

Supporting Information For

Combinatorial Nickel-Catalyzed Directly Difluoromethylation of Aryl Boronic Acids

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General Information:

NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker-400 (400 MHz for ^1H ; 101 MHz for ^{13}C and 376 MHz for ^{19}F { ^1H , ^{13}C decoupled}) instruments internally referenced to SiMe_4 signal. High resolution mass spectra were recorded on P-SIMS-Gly of Bruker Daltonics Inc. using ESI-TOF (electrospray ionization-time of flight) or Micromass GCT using EI (electron impact). Infrared spectra were recorded on a Thermo Scientific Nicolet iS10 as either neat films or solids. 1,4-Dioxane was distilled from sodium immediately and degassed before use. $\text{Ni}(\text{OTf})_2$, $\text{P}(4\text{-OMePh})_3$ were obtained from Boka chemical and used as received. Bpy, phen were obtained from Energy and used as received. Dtbpy was obtained from Macklin and used as received. PCy_3 was obtained from J&K and used as received. PPh_3 and K_2CO_3 were purchased from Sinopharm and used as received. BrCF_2H was obtained from Shanghai Qinba Chemical.

Tables of the Optimization of Reaction Conditions

Table S1. Ligands Screening^a

Entry	ligand (x mol%)	Yield (%) ^b
1	No	0
2	phen (5)	12
3	bpy (5)	7
4	dtbpy (5)	21
5	dmbpy (5)	16
6	dombpy (5)	10
7	pyridine (10)	3
8	L1 (5)	9
9	L2 (5)	13
10	L3 (5)	7
11	L4 (5)	3
12	PPh ₃ (10)	trace
13	PCy ₃ (10)	0
14	dppp(5)	trace
15	dppe (5)	trace
16	bpy (5)/PPh ₃ (10)	32
17	dtbpy(5)/PPh ₃ (10)	62(72)
18	dtbpy(5)/dppe(5)	59
19	dtbpy(5)/dppe(5)	21
20	dtbpy(5)/dppb(5)	53
21	dtbpy(5)/Pt-Bu ₃ (10)	42
22	bpy(5)/P(4-OMePh) ₃ (10)	45
23	phen(5)/PCy ₃ (10)	44

^a Unless otherwise noted, the reaction conditions were as follows: **1a** (2.0 equiv), **2** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Ni(OTf)₂ (5 mol%), ligands, K₂CO₃ (3.0 equiv), 1,4-dioxane (2.0 mL), 80 °C, 24 h, N₂, 25 mL tube. ^b Yields determined by ¹⁹F NMR using PhOCF₃ as an internal standard; numbers in parentheses were isolated yields

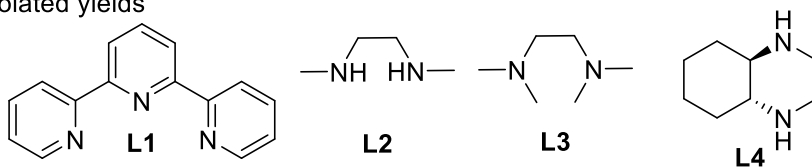


Table S2. Ni-Source Screening^a

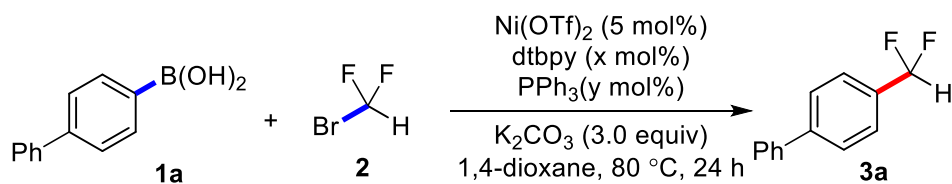
Entry	[Ni]	Yield (%) ^b	Entry	[Ni]	Yield (%) ^b
1	No	0	8	NiCl ₂ (dppe)	36
2	NiBr ₂	47	9	NiCl ₂ (dppf)	10
3	NiI ₂	26	10	Ni(OTf)₂	82 (94)^c
4	NiCl ₂	0	11	Ni(NO ₃) ₂ •6H ₂ O	17
5	Ni(acac) ₂	0	12	NiCl ₂ (dme)	6
6	NiCl ₂ (PPh ₃) ₂	trace	13	Ni(OAc) ₂	11
7	NiCl ₂ (dppp)	50			

^a Unless otherwise noted, the reaction conditions were as follows: **1a** (2.0 equiv), **2** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [Ni] (5 mol%), bpy (5 mol%), P(4-OMePh)₃ (10 mol%), K₂CO₃ (3.0 equiv), 1,4-dioxane (2.0 mL), 80 °C, 24 h, N₂. ^b Yields determined by ¹⁹FNMR using PhOCF₃ as an internal standard; numbers in parentheses were isolated yields. ^c Reaction was performed in 5 mL sealed tube

Table S3 Solvent Screening^a

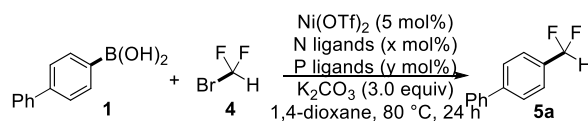
entry	solvent	yield (%) ^b
1	THF	47
2	DMF	21
3	DCM	0
4	CHCl ₃	12
5	CH ₃ CN	3
6	Toluene	0
7	EA	6

^a Unless otherwise noted, the reaction conditions were as follows: **1a** (2.0 equiv), **2** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NiOTf₂ (5 mol%), dtbpy (5 mol%), PPh₃ (10 mol%), K₂CO₃ (3.0 equiv), solvent (2.0 mL), 80 °C, 24 h, N₂, 5 mL sealed tube. ^b Yields determined by ¹⁹FNMR using PhOCF₃ as an internal standard.

