained with a Nicolet 380 spectrophotometer. Mass spectra were obtained on an Agilent LC-MS 1100 instrument. High resolution mass data were recorded on a Thermo Fisher Scientific LTQ FT Ultra instrument. GC-MS data were recorded on a Finnigan 4021 instrument. Elemental analysis was performed with Elementer Vario EL III instrument. Melting points were recorded on a SGW X-4 melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. All reactions were monitored by TLC or <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectroscopy.

## 2. Preparation of “PhSO<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>Cu” Generated from PhSO<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>H



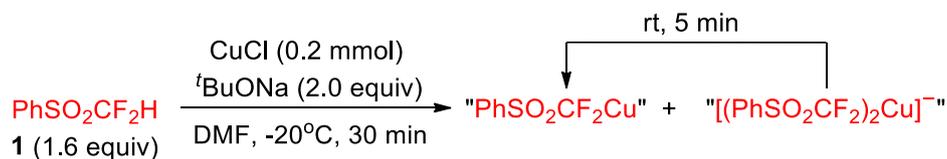
In a glovebox, CuCl (20 mg, 0.2 mmol) and <sup>t</sup>BuONa (38.5 mg, 0.4 mmol) were added to an oven-dried 10-mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stirring bar. The Schlenk tube was sealed with a septum and brought to the bench. DMF (1 mL) was added and

stirred vigorously at room temperature for 10 min, and then difluoromethyl phenyl sulfone (**1**) (45  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.32 mmol) was added at  $-20^\circ\text{C}$  for 30 min under an argon atmosphere. The reaction was monitored by  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectroscopy using  $\text{PhCF}_3$  (25  $\mu\text{L}$ ) as an internal standard (Figure S1).

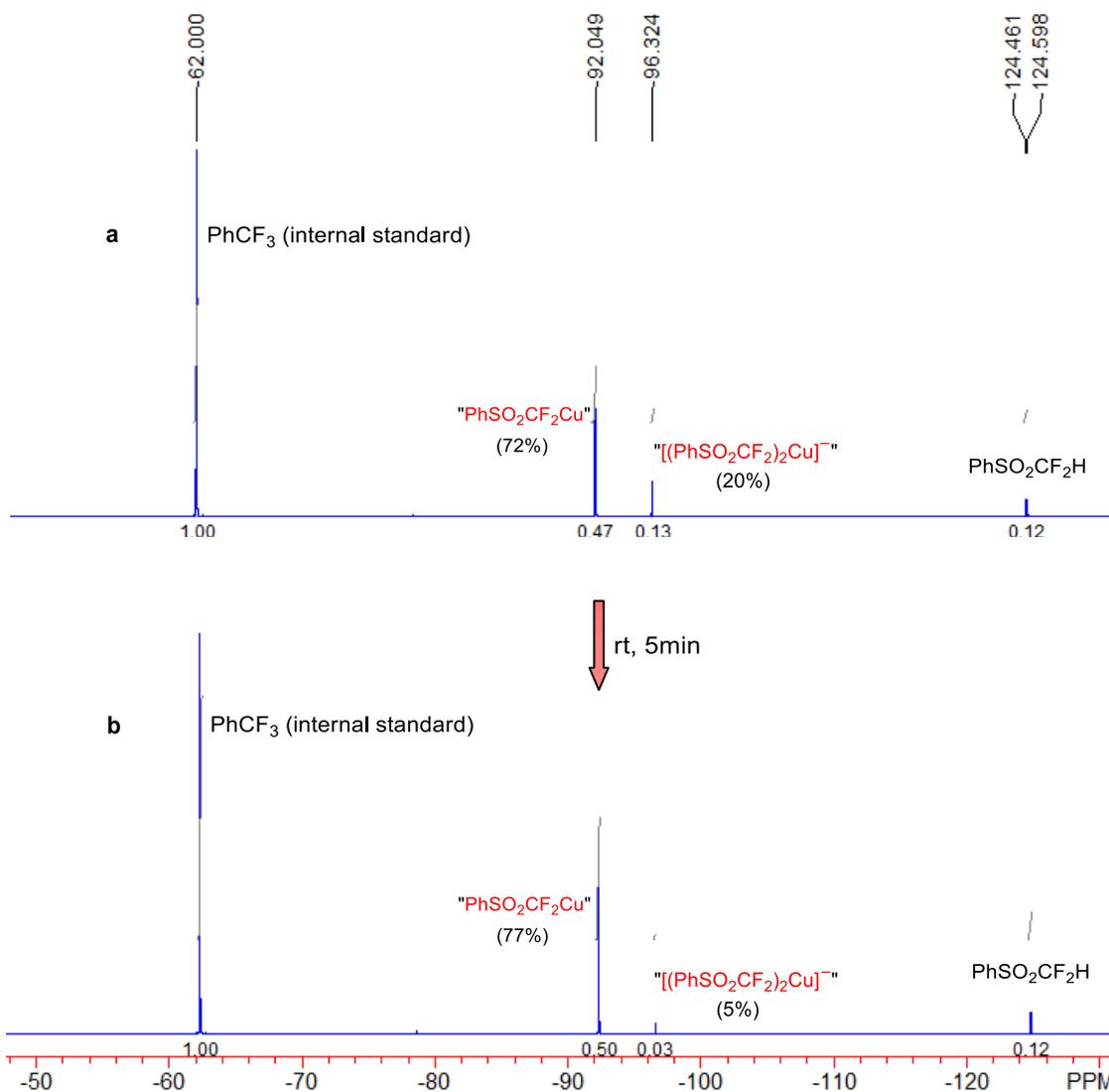


**Figure S1.** Preparation of "PhSO<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>Cu" generated from PhSO<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>H

### 3. Transformation of "[PhSO<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cu]<sup>-</sup>" into [PhSO<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>Cu]

