Copper-Mediated 1,2-Bis(trifluoromethylation) of Arynes

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General Experimental. Unless otherwise noted, reactions were carried out under argon in a 25mL round-bottom flask with magnetic stirring. Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed with EM Science silica gel 60 F254 aluminum plates. Visualization was done under a UV lamp (254 nm) and by immersion in ethanolic phosphomolybdic acid (PMA) or potassium permanganate (KMnO₄), followed by heating using a heat gun. Organic solutions were concentrated by rotary evaporation at 23–35 °C. Purification of reaction products were generally done by flash column chromatography with Grace Materials Technologies 230–400 mesh silica gel.

Materials. Fluoroform (Research Grade, Purity: 99.999% min., 9.1kg in 16 L size cylinder) was purchased from SynQuest Laboratories, USA. Copper(I) chloride (extra pure, 99.99%) was purchased from Acros. Et₃N·3HF (97%) and anhydrous DMSO was purchased from J&K Scientific. Potassium *tert*-butoxide (97%) was purchased from Alfa Aesar. DMF was dried over Solvent Purification System then bubbled with argon for 24 h. Other chemicals for substrates preparation were purchased from Acros, J&K Scientific, Aldrich and Dikemann.

Instrumentation. Proton nuclear magnetic resonance spectra (¹H NMR) spectra, carbon nuclear magnetic resonance spectra (¹³C NMR) and fluorine nuclear magnetic resonance spectra (¹⁹F NMR) were recorded at 23 °C on a Bruker 400 spectrometer in CDCl₃ (400 MHz for ¹H, 101 MHz for ¹³C and 376 MHz for ¹⁹F) and Bruker 500 spectrometer in CDCl₃ (500 MHz for ¹H, 126 MHz for ¹³C and 470 MHz for ¹⁹F). Chemical shifts for protons were reported as parts per million in δ scale using solvent residual peak (CHCl₃: 7.26 ppm) or tetramethylsilane (0.00 ppm) as internal standards. Chemical shifts of ¹³C NMR spectra were reported in ppm from the central peak of CDCl₃ (77.16 ppm) on the δ scale. Chemical shifts of ¹⁹F NMR are reported as parts per million in δ scale using benzotrifluoride (-63.72 ppm) as internal standards. Data are represented as follows: chemical shift, integration, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, qn = quintuplet, sx = sextet, sp = septuplet, m = multiplet, br = broad), and coupling constant (*J*, Hz). High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained on a Finnigan MAT 95XL GC Mass Spectrometer or a Thermo Scientific Q Exactive Focus Mass Spectrometer or Bruker 9.4T FTICR Mass Spectrometer.

Experimental Procedures. Preparation of fluoroform-derived [CuCF₃] reagent:¹

CuCl + 2 *t*-BuOK
$$\begin{array}{c}
1. DMF \\
2. CF_3H \\
3. Et_3N(HF)_3 \\
(stablization)
\end{array}$$
[CuCF₃]

In a glove box, to a glass tube was charged CuCl (400 mg, 4.0 mmol), *t*-BuOK (944 mg, 8.0 mmol) and a stirrer bar. The tube was sealed with a septum, brought out of the glove box and put under an argon atmosphere. Degassed DMF (8.0 mL) was added *via* syringe and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. Then fluoroform was bubbled into the mixture by using a needle connected to the fluoroform cylinder at room temperature for 3 min. After removing the fluoroform inlet, the mixture was stirred for 5 min and $Et_3N(HF)_3$ (212 µL, 1.32 mmol) was slowly added under argon and the mixture was stirred for another 5 min. A slightly brown solution with some white solid was obtained as the [CuCF₃] solution in DMF (~0.40 M).



General procedure for 1,2-bis(trifluoromethylation) of arynes:

Under argon, to a 25 mL round-bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added benzyne precursor **1** (0.4 mmol), DDQ (0.8 mmol) and DMSO. A solution of [CuCF₃] in DMF (4.0 mL, 1.6 mmol) was added dropwise to the above mixture under argon at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was warmed up to room temperature and stirred under argon for 24 h, then quenched with sat. aq. NaHCO₃ solution, neutralized with 1 M HCl, and extracted with diethyl ether for three times. The organic layers were combined, washed with water then brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated by rotary evaporator. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel.

^{(1) (}a) Zanardi, A.; Novikov, M. A.; Martin, E.; Benet-Buchholz, J.; Grushin, V. V. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2011, 133, 20901. (b) Yang, X.; Tsui, G. C. Org. Lett. 2018, 20, 1179.

Aryne precursors:



The aryne precursors **1a-1h**, **1l-1p**, **1r**, **1v**, were synthesized according to the literature procedures² from the corresponding 2-bromophenol. **1q** was synthesized from **1r**, **1w** was prepared from estrone through five steps according to literature reported procedure^{2q}.

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Preparation of 4'-fluoro-3-(trimethylsilyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate (1i):



A mixture of ortho-bromohydroxyarene S1 (1.16 g, 4.36 mmol) and HMDS (1.26 ml, 6.10 mmol) in THF (4 ml) was refluxed for 3h. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was subjected to vacuum to remove excess NH₃ and unreacted HMDS. After 1H NMR confirmation of the quantitative formation of the corresponding silvl ether, the crude product was dissolved in THF (30 ml), the solution was cooled to -100 °C and n-BuLi (1.6 M in hexane, 3.0 ml, 4.8 mmol) was added drop wise. The mixture was stirred for 20 min while the temperature reached to -78 °C. Then the mixture was again cooled to -100 °C, Tf₂O (0.88 ml, 5.23 mmol) was added drop wise and stirring was continued for 20 min while the temperature reached to -78 °C. Cold sat. aq. NaHCO₃ was added, the phases were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O. The combined organic layers were dried with Na₂SO₄. Filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification of the residue by column chromatography afforded silyl triflate 1i (1.28 g, 3.27 mmol, 76% yield). $R_f = 0.8$ (hexane : EtOAc = 8:1). ¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.52 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 0.44 (s, 9H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 162.9 (d, J_{C} - $_{F}$ = 249.9 Hz), 154.6, 139.8, 136.0 (d, J_{C-F} = 3.3 Hz), 134.9, 133.3, 129.9, 129.0 (d, J_{C-F} = 8.1 Hz), 120.0, 118.7 (q, J_{CF} = 320.7 Hz), 116.0 (d, J_{CF} = 21.5 Hz), -0.686 ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -74.93 (s, 3F), -115.6 (m, 1F) ppm. HRMS m/z (APCI): calcd. for C₁₆H₁₆F₄O₃SSi [M]⁺: 392.0520; found: 392.0524.

Preparation of 5-bromo-4-methoxy-2-(trimethylsilyl)phenyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (1q):



Under argon, to a 10 mL round-bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added **1r** (412 mg, 1.05 mmol), iodomethane (231 mg, 1.63 mmol) and DMF (2.1 mL), then K₂CO₃ (225 mg, 1.63mmol) was added in one portion and the reaction system was stirred at room temperature for 3 h, then quenched by adding water, extracted with ether for three times. The organic layers were combined, washed with water then brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. Filtered and concentrated by rotary evaporator. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to afford **1q** (330 mg, 0.81 mmol, 77% yield). R_f= 0.6 (hexane : EtOAc = 8:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.50 (s, 1H), 6.95 (m, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 0.37 (s, 9H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 155.1, 147.6, 133.5, 125.1, 118.6 (q, *J_C*. *F* = 321.3 Hz), 117.4, 113.4, 56.7, -0.772 ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -74.89 (s, 3F) ppm. HRMS m/z (APCI): calcd. for C₁₁H₁₄BrF₃O₄SSi [M]⁺: 407.9492; found: 407.9493.

