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Substrate-directed chemo- and regioselective synthesis of polyfunctionalized trifluoromethylarenes via organoctalytic benzannulation

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Supplementary Information

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1. General experimental information

- Unless otherwise noted, all commercially available reagents were used without further purification. All of the solvents were treated according to known methods.
- Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200-300 mesh). All reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) with silica gel-coated plates and products were visualized using UV light and I₂.
- Melting points were determined on a Mel-Temp apparatus and were not corrected.
- NMR data were obtained for ¹H at 400 MHz, 600 MHz or 700 MHz, and for ¹³C at 100 MHz, 150 MHz or 175 MHz. Chemical shifts were reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane using solvent resonance in CDCl₃ solution as the internal standard.
- High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a Waters SYNAPT G2 or Agilent G1969-85000 using an electrospray (ESI) ionization source.
- 2-benzylidenemalononitriles **1** were synthesized following the literature procedure. Tri-substituted CF₃-alkenes **2** were synthesized following the literature procedure. (E)-2-Nitroallylic acetates **4** were synthesized following the literature procedure.
- The relative configuration of compounds 3k, 5g and Int. E were determined unequivocally according to the X-ray diffraction analysis, and those of other products were deduced on the basis of these results.

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2. Optimization of the reaction condition of 1a and CF₃-alkene 2a

Table S1. Optimization of the reaction of **1a** and CF₃-alkene **2a**^a

NC CN
$$+$$
 COOEt $+$ Solvent $+$ COOEt $+$ Solvent $+$ COOEt $+$ 3a $+$ COOEt $+$ COOE

entry	solvent	base	yield (%) ^b
1	DCM	DABCO	85
2	EtOH	DABCO	78
3	Tol	DABCO	60
4	MeCN	DABCO	74
5	DCM	DIPEA	67
6	DCM	TEA	58
7	DCM	DBU	69
8	DCM	DMAP	80
9	DCM	PPh ₃	48
10	DCM	K_2CO_3	27
11	DCM	Cs_2CO_3	37
12	DCM	NaHCO ₃	12
13	DCM	K_2HPO_4	10
14 ^c	DCM	DABCO	67
15^{d}	DCM	DABCO	58
16 ^e	DCM	DABCO	75
17 ^f	DCM	DABCO	68

^a Unless indicated otherwise, the reaction was performed with 0.2 mmol of **1a**, 0.24 mmol of **2a**, and 0.04 mmol of base in 1 mL solvent at room temperature (monitored by TLC). ^b Yield of isolated **3a**. ^c 0.02 mol DABCO was used. ^d 0.08 mol DABCO was used. ^e The reaction was performed at 0 °C. ^f The reaction was performed at 60 °C.

Initially, 2-benzylidenemalononitriles 1 and CF₃-alkenes 2 were chosen as model substrates to investigate the feasibility of this protocol (Table S1). Conducting the reaction in dichloromethane at room temperature catalyzed by DABCO efficiently afforded the desired penta-substituted trifluoromethylarene 3a in 85% yield (entry 1). Screening other solvents in the presence of DABCO gave inferior results (entries 2-4). Next, we screened a series of bases employing dichloromethane as solvent to improve yield. Many kinds of organic bases could promote the reaction to offer the desired product in 48-80% yields (entries 5-9), which were lower than that using DABCO. Inorganic base is also available for the assembly of penta-substituted CF₃-benzene 3a, but low yield was observed (entries 10-13). The influence of different catalyst loading or reaction temperature on the [4+2] aromatization reaction was also investigated, but no better results was obtained. Thus, conducting the reaction in DCM at room temperature with 20 mol% DABCO as catalyst was chosen as the optimal reaction condition, and this optimal condition was used for the substrate scope investigation.

3. Optimization of the reaction condition of 4a and CF₃-alkene 2a

Table S2. Optimization of the reaction of 4a and CF_3 -alkene $2a^a$

entry	solvent	base	yield (%) ^b
1	DCM	DABCO	21
2	MeCN	DABCO	40
3	Tol	DABCO	18
4	EtOH	DABCO	44
5	THF	DABCO	38
6	DMF	DABCO	36
7	EtOH	TEA	33
8	EtOH	DBU	35
9	EtOH	PPh ₃	38
10	EtOH	DMAP	57
11	EtOH	K_2CO_3	-
12	EtOH	Cs_2CO_3	-
13	EtOH	NaHCO ₃	-
14	EtOH	K_2HPO_4	-
15 ^c	EtOH	DMAP	70
16^d	EtOH	DMAP	65
$17^{c,e}$	EtOH	DMAP	60
$18^{c,f}$	EtOH	DMAP	77

^a Unless indicated otherwise, the reaction was performed with 0.2 mmol of 4**a**, 0.3 mmol of 2**a**, and 0.04 mmol of base in 1 mL solvent at room temperature (monitored by TLC). ^b Yield of isolated 5**a**. ^c 0.08 mol DMAP was used. ^d 0.12 mol DMAP was used. ^e The reaction was performed at 0 °C. ^f The reaction was performed at 60 °C.

2-nitroallylic acetate **4a** was carefully selected as the dielectrophilic reaction partner to undergo [3+3] aromatization reaction with CF₃-alkenes **2a**. Unfortunately, the optimal reaction conditions for the aforementioned [4+2] aromatization did not efficiently delivery our desired aromatized CF₃-benzene **5a** (Table S2, entry 1). In order to further explore the feasibility of our protocol, various solvents were screened using 20 mol% DABCO as catalyst at room temperature (entries 2-6). Fortunately, acetonitrile, ethanol, tetrahydrofuran and dimethyl formamide were proved to be effective solvents for the [3+3] aromatization reaction, with ethanol showing the higher efficiency (entry 4). The screening of bases revealed that DMAP was the best choice providing target product **5a** in 57% yield (entries 7-14). Remarkably, Inorganic bases led to complex mixtures from which we fail to purify the expected compounds (entries 11-14). Thinking of the elimination of acetic acid during the reaction, we increased the catalyst loading to improve the reaction efficiency, and 40 mol% DMAP was the best

choice (entries 15-16). By screening the reaction temperature, further improvement of the reaction efficiency was achieved (entries 17-18). Thus, conducting the reaction in EtOH at 60 °C with 40 mol% DMAP as catalyst was chosen as the optimal reaction condition, and this optimal condition was used for the substrate scope investigation.

4. General procedure for the preparation of trifluoromethylarenes 3 and 5

4.1 General procedure for the preparation of trifluoromethylarenes 3

The reaction was carried out with **1** (0.20 mmol) and **2** (0.24 mmol), and DABCO (0.04 mmol) in DCM (1mL) at room temperature. The reaction was monitored by TLC until the reaction was completion. Then the reaction mixture was concentrated and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10:1) to give the desired penta-substituted trifluoromethylarenes **3**, which was further analyzed by ¹H NMR, ¹³C HMR, HRMS analysis.

3a: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 85% (56.8 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 155-157 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.45-7.34 (m, 5H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 4.89 (s, 2H), 3.96 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.94 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 165.95, 150.20, 145.96, 135.94, 132.37 (q, J_{CF} = 32.3 Hz), 129.28,

128.70, 128.49, 122.62 (d, J_{CF} = 273.2 Hz), 122.04, 115.151, 111.29 (q, J_{CF} = 5.2 Hz), 99.64, 61.83, 13.42 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C17H13F3N2O2+Na 357.0827, found 357.0824.

