

Light-Promoted Metal-Free Cross Dehydrogenative Couplings on Ethers Mediated by NFSI: Reactivity and Mechanistic Insights

Redouane Beniazza, Baptiste Abadie, Lionel Remisse, Damien Jardel,
Dominique Lastécouères and Jean-Marc Vincent*

Institut des Sciences Moléculaires, CNRS UMR 5255, Univ. Bordeaux, 33405 Talence,
France

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I. General information

All reagents were obtained from commercial sources and used as received, except for the propargyl alcohol which was distilled prior to use. Solvents were dried and distilled prior to use. NMR analyses were carried out on Bruker avanceIII-600 (600 MHz for proton, 151 MHz for ^{13}C), Bruker avanceII-400 (400 MHz for proton, 101 MHz for ^{13}C), and Bruker avanceIII-300 (300 MHz for proton, 75 MHz for ^{13}C) spectrometers in deuterated chloroform as solvent. The chemical shifts (δ) for carbon and proton are given compared to the residual solvent peak and are expressed in ppm. The ESI-TOF mass spectra (low and high resolution) were recorded at the CESAMO analytical center (Institut des Sciences Moléculaires, Université Bordeaux) on a QSTAR Elite spectrometer from Applied Biosystem. Results are expressed in weight percent.

II. ^1H and ^{19}F NMR spectra of the intermediate monofluorinated ethers

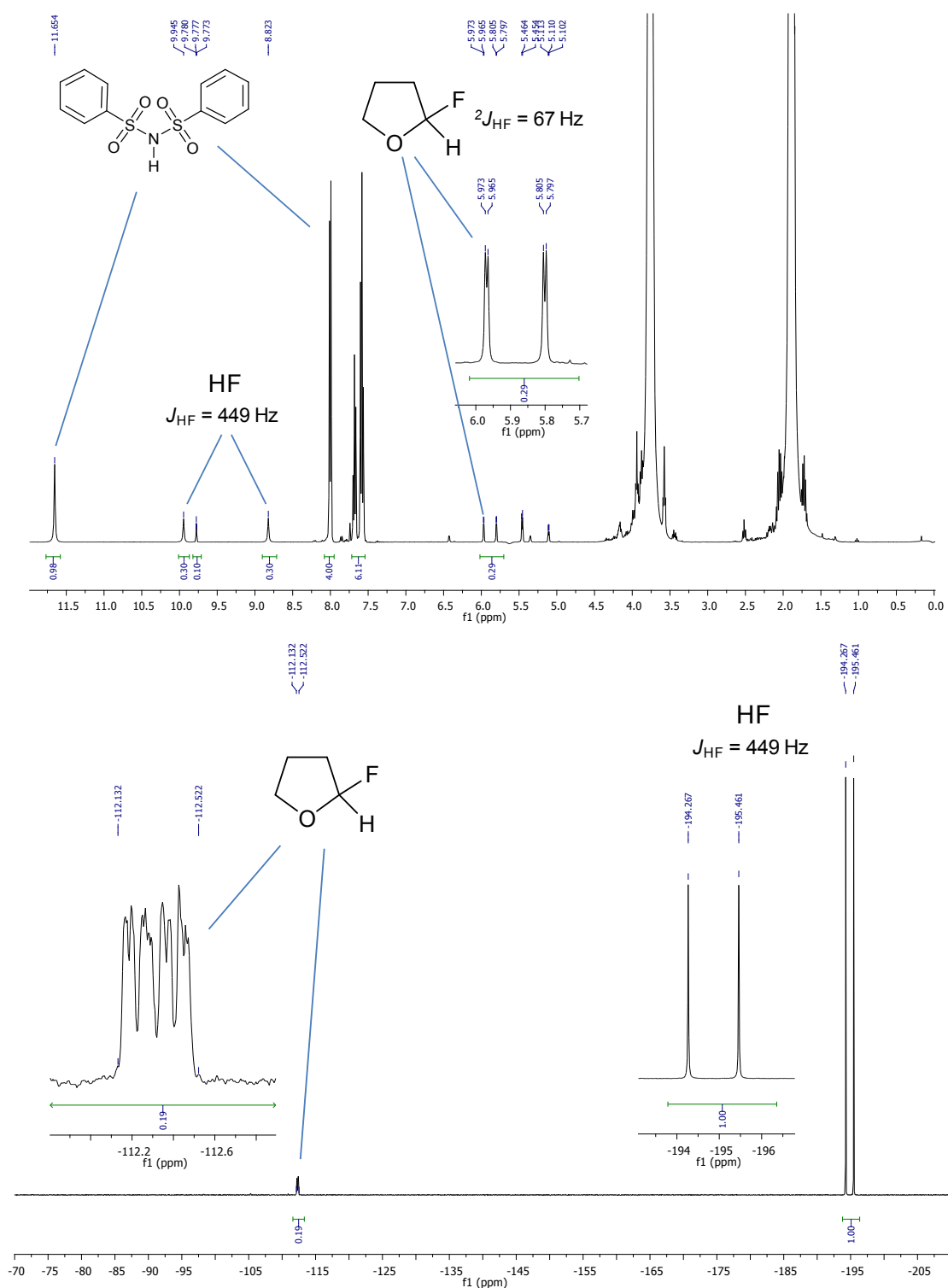


Figure S1: ^1H (400 MHz) ^{19}F (376 MHz) NMR spectra of the BP photo-promoted reaction between NFSI and THF after 10 min of irradiation. Conditions: CDCl_3 (0.4 mL, NMR tube), THF (0.1 mL, 1 mmol), NFSI (0.1 mmol), BP (2 mol%), 20 °C, degassing Ar bubbling (20 min), $h\nu$ (320-390 nm, low pressure Hg lamp, type TLC, 6W).