Preparation of 1,4-dibutyl-7-(trimethylsilyl)-1,4-dihydro-1,4-epoxynaphthalen-6-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate (1t):



Under argon, CsF (456 mg, 3.0 mmol) was added to a solution of **S3** (504 mg, 1.4 mmol) and **S2** (1.04 g, 2.0 mmol) in dry CH₃CN (20 mL) and THF (20 mL), the mixture was stirred at room temperature, monitored by TLC. After completion, the system was diluted with EA, passed through a short pad, evaporated the solvent and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to afford **1t** (570 mg, 1.2 mmol, 60% yield), $R_f = 0.2$ (hexane : CH₂Cl₂ = 8:1). ¹**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.15 (s, 1H), 7.06 (m, 1H), 6.78 (q, J = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 2.54-2.24 (m, 2H), 2.22-2.15 (m, 2H), 1.66-1.52 (m, 4H), 1.52-1.43 (m, 4H), 0.98 (q, J = 6.8 Hz, 6H), 0.34 (s, 9H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 157.7, 152.5, 151.8, 146.1, 145.6, 127.7, 124.6, 118.6 (q, $J_{CF} = 320.7$ Hz), 111.7, 92.0, 91.9, 29.0, 28.9, 27.0, 26.9, 23.3, 23.2, 14.2, 14.1, -0.582 ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -75.06 (s, 3F) ppm. **HRMS** m/z (APCI): calcd. for C₂₂H₃₁F₃O₄SSi [M]⁺: 477.1737; found: 477.1732.

Preparation of 9,10-diphenyl-3-(trimethylsilyl)-9,10-dihydro-9,10-epoxyanthracen-2-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate (1u):



Under argon, CsF (456 mg, 3.0 mmol) was added to a solution of **S4** (810 mg, 3.0 mmol) and **S2** (1.04 g, 2.0 mmol) in dry CH₃CN (20 mL), the mixture was stirred at room temperature, monitored by TLC. After completion, the system was diluted with EA, passed through a short pad, evaporated the solvent and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to afford **1u** (600 mg, 1.06 mmol, 53% yield), $R_f = 0.3$ (hexane : CH₂Cl₂ = 4:1). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.96-7.91 (m, 4H), 7.69-7.61 (m, 4H), 7.59-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.43 (s, 2H), 7.37 (s, 1H), 7.12 (s, 2H), 0.33 (s, 9H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 155.0, 153.0, 149.9, 149.6, 149.5, 134.4, 134.0, 129.8, 129.1, 129.1, 128.9, 128.7, 126.8, 126.7, 126.7, 126.4, 126.4, 121.1, 120.8, 118.5 (q, *J_{C-F}* = 320.5 Hz), 113.0, 90.7, 90.6, -0.743 ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -75.08 (s, 3F) ppm. HRMS m/z (APCI): calcd. for C₃₀H₂₅F₃O₄SSi [M]⁺: 567.1268; found: 567.1264.



Preparation of 1,2-bis(trifluoromethylation) estrone derivative 2w (cf. Scheme 3).

Solvent screening for the 1,2-bis(trifluoromethylation) of 1w.^a

entry	solvent (DMF : DMSO)	yield of $2w^b$
1	1:1	9%
2	1:2	34%
3	1:3	44%
4	1:5	62%
5 ^c	1:7	66%

^{*a*}General condition: **1w** (0.1 mmol), DDQ (0.2 mmol), [CuCF₃] (0.4 mmol 1.0 mL in DMF). ^{*b*}Determined by ¹⁹F NMR analysis using benotrifluoride as the internal standard. ^{*c*}DMF/ DMSO = 1.0 : 7.0 mL.

A mixture of estrone (1.28 g, 4.74 mmol), *p*-TsOH·H₂O (74.2 mg, 0.43 mmol), and ethylene glycol (5.30 mL, 94.8 mmol) in benzene (33 mL) was stirred under refluxing conditions in a Dean–Stark device for overnight. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was poured into H₂O (65 mL) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic extracts were washed with H₂O and brine then dried over Na₂SO₄. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane–EtOAc, 2:1) to afforded **S5** as a colorless solid (1.43 g, 4.55 mmol, 96% yield). R_f = 0.4 (hexane : EtOAc = 2:1).^{2q}

To a solution of **S5** (1.43 g, 4.55 mmol) in anhydrous pyridine (18 mL) was added diethylcarbamoyl chloride (1.15 mL, 9.10 mmol) and Et₃N (1.27 mL, 9.10 mmol) in one portion. The mixture was stirred at 80 °C overnight and then cooled to r.t. H₂O (100 mL) was added, the mixture was stirred for 30 min, and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic phases were washed with H₂O and aq 1 M HCl for 5 times separately, then washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄. Filtered and the solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane–EtOAc, 2:1) to afforded **S6**

(1.79 g, 4.32 mmol, 95% yield). R_f = 0.5 (hexane : EtOAc = 2:1).^{2q}

Under argon, a solution of carbamate **S6** (1.79 g, 4.33 mmol) in THF (15 mL) was added via a syringe to a stirred solution of *s*-BuLi (3.67 mL of 1.3 M solution in cyclohexane, 4.77 mmol) and TMEDA (715 μ L, 0.165 mmol) in THF (30 mL) at –78 °C. The resulting greenish solution was stirred at –78 °C for 1 h, treated dropwise via a syringe with a solution of an TMSCl (607 μ L, 4.77 mmol) in THF (15 mL), stirred at this temperature for 1 h, and then the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to r.t. The mixture was hydrolyzed with sat. aq NH₄Cl and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine and dried over Na₂SO₄. Filtered and concentration under reduced pressure then the residue was directly purified by flash chromatography on the silica gel using hexane–EtOAc as an eluent afforded the product **S7** (1.63 g, 3.37 mmol, 78% yield.). R_f = 0.5 (hexane : EtOAc = 4:1).^{2q}

Under argon, a solution of **S7** (1.63 g, 3.37 mmol) in anhydrous THF (14 mL) was added at 0 °C to a stirred suspension of LiAlH₄ (640 mg, 16.9 mmol) in anhydrous THF (20 mL). After stirring under refluxing conditions for 24h, the mixture was cooled to r.t. and treated with H₂O (0.64 mL), 15% aq NaOH (0.64 mL), and H₂O (1.90 mL). After stirring for 10 min, the precipitate formed was filtered off and washed on the filter with EtOAc. The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄. Filtered and concentration under vacuum then the residue was directly purified by flash chromatography of the residue on silica gel afforded **S8** (1.17 g, 3.03 mmol, 90% yield). R_f = 0.5 (hexane : EtOAc = 5:1).^{2q}