Table S4 Optimization the amount of ligands^a

entry	x	y	yield (%) ^b
1	5	0	22
2	10	0	19
3	15	0	26
4	0	5	0
5	0	10	0
6	0	20	0
7	5	5	70
8	5	15	86 (94)
9	10	10	81

^a Unless otherwise noted, the reaction conditions were as follows: **1a** (2.0 equiv), **2** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), $\text{Ni}(\text{OTf})_2$ (5 mol%), bpy (x mol%), PPh_3 (y mol%), K_2CO_3 (3.0 equiv), 1,4-dioxane (2 mL), 80 °C, 24 h, N_2 , 5 mL sealed tube. ^b Yields determined by ^{19}F NMR using PhOCF_3 as an internal standard; numbers in parentheses were isolated yields..

Table S5 Optimization of N, P ligands combination^{a, b}

N, P ligand(mol%)	bpy(5)	dtbpy(5)	dmbpy(5)	dombpy(5)	phen(5)	Neocuproine(5)	Bphen(5)	DMEDA(5)	TMEDA(5)	Py(10)	DMAP(10)	4-CN-Py(10)
PPh_3 (10)	32	82(94)	43	75	70	0	46	17	1	0	8	3
PCy_3 (10)	18	83(94)	18	39	60	0	76	41	2	0	11	4
$\text{P}(4\text{-OMePh})_3$ (10)	38	88(98)	59	59	29	2	77	35	0	0	12	3
$\text{P}(4\text{-MePh})_3$ (10)	57	74	58	55	40	0	79	26	0	0	14	1
PAd_2Bn (10)	40	54	28	64	47	0	44	18	3	1	7	0
$\text{PAd}_2(n\text{-Bu})$ (10)	64	78	49	47	72	3	65	21	0	2	6	0
$\text{P}(\text{NEt}_2)_3$ (10)	74	59	70	72	61	1	79	26	0	0	11	0
$\text{P}(t\text{-Bu})_3\text{BF}_4$ (10)	18	82(89)	68	52	32	0	39	19	0	0	10	2
BINAP	14	31	17	36	6	0	43	9	0	0	18	0
dppe(5)	12	21	55	50	31	10	43	1	0	0	7	0
dppb(5)	25	50	51	28	24	9	55	8	2	2	7	2
dpph(5)	37	86(90)	73	60	90(95)	26	67	18	4	3	19	6
dppf(5)	24	53	34	32	25	1	47	4	1	0	17	0
Xantphos(5)	9	18	22	15	9	0	18	6	3	0	4	0
X-phos(10)	19	65	43	49	29	0	41	10	7	0	10	0

Unless otherwise noted, the reaction conditions were as follows: **1** (2.0 equiv), **4** (1.0 equiv), $\text{Ni}(\text{OTf})_2$ (5 mol%), N ligand (x mol%), P ligand (y mol%), K_2CO_3 (3.0 equiv), 1,4-dioxane (2 mL), 80 °C, 24 h, N_2 , 5 mL sealed tube. Yields determined by ^{19}F NMR using PhOCF_3 as an internal standard; numbers in parentheses were isolated yields.

Preparation of Aryl boronic acids

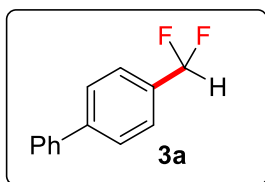
Boronic acids **1n**¹, **1x**² and **6**³ were synthesized via known methods. Compound **4**⁴ was synthesized via known method.

Preparation of BrCF₂H Stock Solution⁵

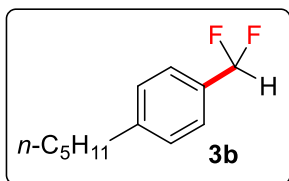
Dry 1, 4-dioxane (~23 mL) was added to a Schlenk graduated cylinder under nitrogen. The vessel and solvent were weighed. Next, BrCF₂H was bubbled through the 1,4-dioxane solution using a long needle until the total volume of the solution reached approximately 25 mL. The vessel was sealed weighed again. The concentration of the BrCF₂H stock solution was calculated based on the mass of BrCF₂H added and the total volume of the solution (~1.0 mol/L).

General Procedure for Nickel-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling between Aryl boronic Acids and Difluorobromomethane

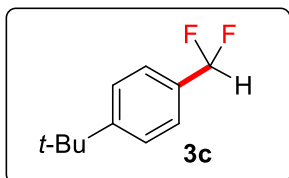
Ni(OTf)₂ (5 mol %, 0.01 mmol, 3.6 mg), N ligand (5 mol%, 0.01 mmol), P ligand (5 mol%, 0.01 mmol for biphosphine ligands, or 10 mol%, 0.02 mmol for monophosphine ligands), phenylboronic acid **1** (2.0 equiv, 0.4 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (3.0 equiv, 0.6 mmol, 82.8 mg) were combined in a 5 mL oven-dried sealing tube. The vessel was evacuated and backfilled with N₂ (repeated for 3 times), and **2** (1.0 equiv, 0.2 mmol), 1, 4-dioxane (2.0 mL) were then added via syringe. The tube was sealed with a Teflon lined cap and heated in a preheated oil bath at 80 °C for 24 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to room temperature, diluted with EtOAc and filtered through a pad of celite. The filtrate was concentrated under vacuum and purified by flash column chromatography (PE) to give **3** as colorless solid or oil.