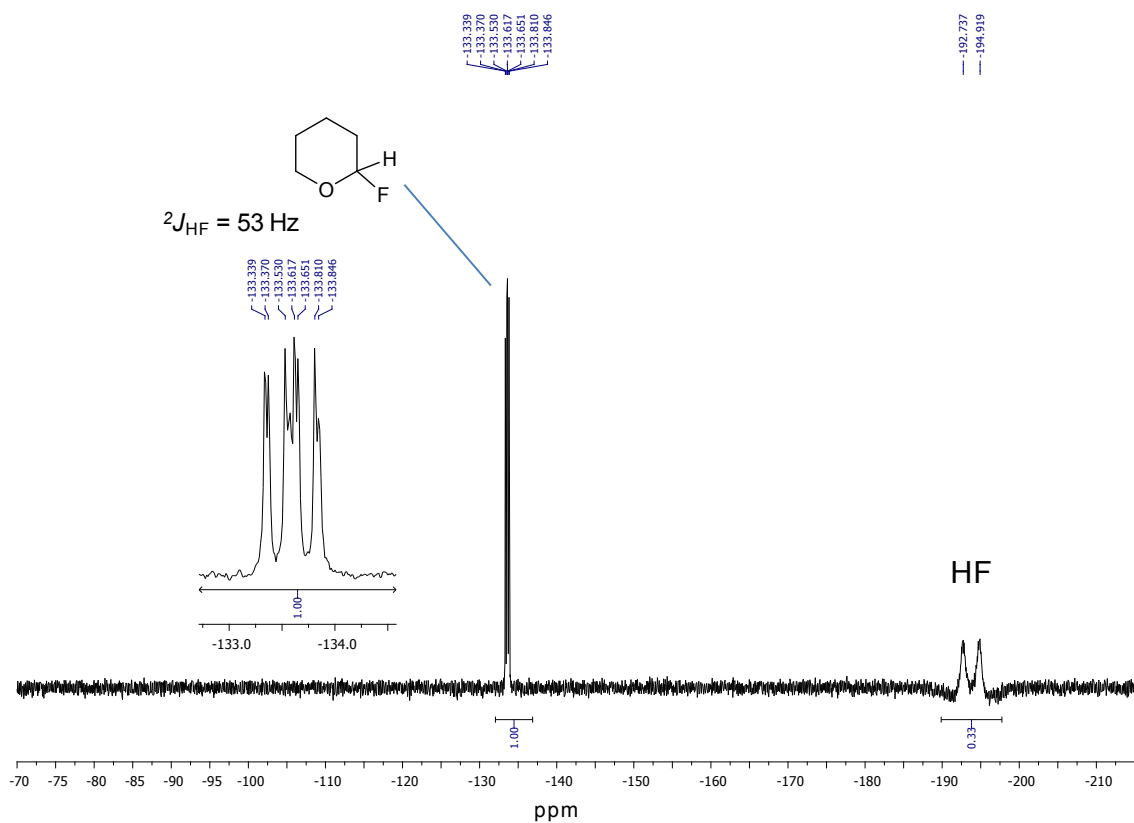
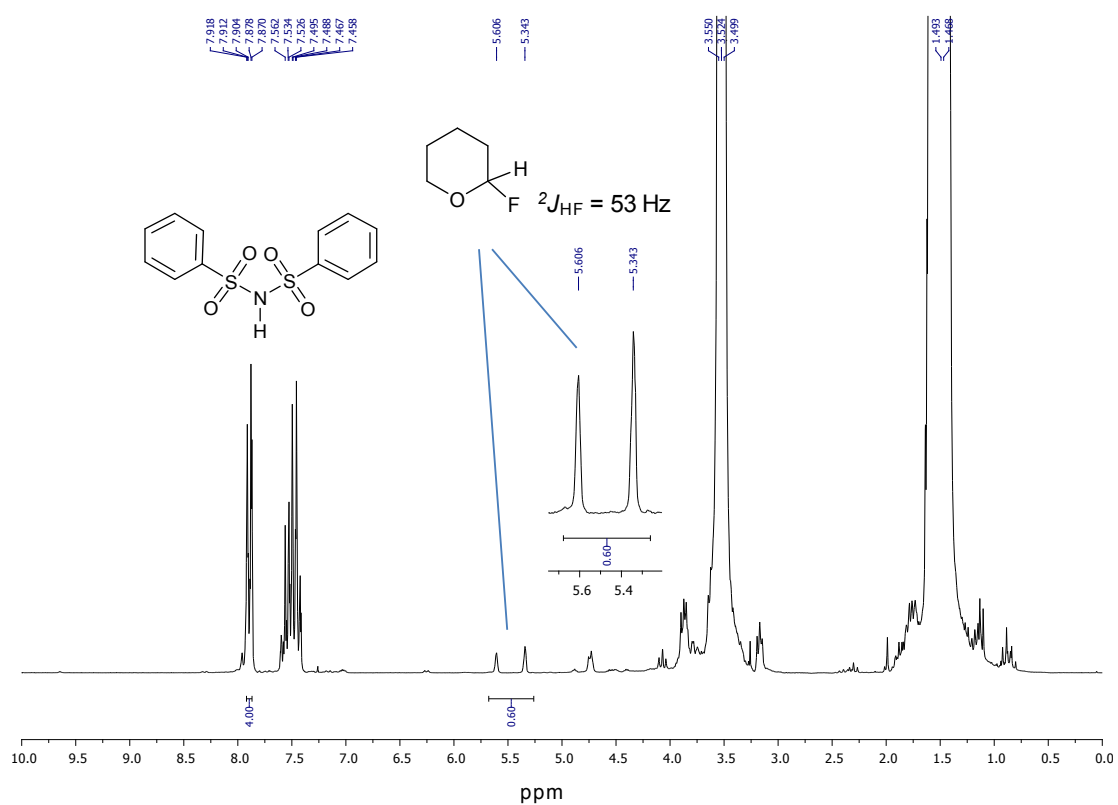


Figure S2: ¹H (200 MHz) ¹⁹F (188 MHz) NMR spectra of the BP photo-promoted reaction between NFSI and THP after 10 min of irradiation. Conditions: CDCl₃ (0.4 mL, NMR tube), THP (0.1 mL, 1 mmol), NFSI (0.1 mmol), BP (2 mol%), 20 °C, degassing Ar bubbling (20 min), *hν* (320-390 nm, low pressure Hg lamp, type TLC, 6W).

