# Nickel-Catalyzed Direct C–H Trifluoroethylation of Heteroarenes with Trifluoroethyl Iodide

Sheng-Yi Yan,<sup>a</sup> Zhuo-Zhuo Zhang,<sup>a</sup> Bing-Feng Shi<sup>\*ab</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Chemistry, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310027, China. E-mail: <u>bfshi@zju.edu.cn</u>

<sup>b</sup> School of Chemical & Environmental Engineering, Wuyi University, Jiangmen, 529020, China

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### **1. General Information**

All the materials and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers, such as Adamas-beta<sup>®</sup>, Energy Chemical, TCI, J&K and used without additional purification excepted for <sup>1</sup>BuCN which was redistilled by CaH<sub>2</sub> before use. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruke Avance operating for <sup>1</sup>H NMR at 400 MHz, <sup>13</sup>C NMR at 100 MHz, <sup>19</sup>F NMR at 376 MHz, using TMS as internal standard. The peaks were internally referenced to TMS (0.00 ppm) or residual undeuterated solvent signal of CDCl<sub>3</sub> (77.16 ppm for <sup>13</sup>C NMR). The following abbreviations (or combinations thereof) were used to explain multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet, b = broad. Mass spectroscopy data of the products were collected on an HRMS-TOF instrument or a low-resolution MS instrument using EI ionization.

### 2. Experimental Section

## 2.1 Preparation of Substrates

All the raw materials were known compounds. Compounds 1a - 1q were prepared according to the literature procedures <sup>[1-5]</sup> while compounds 1r - 1x were reference to the following procedures. <sup>[6-7]</sup>

## **2.2 Optimization of Reaction Conditions**

## Table S1: Optimization of Reaction Conditions<sup>a</sup>



cat (10 mol %), L (20 mol %) AgF (x equiv), Base (2.0 equiv) Solvent (1 mL), 150 °C, N<sub>2</sub>, 24 h



|                       | cat  | T' 1        | AgF (x | Base                            |                    | Yield                  |
|-----------------------|--|-------------|--------|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Entry                 |  | Ligand      | equiv) |                                 | Solvent            | (%) <sup>b</sup>       |
| 1                     | Ni(acac) <sub>2</sub>                      | dppb        | 1.0    | Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> | CH <sub>3</sub> CN | 25                     |
| 2                     | Ni(acac) <sub>2</sub>                      | dppb        | 1.0    | Li <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> | CH <sub>3</sub> CN | 20                     |
| 3                     | Ni(acac) <sub>2</sub>                      | dppb        | 1.0    | NaHCO <sub>3</sub>              | CH <sub>3</sub> CN | 23                     |
| 4                     | Ni(acac) <sub>2</sub>                      | dppb        | 1.0    | LiOBu <sup>t</sup>              | CH <sub>3</sub> CN | Trace                  |
| 5                     | Ni(acac) <sub>2</sub>                      | dppb        | 1.0    | Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> | <sup>t</sup> BuCN  | 47                     |
| 6 <sup><i>c</i></sup> | Ni(Tfacac) <sub>2</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O | dppb        | 1.0    | Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> | <sup>t</sup> BuCN  | 60                     |
| 7                     | Ni(Tfacac) <sub>2</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O | dppb        | 0.7    | Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> | <sup>t</sup> BuCN  | 65                     |
| 8                     | Ni(Tfacac) <sub>2</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O | dppb        | 0.5    | Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> | <sup>t</sup> BuCN  | 50                     |
| 9                     | Ni(Tfacac) <sub>2</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O | dppe        | 0.7    | Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> | <sup>t</sup> BuCN  | 36                     |
| 10                    | Ni(Tfacac) <sub>2</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O | dppp        | 0.7    | Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> | <sup>t</sup> BuCN  | 61                     |
| 11                    | Ni(Tfacac) <sub>2</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O | PhDave-Phos | 0.7    | Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> | <sup>t</sup> BuCN  | 59                     |
| $12^d$                | Ni(Tfacac) <sub>2</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O | dppb        | 0.7    | Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> | <sup>t</sup> BuCN  | 64                     |
| 13 <sup>e</sup>       | Ni(Tfacac)2·2H2O                           | dppb        | 0.7    | Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> | 'BuCN              | 74 <sup><i>f</i></sup> |
| 14                    | CuI  | 2,2'-bipy   | 0.7    | Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> | <sup>t</sup> BuCN  | 4%                     |
| 15                    | Co(OAc) <sub>2</sub> ·4H <sub>2</sub> O    | dppb        | 0.7    | Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> | <sup>t</sup> BuCN  | 6%                     |
| 16                    |  | dppb        | 0.7    | Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> | <sup>t</sup> BuCN  | trace                  |