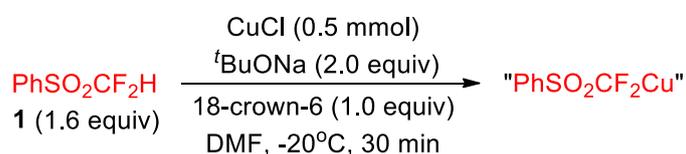


In a glovebox, CuCl (20 mg, 0.2 mmol) and <sup>t</sup>BuONa (38.5 mg, 0.4 mmol) were added to an oven-dried 10-mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stirring bar. The Schlenk tube was sealed with a septum and brought to the bench. DMF (1 mL) was added and stirred vigorously at rt for 10 min, and then difluoromethyl phenyl sulfone (**1**) (45  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.32 mmol) was added at  $-20^\circ\text{C}$  for 30 min under an argon atmosphere. The reaction was monitored by  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectroscopy using  $\text{PhCF}_3$  (25  $\mu\text{L}$ ,) as an internal standard (Figure S2, **a**). The same sample was monitored again by  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectroscopy at rt after 5 min (Figure S2, **b**).



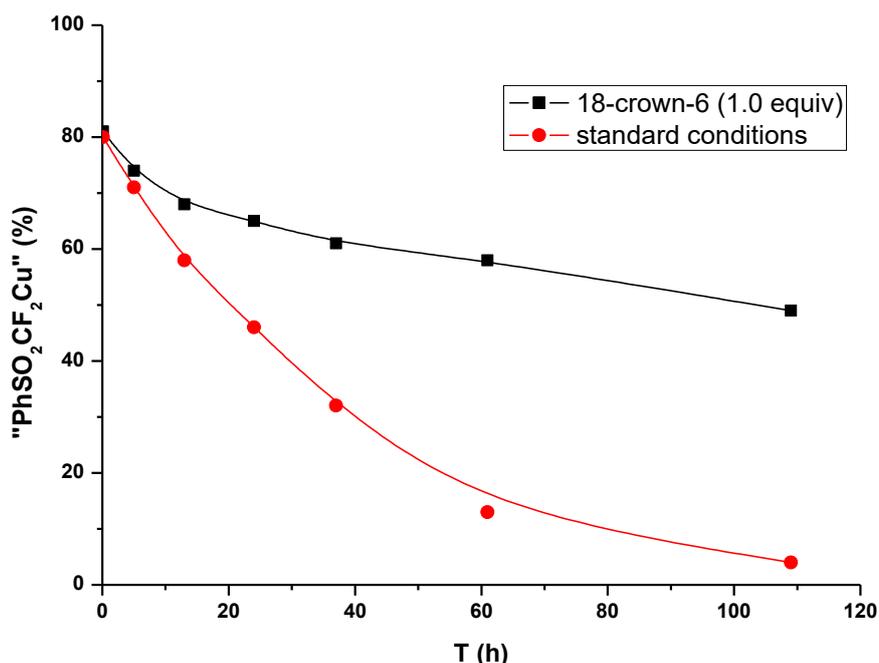
**Figure S2.** Transformation of  $[(\text{PhSO}_2\text{CF}_2)_2\text{Cu}]^-$  into  $\text{PhSO}_2\text{CF}_2\text{Cu}$

#### 4. The Stability of $\text{PhSO}_2\text{CF}_2\text{Cu}$ under Different Conditions



In a glovebox, CuCl (50 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and  ${}^t\text{BuONa}$  (96 mg, 1.0 mmol) were added to an oven-dried 10-mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stirring bar. The Schlenk tube was sealed with a septum and brought to the bench. DMF (2 mL) was added and stirred vigorously at rt for 20 min, and then difluoromethyl phenyl sulfone (**1**) (113  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.8 mmol) and 18-crown-6 (132 mg, 0.5 mmol) was added at  $-20^\circ\text{C}$  for 30

min under an argon atmosphere. The reaction was monitored at rt after 5 min by  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectroscopy using  $\text{PhCF}_3$  (25.5  $\mu\text{L}$ ) as an internal standard (81% yield for “ $\text{PhSO}_2\text{CF}_2\text{Cu}$ ”). The same sample was stored in refrigerator (about  $-12^\circ\text{C}$ ) and was monitored again by  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectroscopy after 5 h, 13 h, 24 h, 37 h, 61 h, 109 h (Figure S3).



**Figure S3.** The stability of “ $\text{PhSO}_2\text{CF}_2\text{Cu}$ ” under different conditions

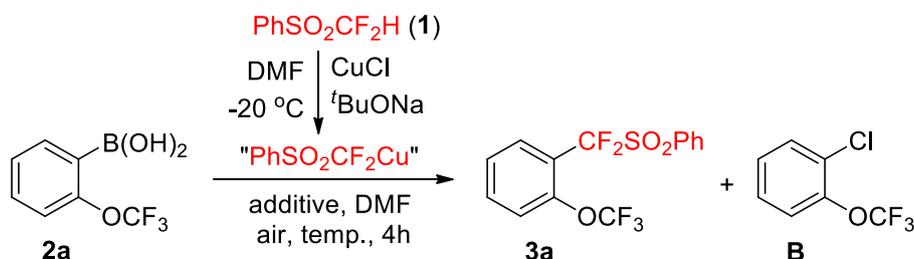
## 5. (Phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylation of Arylboronic Acids with “ $\text{PhSO}_2\text{CF}_2\text{Cu}$ ” Generated from $\text{PhSO}_2\text{CF}_2\text{H}$

### 5.1 Screening of Reaction Conditions

In a glovebox,  $\text{CuCl}$  (50 mg, 0.5 mmol) and  $t\text{BuONa}$  (96 mg, 1.0 mmol) were added to an oven-dried 10-mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stirring bar. The Schlenk tube was sealed with a septum and brought to the bench. DMF (2 mL) was added and stirred vigorously at rt for 20 min, and then difluoromethyl phenyl sulfone (**1**) (113  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.8 mmol) was added at  $-20^\circ\text{C}$  for 45 min under an argon atmosphere. The pregenerated “ $\text{PhSO}_2\text{CF}_2\text{Cu}$ ” and additive were added respectively into

(2-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)boronic acid (**2a**) (purity 98%, 42 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in DMF (2 mL) for 4 h under an air atmosphere. The reaction mixture was monitored by  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectroscopy using  $\text{PhCF}_3$  as an internal standard.

