Supporting Information For:

Iron-catalysed fluoroaromatic coupling reactions under catalytic modulation with 1,2bis(diphenylphosphino)benzene

Takuji Hatakeyama, Yoshiyuki Kondo, Yu-ichi Fujiwara, Hikaru Takaya, Shingo Ito, Eiichi Nakamura and Masaharu Nakamura*

International Research Center for Elements Science,

Institute for Chemical Research, Kyoto University, Uji, Kyoto, 611-0011, Japan

General. All the reactions dealing with air- or moisture-sensitive compounds were carried out in a dry reaction vessel under a positive pressure of argon or nitrogen. Air- and moisture-sensitive liquids and solutions were transferred via a syringe or a stainless steel cannula. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on glass plates coated with 0.25 mm 230–400 mesh silica gel containing a fluorescent indicator (Merck, #1.05715.0009). TLC plates were visualized by exposure to ultraviolet light (254 nm) and/or by immersion in an acidic staining solution of *p*-anisaldehyde followed by heating on a hot plate. Organic solutions were concentrated by rotary evaporation at *ca*. 30 mmHg. Flash column chromatography was performed on Kanto silica gel 60 (spherical, neutral, 140–325 mesh) as described by Still et al.¹ Reversed-phase chromatography was performed on YFLC-CARTRIDGE column (ODS-SM-50C-M, Yamazen Co.) with YFLC-Wprep preparative liquid chromatograph instrument (Yamazen Co.).

Instrumentation. Proton nuclear magnetic resonance (¹H NMR) and carbon NMR (¹³C NMR) spectra were recorded on JEOL EX-270 (270 MHz) or VARIAN MercuryVX (300 MHz) NMR spectrometers. Proton chemical shift values are reported in parts per million (ppm, δ scale) downfield from tetramethylsilane and are referenced to the residual proton signal of CDCl₃ (δ 7.26). ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at 67.8 or 75.5 MHz: chemical shifts for carbons are reported in parts per million (ppm, δ scale) downfield from tetramethylsilane and are presented as: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, quint = quintet, sext = sextet, sept = septet, m = multiplet and/or

⁽¹⁾ Still, W. C.; Kahn, M.; Mitra, A. J. Org. Chem. 1978, 43, 2923–2925.

multiplet resonances, br = broad), coupling constant in hertz (Hz), signal area integration in natural numbers, and assignment (*italic*). IR spectra were recorded on an FT/IR-Spectrum One (PerkinElmer). Characteristic IR absorptions are reported in cm⁻¹.

Solvent. Anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (THF) was purchased from Wako Chemical Co. and distilled, immediately before use, from benzophenone ketyl under argon (atmospheric pressure). Water content of the solvent was determined with a Karl-Fischer moisture titrator (MKC-210, Kyoto Electronics Company) to be less than 15 ppm.

Materials. Materials were purchased from Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd. (Wako), Tokyo Chemical Industry Co., Ltd., Aldrich Inc., and other commercial suppliers. Florisil[®] (100–200 mesh) was purchased from Nacalai Tesque, Inc. Anhydrous FeCl₃ (powder, 99.99%) was purchased from Aldrich Inc. and dissolved in THF at 0 °C prior to use. Zinc chloride (beads, 99.999%) and magnesium bromide (98%) were purchased from Aldrich Inc. Arylmagnesium bromides (ArMgBr) were prepared from the corresponding aryl bromides and magnesium (turnings) using a standard method and titrated before use.

GC analyses. Yield (using undecane as an internal standard) was determined for a crude product by GC analyses on a Shimadzu GC-17A instrument equipped with an FID detector and a capillary column, HR-1 (Shinwa, 25 m \times 0.25 mm i.d., 0.25 μ m film thickness). Diastereoselectity was determined for a crude product and an isolated product by GC analyses.

Screening of additives and arylmetal reagents (Table 1 with additional data)



A THF solution of $\text{FeCl}_3(0.060 \text{ mL}, 0.10 \text{ M}, 0.006 \text{ mmol})$ was added to a mixture of an additive, ZnCl₂ (0.240 mL, 1.00 M THF solution, 0.24 mmol), 3,4,5-trifluorophenylmagnesium bromide (0.540 mL, 0.89 M THF solution, 0.48 mmol), undecane (15.6 mg, 0.10 mmol), and bromocycloheptane (27.5 mg, 0.20 mmol) at room temperature. The coupling reaction was carried out at 60 °C for 3 h. After cooling to ambient temperature, aliquot of the reaction mixture was taken to determine the yields of products **3–8** by GC analysis using undecane as an internal standard.

