

## Supporting Information

# **Non-symmetrical Diarylcarboxylic Acids via Rhodium(I)-catalyzed Regiospecific Cross- dehydrogenation Coupling of Aromatic Acids: Twofolds Direct C–H Bond Activations in Water**

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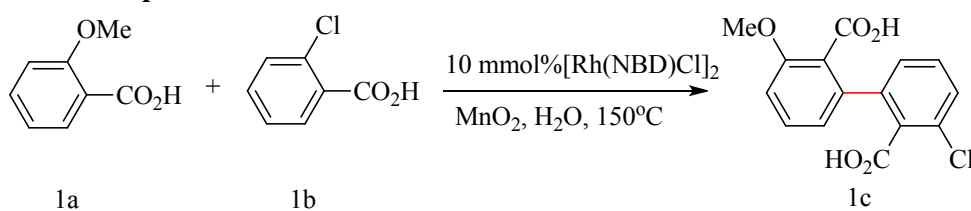
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### 1. General information

Preparative thin-layer chromatography was performed for product purification using Sorbent Silica Gel 60 F254 TLC plates and visualized with ultraviolet light. Petroleum ether and ethyl acetate was used as eluents. IR spectra were recorded on a New Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy. <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra were recorded on a 400 MHz, 100 MHz and 377 MHz NMR spectrometer respectively. Spectrometer as solutions in CDCl<sub>3</sub> unless otherwise stated. HRMS were made by means of ESI. Melting points (mp) were measured on micro melting point apparatus and uncorrected. Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were weighed and handled in air, and all reactions were carried out in a sealed tube under an atmosphere of air. Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were purchased as reagent grade and were used without further purification.

### 2. Selected optimization results



Entry	1a(equiv.)	1b(equiv.)	MnO <sub>2</sub> (equiv.)	H <sub>2</sub> O(mL)	Yield(%)
1	1	3	3	2	65
2	1	3	3	0.5	61
3	1	3	3	1	68
4	1	3	5	1	70
5	1	5	5	1	65

<sup>a</sup>Conditions: [Rh(NBD)Cl]<sub>2</sub> (10 mmol%), Air, 150 °C under air atmosphere for 24 h. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yields.

### 3. Experimental procedure

#### A typical experimental procedure is as follows:

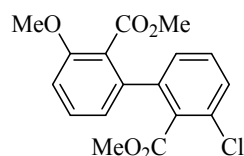
A solution of an aromatic acid **A** (0.1 mmol), aromatic acid **B** (0.3 mmol),  $[\text{Rh}(\text{nbd})\text{Cl}]_2$  (4.6 mg, 0.01 mmol), and activated  $\text{MnO}_2$  (purchased from Aldrich and used as received, 45 mg, 0.5 mmol) in distilled water (1.0 mL) was stirred in a sealed tube under an atmosphere of air at 150 °C for 24 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to room temperature and acidified by dilute HCl to pH<3, and then the solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was dissolved in THF and filtered through a 1-inch plug of silica gel to remove the salts. Afterward, the solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was dissolved in 1 mL acetone, and 0.5 mmol  $\text{CH}_3\text{I}$  and 1.0 mmol  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  were added to react at 60 °C for 24h. The pure product was obtained by preparative thin-layer chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ether and ethyl acetate as eluent.

#### Gram-scale synthesis of compound 3-methoxy-3'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylic acid (18d)

A solution of 2-methoxybenzoic acid (1 g, 6.6 mmol) and 2-methylbenzoic acid (2.7g, 19.7 mmol),  $[\text{Rh}(\text{nbd})\text{Cl}]_2$  (6.9 mg, 0.015 mmol, 0.2 mol%), and  $\text{MnO}_2$  (32.9 g, 21.6 mmol, 5 equiv.) in distilled water (5 mL) was stirred in a sealed tube at 150 °C for 72 h under an atmosphere of air. The reaction mixture was then cooled to room temperature and acidified by dilute HCl to PH<3, and then the solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by preparative chromatography using gradient eluent (hexane and ethyl acetate containing 0.3 % formic acid). After the solvent was evaporated under *in vacuo*, pure product was obtained in 71 % yield (1330 mg).

