Supplementary Information

Rhodium-Catalyzed Arylative Cyclization of Alkynyl Malonates by 1,4-Rhodium(I) Migration

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Supplementary Information

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1. General Information

All air-sensitive reactions were carried out under an inert atmosphere using oven-dried apparatus. 1,4-Dioxane was purchased from Acros Organics and degassed before use using a stream of argon (30 min). All commercially available reagents were used as received unless otherwise stated. Petroleum ether refers to Sigma-Aldrich product 24587 (petroleum ether boiling point 40-60 °C). Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Merck DF-Alufoilien 60F254 0.2 mm precoated plates. Compounds were visualized by exposure to UV light or by dipping the plates into solutions of potassium permanganate or vanillin followed by gentle heating. Flash column chromatography was carried out using silica gel (Fisher Scientific 60 Å particle size 35-70 micron or Fluorochem 60 Å particle size 40-63 micron). Melting points were recorded on a Gallenkamp melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. The solvent of recrystallization is reported in parentheses. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on Bruker platinum ALPHA FTIR spectrometer on the neat compound using the attenuated total refraction technique. NMR spectra were acquired on Bruker Ascend 400 or Ascend 500 spectrometers. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were referenced to external tetramethylsilane via the residual protonated solvent (¹H) or the solvent itself (¹³C). ¹⁹F NMR spectra were referenced through the solvent lock (²H) signal according to the IUPAC-recommended secondary referencing method following Bruker protocols. All chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm). For CDCl₃, the shifts are referenced to 7.26 ppm for ¹H NMR spectroscopy and 77.16 ppm for ¹³C NMR spectroscopy. ¹³C NMR assignments were made using the DEPT sequence with secondary pulses at 90° and 135°. Coupling constants (J) are quoted to the nearest 0.1 Hz. High-resolution mass spectra were recorded using electrospray ionization (ESI) techniques. X-ray diffraction data were collected at 120 K on an Agilent SuperNova diffractometer using CuKa radiation.

2. Preparation of Substrates



Known procedures were used for the preparation of **S1**,¹**S2**,²**S3**,³**S4**,⁴**S5**,⁵**S6**,⁶ and **S7**.⁷ Substrates **1a**,²**1b**,²**1f**,²**1h**,²**1p**,²**1q**,² were prepared by known methods.

Preparation of Substrate 1c



 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Bis}(2,2,2\text{-trifluoroethyl}) 2\text{-}(2\text{-thienylmethyl}) \text{malonate (S1c). To a solution of} \\ \text{ortho-phenylenediamine (1.88 g, 17.4 mmol) in EtOH (300 mL) at 25 °C were} \\ \text{added 2-thienylcarboxaldehyde (3.24 mL, 34.7 mmol), Meldrum's acid (2.51 mmol)} \end{array}$

g, 17.4 mmol), and L-proline (399 mg, 3.47 mmol). The resulting mixture was vigorously stirred for 24 h and concentrated *in vacuo* to leave a residue, which was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (200 mL) and washed with 1 M aqueous HCl solution (150 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 100 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with H₂O, dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated in *vacuo* to leave a residue (4.80 g), which was used directly in the next step without further purification. In a sealed vessel containing a stirrer bar, a solution of this crude compound (4.80 g) and concentrated H₂SO₄ (433 µL, 8.1 mmol) in TFE (45 mL) were stirred at 100 °C for 2 h. The reaction was cooled to room temperature, diluted with Et₂O (200 mL), and washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (3 × 100 mL), H₂O (100 mL), and brine (100 mL). The organic layer was dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated in *vacuo*. The residue was passed through a plug of silica gel using 2% EtOAc/petroleum ether as the eluent to give **S1c** (674 mg) as a yellow oil which was not pure, but which was used directly in the next step. R_f = 0.30 (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether).



Bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)2-(3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-yl)-2-(2-thienylmethyl)malonate (1c). A flask was charged with NaH (60% dispersionin mineral oil, 85.6 mg, 2.14 mmol), purged with argon for 30 min, and then

suspended in THF (5 mL) at 0 °C. A proportion of impure malonate **S1c** (650 mg out of the 674 mg prepared as above) in THF (2 mL) was added to the ice-cooled suspension. The resulting solution was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 45 min. Alkynyl bromide **S6**⁶ (80 wt. % in toluene, 868 μ L, 3.56 mmol) was added dropwise and the resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The reaction was quenched with H₂O (25 mL), extracted with Et₂O (3 × 25 mL), and the combined organic layers were washed with brine (25 mL), dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated

in *vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (0% to 2% EtOAc/petroleum ether) to give the title compound **1c** (950 mg, 12% over two steps) as an orange oil. $R_f = 0.30$ (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 1758 (C=O), 1411, 1279, 1157, 1067, 972, 906, 756, 690, 531 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.43 (2H, dd, J = 6.7, 3.0 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.34-7.30 (3H, m, Ar**H**), 7.21 (1H, dd, J = 5.0, 1.2 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.00-6.92 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 4.63-4.46 (4H, m, 2 × C**H**₂CF₃), 3.76 (2H, s, C**H**₂CS), 3.08 (2H, s, C**H**₂C≡C); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.4 (2 × C), 135.5 (C), 131.9 (2 × CH), 128.5 (CH), 128.5 (2 × CH), 128.3 (CH), 127.4 (CH), 125.6 (CH), 122.8 (C), 122.6 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.4 \text{ Hz}, 2 × C$), 85.3 (C), 82.7 (C), 61.6 (q, $J_{C-F} = 37.4 \text{ Hz}, 2 × CH_2$), 58.6 (C), 32.1 (CH₂), 23.6 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –73.8 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 6 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₁H₁₆F₆NaO₄S]⁺ [M+Na]⁺: 501.0568, found 501.0566.

Preparation of Substrate 1d

Ph



Bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl) 2-(3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-yl)malonate (S1d). A flask was charged with NaH (60% dispersion in mineral oil, 251 mg, 6.28 mmol), purged with argon for 30 min, and then suspended in THF (25 mL) at 0 °C. A

solution of bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl) malonate (3.00 g, 11.2 mmol) in THF (5 mL) was added to the ice-cooled suspension. The resulting solution was stirred at 0 °C for 45 min. Alkynyl bromide **S6**⁶ (80 wt. % solution in toluene, 1.82 mL, 7.47 mmol) was added dropwise and the resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 3 d. The reaction was quenched with H₂O (30 mL), extracted with Et₂O (3 × 30 mL), and the combined organic layers were washed with brine (50 mL), dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (0% to 1% EtOAc/petroleum ether) to give the title compound **S1d** (978 mg, 41%) as a yellow oil. R_f = 0.26 (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 1756 (C=O), 1492, 1280, 1158, 1067, 965, 757, 691, 659, 535 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39-7.34 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 7.32-7.27 (3H, m, Ar**H**), 4.58 (4H, q, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2 × C**H**₂CF₃), 3.91 (1H, t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, CH₂C**H**), 3.09 (2H, d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, C**H**₂C=C); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.9 (2 × C), 131.8 (2 × CH), 128.4 (CH), 128.4 (2 × CH), 122.8 (C), 122.6 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 277.4 Hz, 2 × C), 83.7 (C), 83.5 (C), 61.5 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 37.4 Hz, 2 × CH₂), 50.7 (CH), 19.5 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.5 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 6 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₁₆H₁₂F₆NaO₄]⁺ [M+Na]⁺: 405.0537, found 405.0535.



Bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl) 2-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)-2-(3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-yl)malonate (1d). A flask was charged with NaH (60% dispersion in mineral oil, 66 mg, 1.65 mmol), purged with argon for 30 min, and then suspended in

THF (15 mL) at 0 °C. A solution of malonate S1d (500 mg, 1.31 mmol) in THF (3 mL) was added to the ice-cooled suspension. The resulting solution was stirred at 0 °C for 45 min. A solution of 2bromoacetophenone (521 mg, 2.62 mmol) in THF (3 mL) was added dropwise and the resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The reaction was quenched with H₂O (20 mL), extracted with Et_2O (3 × 20 mL), and the combined organic layers were washed with brine (25 mL), dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography (0% to 5% EtOAc/petroleum ether) to give the title compound 1d (385 mg, 59%) as a white solid. $R_f = 0.31$ (20% EtOAc/petroleum ether); m.p. 91-92 °C (Et₂O); IR 2921, 1754 (C=O), 1681 (C=O), 1434, 1283, 1165, 1065, 973, 751, 692 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.05-7.97 (2H, m, ArH), 7.65-7.57 (1H, m, ArH), 7.53-7.46 (2H, m, ArH), 7.33-7.26 (5H, m, ArH), 4.68-4.49 $(4H, m, 2 \times CH_2CF_3), 4.02 (2H, s, CH_2C=O), 3.38 (2H, s, CH_2C=C); {}^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3)$ δ 196.4 (C), 167.5 (2 × C), 136.3 (C), 134.0 (CH), 131.8 (2 × CH), 129.0 (2 × CH), 128.5 (CH), 128.4 $(2 \times CH)$, 128.3 $(2 \times CH)$, 122.7 (C), 122.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.4 \text{ Hz}$, $2 \times C$), 84.9 (C), 83.0 (C), 61.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 37.4 \text{ Hz}, 2 \times \text{CH}_2$, 55.2 (C), 41.4 (CH₂), 24.6 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –73.8 (t, $J = 8.2 \text{ Hz}, 6 \times \text{F}$; HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for $[C_{24}H_{18}F_6NaO_5]^+$ [M+Na]⁺: 523.0951, found 523.0951.

1-Phenyl 2,2-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl) 5-phenylpent-4-yne-1,2,2-tricarboxylate (1e)



A flask was charged with NaH (60% dispersion in mineral oil, 53 mg, 1.26 mmol), purged with argon for 30 min, and then suspended in THF (15 mL) at 0 °C. A solution of malonate **S1d** (400 mg, 1.05 mmol) in THF (3 mL) was added to the ice-cooled suspension. The resulting solution was stirred at 0 °C for 45 min. A solution of phenyl bromoacetate (452 mg, 2.10 mmol) in THF (3 mL) was added dropwise and the resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 16 h. The reaction was quenched with H₂O (30 mL), extracted with Et₂O (3 × 20 mL), and the combined organic layers were washed with brine (25 mL), dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (0% to 4% EtOAc/petroleum ether) to give the title compound **1e** (481 mg, 89%) as a pale yellow oil. $R_f = 0.28$ (20% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 1755 (C=O), 1593 (C=O), 1411, 1281, 1160, 1065, 973, 756, 689, 496 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.42-7.35 (4H, m, Ar**H**), 7.34-7.28 (3H, m, Ar**H**), 7.25-7.21 (1H, m, Ar**H**), 7.11-7.05 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 4.65-4.51 (4H, m, 2 × C**H**₂CF₃), 3.56 (2H, s, C**H**₂C=O), 3.35 (2H, s, C**H**₂C=C); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.8 (C), 167.0 (2 × C), 150.3 (C), 131.9 (2 × CH), 129.7 (2 × CH), 128.7 (CH), 128.5 (2 × CH), 126.4 (CH), 122.6 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 277.4 Hz, 2 × C), 122.6 (C), 121.5 (2 × CH), 85.2 (C), 82.2 (C), 61.9 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 37.2 Hz, 2 × CH₂), 55.5 (C), 37.4 (CH₂), 25.0 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –73.8 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 6 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₄H₁₈F₆NaO₆]⁺ [M+Na]⁺: 539.0905, found 539.0906.