4-(difluoromethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (3a): dtbpy (5 mol%), PPh₃ (10 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 24 h. The product **3a** was purified with silica gel chromatography (PE) as a colorless solid (92% yield). This compound is known.⁶ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.65 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 7.45 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (t, J = 56.5 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -110.23 (d, J = 56.5 Hz). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.80 (t, J = 1.8 Hz), 140.28 (s), 133.31 (t, J = 22.5 Hz), 129.05 (s), 128.03 (s), 127.55 (s), 127.37 (s), 126.16 (t, J = 6.0 Hz), 114.89 (t, J = 238.4 Hz).

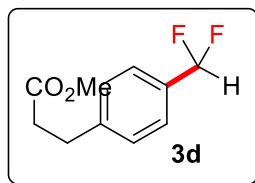


1-(difluoromethyl)-4-pentylbenzene (3b): dtbpy (5 mol%), PPh₃ (10 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 24 h. **Note:** The product **3b** was isolated with silica gel chromatography (PE) to give a unseparated mixture with homo-coupling biarene as a colorless oil, the yield (85% yield) was determined by the ratio of the mixture via ¹H NMR analysis (10:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.41 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.62 (t, J = 56.7 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 1.68 – 1.58 (m, 2H), 1.42 -1.28 (m, 4H), 0.89 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -109.67 (d, J = 56.9 Hz). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.02 (t, J = 1.8 Hz), 131.89 (t, J = 22.0 Hz), 128.83 (s), 125.63 (t, J = 6.0 Hz), 115.11 (t, J = 238.1 Hz), 35.92 (s), 31.56 (s), 31.14 (s), 22.66 (s), 14.15 (s). HRMS EI (m/z): [M]⁺ calcd. for C₁₂H₁₆F₂: 198.1220 found: 198.1223.



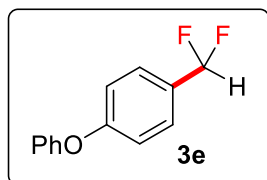
1-(tert-butyl)-4-(difluoromethyl)benzene (3c): dtbpy (5 mol%), PPh₃ (10 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 24 h. **Note:** The product **3c** was isolated with silica gel chromatography (PE) to give a unseparated mixture with homo-coupling biarene as a colorless oil, the yield (89% yield) was

determined by the ratio of the mixture via ^1H NMR analysis (9:1). This compound is known.⁶ ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.48 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.63 (t, J = 56.6 Hz, 1H), 1.34 (s, 9H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -109.85 (d, J = 56.8 Hz). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 154.14 (t, J = 2.0 Hz), 131.67 (t, J = 23.5 Hz), 125.76 (s), 125.45 (t, J = 6.0 Hz), 115.04 (t, J = 238.5 Hz), 35.00 (s), 31.36 (s).



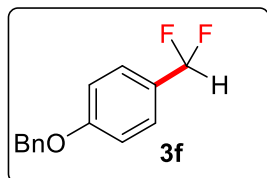
Methyl 3-(4-(difluoromethyl)phenyl)propanoate (3d): dtbpy (5 mol%), PCy_3 (10 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 24 h. The product **3d** was purified with silica gel chromatography (PE/EA = 20:1) as a colorless oil (76% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.43 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 6.62 (t, J = 56.6 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 2.99 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.65 (t, J = 7.6

Hz, 2H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -110.08 (d, J = 58.5 Hz). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.16 (s), 143.51 (s), 132.59 (t, J = 22.6 Hz), 128.75 (s), 125.90 (t, J = 6.0 Hz), 114.87 (t, J = 238.2 Hz), 51.83 (s), 35.46 (s), 30.80 (s). IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 3011, 2940, 1734, 1595, 1519, 1497, 1479, 1450, 1382, 1356, 1334, 1313, 1245, 1223, 1210, 1177, 1160, 1147, 1120, 1107, 1060, 1018, 924, 841, 749, 698, 668, 639. HRMS EI (m/z): $[\text{M}]^+$ calcd. for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{12}\text{OF}_2$: 214.0805 found: 214.0806.



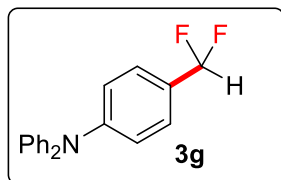
1-(difluoromethyl)-4-phenoxybenzene (3e): dtbpy (5 mol%), PPh_3 (10 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 24 h. The product **3e** was purified with silica gel chromatography (PE) as a colorless solid (69% yield). This compound is known.⁷ ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.46 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 6.62 (t, J =

56.6 Hz, 1H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -108.94 (d, J = 56.6 Hz). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.73 (s), 156.30 (s), 130.11 (s), 129.01 (t, J = 22.8 Hz), 127.46 (t, J = 5.9 Hz), 124.26 (s), 119.77 (s), 118.38 (s), 114.74 (t, J = 238.0 Hz).

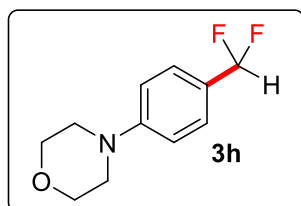


1-(benzyloxy)-4-(difluoromethyl)benzene (3f): dtbpy (5 mol%), PPh_3 (10 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 24 h. The product **3f** was purified with silica gel chromatography (PE) as a colorless solid (65% yield). This compound is known.⁶ ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.34 (dd, J = 8.4, 4.8 Hz, 4H), 7.32 – 7.24 (m, 3H), 6.94 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.51 (t, J = 56.7 Hz, 1H), 5.01

(s, 2H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -108.32 (d, J = 56.8 Hz). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 160.68 (s), 136.62 (s), 128.80 (s), 128.28 (s), 127.58 (s), 127.28 (t, J = 5.9 Hz), 127.17 (t, J = 22.7 Hz), 115.08 (s), 114.99 (t, J = 237.5 Hz), 70.24 (s).