<sup>*a*</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), **2a** (1.0 mmol), [Ni] (10 mol%), L (20 mol%), base (0.4 mmol) in 1 mL solvent at 150 °C in N<sub>2</sub> for 24 h. <sup>*b*1</sup>H NMR yield using CH<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>2</sub> as the internal standard. <sup>*c*</sup>Tf = 1,1,1- Trifluoroacetylacetonate. <sup>*d*</sup>36 h. <sup>*e*</sup>reaction was conducted at 160 °C. <sup>*f*</sup>isolated yield.

## Table S2 Screen of Solvent<sup>a</sup>

| × +   | CF <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> I<br>2a | Ni(acac) <sub>2</sub> (10 mol%)<br>dppb (20 mol %), AgF, Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub><br>Solvent (1 mL), 150 °C, N <sub>2</sub> , 24 h | CH <sub>2</sub> CF <sub>3</sub> |
|-------|---|---|---------------------------------|
| 1a    |   |   | 3aa                             |
| Entry |   | Solvent   | Yield <sup>b</sup>              |
| 1     |   | 'BuCN   | 47                              |
| 2     |   | MeCN  | 25                              |
| 3     |   | toluene   | 20                              |
| 4     |   | 1,4-dioxane   | 15                              |
| 5     |   | DMF   | NR                              |
| 6     |   | DMSO  | 16                              |
| 7     |   | THF   | 12                              |
| 8     |   | 2-MeTHF   | 18                              |
| 9     |   | <sup>i</sup> PrCN   | 15                              |
| 10    |   | "BuCN   | 22                              |
| 11    |   | acetone   | 18                              |

<sup>*a*</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), **2a** (1.0 mmol), Ni(acac)<sub>2</sub> (10 mol%), dppb (20 mol%), Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.4 mmol), AgF (1.0 equiv) in 1 mL solvent at 150 °C in N<sub>2</sub> for 24 h. <sup>*b*1</sup>H NMR yield using CH<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>2</sub> as the internal standard.

## Table S3 Screen of Ag salt<sup>a</sup>

| $R$ + $CF_3CH_2I$<br>N 2a<br>1a | Ni(acac) <sub>2</sub> (10 mol%)<br>dppb (20 mol %), Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub><br>[Ag] (1.0 equiv)<br><sup>t</sup> BuCN (1 mL), 150 °C, N <sub>2</sub> , 24 h | CH <sub>2</sub> CF <sub>3</sub><br>N<br>N<br>3aa |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Entry                           | [Ag]   | Yield <sup>b</sup>                               |
| 1                               | AgF  | 25   |
| 2                               | Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>  | trace  |
| 3                               | Ag <sub>2</sub> O  | 10   |
| 4                               | AgOAc  | 12   |
| 5                               | AgVO <sub>3</sub>  | 9  |
| 6                               | Ag <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>  | 19   |
| 7                               | $AgSbF_6$  | 5  |

<sup>*a*</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), **2a** (1.0 mmol), Ni(acac)<sub>2</sub> (10 mol%), dppb (20 mol%), Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.4 mmol) in 1 mL solvent at 150 °C in N<sub>2</sub> for 24 h. <sup>*b*1</sup>H NMR yield using CH<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>2</sub> as the internal standard.

## **Table S4 Failed Substrates**



### 2.3 General Procedure for the Trifluoroethylation



To a 50 mL Schlenk tube was added substrate **1** (0.2 mmol),  $CF_3CH_2I$  (1.0 mmol),  $Na_2CO_3$  (42.4 mg, 0.4 mmol), dppb (17 mg, 0.04 mmol),  $Ni(Tfacac)_2 \cdot 2H_2O$  (8 mg, 0.02 mmol), AgF (17.8 mg, 0.14 mmol) and 'BuCN (1 mL). The vial was evacuated and filled with  $N_2$  (1 atm) and then stirred at 160 °C for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate, filtrated through ceilt. After concentration, the resulting residue was purified by preparative TLC using hexane/EtOAc as the eluent to afford the product.



