

# Supporting Information

## Silver-Mediated Oxidative C-H Difluoromethylation of Phenanthridines and 1,10-Phenanthrolines

Sheng-Qing Zhu,<sup>†</sup> Xiu-Hua Xu,<sup>†</sup> and Feng-Ling Qing<sup>\*,†,‡</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Key Laboratory of Organofluorine Chemistry, Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, University of Chinese Academy of Science, Chinese Academy of Science, 345 Lingling Lu, Shanghai 200032, China

<sup>‡</sup>College of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, Donghua University, 2999 North Renmin Lu, Shanghai 201620, China

Email: [flq@mail.sioc.ac.cn](mailto:flq@mail.sioc.ac.cn)

### Table of Contents

1. General Information.....	2
2. General Procedures for Silver-Mediated Oxidative Difluoromethylation of Phenanthridines.....	3
3. Optimization of Reaction conditions for Silver-Mediated Oxidative Difluoromethylation of 1,10-Phenanthroline with TMSCF <sub>2</sub> H.....	10
4. General Procedures for Silver-Mediated Oxidative Difluoromethylation of 1,10-Phenanthrolines.....	11
5. Methoxylation of Phenanthridine <b>1a</b> .....	14
6. Addition of Phenanthridine <b>1a</b> with TMSCF <sub>2</sub> H and Aromatization.....	15
7. Copies of <sup>1</sup> H NMR, <sup>19</sup> F NMR, and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra of Products.....	17

## 1. General information.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (TMS as the internal standard) and  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectra ( $\text{CFCl}_3$  as the outside standard and low field is positive) were recorded on a Bruker AM400 spectrometer.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR was recorded on a Bruker AM400 spectrometer. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in ppm, and coupling constants ( $J$ ) are in Hertz (Hz). The following abbreviations were used to explain the multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, br = broad. Flash column chromatograph was carried out using 300-400 mesh silica gel at medium pressure.

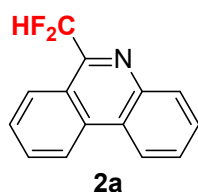
**Materials.** **1a** and **3a-g** were received from commercial sources. The phenanthridines **1b-1k** were prepared as reported procedures.<sup>1-3</sup> Solvents were freshly dried and degassed before using.

## References

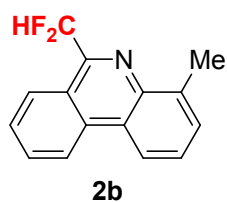
- (1) W. Han, X. Zhou, S. Yang, G. Xiang, B. Cui and Y. Chen, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2015, **80**, 11580.
- (2) W.-L. Chen, C.-Y. Chen, Y.-F. Chen and J.-C. Hsieh, *Org. Lett.*, 2015, **17**, 1613.
- (3) X.-D. An and S. Yu, *Org. Lett.*, 2015, **17**, 2692.

## 2. General Procedures for Silver-Mediated Oxidative Difluoromethylation of Phenanthridines

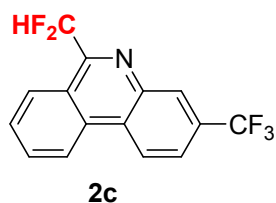
In a glove box,  $t$ BuOK (3.0 mmol, 336.6 mg), phenanthridine (1.0 mmol), and AgOAc (1.0 mmol, 166.9 mg) were added to an oven-dried reaction tube containing a magnetic stir bar. The tube was capped with a septum. Tetraethylene glycol dimethyl ether (10 mL) was added under Ar atmosphere and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 minutes. Next,  $\text{TMSCF}_2\text{H}$  (3.0 mmol, 372.6 mg) was added and the mixture was stirred for 5 minutes, followed by the addition of [bis(trifluoroacetoxy)iodo]benzene (3.0 mmol, 1290.1 mg). Then, the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 h. The reaction was quenched by water and extracted with ethyl acetate (3×30 mL), and the combined organic layer was washed with water and brine (3×50 mL), dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and concentrated. The resulting residue was purified by flash column chromatography.



6-(Difluoromethyl)phenanthridine (**2a**) was obtained as a light yellow solid (145.0 mg, 63%), with hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1 as eluent for the column chromatography. mp 87-89 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 293K, TMS):  $\delta$  ppm 8.61 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.54 (t,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 8.17 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.77-7.69 (m, 3H), 7.02 (t,  $J$  = 54.4 Hz, 1H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  ppm -110.57 (d,  $J$  = 54.5 Hz, 2F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 293K, TMS):  $\delta$  ppm 151.4 (t,  $J$  = 26.3 Hz), 142.5, 133.8, 131.2, 130.6, 129.1, 128.6, 127.8, 126.4 (t,  $J$  = 4.4 Hz), 124.9, 122.4, 122.1, 118.4 (t,  $J$  = 242.1 Hz). IR (ATR):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  1613, 1578, 1528, 1445, 1380, 1140, 1124, 1092, 1055, 1021, 857, 783, 755, 720, 674, 509  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . MS (EI):  $m/z$  (%) 229 (100). HRMS: Calculated for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_9\text{F}_2\text{N}$ : 229.0703; Found: 229.0708.