Preparation of Substrate 1g

OCH₂CF₂

CF₃CH₂C

MeC



Bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl) 2-(2-methoxyphenyl)malonate (S1g). To a stirred solution of diethyl 2-(2-methoxyphenyl)malonate (S3,³ 4.65 g, 17.5 mmol) in Et₂O (32 mL) at 0 °C was added a solution of NaOH (2.79 g, 69.9 mmol) in H₂O (60 mL) and the resulting mixture was stirred vigorously at room

temperature for 24 h. The aqueous layer was separated and washed with Et₂O (2×50 mL), acidified to pH 2 with 6 M aqueous HCl solution, and extracted with EtOAc (5 \times 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (50 mL), dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated in vacuo to leave the malonic acid as an off-white solid (3.31 g) that was used in the next step without further purification. A microwave vial fitted with a stirrer bar was charged with this malonic acid (3.31 g, 15.8 mmol), TFE (20 mL), benzene (20 mL) and concentrated H₂SO₄ (335 µL, 6.30 mmol). The vial was then capped with a crimp capped PTFE seal and stirred at 100 °C for 7 h. The reaction was cooled to room temperature and diluted with Et₂O (250 mL). The solution was then washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution $(3 \times 100 \text{ mL})$ and brine (50 mL). The organic layer was dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (0% to 3% EtOAc/petroleum ether) to give the title compound S1g (2.20 g, 34% over two steps) as a brown oil. R_f = 0.33 (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 1771 (C=O), 1747, 1416, 1254, 1135, 955, 865, 749, 654, 543 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38-7.34 (1H, m, Ar**H**), 7.28 (1H, dd, J = 7.7, 1.7 Hz, Ar**H**), 6.99 (1H, td, *J* = 7.6, 1.1 Hz, Ar**H**), 6.93 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.1 Hz, Ar**H**), 5.28 (1H, s, ArC**H**), 4.59-4.52 (4H, m, $2 \times CH_2CF_3$), 3.83 (3H, s, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.5 (2 × C), 157.0 (C), 130.4 (CH), 129.5 (CH), 122.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.3 \text{ Hz}, 2 \times \text{C}$), 121.0 (CH), 120.0 (C), 111.0 (CH), 61.3 (q, $J_{C-F} = 37.3 \text{ Hz}$, 2 × CH₂), 55.7 (CH), 50.8 (CH₃); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –73.9 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 6 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for $[C_{14}H_{12}F_6O_5Na]^+$ [M+Na]⁺: 397.0481, found 397.0483.

Bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl) 2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-2-(3-phenylprop-2-yn-1vl)malonate (1g). A solution of malonate S1g (1.00 g, 2.67 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) was added to an ice-cooled suspension of NaH (60% dispersion in MeOmineral oil, 128.2 mg, 3.21 mmol) in DMF (7 mL). The resulting solution was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 30 min. Alkynyl bromide **S6**⁶ (80 wt. % in toluene, 1.30 mL, 5.34 mmol) was added dropwise and the resulting solution was warmed to 60 °C and stirred for 2 h. The reaction was cooled to room temperature and quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl solution (50 mL). This solution was extracted with EtOAc (3×50 mL), and the combined organic layers were dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated in *vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (0% to 2% EtOAc/petroleum ether) to give title compound 1g (951 mg, 73%) as a yellow oil. $R_f =$ 0.27 (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 2973, 1756 (C=O), 1493, 1282, 1155, 972, 753, 692, 651, 556 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47-7.31 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 7.25-7.23 (5H, m, Ar**H**), 7.01 (1H, td, J = 8.3, 1.2 Hz, ArH), 6.92 (1H, dd, J = 8.2, 1.2 Hz, ArH), 4.63-4.50 (4H, m, $2 \times CH_2CF_3$), 3.78 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.47 (2H, s, CH₂C=C); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.8 (2 × C), 156.6 (C), 131.7 (2 × CH), 130.1 (CH), 128.6 (CH), 128.3 (2 × CH), 128.1 (CH), 124.7 (C), 123.3 (C), 122.8 (q, $J_{C-F} =$ 277.5 Hz, $2 \times C$), 120.8 (CH), 111.3 (CH), 84.9 (C), 83.7 (C), 61.5 (q, $J_{C-F} = 37.1$ Hz, $2 \times CH_2$), 60.8 (C), 55.6 (CH₃), 26.5 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –73.6 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 6 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for $[C_{23}H_{22}F_6NO_5]^+$ $[M+NH_4]^+$: 506.1398, found 506.1397.

Bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl) 2-(3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-yl)-2-(3-thienyl)malonate (1i)



A sealed tube was charged with the 3-thienylmalonic acid (2.50 g, 13.4 mmol), concentrated H₂SO₄ (163 μ L, 2.69 mmol), TFE (30 mL), and a stirrer bar. The mixture was then stirred at 100 °C for 1.5 h. The reaction was cooled to room temperature and diluted with Et₂O (200 mL). The solution was then washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (3 × 100 mL), H₂O (100 mL), and brine (100 mL). The organic layer was dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated in *vacuo*. The residual solvent was removed under high vacuum to leave the crude malonate ester **S1i** (2.52 g), which was used in the next step without further purification. A solution of this malonate ester in THF (5 mL) was added to

an ice-cooled suspension of NaH (60% dispersion in mineral oil, 864 mg, 21.6 mmol) in THF (20 mL). The resulting solution was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 30 min. Alkynyl bromide **S6**⁶ (80 wt. % in toluene, 5.27 mL, 21.6 mmol) was added dropwise and the resulting solution was warmed to 60 °C and stirred for 18 h. The reaction was cooled to room temperature and quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl solution (50 mL). This solution was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 50 mL), and the combined organic layers were dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated in *vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (0% to 2% EtOAc/petroleum ether) to give title compound **1i** (908 mg, 14% over two steps) as a pale brown solid. $R_f = 0.25$ (7% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 1757 (C=O), 1415, 1241, 1157, 1085, 1009, 974, 762, 696, 625 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.58 (1H, dd, J = 3.0, 1.4 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.37-7.23 (7H, m, Ar**H**), 4.66-4.55 (4H, m, 2 × C**H**₂CF₃), 3.49 (2H, s, C**H**₂C=C); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.1 (2 × C), 133.8 (C), 131.8 (2 × CH), 128.43 (CH), 128.36 (2 × CH), 127.4 (CH), 126.8 (CH), 124.7 (CH), 122.8 (C), 122.6 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.3$ Hz, 2 × C), 84.8 (C), 83.2 (C), 61.6 (q, $J_{C-F} = 37.4$ Hz, 2 × CH₂), 59.7 (C), 27.5 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.7 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, $6 \times$ F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₀H₁₄F₆O₄SNa]⁺ [M+Na]⁺: 487.0409, found 487.0414.

Preparation of Substrate 1j





Bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl) 2-benzyl-2-(prop-2-yn-1-yl)malonate (S1j). A flask was charged with NaH (60% dispersion in mineral oil, 844 mg, 21.1 mmol), purged with argon for 30 min, and then suspended in THF (200 mL)

at 0 °C. A solution malonate **S2**² (6.00 g, 16.7 mmol) in THF (20 mL) was added to the ice-cooled suspension. The resulting solution was stirred at 0 °C for 45 min. Propargyl bromide (80 wt. % in toluene, 3.58 mL, 24.1 mmol) was added dropwise and the resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 16 h. The reaction was quenched with H₂O (150 mL), extracted with Et₂O (3 × 120 mL), and the combined organic layers were washed with brine (150 mL), dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (0% to 1% EtOAc/petroleum ether) to give the title compound **S1j** (2.01 g, 30%) as a pale yellow oil. $R_f = 0.33$ (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 1756 (C=O), 1412, 1281, 1155, 1086, 994, 908, 742, 702, 648 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35-7.27 (3H, m, Ar**H**), 7.20-7.10 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 4.61-4.43 (4H, m, 2 × C**H**₂CF₃), 3.47 (2H, s, C**H**₂Ph), 2.76 (2H, d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, C**H**₂C≡C), 2.21 (1H, t, *J* = 2.6 Hz,

C=C**H**); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.5 (2 × C), 134.3 (C), 129.9 (2 × CH), 128.9 (2 × CH), 127.9 (CH), 122.6 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.3 \text{ Hz}, 2 \times \text{C}$), 77.9 (C), 73.3 (CH), 61.5 (q, $J_{C-F} = 37.4 \text{ Hz}, 2 \times \text{CH}_2$), 58.4 (C), 37.4 (CH₂), 22.4 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –73.6 (t, $J = 8.2 \text{ Hz}, 6 \times \text{F}$); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₁₇H₁₄F₆NaO₄]⁺ [M+Na]⁺: 419.0678, found 419.0688.



Bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl) 2-benzyl-2-[3-(4-methoxyphenyl)prop-2 yn-1-yl]malonate (1j). A flask was charged with CuI (24.0 mg, 0.13 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (44.2 mg, 0.06 mmol), 4-iodoanisole (591 mg,

2.52 mmol) and purged with argon for 20 min. Freshly degassed (purging with argon for 30 min) THF (25 mL), and Et₃N (1.05 mL, 6.30 mmol) were added and the mixture was degassed with a stream of argon for 15 min. Malonate **S1j** (500 mg, 1.26 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 18 h. The reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl solution (10 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3 × 20 mL), dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (0% to 3% EtOAc/petroleum ether) to give the title compound **1j** (345 mg, 54%) as a yellow oil. R_f = 0.29 (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 2969, 1757 (C=O), 1510, 1443, 1284, 1157, 973, 907, 742, 535 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.40-7.35 (2H, m, ArH), 7.33-7.27 (3H, m, ArH), 7.20 (2H, dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.9 Hz, ArH), 6.98 (1H, dd, *J* = 5.2, 3.6 Hz, ArH), 6.88-6.83 (2H, m, ArH), 4.60-4.51 (4H, m, 2 × CH₂CF₃), 3.82 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.51 (2H, s, CH₂Ph), 2.96 (2H, s, CH₂C=C); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.8 (2 × C), 159.8 (C), 134.5 (C), 133.3 (2 × CH), 130.0 (2 × CH), 128.9 (2 × CH), 127.8 (CH), 122.6 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 277.4 Hz, 2 × C), 115.0 (C), 114.1 (2 × CH), 85.2 (C), 81.5 (C), 61.4 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 37.3 Hz, 2 × CH₂), 58.8 (C), 55.5 (CH₃), 37.6 (CH₂), 23.4 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.7 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 6 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₄H₂₀F₆NaO₅]⁺ [M+Na]⁺: 525.1108, found 525.1107.

Bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl) 2-benzyl-2-(3-(3-methylphenyl)prop-2-yn-1-yl)malonate (1k)



A flask was charged with NaH (60% dispersion in mineral oil, 141 mg, 3.53 mmol), purged with argon for 30 min, and then suspended in THF (15 mL) at 0 °C. A solution of malonate $S2^2$ (1.00 g, 2.79 mmol) in THF (3 mL) was added to the ice-cooled suspension. The resulting solution was stirred at 0 °C for 45 min. Alkynyl bromide $S7^7$ (72 wt. % in toluene, 1.48 mL, 5.58 mmol) was added dropwise and the resulting solution was stirred at 50 °C for 18 h. The reaction was quenched with

H₂O (20 mL), extracted with Et₂O (3 × 20 mL), and the combined organic layers were washed with brine (25 mL), dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (0% to 1% EtOAc/petroleum ether) to give the title compound **1k** (870 mg, 64%) as a pale yellow oil. R_{*f*} = 0.36 (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 1757 (C=O), 1486, 1282, 1155, 1085, 974, 784, 742, 702, 651 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34-7.27 (3H, m, Ar**H**), 7.25-7.18 (5H, m, Ar**H**), 7.15 (1H, d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, Ar**H**), 4.58-4.50 (4H, m, 2 × C**H**₂CF₃), 3.53 (2H, s, C**H**₂Ph), 2.98 (2H, s, C**H**₂C≡C), (3H, s, C**H**₃); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.7 (2 × C), 138.2 (C), 134.4 (C), 132.4 (CH), 130.0 (2 × CH), 129.4 (CH), 129.0 (CH), 128.9 (2 × CH), 128.4 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 122.7 (C), 122.7 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 277.2 Hz, 2 × C), 85.5 (C), 82.56 (C), 61.4 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 37.4 Hz, 2 × CH₂), 58.8 (C), 37.6 (CH₂), 23.4 (CH₂), 21.4 (CH₃); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.7 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 6 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₄H₂₀F₆NaO₄]⁺ [M+Na]⁺: 509.1158, found 509.1158.

Bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl) 2-benzyl-2-(3-(naphthalen-1-yl)prop-2-yn-1-yl)malonate (11)



A flask was charged with CuI (24.0 mg, 0.13 mmol) and Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (44.2 mg, 0.06 mmol), and was then purged with argon for 20 min. Freshly degassed (purging with argon for 30 min) THF (25 mL), and Et₃N (1.05 mL, 6.30 mmol) were added and the mixture was degassed with a stream of argon for 15 min. Malonate S1j (500 mg, 1.26 mmol) and 1-iodonaphthalene (0.37 mL, 2.52 mmol) were added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 40 h. The reaction was guenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl solution (10 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3 × 20 mL), dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography (0% to 5% EtOAc/petroleum ether) to give the title compound 11 (426 mg, 65%) as a yellow oil. $R_f = 0.39$ (10%) EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 1755 (C=O), 1281, 1148, 1085, 968, 841, 800, 701, 652, 523 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.32-8.29 (1H, m, Ar**H**), 7.88-7.83 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 7.69 (1H, dd, J = 7.2, 1.2 Hz, ArH), 7.60 (1H, ddd, J = 8.3, 6.9, 1.4 Hz, ArH), 7.53 (1H, ddd, J = 8.2, 6.8, 1.4 Hz, ArH), 7.44 (1H, dd, J = 8.3, 7.1 Hz, ArH), 7.35-7.29 (3H, m, ArH), 7.26-7.23 (2H, m, ArH), 4.63-4.50 (4H, m, $2 \times CH_2CF_3$), 3.62 (2H, s, CH₂Ph), 3.16 (2H, s, CH₂C=C); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.8 (2 × C), 134.4 (C), 133.5 (C), 133.3 (C), 130.9 (CH), 130.0 (2 × CH), 129.0 (CH), 128.9 (2 × CH), 128.5 (CH), 127.9 (CH), 127.0 (CH), 126.6 (CH), 126.1 (CH), 125.3 (CH), 122.7 (q, J_{C-F} = 277.3 Hz, $2 \times C$), 120.5 (C), 87.9 (C), 83.4 (C), 61.5 (q, $J_{C-F} = 37.4 \text{ Hz}$, $2 \times CH_2$), 58.8 (C), 37.8 (CH₂), 23.8

(CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –73.6 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 6 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₇H₂₀F₆NO₄]⁺ [M+NH₄]⁺: 540.1604, found 540.1606.

Bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl) 2-benzyl-2-(3-(2-thienyl)prop-2-yn-1-yl)malonate (1m)



A flask was charged with CuI (24.0 mg, 0.13 mmol) and Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (44.2 mg, 0.06 mmol), and was then purged with argon for 20 min. Freshly degassed (purging with argon for 30 min) THF (25 mL), and Et₃N (1.05 mL, 6.30 mmol) were added and the mixture was degassed with a stream of argon for 15 min. Malonate S1j (500 mg, 1.26 mmol) and 2-iodothiophene (0.28 mL, 2.52 mmol) were added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 18 h. The reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl solution (10 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3×20 mL), dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography (0% to 1% EtOAc/petroleum ether) to give the title compound **1m** (591 mg, 98%) as an orange oil. $R_f = 0.35$ (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 1754 (C=O), 1443, 1279, 1159, 1073, 972, 958, 838, 700, 528 cm⁻ ¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35-7.28 (3H, m, ArH), 7.26-7.24 (1H, m, ArH), 7.22-7.17 (3H, m, Ar**H**), 6.98 (1H, dd, J = 5.2, 3.6 Hz, Ar**H**), 4.59-4.50 (4H, m, $2 \times CH_2CF_3$), 3.50 (2H, s, CH₂Ph), 3.00 (2H, s, CH₂C=C); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.6 (2 × C), 134.3 (C), 132.3 (CH), 130.0 (2 × CH), 128.9 (2 × CH), 127.9 (CH), 127.2 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 122.7 (C), 122.6 (q, J_{C-F} = 277.4 Hz, $2 \times C$), 87.1 (C), 78.4 (C), 61.5 (q, $J_{C-F} = 37.4 \text{ Hz}$, $2 \times CH_2$), 58.7 (C), 37.7 (CH₂), 23.7 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.6 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 6 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for $[C_{21}H_{16}F_6NaO_4S]^+$ [M+Na]⁺: 501.0565, found 501.0566.

2,2-Dimethyl 1-phenyl 5-phenylpent-4-yne-1,2,2-tricarboxylate (1n)



A solution of malonate $S4^4$ (2.00 g, 8.12 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added over 10 min to an icecooled suspension of NaH (60% dispersion in mineral oil, 389.7 mg, 9.75 mmol) in THF (40 mL). The resulting solution was warmed to room temperature, stirred for 45 min and recooled to 0 °C. A solution of phenyl 2-bromoacetate (2.62 g, 12.2 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added dropwise and the resulting solution was stirred at 0 °C for 2.5 h. The reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl solution (50 mL). This mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 50 mL), and the combined organic layers were washed with H₂O (50 mL), brine (50 mL), dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (0% to 5% EtOAc/petroleum ether) to give the title compound **1n** (2.34 g, 76%) as a colorless oil. R_f = 0.26 (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 2953, 1750 (C=O), 1727 (C=O), 1491, 1431, 1275, 1192, 1080, 756, 690 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.42-7.35 (4H, m, Ar**H**), 7.32-7.21 (4H, m, Ar**H**), 7.12-7.08 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 3.81 (6H, s, 2 × OC**H**₃), 3.51 (2H, s, C**H**₂C=O), 3.31 (2H, s, C**H**₂C=C); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.5 (2 × C), 169.2 (C), 150.5 (C), 138.8 (2 × CH), 129.6 (2 × CH), 128.4 (2 × CH), 128.3 (CH), 126.1 (CH), 123.0 (C), 121.6 (2 × CH), 84.4 (C), 83.9 (C), 55.5 (C), 53.4 (2 × CH₃), 37.5 (CH₂), 24.9 (CH₂); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₂H₂₀NaO₆]⁺[M+Na]⁺: 403.1152, found 403.1155.

Diphenyl 2-methyl-2-(3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-yl)malonate (10)



A flask was charged with NaH (60% dispersion in mineral oil, 177 mg, 4.43 mmol), purged with argon for 30 min, and then suspended in THF (14 mL) at 0 °C. A solution of diphenyl 2-methylmalonate **S5**⁵ (1.00 g, 3.70 mmol) in THF (4 mL) was added to the ice-cooled suspension. The resulting solution was stirred at 0 °C for 45 min. Alkynyl bromide **S6**⁶ (80 wt. % in toluene, 978 µL, 4.01 mmol) was added dropwise and the resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The reaction was quenched with H₂O (25 mL), extracted with Et₂O (3 × 25 mL), and the combined organic layers were washed with brine (25 mL), dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated in *vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (0% to 2% EtOAc/petroleum ether) to give the title compound **10** (950 mg, 67%) as a white solid. $R_f = 0.27$ (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); m.p. 81-82 °C (Et₂O); IR 3060, 1749 (C=O), 1590, 1488, 1193, 1158, 1085, 915, 743, 687 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.44-7.38 (6H, m, Ar**H**), 7.33-7.25 (5H, m, Ar**H**), 7.18-7.14 (4H, m, Ar**H**), 3.30 (2H, s, C**H**₂C=C), 1.91 (3H, s, C**H**₃); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.5 (2 × C), 150.7 (2 × C), 131.9 (2 × CH), 129.8 (4 × CH), 128.4 (2 × CH), 128.3 (CH), 126.4 (2 × CH), 123.1 (C), 121.4 (4 × CH), 84.2 (C), 84.1 (C), 54.2 (C), 27.2 (CH₂), 20.3 (CH₃); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₅H₂₀NaO₄]⁺ [M+Na]⁺: 407.1254, found 407.1263.

Bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl) 2-benzyl-2-(but-2-yn-1-yl)malonate (1r)



A flask was charged with NaH (60% dispersion in mineral oil, 83.6 mg, 2.09 mmol), purged with argon for 30 min, and then suspended in THF (12 mL) at 0 °C. A solution of malonate **S2**² (500 mg, 1.40 mmol) in THF (3 mL) was added to the ice-cooled suspension. The resulting solution was stirred at 0 °C for 45 min. 1-Bromo-2-butyne (183 μ L, 2.09 mmol) was added dropwise and the resulting solution was stirred at 50 °C for 16 h. The reaction was quenched with H₂O (25 mL), extracted with Et₂O (3 × 25 mL), and the combined organic layers were washed with brine (25 mL), dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (0% to 1% EtOAc/petroleum ether) to give the title compound **1r** (444 mg, 77%) as a pale yellow oil. R_f = 0.49 (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 1756 (C=O), 1497, 1412, 1282, 1158, 1085, 965, 743, 702, 651 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.31-7.25 (3H, m, Ar**H**), 7.16-7.14 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 4.58-4.43 (4H, m, 2 × C**H**₂CF₃), 3.43 (2H, s, C**H**₂Ph), 2.70 (2H, q, *J* = 2.4 Hz, C**H**₂C=C), 1.84 (3H, t, *J* = 2.5 Hz, C**H**₃; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.9 (2 × C), 134.6 (C), 129.9 (2 × CH), 128.8 (2 × CH), 127.7 (CH), 122.7 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 277.3 Hz, 2 × C), 80.8 (C), 72.5 (C), 61.4 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 37.3 Hz, 2 × CH₂), 58.8 (C), 37.4 (CH₂), 22.8 (CH₂), 3.6 (CH₃); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.7 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 6 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₁₈H₂₀F₆NO₄]⁺ [M+NH₄]⁺: 428.1291, found 428.1289.

3. Rhodium-Catalyzed Arylative Cyclization of Alkynyl Malonates

General Procedure A



An oven-dried microwave vial fitted with a stirrer bar was charged with the appropriate substrate **1** (0.30 mmol), the appropriate arylboronic acid (0.45 mmol), KF (26.1 mg, 0.45 mmol) and $[Rh(cod)Cl]_2$ (7.4 mg, 0.015 mmol). The vial was sealed with a septum-lined cap and purged with argon for 30 min. 1,4-Dioxane (2.7 mL) and H₂O (0.3 mL), both of which were freshly degassed separately (purging with argon for 30 min) were added. The mixture was stirred at 70 °C for 20 h. The reaction was cooled to room temperature, H₂O (15 mL) was added, and the mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 15 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (20 mL), dried

(MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated in *vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography using EtOAc/*n*-pentane to give the arylative cyclization product **2**.

2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl (*E*)-2-benzyl-4-benzylidene-1-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-2carboxylate (2aa), bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl) (*E*)-2-benzyl-2-(2,3-diphenylallyl)malonate (3aa), and bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl) 2-benzyl-2-(3,3-diphenylallyl)malonate (3ab)



General Procedure A was followed using malonate ester **1a** (236 mg, 0.50 mmol) and phenylboronic acid (91.4 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (0% to 1% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) gave a 1:1.25 mixture of inseparable *alkyne hydroarylation products* **3aa** and **3ab**, respectively (53.4 mg, 19%) as a yellow oil followed by *arylative cyclization product* **2aa** (152 mg, 67%) as a yellow oil.

<u>Data for 2aa</u>: $R_f = 0.32$ (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 2922, 1742 (C=O), 1685 (C=O), 1454, 1273, 1156, 925, 848, 760, 656 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.13 (1H, dd, J = 7.9, 1.4 Hz, ArH), 7.77 (1H, dd, J = 8.1, 1.1 Hz, ArH), 7.60 (1H, ddd, J = 8.3, 7.2, 1.5 Hz, ArH), 7.45-7.40 (4H, m, ArH), 7.36-7.33 (3H, m, ArH and =CHPh), 7.17-7.09 (5H, m, ArH), 4.48 (1H, dq, J = 12.7, 8.4 Hz, CH_aH_bCF₃), 4.26 (1H, dq, J = 12.7, 8.4 Hz, CH_aH_bCF₃), 3.66 (1H, dd, J = 14.6, 1.4 Hz, =CCH_aH_b), 3.40 (1H, d, J = 13.7 Hz, CH_aH_bPh), 3.25 (1H, d, J = 13.7 Hz, CH_aH_bPh), 3.04 (1H, dd, J = 14.6, 1.6 Hz, =CCH_aH_b); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.6 (C), 169.9 (C), 141.1 (C), 136.7 (C), 135.4 (C), 134.3 (CH), 131.0 (C), 130.8 (2 × CH), 130.3 (C), 129.8 (CH), 129.2 (2 × CH), 128.6 (2 × CH), 128.6 (CH), 128.2 (2 × CH), 127.8 (CH), 127.0 (CH), 124.5 (CH), 122.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.6$ Hz, C), 61.0 (q, $J_{C-F} = 36.9$ Hz, CH₂), 60.3 (C), 38.8 (CH₂), 34.1 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.5 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 3 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₇H₂₁F₃NaO₃]⁺ [M+Na]⁺: 473.1332, found 473.1335.