#### 1-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1H-indole 3aa

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : EA = 10 : 1 as a colorless oil (41 mg, 74%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.76 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 8.34 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 0.4 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (td, *J* = 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.24 – 7.20 (m, 1H), 7.12 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 4.29 (q, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.30, 158.23, 137.37, 129.23 (q, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 128.70, 125.53 (q, *J* = 275.6 Hz), 123.96, 122.38, 120.58, 117.50, 114.43, 110.34, 34.08 (q, *J* = 30.8 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -64.97; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 277.0827, found: 277.0824.



#### 5-fluoro-1-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1H-indole 3ba

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : EA = 20 : 1 as a colorless oil (41.3 mg, 70%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.77 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 8.31 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (td, *J* = 9.2, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 4.30 (qd, *J* = 10.4, 0.4 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  160.34, 158.33, 158.03 (q, *J* = 10.2 Hz), 133.75, 130.92 (q, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 129.36 (q, *J* = 10.1 Hz), 125.44 (q, *J* = 275.6 Hz), 117.65, 115.72 (q, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 111.84 (q, *J* = 24.9 Hz), 110.01 (q, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 105.64 (q, *J* = 23.5 Hz), 34.22 (q, *J* = 30.8 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -64.90, -121.75; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>9</sub>F<sub>4</sub>N<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 295.0733, found: 295.0735.



#### 5-chloro-1-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1H-indole 3ca

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : EA = 20 : 1 as a colorless oil (41.0 mg, 66%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.77 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 8.28 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 4.29 (q, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.35, 157.98, 135.69, 130.72 (q, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 129.80, 127.88, 125.40 (q, *J* = 275.6 Hz), 124.07, 119.97, 117.78, 115.80, 109.57, 34.16 (q, *J* = 30.9 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -64.89; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>9</sub>ClF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 311.0437, found: 311.0442.



#### 5-bromo-1-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1H-indole 3da

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : EA = 20 : 1 as a yellow oil (44.9 mg, 63%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.77 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 8.23 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 4.29 (qd, *J* = 10.4, 0.4 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.36, 157.96, 136.02, 130.58 (q, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 130.37, 126.70, 125.39 (q, *J* = 275.6 Hz), 123.06, 117.80, 116.19, 115.54, 109.44, 34.13 (q, *J* = 30.9 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -64.88; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>9</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 354.9932, found: 354.9938.



#### 5-methoxy-1-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1H-indole 3e

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : EA = 10 : 1 as a colorless oil (32.0 mg, 52%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.75 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 8.29 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 4.30 (qd, *J* = 10.4, 0.4 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.26, 158.22, 155.76, 132.26, 129.81 (q, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 129.45, 125.55 (q, *J* = 275.6 Hz), 117.23, 115.68, 113.26, 110.27, 102.56, 55.84, 34.26 (q, *J* = 30.7 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -64.941; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O (M<sup>+</sup>): 307.0932, found: 307.0935.



#### 5-methyl-1-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1H-indole 3fa

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : EA = 20 : 1 as a colorless oil (30.8 mg, 53%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.75 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 8.24 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.37 – 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.11 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 6.66 (s, 1H), 4.29 (qd, *J* = 10.4, 0.4 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.33, 158.22, 135.68, 131.78, 129.24 (q, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 128.96, 125.57 (q, *J* = 275.7 Hz), 125.41, 120.36, 117.24, 114.29, 110.18, 34.18 (q, *J* = 30.8 Hz), 21.41; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -64.99; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 291.0983, found: 291.0989.



#### 5-nitro-1-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1H-indole 3ga

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : EA = 10 : 1 as a yellow solid (30.3 mg, 47%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.87 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 8.52 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.38 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 4.32 (q, *J* = 10.2 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.68, 157.55, 143.47, 140.17, 132.75 (q, *J* = 3.5 Hz), 128.16, 125.17 (q, *J* = 275.7 Hz), 119.15, 118.75, 117.13, 114.68, 110.84, 34.09 (q, *J* = 31.2 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -64.85; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>9</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 322.0678, found: 322.0680.