 Table 1 Cross-Coupling between Bromocycloheptane 2 and 3,4,5-Trifluorophenyl Metal Reagents

 (ArM) in the Presence of Various Additives and Ligands^a

		Additive or	Products (%) ^b					Recov.	Biaryls (%) ^c	
Entry	ArM	Ligand (mol%)	3	4	5	6	7	2 (%) ^b	8-F ₆	8-F ₅
1	1f	TMEDA (120)	1	0	< 1	42	1	56	3	3
2	1h	TMEDA (120)	0	3	4	2	0	90	7	27
3	1h	DPPBz (6)	91	3	0	4	2	0	2	0
4	1h	DPPEn ^d (6)	60	8	1	7	3	19	5	< 1
5	1h	DPPE ^{<i>d</i>} (6)	29	3	<1	4	0	63	4	1
6	1h	DPPP ^{<i>d</i>} (6)	25	4	0	3	0	66	4	1
7	1h	DPPF ^{<i>d</i>} (6)	1	1	0	2	0	96	2	14
8	1h	PPh ₃ (12)	1	3	0	4	0	90	5	12
9	1h	DPPBz (3)	72	5	<1	4	1	18	6	< 1
10	1g	DPPBz (6)	18	0	0	1	1	74	3	4
11 ^{<i>e</i>}	1g	DPPBz (9)	86	0	0	1	4	7	5	5
12	1f	DPPBz (6)	7	0	0	89	2	0	4	0
13 ^f	1h	none	3	2	0	6	0	85	4	0
14 ^g	1h	FeCl ₂ (dppbz) ₂ (3)	93	2	0	2	1	0	2	0

^{*a*} Reactions were carried out on a 0.2–0.4 mmol scale. ^{*b*} The yield was determined by GC analysis using undecane as an internal standard. ^{*c*} The yield was based on the amount of ArM. ^{*d*} DPPEn = 1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)ethylene, DPPE = 1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)ethane, DPPP = 1,3-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene. ^{*e*} The reaction was carried out for 24 h. ^{*f*} The reaction was carried out for 6 h. ^{*g*} FeCl₂(dppbz)₂ (3 mol%) was used instead of FeCl₃ and an additive.

Typical procedure (A) for the reaction shown in Table 2; Synthesis of (4fluorophenyl)cycloheptane (9)



a 0

To 1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)benzene (DPPBz, 26.8 mg, 0.06 mmol) were added ZnCl₂ (1.20 mL, 1.00 M THF solution, 1.20 mmol), 4-fluorophenylmagnesium bromide (2.33 mL, 1.03 M THF solution, 2.40 mmol), and bromocycloheptane (0.177 g, 1.00 mmol) at 0 °C. After 10 min, FeCl₃ (0.30 mL, 0.10 M THF solution, 0.03 mmol) was added at the same temperature. The coupling reaction was carried out at 60 °C for 3 h. After cooling to ambient temperature, aqueous ammonium chloride (saturated, 5.0 mL) was added. The aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O three times. The combined organic extracts were filtered with a pad of Florisil (100–200 mesh, Nacalai Tesque Inc.). After removal of solvents *in vacuo*, the crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel (hexane) to obtain the title compound (0.177 g, 92% yield, > 98% pure on GC analysis) as a colorless liquid. $R_f = 0.53$ (hexane); IR (neat) 2922, 2853, 1604, 1508, 1459, 1222, 1157, 818, 534; ¹H NMR δ 1.45–1.94 (m, 12H, (CH₂)₆), 2.66 (tt, *J* = 3.3, 9.9 Hz, 1H, ArCH), 6.92–7.00 (m, 2H, CHCFCH), 7.11–7.18 (m, 2H, CHCCH); ¹³C NMR δ 27.3 (2C), 28.1 (2C), 37.2 (2C), 46.5, 115.1 (d, *J* = 21.2 Hz, 2C), 128.1 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2C), 145.8 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 161.2 (d, *J* = 243.0 Hz); Anal. calcd for C₁₃H₁₇F C, 81.21; H, 8.91. found C, 81.20; H, 8.91.