3b: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 80% (56.4 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 141-143 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.45-7.40 (m, 1H), 7.18-7.07 (m, 4H), 4.92 (s, 2H), 4.01 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.00 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 165.63, 162.39 (d, J_{CF} = 246.7 Hz), 150.22, 144.40 (d, J_{CF} = 1.9

Hz), 137.79 (d, $J_{CF} = 8.0$ Hz), 132.54 (q, $J_{CF} = 32.2$ Hz), 130.27 (d, $J_{CF} = 8.3$ Hz), 124.70 (d, $J_{CF} = 3.1$ Hz), 122.52 (d, $J_{CF} = 273.2$ Hz), 122.01 (d, $J_{CF} = 1.7$ Hz), 116.37 (d, $J_{CF} = 20.8$ Hz), 116.12 (d, $J_{CF} = 22.8$ Hz), 114.83, 111.74 (q, $J_{CF} = 5.0$ Hz), 99.40, 61.98, 13.47 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C17H12F4N2O2+Na 375.0733, found 375.0732.

found 391.0429.

3c: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 81% (59.7 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 125-127 °C, ${}^{1}H$ NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3): $\delta =$ 7.43-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 4.94 (s, 2H), 4.01 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.00 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3): $\delta =$ 165.73, 150.35, 144.32, 137.57, 134.54, 132.60 (q, $J_{CF} = 32.4$ Hz), 129.94, 129.56, 128.93, 127.13, 122.57 (q, $J_{CF} = 273.3 \text{ Hz}$), 121.99, 114.94, 111.84 (q, $J_{CF} = 5.3 \text{ Hz}$), 99.34, 62.12, 13.58 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C17H12ClF3N2O2+Na 391.0437,

EtOOC

3d: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 80% (66.1 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 113-115 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.59-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.05(s, 1H), 4.92 (s, 2H), 4.02 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.01 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H)ppm; 13 C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3): $\delta = 165.69$, 150.30, 144.21, 137.80, 132.61 (d, $J_{CF} = 32.1 \text{ Hz}$), 132.48, 131.74, 130.16, 127.59, 122.56 (d, $J_{CF} =$

273.2 Hz), 122.54, 122.06, 114.92, 111.83 (q, J_{CF} = 5.3 Hz), 99.39, 62.13, 13.62 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C17H12BrF3N2O2+Na 434.9932, found 434.9931.



3e: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 82% (59.7 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 145-147 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.36 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 7.00-6.89 (m, 3H), 4.92 (s, 2H), 4.03-3.99 (m, 2H), 3.83(s, 3H), 0.99 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 3H) ppm; 13 C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3): $\delta = 165.98$, 159.40, 150.18, 145.73,

137.06, 132.33 (q, J_{CF} = 32.4 Hz), 129.64, 122.59 (d, J_{CF} = 273.3 Hz), 121.90, 121.08, 115.26, 115.15, 114.04, 111.28 (q, $J_{CF} = 5.3 \text{ Hz}$), 99.50, 61.89, 55.35, 13.47 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C18H15F3N2O3+Na 387.0932, found 387.0927.

3f: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 84% (59.2 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 137-139 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.48-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.19 (m, 3H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 4.9 (s, 2H), 4.02-3.97 (m, 2H), 0.976 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 165.51, 159.38 (d, J_{CF} = 247.2 Hz), 150.12, 140.10,

132.72 (q, J_{CF} = 32.4 Hz), 131.58 (d, J_{CF} = 8.3 Hz), 130.69 (d, J_{CF} = 2.7 Hz), 124.21 (d, J_{CF} = 4.1 Hz), 123.59 (d, J_{CF} = 16.4 Hz), 122.51 (q, J_{CF} = 273.0 Hz), 122.40, 115.94 (d, J_{CF} = 21.3 Hz), 114.73, 112.22 (q, J_{CF} = 5.3 Hz), 100.21, 61.90, 13.42 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C17H12F4N2O2+Na 375.0733, found 375.0732.

3g: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 78% (57.5 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 130-132 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.51-7.49 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.24 (m, 3H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 4.91 (s, 2H), 3.97 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.95 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 165.29, 150.05, 143.39, 134.82, 133.45, 132.74

(d, J_{CF} = 32.5 Hz), 130.72, 130.54, 129.75, 126.74, 122.55 (d, J_{CF} = 273.0 Hz), 122.05 (d, J_{CF} = 1.8 Hz), 114.55, 112.22 (q, J_{CF} = 5.1 Hz), 100.17, 61.81, 13.38 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C17H12ClF3N2O2+Na 391.0437, found 391.0437.

3h: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 86% (71.1 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 115-117 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.69 (dd, J_I = 7.6 Hz, J_2 = 0.4 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.24 (m, 3H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 4.92 (s, 2H), 3.97 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.96 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 165.23, 150.03, 144.86,

136.84, 132.91, 132.40 (d, J_{CF} = 32.5 Hz), 130.78, 130.52, 127.30, 123.23, 122.55 (d, J_{CF} = 273.1 Hz), 121.86 (d, J_{CF} = 1.9 Hz), 114.53, 112.22 (q, J_{CF} = 5.2 Hz), 100.16, 61.80, 13.39 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C17H12BrF3N2O2+Na 434.9932, found 434.9930.

3i: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 81% (56.4 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 127-129 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.35-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.11-7.09 (m, 1H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 4.85 (s, 2H), 3.92 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 0.90 (s, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 165.60, 149.88,

145.95, 136.34, 135.29, 132.43 (d, $J_{CF} = 32.4$ Hz), 130.19, 129.37, 128.83, 125.67, 122.63 (d, $J_{CF} = 273.0$ Hz), 122.21 (d, $J_{CF} = 1.8$ Hz), 114.75, 111.38 (q, $J_{CF} = 5.1$ Hz), 100.09, 61.67, 19.61, 13.34 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C18H15F3N2O2+Na 371.0983, found 371.0980.

3j: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 87% (63.4 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 127-129 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.41-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.12 (dd, J_I = 7.2 Hz, J_2 = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 7.00-6.97 (m, 2H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 3.95 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3):

 δ = 165.98, 156.64, 150.02, 143.31, 132.58 (q, J_{CF} = 32.3 Hz), 132.56, 131.06, 130.22, 124.93, 122.76 (d, J_{CF} = 273.2 Hz), 122.33, 120.63, 111.57 (q, J_{CF} = 5.3 Hz), 111.30, 100.85, 61.71, 55.81, 13.52 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C18H15F3N2O3+Na 387.0932, found 387.0930.

3k: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 87% (61.3 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 121-123 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.36-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.17-7.13 (m, 2H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 4.92 (s, 2H), 4.00 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.00 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 165.84, 163.27 (d, J_{CF} = 248.1 Hz), 150.21, 144.83, 132.44 (q, J_{CF} = 32.4 Hz), 131.84 (d, J_{CF} = 3.6 Hz), 130.74

(d, $J_{CF} = 8.6$ Hz), 122.55 (d, $J_{CF} = 273.2$ Hz), 122.16 (d, $J_{CF} = 2.1$ Hz), 115.69 (d, $J_{CF} = 21.8$ Hz), 115.04, 111.50 (q, $J_{CF} = 5.3$ Hz), 99.65, 61.95, 13.52 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C17H12F4N2O2+Na 375.0733, found 375.0728.

31: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 78% (57.5 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 175-177 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.43 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 4.90 (s, 2H), 4.01 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.01 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 165.69, 150.20, 144.64, 135.64, 134.28, 132.53 (d, J_{CF} = 32.1 Hz), 130.15, 128.83, 122.52 (d, J_{CF} =

273.3 Hz), 122.07 (d, J_{CF} = 2.0 Hz), 144.93, 111.61 (q, J_{CF} = 5.2 Hz), 99.49, 61.99, 13.50 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C17H12ClF3N2O2+Na 391.0437, found 391.0437.