**Table S1.** Screening of Reaction Conditions



entry	additive (equiv)	temp.	yield <sup>a</sup> of <b>3a</b> ( <b>B</b> ) (%)
1	–	0 °C	16 (28)
2	–	rt	67 (18)
3	$\text{Et}_3\text{N}$ 3HF (0.8)	rt	0 (0)
4	$\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.5)	rt	68 (19)
5	$\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (1.0)	rt	60 (21)
6	1,10-phen (1.0)	rt	0 (0)
7 <sup>b</sup>	18-crown-6 (2.5)	rt	68 (11)
8	$\text{K}_3\text{PO}_4$ (1.0)	rt	68 (18)
9	KOAc (1.0)	rt	60 (27)
10 <sup>c</sup>	$\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$ (5 mol %)	rt	69 (19)
11	$\text{AgNO}_3$ (0.5)	rt	72 (15)
12	$\text{AgNO}_3$ (1.0)	rt	73 (10)
13	$\text{AgNO}_3$ (0.5) + $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.2)	rt	75 (7)
14 <sup>d</sup>	$\text{AgNO}_3$ (0.5) + $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.2)	rt	77 (9)
15 <sup>d</sup>	$\text{AgNO}_3$ (0.6) + $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.3)	rt	80 (7)
16 <sup>e</sup>	$\text{AgNO}_3$ (0.6) + $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.3)	rt	0 (–)

<sup>a</sup>Yields were determined by  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectroscopy.

<sup>b</sup>18-crown-6 was added after the addition of **1** in the generation of “ $\text{PhSO}_2\text{CF}_2\text{Cu}$ ”.

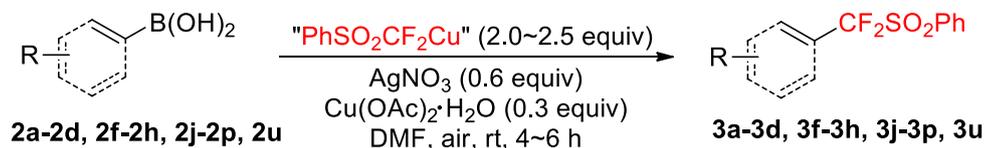
<sup>c</sup>The reaction was conducted for 3 h and **1** (3.2 equiv) was used.

<sup>d</sup>The reaction was conducted with 0.4 mmol of **2a** for 6 h.

<sup>e</sup>The reaction was conducted under argon atmosphere.

## 5.2 (Phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylation of Arylboronic Acids with “PhSO<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>Cu” Generated from PhSO<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>H

### Method A



### Standard procedure for 0.2 mmol scale:

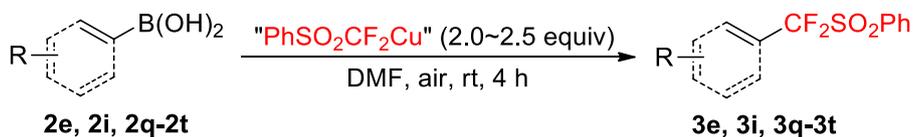
In a glovebox, CuCl (50 mg, 0.5 mmol) and <sup>t</sup>BuONa (96 mg, 1.0 mmol) were added to an oven-dried 10-mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stirring bar. The Schlenk tube was sealed with a septum and brought to the bench. DMF (2 mL) was added and stirred vigorously at rt for 20 min, and then difluoromethyl phenyl sulfone (**1**) (113 μL, 0.8 mmol) was added at -20°C for 45 min under an argon atmosphere. The pregenerated “PhSO<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>Cu”, AgNO<sub>3</sub> (20.5 mg, 0.12 mmol), and Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O (12 mg, 0.06 mmol) were added respectively into a solution of arylboronic acid (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in DMF (2 mL) at rt for 4 h under an air atmosphere. After addition of dichloromethane (5 mL), 1N HCl solution (1 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL), the organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (3×5 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with brine (2×10 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel.

### Standard procedure for 0.4 mmol scale:

In a glovebox, CuCl (100 mg, 1.0 mmol) and <sup>t</sup>BuONa (192 mg, 2.0 mmol) were added to an oven-dried 10-mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stirring bar. The Schlenk tube was sealed with a septum and brought to the bench. DMF (4 mL) was added and stirred vigorously at rt for 20 min, and then difluoromethyl phenyl sulfone (**1**) (113 μL, 1.6 mmol) was added at -20°C for 45 min under an argon atmosphere. The

pregenerated “PhSO<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>Cu”, AgNO<sub>3</sub> (41 mg, 0.24 mmol), and Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> H<sub>2</sub>O (24 mg, 0.12 mmol) were added respectively into a solution of arylboronic acid (0.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in DMF (4 mL) at rt for 6 h under an air atmosphere. After addition of dichloromethane (10 mL), 1N HCl solution (1.5 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL), the organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with brine (2 × 20 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel.

### Method B

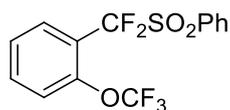


### Standard procedure:

In a glovebox, CuCl (50 mg, 0.5 mmol) and <sup>t</sup>BuONa (96 mg, 1.0 mmol) were added to an oven-dried 10-mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stirring bar. The Schlenk tube was sealed with a septum and brought to the bench. DMF (2 mL) was added and stirred vigorously at rt for 20 min, and then difluoromethyl phenyl sulfone (**1**) (113 μL, 0.8 mmol) was added at -20 °C for 45 min under an argon atmosphere. The pregenerated “PhSO<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>Cu” was added into a solution of arylboronic acid (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in DMF (2 mL) at rt for 4 h under an air atmosphere. After addition of dichloromethane (5 mL), 1N HCl solution (1 mL), H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) and the organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (3 × 5 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with brine (2 × 10 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel.