Under argon, to a solution of S8 (1.16 g, 3.00 mmol) and pyridine (0.36 mL, 4.5 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (12 mL) was slowly added Tf₂O (0.76 mL, 4.5 mmol) at 0 °C, stirred for 1 h and additional 30 mins at room temperature, quenched by sat. aq NaHCO₃, extracted with Et₂O, the combined organic layer was washed with H₂O, brine then dried over Na₂SO₄. Filtered and concentration under vacuum then the residue was directly purified by flash chromatography of the residue on silica gel afforded **1w** (1.07 g, 2.00 mmol, 67% yield). R_f = 0.6 (hexane : EtOAc = 5:1).³ **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 3.97-3.91 (m, 4H), 2.87 (s, 2H), 2.36-2.27 (m, 2H), 2.04 (s, 1H), 1.94-1.77 (s, 4H), 1.65-1.26 (m, 6H), 0.890 (s, 3H), 0.345 (s, 9H) ppm. ¹³C **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 153.2, 141.0, 139.9, 133.3, 128.7, 119.6, 119.4, 118.6 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 320.0 Hz), 65.4, 64.7, 49.5, 46.2, 44.0, 38.8, 34.3, 30.7, 29.8, 26.7, 26.0, 22.5, 14.4, -0.584 ppm. The spectral data are in full accordance with the literature report.^{2q}

Under argon, to a 50 mL round-bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added **1w** (207 mg, 0.4 mmol), DDQ (181.6 mg, 0.8 mmol) and DMSO (28 mL). A solution of [CuCF₃] in DMF (4.0 mL, 1.6 mmol) was added dropwise to the above mixture under argon at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was warmed up to room temperature and stirred under argon for 24 h, then quenched with saturated NaHCO₃ aqueous solution then neutralized with 1 M HCl, extracted with diethyl ether for three times. The organic layers were combined, washed with water then brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated by rotary evaporator. The crude product was purified by preparative TLC to afford **2w** (90.2 mg, 0.21 mmol, 52%). R_f = 0.4 (hexane : acetone = 12:1). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 3.99-3.90 (m, 4H), 2.98-2.89 (m, 2H), 2.39-2.30 (m, 2H), 2.07-1.96 (m, 2H), 1.89-1.76 (m, 3H), 1.69-1.49 (m, 3H), 1.48-1.31 (m, 3H), 0.89 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 145.0, 141.6, 128.6 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 3.5 Hz), 125.3 (m), 125.1 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 32.6 Hz), 123.4 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 274.8 Hz), 123.2 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 2.1 Hz) ppm (one carbon missing due to overlap). ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -60.18 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 12.2 Hz, 3F), -60.39 (q, *J*_{F-F} = 12.2 Hz, 3F) ppm. HRMS m/z (APCI): calcd. for C₂₂H₂₅F₆O₂ [M+H]⁺: 435.1753; found: 435.1752.

³ Asgari, P.; Dakarapu, U. S.; Nguyen, H. H.; Jeon, J. Tetrahedron 2017, 73, 4052

Preparation of compound 3 (cf. Scheme 4a).



A glass vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar and a cap was charged with 2u (96.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), wet CH₂Cl₂ (0.4 mL), Et₃SiH (48 µL, 0.3 mmol), CF₃COOH (20 µL, 0.3 mmol), then the via was sealed and stirred at room temperature for 3 h, after completion, quenched by adding water, extracted with Et₂O for 3 times, the combined organic phase was washed with H₂O, brine then dried over Na₂SO₄. Filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification of the residue by column chromatography afforded **3** (63.5 mg, 0.2 mmol, 68% yield). R_f = 0.7 (hexane : CH₂Cl₂ = 5:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.32 (s, 2H), 7.85 (dd, *J* = 6.4 Hz, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 2H), 7.72-7.63 (m, 6H), 7.52-7.50 (m, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 139.6, 137.2, 132.1, 131.2, 129.4, 129.0, 128.6, 128.3, 127.5, 127.1, 123.4 (q, *J_{C-F}* = 277.0 Hz), 122.4 (m) ppm ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -60.43 (s, 6F) ppm. HRMS m/z (EI): calcd. for C₂₈H₁₆F₆ [M]⁺: 466.1151; found: 466.1152.

Cyclic Voltammetry (CV):

Cyclic voltammetry was performed in a solution in CH_2Cl_2 on a PAR Potentiostat/Galvanostat Model 263A Electrochemical Station (Princeton Applied Research). The solution contained 0.1 M Bu₄NPF₆ as the supporting electrolyte. A platinum bead was used as a working electrode, a platinum wire was used as an auxiliary electrode, and a silver wire was used as a pseudo-reference. Ferrocene/ferrocenium was used as the internal standard. Potentials were referenced to ferrocenium/ferrocene (FeCp₂⁺/FeCp₂⁰).



Figure 1: Cyclic voltammogram of 3



Figure 2: Cyclic voltammogram of 9,10-diphenylanthracene





Figure 3: Absorption spectra of 3



Figure 4: Absorption spectra of 9,10-diphenylanthracene

Summary of electrochemical	potentials and energy	levels of LUMC	and HOMO

			0.		
	Commonwel	$\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{e} \mathbf{E} \mathbf{e}^{\dagger} / \mathbf{E} \mathbf{e} (\mathbf{V}) \mathbf{d}$	HOMO-LUMO		LUMO $(eV)^d$
	Compound	$E_{ox} vs Fc^{+}/Fc (V)^{a}$	Gap^b	HOMO $(eV)^c$	
_	3	1.18	422 nm / 2.94	-6.28	-3.34
	9,10-	0.79	405 nm / 3.06	-5.89	-2.83
	diphenylanthracene	0.79	403 1111 / 5.00	-5.89	-2.03

"Half-wave potential versus ferrocenium/ferrocene for the oxidation wave. "hand of the longest-

wavelength absorption in the UV-vis absorption spectrum from a solution in dicholromethane. ^cEstimated from HOMO = -5.10 - Eox (eV). ^dCalculated from the HOMO-LUMO gap and the HOMO energy level.⁴

Preparation of compound 4 and 5 (cf. Scheme 4b & 4c).



Under argon, to a solution of **2e** (52.8 mg, 0.2 mmol) in dry C₆D₆ (0.4 mL) was added CF₃SO₃H (0.4 mL) was added, the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 hours, after which it was poured over several grams of ice, extracted with CH₂Cl₂ for 3 times, washed with water and brine, dried over Na₂SO₄. Filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification of the residue by column chromatography afforded **4** (35 mg, 0.12 mmol, 58% yield). R_f = 0.3 (hexane : EtOAc = 8:1). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.33 (s, 1H), 8.00 (dd, *J* = 6.0 Hz, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 7.88-7.86 (m, 4H), 7.68 (dd, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 195.6, 137.0, 134.3, 133.8, 133.3, 132.5, 130.5 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 6.8 Hz), 129.3, 129.2, 129.1, 128.9 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 6.6 Hz), 128.6, 128.3 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 6.3 Hz), 128.0 (m), 125.8 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 32.4 Hz), 123.9 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 274.2 Hz) ppm ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -58.52 (s, 3F) ppm. HRMS m/z (APCI): calcd. for C₁₈H₁₂F₃O [M+H]⁺: 301.0833; found: 301.0835.