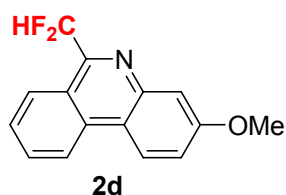
6-(Difluoromethyl)-4-methylphenanthridine (**2b**) was obtained as a light yellow solid (162.0 mg, 67%), with hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1 as eluent for the column chromatography. mp 68-70 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 293K, TMS): δ ppm 8.61 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.58 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.38 (s, 1H), 7.85 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.03 (t, *J* = 54.4 Hz, 1H), 2.85 (s, 3H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm -109.95 (d, *J* = 54.5 Hz, 2F). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 293K, TMS): δ ppm 149.8 (t, *J* = 25.5 Hz), 141.1, 138.7, 134.0, 130.8, 129.7, 128.1, 127.5, 126.3, 124.7, 122.6, 122.1, 119.8, 119.1 (t, *J* = 242.1 Hz), 18.2. IR (ATR): ν<sub>max</sub> 3075, 3034, 2993, 2924, 1614, 1528, 1474, 1449, 1379, 1351, 1157, 1113, 1072, 1033, 779, 758, 741, 675, 559, 505 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS (EI): *m/z* (%) 243 (100). HRMS: Calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>11</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N: 243.0860; Found: 243.0855. Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>11</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N: C, 74.06; H, 4.56; F, 15.62; N, 5.76. Found: C, 73.64; H, 4.54; F, 15.42; N, 5.73.



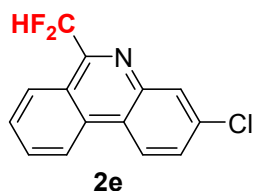
6-(Difluoromethyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)phenanthridine (**2c**) was obtained as a light yellow solid (224.0 mg, 76%), with hexane as eluent for the column chromatography. mp 81-83 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 293K, TMS): δ ppm 8.60-8.54 (m, 3H), 8.43 (s, 1H), 7.92-7.87 (m, 2H), 7.78 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (t, *J* = 54.4 Hz, 1H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm -62.42 (s, 3F), -110.91 (d, *J* = 54.1 Hz, 2F). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 293K, TMS): δ ppm 152.7 (t, *J* = 26.2 Hz), 141.6, 132.8, 131.7, 130.9 (q, *J* = 32.8 Hz), 128.9, 128.1 (q, *J* = 3.9 Hz), 127.0, 126.6, 124.4, 123.9 (q, *J* = 270.5 Hz), 123.1, 122.8, 122.6, 118.0 (t, *J* = 242.8 Hz). IR (ATR): ν<sub>max</sub> 3009, 1613, 1446, 1364, 1331, 1277, 1186, 1152, 1109, 1071, 1047, 898, 833, 788, 773, 747, 728, 682 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS (EI): *m/z* (%) 297 (100). HRMS: Calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>8</sub>F<sub>5</sub>N: 297.0577; Found: 297.0568. Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>8</sub>F<sub>5</sub>N: C, 60.61; H, 2.95; F, 31.96;



N, 4.71. Found: C, 60.41; H, 2.95, F, 31.22; N, 4.80.

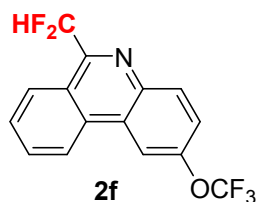


6-(Difluoromethyl)-3-methoxyphenanthridine (**2d**) was obtained as a light yellow solid (150.0 mg, 58%), with hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1 as eluent for the column chromatography. mp 124-126 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 293K, TMS): δ ppm 8.55 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.51 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.45 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (t, *J* = 54.4 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (s, 3H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm -110.65 (d, *J* = 54.5 Hz, 2F). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 293K, TMS): δ ppm 160.4, 151.7 (t, *J* = 26.2 Hz), 144.1, 134.0, 131.3, 126.7, 126.4 (t, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 123.4, 121.9, 121.6, 119.9, 119.1, 118.2 (t, *J* = 242.1 Hz), 110.0, 55.7. IR (ATR): ν<sub>max</sub> 3081, 3008, 2964, 2837, 1619, 1489, 1472, 1444, 1413, 1307, 1252, 1218, 1202, 1172, 1129, 1090, 1051, 1022, 847, 822, 794, 763, 735, 721, 676, 575, 534, 527 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS (EI): *m/z* (%) 259 (100). HRMS: Calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>11</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO: 259.0809; Found: 259.0805.