3m: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 86% (71.1 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 187-189 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.58 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 4.92 (s, 2H), 4.00 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.00 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 165.80, 150.33, 144.71, 134.84, 132.61 (q, J_{CF} = 32.6 Hz), 131.86, 130.44, 123.94, 122.58 (d, J_{CF} =

273.5 Hz), 121.97, 115.05, 111.71 (q, $J_{CF} = 5.4$ Hz), 99.36, 62.11, 13.58 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C17H12BrF3N2O2+Na 434.9932, found 434.9938.

3n: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 83% (63.0 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 195-197 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 8.33-8.30 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 5.02 (s, 2H), 3.99 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.00 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 165.42, 150.52, 148.39, 143.58, 142.47, 132,95 (q, J_{CF} = 32.6 Hz), 130.15, 123.81, 122.46 (q, J_{CF} = 273.3 Hz), 121.69,

114.68, 112.51 (q, $J_{CF} = 5.3$ Hz), 98.82, 62.30, 13.61 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C17H12F3N3O4+Na 402.0678, found 402.0670.

30: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 84% (58.5 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 129-131 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.24 (s, 4H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 4.85 (s, 2H), 3.99 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 0.98 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 166.01, 150.10, 146.13, 139.25, 132.97, 132.31 (d, J_{CF} = 32.2 Hz), 129.18, 128.56, 122.64 (d, J_{CF} = 273.1 Hz), 122.17 (d, J_{CF} = 1.5 Hz),

115.27, 111.05 (q, J_{CF} = 5.1 Hz), 99.85, 61.79, 21.34, 13.46 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C18H15F3N2O2+Na 371.0983, found 371.0983.



3p: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 75% (54.6 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 139-141 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.29-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 6.96-6.93 (m, 2H), 4.88 (s, 2H), 4.00 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 0.99 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 166.26, 160.38, 150.27, 145.82, 132.31 (q, J_{CF} = 32.3 Hz), 130.14, 128.17, 122.71 (d, J_{CF} = 273.2 Hz),

122.22, 115.47, 114.01, 111.05 (q, $J_{CF} = 5.3$ Hz), 99.90, 61.93, 55.39, 13.65 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C18H15F3N2O3+Na 387.0932, found 387.0924.



3q: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 84% (63.2 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 183-185 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.30-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 4.86 (s, 2H), 3.96 (q, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.95 (m, 1H), 1.27 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H), 0.88 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 166.04, 150.15, 150.09, 146.12, 133.29, 132.32 (d, J_{CF} = 32.2 Hz), 128.66, 126.54, 122.63 (d, J_{CF} =

273.2 Hz), 122.23 (d, J_{CF} = 1.9 Hz), 115.28, 111.02 (q, J_{CF} = 5.1 Hz), 99.73, 61.72, 33.95, 23.86, 13.33 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C20H19F3N2O2+Na 399.1296, found 399.1285.

3r: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 81% (63.2 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 203-205 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.46-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 4.89 (s, 2H), 3.95 (q, J = 7.2Hz, 2H), 1.34 (s, 9H), 0.85 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 166.10, 152.34, 150.19, 146.06, 132.92, 132.31 (q, J_{CF} = 32.3 Hz), 128.37, 125.39, 122.61 (d, J_{CF} =

273.3 Hz), 122.15, 115.33, 111.02 (q, $J_{CF} = 5.4$ Hz), 99.58, 61.73, 34.74, 31.25, 13.28 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C21H21F3N2O2+Na 413.1453, found 413.1453.

3s: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 85% (60.9 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 131-133 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.58-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 4.93 (s, 2H), 3.99 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.16 (s, 1H), 0.99 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 165.74, 150.27, 145.05, 136.29, 132.52 (d, J_{CF} = 32.1 Hz), 132.22, 128.79, 123.32, 122.53 (d, J_{CF} = 2.1 Hz), 114.96, 111.61 (g, J_{CF} = 5.3 Hz), 99.29, 82.87

273.3 Hz), 121.89 (d, J_{CF} = 2.1 Hz), 114.96, 111.61 (q, J_{CF} = 5.3 Hz), 99.29, 82.87, 78.70, 61.99, 13.48 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C19H13F3N2O2+Na 381.0827, found 381.0830.

3t: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 78% (62.9 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 161-162 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.53 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (dd, J_I = 8.4 Hz, J_2 = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 4.93 (s, 2H), 4.01 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.03 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 165.08, 150.09, 142.31, 136.21, 136.21, 134.38, 133.33, 132.91 (d,

 J_{CF} = 32.6 Hz), 131.34, 129.73, 127.20, 122.46 (d, J_{CF} = 273.1 Hz), 122.06 (d, J_{CF} = 1.8 Hz), 114.36, 112.52 (q, J_{CF} = 5.1 Hz), 100.01, 61.98, 13.47 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C17H11C12F3N2O2+Na 425.0047, found 425.0048.

3u: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 78% (60.3 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 108-110 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.56-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.40 (dd, $J_1 = 6.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.10-7.07 (m, 2H), 4.94 (s, 2H), 4.08-4.04 (m, 2H), 1.05 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; 13 C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3): $\delta = 165.24$, 159.46, 157.81,

150.23, 138.54, 134.53, 134.47, 133.39, 133.38, 133.00 (q, $J_{CF} = 32.4$ Hz), 125.63, 125.51, 122.48 (q, J_{CF} = 273.3 Hz), 122.44, 117.92, 117.77, 116.69, 116.66, 114.53, 112.73 (q, $J_{CF} = 5.3$ Hz), 100.01, 62.21, 13.63 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C17H11ClF4N2O2+Na 409.0343, found 409.0346.

3v: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 82% (66.1 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 158-160 °C, ${}^{1}H$ NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3): $\delta =$ 7.53 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (dd, $J_1 = 7.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 4.94 (s, 2H), 4.05 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.06 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 165.57, 150.37, 143.26, 135.66, 134.02, 132.98, 132.73 (d, J_{CF} = 32.4 Hz), 130.78, 130.73, 128.28, 122.50 (d, $J_{CF} = 273.3$ Hz), 121.97, 114.82, 112.09 $(q, J_{CF} = 5.3 \text{ Hz}), 99.21, 62.26, 13.66 \text{ ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For}$ C17H11Cl2F3N2O2+Na 425.0047, found 425.0036.

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{OMe} \\ \text{OMe} \\ \text{CN} \\ \text{F}_3\text{C} \\ \text{3w} \end{array}$$

3w: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 79% (62.3 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 159-161 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.01 (s, 1H), 6.94-6.92 (m, 2H), 6.86 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.89 (s, 2H), 4.00 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 1.00 (t, J =7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; 13 C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3): $\delta = 166.31$, 150.28, 149.82, 148.77, 145.74, 132.33 (q, J_{CF} = 32.1 Hz), 128.31, 122.69 (d,

 $J_{CF} = 273.2 \text{ Hz}$), 122.18, 121.63, 115.46, 111.96, 111.07 (q, $J_{CF} = 5.3 \text{ Hz}$), 110.98, 99.82, 62.00, 56.06, 55.98, 13.69 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C19H17F3N2O4+Na 417.1038, found 417.1037.

EtOOC

3x: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 71% (54.6 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 185-187 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.94-7.88 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.45 (m, 4H), 7.38 (dd, $J_1 = 7.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 4.88 (s, 2H), 3.69 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.53 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3): $\delta = 165.54$, 150.04, 144.79, 133.38, 133.27, 132.54 (d, $J_{CF} = 32.2 \text{ Hz}$), 131.43, 129.73, 128.34, 127.26, 126.76, 126.31, 125.32, 124.92, 123.02 (d, $J_{CF} = 1.8 \text{ Hz}$), 114.76, 122.66 (d, $J_{CF} = 273.0 \text{ Hz}$), 111.79 (q, $J_{CF} = 5.1 \text{ Hz}$), 100.88, 61.49, 12.95 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C21H15F3N2O2+Na 407.0983, found 407.0984.