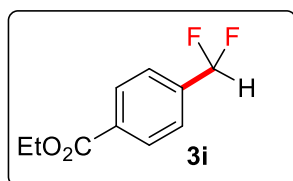


4-(difluoromethyl)-N,N-diphenylaniline (3g): dtbpy (5 mol%), PPh_3 (10 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 24 h. ^{19}F NMR yield: 69% (using PhOCF_3 as internal standard). **Note:** Compound **3g** is unstable upon purification with silica gel chromatography. HRMS ESI (m/z): $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_2\text{N}$: 296.1245 found: 296.1249.

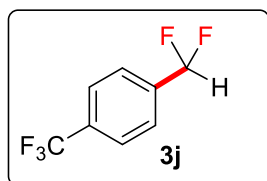


4-(4-(difluoromethyl)phenyl)morpholine (3h): dtbpy (5 mol%), PPh_3 (10 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 24 h. The product **3h** was purified with silica gel chromatography (PE/EA = 5:1) as a colorless solid (78% yield). This compound is known.⁷ ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.40 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.58 (t, J = 56.9 Hz, 1H), 3.90 – 3.82 (m, 2H), 3.24 – 3.18 (m, 2H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -108.05 (d, J = 56.9 Hz). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz,

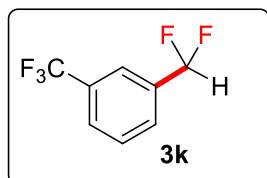
CDCl₃) δ 153.00 (s), 126.87 (t, J = 5.9 Hz), 125.39 (t, J = 22.8 Hz), 115.23 (t, J = 236.9 Hz), 114.94 (s), 66.85 (s), 48.65 (s).



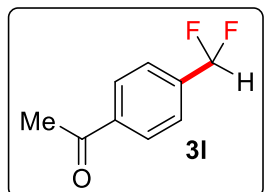
Ethyl 4-(difluoromethyl)benzoate (3i): dtbpy (5 mol%), PCy₃ (10 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 24 h. The product **3i** was purified with silica gel chromatography (PE/EA = 10:1) as a colorless oil (86% yield). This compound is known.⁸ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.13 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.69 (t, J = 56.1 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.41 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -112.16 (d, J = 56.1 Hz). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.91 (s), 138.47 (t, J = 22.4 Hz), 132.80 (t, J = 1.8 Hz), 130.04 (s), 125.72 (t, J = 6.0 Hz), 114.17 (t, J = 239.7 Hz), 61.49 (s), 14.40 (s).



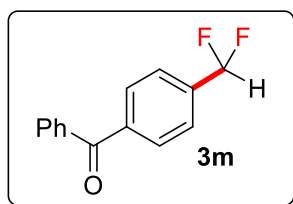
1-(difluoromethyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (3j): dtbpy (5 mol%), PCy₃ (10 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 24 h. This compound is known.⁸ Due to the low boiling point of the product, the yield (52%) was determined by ¹⁹F NMR using PhOCF₃ as an internal standard. This compound is known⁸. The product was characterized by ¹⁹F NMR and GC-MS analysis.



1-(difluoromethyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (3k): dtbpy (5 mol%), PCy₃ (10 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 24 h. This compound is known.⁷ Due to the low boiling point of the product, the yield (62%) was determined by ¹⁹F NMR using PhOCF₃ as an internal standard. This compound is known⁷. The product was characterized by ¹⁹F NMR and GC-MS analysis.

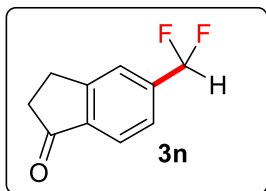


1-(4-(difluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-one (3l): dtbpy (5 mol%), PCy₃ (10 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 48 h. Due to the low boiling point of the product, the yield (67%) was determined by ¹⁹F NMR using PhOCF₃ as an internal standard and the product **3l** was purified with silica gel chromatography (PE/EA = 10:1) as a colorless oil (49% yield). This compound is known.⁷ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.81 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (t, J = 56.1 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -112.29 (d, J = 56.1 Hz). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.53 (s), 138.99 (t, J = 1.7 Hz), 138.64 (t, J = 22.5 Hz), 128.78 (s), 126.04 (t, J = 6.0 Hz), 114.08 (t, J = 239.8 Hz), 26.92 (s).

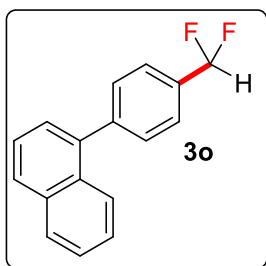


(4-(difluoromethyl)phenyl)(phenyl)

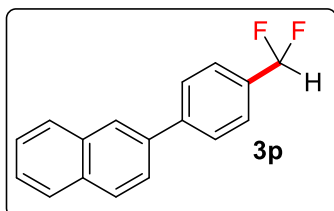
methanone (3m): dtbpy (5 mol%), PCy₃ (10 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 48 h. The product **3m** was purified with silica gel chromatography (PE/EA = 10:1) as a colorless solid (80% yield). This compound is known.⁹ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.81 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.66 – 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (t, J = 56.1 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -112.00 (d, J = 56.1 Hz). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.07 (s), 139.85 (t, J = 1.8 Hz), 137.93 (t, J = 22.4 Hz), 137.14 (s), 133.03 (s), 130.37 (s), 130.23 (s), 128.59 (s), 125.72 (t, J = 6.0 Hz), 114.18 (t, J = 239.7 Hz).