Typical procedure (B) for the reaction shown in Table 2 and equations 1 and 2; Synthesis of (3,4,5-trifluorophenyl)cycloheptane (3)



To ZnCl₂ (12.0 mL, 1.00 M THF solution, 12.0 mmol) were added 3,4,5-trifluorophenylmagnesium bromide (27.0 mL, 0.89 M THF solution, 24.0 mmol) and bromocycloheptane (1.77 g, 10.0 mmol) at 0 °C. After 10 min, FeCl₂(dppbz)₂ (0.306 g, 0.30 mmol) was added at the same temperature. The coupling reaction was carried out at 60 °C for 3 h. After cooling to ambient temperature, aqueous ammonium chloride (saturated, 30 mL) was added. The aqueous layer was extracted with hexane three times. The combined organic extracts were filtered with a pad of Florisil (100–200 mesh, Nacalai Tesque Inc.), and concentrated *in vacuo*. The title compound (2.05 g, 90% yield, 97% pure on GC analysis, including 3% of defluorinated compound) was obtained as a colorless liquid after silica gel column chromatography (hexane). $R_f = 0.57$ (hexane); IR (neat) 2925, 2857, 1612, 1529, 1443, 1344, 1234, 1040; ¹H NMR δ 1.46–1.90 (m, 12H, (CH₂)₆), 2.55–2.63 (m, 1H, ArCH), 6.73–6.83 (m, 2H, CFCHCCHCF); ¹³C NMR δ 27.1 (2C), 27.9 (2C), 36.7 (2C), 46.6, 110.6 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 14.0 Hz, 2C), 137.9 (dt, *J* = 15.4, 248.2 Hz), 146.23 (td, *J* = 4.3, 6.6 Hz), 151.2 (ddd, *J* = 4.1, 9.8, 248.6 Hz, 2C). Anal. calcd for C₁₃H₁₅F₃ C, 68.41; H, 6.62. found C, 68.31; H, 6.70.

n 1

Synthesis of (3,4-difluorophenyl)cycloheptane (4)



The reaction was carried out according to the typical procedure A on a 1.0 mmol scale by using 3,4difluorophenylmagnesium bromide (2.76 mL, 0.87 M THF solution, 2.40 mmol) and bromocycloheptane (0.177 g, 1.00 mmol). Conditions: 60 °C, 3 h. The title compound (0.192 g, 91% yield, > 99% pure on GC analysis, including 0.4% of defluorinated compound) was obtained as a colorless liquid after silica gel column chromatography (hexane). $R_f = 0.54$ (hexane); IR (neat) 2923, 2855, 1607, 1518, 1460, 1430, 1280, 1205, 810, 772; ¹H NMR δ 1.45–1.92 (m, 12H, (*CH*₂)₆), 2.59– 2.67 (m, 1H, ArC*H*), 6.85–6.91 (m, 1H, CFCHC*H*), 6.98 (ddd, *J* = 2.0, 7.8, 11.7 Hz, 1H, CFC*H*C), 7.04 (td, *J* = 8.4, 10.5 Hz, 1H, CFC*H*CH); ¹³C NMR δ 27.2 (2C), 28.0 (2C), 37.0 (2C), 46.5 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz), 115.5 (d, *J* = 16.9 Hz), 116.9 (d, *J* = 17.2 Hz), 122.5 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 5.7 Hz), 147.1 (dd, *J* = 4.0, 4.6 Hz), 148.6 (dd, *J* = 12.8, 245.0 Hz), 150.3 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 246.8 Hz). Anal. calcd for C₁₃H₁₆F₂ C, 74.26; H, 7.67. found C, 74.18; H, 7.74.

Synthesis of (3,5-difluorophenyl)cycloheptane (5)



The reaction was carried out according to the typical procedure A on a 1.0 mmol scale by using 3,5-difluorophenylmagnesium bromide (3.16 mL, 0.76 M THF solution, 2.40 mmol) and bromocycloheptane (0.177 g, 1.00 mmol). Conditions: 60 °C, 3 h. The yield of the title compound was determined by ¹H NMR analysis (84% yield) upon comparison with the integration of an internal standard (1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane, 0.089 g, 0.51 mmol). A part of the crude product (0.150 / 0.197 g, Ratio A) was purified by GPC to obtain the title compound (0.115 g, 55% yield, > 98% pure on GC analysis, including 2% of defluorinated compound, 72% yield calculated from Ratio A). R_f = 0.63 (hexane); IR (neat) 2923, 2856, 1623, 1594, 1455, 1316, 1114, 994, 977, 843, 689, 510; ¹H NMR δ 1.44–1.93 (m, 12H, (*CH*₂)₆), 2.58–2.68 (m, 1H, ArC*H*), 6.49–6.79 (m, 3H, *CHCFCHCFCH*); ¹³C NMR δ 27.1 (2C), 28.0 (2C), 36.5 (2C), 47.0 (t, *J* = 1.7 Hz), 100.9 (t, *J* = 25.5 Hz), 109.5 (dd, *J* = 7.3 16.8 Hz, 2C), 154.0 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 163.1 (dd, *J* = 12.8, 247.1 Hz, 2C). Anal. calcd for C₁₃H₁₆F₂ C, 74.26; H, 7.67. found C, 74.38; H, 7.82.