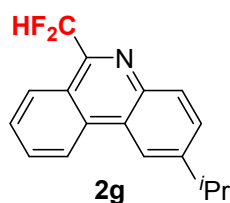


3-Chloro-6-(difluoromethyl)phenanthridine (**2e**) was obtained as a light yellow solid (181.0 mg, 69%), with hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1 as eluent for the column chromatography. mp 90-92 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 293K, TMS): δ ppm 8.51 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.47 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.35 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (s, 1H), 7.83 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (t, *J* = 54.0 Hz, 1H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm -110.78 (dd, *J* = 54.4, 8.9 Hz, 2F). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 293K, TMS): δ ppm 152.4 (t, *J* = 27.0 Hz), 143.0, 134.7, 133.3, 131.5, 129.7, 129.1, 128.0, 126.5 (t, *J* = 4.4 Hz), 123.4, 123.3, 122.2, 118.1 (t, *J* = 242.1 Hz). IR (ATR): ν<sub>max</sub> 1604, 1571, 1482, 1442, 1378, 1174, 1132, 1101, 1036,

878, 823, 805, 781, 762, 722, 715, 629, 530, 431  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . MS (EI):  $m/z$  (%) 263 (100). HRMS: Calculated for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_8\text{ClF}_2\text{N}$ : 263.0313; Found: 263.0318.

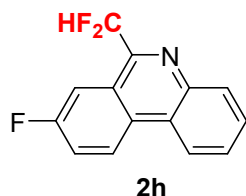


6-(Difluoromethyl)-2-(trifluoromethoxy)phenanthridine (**2f**) was obtained as a light yellow solid (125.2 mg, 40%), with hexane as eluent for the column chromatography. mp 74-76 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 293K, TMS):  $\delta$  ppm 8.56 (t,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 8.35 (s, 1H), 8.21 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.91 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.78 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.61 (dd,  $J = 9.2, 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.99 (t,  $J = 54.4$  Hz, 1H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  ppm -57.60 (s, 3F), -110.76 (d,  $J = 54.5$  Hz, 2F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 293K, TMS):  $\delta$  ppm 151.9 (t,  $J = 27.0$  Hz), 148.9, 148.9, 140.6, 133.2, 132.6, 131.6, 128.7, 126.7 (t,  $J = 4.4$  Hz), 126.1, 122.5, 122.4, 120.6 (q,  $J = 256.7$  Hz), 118.1 (t,  $J = 242.1$  Hz), 113.7. IR (ATR):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3026, 2921, 1618, 1531, 1496, 1452, 1388, 1307, 1211, 1154, 1098, 1025, 868, 836, 820, 773, 690, 677, 517  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . MS (EI):  $m/z$  (%) 313 (100). HRMS: Calculated for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_8\text{F}_5\text{NO}$ : 313.0526; Found: 313.0536.

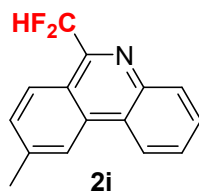


6-(Difluoromethyl)-2-isopropylphenanthridine (**2g**) was obtained as a light yellow solid (183.0 mg, 68%), with hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1 as eluent for the column chromatography. mp 75-77 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 293K, TMS):  $\delta$  ppm 8.63 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.54 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.37 (s, 1H), 8.12 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.81 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.66 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.04 (t,  $J = 54.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.22-3.15 (m, 1H), 1.40 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 6H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  ppm -110.28 (d,  $J = 54.5$  Hz, 2F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 293K, TMS):  $\delta$  ppm 150.5 (t,  $J = 26.2$  Hz), 149.6, 141.1, 133.7, 130.9, 130.5, 128.3, 127.5, 126.3 (t,  $J = 4.3$  Hz), 124.8,

122.5, 122.3, 119.1, 118.6 (t,  $J = 242.1$  Hz), 34.7, 24.1. IR (ATR):  $\nu_{\max}$  2962, 2871, 2360, 1615, 1525, 1449, 1380, 1343, 1137, 1098, 1060, 1032, 835, 804, 770, 754, 676, 509  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . MS (EI):  $m/z$  (%) 271, 256 (100). HRMS: Calculated for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_2\text{N}$ : 271.1173; Found: 271.1177.

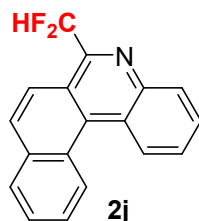


6-(Difluoromethyl)-8-fluorophenanthridine (**2h**) was obtained as a light yellow solid (79.1 mg, 32%), with hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1 as eluent for the column chromatography. mp 113-115  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 293K, TMS):  $\delta$  ppm 8.67 (q,  $J = 4.9$  Hz, 1H), 8.54-8.52 (m, 1H), 8.21-8.18 (m, 2H), 7.79-7.74 (m, 2H), 7.64 (td,  $J = 8.4, 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.98 (t,  $J = 54.4$  Hz, 1H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  ppm -110.66-(-110.73) (m, 1F), -111.03 (d,  $J = 54.5$  Hz, 2F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 293K, TMS):  $\delta$  ppm 161.4 (d,  $J = 247.9$  Hz), 150.6 (td,  $J = 27.0, 4.4$  Hz), 142.1, 130.8, 130.6, 129.1, 129.0, 125.0 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 124.6, 123.5 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz), 121.9, 120.7 (d,  $J = 24.1$  Hz), 118.2 (t,  $J = 242.1$  Hz), 111.3 (dt,  $J = 22.6, 4.4$  Hz). IR (ATR):  $\nu_{\max}$  1624, 1579, 1533, 1436, 1196, 1125, 1091, 1033, 1008, 922, 827, 761, 733, 570, 491  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . MS (EI):  $m/z$  (%) 247 (100). HRMS: Calculated for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_8\text{F}_3\text{N}$ : 247.0609; Found: 247.0601.