### 4. Characterization data for CDC products

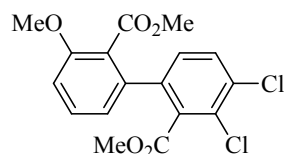
#### (3a) Dimethyl 3-chloro-3'-methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



Colorless solid; Yield 70%; Mp 105-106 °C; IR (ATR) 2946, 2845, 1741, 1723, 1586, 1443, 1259, 1185, 1136, 1031, 953, 832, 791, 660  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.37 (m, 3H), 7.21 (d,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.60 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.44, 166.85, 156.50, 139.50, 138.28, 133.10, 131.16, 130.32, 129.80, 128.77, 127.95,

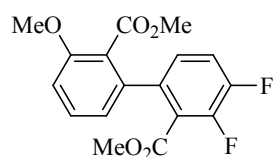
123.08, 121.59, 110.66, 55.99, 52.35, 52.11; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{17}H_{15}ClNaO_5$  357.0500, found  $[M+Na]$  357.0497.

**(3b)** Dimethyl 3,4-dichloro-3'-methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



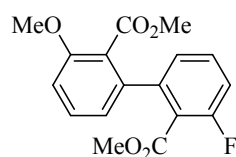
Colorless oil; Yield 76%; IR (ATR) 2925, 2851, 1732, 1650, 1582, 1462, 1385, 1261, 1096, 1038, 967, 767  $cm^{-1}$ ;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.49 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.65 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  167.30, 166.15, 156.70, 137.62, 137.32, 135.15, 132.73, 130.45, 130.41, 129.49, 128.87, 123.26, 121.74, 111.13, 56.08, 52.58, 52.24; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{17}H_{15}Cl_2O_5$  369.0291, found  $[M+H]$  369.0292.

**(3c)** Dimethyl 3,4-difluoro-3'-methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



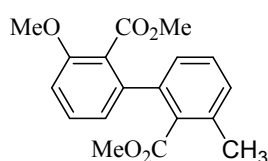
Colorless solid; Yield 70%; Mp 96-98  $^{\circ}C$ ; IR (ATR) 2953, 2848, 1746, 1722, 1577, 1505, 1465, 1439, 1258, 1185, 1058, 992, 837, 800, 728, 601  $cm^{-1}$ ;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.38 (m, 1H), 7.22 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 6.96 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.62 (s, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  167.40, 164.07 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz), 156.47, 151.12 (d,  $J = 12.9$  Hz), 148.64 (d,  $J = 12.5$  Hz), 146.87 (d,  $J = 12.7$  Hz), 137.99, 135.73 (d,  $J = 5.0$  Hz), 130.31, 125.78 (d,  $J = 5.8$  Hz), 123.08 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 121.74, 118.32 (d,  $J = 16.9$  Hz), 110.70, 56.00, 52.56, 52.11;  $^{19}F$  NMR (377 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  -137.25 (s), -137.86 (s); HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{17}H_{14}F_2NaO_5$  359.0702, found  $[M+Na]$  359.0702.

**(3d)** Dimethyl 3-fluoro-3'-methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



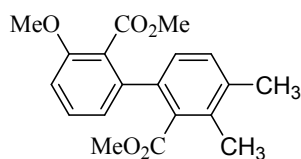
Colorless solid; Yield 75%; Mp 69-70 °C; IR (ATR) 2947, 2918, 2848, 1741, 1725, 1574, 1458, 1260, 1184, 1108, 1058, 832, 792, 661  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.42–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.15–7.08 (m, 2H), 6.96 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.59 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.49, 165.21, 161.13, 158.61, 156.45, 140.88 (d,  $J = 2.1$  Hz), 138.76, 131.12 (d,  $J = 9.1$  Hz), 130.26, 125.60 (d,  $J = 3.3$  Hz), 122.85, 121.62, 115.36 (d,  $J = 17.6$  Hz), 110.53, 55.99, 52.31, 52.05;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (377 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -113.68; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{FO}_5$  318.0976, found  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]$  319.0976.