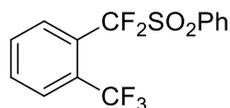
**(Note:** The generation of “PhSO<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>Cu” is crucial for obtaining all products in good

yields.)



### 1-(Difluoro(phenylsulfonyl)methyl)-2-(trifluoromethoxy)benzene (3a)

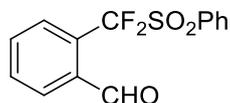
For 0.4 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method A was followed to provide **3a** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 20:1, v/v) as a white solid (105 mg, 75%). M.p.: 93-95 °C. IR (KBr): 3092, 1609, 1493, 1449, 1341, 1251, 1172, 1061, 945, 773, 763, 598 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.38-7.44 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.60-7.64 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.78 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, ArH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 119.2 (t, *J* = 21.5 Hz), 120.2 (q, *J* = 257.9 Hz), 120.9 (q, *J* = 1.5 Hz), 121.2 (t, *J* = 287.7 Hz), 126.4, 129.3, 130.8 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz), 131.0, 132.7, 134.1, 135.5, 147.8 (q, *J* = 1.4 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ -56.6 (s, 3F), -98.4 (s, 2F). MS (ESI, *m/z*): 369.9 (M+NH<sub>4</sub>)<sup>+</sup>, 374.8 (M+Na)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (ESI): calcd. For C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>O<sub>3</sub>NF<sub>5</sub>S (M+NH<sub>4</sub>)<sup>+</sup>: 370.0527, found: 370.0531.



### 1-(Difluoro(phenylsulfonyl)methyl)-2-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (3b)

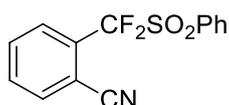
For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method A was followed to provide **3b** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 20:1, v/v) as a white solid (44 mg, 65%). M.p.: 117-118 °C. IR (KBr): 3067, 1584, 1448, 1351, 1304, 1284, 1172, 1037, 933, 772, 720, 685, 589, 544 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.64 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.72-7.74 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.78 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.90-7.98 (m, 2H, ArH), 8.03 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H, ArH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 121.5 (t, *J* = 288.0 Hz), 122.7 (q, *J* = 272.2 Hz), 125.1 (t, *J* = 22.6 Hz), 127.9 (q, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 129.4, 129.5 (q, *J* = 32.8 Hz), 131.0, 131.7 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz), 131.8, 132.5, 132.7, 135.5. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ -58.0 (t, *J* = 18.8 Hz, 3F), -94.4 (q, *J* = 19.1 Hz,

2F). MS (ESI, m/z): 353.9 (M+NH<sub>4</sub>)<sup>+</sup>, 358.8 (M+Na)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (ESI): calcd. For C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O<sub>2</sub>F<sub>5</sub>S (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 337.0311, found: 337.0316.



### 2-(Difluoro(phenylsulfonyl)methyl)benzaldehyde (3c)

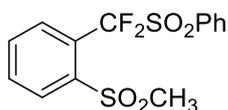
For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method A was followed to provide **3c** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 20:1, v/v) as a white solid (39 mg, 66%). M.p.: 102-103 °C. IR (KBr): 3080, 2929, 1696, 1596, 1457, 1340, 1249, 1170, 1064, 939, 823, 761, 687, 595 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.66 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.72-7.74 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.81 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.03 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H, ArH), 8.18 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H, ArH), 10.50 (s, 1H, CHO). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 122.6 (t, *J* = 286.6 Hz), 127.1 (t, *J* = 21.5 Hz), 129.0, 129.5 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 129.6, 131.0, 132.0, 132.8, 133.1, 135.9, 136.3, 190.4 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ -92.8 (s, 2F). MS (ESI, m/z): 296.8 (M+H)<sup>+</sup>, 313.9 (M+NH<sub>4</sub>)<sup>+</sup>, 318.9 (M+Na)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (ESI): calcd. For C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub>O<sub>3</sub>F<sub>2</sub>S (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 297.0390, found: 297.0391.



### 2-(Difluoro(phenylsulfonyl)methyl)benzonitrile (3d)

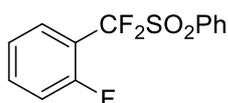
For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method A was followed to provide **3d** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 20:1, v/v) as a white solid (41 mg, 70%). M.p.: 149-150 °C. IR (KBr): 3075, 2237, 1579, 1446, 1340, 1287, 1170, 1060, 939, 770, 711, 597, 543 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.67 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.71-7.84 (m, 5H, ArH), 8.07 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, ArH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 112.3 (t, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 116.1, 120.8 (t, *J* = 287.7 Hz), 128.9 (t, *J* = 21.8 Hz), 129.6, 130.1 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 131.2, 131.8, 132.6, 132.7, 135.1, 136.0. <sup>19</sup>F

NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -99.6 (s, 2F). MS (ESI, m/z): 293.9 (M+H)<sup>+</sup>, 310.9 (M+NH<sub>4</sub>)<sup>+</sup>, 315.8 (M+Na)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (ESI): calcd. For C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub>S (M+NH<sub>4</sub>)<sup>+</sup>: 311.0656, found: 311.0660.