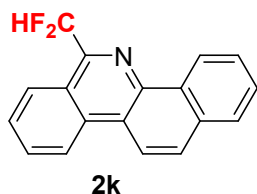


6-(Difluoromethyl)-9-methylphenanthridine (**2i**) was obtained as a white solid (178.0 mg, 74%), with hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1 as eluent for the column chromatography. mp 130-132  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 293K, TMS):  $\delta$  ppm 8.51 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 8.42 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.37 (s, 1H), 8.14 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.75-7.67 (m, 2H), 7.51 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.99 (t,  $J = 54.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.61 (s, 3H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  ppm -110.59 (d,  $J = 54.5$  Hz, 2F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,

293K, TMS):  $\delta$  ppm 151.2 (t,  $J = 25.5$  Hz), 142.6, 141.8, 134.0, 130.5, 129.5, 128.9, 128.3, 126.2 (t,  $J = 3.7$  Hz), 124.8, 122.1, 122.0, 120.5, 118.4 (t,  $J = 241.4$  Hz), 22.4. IR (ATR):  $\nu_{\max}$  1621, 1466, 1369, 1122, 1090, 1020, 873, 840, 817, 760, 733, 491, 422  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . MS (EI):  $m/z$  (%) 243 (100). HRMS: Calculated for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{F}_2\text{N}$ : 243.0860; Found: 243.0849.



6-(Difluoromethyl)benzo[*k*]phenanthridine (**2j**) was obtained as a light yellow solid (202.0 mg, 72%), with hexane as eluent for the column chromatography. mp 109-110 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 293K, TMS):  $\delta$  ppm 8.94 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.88 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.40 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.96-7.91 (m, 2H), 7.76 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.71-7.62 (m, 3H), 7.14 (t,  $J = 54.4$  Hz, 1H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  ppm -109.51 (d,  $J = 56.0$  Hz, 2F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 293K, TMS):  $\delta$  ppm 150.2 (t,  $J = 25.5$  Hz), 144.4, 134.7, 133.1, 130.4, 128.8, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 128.2, 128.1, 127.1, 126.9, 125.1, 121.8 (t,  $J = 4.3$  Hz), 121.7, 118.6 (t,  $J = 242.1$  Hz). IR (ATR):  $\nu_{\max}$  3063, 1602, 1580, 1498, 1462, 1394, 1361, 1165, 1123, 1081, 1034, 901, 829, 774, 757, 612, 538, 518  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . MS (EI):  $m/z$  (%) 279 (100). HRMS: Calculated for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{11}\text{F}_2\text{N}$ : 279.0860; Found: 279.0864. Anal. Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{11}\text{F}_2\text{N}$ : C, 77.41; H, 3.97; N, 5.02. Found: C, 76.05; H, 4.10; N, 4.71.

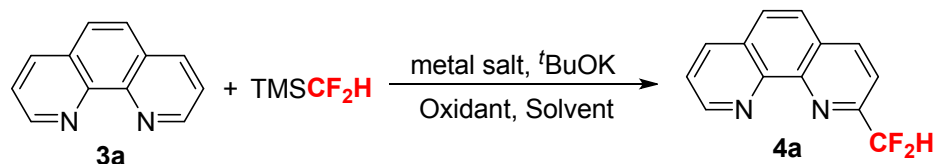


6-(Difluoromethyl)benzo[*c*]phenanthridine (**2k**) was obtained as a white solid (217.0 mg, 78%), with hexane as eluent for the column chromatography. mp 151-153 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 293K, TMS):  $\delta$  ppm 9.32 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.63 (dd,  $J = 7.6, 5.2$  Hz, 2H), 8.41 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d,  $J = 8.0$

Hz, 1H), 7.84 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.75-7.64 (m, 3H), 7.18 (t,  $J = 54.8$  Hz, 1H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  ppm -109.46 (d,  $J = 54.5$  Hz, 2F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 293K, TMS):  $\delta$  ppm 149.7 (t,  $J = 26.2$  Hz), 139.3, 134.0, 133.2, 131.9, 130.9, 129.4, 127.7, 127.5, 127.3, 126.2 (t,  $J = 3.6$  Hz), 124.7, 123.0, 122.7, 122.4, 119.5, 118.9 (t,  $J = 241.3$  Hz). IR (ATR):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  1386, 1340, 1161, 1116, 1081, 1014, 870, 823, 798, 782, 758, 724, 686, 666, 627, 575, 547  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . MS (EI):  $m/z$  (%) 279 (100). HRMS: Calculated for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{11}\text{F}_2\text{N}$ : 279.0860; Found: 279.0859.

