Supporting Information

A New Approach to Access Difluoroalkylated Diarylmethanes

via Visible-Light Photocatalytic Cross-Coupling Reactions

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1. General Information

All glassware was thoroughly oven-dried. Chemicals and solvents were either purchased from commercial suppliers or purified by standard techniques. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silicycle silica gel plates with F-254 indicator and compounds were visualized by exposure to ultraviolet light and/or staining with phosphomolybdic acid followed by heating on a hot plate. Flash chromatography was carried out using silica gel (200-300 mesh). ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM-400 spectrometer (400 MHz ¹H, 100 MHz ¹³C, 376 MHz ¹⁹F). The spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ as solvent at room temperature, ¹H and ¹³C NMR chemical shifts are reported in ppm relative to the residual solvent peak. The residual solvent signals were used as references and the chemical shifts were converted to the TMS scale (CDCl₃: $\delta_H = 7.26$ ppm, $\delta_C = 77.00$ ppm). Data for ¹H NMR are reported as follows: chemical shift (δ ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q=quartet, m = multiplet, dd = double doublet), integration, coupling constant (Hz) and assignment. Data for ¹³C NMR are reported as chemical shift, multiplicity and coupling constant (Hz). Data for ¹⁹F NMR are reported in terms of chemical shift, multiplicity and coupling constant (Hz). HRMS were performed on a Bruker Apex II mass instrument (ESI). All luminescence spectra were surveyed on a PE-LS55 fluorescence spectrophotometer and equipped with a 1-cm quartz cell.

2. Preparation of Substrates

2.1 para-Quinone Methides (p-QMs)

Substrates 1(1a-1p) were synthesized according to the reported literatures¹⁻² with slight modifications:



In a three-necked flask, a solution of 2,6-di-*tert*-butylphenol **S1** (10 mmol) and the corresponding benzaldehyde **S2** (1.2 equiv.) in toluene (60 ml) was heated to reflux. Then piperidine (2.0 equiv.) was added dropwise and the reaction mixture was continued to reflux for 24 h. After cooling the reaction mixture just below the boiling point of toluene, acetic anhydride (2.0 equiv.) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for another 15 min. Then the reaction mixture was poured on ice-water (200 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3×20 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and the solvent of the filtrate was removed under reduced pressure. The crude products were purified by flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate), affording the desired *p*-QMs (**1a-1q**).

2.2 Preparation of Difluoromethylated Bromides



Difluoromethylated bromides $2b^3$, $2c-e^4$, $2f^5$ was synthesized following the published procedures with slight modifications.

3. Optimization of Reaction Conditions

	t-Bu t-Bu + Br	O Cat. (1 mol%) H OEt -Pr ₂ NEt (3.0 equ F F MeCN	(1)
Entry ^a	1a	2a Catalyst	$3aa$ Viold $(9/2)^b$
1	fac-Ir(ppy)3		65
2	Ru(bpy) ₃ Cl ₂ •6H ₂ O		32
3^c		Eosin Y	38
4		Ir(ppy) ₂ (dtbbpy)PF ₆	39
5	Ir[dF	$F(CF_3)(ppy)_2](dtbbpy)PF_6$	40
6^d		$fac-Ir(npy)_2$	NR^{e}
-		jue n(ppy);	
		-	trace
8^{f}		<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) ₃	NR

 Table S1. 4.
 The Optimization of Photocatalysts and Control Experiments

^{*a*}Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol), **2a** (1.5 equiv.), photocatalyst (1 mol%), *i*-Pr₂NEt (3.0 equiv.), MeCN (1 mL), and blue LEDs under N₂ at room temperature for 36 h. ^{*b*}Isolated yield. ^{*c*}Green LEDs. ^{*d*}No light. ^{*e*}NR (No Reaction). ^{*f*}No reductant.

Table S2. The Optimization of Reductants and Control Experiments



Entry ^a	Reductant	Yield(%) ^b
1	<i>i</i> -Pr ₂ NEt	65
2^c	Hantzsch Ester	11
3	Et ₃ N	32
4	<i>i</i> -Pr ₂ NH	38
5	Hantzsch Ester (1.0equiv.)/ <i>i</i> -Pr ₂ NEt (2.0equiv)	40
6	DABCO	39
7	K_2CO_3	\mathbf{NR}^{d}
8 ^e	<i>i</i> -Pr ₂ NEt	23
9^f	<i>i</i> -Pr ₂ NEt	39

^{*a*}Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol), **2a** (1.5 equiv.), *fac*-Ir(ppy)₃ (1 mol%), reductant (3.0 equiv.), MeCN (1 mL), blue LEDs, under N₂ at room temperature for 36 h. ^{*b*}Isolated yield. ^{*c*}Reacted for 4 h. ^{*d*}NR (No Reaction). ^{*e*}*i*-Pr₂NEt (2.0 equiv.). ^{*f*}*i*-Pr₂NEt (4.0 equiv.).