Under argon, a glass vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with **2p** (44.0 mg, 0.12 mmol), CH₂Cl₂ (0.4 mL), then CF₃SO₃H (106 μ L, 1.2 mmol) was added, the vial was sealed and the mixture was heated at 50 °C for 48 hours, then cooled to room temperature, quenched with sat. aq. NaHCO₃, extracted with CH₂Cl₂ for 3 times, washed with water and brine, dried over Na₂SO₄. Filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification of the residue by column chromatography afforded **5** (18.1 mg, 0.056 mmol, 40% yield). R_f = 0.4 (hexane : EtOAc = 5:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.72-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.55 (q, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.40 (dt, *J* = 7.0 Hz, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 188.9, 148.2, 141.8, 135.2, 134.8, 133.6, 130.8, 129.4, 129.2 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 35.8 Hz), 129.1 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 23.6 Hz), 127.0, 125.9, 121.7 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 275.7 Hz), 120.7 ppm ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -62.90 (s, 3F) ppm. HRMS m/z (APCI): calcd. for C₁₄H₇BrF₃O [M+H]⁺: 326.9626; found: 326.9627.

Preparation of compound 6 (cf. Scheme 4d).



Under argon, a schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with Pd(PPh₃)₄ (2.2 mg,

⁴ Cardona, C. M.; Li, W.; Kaifer, A. E.; Stockdale, D.; Bazan, G. C. Adv. Mater. 2011, 23, 2367.

0.0019 mmol), CuBr (0.5 mg, 0.0038 mmol), then THF (0.2 mL) was added and the suspension was stirred for 5 mins followed by addition of **2q** (30.0 mg, 0.093 mmol) and Et₃N (0.14 mL), after 5 mins more stirring, phenylacetylene (12.3 μ L, 0.11 mmol) was added. The reaction system was cooled to -78 °C, pumped and refilled with argon for 3 times, after which the tube was sealed and heated at 70 °C for 12 h. The solution was cooled to room temperature, filtered through a layer of celite on top of silica and eluted with diethyl ether. The solvent was removed in vacuo and the crude material was purified via column chromatography to yield **6** (26.0 mg, 0.076 mmol, 81% yield). R_f = 0.5 (hexane : CH₂Cl₂ = 8:1). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.94 (s, 2H), 7.59-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.29 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.8, 133.2 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 6.0 Hz), 132.0, 129.2, 128.9 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 35.5 Hz), 128.6, 122.8 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 273.2 Hz), 122.6 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 274.4 Hz), 122.5, 120.4 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 33.4 Hz), 116.5, 110.2 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 6.2 Hz), 97.2, 83.2, 56.6 ppm ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -59.52 (q, *J*_{F-F} = 12.7 Hz, 3F) ppm. **HRMS m/z (EI)**: calcd. for C₁₇H₁₀F₆O [M]⁺: 344.0530; found: 344.0630.

Mechanistic studies:

¹⁹F NMR experiment (*cf.* Scheme 5a).

$$[CuICF_3] \xrightarrow{DDQ (1.0 equiv)} [CuIICF_3]$$
(2.0 equiv) DMF, rt, 5 min
full conversion

Under argon, to an NMR tube charged with DDQ (11.4 mg, 0.05 mmol) and freshly prepared [CuCF₃] (0.1 mmol in 0.4 mL DMF) then sealed with a cap. The mixture was monitored by ¹⁹F NMR using benzotrifluoride as the internal standard over 5 min at room temperature.



Radical scavenger experiment (cf. Scheme 5c):



Under argon, to a glass tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added **1d** (34.2 mg, 0.1 mmol), DDQ (45.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), TEMPO (31.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and DMSO (2.0 mL). A solution of [CuCF₃]

in DMF (1.0 mL, 0.4 mmol) was added dropwise to the above mixture under argon at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was warmed up to room temperature and stirred under argon for 24 h, The crude yield of each product was analyzed by ¹⁹F NMR using benzotrifluoride as the internal standard.

Isolation of 2d": quenched with saturated NaHCO₃ aqueous solution then neutralized with 1 M HCl, extracted with diethyl ether for three times. The organic layers were combined, washed with water then brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated by rotary evaporator. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to afford 2d". $R_f = 0.3$ (hexane : $CH_2Cl_2 = 10:1$). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.14 (s, 1H), 6.81 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (s, 1H), 6.75-6.71 (m, 2H), 6.07 (s, 2H), 6.00 (s, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 149.6, 147.2, 147.1, 146.9, 136.4, 133.4, 124.1 (q, $J_{C-F} = 273.7$ Hz), 122.8, 122.2 (q, $J_{C-F} = 30.4$ Hz), 112.2, 110.0, 107.8, 106.5 (q, $J_{C-F} = 5.7$ Hz), 102.2, 101.3 ppm ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -56.32 (s, 3F) ppm. HRMS m/z (EI): calcd. for $C_{15}H_9F_3O_4$ [M]⁺: 310.0447; found: 310.0446.



Under argon, to a glass tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added **1d** (34.2 mg, 0.1 mmol), DDQ (45.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), alkene (0.3 mmol) and DMSO (2.0 mL). A solution of [CuCF₃] in DMF (1.0 mL, 0.4 mmol) was added dropwise to the above mixture under argon at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was warmed up to room temperature and stirred under argon for 24 h, The result was analyzed by ¹⁹F NMR using benzotrifluoride as the internal standard.

Radical clock experiment (cf. Scheme 5d):



Under argon, to a 25 mL round-bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added **1x** (141.6 mg, 0.4 mmol), DDQ (181.6 mg, 0.8 mmol) and DMSO (8.0 mL). A solution of [CuCF₃] in DMF (4.0 mL, 1.6 mmol) was added dropwise to the above mixture under argon at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was warmed up to room temperature and stirred under argon for 24 h, The crude yield of each product was analyzed by ¹⁹F NMR using benzotrifluoride as the internal standard. then quenched with saturated NaHCO₃ aqueous solution then neutralized with 1 M HCl, extracted with diethyl ether for three times. The organic layers were combined, washed with water then brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated by rotary evaporator. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to afford product **2x** and **8** (17.0 mg, 0.063 mmol) as inseparable mixure. R_f = 0.4 (hexane : CH₂Cl₂ = 8:1). **Compound 2x: ¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.56 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.0

Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.07-5.99 (m, 2H), 5.48 (d, J = 17.0 Hz, 1H), 5.33 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (d, J = 4.5 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.6 (q, $J_{C-F} = 1.8$ Hz), 132.8, 131.9, 129.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 32.8$ Hz), 123.0 (q, $J_{C-F} = 274.3$ Hz), 122.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 275.0$ Hz), 119.4 (q, $J_{C-F} = 7.2$ Hz), 118.2, 118.1, 117.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 32.8$ Hz), 70.4 ppm ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -57.96 (q, $J_{F-F} = 16.0$ Hz, 3F), -59.03 (q, $J_{F-F} = 16.0$ Hz, 3F) ppm. Compound 8: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.30 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.63 (d, J = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 4.55 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (t, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 2.54-2.33 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.8, 130.0, 127.3 (q, $J_{C-F} = 32.6$ Hz), 124.1 (q, $J_{C-F} = 273.4$ Hz), 124.0 (q, $J_{C-F} = 278.0$ Hz), 118.5 (q, $J_{C-F} = 4.8$ Hz), 113.9, 76.2, 37.8 (q, $J_{C-F} = 27.6$ Hz), 36.4, 30.5 ppm ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -61.25 (s, 3F), -65.90 (t, J = 10.8 Hz, 3F) ppm. HRMS m/z (EI): calcd. for C₁₁H₈F₆O [M]⁺: 270.0474; found: 270.0473.