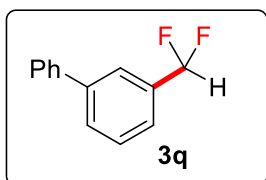
5-(difluoromethyl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-1-one (3n): dtbpy (5 mol%), PCy₃ (10 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 24 h. The product **3n** was purified with silica gel chromatography (PE/EA = 8:1) as a colorless solid (51% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.51 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (t, J = 56.1 Hz, 1H), 3.23 – 3.18 (m, 2H), 2.79 – 2.73 (m, 2H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -111.82 (d, J = 56.1 Hz). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 206.35 (s), 155.46 (s), 140.24 (t, J = 22.0 Hz), 139.05 (t, J = 1.6 Hz), 124.98 (t, J = 5.9 Hz), 124.35 (s), 124.15 (t, J = 6.2 Hz), 114.18 (t, J = 240.2 Hz), 36.53 (s), 25.96 (s). IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 3006, 2939, 2359, 1705, 1615, 1486, 1450, 1431, 1406, 1383, 1322, 1297, 1274, 1192, 1142, 1062, 1020, 965, 934, 898, 843, 778, 760, 710, 685. HRMS EI (m/z): [M]⁺ calcd. for C₁₀H₈OF₂: 182.0543 found: 182.0535.



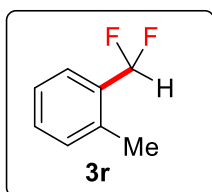
1-(4-(difluoromethyl)phenyl)naphthalene (3o): dtbpy (5 mol%), P(4-OMePh)₃ (10 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 24 h. The product **3o** was purified with silica gel chromatography (PE/EA = 50:1) as a colorless solid. (74% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.90 (dd, J = 12.0, 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.51-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.39 (m, 2H), 6.75 (t, J = 56.5 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -110.21 (d, J = 56.6 Hz). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.51 (t, J = 2.0 Hz), 139.28 (s), 133.90 (s), 133.41 (t, J = 22.4 Hz), 131.49 (s), 130.52 (s), 128.52 (s), 128.29 (s), 127.12 (s), 126.45 (s), 126.09 (s), 125.79 (s), 125.69 (t, J = 6.0 Hz), 125.49 (s), 114.94 (t, J = 238.6 Hz). IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 3043, 2939, 2360, 1927, 1615, 1505, 1493, 1460, 1396, 1377, 1218, 1181, 1143, 1070, 1017, 964, 840, 798, 791, 775, 718, 734, 697, 626. HRMS EI (m/z): [M]⁺ calcd. for C₁₇H₁₂F₂: 254.0907 found: 254.0911



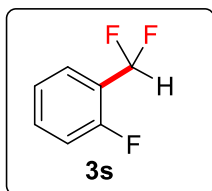
2-(4-(difluoromethyl)phenyl)naphthalene (3p): dtbpy (5 mol%), PPh₃ (10 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 24 h. The product **3p** was purified with silica gel chromatography (PE) as a colorless solid (55% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.95 – 7.85 (m, 3H), 7.78 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.72 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.55 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 6.71 (t, J = 56.5 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -110.28 (d, J = 56.5 Hz). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.72 (t, J = 2.0 Hz), 137.58 (s), 133.71 (s), 133.37 (t, J = 22.5 Hz), 132.98 (s), 128.79 (s), 128.41 (s), 127.81 (s), 126.64 (s), 126.45 (s), 126.31 (s), 126.25 (t, J = 6.1 Hz), 125.44 (s), 114.89 (t, J = 238.5 Hz). IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 3395, 2964, 2927, 2358, 1504, 1443, 1373, 1361, 1233, 1192, 1155, 1086, 1047, 880, 795, 768, 694, 677, 651, 637. HRMS EI (m/z): [M]⁺ calcd. for C₁₇H₁₂F₂: 254.0907 found: 254.0905.



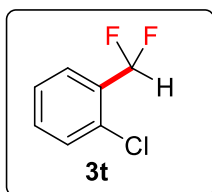
3-(difluoromethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (3q): phen (5 mol%), dppe (5 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 24 h. The product **3q** was purified with silica gel chromatography (PE) as a colorless oil (65% yield). This compound is known.⁷ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.56- 7.42 (m, 4H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (t, J = 56.5 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -110.56 (d, J = 56.5 Hz). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.99 (s), 140.32 (s), 135.04 (t, J = 22.3 Hz), 129.58 (t, J = 1.9 Hz), 129.32 (s), 129.06 (s), 127.94 (s), 127.32 (s), 124.46 (td, J = 6.0, 4.6 Hz), 114.90 (t, J = 239.0 Hz).



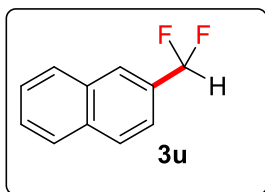
1-(difluoromethyl)-2-methylbenzene (3r): dtbpy (5 mol%), dppe (5 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 48 h. This compound is known.¹⁰ Due to the low boiling point of the product, the yield (76%) was determined by ¹⁹F NMR using PhOCF₃ as an internal standard. This compound is known. The product was characterized by ¹⁹F NMR and GC-MS analysis.