EtOOC

3y: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 74% (49.6 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 256-258 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, (CD3)2SO): $\delta = 8.69$ (dd, $J_1 = 4.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.38 (dd, $J_1 = 4.2$ Hz, J_2 = 1.2 Hz, 2H, 7.14 (s, 2H), 3.87 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.83 (t, J = 7.2 Hz)Hz, 3H) ppm; 13 C NMR (150 MHz, (CD3)2SO): $\delta = 165.12, 152.75$, 149.74, 144.20, 143.20, 130.67 (q, $J_{CF} = 31.5 \text{ Hz}$), 123.57, 122.75 (d, $J_{CF} = 273.0 \text{ Hz}$), 120.02, 119.60, 112.59 (d, $J_{CF} = 6.0 \text{ Hz}$), 96.10, 61.42, 13.10 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C16H12F3N3O2+Na 358.0779, found 358.0772.

3z: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 72% (46.7 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 124-126 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.56 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 6.93 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.56 $(dd, J_1 = 3.6 \text{ Hz}, J_2 = 1.8 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 4.97 \text{ (s, 2H)}, 4.24 \text{ (q, } J = 7.2 \text{ Hz},$ 2H), 1.22 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 166.17, 150.72, 147.37, 144.12, 133.88, 132.90 (q, J_{CF} = 32.3 Hz), 122.46 (q, J_{CF} = 273.3 Hz), 120.64, 115.43, 112.81, 112.00, 111.63 (q, $J_{CF} = 5.4$ Hz), 96.78, 62.21, 13.80 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C15H11F3N2O3+Na 347.0619, found 347.0615.

3aa: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 71% (48.3 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 142-144 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.48 (dd, J_1 = 4.8 Hz, J_2 = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (dd, J_1 = 3.2 Hz, J_2 = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.12-7.10 (m, 1H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 4.91 (s, 2H), 4.08 (q, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.08 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz,

CDCl3): δ = 165.74, 150.24, 138.54, 135.14, 132.32 (d, J_{CF} = 32.5 Hz), 129.56, 128.21, 127.27, 122.49 (d, J_{CF} = 273.2 Hz), 123.14 (d, J_{CF} = 1.5 Hz), 114.96, 111.98 (q, J_{CF} = 5.1 Hz), 100.45, 62.07, 13.55 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C15H11F3N2O2S+Na 363.0391, found 363.0391.

3ab: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 78% (59.5 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 128-130 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.33-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.23-7.21 (m, 2H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 5.23 (s, 2H), 3.91 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.68 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, 166.00 147.05 142.76 132.05 132.12 (c. 120.05 132.06)

CDCl3): δ = 167.83, 166.88, 147.85, 142.76, 139.05, 130.12 (q, J_{CF} = 31.8 Hz), 128.60, 127.70, 127.64, 123.0 (q, J_{CF} = 272.1 Hz), 122.09, 117.64, 112.80 (q, J_{CF} = 4.5 Hz), 61.42, 61.01, 13.46, 13.08 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C19H18F3NO4+Na 404.1086, found 404.1088.

3ac: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 78% (54.3 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 130-132 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.51-7.46 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 5.63 (s, 2H), 4.85-4.79 (m, 1H), 0.94 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 6H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3): δ =163.83, 152.07, 149.66, 134.37, 133.22 (d, J_{CF} =

32.3 Hz), 130.14, 128.70, 128.51, 124.35, 121.48 (d, J_{CF} = 275.4 Hz), 113.64, 112.74, 101.85, 93.41, 70.58, 20.93 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C18H15F3N2O2+Na 371.0983, found 371.0980.

3ad: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 76% (48.1 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 132-134 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.45-7.43 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 7.01 (t, J_{CF} = 55.8 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (s, 2H), 3.91 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.81 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 166.58, 150.90, 146.50,

138.00 (t, $J_{CF} = 21.6$ Hz), 137.15, 128.92, 128.47, 128.44, 121.50 (t, $J_{CF} = 3.5$ Hz), 115.57, 111.66 (t, $J_{CF} = 239.7$ Hz), 110.45 (t, $J_{CF} = 8.0$ Hz), 98.56, 61.53, 13.28 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C17H14F2N2O2+Na 339.0921, found 339.0920



3ae: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 88% (67.6 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 129-131 °C, ¹H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.44-7.43 (m, 3H), 7.36-7.35 (m, 2H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 4.85 (s, 1H), 3.92 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (175 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 165.86, 149.66, 145.70, 135.58, 130.34 (t, J_{CF} =

23.3 Hz), 129.32, 128.92, 128.40, 123.41 (t, $J_{CF} = 2.5$ Hz), 118.61 (dt, $J_{CFI} = 285.4$ Hz, $J_{CF2} = 37.8$ Hz), 115.04, 113.0 (tq, $J_{CFI} = 255.2$ Hz, $J_{CF2} = 38.9$ Hz), 112.84 (t, $J_{CF} = 8.2$ Hz), 100.34, 61.73, 13.37 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C18H13F5N2O2+Na 407.0795, found 407.0793.

4.2 General procedure for the preparation of trifluoromethylarenes 5

$$R^3$$
 + $COOR^2$ $EtOH, 60 °C$ R_f $COOR^2$ $R_f = CF_3 \text{ or } CF_2H$ $COOR^2$

The reaction was carried out with 4 (0.20 zxmmol) and 2 (0.30 mmol), and DMAP (0.08 mmol) in EtOH (1 mL) at 60 °C. The reaction was monitored by TLC until the reaction was completion. Then the reaction mixture was concentrated and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give the final tetra-substituted trifluoromethylated benzenes 5, which was further analyzed by ¹H NMR, ¹³C HMR, HRMS analysis.

342.0714.

5a: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 76% (48.5 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 68-70 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.80 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (s, 5H), 4.43 (q, J = 7.2Hz, 2H), 1.40 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta =$ 166.42, 149.75, 136.56, 132.95 (d, $J_{CF} = 2.5 \text{ Hz}$), 132.18, 131.15 (d, J_{CF} = 32.3 Hz), 129.73, 128.95, 128.93, 122.09 (d, J_{CF} = 274.3 Hz), 114.45, 110.23, 62.91, 13.88 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₁₇H₁₂F₃NO₂+Na 342.0718, found

5b: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 75% (53.1 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 68-70 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.83$ (d, $J = 8.0 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}, 7.7 \text{ (d, } J = 8.0 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 7.56 \text{ (dd, } J_1 = 8.0 \text{ Hz}, J_2 = 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.34 (dd, $J_1 = 7.6$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.45 $(q, J = 7.2 \text{ Hz}, 2H), 1.41 \text{ (t, } J = 6.8 \text{Hz}, 3H) \text{ ppm; } ^{13}\text{C NMR (100 MHz)},$ CDCl₃): $\delta = 166.26$, 147.22, 133.98, 133.56 (d, $J_{CF} = 2.5$ Hz), 132.82, 132.03, 131.10, 130.80, 130.74 (d, J_{CF} = 32.6 Hz), 130.57, 130.21, 127.23, 121.97 (d, $J_{CF} = 274.1$ Hz), 113.68, 111.90, 63.00, 13.88 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₁₇H₁₁ClF₃NO₂+Na 376.0328, found 376.0325.