<u>Data for 1:1.25 mixture of **3aa** and **3ab**, respectively: $R_f = 0.38$ (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 3029, 1751 (C=O), 1413, 1280, 1155, 1086, 961, 767, 699, 649 cm⁻¹; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –73.5-(-73.6) (m, 6 × F for each of **3aa** and **3ab**); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₉H₂₈F₆NO₄]⁺ [M+NH₄]⁺: 568.1917, found 568.1921.</u>

Characteristic signals for minor regioisomer **3aa**: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.82 (1H, s, =CH), 6.76-6.73 (2H, m, ArH), 3.94-3.85 (2H, m, CH₂CF₃), 3.80-3.72 (2H, m, CH₂CF₃), 3.68 (2H, s, CH₂Ph), 3.05 (2H, s, CH₂C=CH), [9 × ArH concealed within the multiplet 7.43-7.28 and 4 × ArH

concealed within the multiplet at 7.23-7.01 ppm]; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.5 (2 × C), 142.7 (C), 137.5 (C), 137.2 (C), 135.4 (CH), 135.3 (C), 130.0 (2 × CH), 129.2 (2 × CH), 128.9 (2 × CH), 128.3 (2 × CH), 128.2 (2 × CH), 128.0 (2 × CH), 127.8 (2 × CH), 127.4 (CH), 127.2 (CH), 122.6 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 276.3 Hz, 2 × C), 61.1 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 37.1 Hz, 2 × CH₂), 59.1 (C), 38.7 (CH₂), 34.0 (CH₂). *Data for major regioisomer* **3ab**: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.93-6.91 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 5.95 (1H, t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, **H**C=C), 4.52-4.34 (4H, m, 2 × C**H**₂CF₃), 3.33 (2H, s, CC**H**₂CCH), 2.84 (2H, d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, CC**H**₂CH), [6 × Ar**H** concealed within the multiplet 7.43-7.28 and 7 × Ar**H** concealed within the multiplet at 7.23-7.01 ppm]; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.6 (2 × C), 146.5 (C), 142.6 (C), 139.2 (C), 134.5 (C), 130.0 (2 × CH), 129.9 (2 × CH), 128.6 (2 × CH), 128.5 (2 × CH), 128.4 (2 × CH), 127.8 (4 × CH), 127.5 (CH), 122.7 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 276.3 Hz, 2 × C), 121.3 (CH), 61.3 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 37.3 Hz, 2 × CH₂), 59.3 (C), 38.2 (CH₂), 32.0 (CH₂).

Note: Assignment of the NMR data for **3aa** and **3ab** was made simpler by the isolation of **3ab** in a purer form from the enantioselective reaction described on page 28.

2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl (E)-4-benzylidene-2-methyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,4 tetrahydronaphthalene-2-carboxylate (2ba). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A, using malonate ester 1b (119 mg, 0.30 mmol) and phenylboronic acid (54.9 mg, 0.45 mmol), and purified by

column chromatography (0% to 1.5% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) to give a pale yellow oil (65.5 mg, 58%). $R_f = 0.30$ (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 2956, 1744 (C=O), 1684 (C=O), 1452, 1270, 1156, 920, 850, 758, 659 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.09 (1H, dd, J = 7.9, 1.5 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.74 (1H, dd, J = 8.1, 1.1 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.62 (1H, ddd, J = 8.0, 7.3, 1.5 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.46-7.31 (7H, m, Ar**H** and =C**H**Ph), 4.55 (1H, dq, J = 12.6, 8.4 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.30 (1H, dq, J = 12.6, 8.4 Hz, CH_aH_bCF₃), 3.59 (1H, dd, J = 14.1, 1.5 Hz, =CCH_aH_b), 3.07 (1H, dd, J = 14.1, 1.2 Hz, =CCH_aH_b) 1.46 (3H, s, C**H**₃); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.1 (C), 171.0 (C), 141.5 (C), 136.7 (C), 134.4 (CH), 131.3 (C), 130.2 (CH), 129.6 (C), 129.1 (2 × CH), 128.7 (2 × CH), 128.7 (CH), 128.3 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 124.7 (CH), 122.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.5$ Hz, C), 60.9 (q, $J_{C-F} = 36.9$ Hz, CH₂), 55.4 (C), 37.4 (CH₂), 19.8 (CH₃); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.8 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 3 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₁H₁₈F₃O₃]⁺ [M+H]⁺: 375.1203, found 375.1202.



2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl (*E*)-**4-benzylidene-1-oxo-2-(2-thienylmethyl)-1,2,3,4tetrahydronaphthalene-2-carboxylate** (**2ca**). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A, using malonate ester **1c** (144 mg, 0.30 mmol) and phenylboronic acid (54.9 mg, 0.45 mmol), and purified by

column chromatography (0% to 1.5% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) to give a yellow oil (68.8 mg, 50%). $R_f =$

0.46 (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 2925, 1751 (C=O), 1684 (C=O), 1595, 1278, 1155, 1070, 972, 758, 697, 510 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.12 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.4 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.75 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.1 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.60 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.2, 7.3, 1.5 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.45-7.29 (7H, m, Ar**H** and =C**H**Ph), 7.05 (1H, dd, *J* = 5.1, 1.3 Hz, Ar**H**), 6.73-6.69 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 4.53 (1H, dq, *J* = 12.7, 8.4 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.25 (1H, dq, *J* = 12.7, 8.4 Hz, CH_aH_bCF₃), 3.65-3.59 (2H, m, =CCH_aH_b and C**H**_aH_bCS), 3.43 (1H, d, *J* = 14.7 Hz, CH_aH_bCS), 3.06 (1H, dd, *J* = 14.5, 1.6 Hz, =CCH_aH_b); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.4 (C), 169.8 (C), 141.4 (C), 136.9 (C), 136.6 (C), 134.4 (CH), 130.8 (C), 130.2 (CH), 130.1 (C), 129.2 (2 × CH), 128.8 (CH), 128.6 (3 × CH), 128.4 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 126.6 (CH), 125.3 (CH), 124.6 (CH), 122.6 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 277.6 Hz, C), 61.1 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 37.0 Hz, CH₂), 60.3 (C), 34.1 (CH₂), 33.5 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.5 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 3 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₅H₁₉F₃NaO₃S]⁺ [M+Na]⁺: 479.0899, found 479.0900.



2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl (*E*)-**4-benzylidene-1-oxo-2-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-2-carboxylate (2da).** The title compound was prepared according to a slight modification of General Procedure A (in that the reaction was left for 24 h), using malonate ester **1d** (150 mg, 0.30 mmol) and

phenylboronic acid (54.9 mg, 0.45 mmol), and purified by column chromatography (0% to 4% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) to give a pale yellow oil (52.3 mg, 36%). $R_f = 0.26$ (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 1751 (C=O), 1682 (C=O), 1598, 1452, 1156, 1079, 909, 727, 694, 657 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.10 (1H, dd, J = 7.9, 1.5 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.81-7.79 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 7.73 (1H, dd, J = 8.0, 1.1 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.64-7.60 (1H, m, Ar**H**), 7.58-7.54 (1H, m, Ar**H**), 7.47-7.40 (3H, m, Ar**H**), 7.34-7.27 (4H, m, Ar**H** and =C**H**), 7.20-7.17 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 4.55 (1H, dq, J = 12.6, 8.4 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.29 (1H, dq, J = 12.6, 8.4 Hz, CH_aH_bCF₃), 4.29 (1H, dq, J = 12.6, 8.4 Hz, CH_aH_bCF₃), 3.66-3.54 (4H, m, =CCH₂ and CH₂C=O); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.8 (C), 193.8 (C), 169.9 (C), 141.8 (C), 136.4 (2 × C), 134.4 (CH), 133.5 (CH), 131.6 (C), 130.4 (CH), 130.3 (C), 129.0 (2 × CH), 128.7 (3 × CH), 128.6 (2 × CH), 128.3 (CH), 128.1 (2 × CH), 127.7 (CH), 124.7 (CH), 122.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.4$ Hz, C), 61.1 (q, $J_{C-F} = 36.9$ Hz, CH₂), 57.0 (C), 41.8 (CH₂), 35.0 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.7 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 3 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₈H₂₅NF₃O₄]⁺ [M+NH₄]⁺: 496.1730, found 496.1738.



2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl (*E*)-4-benzylidene-1-oxo-2-(2-oxo-2-phenoxyethyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-2-carboxylate (2ea). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A, using malonate ester 1e (155 mg, 0.30 mmol) and phenylboronic acid (54.9 mg, 0.45 mmol), and purified by

column chromatography (0% to 3% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) to give a white solid (81.6 mg, 55%). $R_f = 0.31$ (20% EtOAc/petroleum ether); m.p. 138-140 °C (Et₂O); IR 3062, 1754 (C=O), 1687 (C=O),

1594, 1278, 1145, 958, 758, 698, 496 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.12 (1H, dd, J = 7.9, 1.5 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.75 (1H, dd, J = 8.0, 1.1 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.65-7.61 (1H, m, Ar**H**), 7.47-7.40 (9H, m, Ar**H** and =C**H**Ph), 7.22-7.17 (1H, m, Ar**H**), 6.94-6.90 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 4.53 (1H, dq, J = 12.6, 8.3 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.22 (1H, dq, J = 12.6, 8.3 Hz, CH_a**H**_bCF₃), 3.71 (1H, dd, J = 14.2, 1.0 Hz, =CC**H**_aH_b), 3.46 (1H, dd, J = 14.2, 1.6 Hz, =CCH_a**H**_b), 3.18-3.09 (2H, m, C**H**₂C=O); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.2 (C), 169.3 (C), 168.8 (C), 150.4 (C), 141.6 (C), 136.4 (C), 134.6 (CH), 130.7 (C and CH), 130.0 (C), 129.4 (2 × CH), 129.1 (2 × CH), 128.8 (2 × CH), 128.8 (CH), 128.3 (CH), 127.9 (CH), 126.0 (CH), 124.7 (CH), 122.6 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.4$ Hz, C), 121.5 (2 × CH), 61.2 (q, $J_{C-F} = 36.9$ Hz, CH₂), 57.1 (C), 38.1 (CH₂), 35.7 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.7 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 3 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₈H₂₁F₃NaO₅]⁺ [M+Na]⁺: 517.1233, found 517.1233.

X-ray crystallography.





2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl (*E*)-4-benzylidene-1-oxo-2-phenyl-1,2,3,4tetrahydronaphthalene-2-carboxylate (2fa). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A, using malonate ester 1f (137 mg, 0.30 mmol) and phenylboronic acid (54.9 mg, 0.45 mmol), and purified by

column chromatography (0% to 1.5% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) to give a yellow oil (81.0 mg, 62%). $R_f = 0.42$ (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 2919, 1749 (C=O), 1682 (C=O), 1596, 1447, 1280, 1158, 972, 732, 696 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.15 (1H, dd, J = 7.9, 1.4 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.65 (1H, dd, J = 8.0, 1.1 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.58-7.53 (1H, m, Ar**H**), 7.48-7.29 (6H, m, Ar**H** and =C**H**Ph), 7.24-7.15 (4H,

m, Ar**H**), 6.96-6.93 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 4.54 (1H, dq, J = 12.7, 8.4 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.39 (1H, dq, J = 12.7, 8.4 Hz, CH_aH_bCF₃), 3.92 (1H, dd, J = 14.5, 0.8 Hz, =CC**H**_aH_b), 3.82 (1H, dd, J = 14.5, 1.9 Hz, =CCH_aH_b); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.5 (C), 169.9 (C), 141.1 (C), 136.9 (C), 134.4 (CH), 134.0 (C), 131.1 (C), 130.3 (CH), 130.2 (C), 129.1 (2 × CH), 128.8 (2 × CH), 128.7 (CH), 128.5 (CH), 128.3 (2 × CH), 128.2 (CH), 128.0 (CH), 127.9 (2 × CH), 124.6 (CH), 122.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.5$ Hz, C), 64.3 (C), 61.2 (q, $J_{C-F} = 36.9$ Hz, CH₂), 35.2 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.7 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 3 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₆H₂₀F₃O₃]⁺ [M+H]⁺: 437.1359, found 437.1343.