	TMS OTf	Oxidant (2.0 eq.),	CF ₃ CF ₃ +	CF ₃ + (CF3
entry	1a oxidant	2a additive	solvent	2a' temp (°C)	yield (%) ^b
1°	air	none	DMF	50	2a (30%), 2a' (trace)
2	none	none	DMF	50	2a (0%)
3	Cu(OAc) ₂	none	DMF	50	2a (7%), 2a' (23%)
4	Ag ₂ CO ₃	none	DMF	50	2a (9%), 2a' (8 %)
5	AgOAc	none	DMF	50	2a (26%), 2a' (21%)
6	BQ	none	DMF	50	2a (4%), 2a' (4%)
7	PhI(OAc) ₂	none	DMF	50	2a (26%), 2a' (29%)
8	DDQ	none	DMF	50	2a (58%), 2a' (10%)
9	DDQ	K ₂ CO ₃	DMF	50	2a (28%), 2a' (20%)
10	DDQ	20 mg 4A MS	DMF	50	2a (40%), 2a' (34%)
11	DDQ	50 mg 4A MS	DMF	50	2a (41%), 2a' (29%)
12	DDQ	1.5 eq. TBAF 3H ₂ O	DMF	50	2a (50%), 2a' (13%)
13 ^d	DDQ	none	DMF	50	2a (50%), 2a' (25%)
14 ^e	DDQ	none	DMF	50	2a (26%), 2a' (40%)
15 ^f	DDQ	none	DMF	50	2a (51%), 2a' (17%)
16 ^g	DDQ	none	DMF	50	2a (39%), 2a' (7%)
17^{h}	DDQ	none	DMF	50	2a (46%), 2a' (25%)
18 ^{<i>i</i>}	DDQ	none	DMF	50	2a (28%), 2a' (15%)
19	DDQ	none	CH ₃ CN	50	2a (19%), 2a' (42%)
20	DDQ	none	Dioxane	50	2a (10%), 2a' (60%)
21	DDQ	none	Toluene	50	2a (4.0%), 2a' (39%)
22	DDQ	none	NMP	50	2a (56%), 2a' (17%)
23 ^j	DDQ	none	DMSO	50	2a (77%), 2a' (trace)
24 ^j	DDQ	none	DMSO	rt	2a (78%), 2a' (5%)
25^k	DDQ	none	DMSO	rt	2a (62%), 2a' (12%)
26 ¹	DDQ	none	DMSO	rt	2a (77%), 2a' (trace)

Table S1: Optimization Studies for 1,2-Bis(trifluoromethylation) of Aryne Precursor 1a^a

^{*a*}Unless specified otherwise, reactions were carried out using **1a** (0.1 mmol), [CuCF₃] (0.4 mmol in 1.0 mL DMF), oxidant (0.2 mmol) and DMF (1.0 mL). ^{*b*}Determined by ¹⁹F NMR analysis using benotrifluoride as the internal standard. ^{*c*}Reaction was open to air. ^{*d*}[CuCF₃] was stabilized with olah's

reagent. ^{*e*}[CuCF₃] stabilized with Et₃N HCl and extra 4.0 eq. KF; ^{*f*}Using 0.3 mmol [CuCF₃]. ^{*g*}Using 0.1 mmol DDQ. ^{*h*}Using 0.3 mmol DDQ. ^{*i*}Using 0.4 mmol DDQ. ^{*j*}DMF/DMSO=1.0 : 1.0 mL. ^{*k*}DMF/DMSO=1.0 : 0.5 mL. ^{*i*}DMF/DMSO=1.0 : 2.0 mL. BQ = 1,4-Benzoquinone. DDQ = 2,3-Dichloro-5,6-Dicyanobenzoquinone.

Characterization data:

2a: 1,2-bis(trifluoromethyl)naphthalene. Prepared according to the general procedure. Reaction was run using **1a** (139.2 mg, 0.4 mmol), DDQ (181.6 mg, 0.8 mmol), DMSO (8.0 mL), [CuCF₃] in DMF solution (4.0 mL, 1.6 mmol). The product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) and obtained a colorless oil (0.31 mmol, 81.3 mg, 77%), $R_f = 0.60$ (hexane). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.37-8.34 (m, 1H), 8.07 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.92-7.90 (m, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.70-7.64 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 135.2, 133.1, 130.1 (q, $J_{C-F} = 1.4$ Hz), 128.7, 128.5, 127.3 (q, $J_{C-F} = 35.0$ Hz), 126.2 (q, $J_{C-F} = 4.7$ Hz), 125.9 (q, $J_{C-F} = 34.2$ Hz), 123.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.1$ Hz), 123.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.1$ Hz), 123.5 (q, $J_{C-F} = 275.3$ Hz), 122.2 (q, $J_{C-F} = 7.0$ Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -53.70 (q, $J_{F-F} = 16.5$ Hz, 3F), -57.65 (q, $J_{F-F} = 16.5$ Hz, 3F) ppm. HRMS m/z (APCI): calcd. for C₁₂H₆F₆ [M]⁺: 264.0368; found: 264.0364.



2b: 7-methoxy-1,2-bis(trifluoromethyl)naphthalene. Prepared according to the general procedure. Reaction was run using 1b (151.2 mg, 0.4 mmol), DDQ (181.6 mg, 0.8 mmol), DMSO (8.0 mL), [CuCF₃] in DMF solution (4.0 mL, 1.6 mmol). The product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) and obtained a white solid (0.33 mmol, 96.4 mg, 82%), R_f = 0.60 (hexane : CH₂Cl₂ = 8 : 1). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.97-7.93 (m, 1H), 7.79-7.75 (m, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.4, 132.6 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 7.9 Hz), 131.8, 131.0, 130.0 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 7.3 Hz), 127.8 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 33.0 Hz), 123.9 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 32.3 Hz), 123.9 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 276.3 Hz), 123.6 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 274.9 Hz), 121.7, 120.0 (m), 104.4 (m), 55.4 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 16.3 Hz) pspm. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -54.97 (q, *J*_{F-F} = 16.9 Hz, 3F), -57.84 (q, *J*_{F-F} = 16.9 Hz, 3F) ppm. HRMS m/z (APCI): calcd. for C₁₃H₉F₆O [M+H]⁺: 295.0552; found: 295.0552.

1 mmol scale reaction: Prepared according to the general procedure. Reaction was run using **1b** (378 mg, 1.0 mmol), DDQ (548 mg, 2.0 mmol), DMSO (20.0 mL), [CuCF₃] in DMF solution (10.0 mL, 4.0 mmol). The product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) and obtained a white solid (0.67 mmol, 197 mg, 67%), $R_f = 0.60$ (hexane : $CH_2Cl_2 = 8 : 1$).



2c: 2,3-bis(trifluoromethyl)naphthalene. Prepared according to the general procedure. Reaction was run using **1c** (139.2 mg, 0.4 mmol), DDQ (181.6 mg, 0.8 mmol), DMSO (8.0 mL), [CuCF₃] in DMF solution (4.0 mL, 1.6 mmol). The product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) and obtained a colorless oil (0.25 mmol, 65.4 mg, 62%), Rf = 0.60 (hexane). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.33 (s, 2H), 7.98-7.96 (m, 2H), 7.74-7.72 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 133.1, 129.7, 129.4 (m), 128.8, 124.0 (m), 123.3 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 274.7 Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -60.09 (s, 6F) ppm. HRMS m/z (APCI): calcd. for C₁₂H₆F₆ [M]⁺: 264.0368; found: 264.0369.