### 3. Optimization of Reaction Conditions for Silver-Mediated

# Oxidative Difluoromethylation of 1,10-Phenanthroline with TMSCF<sub>2</sub>H.<sup>a</sup>



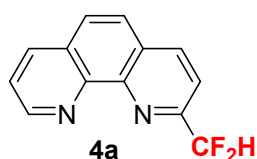
Entry	Metal salts	Oxidant/equiv.	Solvent	Yield <sup>b</sup>
<b>1</b>	CuI	NCS/1.0	THF	0%
<b>2</b>	AgF	NCS/1.0	THF	15%
<b>3</b>	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	NCS/1.0	THF	18%
<b>4</b>	AgCl	NCS/1.0	THF	24%
<b>5</b>	AgOAc	NCS/1.0	THF	0%
<b>6</b>	AgCl	PhI(OCOCF <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> /1.0	THF	7%
<b>7</b>	AgCl	DDQ/1.0	THF	18%
<b>8</b>	AgCl	NBS/1.0	THF	20%
<b>9</b>	AgCl	NIS/1.0	THF	15%
<b>10</b>	AgCl	NCS/1.0	MeCN	0%
<b>11</b>	AgCl	NCS/1.0	DMF	0%
<b>12</b>	AgCl	NCS/1.0	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	0%
<b>13</b>	AgCl	NCS/1.0	Dioxane	36%
<b>14</b>	AgCl	NCS/1.0	Diglyme	29%
<b>15<sup>c</sup></b>	AgCl	NCS/2.0	Dioxane	52%
<b>16<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>AgCl</b>	<b>NCS/3.0</b>	<b>Dioxane</b>	<b>69%</b>
<b>17<sup>e</sup></b>	AgCl	NCS/4.0	Dioxane	37%
<b>18<sup>f</sup></b>	AgCl	NCS/3.0	Dioxane	20%
<b>19<sup>g</sup></b>	AgCl	NCS/3.0	Dioxane	42%
<b>20<sup>h</sup></b>	AgCl	NCS/3.0	Dioxane	5%

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: **3a** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 eq.), metal salt (0.1 mmol, 1.0 eq.), <sup>t</sup>BuOK (0.1 mmol, 1.0 eq.), TMSCF<sub>2</sub>H (0.1 mmol, 1.0 eq.), Oxidant (0.1 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in 1 mL solvent under Ar atmosphere. <sup>b</sup> Yields determined by <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectroscopy using difluoromethylbenzene as internal standard. <sup>c</sup> <sup>t</sup>BuOK (0.2 mmol, 2.0 eq.), TMSCF<sub>2</sub>H (0.2 mmol, 2.0 eq.). <sup>d</sup> <sup>t</sup>BuOK (0.3 mmol, 3.0 eq.), TMSCF<sub>2</sub>H (0.3 mmol, 3.0 eq.). <sup>e</sup> <sup>t</sup>BuOK (0.4 mmol, 4.0 eq.), TMSCF<sub>2</sub>H (0.4 mmol, 4.0 eq.). <sup>f</sup> <sup>t</sup>BuOK (0.2 mmol, 2.0 eq.), TMSCF<sub>2</sub>H (0.3 mmol, 3.0 eq.). <sup>g</sup> <sup>t</sup>BuOK (0.3 mmol, 3.0 eq.), TMSCF<sub>2</sub>H (0.2 mmol, 2.0 eq.). <sup>h</sup> <sup>t</sup>BuOK (0.3 mmol, 3.0 eq.), TMSCF<sub>2</sub>H (0.1 mmol, 1.0 eq.).

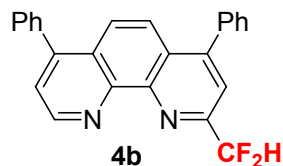
## 4. General Procedures for Silver-Mediated Oxidative

## Difluoromethylation of 1,10-Phenanthrolines

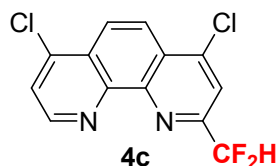
In a glove box,  $t$ BuOK (3.0 mmol, 336.6 mg), 1,10-phenanthroline (1.0 mmol), and AgCl (1.0 mmol, 143.5 mg) were added to an oven-dried reaction tube containing a magnetic stir bar. The tube was capped with a septum. Dioxane (10 mL) was added under Ar atmosphere and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 minutes. Next,  $\text{TMSCF}_2\text{H}$  (3.0 mmol, 372.6 mg) was added and the mixture was stirred for 5 minutes, followed by the addition of *N*-chlorosuccinimide (3.0 mmol, 400.5 mg). Then, the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 h. The reaction was quenched by water and extracted with ethyl acetate ( $3 \times 30$  mL), and the combined organic layer was washed with water and brine ( $3 \times 50$  mL), dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and concentrated. The resulting residue was purified by flash column chromatography.