**(3e)** Dimethyl 3-methoxy-3'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



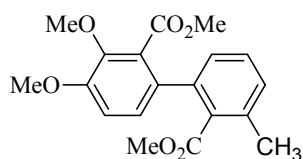
Colorless oil; Yield 82%; IR (ATR) 2949, 2840, 1724, 1575, 1459, 1437, 1259, 1104, 1068, 967, 765, 666  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.35 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.29 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.43, 167.75, 156.34, 140.20, 138.16, 135.83, 132.97, 129.97, 129.71, 128.89, 127.07, 123.18, 121.82, 110.07, 55.98, 51.95, 51.71, 20.02; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{KO}_5$  353.0786, found  $[\text{M}+\text{K}]$  353.0786.

**(3f)** Dimethyl 3'-methoxy-3,4-dimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



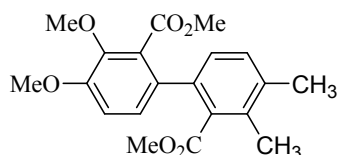
Colorless solid; Yield 82%; Mp 94-96 °C; IR (ATR) 2951, 2923, 1729, 1719, 1579, 1459, 1254, 1137, 1053, 998, 828, 742, 702, 640  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.33 (dd,  $J = 7.6$  Hz,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.26 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  170.08, 167.93, 156.31, 140.04, 136.69, 135.31, 133.71, 130.27, 129.90, 129.88, 126.79, 123.36, 122.00, 109.91, 55.99, 51.97, 51.74, 20.12, 16.86; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{NaO}_5$  351.1203, found  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]$  351.1200.

**(3g)** Dimethyl 3,4-dimethoxy-3'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



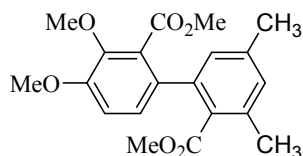
Colorless solid; Yield 91%; Mp 100-103 °C; IR (ATR) 2917, 2849, 1731, 1602, 1568, 1496, 1457, 1436, 1261, 1105, 1054, 795, 743, 665  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.19-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.11 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.88 (s, 2H), 3.84 (d,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 6H), 3.52 (d,  $J = 12.8$  Hz, 6H), 2.32 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.62, 167.31, 151.90, 146.05, 137.77, 135.63, 133.31, 131.46, 129.41, 128.81, 127.37, 125.32, 112.75, 109.94, 61.68, 55.89, 51.96, 51.71, 19.98; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{NaO}_6$  367.1152, found  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]$  367.1149.

**(3h)** Dimethyl 3,4-dimethoxy-3',4'-dimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



Colorless solid; Yield 78%; Mp 152-154 °C; IR (ATR) 2917, 2848, 1731, 1473, 1434, 1274, 1140, 1051, 939, 822, 743, 672  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.16 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.92-6.97 (m, 2H), 3.90 (d,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 6H), 3.60 (d,  $J = 22.4$  Hz, 6H), 2.27 (d,  $J = 20.8$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  170.31, 167.48, 151.84, 146.13, 136.41, 135.07, 133.99, 133.39, 131.40, 130.23, 129.05, 127.11, 125.53, 112.71, 61.68, 55.93, 52.01, 51.78, 20.11, 16.83; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_6$  359.1489, found  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]$  359.1487.

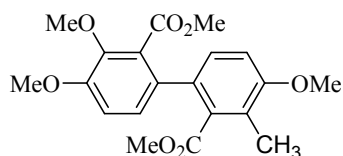
**(3i)** Dimethyl 3,4-dimethoxy-3',5'-dimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



Colorless solid; Yield 77%; Mp 121-123 °C; IR (ATR) 2941, 2849, 1728, 1600, 1497, 1435, 1261, 1142, 1081, 1056, 932, 872, 834, 741, 666  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.00 (s, 1H), 6.92-6.94 (m, 3H), 3.90 (s, 6H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.75, 167.46, 151.83, 146.09,

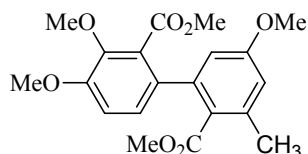
139.03, 138.18, 135.96, 131.87, 130.37, 130.33, 128.74, 128.18, 125.32, 112.87, 61.71, 55.93, 51.97, 51.67, 21.18, 20.12; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{20}H_{23}O_6$  359.1489, found  $[M+H]$  359.1487.