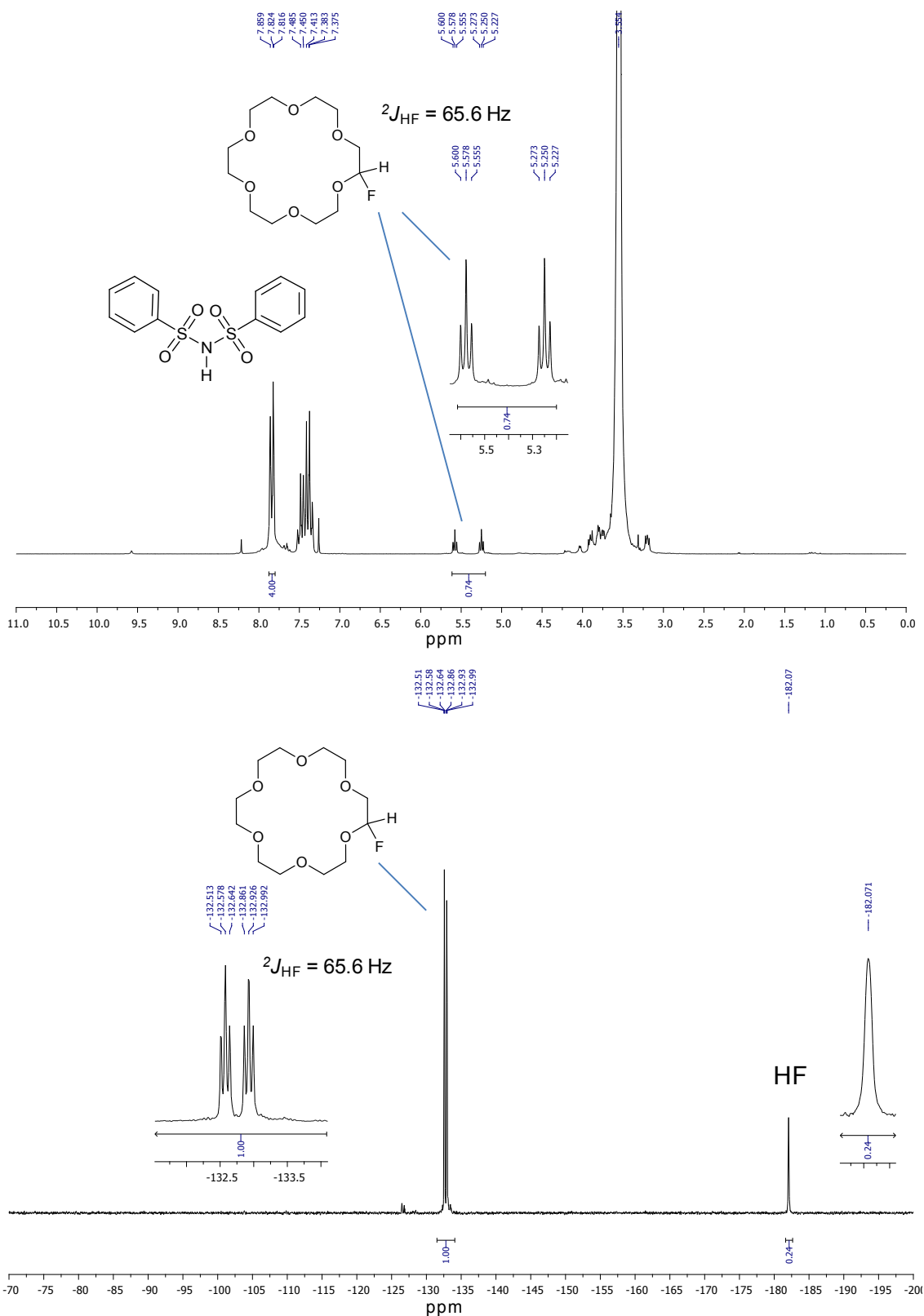


Figure S3: ¹H (200 MHz) ¹⁹F (188 MHz) NMR spectra of the BP photo-promoted reaction between NFSI and 1,4,7,10,13,16-hexaoxacyclooctadecane after 30 min of irradiation. Conditions: CDCl₃ (0.5 mL, NMR tube), 1,4,7,10,13,16-hexaoxacyclooctadecane (0.2 mmol), NFSI (0.1 mmol), BP (5 mol%), 20 °C, degassing Ar bubbling (20 min), *hν* (320-390 nm, low pressure Hg lamp, type TLC, 6W).