2-(Difluoromethyl)-1,10-phenanthroline (**4a**) was obtained as a light yellow solid (154.0 mg, 67%), with chloroform/methanol/triethylamine = 100:1:1 as eluent for the column chromatography. mp 116-118 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 293K, TMS):  $\delta$  ppm 9.16 (s, 1H), 8.28 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.72 (q,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.07 (t,  $J = 55.2$  Hz, 1H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  ppm -112.69 (d,  $J = 54.1$  Hz, 2F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 293K, TMS):  $\delta$  ppm 152.9 (t,  $J = 27.0$  Hz), 150.7, 145.8, 145.2, 137.8, 136.3, 129.5, 129.0, 128.1, 126.1, 123.4, 119.1, 114.9 (t,  $J = 238.5$  Hz). IR (ATR):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  2987, 2189, 1620, 1590, 1494, 1397, 1342, 1111, 1085, 1029, 908, 855, 835, 802, 777, 746, 723, 624, 514  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . MS (EI):  $m/z$  (%) 230 (100). HRMS: Calculated for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_8\text{F}_2\text{N}_2$ : 230.0656; Found: 230.0658.

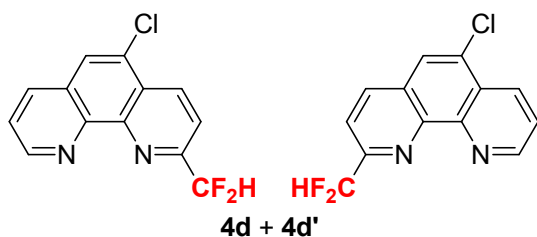


2-(Difluoromethyl)-4,7-diphenyl-1,10-phenanthroline (**4b**) was obtained as a light yellow solid (280.0 mg, 73%), with chloroform as eluent for the column chromatography. mp 65-67 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 293K, TMS): δ ppm 9.27 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.94-7.85 (m, 3H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.49 (m, 10H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 55.2 Hz, 1H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm -112.58 (d, *J* = 54.5 Hz, 2F). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 293K, TMS): δ ppm 152.4 (t, *J* = 27.7 Hz), 150.5, 150.2, 148.8, 146.5, 146.0, 137.6, 137.4, 129.6, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 127.5, 126.9, 125.6, 123.9, 123.8, 119.6, 115.1 (t, *J* = 239.1 Hz). IR (ATR): ν<sub>max</sub> 3058, 3032, 2958, 2211, 1954, 1811, 1711, 1618, 1591, 1557, 1512, 1491, 1445, 1410, 1378, 1343, 1212, 1201, 1110, 1076, 1041, 896, 857, 836, 814, 789, 751, 702, 661, 641, 561, 475 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS (EI): *m/z* (%) 382 (100). HRMS: Calculated for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>16</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: 382.1282; Found: 382.1290.

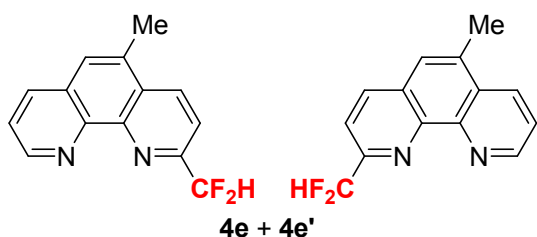


4,7-Dichloro-2-(difluoromethyl)-1,10-phenanthroline (**4c**) was obtained as a light yellow solid (96.0 mg, 32%), with chloroform/methanol/triethylamine = 100:1:1 as eluent for the column chromatography. mp 204-206 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 293K, TMS): δ ppm 9.13 (dd, *J* = 6.4, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 8.41-8.30 (m, 2H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (td, *J* = 54.8, 4.0 Hz, 1H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm -113.43 (d, *J* = 54.5 Hz, 2F). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 293K, TMS): δ ppm 153.3 (td, *J* = 28.0, 3.6 Hz), 150.8, 146.6 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 146.0, 144.6 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz), 143.2 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz), 127.7 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz), 127.3 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz), 124.7 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 124.3 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz), 122.9 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz), 120.2 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz), 114.0 (t, *J* = 240.2 Hz). IR (ATR): ν<sub>max</sub> 1609, 1578, 1543, 1487, 1405, 1317, 1211, 1080, 1039, 1024, 880, 846, 803, 729, 633, 544 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS (EI): *m/z* (%) 298 (100). HRMS: Calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: 298.9876; Found: 298.9881.