Synthesis of (3,4,5-trifluorophenyl)cycloheptane (3)



The reaction was carried out according to the typical procedure A on a 2.0 mmol scale by using 3,4,5-trifluorophenylmagnesium bromide (5.40 mL, 0.89 M THF solution, 4.80 mmol) and bromocycloheptane (0.354 g, 2.00 mmol). Conditions: 60 °C, 3 h. The title compound (0.413 g, 90% yield, 97% pure on GC analysis, including 3% of defluorinated compound) was obtained as a colorless liquid after silica gel column chromatography (hexane).

Synthesis of (2,5-difluorophenyl)cycloheptane (10)



The reaction was carried out according to the typical procedure A on a 1.0 mmol scale by using 2,5difluorophenylmagnesium bromide (3.33 mL, 0.90 M THF solution, 3.0 mmol) and 1,2bis(diphenylphosphino)benzene (DPPBz, 40.1 mg, 0.09 mmol) and bromocycloheptane (0.177 g, 1.00 mmol). Conditions: 60 °C, 12 h. The title compound (0.167 g, 79% yield, > 99% pure on GC analysis) was obtained as a colorless liquid after silica gel column chromatography (pentane). R_f = 0.49 (hexane); IR (neat) 2925, 2856, 1594, 1492, 1461, 1240, 1181, 860, 809, 742; ¹H NMR δ 1.52– 1.92 (m, 12H, (CH₂)₆), 2.93–3.03 (m, 1H, ArCH), 6.74–6.97 (m, 3H, CHCFCHCH); ¹³C NMR δ 27.1 (2C), 27.8 (2C), 35.2 (2C), 39.2 (t, *J* = 1.1 Hz), 112.9 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 23.8 Hz), 114.3 (dd, *J* = 5.7, 23.9 Hz), 116.0 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 26.1 Hz), 138.1 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 17.8 Hz), 155.8 (dd, *J* = 2.2, 237.6 Hz), 159.1 (dd, *J* = 2.2, 239.2 Hz). Anal. calcd for C₁₃H₁₆F₂ C, 74.26; H, 7.67. found C, 74.16; H, 7.74.

Synthesis of (4-ethoxy-2,3-difluorophenyl)cycloheptane (SI-1)



The reaction was carried out according to the typical procedure A on a 1.0 mmol scale by using 4ethoxy-2,3-difluorophenylmagnesium bromide (2.42 mL, 0.99 M THF solution, 2.40 mmol), FeCl₃ (0.50 mL, 0.10 M THF solution, 0.05 mmol), 1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)benzene (DPPBz, 67.0 mg, 0.15 mmol) and bromocycloheptane (0.177 g, 1.00 mmol). Conditions: 80 °C, 24 h. The title compound (0.155 g, 60% yield, 99% pure on GC analysis) was obtained as a colorless liquid after silica gel column chromatography (hexane). $R_f = 0.13$ (hexane); IR (neat) 2924, 2856, 1636, 1509, 1474, 1296, 1169, 1114, 1078, 794; ¹H NMR δ 1.43 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H, *CH*₃), 1.51–1.91 (m, 12H, (*CH*₂)₆), 2.92 (tt, *J* = 3.6, 10.2 Hz, 1H, ArC*H*), 4.08 (q, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H, OC*H*₂), 6.65 (ddd, *J* = 2.1, 7.5, 8.7, 1H, COC*H*), 6.80–6.87 (m, 1H, COCHC*H*); ¹³C NMR δ 14.9, 27.3 (2C), 28.0 (2C), 35.6 (2C), 39.3, 65.5, 109.6 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 120.8 (dd, *J* = 4.6, 6.0 Hz), 130.5 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz), 141.6 (dd, J = 15.2, 246.5 Hz), 146.0 (dd, J = 3.0, 8.2 Hz), 149.0 (dd, J = 10.3, 244.8 Hz). Anal. calcd for $C_{15}H_{20}F_2OC$, 70.84; H, 7.93. found C, 70.78; H, 7.98.