Table S3. The Optimization of Solvents and Substrate Concentration



Entry ^a	Solvent	$\operatorname{Yield}(\%)^b$
1	DCM	26
2	MeOH	14
3	DMF	32
4	Toulene	47
5	THF	40
6	DCE	33
7	DMSO	20
8	1,4-dioxane	69
9	acetone	72
10 ^c	acetone	76
11^d	acetone	65
12 ^{ce}	acetone	68

^{*a*}Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol), **2a** (1.5 equiv.), *fac*-Ir(ppy)₃ (1 mol%), *i*-Pr₂NEt (3.0 equiv.), solvent (1 mL), and blue LEDs under N₂ at room temperature for 36 h. ^{*b*}Isolated yield. ^{*c*}**2a** (2.0 equiv.). ^{*d*}**2a** (3.0 equiv.). ^{*e*}Acetone (2 mL).

Table S4. The Optimization of the Amount of the Additive H₂O



Entry ^a	H ₂ O (equiv.)	$\operatorname{Yield}(\%)^b$
1	0.5	78
2	1.0	85
3	1.5	80
4	2.0	79
5	3.0	76

^{*a*}Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol), **2a** (2.0 equiv.), *fac*-Ir(ppy)₃ (1 mol%), *i*-Pr₂NEt (3.0 equiv.), acetone (1 mL), H₂O (additive), and blue LEDs under N₂ at room temperature for 24 h. ^{*b*}Isolated yield.

4. General Procedure and Analytical Data of Products 3



4.1 General Procedure for the Synthesis of Products 3

A mixture of *fac*-Ir(ppy)₃ (1 mol%), *p*-QMs **1** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), bromodifluoroacetates **2** (0.2 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), *i*-Pr₂NEt (50 μ L, 3.0 equiv.), H₂O (2 μ L, 1.0 equiv.) and acetone (1 mL) was degassed by three cycles of freeze-pump-thaw. The mixture was stirred under nitrogen atmosphere at room temperature while irradiated by blue LEDs for 24-48 h. After completion of the reaction, the crude mixture was purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) to afford the pure products **3**.

4.2 Analytical Data of Products 3

Ethyl 3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2-difluoro-3-phenyl-propanoate (3aa)



Following the general synthesis procedure, the product **3aa** was obtained as a pale yellow liquid in 85% yield (35.6 mg, PE/EA = 50:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.42 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.18 (s, 2H), 5.16 (s, 1H),

4.64 (t, J = 18.4 Hz, 1H), 4.16-4.04 (m, 2H), 1.40 (s, 18H), 1.02 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 164.0 (t, J = 32 Hz), 153.3, 136.1, 135.7, 129.5, 128.4, 127.5, 126.2, 125.8, 116.1 (t, J = 255 Hz), 62.4, 55.4 (t, J = 21 Hz), 34.3, 30.2, 13.5. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -105.68 (d, J = 254.9 Hz, 1F), -107.07 (d, J = 255.3 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd for [C₂₅H₃₃F₂O₃]: 419.2392, found: 419.2400.

Ethyl 3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2-difluoro-3-(o-tolyl)propanoate (3ba)



Me

Following the general synthesis procedure, the product **3ba** was obtained as a pale yellow solid in 78% yield (32.4 mg, PE/EA = 50:1). m. p.: 84–86°C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.61 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.15 (m, 5H), 5.14 (s, 1H), 4.94-4.84 (m, 1H),

4.11 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H) 1.39 (s, 18H), 1.02 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 164.1 (t, J = 32 Hz), 153.2, 136.7, 135.6, 134.8 (d, J = 5 Hz), 130.7, 128.0, 127.4, 126.7, 126.1, 125.0, 116.3 (t, J = 256 Hz), 62.5, 50.5 (t, J = 22 Hz), 34.2, 30.2, 20.1, 13.5. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -101.83 (d, J = 256.1 Hz, 1F), -108.11 (d, J = 256.1 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI): [M+K]⁺ calcd for [C₂₆H₃₄F₂KO₃]: 471.2108, found: 471.2096.

Ethyl 3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2-difluoro-3-(m-tolyl)propanoate (3ca)

Following the general synthesis procedure, the product **3ca** was obtained as a pale yellow liquid in 80% yield (34.6 mg, PE/EA = 50:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.23-7.21 (m, 3H), 7.19 (s, 2H), 7.09-7.07 (m, 1H), 5.16 (s, 1H), 4.59 (t, *J* = 18.4 Hz, 1H),

4.16-4.05 (m, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.41 (s,18 H), 1.03 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 164.0 (t, J = 32 Hz), 153.2, 137.9, 135.9, 135.7, 130.4, 128.2, 128.2, 126.4, 126.2, 125.9, 116.1 (t, J = 254 Hz), 62.4, 55.4 (t, J = 21 Hz), 34.2, 30.2, 21.4, 13.5. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -105.77 (d, J = 254.6 Hz, 1F), -106.88 (d, J = 254.6 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺ calcd for [C₂₆H₃₄F₂NaO₃]: 455.2368, found: 455.2358.