2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl (*E*)-4-benzylidene-2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-1-oxo-1,2,3,4tetrahydronaphthalene-2-carboxylate (2ga). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A, using malonate ester 1g (147 mg, 0.30 mmol) and phenylboronic acid (54.9 mg, 0.45 mmol), and purified by

column chromatography (0% to 1.5% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) to give a pale yellow oil (75.1 mg, 54%). $R_f = 0.29$ (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 2923, 1751 (C=O), 1682 (C=O), 1596, 1494, 1157, 1029, 973, 774, 698 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.19 (1H, dt, J = 7.8, 1.1 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.61-7.57 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 7.49-7.43 (1H, m, Ar**H**), 7.34-7.29 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 7.26-7.22 (1H, m, Ar**H**), 7.17 (1H, ddd, J = 8.2, 6.9, 2.2 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.04-6.99 (3H, m, Ar**H** and =C**H**Ph), 6.70-6.63 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 6.58-6.56 (1H, m, Ar**H**), 4.66 (1H, dq, J = 12.7, 8.4 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.36 (1H, dq, J = 12.7 8.4 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.27 (1H, d, J = 13.8 Hz, =CC**H**_aH_b), 3.52 (1H, dd, J = 13.8, 1.8 Hz, =CCH_aH_b), 3.15 (3H, s, OC**H**₃); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.9 (C), 170.2 (C), 156.9 (C), 142.5 (C), 137.0 (C), 134.4 (CH), 132.9 (C), 131.0 (C), 130.1 (CH), 129.1 (CH), 129.0 (2 × CH), 128.6 (CH), 128.3 (2 × CH), 128.1 (CH), 128.0 (CH), 127.3 (CH), 124.9 (C), 124.8 (CH), 122.9 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.7$ Hz, C), 120.0 (CH), 110.4 (CH), 63.2 (C), 60.8 (q, $J_{C-F} = 36.7$ Hz, CH₂), 54.3 (CH₃), 34.8 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.7 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, $3 \times F$); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₇H₂₂F₃O₄]⁺ [M+H]⁺: 467.1465, found 467.1464.

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2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl (*E*)-4-benzylidene-1-oxo-3,4-dihydro-[2,2'binaphthalene]-2(1*H*)-carboxylate (2ha). The title compound was prepared according to a slight modification of General Procedure A (in that 2.0 equivalents of the boronic acid and 10 mol% catalyst loading was used), using malonate ester 1h (153 mg, 0.30 mmol) and phenylboronic acid (73.2 mg, 0.60

mmol), and purified by column chromatography (0% to 1% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) to give a yellow oil (82.3 mg, 56%). $R_f = 0.41$ (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 2924, 1745 (C=O), 1682 (C=O), 1596, 1278, 1157, 1081, 967, 777, 699 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.25 (1H, dt, *J* = 7.8, 1.2 Hz,

ArH), 7.77-7.70 (2H, m, ArH), 7.64-7.59 (2H, m, ArH), 7.50 (1H, ddd, J = 8.3, 5.9, 2.6 Hz, ArH), 7.31-7.27 (2H, m, ArH), 7.17 (1H, dd, J = 8.2, 7.3 Hz, ArH), 7.09-6.93 (6H, m, ArH and =CHPh), 6.57-6.54 (2H, m, ArH), 4.60-4.43 (2H, m, CH₂CF₃), 4.27 (1H, d, J = 14.0 Hz, =CCH_aH_b), 3.74 (1H, dd, J = 14.0, 1.7 Hz, =CCH_aH_b); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.8 (C), 170.9 (C), 141.7 (C), 136.3 (C), 134.6 (CH), 134.2 (C), 132.4 (C), 131.6 (C), 131.0 (C), 130.9 (C), 130.5 (CH), 129.2 (CH), 129.2 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 128.3 (CH), 128.2 (2 × CH), 128.1 (2 × CH), 127.0 (CH), 126.2 (CH), 125.9 (CH), 125.5 (CH), 124.8 (CH), 124.5 (CH), 123.7 (CH), 122.6 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.8$ Hz, C), 65.2 (C), 61.2 (q, $J_{C-F} = 36.9$ Hz, CH₂), 36.6 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.3 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 3 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₃₀H₂₅F₃NO₃]⁺ [M+NH₄]⁺: 504.1781, found 504.1783.

2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl (E)-4-benzvlidene-1-oxo-2-(3-thienvl)-1,2,3,4tetrahydronaphthalene-2-carboxylate (2ia). The title compound was O₂CH₂CF₃ prepared according to General Procedure A, using malonate ester 1i (139 mg, 0.30 mmol) and phenylboronic acid (54.9 mg, 0.45 mmol), and purified by column chromatography (0% to 2% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) to give a yellow oil (75.7 mg, 57%). $R_f = 0.25$ (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 2924, 1749 (C=O), 1682 (C=O), 1596, 1445, 1280, 1156, 908, 731, 698 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.15 (1H, ddd, J = 7.9, 1.5, 0.5 Hz, ArH), 7.69 (1H, dd, J = 8.1, 1.2 Hz, ArH), 7.58 (1H, ddd, J = 8.0, 7.2, 1.5 Hz, ArH), 7.48-7.33 (6H, m, ArH), 7.30 (1H, s, =CHPh), 7.16 (1H, dd, J = 5.1, 3.0 Hz, ArH), 6.89 (1H, dd, J = 3.0, 1.4 Hz, ArH), 6.76 (1H, dd, J = 3.0, 1.4 Hz), 70 (1H, dd, J = 3.0, 1.4 Hz)dd, J = 5.1, 1.4 Hz, Ar**H**), 4.57 (1H, dq, J = 12.6, 8.3 Hz, CH_aH_bCF₃), 4.40 (1H, dq, J = 12.6, 8.3 Hz, $CH_aH_bCF_3$), 3.89-3.80 (2H, m, = CCH_2); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.4 (C), 169.5 (C), 141.1 (C), 136.7 (C), 134.5 (CH), 134.4 (C), 131.0 (C), 130.4 (CH), 129.7 (C), 129.2 (2 × CH), 128.9 (2 × CH), 128.7 (CH), 128.6 (CH), 128.0 (CH), 127.6 (CH), 125.4 (CH), 124.7 (CH), 123.9 (CH), 122.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.5$ Hz, C), 61.5 (C), 61.3 (q, $J_{C-F} = 36.8$ Hz, CH₂), 35.6 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –73.7 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 3 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₄H₁₈F₃O₃S]⁺ [M+H]⁺: 443.0923, found 443.0923.



2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl (*E*)-**2-benzyl-4-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-1-oxo-1,2,3,4tetrahydronaphthalene-2-carboxylate** (**2ja**). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A, using malonate ester **1j** (151 mg, 0.30 mmol) and phenylboronic acid (54.9 mg, 0.45 mmol), and purified by column chromatography (0% to 2% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) to give a yellow oil

(91.8 mg, 64%). $R_f = 0.31$ (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 2964, 1750 (C=O), 1686 (C=O), 1605, 1510, 1279, 1249, 1157, 1031, 701 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.10 (1H, dd, J = 7.9, 1.5 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.73 (1H, dd, J = 8.1, 1.1 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.60-7.55 (1H, m, Ar**H**), 7.39 (1H, ddd, J = 8.1, 7.2, 1.1

Hz, Ar**H**), 7.34 (1H, s, =C**H**Ar), 7.29-7.26 (3H, m, Ar**H**), 7.14-7.10 (4H, m, Ar**H**), 6.96-6.92 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 4.47 (1H, dq, J = 12.6, 8.4 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.27 (1H, dq, J = 12.6, 8.4 Hz, CH_aH_bCF₃), 3.86 (3H, s, OC**H**₃), 3.63 (1H, dd, J = 14.6, 1.4 Hz, =CC**H**_aH_b), 3.37 (1H, d, J = 13.7 Hz, C**H**_aH_bPh), 3.24 (1H, d, J = 13.7 Hz, CH_aH_bPh), 3.02 (1H, dd, J = 14.7, 1.5 Hz, =CCH_aH_b); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.8 (C), 170.0 (C), 159.2 (C), 141.4 (C), 135.4 (C), 134.3 (CH), 130.9 (2 × CH), 130.7 (2 × CH), 130.0 (C), 129.6 (CH), 129.4 (C), 129.3 (C), 128.4 (CH), 128.3 (CH), 128.2 (2 × CH), 127.0 (CH), 124.4 (CH), 122.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.5$ Hz, C), 114.1 (2 × CH), 61.0 (q, $J_{C-F} = 36.9$ Hz, CH₂), 60.3 (C), 55.5 (CH₃), 38.8 (CH₂), 34.1 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.5 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 3 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₈H₂₄F₃O₄]⁺ [M+H]⁺: 481.1621, found 481.1616.

 $\begin{array}{l} 2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl \quad (E)-2-benzyl-4-(3-methylbenzylidene)-1-oxo-1,2,3,4-\\ \hline tetrahydronaphthalene-2-carboxylate \quad (2ka). The title compound was \\ \hline \\ \end{array}$

column chromatography (0% to 1.5% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) to give a yellow oil (103 mg, 74%). $R_f = 0.31$ (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 1752 (C=O), 1695 (C=O), 1602, 1455, 1281, 1153, 1060, 913, 729, 698 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.11 (1H, dd, J = 7.9, 1.4 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.76 (1H, dd, J = 8.1, 1.1 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.59 (1H, ddd, J = 8.3, 7.2, 1.5 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.42 (1H, ddd, J = 8.2, 7.3, 1.1 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.37 (1H, s, =C**H**Ar), 7.31-7.27 (1H, m, Ar**H**), 7.13-7.10 (8H, m, Ar**H**), 4.47 (1H, dq, J = 12.6, 8.4 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.31-4.20 (1H, m, CH_a**H**_bCF₃), 3.65 (1H, dd, J = 14.7, 1.4 Hz, =CC**H**_aH_b), 3.38 (1H, d, J = 13.8 Hz, C**H**_aH_bPh), 3.26 (1H, d, J = 13.8 Hz, C**H**_a**H**_bPh), 3.01 (1H, dd, J = 14.7, 1.7 Hz, =CCH_a**H**_b), 2.39 (3H, s, C**H**₃); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.7 (C), 169.9 (C), 141.1 (C), 138.2 (C), 136.6 (C), 135.4 (C), 134.3 (CH), 130.8 (2 × CH), 130.7 (C), 130.3 (C), 130.0 (CH), 129.9 (CH), 128.6 (CH), 128.5 (CH), 128.4 (CH), 128.2 (2 × CH), 127.0 (CH), 126.3 (CH), 124.4 (CH), 122.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.6$ Hz, C), 61.0 (q, $J_{C-F} = 36.9$ Hz, CH₂), 60.2 (C), 38.9 (CH₂), 34.2 (CH₂), 21.6 (CH₃); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.5 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 3 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₈H₂₄F₃O₃]⁺ [M+H]⁺: 465.1672, found 465.1669.



2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl (*E*)-2-benzyl-4-(naphthalen-1-ylmethylene)-1-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-2-carboxylate (2la). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A, using malonate ester 1l (157 mg, 0.30 mmol) and phenylboronic acid (54.9 mg, 0.45 mmol), and purified by column chromatography (0% to 1.5% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) to give a yellow oil

(102 mg, 68%). $R_f = 0.38$ (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 3061, 1757 (C=O), 1683 (C=O), 1282, 1152, 974, 908, 778, 752, 663 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.14 (1H, dd, J = 7.9, 1.4 Hz,

Ar**H**), 7.98 (1H, dd, J = 7.8, 1.7 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.94 (1H, dd, J = 7.6, 1.8 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.89-7.86 (3H, m, Ar**H**), 7.65 (1H, td, J = 7.7, 1.5 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.58-7.45 (4H, m, Ar**H**), 7.38 (1H, d, J = 7.0 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.04-7.00 (3H, m, Ar**H** and =C**H**Ph), 6.90-6.86 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 4.45 (1H, dq, J = 12.7, 8.4 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.00 (1H, dq, J = 12.7, 8.4 Hz, CH_a**H**_bCF₃), 3.50 (1H, dd, J = 14.6, 1.3 Hz, =CC**H**_aH_b), 3.37 (1H, d, J = 13.7 Hz, C**H**_aH_bPh), 3.12 (1H, d, J = 13.7 Hz, CH_a**H**_bPh), 2.96 (1H, dd, J = 14.6, 1.5 Hz, =CCH_a**H**_b); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.7 (C), 170.0 (C), 140.9 (C), 135.3 (C), 134.4 (CH), 133.8 (C), 133.6 (C), 132.6 (C), 132.2 (C), 130.9 (2 × CH), 130.4 (C), 128.9 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 128.6 (CH), 128.5 (CH), 128.0 (2 × CH), 127.8 (CH), 126.9 (2 × CH), 126.5 (CH), 126.2 (CH), 125.5 (CH), 124.6 (2 × CH), 122.6 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.5$ Hz, C), 60.9 (q, $J_{C-F} = 36.9$ Hz, CH₂), 60.5 (C), 38.6 (CH₂), 34.7 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.7 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 3 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₃₁H₂₄F₃O₃]⁺ [M+H]⁺: 501.1672, found 501.1667.