**(3j)** Dimethyl 3,4,4'-trimethoxy-3'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



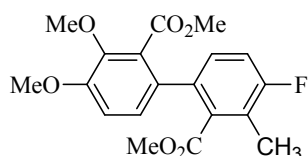
Colorless solid; Yield 45%; Mp 156-158 °C; IR (ATR) 2951, 2359, 1728, 1595, 1475, 1436, 1270, 1244, 1144, 1052, 823, 745, 650  $cm^{-1}$ ;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.09 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.94 (q,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.90 (d,  $J = 3.3$  Hz, 6H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  169.58, 167.61, 156.89, 151.75, 145.99, 134.96, 131.15, 129.36, 129.25, 128.21, 125.73, 124.14, 112.77, 110.36, 61.68, 55.92, 55.64, 52.06, 51.83, 13.17; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{20}H_{23}O_7$  375.1438, found  $[M+H]$  375.1441.

**(3k)** Dimethyl 3,4,5'-trimethoxy-3'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



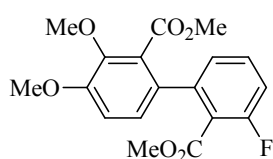
Colorless solid; Yield 57%; Mp 139-141 °C; IR (ATR) 2922, 2850, 2359, 1729, 1598, 1456, 1259, 1204, 1130, 1029, 824, 735  $cm^{-1}$ ;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  6.94 (s, 2H), 6.71 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.64 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.91 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 6H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.53 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  169.58, 167.61, 156.89, 151.75, 145.99, 134.96, 131.21, 129.36, 129.25, 128.21, 125.73, 124.14, 112.77, 110.36, 61.68, 55.92, 55.64, 52.06, 51.83, 13.17; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{20}H_{22}NaO_7$  397.1258, found  $[M+Na]$  397.1250.

**(3l)** Dimethyl 4-fluoro-3',4'-dimethoxy-3-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



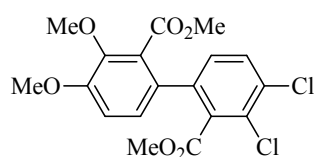
Colorless solid; Yield 60%; Mp 99-101 °C; IR (ATR) 2950, 2848, 1738, 1731, 1574, 1694, 1568, 1416, 1258, 1030, 818, 742, 673 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.11–7.02 (m, 2H), 6.96–6.91 (m, 2H), 3.90 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 6H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 2.28 (d, *J* = 2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 168.46, 167.27, 161.55, 159.11, 152.11, 146.23, 135.55, 133.61, 130.51, 128.94 (d, *J* = 10.3 Hz), 125.52, 122.94 (d, *J* = 18.8 Hz), 115.77, 115.66 (d, *J* = 22.9 Hz), 61.70, 55.93, 52.05, 51.98, 11.95, 11.90; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -116.97 (s); HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>19</sub>FNaO<sub>6</sub> 385.1058, found [M+Na] 385.1058.

**(3m)** Dimethyl 3'-fluoro-3,4-dimethoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



Colorless solid; Yield 73%; Mp 119-121 °C; IR (ATR) 2917, 2848, 1733, 1600, 1567, 1499, 1457, 1261, 1142, 1081, 1056, 932, 872, 834, 741, 666 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.39 (m, 1H), 7.14–7.06 (m, 2H), 6.97 (s, 2H), 3.91 (s, 6H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.62 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.09, 165.40, 161.09, 158.58, 152.38, 146.30, 140.65, 131.00 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz), 130.05 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 128.69, 125.67 (d, *J* = 71.4 Hz), 121.56 (d, *J* = 15.4 Hz), 121.48, 115.11 (d, *J* = 21.7 Hz), 113.04, 61.73, 55.94, 52.32, 52.08; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -113.99 (s); HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>FNaO<sub>6</sub> 371.0901, found [M+ Na] 371.0900.