Ethyl 3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2-difluoro-3-(p-tolyl)propanoate (3da)



Following the general synthesis procedure, the product **3da** was obtained as a pale yellow liquid in 77% yield (32.3 mg, PE/EA = 50:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.31 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (s, 2H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 5.15 (s, 1H), 4.59 (t, *J* =

18.4 Hz, 1H), 4.16-4.04 (m, 2H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 1.40 (s,18 H), 1.04 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 164.1 (t, J = 32 Hz), 153.3, 137.2, 135.7, 133.1 (d, J = 4 Hz), 129.4, 129.1, 126.2, 126.1, 116.2 (t, J = 254 Hz), 62.4, 55.2 (t, J = 21 Hz), 34.3, 30.2, 21.0, 13.6. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -105.55 (d, J = 254.6 Hz, 1F), -107.24 (d, J = 254.6 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺ calcd for [C₂₆H₃₄F₂NaO₃]: 455.2368, found: 455.2355.

Ethyl 3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2-difluoro-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-propanoate (3ea)

Following the general synthesis procedure, the product **3ea** was obtained as a pale yellow liquid in 84% yield (37.6 mg, PE/EA = 30:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.33 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (s, 2H), 6.86 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.15 (s, 1H), 4.59 (t, J = 18.4 Hz, 1H), 4.16-4.05 (m, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 1.40 (s,18 H), 1.05 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.9 (t, J = 32 Hz), 158.9, 153.2, 135.7, 130.6, 128.1, 126.2, 126.1, 116.1 (t, J = 254 Hz), 113.8, 62.3, 55.0, 54.6 (t, J = 22 Hz), 34.2, 30.1, 13.5. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -105.88 (d, J = 255.3 Hz, 1F), -107.12 (d, J = 254.2 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺ calcd for [C₂₆H₃₄F₂NaO₄]: 471.2317, found: 471.2309.

Ethyl 3-(2-chlorophenyl)-3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2-difluoropropanoate (3fa)

Following the general synthesis procedure, the product **3fa** was obtained as a pale yellow liquid in 83% yield (35.7 mg, PE/EA = 50:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.72 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.36(m, 1H), 7.29-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 3H), 5.33 (t, J = 18.4 Hz, 1H), 5.16 (s, 1H), 4.14(q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.40 (s,18 H), 1.07 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.7 (t, J = 32 Hz), 153.4, 135.7, 134.8, 134.4 (d, J = 5 Hz), 129.9, 129.7, 128.7, 126.9, 126.6, 124.6, 116.0 (t, J = 255 Hz), 62.7, 50.5 (t, J = 23 Hz), 34.3, 30.2, 13.6. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -103.91 (d, J = 256.8 Hz, 1F), -107.02 (d, J = 256.8 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺ calcd for [C₂₅H₃₁ClF₂NaO₃]: 475.1822, found: 475.1811.

Ethyl 3-(3-chlorophenyl)-3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2-difluoropropanoate (3ga)



Following the general synthesis procedure, the product **3ga** was obtained as a pale yellow liquid in 73% yield (33.0 mg, PE/EA = 50:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.40 (s, 1H), 7.34-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.14 (s, 2H), 5.20 (s, 1H), 4.66-4.57 (m,

1H), 4.19-4.07(m, 2H), 1.41 (s,18 H), 1.06 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.8 (t, J = 32 Hz), 153.5, 138.1 (d, J = 4 Hz), 136.0, 134.2, 129.9, 129.7, 127.8, 127.6, 126.2, 125.2 (d, J = 5 Hz), 115.8 (t, J = 254 Hz), 62.7, 55.1 (t, J = 22

Hz), 34.3, 30.2, 13.6. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -104.71 (d, J = 256.1 Hz, 1F), -107.94 (d, J = 256.1 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI): $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $[C_{25}H_{31}ClF_2NaO_3]$: 475.1822, found: 475.1826.

Ethyl 3-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2-difluoropropanoate (3ha)



ΟН

t-Bu

t-Bu

Following the general synthesis procedure, the product **3ha** was obtained as a pale yellow liquid in 82% yield (37.1 mg, PE/EA =50:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.36-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.13 (s, 2H), 5.18 (s, 1H), 4.62 (t, J = 18.4 Hz, 1H), 4.18-4.06 (m, 2H), 1.40 (s,18 H), 1.06 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.8 (t, J =32 Hz), 153.4, 135.9, 134.7 (d, *J* = 4 Hz), 133.5, 130.9, 128.6, 126.1, 125.4 (d, *J* = 5 Hz), 115.9 (t, J = 254 Hz), 62.6, 54.7 (t, J = 22 Hz), 34.3, 30.2, 13.6. ¹⁹F NMR (376) MHz, CDCl₃): δ -104.65 (d, J = 256 Hz, 1F), -107.99 (d, J = 256.1 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI): $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $[C_{25}H_{31}ClF_2NaO_3]$: 475.1822, found: 475.1814.