### 1-(Difluoro(phenylsulfonyl)methyl)-2-(methylsulfonyl)benzene (3e)

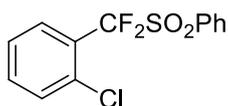
For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method B was followed to provide **3e** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 10:1 to 5:1, v/v) as a white solid (44 mg, 64%). M.p.: 164-165 °C. IR (KBr): 3118, 2937, 1583, 1454, 1353, 1319, 1249, 1169, 1143, 1047, 949, 775, 732, 686, 597 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.29 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.65 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.80-7.83 (m, 3H, ArH), 8.01-8.06 (m, 3H, ArH), 8.42-8.46 (m, 1H, ArH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  45.0 (t, *J* = 4.3 Hz), 121.6 (t, *J* = 288.6 Hz), 125.3 (t, *J* = 22.6 Hz), 129.5, 131.1, 131.91 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 131.92, 132.3, 133.1, 133.3, 135.8, 141.2. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -90.9 (s, 2F). MS (ESI, m/z): 346.9 (M+H)<sup>+</sup>, 363.9 (M+NH<sub>4</sub>)<sup>+</sup>, 368.8 (M+Na)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (ESI): calcd. For C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>O<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 347.0215, found: 347.0218.



### 1-(Difluoro(phenylsulfonyl)methyl)-2-fluorobenzene (3f)

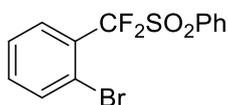
For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method A was followed to provide **3f** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 20:1, v/v) as a white solid (43 mg, 75%). M.p.: 105-106 °C. IR (KBr): 3079, 1614, 1493, 1449, 1340, 1261, 1171, 1106, 1062, 939, 764, 687, 597, 545 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.16-7.20 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.26-7.30 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.55-7.64 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.77 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.01 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, ArH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  114.5 (td, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 22.2 Hz, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 10.9 Hz), 117.2 (d, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 21.2 Hz), 121.2 (td, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 286.6

Hz,  $^3J_{F-C} = 3.7$  Hz), 124.2 (d,  $^3J_{F-C} = 3.6$  Hz), 129.3, 130.2 (t,  $^3J_{F-C} = 6.6$  Hz), 131.0, 132.6, 134.7 (d,  $^3J_{F-C} = 8.7$  Hz), 135.5, 160.7 (dt,  $^1J_{F-C} = 257.4$  Hz,  $^3J_{F-C} = 2.9$  Hz).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -99.7 (d,  $J = 22.9$  Hz 2F), -110.8 (m, 1F). MS (ESI, m/z): 303.9 ( $\text{M}+\text{NH}_4$ ) $^+$ , 308.8 ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (ESI): calcd. For  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_2\text{NF}_3\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{NH}_4$ ) $^+$ : 304.0610, found: 304.0614.



### 1-Chloro-2-(difluoro(phenylsulfonyl)methyl)benzene (**3g**)

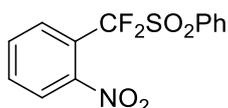
For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method A was followed to provide **3g** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 20:1, v/v) as a white solid (42 mg, 70%). M.p.: 101-102 °C. IR (KBr): 3084, 1592, 1473, 1453, 1341, 1245, 1166, 1107, 1042, 938, 759, 728, 687, 596, 541  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.38-7.41 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.48-7.49 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.62 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.67 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.77 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.00 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H, ArH).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  121.6 (t,  $J = 288.0$  Hz), 124.7 (t,  $J = 20.7$  Hz), 126.7, 129.4, 131.0, 131.2 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz), 132.2, 132.8, 133.4, 134.1 (t,  $J = 2.5$  Hz), 135.5.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -97.2 (s, 2F). MS (ESI, m/z): 319.8 ( $\text{M}+\text{NH}_4$ ) $^+$ , 324.7 ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (ESI): calcd. For  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_2\text{NCIF}_2\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{NH}_4$ ) $^+$ : 320.0315, found: 320.0318.



### 1-Bromo-2-(difluoro(phenylsulfonyl)methyl)benzene (**3h**)

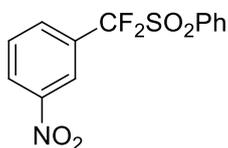
For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method A was followed to provide **3h** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 20:1, v/v) as a white solid (49 mg, 71%). M.p.: 119-121 °C. IR (KBr): 3067, 1590, 1450, 1340, 1245, 1164, 1108, 1029, 933, 755, 723, 686, 592  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$

7.37-7.45 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.61 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.66-7.72 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.77 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.00 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H, ArH).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  121.4 (t,  $J = 288.4$  Hz), 121.6 (t,  $J = 2.5$  Hz), 126.4 (t,  $J = 20.8$  Hz), 127.3, 129.4, 131.0, 131.5 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz), 132.8, 133.4, 135.5, 135.8.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -96.7 (s, 2F). MS (ESI,  $m/z$ ): 363.7 ( $\text{M}+\text{NH}_4$ ) $^+$ , 368.8 ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (ESI): calcd. For  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_2\text{NBrF}_2\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{NH}_4$ ) $^+$ : 363.9809, found: 363.9813.



### 1-(Difluoro(phenylsulfonyl)methyl)-2-nitrobenzene (3i)

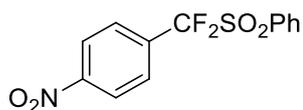
For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method B was followed to provide **3i** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 15:1 to 10:1, v/v) as a white solid (44 mg, 70%). M.p.: 128-129 °C. IR (KBr): 3101, 1543, 1452, 1368, 1253, 1175, 1108, 1058, 939, 853, 765, 686, 599, 540  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.61-7.65 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.70-7.75 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.79 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.91 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.00 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H, ArH).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  119.4 (t,  $J = 22.9$  Hz), 120.4 (t,  $J = 288.0$  Hz), 124.3, 129.5, 130.8 (t,  $J = 6.5$  Hz), 131.1, 131.4, 132.2, 133.8, 135.9, 149.7.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -96.0 (s, 2F). MS (ESI,  $m/z$ ): 335.8 ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (ESI): calcd. For  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_4\text{NF}_2\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 314.0290, found: 314.0293.