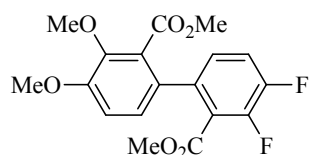
**(3n)** Dimethyl 3,4-dichloro-3',4'-dimethoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



Colorless solid; Yield 52%; Mp 135-137 °C; IR (ATR) 2923, 2359, 1733, 1458, 1262, 1241, 1146, 1113, 1047, 1008, 824, 742, 668 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.47 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.99–6.94 (m, 2H), 3.91 (s, 6H), 3.66 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 166.91, 166.37, 152.78, 137.50, 135.35, 132.54, 130.35, 129.30, 128.91, 128.57, 125.54, 118.97, 112.94, 109.98, 61.75, 55.95, 52.58, 52.23; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub> 399.0397, found [M+ H] 399.0396.

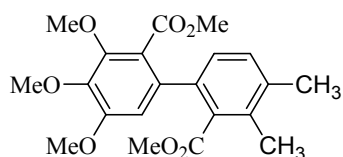


**(3o)** Dimethyl 3,4-difluoro-3',4'-dimethoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



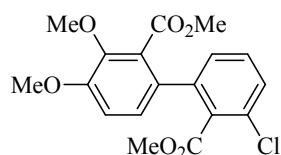
Colorless solid; Yield 60%; Mp 86-87 °C; IR (ATR) 2360, 2341, 1733, 1723, 1481, 1292, 1275, 1146, 1054, 1033, 817, 669  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.22 (m, 1H), 7.03 (m, 1H), 6.95 (m, 2H), 3.91 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 6H), 3.67 (d,  $J = 20.8$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.04, 164.27 (d,  $J = 2.9$  Hz), 152.49, 149.31 (d,  $J = 13.4$  Hz), 148.53 (d,  $J = 10.9$  Hz), 146.78 (d,  $J = 13.1$  Hz), 146.28, 135.53 (d,  $J = 4.0$  Hz), 128.99 (d,  $J = 46.5$  Hz), 126.22 (t,  $J = 4.8$  Hz), 125.48, 123.45 (d,  $J = 11.8$  Hz), 118.25 (d,  $J = 16.9$  Hz), 113.02, 61.71, 55.93, 52.58, 52.17;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (377 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -137.63 (s), -138.13 (s); HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_2\text{K}\text{O}_6$  405.0547, found  $[\text{M} + \text{K}]$  405.0534.

**(3p)** Dimethyl 3,4,5-trimethoxy-3',4'-dimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



Colorless oil; Yield 75%; IR (ATR) 2941, 2850, 1735, 1719, 1594, 1459, 1278, 1048, 929, 801, 743  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.17 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.60 (d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, 6H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  170.25, 167.29, 153.83, 151.40, 141.20, 136.63, 135.61, 135.11, 133.72, 133.54, 130.30, 126.82, 121.31, 109.28, 61.94, 60.96, 56.09, 51.93, 51.84, 20.11, 16.81; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{25}\text{O}_7$  389.1595, found  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]$  389.1591.

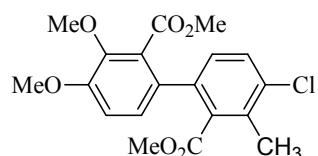
**(3q)** Dimethyl 3'-chloro-3,4-dimethoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



Colorless solid; Yield 52%; Mp 118-120 °C; IR (ATR) 2941, 2839, 2359, 1731, 1717, 1593, 1490, 1426, 1278, 1259, 1097, 1012, 823, 732, 682  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,

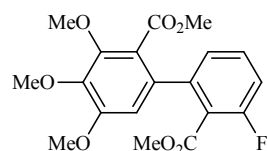
CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.39 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (q,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.91 (d,  $J$  = 2 Hz, 6H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.62 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.09, 167.05, 152.55, 146.32, 139.41, 133.43, 131.09, 129.76, 129.60, 128.92, 128.59, 128.38, 125.48, 112.94, 61.76, 55.94, 52.36, 52.15; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>ClO<sub>6</sub> 365.0786, found [M+ H] 365.0783.