Ethyl 3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2-difluoro-3-(4-fluorophenyl)propanoate (3ia)

Following the general synthesis procedure, the product **3ia** was t-Bu t-Bu obtained as a pale yellow liquid in 69% yield (30.1 mg, PE/EA =50:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.40-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.14 (s, 2H), 7.26 (t, 1H), 7.02 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.18 (s, 1H), 4.63 (t, J = 18.4 Hz, 1H), 4.17-4.06 (m, 2H), 1.41 (s,18 H), 1.05 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR $(100 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3)$: δ 163.9 (t, J = 32 Hz), 162.2 (d, J = 245 Hz), 153.4, 135.9, 131.9, 131.6 (d, J = 8 Hz), 126.1, 125.7 (d, J = 5 Hz), 115.9 (t, J = 255 Hz), 115.6 (d, J = 21 Hz), 62.6, 54.6 (t, J = 22 Hz), 34.3, 30.2, 13.6. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -105.34 (d, J = 255.7 Hz, 1F), -107.73 (d, J = 255.7 Hz, 1F), -114.92 (s, 1F). HRMS (ESI): $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $[C_{25}H_{31}F_3NaO_3]$: 459.2118, found: 459.2112.

Ethyl 3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2-difluoro-3-(4-nitrophenyl)propanoate (3ja)

Following the general synthesis procedure, the product **3ja** was obtained as a pale brown liquid in 45% yield (20.8 mg, PE/EA =30:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.19 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (s, 2H), 5.24 (s, 1H), 4.82-4.73 (m,

1H), 4.20-4.08 (m, 2H), 1.41 (s,18 H), 1.07 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.3 (t, J = 32 Hz), 153.7, 147.2, 143.5 (d, J = 3 Hz), 136.2, 130.4, 126.0, 124.4 (d, J = 6 Hz), 123.5, 115.5 (t, J = 254 Hz), 62.8, 54.9 (t, J = 22 Hz), 34.2, 30.1, 13.5. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -102.66 (d, J = 257.9 Hz, 1F), -109.24 (d, J = 257.9 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd for [C₂₅H₃₂F₂NO₅]: 464.2243, found: 464.2234.

Ethyl 3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2-difluoro-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)-phenyl)propanoate (3ka)

Following the general synthesis procedure, the product **3ka** was obtained as a pale yellow liquid in 68% yield (33.1 mg, PE/EA = 50:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.60-7.53 (m, 4H), 7.15 (s, 2H), 5.21 (s, 1H), 4.76-4.67 (m, 1H), 4.19-4.06 (m, 2H), 1.41 (s,18 H), 1.05 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.6 (t, *J* = 32 Hz), 153.6, 140.3, 136.1, 129.9, 129.6, 126.1, 125.3 (t, *J* = 4 Hz), 125.0 (d, *J* = 5 Hz), 124.0 (q, *J* = 271 Hz), 115.8 (t, *J* = 254 Hz), 62.7, 55.2 (t, *J* = 22 Hz), 34.3, 30.1, 13.5. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -62.61 (s, 3F), -103.65 (d, *J* = 256.8 Hz, 1F), -108.67 (d, *J* = 256.8 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺ calcd for [C₂₆H₃₁F₅NaO₃]: 509.2086, found: 509.2078.

Ethyl 3-(4-cyanophenyl)-3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2difluoropropanoate (3la)

Following the general synthesis procedure, the product **3la** was obtained as a pale yellow liquid in 76% yield (33.7 mg, PE/EA = 15:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.63 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (s, 2H), 5.23 (s, 1H), 4.76-4.67 (m, 1H), 4.19-4.07 (m, 2H), 1.40 (s, 18 H), 1.06 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.5 (t, J = 32 Hz), 135.7, 141.6 (d, J = 4 Hz), 136.3, 132.2, 130.3, 126.1, 124.6 (d, J = 6 Hz), 118.6, 115.7 (t, J = 254 Hz), 111.6, 62.8, 55.3 (t, J = 22 Hz), 34.3, 30.2, 13.6. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -103.10 (d, J = 257.9 Hz, 1F), -109.02 (d, J = 257.6 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺ calcd for [C₂₆H₃₁F₂NNaO₃]: 466.2164, found: 466.2160.