2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl (*E*)-**2-benzyl-1-oxo-4-(2-thienylmethylene)-1,2,3,4tetrahydronaphthalene-2-carboxylate** (**2ma**). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A, using malonate ester **1m** (144 mg, 0.30 mmol) and phenylboronic acid (54.9 mg, 0.45 mmol), and purified by

column chromatography (0% to 1.5% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) to give a yellow oil (91.7 mg, 66%). $R_f = 0.29$ (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 2930, 1759 (C=O), 1681 (C=O), 1283, 1148, 974, 923, 857, 750, 690 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.08 (1H, dd, J = 7.9, 1.5 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.73 (1H, dd, J = 8.1, 1.0 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.57 (1H, ddd, J = 8.3, 7.2, 1.5 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.45 (1H, s, =C**H**Ar), 7.41-7.35 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 7.22-7.14 (6H, m, Ar**H**), 7.06 (1H, dd, J = 5.1, 3.6 Hz, Ar**H**), 4.45 (1H, dq, J = 12.6, 8.3 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.29 (1H, dq, J = 12.6, 8.3 Hz, CH_aH_bCF₃), 3.80 (1H, dd, J = 14.8, 1.3 Hz, =CC**H**_aH_b), 3.43-3.36 (2H, m, C**H**₂Ph), 3.02 (1H, dd, J = 14.8, 1.7 Hz, =CCH_aH_b); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.5 (C), 169.7 (C), 140.9 (C), 139.8 (C), 135.4 (C), 134.3 (CH), 130.8 (2 × CH), 130.2 (C), 130.0 (CH), 128.7 (C), 128.6 (CH), 128.4 (3 × CH), 127.3 (CH), 127.2 (CH), 126.9 (CH), 123.9 (CH), 122.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.5$ Hz, C), 122.1 (CH), 61.0 (q, $J_{C-F} = 36.9$ Hz, CH₂), 60.0 (C), 39.2 (CH₂), 34.3 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.6 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 3 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₅H₁₉F₃NaO₃S]⁺ [M+Na]⁺: 479.0899, found 479.0903.

chromatography (0% to 7.5% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) to give a white solid (91.2 mg, 71%). $R_f = 0.38$ (20% EtOAc/petroleum ether); m.p. 136-137 °C (Et₂O); IR 2938, 1756 (C=O), 1685 (C=O), 1593, 1280,

1224, 1156, 1064, 973, 698 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.12 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.3 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.73 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.1 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.60 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.0, 7.3, 1.5 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.45-7.29 (9H, m, Ar**H** and =C**H**Ph), 7.20-7.16 (1H, m, Ar**H**), 6.97-6.93 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 3.69 (1H, dd, *J* = 14.0, 0.9 Hz, =CC**H**_aH_b), 3.59 (3H, s, OC**H**₃), 3.38 (1H, dd, *J* = 14.0, 1.6 Hz, =CCH_a**H**_b), 3.18 (1H, d, *J* = 16.6 Hz, CH_a**H**_bC=O); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.1 (C), 171.1 (C), 169.1 (C), 150.6 (C), 141.8 (C), 136.7 (C), 134.3 (CH), 131.7 (C), 130.4 (C), 130.1 (C), 129.4 (2 × CH), 129.1 (2 × CH), 128.7 (2 × CH), 128.6 (CH), 128.3 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 125.9 (CH), 124.7 (CH), 121.6 (2 × CH), 57.2 (C), 52.9 (CH₃), 38.5 (CH₂), 35.9 (CH₂); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₇H₂₃O₅]⁺ [M+H]⁺: 427.1540, found 427.1541.



Phenyl (*E*)-4-benzylidene-2-methyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-2carboxylate (2oa). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A, using malonate ester 10 (115 mg, 0.30 mmol) and phenylboronic acid (54.9 mg, 0.45 mmol), and purified by column chromatography (0% to 1.5%

EtOAc/*n*-pentane) to give a white solid (60.5 mg, 55%). $R_f = 0.32$ (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); m.p. 95-96 °C (Et₂O); IR 2968, 1758 (C=O), 1682 (C=O), 1514, 1412, 1282, 1156, 974, 808, 758 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.15 (1H, dd, J = 7.9, 1.4 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.78 (1H, dd, J = 8.0, 1.3 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.62 (1H, ddd, J = 8.0, 7.2, 1.5 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.47-7.28 (9H, m, Ar**H** and =C**H**Ph), 7.20-7.16 (1H, m, Ar**H**), 6.97-6.94 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 3.77 (1H, dd, J = 14.0, 1.5 Hz, =CC**H**_aH_b), 3.15 (1H, dd, J = 14.0, 1.3 Hz, =CCH_aH_b), 1.57 (3H, s, C**H**₃); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.7 (C), 171.2 (C), 150.7 (C), 141.6 (C), 136.8 (C), 134.3 (CH), 131.8 (C), 130.0 (C), 129.9 (CH), 129.4 (2 × CH), 129.3 (2 × CH), 128.7 (2 × CH), 128.6 (CH), 128.3 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 126.0 (CH), 124.7 (CH), 121.5 (2 × CH), 55.4 (C), 37.7 (CH₂), 20.1 (CH₃); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₅H₂₁O₃]⁺ [M+H]⁺: 369.1485, found 369.1484.



2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl (*E*)-4-benzylidene-2-ethoxy-1-oxo-1,2,3,4tetrahydronaphthalene-2-carboxylate (2pa). The title compound was prepared according to a slight modification of General Procedure A (in that 2.0 equivalents of the boronic acid and 10 mol% catalyst loading was used), using

malonate ester **1p** (128 mg, 0.30 mmol) and phenylboronic acid (73.2 mg, 0.60 mmol), and purified by column chromatography (0% to 1.5% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) to give a yellow oil (43.5 mg, 36%). $R_f = 0.27$ (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 2979, 1768 (C=O), 1688 (C=O), 1596, 1282, 1226, 1162, 1041, 755, 698 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.08 (1H, dd, J = 7.8, 1.5 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.79 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.63 (1H, ddd, J = 8.1, 7.2, 1.5 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.46-7.30 (7H, m, Ar**H** and =C**H**Ph), 4.62 (1H, dq, J = 12.6, 8.3 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.43 (1H, dq, J = 12.6, 8.3 Hz, CH_aH_bCF₃), 3.65-3.56

(2H, m, OCH_aH_b and =CCH_aH_b), 3.50-3.41 (2H, m, OCH_aH_b and =CCH_aH_b), 1.10 (3H, t, J = 7.0 Hz, CH₂CH₃); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.5 (C), 169.0 (C), 141.5 (C), 136.6 (C), 134.6 (CH), 130.5 (CH), 130.0 (C), 129.3 (C), 129.2 (2 × CH), 128.7 (2 × CH), 128.6 (CH), 128.4 (CH), 127.9 (CH), 124.5 (CH), 122.7 (q, J_{C-F} = 277.3 Hz, C), 84.0 (CH₂), 63.2 (C), 61.0 (q, J_{C-F} = 37.0 Hz, CH₂), 36.3 (CH₂), 15.5 (CH₃); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –73.7 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 3 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₂H₂₀F₃O₄]⁺ [M+H]⁺: 405.1308, found 405.1311.

2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl (E)-4-benzylidene-1-oxo-2-(3-thienylmethoxy) 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-2-carboxylate (2qa). The title compound was prepared according to a slight modification of General Procedure A (in that 2.0 equivalents of the boronic acid and 10 mol% catalyst loading was used), using malonate ester 1q (148 mg, 0.30 mmol) and phenylboronic acid (73.2 mg, 0.60

mmol), and purified by column chromatography (0% to 2% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) to give a pale yellow oil (47.4 mg, 33%). $R_f = 0.28$ (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 2924, 1766 (C=O), 1684 (C=O), 1596, 1282, 1162, 1070, 908, 731, 698 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.04 (1H, dd, J = 7.9, 1.5 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.78 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.65-7.61 (1H, m, Ar**H**), 7.44-7.30 (7H, m, Ar**H** and =C**H**Ph), 7.15 (1H, dd, J = 5.0, 3.0 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.06 (1H, m, Ar**H**), 6.93 (1H, dd, J = 4.9, 1.2 Hz, Ar**H**), 4.71 (1H, d, J = 11.2 Hz, C**H**_aH_bAr), 4.64 (1H, dq, J = 12.5, 8.3 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.55 (1H, d, J = 11.2 Hz, C**H**_aH_bAr), 4.64 (1H, dq, J = 12.5, 8.3 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.55 (1H, d, J = 11.2 Hz, C**H**_aH_bAr), 4.66 (1H, dq, J = 12.5, 8.3 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.55 (1H, d, J = 11.2 Hz, C**H**_aH_bAr), 4.66 (1H, dq, J = 12.5, 8.3 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.55 (1H, d, J = 11.2 Hz, C**H**_aH_bAr), 4.66 (1H, dq, J = 12.5, 8.3 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.55 (1H, d, J = 11.2 Hz, C**H**_aH_bAr), 4.64 (1H, dq, J = 12.5, 8.3 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.55 (1H, d, J = 11.2 Hz, C**H**_aH_bAr), 4.66 (1H, dq, J = 12.5, 8.3 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.55 (1H, d, J = 11.2 Hz, C**H**_aH_b), 3.51 (1H, dd, J = 14.7, 1.9 Hz, =CCH_aH_b); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.3 (C), 168.8 (C), 141.5 (C), 138.5 (C), 136.5 (C), 134.7 (CH), 130.7 (CH), 129.9 (C), 129.3 (C), 129.2 (2 × CH), 128.8 (2 × CH), 128.7 (CH), 128.4 (CH), 127.9 (CH), 127.3 (CH), 125.6 (CH), 124.5 (CH), 122.9 (CH), 122.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.3$ Hz, C), 83.8 (CH₂), 65.0 (C), 61.1 (q, $J_{C-F} = 37.0$ Hz, CH₂), 36.6 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.5 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 3 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₅H₂₃F₃NSO₄]⁺ [M+NH₄]⁺: 490.1294, found 490.1295.



2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl (*E*)-2-benzyl-4-ethylidene-1-oxo-1,2,3,4tetrahydronaphthalene-2-carboxylate (2ra). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A, using malonate ester 1r (123 mg, 0.30 mmol) and phenylboronic acid (54.9 mg, 0.45 mmol), and purified by

column chromatography (0% to 1.5% EtOAc/n-pentane) to give a brown oil that contained unidentified, inseparable impurities (30.0 mg, <26%). The exact yield was not determined. $R_f = 0.39$ (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 2926, 1750 (C=O), 1686 (C=O), 1597, 1410, 1282, 1158, 1084, 914, 700 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.05 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.4 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.57 (1H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.50 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.6, 1.4 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.35-7.31 (1H, m, Ar**H**), 7.25-7.19 (5H, m,

Ar**H**), 6.40 (1H, q, J = 7.0 Hz, =C**H**CH₃), 4.53-4.43 (1H, m, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.34 (1H, dq, J = 12.7, 8.4 Hz, CH_a**H**_bCF₃), 3.42 (1H, d, J = 13.8, C**H**_aH_bPh), 3.36-3.28 (2H, m, =CC**H**_aH_b and CH_a**H**_bPh), 2.61 (1H, d, J = 14.5 Hz, =CCH_a**H**_b), 1.77 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz, =CHC**H**₃); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.9 (C), 170.3 (C), 141.4 (C), 135.9 (C), 134.1 (CH), 130.8 (2 x CH), 129.8 (C), 129.6 (C), 128.4 (2 × CH), 128.3 (CH), 127.7 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 125.4 (CH), 123.7 (CH), 122.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.6$ Hz, C), 61.0 (q, $J_{C-F} = 36.9$ Hz, CH₂), 59.9 (C), 39.2 (CH₂), 32.7 (CH₂), 14.3 (CH₃); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.5 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 3 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₂H₁₉F₃NaO₃]⁺ [M+Na]⁺: 411.1178, found 411.1181.