2 mmol scale reaction: Prepared according to the general procedure. Reaction was run using **1b** (696 mg, 2.0 mmol), DDQ (1.096 g, 4.0 mmol), DMSO (40.0 mL), [CuCF₃] in DMF solution (20.0 mL, 8.0

mmol). The product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) and obtained a colorless oil (1.0 mmol, 264 mg, 50%), $R_f = 0.60$ (hexane : $CH_2Cl_2 = 8 : 1$).

2d: 5,6-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzo[d][1,3]dioxole. Prepared according to the general procedure. Reaction was run using 1d (139.2 mg, 0.4 mmol), DDQ (181.6 mg, 1.20 mmol), DMSO (8.0 mL), [CuCF₃] in DMF solution (4.0 mL, 1.6 mmol). The product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) and obtained a colorless oil (0.31 mmol, 84.5 mg, 78%), R_f = 0.40 (hexane). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.25 (s, 2H), 6.15 (s, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 150.3, 123.3 (m), 122.8 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 277.1 Hz), 108.4, 103.3 ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -59.18 (s, 6F) ppm. HRMS m/z (APCI): calcd. for C₉H₉F₆O₂ [M]⁺: 258.0110; found: 258.0112.

MeO CF₃ MeO CF₃

2e: 1,2-dimethoxy-4,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzene. Prepared according to the general procedure. Reaction was run using **1e** (143.2 mg, 0.4 mmol), DDQ (181.6 mg, 0.8 mmol), DMSO (12.0 mL), [CuCF₃] in DMF solution (4.0 mL, 1.6 mmol). The product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc) and obtained a colorless solid (0.25 mmol, 68.0 mg, 62%), R_f = 0.30 (hexane : EtOAc = 5 : 1). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.23 (s, 2H), 3.96 (s, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 150.9, 123.0 (q, J_{C-F} = 274.6 Hz), 121.1 (m), 110.5, 56.4 ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -59.18 (s, 6F) ppm. **HRMS m/z (APCI)**: calcd. for C₁₀H₈F₆O₂ [M]⁺: 274.0423; found: 274.0428.

CF₃

2f: 1,2-dimethyl-4,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzene. Prepared according to the general procedure. Reaction was run using 1f (130.4 mg, 0.4 mmol), DDQ (181.6 mg, 0.8 mmol), DMSO (12.0 mL), [CuCF₃] in DMF solution (4.0 mL, 1.6 mmol). The product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) and obtained a colorless oil (0.20 mmol, 48.4 mg, 50%), R_f = 0.60 (hexane). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.58 (s, 2H), 2.37 (s, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 141.3, 129.1 (m), 125.5 (m), 123.2 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 274.9 Hz), 19.8 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 7.8 Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ - 60.14 (s, 6F) ppm. HRMS m/z (APCI): calcd. for C₁₀H₈F₆ [M]⁺: 242.0523; found: 242.0524.



2g: 5,6-bis(trifluoromethyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene. Prepared according to the general procedure. Reaction was run using **1g** (144.4 mg, 0.4 mmol), DDQ (181.6 mg, 0.8 mmol), DMSO (8.0 mL), [CuCF₃] in DMF solution (4.0 mL, 1.6 mmol). The product was purified by preparative TLC (hexane) and obtained a colorless oil (0.21 mmol, 55.7 mg, 52%), R_f = 0.60 (hexane). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.00-2.94 (m, 2H), 2.92-2.87 (m, 2H), 1.84-1.77 (m, 4H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 143.6, 139.7, 132.5, 127.3 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 30.4 Hz), 126.4 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 32.4 Hz), 124.6 (m), 123.8 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 276.6 Hz), 123.6 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 274.2 Hz), 30.2 (t, *J*_{C-F} = 15.5 Hz), 27.5 (m), 22.6, 21.7 ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -56.22 (q, *J*_{F-F} = 16.9 Hz, 3F), -

58.63 (q, $J_{F-F} = 16.9$ Hz, 3F) ppm. **HRMS m/z (ACPI)**: calcd. for C₁₂H₁₀F₆ [M]⁺: 268.0681; found: 268.0683.



2h: 3,4-bis(trifluoromethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl. Prepared according to the general procedure. Reaction was run using **1f** (149.6 mg, 0.4 mmol), DDQ (181.6 mg, 0.8 mmol), DMSO (8.0 mL), [CuCF₃] in DMF solution (4.0 mL, 1.6 mmol). The product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) and obtained a colorless oil (0.31 mmol, 90.5 mg, 78%), $R_f = 0.60$ (hexane). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.09 (s, 1H), 7.94 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 145.4, 138.3, 130.3, 129.4, 129.2, 128.8 (q, $J_{C-F} = 34.0$ Hz), 128.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 5.9$ Hz), 127.4, 126.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 33.1$ Hz), 126.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 6.0$ Hz), 123.2 (q, $J_{C-F} = 275.1$ Hz), 123.1 (q, $J_{C-F} = 271.5$ Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -60.07 (q, $J_{F-F} = 12.7$ Hz, 3F), -60.35 (q, $J_{F-F} = 12.7$ Hz, 3F) ppm. HRMS m/z (APCI): calcd. for C₁₄H₈F₆ [M]⁺: 290.0525; found: 290.0525.



2i: 4'-fluoro-3,4-bis(trifluoromethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl. Prepared according to the general procedure. Reaction was run using **1i** (156.8 mg, 0.4 mmol), DDQ (181.6 mg, 0.8 mmol), DMSO (8.0 mL), [CuCF₃] in DMF solution (4.0 mL, 1.6 mmol). The product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) and obtained a colorless oil (0.32 mmol, 98.6 mg, 80%), $R_f = 0.60$ (hexane). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.01 (s, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.20 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.6 (d, $J_{C-F} = 250.4$ Hz), 144.4, 134.4 (q, $J_{C-F} = 3.2$ Hz), 130.2, 129.2 (d, $J_{C-F} = 8.4$ Hz), 128.9 (q, $J_{C-F} = 35.4$ Hz), 128.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 5.9$ Hz), 126.8 (q, $J_{C-F} = 33.4$ Hz), 126.5 (q, $J_{C-F} = 6.0$ Hz), 123.1 (q, $J_{C-F} = 276.9$ Hz), 123.0 (q, $J_{C-F} = 275.3$ Hz) 116.4 (d, $J_{C-F} = 21.9$ Hz), ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -61.29 (q, $J_{F-F} = 12.8$ Hz, 3F), -61.58 (q, $J_{F-F} = 12.8$ Hz, 3F), -114.7 (m) ppm. HRMS m/z (APCI): calcd. for C₁₄H₇F₇ [M]⁺: 308.0431; found: 308.0427.

2j: 4-methoxy-1,2-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzene. Prepared according to the general procedure. Reaction was run using **1j** (131.2 mg, 0.4 mmol), DDQ (181.6 mg, 0.8 mmol), DMSO (8.0 mL), [CuCF₃] in DMF solution (4.0 mL, 1.6 mmol). The product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) and obtained a colorless oil (60% ¹⁹F NMR yield), $R_f = 0.40$ (hexane). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.77 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (s, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 162.0, 130.0 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 6.1 Hz), 129.9 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 33.7 Hz), 123.2 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 273.2Hz), 122.7 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 274.8 Hz), 120.1 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 35.2 Hz), 115.9, 114.7 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 6.2 Hz), 55.9 ppm. ¹⁹F NMR

(470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -59.27 (q, $J_{F-F} = 12.7$ Hz, 3F), -60.72 (q, $J_{F-F} = 12.7$ Hz, 3F) ppm. **HRMS m/z** (APCI): calcd. for C₉H₉F₆O [M]⁺: 244.0317; found: 244.0316.