**(3r)** Dimethyl 4-chloro-3',4'-dimethoxy-3-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



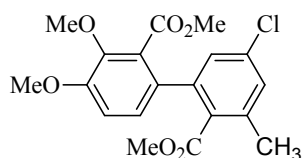
Colorless solid; Yield 55%; Mp 126-128 °C; IR (ATR) 2940, 2849, 1733, 1722, 1548, 1498, 1434, 1393, 1249, 1098, 1020, 830, 712 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.37 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (s, 2H), 3.90 (d,  $J$  = 2.4 Hz, 6H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  168.88, 167.15, 152.28, 146.31, 136.16, 135.56, 134.32, 133.22, 130.18, 129.52, 128.96, 128.52, 125.42, 112.90, 61.70, 55.94, 52.08, 52.03, 17.52; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>19</sub>ClNaO<sub>6</sub> 401.0762, found [M+Na] 401.0760.

**(3s)** Dimethyl 3'-fluoro-3,4,5-trimethoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



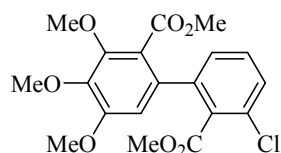
Colorless oil; Yield 66%; IR (ATR) 2927, 2849, 1725, 1611, 1566, 1450, 1399, 1351, 1264, 1146, 1108, 1044, 987, 815, 712 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.44–7.38 (m, 1H), 7.16–7.08 (m, 2H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.60 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.88, 165.35, 160.86, 154.13, 151.57, 158.47, 141.38 (d,  $J$  = 64.4 Hz), 133.83, 131.07 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz), 125.65 (d,  $J$  = 3.3 Hz), 121.21 (d,  $J$  = 43.8 Hz), 115.27 (d,  $J$  = 24.9 Hz), 108.94, 62.00, 61.00, 56.16, 52.41, 52.02; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -114.01 (s); HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>19</sub>FNaO<sub>7</sub> 401.1007, found [M+Na] 401.1007.

**(3t)** Dimethyl 5'-chloro-3,4-dimethoxy-3'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



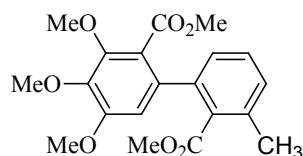
Colorless solid; Yield 35%; Mp 123-125 °C; IR (ATR) 2951, 2362, 1734, 1603, 1497, 1435, 1249, 1100, 1052, 1013, 939, 847, 730, 668  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.37 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1H), 6.94 (s, 2H), 3.90 (s, 6H), 3.62 (d,  $J = 21.2$  Hz, 6H), 2.38 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  168.94, 167.19, 152.27, 146.26, 136.14, 135.52, 134.32, 133.24, 130.04, 129.54, 128.93, 128.50, 125.42, 112.85, 61.73, 55.93, 52.14, 52.09, 17.56; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{ClNaO}_6$  401.7062, found  $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]$  401.7052.

**(3u)** Dimethyl 3'-chloro-3,4,5-trimethoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



Colorless solid; Yield 54%; Mp 74-75 °C; IR (ATR) 2949, 2359, 1729, 1557, 1434, 1347, 1256, 1137, 1034, 916, 718, 645  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.40 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.60 (s, 1H), 4.00 – 3.81 (m, 9H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.60 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.00, 166.79, 154.11, 151.75, 141.87, 139.88, 133.40, 133.12, 131.08, 129.80, 128.71, 128.05, 121.17, 109.19, 62.00, 60.98, 56.16, 52.40, 52.01; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{ClNaO}_7$  417.0712, found  $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]$  417.0708.