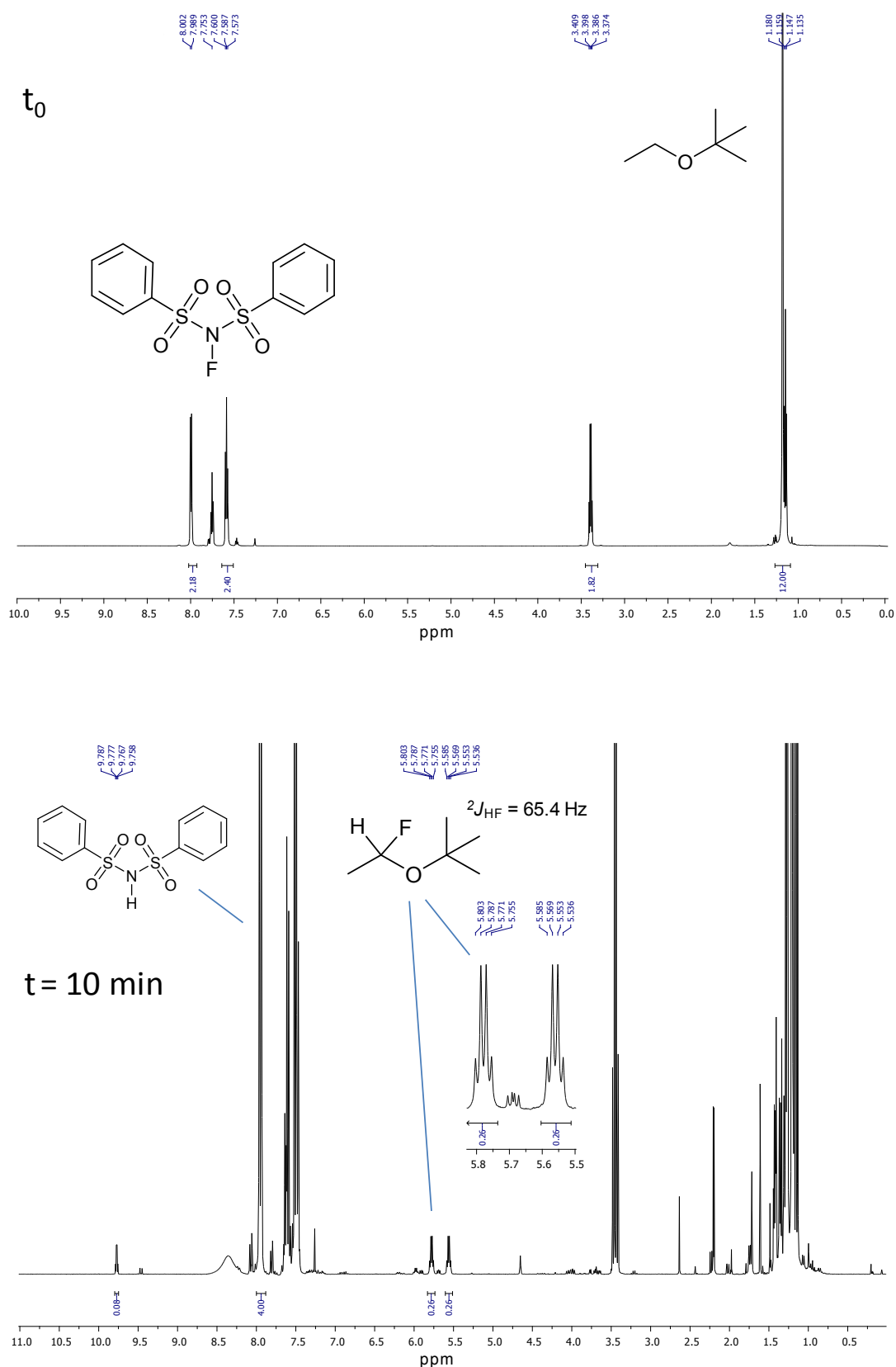


Figure S4: ¹H (300 MHz) NMR spectra of the BP photo-promoted reaction between NFSI and ETBE at t₀ and after 10 min of irradiation. Conditions: CDCl₃ (0.5 mL, NMR tube), ETBE (0.2 mmol), NFSI (0.1 mmol), BP (5 mol%), 20 °C, degassing Ar bubbling (20 min), *hν* (320-390 nm, low pressure Hg lamp, type TLC, 6W).

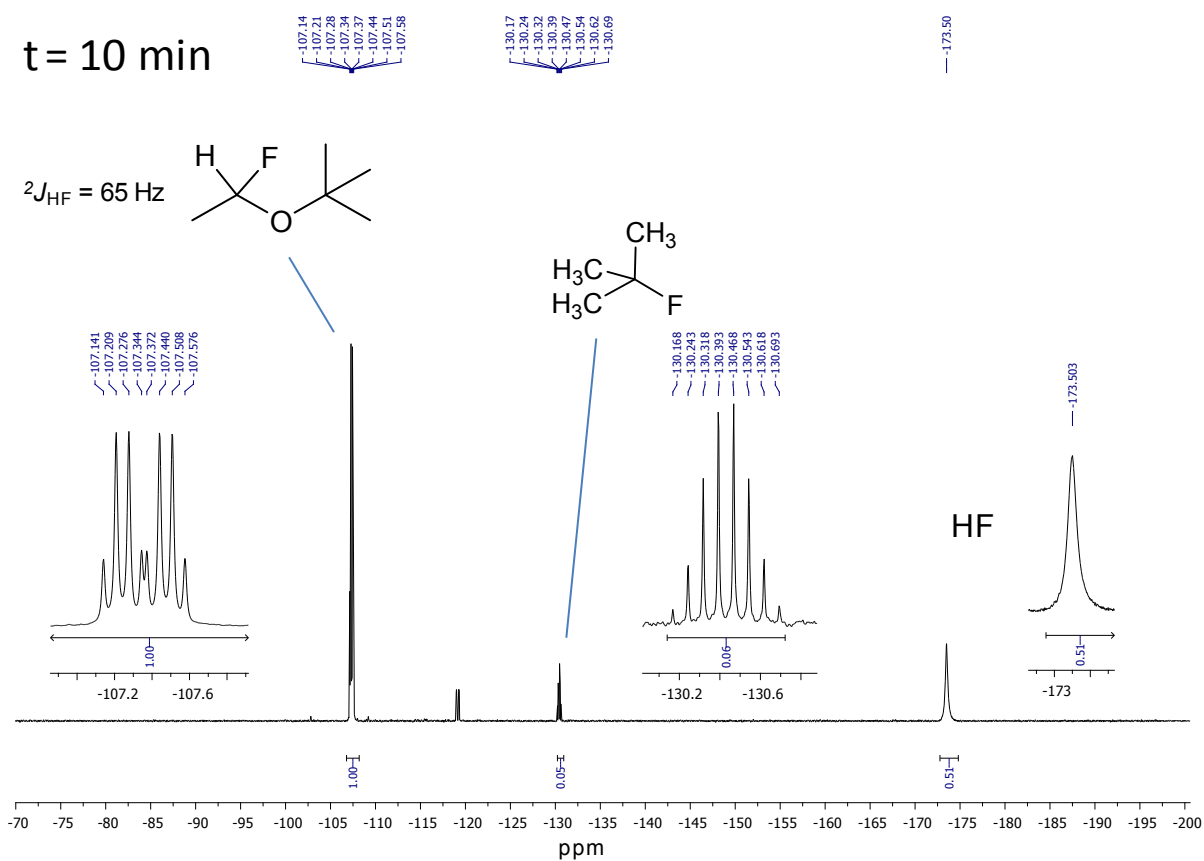
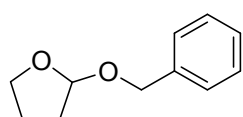