2k: 4-(tert-butyl)-1,2-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzene. Prepared according to the general procedure. Reaction was run using **1k** (141.6 mg, 0.4 mmol), DDQ (181.6 mg, 0.8 mmol), DMSO (8.0 mL), [CuCF₃] in DMF solution (4.0 mL, 1.6 mmol). The product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) and obtained a colorless oil (0.24 mmol, 64.8 mg, 60%), $R_f = 0.60$ (hexane). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 1.37 (s, 9H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 156.1, 128.9, 128.0 (q, $J_{C-F} = 5.8$ Hz), 127.9 (q, $J_{C-F} = 31.4$ Hz), 125.4 (q, $J_{C-F} = 31.2$ Hz), 125.1 (q, $J_{C-F} = 5.9$ Hz), 123.2 (q, $J_{C-F} = 275.2$ Hz), 123.2 (q, $J_{C-F} = 274.6$ Hz), 35.3, 31.0 ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -60.23 (q, $J_{F-F} = 12.7$ Hz, 3F), -60.39 (q, $J_{F-F} = 12.7$ Hz, 3F) ppm. **HRMS m/z (APCI)**: calcd. for C₁₂H₁₂F₆ [M-F]⁻: 251.0854; found: 251.0855.



21: 4-chloro-1,2-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzene. Prepared according to the general procedure. Reaction was run using **11** (132.8 mg, 0.4 mmol), DDQ (181.6 mg, 0.8 mmol), DMSO (4.0 mL), [CuCF₃] in DMF solution (4.0 mL, 1.6 mmol). The product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) and obtained a colorless oil (50% ¹⁹F NMR yield), $R_f = 0.60$ (hexane). The spectra contain hexane due to low boiling point. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 138.9, 132.2, 130.0 (q, $J_{C-F} = 35.8$ Hz), 129.6 (m), 128.5 (m), 126.8 (q, $J_{C-F} = 32.9$ Hz), 122.6 (q, $J_{C-F} = 271.5$ Hz), 122.1 (q, $J_{C-F} = 274.2$ Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -60.26 (q, $J_{F-F} = 12.7$ Hz, 3F), -60.72 (q, $J_{F-F} = 12.7$ Hz, 3F) ppm. HRMS m/z (APCI): calcd. for C₈H₃ClF₆ [M]⁺: 247.9822; found: 247.9824.



2m: (3,4-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)trimethylsilane. Prepared according to the general procedure. Reaction was run using 1m (148.0 mg, 0.4 mmol), DDQ (181.6 mg, 0.8 mmol), DMSO (8.0 mL), [CuCF₃] in DMF solution (4.0 mL, 1.6 mmol). The product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) and obtained a colorless oil (0.20 mmol, 57.2 mg, 50%), $R_f = 0.70$ (hexane). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.81 (s, 2H), 0.33 (s, 9H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 147.0, 137.2, 132.3 (q, $J_{C-F} = 5.8$ Hz), 128.3 (q, $J_{C-F} = 33.3$ Hz), 127.2 (q, $J_{C-F} = 33.4$ Hz), 126.9 (q, $J_{C-F} = 5.9$ Hz), 123.3 (q, $J_{C-F} = 275.9$ Hz), 123.1 (q, $J_{C-F} = 272.8$ Hz), -1.42 ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ - 60.34 (q, $J_{F-F} = 12.7$ Hz, 3F), -60.68 (q, $J_{F-F} = 12.7$ Hz, 3F) ppm. HRMS m/z (EI): calcd. for C₁₁H₁₂F₆Si [M-CH₃]⁺: 271.0372; found: 271.0371.



2n: 1-allyI-2,3-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzene. Prepared according to the general procedure. Reaction was run using **1n** (135.2 mg, 0.4 mmol), DDQ (181.6 mg, 0.8 mmol), DMSO (8.0 mL), [CuCF₃] in DMF solution (4.0 mL, 1.6 mmol). The product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) and obtained a colorless oil (0.26 mmol, 66.0 mg, 65%), $R_f = 0.60$ (hexane). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.60-7.55 (m, 2H), 5.97-5.90 (m, 1H), 5.15-5.07 (m, 2H), 3.63 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 142.0 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 1.9 Hz), 136.2, 135.8, 131.4, 128.9 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 32.4 Hz), 127.1 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 32.4 Hz), 126.0 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 7.1 Hz), 123.5 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 276.2 Hz), 123.3 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 274.6 Hz), 117.3, 38.4 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 3.7 Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -54.93 (q, *J*_{F-F} = 16.0 Hz, 3F) ppm. HRMS m/z (APCI): calcd. for C₁₁H₈F₆ [M]⁺: 254.0525; found: 254.0526.



20: 1-methoxy-2,3-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzene. Prepared according to the general procedure. Reaction was run using **10** (131.2 mg, 0.4 mmol), DDQ (181.6 mg, 0.8 mmol), DMSO (4.0 mL), [CuCF₃] in DMF solution (4.0 mL, 1.6 mmol). The product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) and obtained a colorless oil (36% ¹⁹F NMR yield), $R_f = 0.40$ (hexane). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.59 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.6, 132.9, 129.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 34.3$ Hz), 123.0 (q, $J_{C-F} = 274.2$ Hz), 122.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 274.8$ Hz), 119.3 (m), 117.3 (q, $J_{C-F} = 32.6$ Hz), 116.7, 56.9 (q, $J_{C-F} = 18.6$ Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -58.07 (q, $J_{F-F} = 16.0$ Hz, 3F), -58.99 (q, $J_{F-F} = 16.0$ Hz, 3F) ppm. HRMS **m/z (APCI)**: calcd. for C₉H₉F₆O [M]⁺: 244.0317; found: 244.0319.



2p: 5-bromo-2,3-bis(trifluoromethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl. Prepared according to the general procedure. Reaction was run using **1p** (184.4 mg, 0.4 mmol), DDQ (181.6 mg, 0.8 mmol), DMSO (4.0 mL), [CuCF₃] in DMF solution (4.0 mL, 1.6 mmol). The product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) and obtained a colorless oil (0.14 mmol, 51.5 mg, 35%), $R_f = 0.40$ (hexane). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.44 (m, 3H), 7.30 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.1, 139.3, 139.0, 138.8, 131.0 (q, $J_{C-F} = 33.5$ Hz), 130.3 (dq, $J_{C-F} = 25.6$ Hz, $J_{C-F} = 6.8$ Hz), 128.3 (m), 125.9 (q, $J_{C-F} = 32.5$ Hz), 125.6, 122.9 (q, $J_{C-F} = 276.8$ Hz), 122.5 (q, $J_{C-F} = 275.3$ Hz) (one carbon missing due to overlap) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -52.41 (q, $J_{F-F} = 15.0$ Hz, 3F), - 59.05 (q, $J_{F-F} = 15.5$ Hz, 3F) ppm. HRMS m/z (APCI): calcd. for C₁₄H₇BrF₆ [M]⁺: 367.9630; found: 367.9629.