### 1-(Difluoro(phenylsulfonyl)methyl)-3-nitrobenzene (3j)

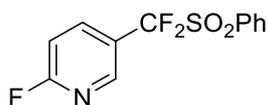
For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method A was followed to provide **3j** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 20:1, v/v) as a white solid (43 mg, 69%). M.p.: 138-140 °C. IR (KBr): 3101, 1628, 1541, 1448, 1358, 1267, 1167, 1066, 978, 712, 595, 544  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.66 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz,

2H, ArH), 7.74 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.81 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.02-8.04 (m, 3H, ArH), 8.46 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.52 (s, 1H, ArH).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  120.6 (t,  $J = 285.8$  Hz), 123.2 (t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz), 127.2, 128.8 (t,  $J = 23.0$  Hz), 129.6, 130.1, 131.0, 131.9, 133.7 (t,  $J = 5.4$  Hz), 135.9, 148.2.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -102.4 (s, 2F). MS (ESI,  $m/z$ ): 335.9 ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (ESI): calcd. For  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_4\text{N}_2\text{F}_2\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{NH}_4$ ) $^+$ : 331.0555, found: 331.0559.



### 1-(Difluoro(phenylsulfonyl)methyl)-4-nitrobenzene (3k)

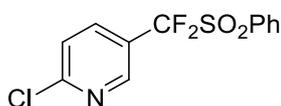
For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method A was followed to provide **3k** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 20:1, v/v) as a white solid (38 mg, 61%). M.p.: 153-155 °C. IR (KBr): 3122, 1613, 1537, 1448, 1344, 1272, 1166, 1094, 1065, 858, 731, 685, 594  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.67 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.83 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.90 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 8.03 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 8.37 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H, ArH).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  120.8 (t,  $J = 285.9$  Hz), 123.7, 129.4 (t,  $J = 5.8$  Hz), 129.6, 131.0, 132.0, 132.8 (t,  $J = 22.3$  Hz), 135.9, 150.4.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -102.7 (s, 2F). MS (ESI,  $m/z$ ): 335.8 ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (ESI): calcd. For  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_4\text{N}_2\text{F}_2\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{NH}_4$ ) $^+$ : 331.0554, found: 331.0559.



### 5-(Difluoro(phenylsulfonyl)methyl)-2-fluoropyridine (3l)

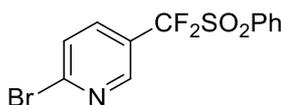
For 0.4 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method A was followed to provide **3l** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 20:1, v/v) as a white solid (82 mg, 71%). M.p.: 133-134 °C. IR (KBr): 3062, 1601, 1487, 1447, 1397, 1338, 1264, 1169, 1071, 952, 846, 753, 716, 685, 606  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$

7.11 (dd,  $J = 8.6$  Hz,  $J = 2.6$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.67 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.82 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.03 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 8.11-8.15 (m, 1H, ArH), 8.53 (s, 1H, ArH).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  110.0 (d,  $^2J_{\text{F-C}} = 37.2$  Hz), 120.7 (t,  $^1J_{\text{F-C}} = 285.1$  Hz), 121.2 (td,  $^2J_{\text{F-C}} = 23.3$  Hz,  $^4J_{\text{F-C}} = 4.4$  Hz), 129.6, 131.0, 131.8, 135.9, 141.1 (dt,  $^3J_{\text{F-C}} = 9.5$  Hz,  $^3J_{\text{F-C}} = 4.7$  Hz), 148.1 (dt,  $^3J_{\text{F-C}} = 16.8$  Hz,  $^3J_{\text{F-C}} = 6.6$  Hz), 165.8 (d,  $^1J_{\text{F-C}} = 244.3$  Hz).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -61.5 (d,  $J = 4.1$  Hz, 1F), -102.5 (s, 2F). MS (ESI,  $m/z$ ): 287.8 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (ESI): calcd. For  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_9\text{O}_2\text{NF}_3\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 288.0296, found: 288.0301.



### 2-Chloro-5-(difluoro(phenylsulfonyl)methyl)pyridine (**3m**)

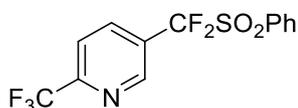
For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method A was followed to provide **3m** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 20:1, v/v) as a white solid (49 mg, 81%). M.p.: 137-139 °C. IR (KBr): 3049, 1589, 1461, 1339, 1277, 1168, 1116, 1070, 842, 741, 685, 598  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.48 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.64 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.79 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.94 (dd,  $J = 8.4$  Hz,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.00 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 8.63 (s, 1H, ArH).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  120.7 (t,  $J = 285.2$  Hz), 122.2 (t,  $J = 23.0$  Hz), 124.4, 129.6, 131.0, 131.7, 135.9, 138.1 (t,  $J = 5.1$  Hz), 148.9 (t,  $J = 6.5$  Hz), 155.8.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -103.1 (s, 2F). MS (ESI,  $m/z$ ): 303.8 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (ESI): calcd. For  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_9\text{O}_2\text{NClF}_2\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 304.0002, found: 304.0005.



### 2-Bromo-5-(difluoro(phenylsulfonyl)methyl)pyridine (**3n**)

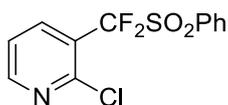
For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method A was followed to provide **3n** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 20:1, v/v) as a

white solid (54 mg, 78%). M.p.: 138-139 °C. IR (KBr): 3045, 1582, 1456, 1339, 1276, 1169, 1097, 1068, 954, 844, 736, 685, 601, 541  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.63-7.67 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.79-7.85 (m, 2H, ArH), 8.01 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 8.61 (s, 1H, ArH).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  120.7 (t,  $J = 285.8$  Hz), 122.6 (t,  $J = 22.9$  Hz), 128.2, 129.6, 131.0, 131.8, 135.9, 137.6 (t,  $J = 5.1$  Hz), 146.8 (t,  $J = 1.8$  Hz), 149.1 (t,  $J = 6.2$  Hz).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -103.2 (s, 2F). MS (ESI,  $m/z$ ): 347.7 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (ESI): calcd. For  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_9\text{O}_2\text{NBrF}_2\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 347.9495, found: 347.9500.