Figure S5: ^{19}F (282 MHz) NMR spectrum of the BP photo-promoted reaction between NFSI and ETBE after 10 min of irradiation. Conditions: CDCl_3 (0.5 mL, NMR tube), ETBE (0.2 mmol), NFSI (0.1 mmol), BP (5 mol%), 20 °C, degassing Ar bubbling (20 min), $h\nu$ (320-390 nm, low pressure Hg lamp, type TLC, 6W).

III. Synthesis and characterization of compounds 1-13

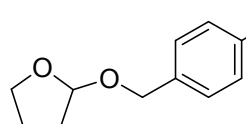
General Procedure: In a test tube, the benzophenone (BP) (2 mol%, 1.82 mg) and the *N*-fluorobis(phenyl)sulfonimide (NFSI) (157.5mg, 0.5 mmol) are dissolved in the ether of choice (THF, THP or 1,4-dioxane) (2 mL), and the tube capped with a rubber septum. The reaction mixture, protected from light by aluminum foil, is degassed by gentle argon bubbling for 20 minutes. The reaction is initiated by irradiating the tube at 320-390 nm using a low pressure Hg lamp (type Thin Layer Chromatography, 6W, set at 365 nm) placed at ~ 1 cm from the tube for 15-20 min. Then the nucleophile (0.6 mmol) is added with a syringe and the reaction is stirred at room temperature for 4 to 12 h without irradiation. The reaction mixture is concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by column chromatography on silica gel.

2-(benzyloxy)tetrahydrofuran (1): Synthesized according to the general procedure. After 15 min of irradiation at 20 °C the phenylmethanol was added (62.5 μ L, 0.6 mmol) and the solution was stirred at 20 °C for 4 h. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (Pentane/EtOAc, 90/10) to afford **1** as a colorless oil (70.6 mg, 79%).



¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ (ppm) = 7.38-7.27 (m, 5H), 5.27-5.20 (m, 1H), 4.74 (d, J = 11.7 Hz, 1H), 4.49 (d, J = 11.7 Hz, 1H), 4.03-3.87 (m, 2H), 2.12-1.78 (m, 4H); **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ (ppm) = 138.3, 128.4, 127.9, 127.6, 103.2, 68.8, 67.1, 32.4, 23.5; **HRMS** (ESI): Calcd. for C₁₁H₁₄O₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 201.0886; Found: 201.0890.

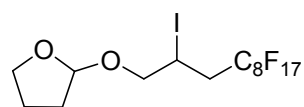
2-((4-nitrobenzyl)oxy)tetrahydrofuran (2): Synthesized according to the general procedure. After 15 min of irradiation, the (4-nitrophenyl)methanol (92 mg, 0.6 mmol) was added and the solution was stirred for 4 h at 20 °C. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (Pentane/EtOAc, 90/10) to afford **2** as a colorless oil (78 mg, 70%).



¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ (ppm) = 8.21-8.11 (m, 2H), 7.52-7.41 (m, 2H), 5.24-5.17 (m, 1H), 4.78 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 3.98-3.81 (m, 2H), 2.12-1.76 (m, 4H); **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ (ppm) = 147.3, 146.4, 127.8, 123.6, 103.7, 67.6, 67.4, 32.5, 23.5; **HRMS** (ESI): Calcd. for C₁₀H₁₁N₃O₄Na [M+Ag]⁺: 329.9896; Found: 329.9890.

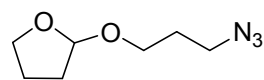
2-((4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,9,9,10,10,11,11,11-heptafluoro-2-iodoundecyl)oxy)

tetrahydrofuran (3): Synthesized according to the general procedure. After 15 min of irradiation at 20 °C, the heptafluoro-2-iodoundecan-1-ol (362.5 mg, 0.6 mmol) was added and the solution was stirred for 6 h at 20 °C. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (Pentane/EtOAc, 95/5) to afford **3** as a colorless oil (235 mg, 59%), and as a mixture of two diastereoisomers (1/1 ratio; measured by ¹H-NMR on the crude mixture).



¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ (ppm) = 5.21-5.09 (m, 1H, d1 and d2), 4.46-4.29 (m, 1H, d1 and d2), 3.99-3.76 (m, 3H, d1 and d2), 3.75-3.58 (m, 1H, d1 and d2), 3.17-2.88 (m, 1H, d1 and d2), 2.80-2.50 (m, 1H, d1 and d2), 2.08-1.78 (m, 4H, d1 and d2); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ (ppm): **d1** = 104.74, 134.5, 72.8, 67.6, 37.8 (t, *J* = 21.6 Hz), 32.6, 23.5, 15.6, **d2** = 103.7, 71.5, 72.9, 67.5, 37.8 (q, *J* = 21.6 Hz), 32.5, 23.4, 15.1; ¹⁹F-NMR (CDCl₃, 282 MHz) δ (ppm) = -81.1 (t, *J* = 9.9 Hz), -113.8, -121.7, -122.1, -122.4, -122.9, -123.8, -126.3; **HRMS** (ESI): Calcd. for C₁₅H₁₂F₁₇NaI [M+Na]⁺: 696.9502; Found: 696.9510.