2q: 1-bromo-2-methoxy-4,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzene. Prepared according to the general

procedure. Reaction was run using **1q** (162.4 mg, 0.4 mmol), DDQ (181.6 mg, 0.8 mmol), DMSO (8.0 mL), [CuCF₃] in DMF solution (4.0 mL, 1.6 mmol). The product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) and obtained a colorless oil (0.17 mmol, 55.4 mg, 43%), $R_f = 0.50$ (hexane : $CH_2Cl_2 = 8 : 1$). ¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.5, 133.3 (dq, $J_{C-F} = 26.2$ Hz, $J_{C-F} = 6.0$ Hz), 129.0 (q, $J_{C-F} = 34.5$ Hz), 122.5 (q, $J_{C-F} = 274.4$ Hz), 122.3 (q, $J_{C-F} = 273.5$ Hz), 121.3 (q, $J_{C-F} = 34.7$ Hz), 115.4, 110.9 (m), 56.9 (q, $J_{C-F} = 39.2$ Hz) ppm. ¹⁹**F NMR** (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -59.41 (m, 3F), -60.42 (m, 3F) ppm. **HRMS m/z** (APCI): calcd. for C₉H₃BrF₆O [M]⁺: 321.9423; found: 321.9425.



2s: 1,4-dimethyl-6,7-bis(trifluoromethyl)-1,4-dihydro-1,4-epoxynaphthalene. Prepared according to the general procedure. Reaction was run using **1s** (160.4 mg, 0.4 mmol), DDQ (181.6 mg, 0.8 mmol), DMSO (8.0 mL), [CuCF₃] in DMF solution (4.0 mL, 1.6 mmol). The product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) and obtained a colorless oil (0.28 mmol, 86.2 mg, 70%), $R_f = 0.50$ (hexane : EtOAc = 8 : 1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.53 (s, 2H), 6.82 (s, 2H), 1.94 (s, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.0, 146.8, 126.0 (m), 123.0 (q, $J_{C-F} = 276.0$ Hz), 117.4 (m), 88.9, 15.0 ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -59.46 (s, 6F) ppm. HRMS m/z (APCI): calcd. for C₁₄H₁₀F₆O [M]⁺: 309.0709; found: 309.0708.



2t: 1,4-dibutyl-6,7-bis(trifluoromethyl)-1,4-dihydro-1,4-epoxynaphthalene. Prepared according to the general procedure. Reaction was run using 1t (190.4 mg, 0.4 mmol), DDQ (181.6 mg, 0.8 mmol), DMSO (12.0 mL), [CuCF₃] in DMF solution (4.0 mL, 1.6 mmol). The product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) and obtained a colorless oil (0.25 mmol, 97.2 mg, 62%), $R_f = 0.60$ (hexane : CH₂Cl₂ = 6 : 1). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.52 (s, 2H), 6.82 (s, 2H), 2.40-2.36 (m, 2H), 2.28-2.21 (m, 2H), 1.67-1.55 (m, 4H), 1.53-1.46 (m, 4H), 1.00 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.1, 146.0, 125.7 (m), 123.1 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 275.6 Hz), 117.7, 92.2, 28.8, 26.9, 23.2, 14.1 ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -59.43 (s, 6F) ppm. HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd. for $C_{20}H_{22}F_6O$ [M+H]⁺: 393.1648; found: 393.1647.



2u: 9,10-diphenyl-2,3-bis(trifluoromethyl)-9,10-dihydro-9,10-epoxyanthracene. Prepared according to the general procedure. Reaction was run using **1u** (226.4 mg, 0.4 mmol), DDQ (181.6 mg, 0.8 mmol), DMSO (8.0 mL), [CuCF₃] in DMF solution (4.0 mL, 1.6 mmol). The product was purified by flash

column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) and obtained a colorless oil (0.25 mmol, 121.4 mg, 63%), $R_f = 0.60$ (hexane : $CH_2Cl_2 = 3 : 1$). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 8.01 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 7.88 (s, 2H), 7.72 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 7.61 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.17 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 155.6, 148.9, 133.6, 129.3, 129.1, 127.9 (m), 126.8, 126.7, 122.9 (q, $J_{C-F} =$ 276.3 Hz), 121.4, 119.6 (m), 90.7 ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ -59.73 (s, 6F) ppm. HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd. for $C_{28}H_{16}F_6O$ [M+H]⁺: 483.1178; found: 483.1179.



2v: 1,2,3,4-tetraphenyl-6,7-bis(trifluoromethyl)naphthalene. Prepared according to the general procedure. Reaction was run using **1v** (260.8 mg, 0.4 mmol), DDQ (181.6 mg, 0.8 mmol), DMSO (8.0 mL), [CuCF₃] in DMF solution (4.0 mL, 1.6 mmol). The product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane) and obtained a colorless oil (0.19 mmol, 109.0 mg, 48%), $R_f = 0.50$ (hexane : $CH_2Cl_2 = 5 : 1$). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.28 (s, 2H), 7.38-7.29 (m, 6H), 7.27 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 6.99-6.94 (m, 6H), 6.92 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 4H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 142.8, 139.7, 139.5, 137.8, 132.1, 131.1, 131.0, 128.5, 128.1, 127.5, 127.0, 126.1, 123.7 (m), 123.3 (q, $J_{C-F} = 275.2$ Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -60.43 (s, 6F) ppm. HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd. for $C_{36}H_{22}F_6$ [M+H]⁺: 569.1699; found: 569.1697.

Spectra







7,288 7,704 6,771 6,773 6,773 6,773 6,773 6,773 6,773 6,773 6,773 1,233 2,234 2,244 2,



1t (CDCl₃, 500 MHz)

















ÇF₃ ∠CF₃

2a (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)



135.1.98 135.1.98 130.197 130.115 130.115 130.115 130.157 127.985 127.978 127.











133.079 129.706 129.706 129.448 129.448 129.433 129.337 129.337 128.823 128.823 128.8411 128.823 12







----59.175






---60.137

$$\sim 2.972$$

 ~ 2.972
 ~ 2.972

2g (CDCl₃, 500 MHz)









2h (CDCl₃, 470 MHz)



8009 7,928 7,928 7,928 7,928 7,928 7,129 7,129 7,120 7,120 7,120 7,120



2i (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)















CI CI CF₃ CF₃ CF₃ 21 (CDCl₃, 470 MHz)























----59,460



2t (CDCl₃, 500 MHz)







2t (CDCl₃, 470 MHz)

48 -49 -50 -51 -52 -53 -54 -55 -56 -57 -58 -59 -60 -61 -62 -63 -64 -65 -66 -67 -68 -69 -70 -71 -7 fl (ppm)









2v (CDCl₃, 500 MHz)











 $\begin{array}{c} -60.141 \\ -60.168 \\ -60.194 \\ -60.219 \\ -60.348 \\ -60.373 \\ -60.426 \\ -60.426 \end{array}$

-8.326 -8.013 -8.013 -8.013 -8.013 -8.000 -7.500 -7.500 -7.503 -7.673 -7.753 -7.673 -7.753 -7



4 (CDCl₃, 500 MHz)









100 90 f1 (ppm) 170 160 150 140 130 120 -1

5 (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)





----62.904

-7.9407.5927.5927.5797.3877.3877.3877.3877.387



6 (CDCl₃, 500 MHz)







---60.429





2d" (CDCl₃, 500 MHz)





CF₃

2d" (CDCl₃, 470 MHz)





7,580 7,560 7,560 7,750 7,5000 7,5000 7,5000 7,5000 7,5000 7,5000 7,5000 7,5000 7,5000 7,5000 7,5000 7,5000 7,5000 7,500

CF3 CFa

major minor

2x + 8 (CDCl₃, 500 MHz)