5c: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 71% (56.5 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 96-98 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.82 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, J_1 = 8.4 Hz, J_2 = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (td, J_1 = 8.4 Hz, J_2 = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (td, J_1 = 7.8 Hz, J_2 = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (dd, J_1 = 7.8 Hz, J_2 = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.44 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.40 (t, J = 7.2Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ =

166.36, 137.54, 134.02, 133.60 (d, $J_{CF} = 2.3$ Hz), 133.43, 133.43, 132.11, 131.27, 130.75, 130.74 (d, $J_{CF} = 32.9$ Hz), 127.89, 122.57, 122.03 (d, $J_{CF} = 274.2$ Hz) 113.73, 111.93, 63.10, 13.97 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For $C_{17}H_{11}BrF_3NO_2+Na$ 419.9823, found 419.9819.



5d: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 80% (58.3 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 74-76 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.29 (dd, J_1 = 8.0 Hz, J_2 = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.82-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.61 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (dd, J_1 = 7.6 Hz, J_2 = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 166.02, 147.41, 146.86, 133.98, 133.62 (d, J_{CF}

= 2.3 Hz), 132.49, 132.07, 132.00, 131.94, 130.97, 130.77 (d, J_{CF} = 32.9 Hz), 125.51, 121.86 (d, J_{CF} = 274.2 Hz), 113.61, 111.14, 63.05, 13.87 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For $C_{17}H_{11}F_3N_2O_4$ +Na 387.0569, found 387.0570.



5e: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 75% (52.4 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 86-88 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.77 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.67(d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (m, 1H), 7.23 (dd, J_I = 7.6 Hz, J_I = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 1.40 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 166.61, 156.41, 147.06, 134.16,

132.63 (d, J_{CF} = 2.5 Hz), 131.86, 131.38, 130.57, 130.46 (d, J_{CF} = 32.2 Hz), 125.54, 122.17 (d, J_{CF} = 274.2 Hz), 120.94, 114.42, 111.54, 62.80, 55.52, 13.89 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₁₈H₁₄F₃NO₃+Na 372.0823, found 372.0825.

5f: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 75% (50.6 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 95-97 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.82 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.31 (d, J =8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 2H), 4.44 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.40 (t, J = 6.8Hz, 3H) ppm; 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 166.21$, 162.68 (d, $J_{CF} =$ 247.0 Hz), 148.26, 138.44 (d, $J_{CF} = 7.8$ Hz), 133.45 (d, $J_{CF} = 2.5$ Hz), 133.26, 132.34, 131.28 (d, J_{CF} = 32.5 Hz), 130.69 (d, J_{CF} = 8.3 Hz), 124.83 (d, J_{CF} = 3.1 Hz), 121.98 (d, $J_{CF} = 274.2$ Hz), 116.80 (d, $J_{CF} = 20.9$ Hz), 116.17 (d, $J_{CF} = 22.8$ Hz),

114.11, 110.39, 63.00, 13.87 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₁₇H₁₁F₄NO₂+Na 360.0624,

found 360.0625.

5g: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 80% (56.6 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 89-91 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.82 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.41 (m, 4H), 4.44 (q, J =7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.40 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 166.19, 148.11, 138.17, 134.96, 133.49$ (d, $J_{CF} = 2.6$ Hz), 133.25, 132.37, 131.27 (d, $J_{CF} = 32.3$ Hz), 130.23, 129.89, 129.00, 127.213, 121.97 (d, $J_{CF} = 274.3 \text{ Hz}$), 114.10, 110.38, 63.01, 13.87 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₁₇H₁₁ClF₃NO₂+Na 376.0328, found 376.0326.

ĊOOEt

5h: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 76% (60.5 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 102-104 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.81$ (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64 $(d, J = 1.2 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 7.48 (d, J = 7.6 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 7.40 (dd, J_1 = 8.0 \text{ Hz}, J_2 =$ 7.6 Hz, 1H) 4.44 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.40 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 166.19$, 148.00, 138.42, 133.47 (d, $J_{CF} =$ 2.7 Hz), 133.24, 132.82, 132.36, 131.834, 131.29 (d, $J_{CF} = 32.6$ Hz), 130.43, 127.66, 122.96, 122.54 (d, $J_{CF} = 273.9$ Hz), 114.08, 110.25, 63.01, 13.87 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₁₇H₁₁BrF₃NO₂+Na 419.9823, found 419.9821.



5i: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 71% (47.9 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 44-46 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.80 (d, $J = 8.4 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}, 7.70 \text{ (d, } J = 8.0 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 7.51 \text{ (dd, } J_1 = 8.8 \text{ Hz}, J_2 = 5.2 \text{ Hz}$ Hz, 2H), 7.223 (t, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.43 (q, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.40 (t, J =7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 166.29$, 163.64 (d, $J_{CF} = 249.1 \text{ Hz}$), 148.65, 133.29, 133.11 (d, $J_{CF} = 2.7 \text{ Hz}$), 132.56 (d, J_{CF} = 3.6 Hz), 132.29, 131.25 (d, J_{CF} = 32.4 Hz), 130.95 (d, J_{CF} = 8.6 Hz),

123.38, 120.73(d, J_{CF} = 277.4 Hz), 116.17 (d, J_{CF} = 21.9 Hz), 112.28, 114.37, 110.32, 62.96, 13.87 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₁₇H₁₁F₄NO₂+Na 360.0624, found 360.0627.



5j: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 77% (54.5 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 94-96 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.81$ (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dd, $J_1 = 6.4$, $J_2 = 2.0 \text{ Hz}$, 2H), $7.46(dd, J_1 = 6.4 Hz, J_2 = 2.0 Hz, 2H)$, 4.43(q, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), $1.40(t, J_1 = 6.4 Hz, J_2 = 2.0 Hz, 2H)$ J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 166.23$, 148.45, 136.27, 134.89, 133.29 (d, $J_{CF} = 2.4 \text{ Hz}$), 133.20, 132.36, 131.31 (d, J_{CF}

= 32.3 Hz), 130.29, 129.28, 121.96 (d, J_{CF} = 268.2 Hz), 114.29, 110.27, 62.99, 13.87 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₁₇H₁₁ClF₃NO₂+Na 376.0328, found 376.0331.



5k: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 70% (55.7 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 101-103 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.80$ (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H),7.40 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.40 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H)ppm. 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 166.23$, 148.46, 135.36, 133.31 (d, $J_{CF} = 2.5$ Hz), 133.14, 132.38, 132.23, 131.32 (d, $J_{CF} = 32.4$ Hz),

130.51, 124.52, 121.98 (d, $J_{CF} = 274.4$ Hz), 114.28, 110.20, 62.99, 13.87 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₁₇H₁₁BrF₃NO₂+Na 419.9823, found 419.9826.



5l: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 80% (53.3 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 62-64 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.77 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.43 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.40 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 166.48, 149.85, 139.96, 133.68, 133.32, 132.68 (d, J_{CF} = 2.5 Hz), 132.12, 131.13 (d, J_{CF} = 32.3

Hz), 129.64, 128.85, 122.12 (d, J_{CF} = 274.2 Hz), 114.63, 110.12, 62.867, 21.33, 13.88 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For $C_{18}H_{14}F_3NO_2+Na$ 356.0874, found 356.0877.



5m: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 71% (51.3 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 58-60 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.82 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.40 (m, 2H), 4.47 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.05-3.01 (m, 1H), 1.44 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.34 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 6H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 166.60, 150.79, 149.87, 133.99, 133.49, 132.70 (d, J_{CF} = 2.9 Hz), 132.20, σ = 32.1 Hz), 129.05, 127.14, 122.20 (d, J_{CF} = 274.2 Hz), 114.74, 110.06

131.22 (d, J_{CF} = 32.1 Hz), 129.05, 127.14, 122.20 (d, J_{CF} = 274.2 Hz), 114.74, 110.06, 62.96, 34.06, 23.92, 13.96 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₂₀H₁₈F₃NO₂+Na 384.1187, found 384.1185.