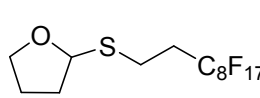
2-(3-azidopropoxy)tetrahydrofuran (4): Synthesized according to the general procedure. After 15 min of irradiation at 20 °C, the 3-azidopropan-1-ol (61 mg, 0.6 mmol) was added and the solution was stirred for 12 h at 20 °C. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (Pentane/EtOAc, 90/10) to afford **4** as a colorless oil (56 mg, 65%).



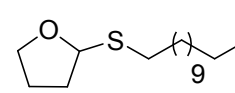
¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ (ppm) = 4.47 (dd, *J* = 1.5 Hz and *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.91-3.80 (m, 2H), 3.72 (tt, *J* = 6.3 Hz and *J* = 10.2 Hz, 1H), 3.44 (tt, *J* = 6.3 Hz and *J* = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 3.35 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.05-1.76 (m, 6H); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ (ppm) = 104.0, 67.1, 63.8, 48.7, 32.4, 29.3, 23.6; **HRMS** (ESI): Calcd. for C₇H₁₃N₃O₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 194.0899; Found: 194.0905.

2-((3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,9,9,10,10,10-heptafluorodecyl)thio)tetrahydrofuran (5):

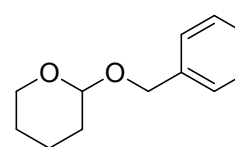
Synthesized according to the general procedure. After 20 min of irradiation at 20 °C, the heptafluorodecane-1-thiol (172 μL, 0.6 mmol) was added and the solution was stirred for 12 h at 20 °C. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (Pentane/EtOAc, 98/02) to afford **5** as a colorless oil (256 mg, 93%).


¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ (ppm) = 5.38 (dd, *J* = 3.9 Hz and *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.99-3.82 (m, 2H), 2.96-2.72 (m, 2H), 2.68-2.19 (m, 3H), 2.07-1.72 (m, 3H); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ (ppm) = 85.1, 67.0, 32.9 (t, *J* = 21.8 Hz), 32.7, 24.8, 22.4 (t, *J* = 4.4 Hz); ¹⁹F-NMR (CDCl₃, 282 MHz) δ (ppm) = -81.3 (t, *J* = 9.9 Hz), -114.8, -122.0, -122.19, -122.21, -123.0, -123.7, -126.5; HRMS (ESI): Calcd. for C₁₄H₁₁OF₁₇NaS [M+Na]⁺: 573.0151; Found: 573.0158.

2-(dodecylthio)tetrahydrofuran (6): Synthesized according to the general procedure. After 15 min of irradiation at 20 °C, the dodecane-1-thiol (143.5 μL, 0.6 mmol) was added and the solution was stirred for 12 h at 20 °C. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (Pentane 100% to Pentane/EtOAc, 99/1) to afford **6** as a colorless oil (112 mg, 82%).

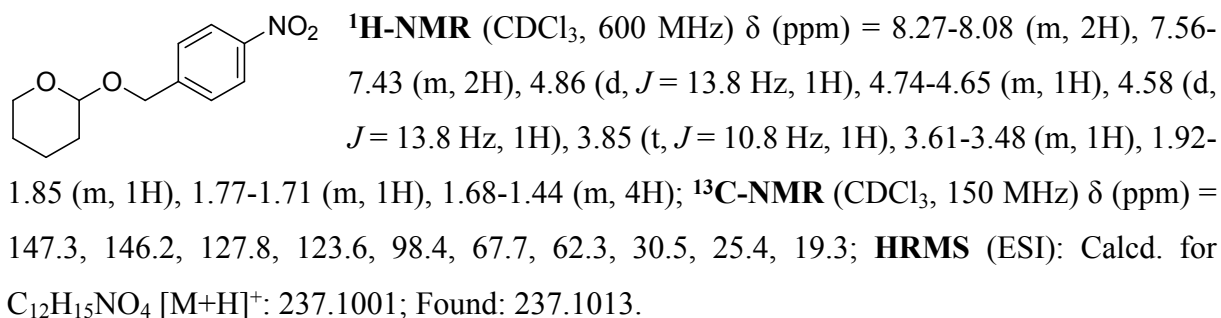

¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ (ppm) = 5.31 (dd, *J* = 4.2 Hz and *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.96-3.81 (m, 2H), 2.72-2.49 (m, 2H), 2.31-2.16 (m, 1H), 2.02-1.90 (m, 1H), 1.87-1.72 (m, 2H), 1.67-1.52 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.14 (m, 18H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ (ppm) = 84.5, 66.8, 32.7, 32.0, 31.3, 30.1, 29.8, 29.73, 29.70, 29.6, 29.4, 29.3, 29.1, 24.9, 22.8, 14.2; HRMS (ESI): Calcd. for C₁₆H₃₂ONaS [M+Na]⁺: 295.2066; Found: 295.2079.

2-(benzyloxy)tetrahydro-2H-pyran (7): Synthesized according to the general procedure. After 15 min of irradiation at 20 °C, the phenylmethanol (62.5 μL, 0.6 mmol) was added and the solution was stirred for 4 h at 20 °C. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (Pentane/EtOAc, 90/10) to afford **7** as a colorless oil (75.5 mg, 78%).


¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ (ppm) = 7.43-7.27 (m, 5H), 4.81 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.73 (t, *J* = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 4.52 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.00-3.88 (m, 1H), 3.62-3.51 (m, 1H), 1.96-1.49 (m, 5H); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ (ppm) = 138.4, 128.4, 127.9, 127.6, 97.8, 68.9, 62.2, 30.7, 25.6, 19.4; HRMS (ESI): Calcd. for C₁₂H₁₆O₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 215.1042; Found: 215.1048.