#### 1-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1H-indole-4-carbonitrile 3ha

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : EA = 10 : 1 as a colorless solid (34.4 mg, 52%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.84 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 8.55 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 4.34 (q, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.57, 157.59, 136.96, 132.34 (q, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 130.17, 127.14, 125.15 (q, *J* = 275.7 Hz), 123.65, 119.33, 118.46, 118.21, 108.19, 103.16, 34.07 (q, *J* = 31.1 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -64.74; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>9</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 302.0779, found: 302.0782.



#### 1-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1H-indole-3-carbonitrile 3ia

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : EA = 10 : 1 as a colorless oil (32.6 mg, 52%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.88 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 8.25 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.77 – 7.75 (m, 1H), 7.44 – 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.57 (q, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.80, 157.20, 136.89 (q, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 136.47, 126.75, 126.01, 124.56 (q, *J* = 276.8 Hz), 124.17, 119.56, 119.39, 114.91, 114.47, 95.48, 32.48 (q, *J* = 31.9 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -64.36; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>9</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 302.0779, found: 302.0782.



#### 3-chloro-1-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1H-indole 3ja

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : Acetone = 50 : 1 as a colorless oil (46.0 mg, 74%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.79 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 8.38 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 0.4 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (ddd, *J* = 8.5, 7.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (td, *J* = 8.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (q, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.35, 157.99, 135.92, 126.34, 125.41, 125.35 (q, *J* = 276.8 Hz), 124.87 (q, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 122.88, 118.51, 117.88, 114.64, 30.82 (q, *J* = 31.4 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -64.49; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>9</sub>ClF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 311.0437, found: 311.0434.



#### 3-methyl-1-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1H-indole 3ka

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : Acetone = 50 : 1 as a colorless oil (43.7 mg, 75%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.74 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 8.32 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.58 – 7.56 (m, 1H), 7.31 (td, *J* = 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.26 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.41 (q, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.42, 158.20, 136.92, 129.69, 125.87 (q, *J* = 276.4 Hz), 124.92 (q, *J* = 3.1 Hz), 124.26, 121.94, 118.83, 118.27, 117.14, 114.28, 30.76 (q, *J* = 30.7 Hz), 9.07; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -64.82; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 291.0983, found: 291.0984.



#### 2-(1-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)ethyl acetate 3la

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : Acetone = 5 : 1 as a colorless oil (56.0 mg, 77%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.77 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 8.28 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (td, *J* = 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.27 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (q, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 2H), 4.33 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.16 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.06 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  171.15, 158.30, 137.03, 128.72, 126.05 (q, *J* = 3.1 Hz), 125.42 (q, *J* = 276.3 Hz), 124.40, 122.17, 118.89, 117.89, 117.55, 114.20, 63.83, 30.60 (q, *J* = 30.8 Hz), 24.05, 21.10; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -64.62; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 363.1195, found: 363.1196.



#### ethyl 2-(1-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)acetate 3ma

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : DCM = 1 : 1 as a yellow oil (48.6 mg, 67%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.78 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 8.29 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34 - 7.30 (m, 1H), 7.28 - 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (q, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 2H), 4.15 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 2H), 1.23 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  170.89, 158.30, 136.90, 128.70, 126.66 (q, *J* = 3.1 Hz), 125.55 (q, *J* = 276.4 Hz), 124.45, 122.29, 119.11, 117.62, 115.17, 114.25, 61.19, 30.70 (q, *J* = 30.8 Hz), 30.62, 14.26; <sup>19</sup>F NMR

(377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -64.59; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 363.1195, found: 363.1198.



#### 1-(pyridin-2-yl)-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1H-indole 3na

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : Acetone = 100 : 1 as a yellow oil (34.3 mg, 62%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.63 (ddd, J = 4.8, 2.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (td, J = 7.6, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.65 – 7.63 (m, 1H), 7.52 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.32 (ddd, J = 7.2, 4.8, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.22 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 6.74 (s, 1H), 3.91 (q, J = 10.8 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  151.10, 149.81, 138.72, 137.37, 129.04 (q, J = 3.3 Hz), 128.19, 125.33 (q, J = 275.4 Hz), 123.09, 122.41, 121.32, 121.17, 120.95, 110.38, 106.94, 32.47 (q, J = 31.2 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -65.20; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>11</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 276.0874, found: 276.0877.