2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl (*E*)-2-benzyl-4-benzylidene-7-methyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-2-carboxylate (2ab). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A, using malonate ester 1a (142 mg, 0.30 mmol) and 4-methylphenylboronic acid (61.2 mg, 0.45

mmol), and purified by column chromatography (0% to 1% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) to give a yellow oil (110 mg, 79%). R_f = 0.32 (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 2924, 1751 (C=O), 1686 (C=O), 1495, 1280, 1158, 963, 732, 698, 513 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.92 (1H, dd, *J* = 2.0, 0.9 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.66 (1H, d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.42-7.38 (3H, m, Ar**H**), 7.35-7.28 (4H, m, Ar**H** and =C**H**Ph), 7.14-7.07 (5H, m, Ar**H**), 4.46 (1H, dq, *J* = 12.6, 8.4 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.27 (1H, dq, *J* = 12.6, 8.4 Hz, CH_aH_bCF₃), 3.62 (1H, dd, *J* = 14.6, 1.4 Hz, =CC**H**_aH_b), 3.37 (1H, d, *J* = 13.7 Hz, C**H**_aH_bPh), 3.23 (1H, d, *J* = 13.7 Hz, CH_aH_bPh), 3.01 (1H, dd, *J* = 14.6, 1.6 Hz, =CCH_aH_b), 2.42 (3H, s, C**H**₃); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.9 (C), 170.0 (C), 138.7 (C), 138.5 (C), 136.8 (C), 135.4 (C), 135.4 (CH), 131.0 (C), 130.8 (2 × CH), 130.0 (C), 129.2 (2 × CH), 128.9 (CH), 128.6 (2 × CH), 128.4 (CH), 128.2 (2 × CH), 127.6 (CH), 127.0 (CH), 124.4 (CH), 122.7 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 277.5 Hz, C), 61.0 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 37.0 Hz, CH₂), 60.3 (C), 38.8 (CH₂), 34.1 (CH₂), 21.2 (CH₃); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.5 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 3 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₈H₂₄F₃O₃]⁺ [M+H]⁺: 465.1675, found 465.1672.



2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl (*E*)-**2-benzyl-4-benzylidene-7-fluoro-1-oxo-1,2,3,4tetrahydronaphthalene-2-carboxylate** (**2ac**). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A, using malonate ester **1a** (142 mg, 0.30 mmol) and 4-fluorophenylboronic acid (63.0 mg, 0.45 mmol), and

purified by column chromatography (0% to 1% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) to give a yellow solid (95.1 mg, 68%). R_f = 0.31 (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); m.p. 135-136 °C (Et₂O); IR 3022, 1743 (C=O), 1686 (C=O), 1493, 1270, 1156, 971, 824, 767, 700 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.78-7.72 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 7.43-7.39 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 7.35-7.29 (5H, m, Ar**H** and =C**H**Ph), 7.15-7.10 (5H, m, Ar**H**), 4.48

(1H, dq, J = 12.6, 8.4 Hz, CH_aH_bCF₃), 4.23 (1H, dq, J = 12.6, 8.4 Hz, CH_aH_bCF₃), 3.63 (1H, dd, J = 14.6, 1.2 Hz, =CCH_aH_b), 3.42 (1H, d, J = 13.7 Hz, CH_aH_bPh), 3.20 (1H, d, J = 13.7 Hz, CH_aH_bPh), 2.98 (1H, dd, J = 14.6, 1.5 Hz, =CCH_aH_b); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.6 (C), 169.7 (C), 162.8 (d, $J_{C-F} = 250.2$ Hz, C), 137.5 (d, $J_{C-F} = 3.3$ Hz, C), 136.5 (C), 135.2 (CH), 132.0 (d, $J_{C-F} = 6.4$ Hz, C), 130.8 (2 × CH), 130.1 (C), 129.8 (d, $J_{C-F} = 1.5$ Hz, C), 129.2 (2 × CH), 128.7 (2 × CH), 128.3 (2 × CH), 127.9 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 126.9 (d, $J_{C-F} = 7.3$ Hz, CH), 122.6 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.4$ Hz, C), 121.9 (d, $J_{C-F} = 22.6$ Hz, CH), 114.1 (d, $J_{C-F} = 22.5$ Hz, CH), 61.0 (q, $J_{C-F} = 37.1$ Hz, CH₂), 60.0 (C), 38.8 (CH₂), 34.2 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.6 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 3 × F), -112.1 (td, J = 8.3, 5.0 Hz, 1 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₇H₂₄F₄NO₃]⁺ [M+NH₄]⁺: 486.1687, found 486.1684.



2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl (*E*)-**2-benzyl-4-benzylidene-1-oxo-1,2,3,4tetrahydroanthracene-2-carboxylate** (**2ad**). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A, using malonate ester **1a** (142 mg, 0.30 mmol) and 2-naphthylboronic acid (77.4 mg, 0.45 mmol), and

purified by column chromatography (0% to 1% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) to give a yellow oil (84.5 mg, 56%). R_f = 0.33 (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 2924, 1749 (C=O), 1687 (C=O), 1586, 1443, 1281, 1156, 972, 734, 698 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.70 (1H, s, Ar**H**), 8.16 (1H, s, Ar**H**), 7.98 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.2 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.89 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.1 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.60 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.2, 6.8, 1.3 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.54-7.50 (2H, m, Ar**H** and =C**H**Ph), 7.45-7.41 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 7.39-7.33 (3H, m, Ar**H**), 7.17-7.11 (5H, m, Ar**H**), 4.49 (1H, dq, *J* = 12.6, 8.4 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.23 (1H, dq, *J* = 12.6, 8.4 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 3.70 (1H, dd, *J* = 14.4, 1.3 Hz, =CCH_aH_b), 3.49 (1H, d, *J* = 13.8 Hz, CH_aH_bPh), 3.26 (1H, d, *J* = 13.8 Hz, CH_aH_bPh), 3.09 (1H, dd, *J* = 14.4, 1.6 Hz, =CCH_aH_b); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.0 (C), 170.1 (C), 136.9 (2 × C), 136.3 (C), 135.5 (C), 132.6 (C), 131.4 (C), 130.9 (2 × CH), 130.3 (CH), 130.0 (CH), 129.3 (2 × CH), 129.3 (CH), 129.2 (CH), 128.7 (2 × CH), 128.5 (C), 128.2 (2 × CH), 128.1 (CH), 127.7 (CH), 127.0 (2 × CH), 123.6 (CH), 122.7 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 277.4 Hz, C), 61.0 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 37.1 Hz, CH₂), 60.7 (C), 38.9 (CH₂), 34.2 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.5 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 3 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₃₁H₂₄F₃O₃]⁺ [M+H]⁺: 501.1672, found 501.1670.



2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl (*E*)-4-benzylidene-6,7-dimethoxy-1-oxo-2-(3thienyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-2-carboxylate (2ie). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A, using malonate ester 1i (139 mg, 0.30 mmol) and 3,4-dimethoxyphenylboronic

acid (81.9 mg, 0.45 mmol), and purified by column chromatography (0% to 10% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) to give a yellow oil (74.6 mg, 50%). $R_f = 0.29$ (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 2941, 1737 (C=O),

CI

1668 (C=O), 1594, 1509, 1241, 1209, 1154, 763, 729 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.58 (1H, s, Ar**H**), 7.48-7.43 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 7.38-7.32 (3H, m, Ar**H** and =C**H**Ph), 7.17-7.14 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 7.06 (1H, s, Ar**H**), 6.87 (1H, dd, J = 2.9, 1.4 Hz, Ar**H**), 6.77 (1H, dd, J = 5.1, 1.4 Hz, Ar**H**), 4.58 (1H, dq, J = 12.7, 8.4 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.39 (1H, dq, J = 12.7, 8.4 Hz, CH_aH_bCF₃), 3.98 (3H, s, OC**H**₃), 3.96 (3H, s, OC**H**₃), 3.82-3.81 (2H, m, =CC**H**₂); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.3 (C), 169.8 (C), 154.5 (C), 150.0 (C), 136.8 (C), 136.2 (C), 134.8 (C), 131.3 (C), 129.1 (2 × CH), 129.0 (CH), 128.9 (2 × CH), 127.9 (CH), 127.6 (CH), 125.2 (CH), 123.7 (CH), 123.2 (C), 122.8 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.4$ Hz, C), 109.2 (CH), 106.1 (CH), 61.3 (q, $J_{C-F} = 36.8$ Hz, CH₂), 61.2 (C), 56.3 (2 × CH₃), 36.1 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.6 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 3 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₆H₂₂F₃O₅S]⁺ [M+H]⁺: 503.1135, found 503.1135.

2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl(E)-2-benzyl-6,7-dichloro-1-oxo-4-(2-CO2CH2CF3thienylmethylene)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-2-carboxylate (2mf).The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A, using

malonate ester **1m** (144 mg, 0.30 mmol) and 3,4-dichlorophenylboronic acid (96.5 mg, 0.45 mmol), and purified by column chromatography (0% to 1% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) followed by a preparative TLC (8% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) to give a yellow oil (80.4 mg, 51%). R_f = 0.32 (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 2927, 1749 (C=O), 1691 (C=O), 1579, 1455, 1282, 1160, 907, 732, 700 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.13 (1H, s, Ar**H**), 7.79 (1H, s, Ar**H**), 7.40 (1H, dd, *J* = 5.1, 1.2 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.37 (1H, s, =C**H**Ar), 7.21-7.17 (6H, m, Ar**H**), 7.08 (1H, dd, *J* = 5.1, 3.6 Hz, Ar**H**), 4.43 (1H, dq, *J* = 12.6, 8.4 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.28 (1H, dq, *J* = 12.6, 8.4 Hz, CH_aH_bCF₃), 3.81 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.0, 1.2 Hz, =CC**H**_aH_b), 3.43 (1H, d, *J* = 13.8 Hz, C**H**_aH_bPh), 3.35 (1H, d, *J* = 13.8 Hz, CH_aH_bPh), 2.94 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.0, 1.7 Hz, =CCH_aH_b); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.6 (C), 169.3 (C), 140.4 (C), 139.0 (C), 139.0 (C), 135.0 (C), 132.9 (C), 130.9 (CH), 130.8 (2 × CH), 130.2 (CH), 129.5 (C), 128.5 (2 × CH), 127.7 (CH), 127.5 (CH), 127.4 (CH), 126.4 (C), 125.9 (CH), 123.6 (CH), 122.5 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 277.4 Hz, C), 61.1 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 37.1 Hz, CH₂), 59.7 (C), 39.2 (CH₂), 34.2 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.6 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 3 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₅H₂₁Cl₂F₃NO₃S]⁺ [M+NH₄]⁺: 542.0566, found 542.0557.



6-Ethyl2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)(E)-2-benzyl-1-oxo-4-(2-thienylmethylene)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-2,7-dicarboxylate(2mg). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure

A, using malonate ester **1m** (144 mg, 0.30 mmol) and 3-

ethoxycarbonylphenylboronic acid (87.3 mg, 0.45 mmol), and purified by column chromatography (0% to 2.5% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) to give a yellow solid (88.9 mg, 56%). $R_f = 0.24$ (10%

EtOAc/petroleum ether); m.p. 117-118 °C (Et₂O); IR 2938, 1754 (C=O), 1724 (C=O), 1695 (C=O), 1433, 1272, 1253, 1052, 771, 690 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.41 (1H, d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, Ar**H**), 8.11 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.2, 0.5 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.98 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.5 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.55 (1H, s, =C**H**Ar), 7.39 (1H, dd, *J* = 5.1, 1.1 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.22-7.17 (6H, m, Ar**H**), 7.08 (1H, dd, *J* = 5.1, 3.6 Hz, Ar**H**), 4.48-4.38 (3H, m, C**H**_aH_bCF₃ and OC**H**₂), 4.32-4.22 (1H, m, CH_aH_bCF₃), 3.83 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.1, 1.2 Hz, =CC**H**_aH_b), 3.43-3.36 (2H, m, C**H**₂Ph), 3.00 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.1, 1.7 Hz, =CCH_a**H**_b), 1.43 (3H, t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, CH₂C**H**₃); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.2 (C), 169.5 (C), 165.8 (C), 140.9 (C), 139.4 (C), 135.3 (C), 135.2 (C), 132.8 (C), 130.8 (2 × CH), 130.6 (CH), 128.7 (CH), 128.5 (CH), 128.4 (2 × CH), 127.5 (C), 127.4 (CH), 127.3 (2 × CH), 125.5 (CH), 123.2 (CH), 122.6 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 277.4 Hz, C), 61.9 (CH₂), 61.1 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 37.0 Hz, CH₂), 60.0 (C), 39.2 (CH₂), 34.3 (CH₂), 14.4 (CH₃); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.6 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 3 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₈H₂₇F₃NO₅S]⁺ [M+NH₄]⁺: 546.1557, found 546.1546.