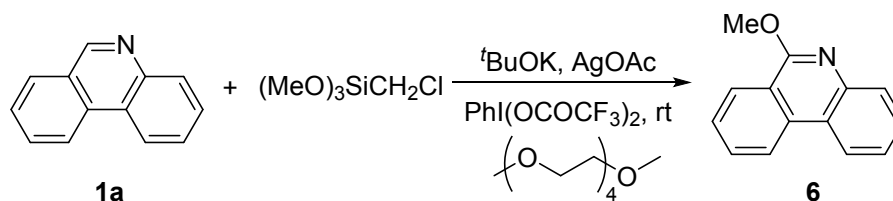
5-Chloro-2-(difluoromethyl)-1,10-phenanthroline (**4d**) and 6-chloro-2-(difluoromethyl)-1,10-phenanthroline (**4d'**) were obtained as a white solid (163.7 mg, 62%), with chloroform/methanol/triethylamine = 100:1:1 as eluent for the column chromatography.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 293K, TMS):  $\delta$  ppm 9.22 (dd,  $J = 4.4$ , 1.6 Hz, 0.8H), 9.16 (dd,  $J = 4.0$ , 1.6 Hz, 0.2H), 8.77 (dt,  $J = 8.8$ , 2.0 Hz, 0.2 H), 8.62 (dt,  $J = 8.4$ , 2.2 Hz, 0.8H), 8.25 (dd,  $J = 8.8$ , 2.0 Hz, 0.8H), 8.12 (dt,  $J = 8.0$ , 2.0 Hz, 0.2H), 8.03 (dd,  $J = 8.4$ , 1.6 Hz, 0.2H), 7.93 (dd,  $J = 8.4$ , 1.6 Hz, 0.8H), 7.87 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 0.2H), 7.84 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 0.8H), 7.72 (qd,  $J = 4.0$ , 1.6 Hz, 0.8H), 7.61 (qd,  $J = 4.0$ , 1.6 Hz, 0.2H), 7.08 (t,  $J = 54.8$  Hz, 0.2H), 7.05 (t,  $J = 54.8$  Hz, 0.8H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  ppm -113.02 (d,  $J = 54.5$  Hz, 1.6F), -113.29 (d,  $J = 54.5$  Hz, 0.4F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 293K, TMS):  $\delta$  ppm 153.5 (t,  $J = 12.6$  Hz), 153.2 (t,  $J = 27.1$  Hz), 151.3, 151.0, 146.2, 145.7, 144.8, 144.2, 137.0, 135.5, 135.3, 133.5, 131.7, 129.7, 129.1, 128.6, 127.8, 127.3, 127.1, 125.3, 124.1, 124.0, 119.8, 119.6, 114.6 (t,  $J = 239.3$  Hz), 114.5 (t,  $J = 239.2$  Hz). IR (ATR):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  2921, 2202, 1609, 1589, 1488, 1457, 1395, 1349, 1252, 1115, 1075, 1032, 942, 926, 876, 803, 754, 721, 665, 626, 430  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . MS (EI):  $m/z$  (%) 264 (100). HRMS: Calculated for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_7\text{ClF}_2\text{N}_2$ : 264.0266; Found: 264.0272.



2-(Difluoromethyl)-5-methyl-1,10-phenanthroline (**4e**) and 2-(difluoromethyl)-6-methyl-1,10-phenanthroline (**4e'**) were obtained as a white solid (138.2 mg, 57%), with chloroform as eluent for the column chromatography.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 293K, TMS):  $\delta$  ppm 9.19-9.18 (m, 0.33 H), 9.13-9.11 (m, 0.67H), 8.48-8.44

(m, 0.67H), 8.36-8.32 (m, 0.33H), 8.24-8.20 (m, 0.33H), 8.12-8.08 (m, 0.67H), 8.00-7.94 (m, 0.67H), 7.90-7.87 (m, 0.33H), 7.66-7.62 (m, 0.33H), 7.58-7.54 (m, 1.67H), 7.09 (t,  $J = 54.8$  Hz, 0.67H), 7.07 (t,  $J = 54.8$  Hz, 0.33H), 2.69 (s, 0.33H), 2.68 (s, 0.67H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  ppm -113.02 (d,  $J = 54.5$  Hz, 1.33F), -113.29 (d,  $J = 54.5$  Hz, 0.67F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 293K, TMS):  $\delta$  ppm 152.4, 152.2, 150.2, 150.0, 145.8, 145.3, 145.1, 144.5, 137.0, 135.5, 134.8, 134.3, 132.8, 132.7, 129.8, 129.5, 129.2, 128.9, 127.2, 125.4, 123.5, 123.2, 119.2, 118.9, 115.0 (t,  $J = 238.5$  Hz), 114.9 (t,  $J = 239.2$  Hz), 29.7, 19.2. IR (ATR):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3445, 2924, 2195, 1624, 1562, 1489, 1406, 1377, 1351, 1117, 1078, 1034, 936, 910, 879, 838, 793, 725, 666, 523  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . MS (EI):  $m/z$  (%) 244 (100). HRMS: Calculated for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{10}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2$ : 244.0812; Found: 244.0807.

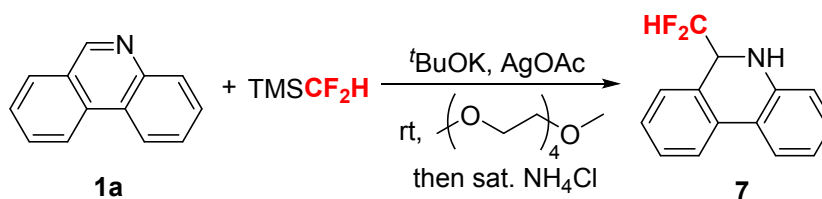
## 5. Methoxylation of Phenanthridine 1a