5n: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 85% (59.4 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 101-103 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.76$ (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (dd, $J_I = 6.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.04 (dd, $J_I = 6.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.42 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 1H), 1.40 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 166.51$, 160.85, 149.51, 133.24, 132.43 (d, $J_{CF} = 2.5$ Hz),

132.11, 131.19 (d, J_{CF} = 32.2 Hz), 130.40, 128.76, 122.12 (d, J_{CF} = 274.3 Hz), 114.76, 109.93, 62.85, 55.43, 13.88 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₁₈H₁₄F₃NO₃+Na 372.0823, found 372.0821.



50: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 77% (59.8 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 110-112 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.83 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (dd, J_I = 8.4 Hz, J_2 = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.44 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.40 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H) ppm; 13 C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 166.14, 146.15, 136.75, 134.00, 133.95, 133.92, 133.80,

132.28, 131.65, 130.96 (d, J_{CF} = 32.4 Hz), 130.27, 127.80, 121.94 (d, J_{CF} = 274.4 Hz), 113.65, 108.80, 63.17, 13.96 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For $C_{17}H_{10}Cl_2F_3NO_2+Na$ 409.9938, found 409.9937.

F₃C COOEt

5p: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 75% (55.8 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 65-67 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.87 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.17 (m, 1H), 4.46 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 166.10, 161.17, 158.67, 141.09, 134.57, 134.25 (d, J_{CF} = 3.5Hz), 134.14 (d, J_{CF} = 2.5Hz) 132.34, 131.91 (d, J_{CF} = 9.4Hz),

130.94 (d, J_{CF} = 32.8Hz), 125.87 (d, J_{CF} = 18.8 Hz), 121.89 (d, J_{CF} = 274.4 Hz), 114.77 (d, J_{CF} = 21.8 Hz), 113.34, 112.86, 63.06, 13.88 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For $C_{17}H_{10}ClF_4NO_2+Na$ 394.0234, found 394.0235.



5q: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 77% (59.8 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 118-120 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.83(d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70(d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (dd, J_I = 8.0 Hz, J₂ = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.44(q, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.40(t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 166.05, 147.04, 136.24, 134.56, 133.74 (d, J_{CF} = 2.6 Hz),

133.10, 132.52, 131.02, 130.82, 128.23, 126.01, 121.86 (d, J_{CF} = 270.6 Hz), 114.012, 110.39, 63.07, 13.87 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For $C_{17}H_{10}Cl_2F_3NO_2+Na$ 409.9938, found 409.9941.

5r: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 79% (60.0 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 128-130 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.77 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (dd, $J_1 = 8.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.0 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}, 7.05 \text{ (d, } J = 2.0 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 7.00 \text{ (d, } J = 8.4 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 4.43$ (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.95 (s, 1H), 3.95 (s, 1H), 1.40 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H)ppm; 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 166.48$, 150.41, 149.54, 149.11,

133.26, 132.54 (d, J_{CF} = 2.4 Hz), 132.09, 131.22 (d, J_{CF} = 32.1 Hz), 128.95, 122.12 (d, $J_{CF} = 275.9 \text{ Hz}$), 121.95, 114.77, 112.16, 111.37, 109.95, 62.86, 56.16, 56.03, 13.88 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₁₉H₁₆F₃NO₄+Na 402.0929, found 402.0926.



5s: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 83% (61.3 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 99-101 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 8.33$ (s, 1H), 8.04 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.41 (dd, $J_1 = 6.6$ Hz, $J_2 = 0.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.51 (q, $J = 7.2 \text{ Hz}, 2\text{H}, 1.45 \text{ (t, } J = 7.2 \text{ Hz}, 3\text{H) ppm;}^{13}\text{C NMR (150 MHz},$ CDCl₃): $\delta = 164.29$, 142.42, 135.26(d, $J_{CF} = 2.4$ Hz), 133.98 (d, $J_{CF} =$

33.9 Hz), 133.58, 131.27, 130.76, 129.14, 128.95, 127.91, 127.51, 127.28, 126.97, 125.32, 123.63, 122.11, 121.19 (d, $J_{CF} = 274.7 \text{ Hz}$), 116.65, 112.12, 63.99, 13.96 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₂₁H₁₄F₃NO₂+Na 392.0874, found 392.0876.



332.0515.

5t: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 68% (42.1 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 86-88 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.15 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H, 7.76 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.58(d, J = 3.6 Hz,1H), 6.63 (dd, $J_1 = 3.6$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.41 (q, J =7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.39 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 166.35, 147.82, 144.70, 136.84, 132.42, 131.97$ (d, $J_{CF} = 2.6$ Hz), 131.72 (d, J_{CF} = 32.2 Hz), 129.13, 122.06 (d, J_{CF} = 274.2 Hz), 115.01, 113.77, 112.89, 110.52, 62.85, 13.86 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₁₅H₁₀F₃NO₃+Na 332.0510, found



5u: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 70% (45.5 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 98-100 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.83$ (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (dd, $J_1 = 3.6$ Hz, $J_2 =$ 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (dd, $J_1 = 5.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.21 (dd, $J_1 = 5.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 3.6 \text{ Hz}$, 1H), 4.42 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.39 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 166.26$, 141.84, 137.08, 133.19, 132.77 (d, $J_{CF} = 2.5$ Hz), 132.30, 131.82 (d, J_{CF} = 32.3 Hz), 129.67, 129.10, 128.54, 121.99 (d, J_{CF} = 274.3 Hz), 114.67, 109.07, 62.93, 13.86 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₁₅H₁₀F₃NO₂S+Na 348.0282, found 348.0281.

404.0870.

5v: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 76% (65.1 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 91-93 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.79$ (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H, 7.71 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.53-7.49 (m, 5H), 7.44-7.36(m, 5H), 5.38 (s, 2H) ppm; 13 C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 166.18, 149.85, 136.48, 134.46, 133.40, 132.50, 132.20, 131.21 (q, $J_{CF} = 31.5$ Hz), 129.75, 128.92, 128.84, 128.74, 128.71, 122.03 (q, $J_{CF} = 274.5$ Hz), 114.37, 110.31, 68.71 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C22H14F3NO2+Na 404.0874, found

5w: Obtained as a white solid; yield: 73% (50.9 mg) after flash



chromatography. mp 96-98 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 8.12$ (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (t, J = 53.4 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H),7.54-7.50 (m, 5H), 4.45 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; 13 C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3): $\delta = 165.09$, 151.29, 150.85, 137.7 (t, $J_{CF} = 21.5 \text{ Hz}$), 136.80, 133.74, 132.16, 130.31 (t, $J_{CF} = 4.5 \text{ Hz}$), 129.65, 128.92, 128.87, 115.13, 110.80 (t, $J_{CF} = 239.1 \text{ Hz}$), 62.64, 114.12 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C17H13F2NO2+Na 324.0812, found 324.0811.

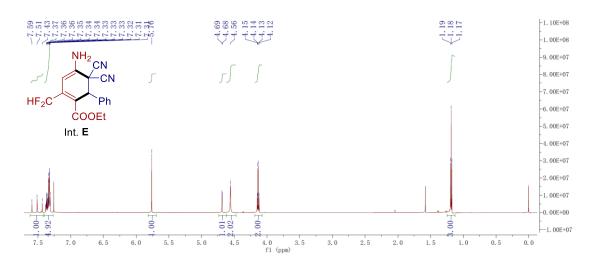
5. Control experiments

5.1 Control experiment of 1a and 2b

The reaction was carried out with **1a** (0.20 mmol) and **2b** (0.24 mmol), and DABCO (0.04 mmol) in DCM (1 mL) at room temperature. The reaction was monitored by TLC until the reaction produced yellow spots. Stop the reaction immediately, then the reaction mixture was concentrated and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10:1) to give the corresponding Int. **E**, which was further analyzed by ¹H NMR, ¹³C HMR, HRMS and X-ray diffraction analysis.