#### 5-fluoro-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1H-indole 3oa

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : Acetone = 100 : 1then PE : DCM = 2 : 1 as a colorless oil (35.3 mg, 60%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.66 - 8.64 (m, 1H), 7.93 (td, J = 7.6, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (ddd, J = 7.6, 5.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.30 - 7.26 (m, 2H), 6.94 (td, J = 9.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 3.88 (q, J = 10.4 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.72 (d, J = 235.0 Hz), 150.89, 149.93, 138.89, 133.96, 130.63 (q, J = 3.3 Hz), 128.59 (d, J = 10.3 Hz), 125.21 (q, J = 275.4 Hz), 122.67, 121.08, 111.36 (d, J = 16.5 Hz), 111.19, 106.68 (d, J = 3.9 Hz), 105.84 (d, J = 23.5 Hz), 32.51 (q, J = 31.3 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -65.12, -123.06; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>10</sub>F<sub>4</sub>N<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 294.0780, found: 294.0778.



#### 3-bromo-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1H-indole 3pa

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : Acetone = 100 : 1 as a yellow oil (53.3 mg, 75%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.62 (ddd, J = 5.2, 2.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (td, J = 7.6, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.66 – 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.52 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38 - 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.29 - 7.24 (m, 2H), 4.13 (q, J = 10.0 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  150.84, 149.88, 138.87, 136.57, 127.20, 126.77 (q, J = 3.2 Hz), 125.08 (q, J = 276.8 Hz), 124.53, 122.84, 122.00, 121.15, 119.92, 110.49, 98.75, 30.65 (q, J = 31.7 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -64.55; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>10</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 353.9979, found: 353.9978.



#### 3-methyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1H-indole 3qa

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : Acetone = 50 : 1 as a yellow oil (40.1 mg, 69%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.60 (ddd, J = 4.8, 2.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (td, J = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.51 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.36 – 7.34 (m, 1H), 7.28 (ddd, J = 7.6, 4.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.23 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 4.01 (q, J = 10.8 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  151.55, 149.66, 138.62, 136.99, 128.88, 125.65 (q, J = 276.3 Hz), 125.05 (q, J = 3.0 Hz), 123.32, 122.05, 121.21, 120.75, 119.23, 115.25, 110.11, 29.74 (q, J = 31.1 Hz), 8.97; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -65.04; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>13</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 290.1031, found: 290.1036.

#### 2-(2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1H-pyrrol-1-yl)pyrimidine 3ra

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : Acetone = 50 : 1 as a yellow oil (12.7 mg, 28%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.64 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.82 (dd, *J* = 3.2, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 6.35 (s, 1H), 6.27 (t, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (q, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.21, 157.76, 125.61 (q, *J* = 275.4 Hz), 122.87 (q, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 122.76, 117.56, 115.82, 110.19, 33.59 (q, *J* = 30.6 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -66.09; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>8</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 227.0670, found: 227.0674.



#### 2-(2,5-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1H-pyrrol-1-yl)pyrimidine 3ra'

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : Acetone = 50 : 1 as a yellow oil (35.0 mg, 57%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.79 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.26 -7.24 (m, 1H), 6.30 (s, 2H), 3.91 (q, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.72, 157.66, 125.31 (q, *J* = 275.4 Hz), 124.14 (q, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 119.00, 113.27, 32.68 (q, *J* = 31.0 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -66.09; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>9</sub>F<sub>6</sub>N<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 309.0701, found: 309.0707.



#### 2-(2-methyl-5-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1H-pyrrol-1-yl)pyrimidine 3sa

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : Acetone = 50 : 1 as a yellow oil (25.1 mg, 52%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.78 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 6.21 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 5.99 (dd, *J* = 3.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (q, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.47, 157.99, 132.45, 125.50 (q, *J* = 275.4 Hz), 121.60 (q, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 118.50, 113.00, 109.36, 32.72 (q, *J* = 30.9 Hz), 14.80; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -66.21; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>10</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 241.0827, found: 241.0831.



#### 2-(3,5-dimethyl-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1H-pyrrol-1-yl)pyrimidine 3ta

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : Acetone = 50 : 1 as a yellow oil (25.5 mg, 50%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.75 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 5.89 (s, 1H), 3.91 (q, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 2H), 2.34 (d, *J* = 0.4 Hz, 3H), 2.07 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.38, 158.14, 131.54, 125.85 (q, *J* = 276.2 Hz), 122.03, 118.18, 117.56 (q, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 111.98, 26.77 (q, *J* = 30.8 Hz), 14.58, 11.25; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -66.13; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 255.0983, found: 255.0982.