1-(difluoromethyl)-2-fluorobenzene (3s): dtbpy (5 mol%), dppe (5 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 48 h. This compound is known.¹¹ Due to the low boiling point of the product, the yield (67%) was determined by ¹⁹F NMR using PhOCF₃ as an internal standard. This compound is known. The product was characterized by ¹⁹F NMR and GC-MS analysis.

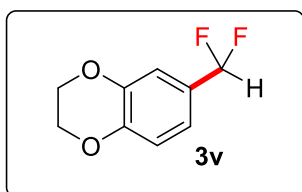


1-chloro-2-(difluoromethyl)benzene (3t): dtbpy (5 mol%), dppe (5 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 48 h. This compound is known.¹² Due to the low boiling point of the product, the yield (62%) was determined by ¹⁹F NMR using PhOCF₃ as an internal standard. This compound is known. The product was characterized by ¹⁹F NMR and GC-MS analysis.



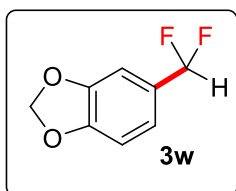
2-(difluoromethyl)naphthalene (3u): dtbpy (5 mol%), PPh₃ (10 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 24 h. The product **3u** was purified with silica gel chromatography (PE/EA = 30:1) as a colorless solid (51% yield). This compound is known.⁷ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97 (s, 1H), 7.95 – 7.86 (m, 3H), 7.62 – 7.52 (m, 3H), 6.80 (t, J = 56.4 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃)

δ -109.82 (d, J = 56.4 Hz). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 134.44 (s), 132.68 (s), 131.74 (t, J = 22.5 Hz), 129.03 (s), 128.66 (s), 128.02 (s), 127.54 (s), 126.95 (s), 126.03 (t, J = 7.1 Hz), 122.16 (t, J = 4.7 Hz), 115.18 (t, J = 238.9 Hz).



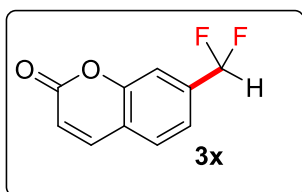
6-(difluoromethyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzo[b][1,4]dioxine (3v): dtbpy (5 mol%), PCy₃ (10 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 24 h. The product **3v** was purified with silica gel chromatography (PE) as a colorless oil (68% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.98 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (t, J = 56.7 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (s, 4H). ¹⁹F NMR

(376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -108.63 (d, J = 56.7 Hz). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.65 (t, J = 1.8 Hz), 143.75 (s), 127.82 (t, J = 22.8 Hz), 118.93 (t, J = 6.2 Hz), 117.69 (s), 115.01 (t, J = 6.1 Hz), 114.66 (t, J = 238.0 Hz), 64.55 (s), 64.40 (s). IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 3424, 3010, 2919, 2850, 2359, 1592, 1494, 1450, 1391, 1353, 1334, 1246, 1226, 1210, 1178, 1160, 1145, 1062, 1029, 924, 838, 805, 748, 720, 697, 667, 615, 639. HRMS EI (m/z): [M]⁺ calcd. for C₉H₈O₂F₂: 186.0492 found: 186.0500.

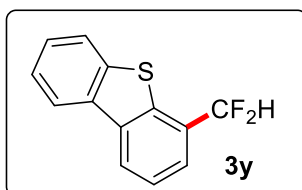


5-(difluoromethyl)benzo[d][1,3]dioxole (3w): dtbpy (5 mol%), PCy₃ (10 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 24 h. The product **3w** was purified with silica gel chromatography (PE) as a colorless oil (62% yield). This compound is known.⁷ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.98 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (t, J = 56.6 Hz, 1H), 6.02 (s, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -

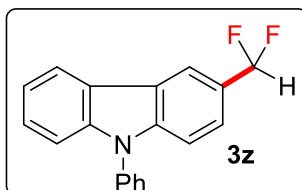
107.89 (d, J = 56.6 Hz). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.69 (t, J = 2.0 Hz), 148.18 (s), 128.43 (t, J = 22.7 Hz), 120.28 (t, J = 7.2 Hz), 114.76 (t, J = 238.1 Hz), 108.36 (s), 105.92 (t, J = 5.5 Hz), 101.71 (s).



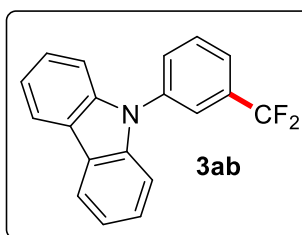
7-(difluoromethyl)-2H-chromen-2-one (3x): dtbpy (5 mol%), dppe (5 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 24 h. The product **3x** was purified with silica gel chromatography (PE/EA = 20:1) as a colorless oil (53% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.75 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (t, J = 56.0 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -112.06 (d, J = 56.0 Hz). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.16 (s), 154.02 (s), 142.72 (s), 137.86 (t, J = 20.1 Hz), 128.63 (s), 121.50 (t, J = 5.9 Hz), 120.61 (s), 118.38 (s), 114.59 (t, J = 6.6 Hz), 113.55 (t, J = 240.6 Hz). IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 3417, 3318, 2991, 2931, 2852, 2360, 1596, 1494, 1458, 1395, 1382, 1315, 1278, 1248, 1210, 1160, 1144, 1043, 991, 908, 924, 873, 850, 781, 749, 697, 668, 619. HRMS EI (m/z): [M]⁺ calcd. for C₁₄H₁₂F₂: 218.0907 found: 218.0914.