In a glove box,  $t\text{BuOK}$  (3.0 mmol, 336.6 mg), phenanthridine (1.0 mmol, 179.1 mg), and  $\text{AgOAc}$  (1.0 mmol, 166.9 mg) were added to an oven-dried reaction tube containing a magnetic stir bar. The tube was capped with a septum. Tetraethylene glycol dimethyl ether (10 mL) was added under Ar atmosphere and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 minutes. Next,  $(\text{MeO})_3\text{SiCH}_2\text{Cl}$  (3.0 mmol, 512.0 mg) was added and the mixture was stirred for 5 minutes, followed by the addition of [bis(trifluoroacetoxy)iodo]benzene (3.0 mmol, 1290.1 mg). Then, the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 h. The reaction was quenched by water and extracted with ethyl acetate ( $3 \times 30$  mL), and the combined organic layer was washed with water and brine ( $3 \times 50$  mL), dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and concentrated. The resulting residue was purified by flash column chromatography (chloroform) to afford **6** as a light yellow solid (113.1 mg, 0.54 mmol, 54%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 293K, TMS):  $\delta$  ppm 8.44 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.37 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.95 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.75 (td,  $J = 6.8, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.65 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.61 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.26 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 293K,

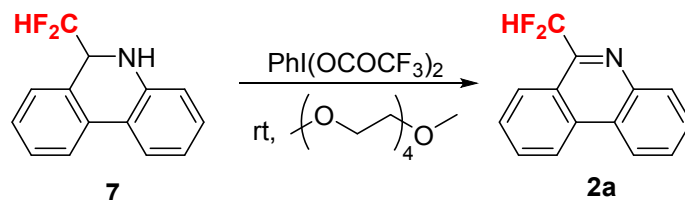
TMS):  $\delta$  ppm 159.2, 143.4, 134.8, 130.8, 128.8, 127.9, 127.2, 125.1, 124.4, 122.6, 122.2, 121.9, 120.1, 53.6. IR (ATR):  $\nu_{\max}$  3446, 3075, 3013, 2984, 2946, 2895, 2847, 1942, 1621, 1589, 1578, 1531, 1488, 1473, 1434, 1356, 1323, 1242, 1227, 1184, 1164, 1145, 1090, 1039, 983, 899, 861, 758, 726, 669, 661, 567, 506, 450  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . MS (EI):  $m/z$  (%) 209, 208 (100). HRMS: Calculated for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{NO}$ : 209.0841; Found: 209.0840.

## 6. Addition of Phenanthridine 1a with $\text{TMSCF}_2\text{H}$ and Aromatization



**Addition of Phenanthridine 1a with  $\text{TMSCF}_2\text{H}$ :** In a glove box,  $t\text{BuOK}$  (3.0 mmol, 336.6 mg), phenanthridine (1.0 mmol, 179.1 mg), and  $\text{AgOAc}$  (1.0 mmol, 166.9 mg) were added to an oven-dried reaction tube containing a magnetic stir bar. The tube was capped with a septum. Tetraethylene glycol dimethyl ether (10 mL) was added under Ar atmosphere and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 minutes. Next,  $\text{TMSCF}_2\text{H}$  (3.0 mmol, 372.6 mg) was added and the mixture was stirred for 10 minutes, followed by the addition of saturated  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  (10 mL). Then, the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The reaction was quenched by water and extracted with ethyl acetate (3×30 mL), and the combined organic layer was washed with water and brine (3×50 mL), dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and concentrated. The resulting residue was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to afford **7** as light yellow solid (141.0 mg, 0.61 mmol, 61%). Mp 76-78 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 293K, TMS):  $\delta$  ppm 7.81 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (td,  $J$  = 7.4, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.17 (t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.2 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.71 (td,  $J$  = 56.8, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 4.51-4.45 (m, 2H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  ppm -126.82 (ddd,  $J$  = 282.0, 57.2, 10.9 Hz, 1F), -127.85 (ddd,  $J$  = 282.0, 56.0, 8.3 Hz, 1F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 293K, TMS):  $\delta$  ppm 142.2, 131.9, 129.5, 129.3, 128.8, 127.6, 127.4, 123.6, 122.7, 120.3, 119.6, 115.2, 114.7 (t,  $J$  = 224.5 Hz), 57.5 (t,  $J$  = 23.5 Hz). IR (ATR):  $\nu_{\max}$  3400, 3069, 3029, 2968, 2923, 1925, 1609, 1492, 1474, 1448, 1384, 1353, 1311, 1292,

1223, 1099, 1062, 884, 753, 732, 671, 620, 542  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . MS (EI):  $m/z$  (%) 231, 180 (100). HRMS: Calculated for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{F}_2\text{N}$ : 231.0860; Found: 231.0862.



**Aromatization:** In a glove box, **7** (0.2 mmol, 46.2 mg) was added to an oven-dried reaction tube containing a magnetic stir bar. The tube was capped with a septum. Tetraethylene glycol dimethyl ether (2 mL) was added under Ar atmosphere and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 minutes. Next, [bis(trifluoroacetoxy)iodo]benzene (0.6 mmol, 258.0 mg) was added and the mixture was stirred for 10 h. The reaction was quenched by water and extracted with ethyl acetate ( $3 \times 10$  mL), and the combined organic layer was washed with water and brine ( $3 \times 15$  mL), dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and concentrated. The resulting residue was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to afford **2a** as a light yellow solid (45.8 mg, 0.2 mmol, quantitative).

## 7. Copies of $^1\text{H}$ NMR, $^{19}\text{F}$ NMR, and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR Spectra of products