#### 1-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-6,7-dihydro-1H-indol-4(5H)-one 3ua

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : DCM = 1 : 5 as a yellow solid (20.7 mg, 35%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.83 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (s, 1H), 3.94 (q, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 2H), 3.03 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.53 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.17 – 2.10 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  194.78, 158.71, 157.00, 146.58, 125.18 (q, *J* = 275.5 Hz), 124.00 (q, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 121.93, 119.41, 110.59, 37.90, 32.61 (q, *J* = 31.2 Hz), 24.78, 23.91; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -65.91; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O (M<sup>+</sup>): 295.0932, found: 295.0935.



#### 2-(3-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)furan-2-yl)pyridine 3va

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : Acetone = 10 : 1 as a colorless oil (25.0 mg, 55%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.61 – 8.59 (m, 1H), 7.74 – 7.66 (m, 2H), 7.16 (ddd, J = 7.2, 4.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (q, J = 10.4 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 154.01, 149.77, 149.08, 145.23 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 136.80, 124.63 (q, J = 275.4 Hz), 122.25, 118.75, 112.38, 109.66, 33.90 (q, J = 32.0 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -65.63; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>8</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO (M<sup>+</sup>): 227.0558, found: 227.0562.



#### 2-(2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)benzofuran-3-yl)pyridine 3wa

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : DCM = 4 : 1 as a yellow oil (26.6 mg, 48%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.74 – 8.73 (m, 1H), 7.85 – 7.81 (m, 2H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (td, *J* = 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.35 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 4.15 (q, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  154.83, 151.68, 150.19, 146.06 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 136.93, 126.81, 125.24, 125.02 (q, *J* = 276.6 Hz), 123.56, 123.25, 122.33, 120.60, 120.55, 111.74, 32.80 (q, *J* = 31.6 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -63.83; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>10</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO (M<sup>+</sup>): 277.0714, found: 277.0718.



#### 2-(2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)thiophen-3-yl)pyridine 3xa

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : EA = 10 : 1 as a yellow oil (42.7 mg, 88%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.65 (ddd, *J* = 4.8, 1.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (td, *J* = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (ddd, *J* = 7.6, 4.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (q, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  154.72, 149.49, 140.51, 136.91, 129.33 (q, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 128.57, 125.51 (q, *J* = 275.7 Hz), 125.21, 122.94, 122.04, 32.90 (q, *J* = 31.2 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -65.72; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>8</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NS (M<sup>+</sup>): 243.0330, found: 243.0334.



#### 2-(3-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl)pyridine 3ya

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : Acetone = 100 : 1 as a yellow oil (19.8 mg, 34%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.70 (ddd, J = 4.8, 2.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.87 – 7.82 (m, 2H), 7.77 (td, J = 7.6, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (dt, J = 8.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.28 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 4.33 (q, J = 10.8 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  153.06, 149.76, 142.07, 140.78, 138.91, 137.06, 126.14 (q, J = 276.6 Hz), 125.50, 124.88, 123.70, 122.90, 122.43, 31.24 (q, J = 30.6 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -63.55; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>10</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NS (M<sup>+</sup>): 293.0486, found: 293.0486.



#### 2-(2,2,3,3,3-pentafluoropropyl)-1-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-1H-indole 3ab

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : Acetone = 100 : 1 as a yellow oil (45.2 mg, 69%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.75 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 8.35 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.60 ((d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.32 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.25 – 7.21 (m, 1H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 4.32 (t, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.33, 158.23, 137.56, 128.63, 128.07, 124.02, 122.38, 120.57, 117.53, 114.49, 111.45, 30.61 (t, *J* = 21.5 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -85.29, -116.20; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>10</sub>F<sub>5</sub>N<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 327.0795, found: 327.0800.



#### 2-(2,2,3,3,4,4,4-heptafluorobutyl)-1-(pyrimidin-2-yl)-1H-indole 3ac

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : Acetone = 100 : 1 as a colorless oil (45.1 mg, 60%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.77 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 8.36 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (ddd, *J* = 8.5, 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.25 – 7.21 (m, 1H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 4.37 (t, *J* = 18.8 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.37, 158.23, 137.61, 128.64, 127.90, 124.03, 122.38, 120.57, 117.54, 114.54, 111.73, 30.59 (q, *J* = 21.5 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -80.49 (t, *J* = 9.8 Hz), -113.14 (qt, *J* = 9.8, 2.3 Hz), -127.85 (q, *J* = 2.3 Hz); **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>10</sub>F<sub>7</sub>N<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): 377.0763, found: 377.0761.