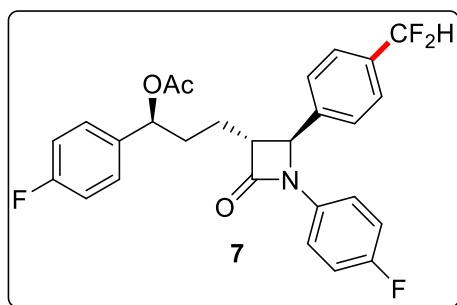
4-(difluoromethyl)dibenzo[b,d]thiophene (3y): dtbpy (5 mol%), P(4-OMePh)₃ (10 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 24 h. The product **3y** was purified with silica gel chromatography (PE) as a colorless solid (51% yield). This compound is known.⁷ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.24 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 8.20 – 8.14 (m, 1H), 7.91 – 7.85 (m, 1H), 7.61 (dd, J = 7.4, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.51 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 6.93 (t, J = 55.6 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -113.35 (d, J = 55.6 Hz). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 139.62 (s), 137.14 (s), 136.78 (t, J = 3.2 Hz), 134.77 (s), 128.67 (t, J = 22.9 Hz), 127.50 (s), 124.83 (s), 124.53 (s), 124.46 (t, J = 7.1 Hz), 123.89 (s), 122.85 (s), 121.83 (s), 114.60 (t, J = 239.6 Hz).



3-(difluoromethyl)-9-phenyl-9H-carbazole (3z): dtbpy (5 mol%), dppe (5 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 24 h. The product **3z** was purified with silica gel chromatography (PE/EA = 50:1) as a colorless solid (73 % yield). This compound is known.⁷ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.21 (d, J = 0.5 Hz, 1H), 8.12 – 8.04 (m, 1H), 7.56 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.48 – 7.43 (m, 3H), 7.43 – 7.39 (m, 1H), 7.37 – 7.30 (m, 3H), 7.24 (ddd, J = 8.0, 6.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (t, J = 56.9 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -106.25 (d, J = 56.9 Hz). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.20 (s), 141.65 (s), 137.35 (s), 130.16 (s), 128.05 (s), 127.29 (s), 126.75 (s), 126.29 (t, J = 22.5 Hz), 123.38 (t, J = 6.1 Hz), 123.33 (s), 123.13 (s), 120.63 (s), 120.62 (s), 118.27 (t, J = 6.5 Hz), 115.88 (t, J = 234.7 Hz), 110.23 (s), 110.13 (s).



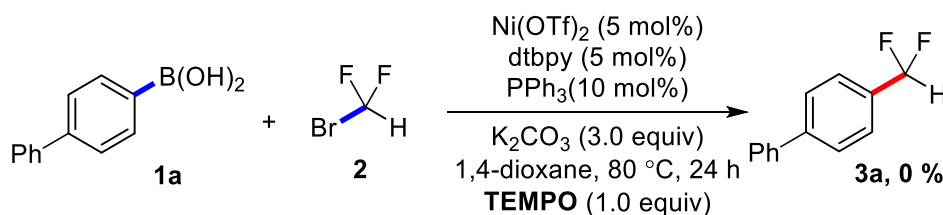
9-(3-(difluoromethyl)phenyl)-9H-carbazole(3ab): dtbpy (5 mol%), PCy₃ (10 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 48 h. The product **3ab** was purified with silica gel chromatography (PE) as a colorless solid (81 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.14 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 7.45 – 7.35 (m, 4H), 7.35 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 6.73 (t, J = 56.2 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -111.02 (d, J = 56.3 Hz). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.73 (s), 138.45 (s), 136.50 (t, J = 22.7 Hz), 130.59 (s), 129.43 (t, J = 1.7 Hz), 126.27 (s), 124.62 (t, J = 6.0 Hz), 124.34 (t, J = 6.1 Hz), 123.67 (s), 114.22 (t, J = 239.7 Hz), 109.67 (s). IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 3042, 2939, 2359, 1594, 1496, 1478, 1457, 1448, 1389, 1366, 1334, 1313, 1245, 1226, 1210, 1178, 1160, 1146, 1120, 1058, 1019, 924, 907, 864, 794, 748, 720, 698, 668, 615. HRMS EI (m/z): [M]⁺ calcd. for C₁₉H₁₃NF₂: 293.1016 found: 293.1013.



(S)-3-(2S,3R-2-(4-(difluoromethyl)phenyl)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-oxoazetidin-3-yl)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)propyl acetate(7): dtbpy (5 mol%), PPh₃ (10 mol%) were used as ligands, the reaction was run for 24 h. The product **7** was purified with silica gel chromatography (PE/EA = 5:1) as a colorless solid (81% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.53 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.31 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.23 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 7.02 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.64 (t, J = 56.3 Hz, 1H), 5.70 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (td, J = 7.7, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 2.09 – 1.99 (m, 5H), 1.94 – 1.83 (m, 2H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -110.89 (d, J = 56.6 Hz), -113.68 (ddd, J = 18.2, 9.0, 5.5 Hz), -117.56 (ddd, J = 13.5, 8.7, 4.8 Hz). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.33 (s), 166.60 (s), 162.57 (d, J = 246.8 Hz), 159.21 (d, J = 243.8 Hz), 140.45 (s), 135.74 (d, J = 3.2 Hz), 134.98 (t, J = 22.6 Hz), 133.68 (d, J = 2.7 Hz), 128.39 (s), 128.31 (s), 126.80 (t, J = 6.0 Hz), 126.27 (s), 118.40 (d, J = 7.9 Hz), 116.09 (d, J = 22.7 Hz), 115.68 (d, J = 21.6 Hz), 114.31 (t, J = 239.1 Hz), 74.91 (s), 60.84 (s), 60.33 (s), 33.72 (s), 25.04 (s), 21.30 (s). IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 3426, 3012, 2937, 2360, 1742, 1595, 1509, 1496, 1479, 1457, 1448, 1388, 1354, 1334, 1312, 1244, 1159, 1146, 1120, 1017, 924, 907, 834, 795, 748, 720, 697, 668, 639. HRMS ESI (m/z): [M+Na]⁺ calcd. for C₂₇H₂₃O₃NF₄Na: 508.1512 found: 508.1516.