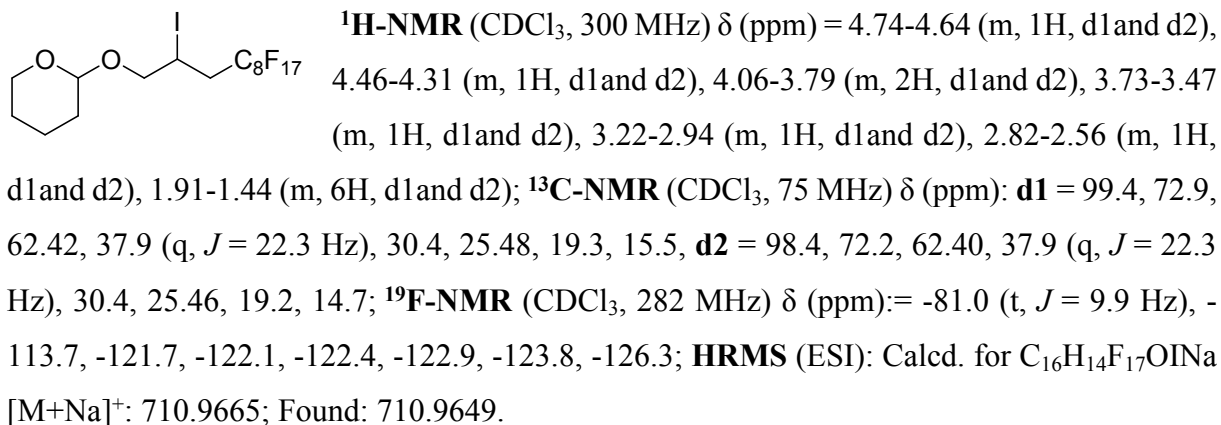
2-((4-nitrobenzyl)oxy)tetrahydro-2H-pyran (8): Synthesized according to the general procedure. After 15 min of irradiation at 20 °C, the (4-nitrophenyl)methanol (92 mg, 0.6 mmol) was added and the solution was stirred for 12 h at 20 °C. The residue was purified by flash

chromatography over silica gel (Pentane/EtOAc, 70/30) to afford **8** as a colorless oil (77 mg, 64%).

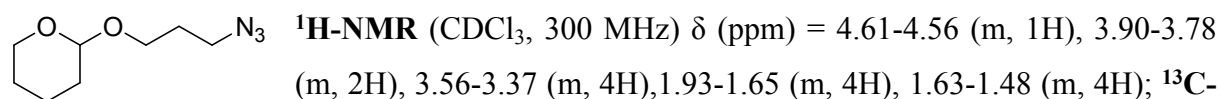


2-(((3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,9,9,10,10,10-heptafluoro-1-iododecyl)oxy)methyl)tetrahydro-2H-pyran (9):

Synthesized according to the general procedure. After 15 min of irradiation at 20 °C, the heptafluoro-2-iodoundecan-1-ol (362.5 mg, 0.6 mmol) was added and the solution was stirred for 5 h at 20 °C. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (Pentane/EtOAc, 90/10) to afford **9** as a colorless oil (241 mg, 70%), and as a mixture of two diastereoisomers (1/1 ratio; measured by ¹H-NMR on the crude mixture).



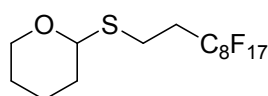
2-(3-azidopropoxy)tetrahydro-2H-pyran (10): Synthesized according to the general procedure. After 15 min of irradiation at 20 °C, the 3-azidopropan-1-ol (61 mg, 0.6 mmol) was added and the solution was stirred for 12 h at 20 °C. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (Pentane/EtOAc, 90/10) to afford **10** as a colorless oil (67 mg, 72%).



NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ (ppm) = 99.1, 64.3, 62.5, 48.7, 30.8, 29.3, 25.6, 19.3; **HRMS** (ESI): Calcd. for C₈H₁₅N₃O₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 208.1056; Found: 208.1063.

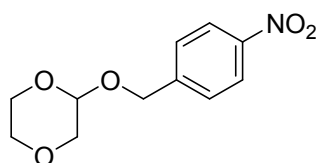
2-((3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,9,9,10,10,10-heptafluorodecyl)thio)tetrahydro-2H-pyran

(11): Synthesized according to the general procedure. After 20 min of irradiation at 20 °C, the heptafluorodecane-1-thiol (172 μ L, 0.6 mmol) was added and the solution stirred for 12 h at 20 °C. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (Pentane/EtOAc, 99/1) to afford **11** as a colorless oil (233 mg, 83%).



¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ (ppm) = 4.89 (dd, J = 3.6 Hz and J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 4.12-4.01 (m, 1H), 3.58-3.47 (m, 1H), 2.95-2.71 (m, 2H), 2.64-2.27 (m, 2H), 2.03-1.90 (m, 1H), 1.86-1.74 (m, 1H), 1.72-1.51 (m, 4H); **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ (ppm) = 83.0, 64.7, 32.9 (t, J = 21.7 Hz), 31.3, 25.7, 21.8, 21.6 (t, J = 4.4 Hz); **¹⁹F-NMR** (CDCl₃, 282 MHz) δ (ppm) = -80.9 (t, J = 9.9 Hz), -114.6, -121.8, -121.97, -121.99, -122.8, -123.5, -126.2; **HRMS** (ESI): Calcd. for C₁₅H₁₃OF₁₇NaS [M+Na]⁺: 587.0307; Found: 587.0298.