Obtained as a yellow solid; yield: 90% (61.8 mg) after flash chromatography. 1 H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl3): $\delta = 7.51$ (t, J = 54.6 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.31 (m, 5H), 5.76 (s, 1H), 4.69 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (s, 2H), 4.14 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.19 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H) ppm; 13 C NMR (175 MHz, CDCl3): $\delta = 163.56$, 141.87 (t, $J_{CF} = 22.6$ Hz), 135.68,

131.61, 129.78, 129.11, 128.97, 117.57 (t, $J_{CF} = 7.4$ Hz), 112.98, 111.25, 109.98 (t, $J_{CF} = 236.6$ Hz), 93.06 (t, $J_{CF} = 6.0$ Hz), 61.65, 48.65, 41.66, 13.87 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C18H15F2N3O2+Na 366.1030, found 366.1029.

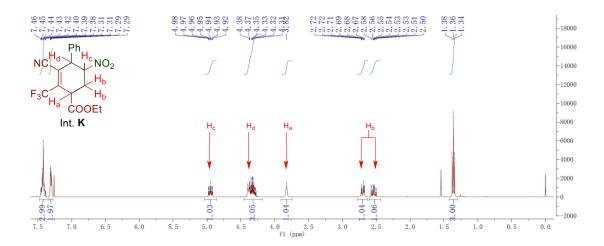


5.2 Control experiment of 4a and 2a

The reaction was carried out with **4a** (0.20 mmol) and **2a** (0.30 mmol), and DMAP (0.08 mmol) in EtOH (1 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction was monitored by TLC until the reaction was completion. Then the reaction mixture was concentrated and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give the Int. **K**, which was further analyzed by ¹H NMR, ¹³C HMR, HRMS analysis.

Obtained as a white solid; yield: 86% (63.3 mg) after flash chromatography. 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.46-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.30-7.29 (m, 2H), 4.98-4.92 (m, 1H), 3.40-4.26 (m, 3H), 3.83 (s, 1H), 2.70 (dt, J_{I} = 13.6 Hz, J_{2} = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 2.58-2.50 (m, 1H), 1.36 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 169.40, 139.04 (q,

 J_{CF} = 32.1 Hz), 134.63, 129.82, 129.59, 128.47, 121.09 (d, J_{CF} = 274.7 Hz), 119.93 (q, J_{CF} = 3.2 Hz), 112.72 (d, J_{CF} = 1.4 Hz), 84.22, 63.12, 47.96, 40.40, 29.26, 14.00 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C17H15F3N2O4+Na 391.0882, found 391.0882.



6. Procedures for the transformation

6.1 Transformation of 3a into 6

EtOOC
$$CN$$
 CN CN COL_4 COL_4

Trifluoromethylated benzene **3a** (0.10 mmol) was added into the mixture of NaNO₂ (0.30 mmol) and TMSCl (0.30 mmol) in CCl₄ at 0 °C, and the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1.5 hour before warm up to room temperature. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for another 3 hours until the reaction was completion (monitored by TLC). Then, the reaction mixture was concentrated and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 15:1) to give the final ethyl 5-chloro-6-cyano-3-(trifluoromethyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylate **6**, which was further analyzed by ¹H NMR, ¹³C HMR, HRMS analysis.

Obtained as a white solid; yield: 78% (27.6 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 131-133 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 7.86 (s, 1H), 7.52-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.38-7.36 (m, 2H), 4.02 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.96 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 164.44, 147.03, 138.80, 134.31, 132.11, 131.75 (q, J_{CF} = 33.5 Hz),

129.96, 128.82, 128.71, 126.52 (q, $J_{CF} = 5.0$ Hz), 121.88 (q, $J_{CF} = 273.8$ Hz), 118.00, 113.60, 62.51, 13.40 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C17H11ClF3NO2+Na 376.0328, found 376.0326.

6.2 Transformation of 3a into 7

EtOOC
$$\rightarrow$$
 Ph \rightarrow CN \rightarrow NaNO₂ \rightarrow EtOOC \rightarrow CN \rightarrow \rightarrow Ray \rightarrow Ph \rightarrow CN \rightarrow Ph \rightarrow Ph \rightarrow CN \rightarrow Ph \rightarrow CN \rightarrow Ph \rightarrow Ph \rightarrow CN \rightarrow Ph \rightarrow Ph \rightarrow Ph \rightarrow CN \rightarrow Ph \rightarrow

CF₃-benzene **3a** (0.10 mmol) and NaNO₂ (0.30 mmol) were added into 1 mL EtOH at 0 °C, and then one drop of HCl was added to the reaction mixture. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 3 hours until the reaction was completion (monitored by TLC). When the reaction was completed, the mixture was concentrated in vacuo. The residue was then dissolved in EA, and washed with water for several times. The organic phase was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. Then, the reaction mixture was concentrated and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give the target

compound 7, which was further analyzed by ¹H NMR, ¹³C HMR, HRMS analysis.

Obtained as a white solid; yield: 73% (46.6 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 129-131 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3):
$$\delta$$
 = 7.92 (dd, J_1 = 8.4 Hz, J_2 = 0.4 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.39-7.36 (m, 2H), 4.04 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.98 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 165.10, 144.80, 134.74, 134.02 (q, J_{CF} = 1.9 Hz), 133.79, 131.10 (q, J_{CF} = 33.0 Hz), 129.63, 129.01, 128.61, 125.70 (q, J_{CF} = 4.7 Hz), 122.56 (q, J_{CF} = 273.1 Hz), 117.33, 116.29, 62.33,

128.61, 125.70 (q, $J_{CF} = 4.7$ Hz), 122.56 (q, $J_{CF} = 273.1$ Hz), 117.33, 116.29, 62.33, 13.44 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C17H12F3NO2+Na 342.0718, found 342.0715.

6.3 Transformation of 3a into 8

Trifluoromethylated benzene 3a (0.10 mmol) was added into the mixture of triethyl orthoformate (0.5 mL) and acetic acid (0.2 mL) at 90 °C, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 hours until the reaction was completion (monitored by TLC). When the reaction was completed, the mixture was concentrated in vacuo. The residue was then dissolved in CH₂Cl₂, and washed with water for several times. The organic phase was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. Then the reaction mixture was concentrated and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give the corresponding compound 8, which was further analyzed by ¹H NMR, ¹³C HMR, HRMS analysis.

Obtained as a white solid; yield: 89% (69.5 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 141-143 °C, ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3):
$$\delta = 7.84$$
 (s, 1H), 7.48-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.38-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 4.45 (q, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 4.00 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H), 0.96 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3): $\delta = 165.52$, 157.50, 152.56, 146.17, 135.32, 131.63 (q, $J_{CF} = 32.9$ Hz), 129.50, 128.98, 128.88, 128.58, 122.58 (q, $J_{CF} = 273.3$ Hz), 117.54, 114.77, 111.47, 64.19, 62.19, 14.02, 13.50 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C20H17F3N2O3+Na 413.1089, found 413.1092.