Methyl 4-(1-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-3-ethoxy-2,2-difluoro-3oxopropyl)benzoate (3ma)

Following the general synthesis procedure, the product **3ma** was obtained as a pale yellow liquid in 80% yield (38.1 mg, PE/EA = 15:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.00 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (s, 2H), 5.20 (s, 1H), 4.71 (t, *J* = 18.4 Hz, 1H), 4.17-4.06 (m, 2H), 3.90 (s, 1H), 1.40 (s, 18 H), 1.05 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 166.8, 163.8 (t, *J* = 32 Hz), 153.5, 141.3 (d, *J* = 4 Hz), 135.9, 129.7, 129.6, 129.4, 126.2, 125.1 (d, *J* = 5 Hz), 115.8 (t, *J* = 254 Hz), 62.7, 55.3 (t, *J* = 22 Hz), 52.1, 34.3, 30.2, 13.6. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -104.92 (d, *J* = 256.8 Hz, 1F), -107.49 (d, *J* = 256.8 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺ calcd for [C₂₇H₃₄F₂NaO₅]: 499.2267, found: 499.2259.

Ethyl 3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-3-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-2,2-difluoropropanoate (3na)



Following the general synthesis procedure, the product **3na** was obtained as a pale yellow liquid in 55% yield (26.3 mg, PE/EA = 10:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.19 (s, 2H), 6.98-6.97 (m, 2H), 6.83-6.81 (m, 1H), 5.17 (s, 1H), 4.58 (t, *J* = 18.4 Hz, 1H), 4.15-4.08 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 1.41 (s, 18 H), 1.06

(t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.9 (t, J = 32 Hz), 153.2, 148.6, 148.4, 135.7, 128.4, 126.1, 125.9, 121.9, 116.1 (t, J = 254 Hz), 112.8, 110.9, 62.3, 55.6, 54.9 (t, J = 22 Hz), 34.2, 30.1, 13.5. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -106.14 (d, J = 254.6 Hz, 1F), -106.89 (d, J = 254.6 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd for [C₂₇H₃₇F₂O₅]: 479.2604, found: 479.2601.

Ethyl 3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-3-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)-2,2difluoropropanoate (30a)

Following the general synthesis procedure, the product **3oa** was obtained as a pale yellow liquid in 80% yield (38.9 mg, PE/EA = 50:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.50-7.49 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.40 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.11 (s, 2H), 5.22 (s, 1H),

4.65-4.56 (m, 1H), 4.19-4.07 (m, 2H), 1.41 (s, 18 H), 1.07 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.6 (t, J = 32 Hz), 153.7, 136.4 (d, J = 4 Hz), 136.2, 132.5, 131.8, 131.7, 130.3, 128.8, 126.0, 124.8 (d, J = 5 Hz), 115.7 (t, J = 254 Hz), 62.7, 54.5 (t, J = 22 Hz), 34.3, 30.2, 13.6. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -103.70 (d,

J = 257.2 Hz, 1F), -108.88 (d, J = 256.8 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI): $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for [C₂₅H₃₀Cl₂F₂NaO₃]: 509.1432, found: 509.1423.

Ethyl 3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2-difluoro-3-(naphthalen-1-yl)propanoate (3pa)

Following the general synthesis procedure, the product 3pa was t-Bu t-Bi obtained as a white solid in 62% yield (29.1 mg, PE/EA = 50:1). m. p.: 126–128°C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.12(d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.85-7.77 (m, 3H), 7.54-7.44(m, 3H), 7.25-7.24 (m, 2H), 5.61-5.52 (m, 1H), 5.13 (s, 1H), 4.04 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.38 (s, 18 H), 0.88 (t, J =7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 164.1 (t, J = 32 Hz), 153.3, 135., 133.9, 132.1, (d, J = 6 Hz), 131.7, 128.9, 128.2, 126.5, 126.4, 126.1, (d, J = 4 Hz), 125.5, 125.2, (d, J = 3 Hz), 125.1, 123.2, 116.3 (t, J = 254 Hz), 62.5, 49.6 (t, J = 22 Hz), 34.2, 30.1. 13.3. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -101.03 (d, J = 256.4 Hz, 1F), -107.58 (d, J = 256.4 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI): $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $[C_{29}H_{34}F_2NaO_3]$: 491.2368, found: 491.2361.

3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2-difluoro-1,3-diphenylpropan-1-one (**3ab**)



Following the general synthesis procedure, the product **3ab** was obtained as a white solid in 52% yield (23.4 mg, PE/EA = 15:1). m. p.: $122-124^{\circ}$ C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.77 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.44(d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.09 (s, 2H), 5.11 (s, 1H), 4.04-4.81 (m, 1H), 1.33 (s, 18H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 191.1 (t, J = 29 Hz), 153.2, 136.7 (d, J = 4 Hz), 135.8, 133.5, 129.6, 129.5 (t, J = 4 Hz), 128.4, 128.3, 127.3, 126.6, 126.0 (d, *J* = 5 Hz), 119.3 (t, *J* = 258 Hz), 55.4 (t, *J* = 22 Hz), 34.2, 30.1. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -98.80 (d, J = 268.1 Hz, 1F), -103.40 (d, J = 268.1 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI): $[M+K]^+$ calcd for $[C_{29}H_{32}F_2KO_2]$: 489.2002, found: 489.1993.