### 5-(Difluoro(phenylsulfonyl)methyl)-2-(trifluoromethyl)pyridine (3o)

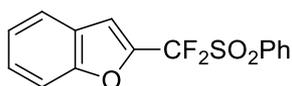
For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method A was followed to provide **3o** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 20:1, v/v) as a white solid (55 mg, 82%). M.p.: 112-113 °C. IR (KBr): 3058, 1582, 1448, 1340, 1280, 1171, 1101, 1024, 956, 861, 723, 686, 609, 583, 539  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.67 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.81-7.87 (m, 2H, ArH), 8.04 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 8.23 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.99 (s, 1H, ArH).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  121.0 (q,  $J = 273.2$  Hz), 120.2 (q,  $J = 2.1$  Hz), 120.3 (t,  $J = 285.8$  Hz), 126.2 (t,  $J = 23.2$  Hz), 129.6, 131.1, 131.6, 136.0, 137.5 (t,  $J = 5.5$  Hz), 148.9 (t,  $J = 6.2$  Hz), 151.5 (q,  $J = 35.2$ ).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -68.3 (s, 3F), -103.4 (s, 2F). MS (ESI,  $m/z$ ): 337.8 ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (ESI): calcd. For  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{O}_2\text{NF}_5\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 338.0264, found: 338.0269.



### 2-Chloro-3-(difluoro(phenylsulfonyl)methyl)pyridine (3p)

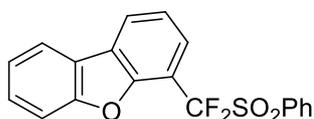
For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method A was followed to provide

**3p** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 20:1 to 10:1, v/v) as a white solid (44 mg, 73%). M.p.: 142-143 °C. IR (KBr): 3080, 1582, 1449, 1410, 1341, 1284, 1176, 1116, 1046, 937, 808, 743, 687, 597, 547 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.40 (dd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.63 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.78 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.99 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, ArH), 8.02 (dd, *J* = 7.6 Hz, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.57 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H, ArH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 120.5 (t, *J* = 287.6 Hz), 122.0, 122.4 (t, *J* = 22.2 Hz), 129.6, 131.0, 132.2, 135.9, 140.3 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 150.1, 152.7. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ -98.9 (s, 2F). MS (ESI, m/z): 303.8 (M+H)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (ESI): calcd. For C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>9</sub>O<sub>2</sub>NCIF<sub>2</sub>S (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 304.0002, found: 304.0005.



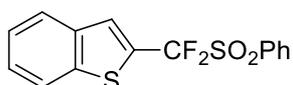
### 2-(Difluoro(phenylsulfonyl)methyl)benzofuran (**3q**)

For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method B was followed to provide **3q** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 20:1, v/v) as a white solid (39 mg, 63%). M.p.: 106-108 °C. IR (KBr): 3075, 1582, 1449, 1351, 1298, 1166, 1064, 979, 881, 753, 682, 626, 575 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.30-7.34 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.61 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.77 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.02 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H, ArH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 112.2, 112.5 (t, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 117.4 (t, *J* = 283.3 Hz), 122.5, 124.1, 126.5, 127.2, 129.5, 131.0, 132.6, 135.7, 141.6 (t, *J* = 30.3 Hz), 156.1. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ -102.9 (s, 2F). MS (ESI, m/z): 325.9 (M+NH<sub>4</sub>)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (ESI): calcd. For C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>3</sub>NF<sub>2</sub>S (M+NH<sub>4</sub>)<sup>+</sup>: 326.0655, found: 326.0657.



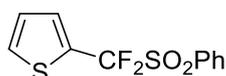
#### 4-(Difluoro(phenylsulfonyl)methyl)dibenzo[*b,d*]furan (**3r**)

For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method B was followed to provide **3r** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 20:1, v/v) as a white solid (43 mg, 60%). M.p.: 186-188 °C. IR (KBr): 3071, 1581, 1478, 1423, 1338, 1282, 1193, 1169, 1045, 966, 848, 758, 684, 599, 538 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.44-7.57 (m, 5H, ArH), 7.69 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.95 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.00 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, ArH), 8.15 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, ArH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 111.6 (t, *J* = 23.4 Hz), 112.1, 120.7, 121.7 (t, *J* = 286.5 Hz), 122.6, 122.7, 123.3, 125.0, 126.0, 127.0 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 128.1, 129.1, 131.1, 132.9, 135.3, 153.5 (t, *J* = 2.2 Hz), 156.4. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ -100.0 (s, 2F). MS (ESI, m/z): 375.9 (M+NH<sub>4</sub>)<sup>+</sup>, 380.9 (M+Na)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (ESI): calcd. For C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>3</sub>NF<sub>2</sub>S (M+NH<sub>4</sub>)<sup>+</sup>: 376.0808, found: 376.0813.



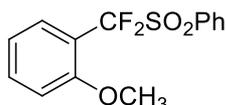
#### 2-(Difluoro(phenylsulfonyl)methyl)benzo[*b*]thiophene (**3s**)

For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method B was followed to provide **3s** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 20:1, v/v) as a pink solid (49 mg, 76%). M.p.: 141-143 °C. IR (KBr): 3066, 1581, 1523, 1448, 1346, 1238, 1167, 1036, 830, 751, 682, 600, 531 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.40-7.47 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.61 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.76 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.80 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.87 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H, ArH), 8.03 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, ArH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 120.7 (t, *J* = 284.0 Hz), 122.5, 125.2, 125.3, 126.7, 127.4 (t, *J* = 26.2 Hz), 129.3 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz), 129.4, 131.0, 132.5, 135.5, 138.3, 141.6. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ -93.6 (s, 2F). MS (ESI, m/z): 346.7 (M+Na)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (ESI): calcd. For C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>2</sub>NF<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> (M+NH<sub>4</sub>)<sup>+</sup>: 342.0425, found: 342.0429.