## 2.4 Removal of 2-Pyridinyl Director<sup>[8]</sup>



Methyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (27  $\mu$ L, 0.24 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of **3ra** (59.6 mg, 0.20 mmol) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5.0 mL) at 0 °C, and the resulting solution was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. Then the solvent was removed under vacuum, and the residue was dissolved in MeOH (3.0 mL). A 2 M aq. NaOH solution (1.2 mL) was added, and stirring was continued at 60 °C for 12 h. The solvents were removed, and the resulting residue was extracted with EtOAc (2 × 15 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography, affording the desired product **4** (30.7 mg, 72%) as a yellow solid.



3-methyl-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1H-indole 4

The title compound was isolated by flash chromatography in PE : DCM = 5 : 1 as a yellow solid (30.7 mg, 72%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.83 (s, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.22 – 7.18 (m, 1H), 7.14 - 7.11 (m, 1H), 3.50 (q, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  136.00, 128.66, 125.58 (q, *J* = 275.8 Hz), 122.73, 119.68, 119.04, 111.98, 110.82, 31.64 (q, *J* = 31.2 Hz), 8.54; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -65.08; **HRMS** (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>10</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N (M<sup>+</sup>): 213.0765, found: 213.0766.





To a 50 mL Schlenk tube was added substrate **1e** (0.2 mmol), **1g** (0.2 mmol), CF<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>I (0.2 mmol), Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (42.4 mg, 0.4 mmol), dppb (17 mg, 0.04 mmol), Ni(Tfacac)<sub>2</sub> • 2H<sub>2</sub>O (8 mg, 0.02 mmol), AgF (17.8 mg, 0.14 mmol) and 'BuCN (1.5 mL). The vial was evacuated and filled with N<sub>2</sub> (1 atm) and then stirred at 160 °C for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate, filtrated through ceilt. After concentration, the resulting residue was purified by preparative TLC using PE/EA as the eluent to afford the product.

## 2.6 Intermolecular kinetic isotopic effect experiment



 $K_{\rm H}/K_{\rm D} = 1.04$ 

<sup>a</sup>H NMR yield using CH<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>2</sub> as internal standard.

A mixture of **1a** (0.2 mmol) or [2-D]-**1a** (0.2 mmol),  $CF_3CH_2I$  (1.0 mmol),  $Na_2CO_3$  (42.4 mg, 0.4 mmol), dppb (17 mg, 0.04 mmol),  $Ni(Tfacac)_2 \cdot 2H_2O$  (8 mg, 0.02 mmol), AgF (17.8 mg, 0.14 mmol) was combined in 'BuCN (1.0 mL) in **two paralleled** dried Schlenk tube which was evacuated and filled with  $N_2$  (1 atm) and then stirred at 160 °C for 3 h. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate, filtrated through ceilt. After concentration, the resulting residue was analyzed with NMR using  $CH_2Br_2$  as the internal standard.

## 2.7 Radical Scavenger experiments



<sup>a1</sup>H NMR yield using CH<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>2</sub> as the internal standard.

To a 50 mL Schlenk tube was added substrate **1a** (0.2 mmol),  $CF_3CH_2I$  (1.0 mmol),  $Na_2CO_3$  (42.4 mg, 0.4 mmol), dppb (17 mg, 0.04 mmol), additive (1.0 equiv),  $Ni(Tfacac)_2 \cdot 2H_2O$  (8 mg, 0.02 mmol), AgF (17.8 mg, 0.14 mmol) and 'BuCN (1 mL). The vial was evacuated and filled with  $N_2$  (1 atm) and then stirred at 160 °C for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate, filtrated through ceilt. After concentration, the resulting residue was analyzed with NMR using  $CH_2Br_2$  as the internal standard.

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## 4. NMR Spectra

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160.339 158.327 158.327 157.976 157.976 173.753 130.899 130.899 121.306 111.651 111.765 111.765 111.765 111.716 112.650 123.752 123.75

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ysy-2-177-1c







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## 3xa





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