3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2-difluoro-N,3-diphenylpropanamide (**3ac**)



Following the general synthesis procedure, the product **3ac** was obtained as a white solid in 77% yield (35.8 mg, PE/EA = 20:1). m. p.: 140–142°C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.49-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.27 (m, 4H), 7.26 (s,

2H), 7.21 (s, 2H), 5.14 (s, 1H), 4.89 (t, J = 18.8 Hz, 1H), 1.36 (s, 18H). ¹³C NMR

(100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 162.1 (t, J = 28 Hz), 153.2, 136.3, 135.9, 135.7, 129.5, 128.9, 128.5, 127.4, 126.1, 125.4, 120.4, 118.3 (t, J = 258 Hz), 54.3 (t, J = 22 Hz), 34.2, 30.1. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -106.72 (d, J = 247.0 Hz, 1F), -108.55 (d, J = 247.0 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺ calcd for [C₂₉H₃₃F₂NNaO₂]: 488.2372, found: 488.2368.

3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2-difluoro-3-phenyl-1-(piperidin-1-yl)-propan-1-one (3ad)

Following the general synthesis procedure, the product **3ad** was obtained as a pale yellow liquid in 78% yield (35.6 mg, PE/EA = 15:1). m. p.: 154–156°C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.45 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.24-7.19 (m, 3H), 5.13 (s, 1H), 4.85 (t, *J* = 18.4 Hz, 1H), 3.51-3.41 (m, 4H), 1.60-1.48 (m, 6H), 1.40 (s, 18 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 162.0 (t, *J* = 28 Hz), 152.9, 137.8, 135.5, 129.5, 128.3, 127.3, 126.9, 126.5, 119.3 (t, *J* = 258 Hz), 55.6 (t, *J* = 22 Hz), 46.8, 44.8, 34.3, 30.2, 26.3, 25.5, 24.3. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -98.39 (d, *J* = 267.7 Hz, 1F), -99.23 (d, *J* = 267.7 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd for [C₂₈H₃₈F₂NO₂]: 458.2865, found: 458.2857.

3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2-difluoro-1-morpholino-3-phenylpropan-1-one (3ae)

Following the general synthesis procedure, the product **3ae** was obtained as a white solid in 77% yield (35.3 mg, PE/EA = 10:1). m. p.: 134–136°C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.38 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.19-7.16 (m, 1H), 7.12 (s, 2H), 5.09 (s, 1H), 4.75 (t, *J* = 18.4 Hz, 1H), 3.51-3.35 (m, 7 H), 3.26-3.22 (m, 1 H), 1.32 (s, 18H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 162.3 (t, *J* = 29 Hz), 153.1, 137.3 (d, *J* = 3 Hz), 135.7, 129.3, 128.3, 127.1, 126.7, (d, *J* = 4 Hz), 126.4, 119.2 (t, *J* = 258 Hz), 66.4, 55.5 (t, *J* = 22 Hz), 53.3, 46.4, 43.6, 34.2, 30.1. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -98.42 (d, *J* = 265.8 Hz, 1F), -99.69 (d, *J* = 265.5 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd for [C₂₇H₃₆F₂NO₃]: 460.2658, found: 460.2650.

Ethyl 3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-fluoro-3-phenylpropanoate (3af)



Following the general synthesis procedure, the product **3af** was obtained as a colorless liquid in 70% yield (32.4 mg, PE/EA = 30:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.76-7.74 (m, 1H), 7.53-7.49 (m, 3H), 7.41-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.29 (m, 2H),

7.25-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.16 (s, 2H), 5.10 (s, 1H), 5.03 (t, J = 18.0 Hz, 1H), 1.32 (s, 18 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.4 (t, J = 34 Hz), 153.2, 150.3, 140.1, 136.4, 135.6, 129.5, 128.5, 127.4, 126.4, 126.3, 126.0, 125.1, 121.1, 117.1 (t, J = 247 Hz), 111.1, 57.1 (t, J = 226 Hz), 34.2, 30.1. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -98.74 (d, J = 268.0 Hz, 1F), -100.9 (d, J = 267.3 Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd for [C₂₉H₃₁F₂NO₂]: 464.2396, found: 464.2390.