6.4 Transformation of 3a into 9

The reaction was carried out with **3a** (0.10 mmol) in the mixture of MeOH (1 mL) and 1M NaOH solution (1 mL) at 40 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred until the reaction was completion (monitored by TLC). The reaction mixture was allowed to cool down to rt, a large number of white solids precipitate. Simple filtration and washing with water gave the desired product **9**, which was further analyzed by ¹H NMR, ¹³C HMR, HRMS analysis.

Obtained as a white solid; yield: 71% (25.0 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 128-130 °C, 1 H NMR (600 MHz, (CD3)2SO): δ = 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.34-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 7.23-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 5.75 (s, 2H), 3.78 (q, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 0.79 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm; 13 C NMR (150 MHz, (CD3)2SO): δ = 167.95, 166.74,

146.15, 138.90, 137.43, 129.12, 127.65, 127.45, 126.45, 126.34 (d, $J_{CF} = 31.1$ Hz), 125.54, 123.57 (d, $J_{CF} = 271.8$ Hz), 119.15, 110.60 (d, $J_{CF} = 4.7$ Hz), 60.67, 13.28 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C17H15F3N2O3+Na 375.0932, found 375.0928.

6.5 Transformation of 3s into 10

EtOOC
$$CN$$
 "click" reaction zidovudine R_3 C $COOEt$ R_3 C R_4 C R_5 C $R_$

The reaction was carried out with **3s** (0.10 mmol) and zidovudine (0.1 mmol) in THF at rt, and the mixed aqueous solution of freshly prepared CuSO₄•5H₂O (0.1 mmol) and sodium ascorbate (0.1 mmol) was added. The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. Then the reaction mixture was concentrated and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (dichloromethane/ methanol = 20:1) to give the desire compound **10**, which was further analyzed by ¹H NMR, ¹³C HMR, HRMS analysis.

$$H_2N$$
 CN
 $N \ge N$
 $N \ge N$
 $N \ge N$
 $N \ge N$

Obtained as a white solid; yield: 98% (61.3 mg) after flash chromatography. mp 130-132 °C, ¹H NMR (700 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO): δ = 11.38 (s, 1H), 8.88 (s, 1H), 7.97-7.6 (m, 2H), 7.86 (s, 1H), 7.42 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 7.01 (s, 2H), 6.48 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 5.45-5.43 (m,

1H), 5.33 (s, 1H), 4.31 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.76 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (d, J = 11.2Hz, 1H), 2.85-2.82 (m, 1H), 2.75-2.71 (m, 1H), 1.83 (s, 3H), 0.86 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3): δ = 165.57, 163.80, 152.59, 150.50, 145.95, 145.30, 136.32, 135.79, 131.15, 130.38 (q, J_{CF} = 31.7 Hz), 129.38, 125.21, 125.01, 123.65, 121.62, 121.31 (t, J_{CF} = 273.0 Hz), 118.30, 115.48, 111.73 (t, J_{CF} = 6.0 Hz), 109.70, 96.99, 84.49, 83.96, 61.23, 60.79, 59.49, 37.19, 13.31, 12.31 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C29H26F3N7O6+Na 648.1794, found 648.1790.

7. X-ray crystal data for 3k, 5g, and Int. E.

7.1 Crystal data of 3k

 $\begin{array}{ll} \text{Identification code} & \text{lq-hb-hxh5282} \\ \text{Empirical formula} & \text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_4\text{N}_2\text{O}_2 \\ \end{array}$

Formula weight 352.29
Temperature/K 295.4(2)
Crystal system monoclinic

Space group $P2_1/c$

a/Å 12.9910(4) b/Å 17.6471(7) c/Å 14.6986(4)

 α / $^{\circ}$ 90

 $\beta/^{\circ}$ 92.642(3)

γ/° 90

Volume/ $Å^3$ 3366.1(2)

Z 8

 $\begin{array}{ll} \rho_{calc} g/cm^3 & 1.390 \\ \mu/mm^{-1} & 1.065 \\ F(000) & 1440.0 \end{array}$

Crystal size/mm³ $0.65 \times 0.5 \times 0.5$ Radiation $CuK\alpha (\lambda = 1.54184)$

2Θ range for data collection/° 7.832 to 145.64

Index ranges $-15 \le h \le 15, -21 \le k \le 13, -16 \le l \le 17$

Reflections collected 19165

Independent reflections $6571 [R_{int} = 0.0275, R_{sigma} = 0.0238]$

Data/restraints/parameters 6571/2/490

Goodness-of-fit on F^2 1.033

Final R indexes [I>= 2σ (I)] $R_1 = 0.0837$, $wR_2 = 0.2211$ Final R indexes [all data] $R_1 = 0.1026$, $wR_2 = 0.2490$

Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å⁻³ 0.31/-0.47

7.2 Crystal data of 5g

Identification code lq-hb-hxh5281 Empirical formula C₁₇H₁₁ClF₃NO₂

Formula weight 353.72
Temperature/K 294.9(2)
Crystal system monoclinic

Space group $P2_1/c$

a/Å 16.0338(9) b/Å 8.0122(3) c/Å 13.9749(7)

 α / $^{\circ}$ 90

β/° 113.762(6)

γ/° 90

Volume/Å³ 1643.10(16)

 $\begin{array}{cccc} Z & & 4 \\ & & \\ \rho_{calc}g/cm^3 & & 1.430 \\ & & \\ \mu/mm^{-1} & & 2.447 \\ & & \\ F(000) & & 720.0 \\ \end{array}$

Crystal size/mm³ $0.6 \times 0.5 \times 0.3$

Radiation $CuK\alpha (\lambda = 1.54184)$

2Θ range for data collection/° 12.062 to 145.536

Index ranges $-19 \le h \le 14, -9 \le k \le 9, -17 \le 1 \le 17$

Reflections collected 7459

Independent reflections 3219 [$R_{int} = 0.0250$, $R_{sigma} = 0.0260$]

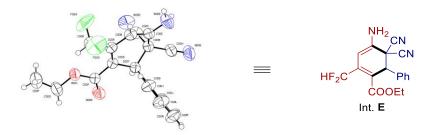
Data/restraints/parameters 3219/0/218

Goodness-of-fit on F^2 1.039

Final R indexes [I>= 2σ (I)] $R_1 = 0.0798$, $wR_2 = 0.2008$ Final R indexes [all data] $R_1 = 0.0886$, $wR_2 = 0.2181$

Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å-3 0.37/-0.49

7.3 Crystal data of Int. E



Identification code exp_6079

Empirical formula C₁₈H₁₅F₂N₃O₂

Formula weight 343.33
Temperature/K 293.6(3)
Crystal system monoclinic

Space group $P2_1/c$

a/Å 10.2758(5) b/Å 13.9418(6) c/Å 13.1480(6)

 $\alpha/^{\circ}$ 90

 $\beta/^{\circ}$ 111.386(6)

γ/° 90

Volume/Å³ 1753.92(16)

Z 4

 $\begin{array}{ll} \rho_{calc} g/cm^3 & 1.300 \\ \mu/mm^{-1} & 0.855 \\ F(000) & 712.0 \end{array}$

Crystal size/mm³ $0.7 \times 0.6 \times 0.5$

Radiation $CuK\alpha (\lambda = 1.54184)$

 2Θ range for data collection/° 9.242 to 143.038

Index ranges $-12 \le h \le 12, -16 \le k \le 17, -15 \le l \le 16$

Reflections collected 9507

Independent reflections 3373 [$R_{int} = 0.0345$, $R_{sigma} = 0.0295$]

Data/restraints/parameters 3373/0/228

Goodness-of-fit on F² 1.038

Final R indexes [I>= 2σ (I)] R₁ = 0.0896, wR₂ = 0.2433 Final R indexes [all data] R₁ = 0.1001, wR₂ = 0.2612

Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å⁻³ 0.53/-0.47

8. NMR spectra