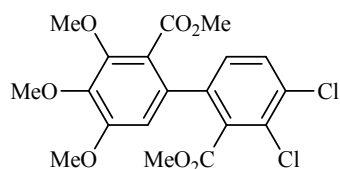
**(3v)** Dimethyl 3,4,5-trimethoxy-3'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



Colorless oil; Yield 60%; IR (ATR) 2945, 2846, 1723, 1568, 1496, 1429, 1397, 1347, 1265, 1219, 1107, 1027, 742  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.30 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.60 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 6H), 2.40 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.62, 167.18, 153.93, 151.47, 141.29, 138.37, 135.71, 135.26, 133.02,

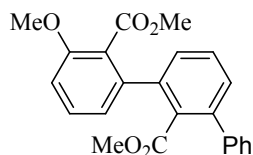
129.63, 128.99, 127.08, 121.14, 109.05, 77.36, 77.04, 76.72, 61.98, 60.99, 56.12, 51.94, 51.85, 19.98; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{20}H_{23}O_7$  375.1438, found  $[M+H]$  375.1442.

**(3w)** Dimethyl 3',4'-dichloro-3,4,5-trimethoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



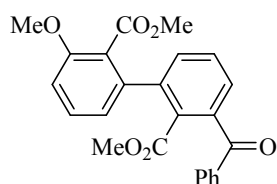
Colorless solid; Yield 44%; Mp 90-92 °C; IR (ATR) 2941, 2849, 1732, 1721, 1589, 1393, 1343, 1280, 1097, 1022, 831, 712  $cm^{-1}$ ;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.49 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.58 (s, 1H), 3.93 (d,  $J = 14.6$  Hz, 6H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), -0.00 (s, 2H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  166.72, 166.30, 154.35, 151.91, 142.05, 137.93, 134.99, 132.69, 132.42, 130.40, 129.44, 128.97, 121.13, 109.22, 62.01, 60.99, 56.18, 52.64, 52.14; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{19}H_{18}Cl_2NaO_7$  451.0322, found  $[M+Na]$  451.0324.

**(3x)** Dimethyl 3-methoxy-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



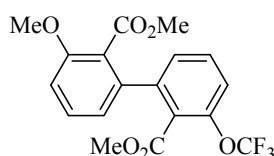
Colorless solid; Yield 57%; Mp 142-143 °C; IR (ATR) 2948, 2839, 1724, 1574, 1435, 1110, 1087, 1063, 829, 797, 701, 667  $cm^{-1}$ ;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.44 (m, 3H), 7.37-7.24 (m, 4H), 6.93 (dd,  $J = 14.0, 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 3.34 (s, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  169.14, 167.71, 156.52, 140.64, 140.48, 139.80, 138.41, 132.71, 130.10, 129.26, 128.93, 128.63, 128.36, 128.30, 127.50, 123.26, 122.04, 110.38, 56.02, 51.99, 51.68; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{23}H_{24}NO_5$  394.1649, found  $[M+NH_4]$  394.1632.

**(3y)** Dimethyl 3'-benzoyl-3-methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



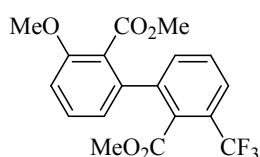
Colorless solid; Yield 41%; Mp 155-156 °C; IR (ATR) 3007, 2949, 1729, 1671, 1577, 1451, 1255, 1118, 1051, 964, 873, 762, 725, 657 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.80 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.60–7.37 (m, 7H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 3.33 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 196.32, 167.54, 167.26, 156.47, 140.00, 139.58, 139.50, 136.94, 133.17, 132.49, 131.79, 130.30, 129.76, 129.55, 128.49, 128.25, 122.84, 121.88, 110.47, 56.03, 51.99; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>21</sub>O<sub>6</sub> 405.1333, found [M+H] 405.1330.

**(3z)** Dimethyl 3-methoxy-3'-(trifluoromethoxy)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



Colorless solid; Yield 50%; Mp 96-98 °C; IR (ATR) 2964, 2842, 1728, 1577, 1463, 1431, 1289, 1212, 1150, 1117, 1060, 880, 786, 717, 666 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.45 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.57 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.31, 165.41, 156.64, 146.09 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz), 140.57, 138.34, 130.37 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz), 128.23, 127.16, , 123.00, 121.75, 120.41 (q, *J* = 257.2 Hz), 119.92, 110.95, 56.06, 52.32, 51.98; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -57.22 (s); HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>15</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NaO<sub>6</sub> 407.0713, found [M+ Na] 407.0721.