### 2-(Difluoro(phenylsulfonyl)methyl)thiophene (3t)

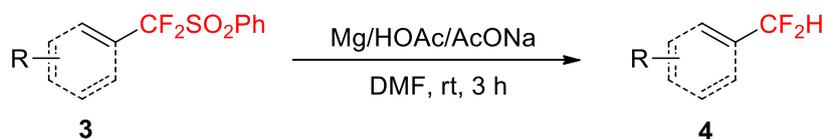
For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method B was followed to provide **3t** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 20:1, v/v) as a white solid (30 mg, 55%). M.p.: 99-100 °C. IR (KBr): 3131, 1525, 1424, 1339, 1259, 1171, 1093, 1033, 863, 719, 686, 602, 539 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.15-7.17 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.54-7.55 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.60-7.64 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.77 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.01 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, ArH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 120.8 (t, *J* = 283.6 Hz), 127.3 (t, *J* = 27.0 Hz), 127.7, 129.3, 130.9, 131.5, 132.0 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz), 132.6, 135.4. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ -92.8 (s, 2F). MS (ESI, m/z): 291.8 (M+NH<sub>4</sub>)<sup>+</sup>, 296.7 (M+Na)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (ESI): calcd. For C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub>NF<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> (M+NH<sub>4</sub>)<sup>+</sup>: 292.0269, found: 292.0272.



### 1-(Difluoro(phenylsulfonyl)methyl)-2-methoxybenzene (3u)

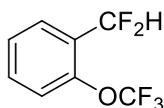
For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method A was followed to provide **3u** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 20:1, v/v) as a white solid (27 mg, 45%). M.p.: 83-84 °C. IR (KBr): 3045, 2847, 1604, 1585, 1495, 1450, 1333, 1300, 1247, 1162, 1045, 924, 753, 688, 596, 530 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 3.69 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.02 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.50 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.71 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.93 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, ArH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 55.9, 112.4, 115.1 (t, *J* = 20.8 Hz), 120.3, 122.5 (t, *J* = 287.3 Hz), 129.0, 130.2 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 130.8, 133.8, 134.1, 135.0, 158.8 (t, *J* = 2.1 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ -97.5 (s, 2F). MS (ESI, m/z): 316.0 (M+NH<sub>4</sub>)<sup>+</sup>. Anal. calcd. For C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S (%): C, 56.37; H, 4.05. Found: C, 56.39; H, 3.95.

## 6. Synthesis of Difluoromethylated Aromatics by Reductive Desulfonation



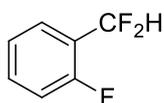
### Standard procedure:

The reductive desulfonation procedure was according to our previous report.<sup>[3]</sup> HOAc/NaOAc (1:1) solution (1.5 mL) was added into a suspension of **3** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Magnesium turning (72 mg, 3.0 mmol) in DMF (2 mL) at rt under an argon atmosphere. The reaction was monitored by TLC until the starting material **3** was consumed completely.



### 1-(Difluoromethyl)-2-(trifluoromethoxy)benzene (**4a**)

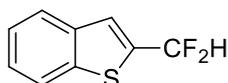
According to standard procedure, after stirring at rt for 3 h, PhCF<sub>3</sub> (26.5 μL) as an internal standard was added into the reaction mixture, and monitored by <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectroscopy in 76% yield. Characterization of **4a**: <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, unlocked): δ -56.9 (s, 3F), -113.2 (d, *J* = 54.5 Hz, 2F). GC-MS (EI): *m/z* = 212.2.



### 1-(Difluoromethyl)-2-fluorobenzene (**4b**)<sup>[4]</sup>

According to standard procedure, after stirring at rt for 3 h, PhCF<sub>3</sub> (26 μL) as an internal standard was added into the reaction mixture, and monitored by <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectroscopy in 86% yield. Characterization of **4b**: <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, unlocked): δ -113.1 (dd, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>H-F</sub> = 54.3 Hz, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>H-F</sub> = 3.9 Hz, 2F), -119.4 (m, 1F). GC-MS (EI): *m/z* =

146.1.



### 2-(Difluoromethyl)benzo[*b*]thiophene (**4c**)

HOAc/NaOAc (1:1) solution (1.5 mL) was added into a suspension of **3s** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Magnesium turning (72 mg, 3.0 mmol) in DMF (2 mL) at rt under an argon atmosphere. After stirring at rt for 3 h, dichloromethane (5 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) was added, and then the organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (3×5 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with brine (2×10 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated in vacuo to obtain the crude product. The crude product was purified by a flash column chromatography on silica gel using pentane as eluent to afford **4c** as light yellow oil (25 mg, 68%). IR (KBr): 2924, 2852, 1461, 1369, 1260, 1150, 1061, 1036, 801, 745, 689 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 6.93 (t, *J* = 55.8 Hz, 1H, CF<sub>2</sub>H), 7.41-7.43 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.53 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.82-7.89 (m, 2H, ArH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 111.9 (t, *J* = 236.2 Hz), 122.7, 124.5 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 124.7, 124.9, 125.9, 136.4 (t, *J* = 25.5 Hz), 138.3, 140.2. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ -104.0 (dd, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>H-F</sub> = 52.3 Hz, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>H-F</sub> = 2.6 Hz, 2F). MS (EI, *m/z*): 184 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100). HRMS (EI): calcd. For C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>F<sub>2</sub>S (M<sup>+</sup>): 184.0158, found: 184.0156.

(Note: The product **4c** was isolated in a moderate yield because of its volatility.)

## 7. References

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## 8. $^{19}\text{F}$ , $^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR Spectra of isolated Products