Ethyl 3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-fluoro-3-phenylpropanoate (3ag)

OH t-Bu t-Bu O t-Bu

obtained as a pale yellow liquid in 69% yield (27.6 mg, dr = 1:1, PE/EA = 30:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.37-7.21 (m, 5H), 7.12-7.11 (m, 2H), 5.51-5.37 (m, 1H), 5.12-5.10 (m, 1H), 4.52-4.42

Following the general synthesis procedure, the product 3ag was

(m, 1H), 4.10-4.01 (m, 2H), 1.40 (s, 18 H), 1.05-1.01 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.9, 168.8, 168.7, 168.6, 152.8, 152.8, 140.0, 139.9, 138.9, 135.8, 135.6, 129.9, 129.8, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 126.9, 126.8, 125.6, 125.6, 125.1, 92.6, 92.5, 90.7, 90.6, 61.2, 53.5, 53.4, 53.3, 53.2, 34.3, 34.2, 30.2, 30.1, 13.8, 13.7. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -192.63 (s, 0.5F), -193.32 (s, 0.5F). HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺ calcd for [C₂₅H₃₃FNaO₃]: 423.2306, found: 423.2297.

5. Applications of the Difluoroalkylation of *p*-QMs

5.1 Gram-Scale Reaction of *p*-QM 1e



A mixture of *fac*-Ir(ppy)₃ (23.8 mg, 1 mol%), *p*-QM **1f** (3.66 mmol, 1.205 g, 1.0 equiv.), ethyl bromodifluoroacetate **2a** (7.32 mmol, 0.94 mL, 2.0 equiv.), *i*-Pr₂NEt (10.98 mmol, 1.80 mL, 3.0 equiv), H₂O (3.66 mmol, 66 μ l, 1.0 equiv.) and acetone (37 mL) was degassed by three cycles of freeze-pump-thaw. The mixture was stirred under nitrogen atmosphere at room temperature while irradiated by blue LEDs for 4 days. After completion of the reaction, the crude mixture was purified by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 50:1) to afford the pure product **3fa** (1.361 g, 82%).

5.2 De-tert-Butylation of Product 3fa



AlCl₃ (78.6 mg, 0.6 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) was added to a solution of *p*-QM **1e** (90.6 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in benzene (5 mL) and the mixture was purged with Nitrogen three times. Then the reaction was kept at 30°C for 1 h. Afterwards, 5 mL water was added to quench the reaction, and the aqueous phase was extracted with 5 mL ethyl acetate for three times. The organic layer was dried over with anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated. The residue was next purified in flash column chromatography (PE/EA = 5:1) to give the pure product **4** in 53% yield (18.1 mg).

6. Cyclic Voltammetry Experiments

Cyclic voltammetry experients were performed to measure the reduction potentials of BrCF₂CO₂Et **2a** and *p*-QM **1a**. Experiment conditions: **2a/1a** [0.01 M] in tetrabutylammonium tetrafluoroborat [0.1 M] in MeCN, scan rates equal to 0.1 V/S, glassy carbon electrode (GCE) as a working electrode, saturated calomel electrode (SCE, KCl saturated) as the reference electrode and Pt wire as the counter electrode. As shown in the results, the reduction potentials of BrCF₂CO₂Et **2a** and *p*-QM **1a** respectively were - 0.89 V and – 0.20 V.



Figure S1. Cyclic Voltammetry of p-QM 1a



Figure S2. Cyclic Voltammetry of BrCF₂CO₂Et 2a

7. Stern–Volmer Quenching Experiments

Stern-Volmer fluorescence quenching experiments were run with freshly prepared solutions of 0.1 mM *fac*-Ir(ppy)₃, in degassed dry acetone at room temperature. The solutions were irradiated at 395 nm and fluorescence was measured from 450 nm to 650 nm. Control experiments showed that the excited state *fac*-Ir(ppy)₃^{*} was mainly quenched by *p*-QM **1a**.



Figure S3. Fluorescence quenching date with fac-Ir(ppy)₃ and variable p-QM **1a** (10⁻⁵ M)



Figure S4. Fluorescence quenching date with fac-Ir(ppy)₃ and variable BrCF₂CO₂Et **2a** (10⁻⁵ M)



Figure S5. Fluorescence quenching date with fac-Ir(ppy)₃ and variable i-Pr₂NEt (10⁻⁵ M)



Figure S6. Stern-Volmer plots of fac-Ir(ppy)₃ and three quenchers. I₀ and I are luminescence intensities in the absence and presence of the indicated concentrations (10⁻⁵ M) of the corresponding quencher, respectively

8. Radical Trapping Experiments

The radical trapping experiments were conducted with *p*-QM **1a** and BrCF₂CO₂Et **2a** under the standard conditions with two different trapping agents to capture the radical intermediates expected in our system, and the products were detected by HRMS techniques. **Figure S7** showed that TEMPO, the most common trapping agent, captured diarylmethane radical with TEMPO-trapped compound **6** observed. HRMS (ESI): compound **6**, $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $[C_{30}H_{46}NO_2]$: 452.3523, found: 452.3522.



Figure S7. p-QM 1a and BrCF₂CO₂Et 2a under standard conditions with

TEMPO (3.0 equiv.)