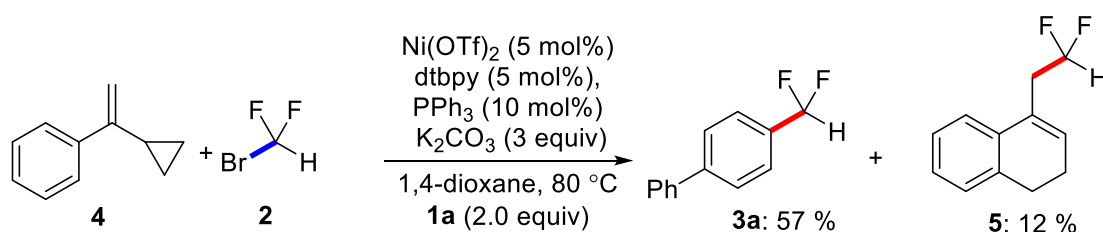
Mechanistic Studies:

1. Radical Trapping Experiment with TEMPO



To a 5 mL sealed tube were added **1a** (2.0 equiv, 0.4 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (5 mol %, 0.01 mmol), dtbpy (5 mol %, 0.01 mmol), PPh₃ (10 mol%, 0.02 mol) and K₂CO₃ (3.0 equiv, 0.6 mmol) under air. The vessel was evacuated and backfilled with N₂ (3 times) and 1,4-dioxane (2.0 mL) were added via syringe, then **2** (1.0 equiv, 0.2 mmol) and TEMPO (1.0 equiv, 0.2 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was heated in a preheated oil bath at 80 °C for 24 h, and was cooled to room temperature. No product **3a** was detected by crude ¹⁹F NMR.

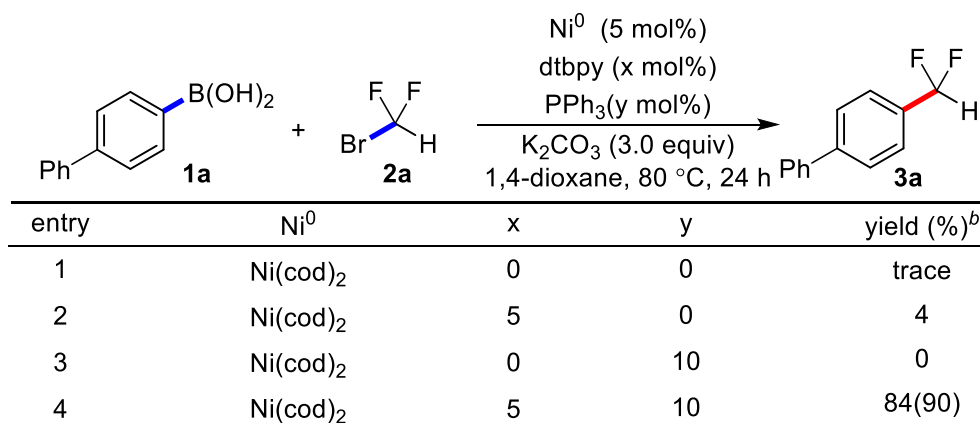
2. Radical Clock Experiment:



To a 5 mL sealed tube were added **1a** (2.0 equiv, 0.4 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (5 mol %, 0.01 mmol), dtbpy (5 mol %, 0.01 mmol), PPh₃ (10 mol%, 0.02 mol) and K₂CO₃ (3.0 equiv, 0.6 mmol) under air. The vessel was evacuated and backfilled with N₂ (3 times) and 1,4-dioxane (2.0 mL) was added via syringe, then **2a** (1.0 equiv, 0.2 mmol) and **4** (2.0 equiv, 0.4 mmol) were added. The tube was screw capped and put into

a preheated oil bath at 80 °C for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc and filtered through a pad of celite. The filtrate was concentrated under vacuum and purified by flash column chromatography (PE) to give product **3a** in 57% yield and the yield of product **5** was determined by crude ^{19}F NMR. **Note:** The product **5** was isolated with silica gel chromatography (PE) to give a unseparated mixture with **3a** as a colorless solid, the yield (12% yield) was determined by the ratio of the mixture via ^{19}F NMR analysis ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -113.93 (dt, J = 56.8, 16.5 Hz). HRMS EI (m/z): $[\text{M}]^+$ calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_2$: 194.0907 found: 194.0914.

3. Procedure of Monofluoroalkylation with Ni^0 used as the catalyst



^a Unless otherwise noted, the reaction conditions were as follows: **1a** (2.0 equiv), **2a** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Ni^0 (5 mol%), bpy (x mol%), PPh_3 (y mol%), K_2CO_3 (3.0 equiv), 1,4-dioxane (2 mL), 80 °C, 24 h, N_2 , 5 mL sealed tube. ^b Yields determined by ^{19}F NMR using PhOCF_3 as an internal standard; number in parentheses was isolated yields

References:

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NMR Spectra of New Compounds (^1H NMR, ^{19}F NMR, ^{13}C NMR).