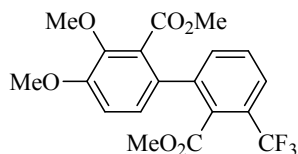
**(3za)** Dimethyl 3-methoxy-3'-(trifluoromethyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



Colorless solid; Yield 67%; Mp 84-86 °C; IR (ATR) 2958, 2845, 1734, 1720, 1580, 1431, 1288, 1139, 1123, 1066, 1031, 822, 791, 731, 661 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.69 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.56–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.40–7.36 (m, 1H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.24, 167.03, 156.73, 139.16, 138.15, 133.34, 131.59, 130.34, 129.00, 127.78 (q, *J* = 31.9 Hz), 125.48 (q, *J* = 4.6 Hz), 123.42 (q, *J* = 272.1

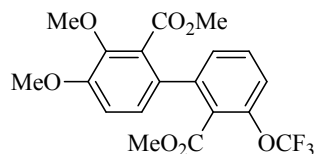
Hz), 123.30, 121.93, 111.05, 56.07, 52.45, 52.00;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (377 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  - 59.72, HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_3\text{O}_5$  369.0944, found  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]$  369.0941.

**(3zb)** Dimethyl 3,4-dimethoxy-3'-(trifluoromethyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



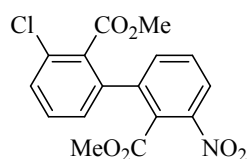
Colorless solid; Yield 54%; Mp 108-109 °C; IR (ATR) 2952, 2843, 1793, 1735, 1599, 1458, 1430, 1295, 1124, 1014, 802, 744, 687  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.67 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.56–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.02–6.92 (m, 2H), 3.92 (s, 6H), 3.61 (d,  $J = 14$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.26 (d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz), 166.88 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz), 152.69, 146.56, 138.94, 133.76, 131.86, 129.29 (d,  $J = 1.9$  Hz), 128.93 (t,  $J = 2.9$  Hz), 127.65 (q,  $J = 34.0$  Hz), 125.67, 125.27 (d,  $J = 4.4$  Hz), 123.48 (q,  $J = 278.4$  Hz), 114.83, 112.95, 61.73, 55.94, 52.44, 52.01;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (377 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  - 59.76 (s); HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{F}_3\text{O}_6$  399.1050, found  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]$  399.1053.

**(3zc)** Dimethyl 3,4-dimethoxy-3'-(trifluoromethoxy)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



Colorless solid; Yield 39%; Mp 64-65 °C; IR (ATR) 2922, 2359, 1739, 1608, 1461, 1243, 1168, 1051, 1034, 960, 826, 799, 744, 643  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.43 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 6H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.59 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.94, 165.63, 152.58, 146.45, 146.00, 140.34, 130.24, 129.59, 128.77, 128.59, 127.44, 125.44, 120.37 (q,  $J = 256.2$  Hz), 119.64, 113.05, 61.75, 55.94, 52.32, 52.02;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (377 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -57.22 (s); HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{F}_3\text{O}_7$  415.0999, found  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]$  415.0993.

**(3zd)** Dimethyl 3-chloro-3'-nitro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,2'-dicarboxylate



Colorless solid; Yield 45%; Mp 93-95 °C; IR (ATR) 2958, 2363, 1736, 1719, 1531, 1422, 1360, 1276, 1119, 1061, 952, 182, 696, 658 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.17 (m, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (m, 1H), 7.50 (m, 1H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (m, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 166.23, 165.38, 146.39, 139.03, 137.20, 135.55, 133.25, 131.81, 130.06, 129.55, 129.16, 128.40, 123.99, 53.03, 52.46; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>12</sub>ClNNaO<sub>6</sub> 372.0245, found [M+Na] 372.0248.

## 5. Copies of $^1\text{H}$ , $^{19}\text{F}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra.