Additionally, both compound **7** and product **3aa** were detected in **Figure S8** when the scavenger 1-(phenylsulfonyl)-2-phenyl-2-propene **5** was used, indicating the existence of difluoroacetate radicals. HRMS (ESI): compound **7**, $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $[C_{13}H_{14}F_2NaO_2]$: 268.0854, found: 268.0856. Product **3aa**, $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $[C_{25}H_{32}F_2NaO_3]$: 441.2212, found: 441.2214.



Figure S8. *p*-QM **1a** and BrCF₂CO₂Et **2a** under standard conditions with 1-(phenylsulfonyl)-2-phenyl-2-propene **5** (3.0 equiv.)

9. Determination of the Quantum Yield



1a (0.1 mmol) **2a** (2 equiv)

3aa, 125 min, 32% yield

The reaction was conducted under standard conditions in a quartz tube: A mixture of *fac*-Ir(ppy)₃ (1 mol%), *p*-QM **1a** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), ethyl bromodifluoroacetate **2a** (0.2 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), *i*-Pr₂NEt (50 μ L, 3.0 equiv.), H₂O (2 μ L, 1.0 equiv.) and acetone (1 mL) in an oven-dried 8 mL quartz vial with a magnetic stirring bar was degassed by three cycles of freeze-pump-thaw. The mixture was stirred under nitrogen atmosphere at room temperature while irradiated by blue light (440-445 nm) for 125 minutes (7500 s).

The reaction was irradiated in Parallel Light Reactor (WP-TEC-1020) (the diameter of hole was 16 mm with intensity of 1916.1 mW cm⁻²). After irradiation, the yield of the product **3aa** was determined by ¹H NMR based on a 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene standard and the final yield was 32%.





Next we determined the absorbance of the catalyst *fac*-Ir(ppy)₃ in the reaction. The absorbance of *fac*-Ir(ppy)₃ in acetone was measured at the reaction concentration of 1.0×10^{-3} M and at a substantially diluted concentration of 1.0×10^{-4} M. The absorbance of *fac*-Ir(ppy)₃ at 443 nm in a 1.0×10^{-3} M solution is 2.271 (A = 2.271).



Figure S9. Absorbance of a 1.0×10^{-3} M solution of *fac*-Ir(ppy)₃ in acetone



Figure S10. Absorbance of a 1.0×10^{-4} M solution of *fac*-Ir(ppy)₃ in acetone

Then we determined the quantum yield as follows.⁶

Φ = Mole number for product/Mole number for absorption of photons = 3.0 * 10⁻⁴

$$\boldsymbol{\varPhi} = \frac{\mathbf{n_{3aa} N_A/t}}{\mathrm{f P }\lambda/\mathrm{hc}}$$

 n_{3aa} : the mole number of the product **3aa** ($n_{3aa} = 3.2 \times 10^{-5}$ mol); t: the reaction time (t = 7500 s); NA: 6.02×10^{23} /mol; f: $1-10^{-A}$ (443 nm, A = 2.271, f = 0.998); P: P = E*S (E: illumination intensity, E = 1.9161 W/cm²; S: the area irradiated S = 2.0 cm²); λ : wavelength ($\lambda = 4.43 \times 10^{-7}$ m); h: planck constant (h = 6.626×10^{-34} J*s); c: velocity of light (c = 3×10^8 m/s).

The result excluded the efficient chain process and the reaction was likely to undergo a photocatalyzed process.

10. X-ray Crystallographic Data

X-ray crystallographic data of product **3ae**.



Bond precision:	C-C = 0.0052 A	Wavelength=0.71073	
Cell:	a=10.6409(9)	b=9.1391(7)	c=12.7748(10)
	alpha=90	beta=91.516(8)	gamma=90
Temperature:	294K		
	Calculated	Reported	
Volume	1241.89(17)	1241.89(1	7)
Space group	P n	P 1 n 1	
Hall group	P -2yac	P -2yac	
Moiety formula	C28 H37 F2 N O2	C28 H37	F2 N O2
Sum formula	C28 H37 F2 N O2	C28 H37	F2 N O2
Mr	457.59	457.59	
Dx,g cm-3	1.224	1.224	
Z	2	2	
Mu(mm-1)	0.086	0.086	
F000	492.0	492.0	
F000'	492.24		
h, k, lmax	13, 11, 15	13, 11, 15	
Nref	4905[2458]	3189	
Tmin, Tmax	0.983, 0.988	0.811, 1.0	00
Tmin'	0.981		
Correction method = # Reported T Limits: Tmin = 0.811 Tmax = 1.000			
AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN			
Data completeness = $1.30/0.65$ Theta(max) = 26.020			
R(reflections) = 0.0494(2694) $wR2(reflections) = 0.1499(3189)$			
S = 0.969 Npar = 308			

11. References

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12. NMR Data of Products 3











































-104.308 -104.989 -107.651 -108.332







































0 -20 -40 -60 -80 -100 -120 -140 -160 -180 ppm









