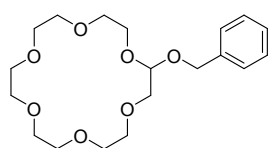
2-((4-nitrobenzyl)oxy)-1,4-dioxane (12): Synthesized according to the general procedure. After 20 min of irradiation at 20 °C, the (4-nitrophenyl)methanol (92 mg, 0.6 mmol) was added and the solution was stirred for 12 h at 20 °C. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (Pentane/EtOAc, 70/30) to afford **12** as a colorless oil (99 mg, 83%).



¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ (ppm) = 8.26-8.15 (m, 2H), 7.58-7.48 (m, 2H), 4.92 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 4.72-4.60 (m, 2H), 4.11-3.98 (m, 1H), 3.80-3.69 (m, 3H), 3.66 (dd, J = 3.4 Hz and J = 11.8 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (dt, J = 3.8 Hz and J = 11.6 Hz, 1H); **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ (ppm) = 147.1, 144.9, 127.6, 123.3, 94.9, 68.4, 67.8, 65.8, 61.2; **HRMS** (CI): Calcd. for C₁₁H₁₃NO₅ [M]⁺: 239.07937; Found: 239.07914.

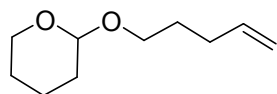
2-(benzyloxy)-1,4,7,10,13,16-hexaoxacyclooctadecane (13): Synthesized according to the general procedure from a mixture of NFSI (157.5 mg, 0.5 mmol), 1,4,7,10,13,16-hexaoxacyclooctadecane (264 mg, 1 mmol) and BP (2 mol%, 1.82 mg) in CHCl₃ (2 mL). After 20 min of irradiation at 20 °C, the phenylmethanol (62.5 μ L, 0.6 mmol) was added and the

solution was stirred for 14 h at 20 °C. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH, 98/02) to afford the compound **13** as a colorless oil (105 mg, 57%).



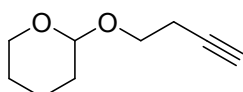
¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ (ppm) = 7.36-7.31(m, 5H), 4.88 (t, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (dd, *J* = 11.7 Hz and *J* = 28.2 Hz, 2H), 3.78-3.50 (m, 22H); **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ (ppm) = 138.1, 128.5, 127.9, 127.7, 100.2, 72.6, 71.7, 71.0, 70.8, 70.66, 70.65, 70.63, 70.59, 70.49, 70.4, 68.5, 61.8; **HRMS** (ESI): Calcd. for C₁₉H₃₀O₇Na [M+Na]⁺: 393.1883; Found: 393.1888.

2H-Pyran, tetrahydro-2-(4-penten-1-yloxy) : (14) : Synthesized according to the general procedure. After 20 min of irradiation at 20 °C, the 4-Penten-1-ol (54.3 mg, 0.63 mmol) was added and the solution was stirred for 4 h at 20 °C. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (Pentane/EtOAc, 90/10) to afford **14** as a colorless oil (52 mg, 61%).



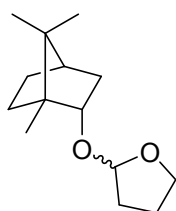
¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ (ppm) = 5.94-5.80 (m, 1H), 5.10-4.97 (m, 2H), 4.61 (t, 1H), 3.94-3.75 (m, 2H), 3.57-3.40 (m, 2H), 2.22-2.14 (m, 2H), 1.91-1.52 (m, 8H); **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ (ppm) = 206.9, 138.4, 114.7, 67.0, 62.3, 31.0, 30.8, 30.5, 29.0, 25.5, 19.7; **HRMS** (ESI): Calcd. for C₁₀H₁₈O₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 193.1202; Found: 193.1199.

2-(3-Butynyloxy)tetrahydro-2H-pyran: (15) : Synthesized according to the general procedure. After 20 min of irradiation at 20 °C, the 3-Butyn-1-ol (54.1 mg, 0.75 mmol) was added and the solution was stirred for 4 h at 20 °C. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (Pentane/EtOAc, 90/10) to afford **15** as a colorless oil (55 mg, 71%).



¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ (ppm) = 4.65 (t, 1H), 3.92-3.80 (m, 2H), 3.61-3.48 (m, 2H), 2.52-2.47 (m, 2H), 1.97 (t, 1H), 1.85-1.50 (m, 7H); **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ (ppm) = 98.8, 81.5, 69.2, 65.6, 62.3, 30.6, 25.5, 20.0, 19.5; **HRMS** (ESI): Calcd. for C₁₉H₁₄O₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 177.0894; Found: 177.0886.

Borneol derivative (16) : Synthesized according to the general procedure. After 20 min of irradiation at 20 °C, Borneol (185 mg, 1.2 mmol) was added and the solution was stirred for 4 h at 20 °C. DCM was added and the reaction mixture was washed first with a saturated NaHCO₃ solution, twice with water and then with brine. After drying with MgSO₄ and solvent evaporation, the residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (Pentane/EtOAc, 95/5) to afford **16** as a colorless oil (131 mg, 58%) and as a mixture of two diastereoisomers (~1/1 ratio; measured by ¹³C-NMR after chromatography).



¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ (ppm) = 5.17-5.13 (m, 1H), 3.95-3.73 (m, 3H), 2.27-2.10 (m, 1H), 2.06-1.58 (m, 7H), 1.25-1.15 (m, 2H), 1.09-0.95 (m, 1H), 0.87-0.84 (m, 9H); **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ (ppm) = 105.3, 101.6, 83.3; 79.3; 66.5; 66.3; 49.2; 48.7; 47.5; 47.3; 45.13; 45.09; 37.9; 35.7; 32.5; 28.3, 26.8, 26.70, 23.7, 23.5, 19.8, 18.9, 18.8, 13.8, 13.4; **HRMS** (ESI): Calcd. for C₁₄H₂₄O₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 247.1665; Found: 247.1668.

IV. ^1H , ^{13}C and ^{19}F NMR Spectra