Methyl (*E*)-4-benzylidene-7-methoxy-1-oxo-2-(2-oxo-2-phenoxyethyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-2-carboxylate (2nh). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A, using malonate ester 1n (114 mg, 0.30 mmol) and 4-methoxyphenylboronic acid (68.4 mg, 0.45

mmol), and purified by column chromatography (0% to 5% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) to give a pale yellow oil (69.8 mg, 51%). $R_f = 0.28$ (15% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 2952, 1736 (C=O), 1684 (C=O), 1603, 1492, 1282, 1142, 909, 727, 698 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.66 (1H, d, J = 8.7 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.57 (1H, d, J = 2.8 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.42-7.28 (7H, m, Ar**H**), 7.24 (1H, s, =C**H**Ph), 7.21-7.16 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 6.99-6.96 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 3.89 (3H, s, OC**H**₃) 3.66 (1H, dd, J = 13.9, 0.9 Hz, =CC**H**_aH_b), 3.60 (3H, s, OC**H**₃), 3.33 (1H, dd, J = 13.9, 1.7 Hz, =CCH_a**H**_b), 3.18 (1H, d, J = 16.6 Hz, CH_a**H**_bC=O); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.1 (C), 171.1 (C), 169.1 (C), 160.0 (C), 150.6 (C), 136.9 (C), 134.9 (C), 131.4 (C), 131.2 (2 × C), 129.4 (2 × CH), 129.1 (2 × CH), 128.7 (2 × CH), 128.4 (CH), 127.5 (CH), 126.3 (CH), 125.9 (CH), 122.9 (CH), 109.7 (2 × CH), 57.1 (C), 55.8 (CH₃), 52.9 (CH₃), 38.7 (CH₂), 36.1 (CH₂); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₈H₂₈NO₆]⁺ [M+NH₄]⁺: 474.1911, found 474.1913.



Methyl (*E*)-4-benzylidene-7-chloro-1-oxo-2-(2-oxo-2-phenoxyethyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-2-carboxylate (2ni). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A, using malonate ester 1n (114 mg, 0.30 mmol) and 4-chlorophenylboronic acid (70.4 mg, 0.45 mmol),

and purified by column chromatography (0% to 5% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) to give a pale yellow oil (62.4 mg, 45%). $R_f = 0.21$ (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 2927, 1737 (C=O), 1692 (C=O), 1591, 1492,

1192, 1144, 907, 730, 700 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.07 (1H, d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.67 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.54 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.4 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.44-7.39 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 7.35-7.29 (6H, m, Ar**H** and =C**H**Ph), 7.21-7.17 (1H, m, Ar**H**), 7.00-6.96 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 3.67 (1H, dd, *J* = 14.0, 0.8 Hz, =CC**H**_aH_b), 3.58 (3H, s, OC**H**₃), 3.33 (1H, dd, *J* = 14.0, 1.8 Hz, =CCH_aH_b), 3.22 (1H, d, *J* = 16.7 Hz, C**H**_aH_bC=O); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.0 (C), 170.8 (C), 169.1 (C), 150.5 (C), 140.1 (C), 136.4 (C), 134.9 (C), 134.2 (C), 131.6 (C), 130.7 (C), 130.6 (CH), 129.5 (2 × CH), 129.1 (2 × CH), 128.8 (2 × CH), 128.0 (CH), 127.9 (CH), 126.4 (CH), 126.0 (CH), 121.6 (2 × CH), 57.0 (C), 53.0 (CH₃), 38.6 (CH₂), 35.9 (CH₂); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₇H₂₅ClNO₅]⁺ [M+NH₄]⁺: 478.1416, found 478.1418.

2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl (*E*)-5-benzyl-7-benzylidene-4-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[*c*]thiophene-5carboxylate (2aj) and 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl (*E*)-6-benzyl-4-benzylidene-7-oxo-4,5,6,7tetrahydrobenzo[*b*]thiophene-6-carboxylate (2aj')



General Procedure A was followed using malonate ester **1a** (142 mg, 0.30 mmol) and 3thienylboronic acid (57.6 mg, 0.45 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (0% to 2% EtOAc/*n*-pentane) gave *arylative cyclization product* **2aj** (29.0 mg, 21%) as a brown oil followed by *arylative cyclization product* **2aj'** (57.5 mg, 42%) as a brown oil.

<u>Data for 2aj</u>: $R_f = 0.26$ (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 2927, 1730 (C=O), 1686 (C=O), 1518, 1433, 1283, 1163, 1083, 972, 700 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.25 (1H, d, J = 3.1 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.47 (1H, d, J = 3.1 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.40-7.30 (5H, m, Ar**H**), 7.23 (1H, s, =C**H**Ph), 7.12-7.08 (5H, m, Ar**H**), 4.48 (1H, dq, J = 12.6, 8.4 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.32 (1H, dq, J = 12.6, 8.4 Hz, CH_aH_bCF₃), 3.56 (1H, dd, J = 15.0, 1.4 Hz, =CCH_aH_b), 3.33 (1H, d, J = 13.7 Hz, CH_aH_bPh), 3.24 (1H, d, J = 13.7 Hz, CH_aH_bPh), 2.98 (1H, dd, J = 15.0, 1.4 Hz, =CCH_aH_b); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 189.0 (C), 169.8 (C), 141.8 (C), 136.4 (C), 135.3 (C), 135.3 (C), 132.9 (CH), 130.9 (2 × CH), 129.2 (2 × CH), 128.6 (2 × CH), 128.2 (2 × CH), 127.9 (CH), 127.7 (C), 127.6 (CH), 127.0 (CH), 122.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.6$ Hz, C), 119.1 (CH), 61.3 (C), 61.1 (q, $J_{C-F} = 37.0$ Hz, CH₂), 38.7 (CH₂), 34.3 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.5 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 3 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₅H₂₀F₃O₃S]⁺ [M+H]⁺: 457.1080, found 457.1087.

<u>Data for 2aj'</u>: R_f = 0.24 (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 2927, 1749 (C=O), 1664 (C=O), 1494, 1430, 1283, 1162, 972, 757, 700 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.69 (1H, d, J = 5.2 Hz, Ar**H**), 7.41-7.30 (6H, m, Ar**H**), 7.24 (1H, s, =C**H**Ph), 7.15-7.06 (5H, m, Ar**H**), 4.49 (1H, dq, J = 12.7, 8.4 Hz, C**H**_aH_bCF₃), 4.37 (1H, dq, J = 12.7, 8.4 Hz, CH_aH_bCF₃), 3.63 (1H, dd, J = 15.2, 1.4 Hz, =CCH_aH_b), 3.35 (1H, d, J = 13.7 Hz, CH_aH_bPh), 3.28 (1H, d, J = 13.7 Hz, CH_aH_bPh), 3.04 (1H, dd, J = 15.2, 1.4 Hz, =CCH_aH_b); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 187.1 (C), 169.7 (C), 150.1 (C), 136.1 (C), 135.5 (CH), 135.3 (C), 134.6 (C), 130.8 (2 × CH), 130.7 (CH), 129.2 (2 x CH), 128.7 (2 x CH), 128.6 (C), 128.2 (2 x CH), 128.0 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 124.4 (CH), 122.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.5$ Hz, C), 61.1 (q, $J_{C-F} = 36.9$ Hz, CH₂), 60.7 (C), 39.4 (CH₂), 34.7 (CH₂); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.5 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 3 × F); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for [C₂₅H₂₀F₃O₃S]⁺ [M+H]⁺: 457.1080, found 457.1085.

4. Enantioselective Cyclizations

Evaluation of Chiral Ligands

The reaction of substrate **1b** with $PhB(OH)_2$ to give **2ba** was conducted in the presence of $[Rh(C_2H_4)_2Cl]_2$ (5 mol%, 10 mol% Rh) and various chiral ligands (10 mol%) as shown in the Table below:



Reactions were conducted using 0.05 mmol of **1b**. Yields determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy using 1,4-dimethoxybenzene as an internal standard.

From these studies, (*R*)-MeO-BIPHEP (L1) emerged as a promising ligand, which was then employed in the reaction of substrate 1a with PhB(OH)₂ as described below:

2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl (*E*)-2-benzyl-4-benzylidene-1-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-2-



carboxylate [(+)-2aa]



An oven-dried microwave vial was fitted with a stirrer bar and charged with $[Rh(C_2H_4)_2Cl]_2$ (5.8 mg, 0.015 mmol) and (*R*)-MeO-BIPHEP (**L1**, 17.5 mg, 0.03 mmol). The vial was sealed with a septumlined cap and purged with argon for 30 min. 1,4-Dioxane (1.8 mL) and H₂O (0.2 mL), both of which were freshly degassed separately (purging with argon for 30 min) were added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. Meanwhile, a separate oven-dried microwave vial was fitted with a stirrer bar and charged with malonic ester **1a** (142 mg, 0.30 mmol), phenylboronic acid (54.9 mg, 0.45 mmol), and KF (26.1 mg, 0.45 mmol). The vial was sealed with a septum-lined cap and purged with argon for 30 min. Degassed 1,4-dioxane (0.9 mL), degassed H₂O (0.1 mL) and the solution of catalyst (see above) were added. The mixture was stirred at 70 °C for 20 h. The reaction was cooled to room temperature, H₂O (15 mL) was added, and the mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 15 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (20 mL), dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated in *vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (0% to 1% EtOAc/*n*pentane) to give a 1:20 inseparable mixture of alkyne hydroarylation products **3aa** and **3ab**, respectively (20.9 mg, 13%) as a yellow oil followed by arylative cyclization product **2aa** (115 mg, 85%) as a yellow oil and.

<u>Data for (+)-2aa</u>: See above (page 15) and $[\alpha]_{D}^{25}$ +36.0 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃); Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC using a Chiralpak AD-H column (95:5 *iso*-hexane:*i*-PrOH, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm, 25 °C) t_r (major) = 8.9 min, t_r (minor) = 16.3 min, 76% ee.

<u>Data for 1:20 mixture of **3aa** and **3ab**, respectively.</u> $R_f = 0.38$ (10% EtOAc/petroleum ether); IR 3030, 1752 (C=O), 1411, 1281, 1159, 1084, 975, 759, 699, 650 cm⁻¹; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –73.6 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, $6 \times F$); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for $[C_{29}H_{28}F_6NO_4]^+$ [M+NH₄]⁺: 568.1917, found 568.1919.

Data for major regioisomer: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.41-7.28 (6H, m, Ar**H**), 7.24-7.13 (7H, m, Ar**H**), 6.94-6.91 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 5.95 (1H, t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, =C**H**CH₂), 4.56-4.34 (4H, m, 2 × C**H**₂CF₃), 3.33 (2H, s, C**H**₂Ph), 2.84 (2H, d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, =CHC**H**₂); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.6 (2 ×

C), 146.5 (C), 142.6 (C), 139.2 (C), 134.5 (C), 130.0 (2 × CH), 129.9 (2 × CH), 128.6 (2 × CH), 128.5 (2 × CH), 128.4 (2 × CH), 127.8 (4 × CH), 127.5 (CH), 122.7 (q, $J_{C-F} = 277.4 \text{ Hz}, 2 × C$), 121.3 (CH), 61.2 (q, $J_{C-F} = 37.3 \text{ Hz}, 2 × CH_2$), 59.3 (C), 38.2 (CH₂), 32.0 (CH₂).

Characteristic signals for minor regioisomer: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 6.82 (1H, s, =CHPh), 6.76-6.73 (2H, m, Ar**H**), 3.93-3.84 (2H, m, C**H**₂CF₃), 3.80-3.73 (2H, m, C**H**₂CF₃), 3.69 (2H, s, C**H**₂Ph), 3.05 (2H, s, C**H**₂C=CH).

5. Possible Catalytic Cycle

A possible catalytic cycle for these reactions is depicted below, using substrate **1a** and PhB(OH)₂ as example reaction partners. Heating a mixture of $[Rh(cod)Cl]_2$, KF, and H₂O may generate rhodium hydroxide **4** (R = H), which can undergo transmetalation with PhB(OH)₂ to give arylrhodium species **5**. Phenylrhodation of the alkyne of **1a** gives alkenylrhodium species **6**, which then undergoes alkenyl-to-aryl 1,4-Rh(I) migration to give arylrhodium species **7**. Cyclization of **7** by 1,2-addition onto one of the esters produces rhodium alkoxide **8**, which collapses to release the product **2aa** and regenerate the active rhodium complex **4** (which could have a either a trifluoroethoxide or hydroxide counterion).



6. NMR Spectra














































170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 f1 (ppm)

30 20

210 200 190















































Supplementary Information







. 220 210 200 190 180

170 160

150

140 130



120 110 100 f1 (ppm) 90

80

70 60

50

40

30 20

10

0


























7. HPLC Traces





8. References

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