Synthesis of 1-decyl-4-ethoxy-2,3-difluorobenzene (11)



The reaction was carried out according to the typical procedure A on a 1.0 mmol scale by using 4ethoxy-5,6-difluorophenylmagnesium bromide (4.05 mL, 0.74 M THF solution, 3.00 mmol) and iododecane (0.268 g, 1.00 mmol). Conditions: 60 °C, 24 h. The title compound (0.274 g, 92% yield, 99% pure on GC analysis) was obtained as a colorless liquid after silica gel column chromatography (hexane). $R_f = 0.13$ (hexane); IR (neat) 2925, 2855, 1637, 1509, 1478, 1293, 1175, 1116, 1080, 794; ¹H NMR δ 0.88 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H, (CH₂)₉CH₃), 1.22–1.35 (m, 14H, (CH₂)₇CH₃), 1.43 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H, OCH₂CH₃), 1.52–1.58 (m, 2H, ArCH₂CH₂), 2.57 (td, J = 1.1, 7.7 Hz, 2H, ArCH₂), 4.09 (q, J =6.9 Hz, 2H, OCH₂), 6.64 (ddd, J = 1.9, 7.3, 8.9 Hz, 1H, COCH), 6.80 (dt, J = 2.3, 8.3, 1H, COCHCH); ¹³C NMR δ 14.3, 15.0, 22.8, 28.6, 29.4, 29.5, 29.6, 29.7, 29.8, 30.4, 32.0, 65.5, 109.4 (d, J = 3.2 Hz), 123.4 (dd, J = 4.6, 5.7 Hz), 123.6 (dd, J = 1.5, 13.7 Hz), 141.7 (dd, J = 14.9, 246.5 Hz), 146.4 (dd, J = 2.9, 8.3 Hz), 149.9 (dd, J = 10.5, 240.1 Hz). Anal. calcd for C₁₈H₂₈F₂O C, 72.45; H, 9.46. found C, 72.19; H, 9.57.

Synthesis of 1-decyl-3,4-difluorobenzene (12)



The reaction was carried out according to the typical procedure A on a 1.0 mmol scale by using 3,4difluorophenylmagnesium bromide (2.76 mL, 0.87 M THF solution, 2.40 mmol) and bromodecane (0.221 g, 1.00 mmol). Conditions: 80 °C, 12 h. The title compound (0.213 g, 84% yield, 96% pure on GC analysis, including 4% of defluorinated compound) was obtained as a colorless liquid after silica gel column chromatography (hexane). $R_f = 0.61$ (hexane); IR (neat) 2925, 2855, 1609, 1519, 1466, 1432, 1282, 1211, 1119, 815, 778; ¹H NMR δ 0.89 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H, CH_3), 1.26–1.30 (m, 14H, $(CH_2)_7CH_3$), 1.58 (quint, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H, ArCH₂CH₂), 2.55 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H, ArCH₂), 6.84– 6.88 (m, 1H, CFCHCH), 6.96 (ddd, J = 2.1, 7.7, 11.4, 1H, CFCHC), 7.04 (td, J = 8.5, 10.3, 1H,CFCHCH); ¹³C NMR δ 14.2, 22.8, 29.3, 29.5, 29.6, 29.7, 29.8, 31.4, 32.1, 35.3 (d, J = 1.2 Hz), 116.9 (d, J = 16.6 Hz), 117.2 (d, J = 16.3 Hz), 124.2 (dd, J = 3.4, 5.7 Hz), 140.2 (dd, J = 4.0, 5.5 Hz), 148.8 (dd, J = 12.7, 245.0 Hz), 150.4 (dd, J = 12.5, 247.2 Hz). Anal. calcd for C₁₆H₂₄F₂ C, 75.55; H, 9.51. found C, 75.71; H, 9.55.

0.7

Synthesis of 4-(3,4-difluorophenyl)butyronitrile (14)



The reaction was carried out according to the typical procedure A on a 1.0 mmol scale by using 3,4difluorophenylmagnesium bromide (2.76 mL, 0.87 M, 2.40 mmol) and 1-bromo-3-cyanopropane (0.148 g, 1.00 mmol). Conditions: 80 °C, 12 h. The title compound (0.144 g, 79% yield, 99% pure on GC analysis, including 1% of defluorinated compound) was obtained as a colorless liquid after silica gel column chromatography (1 and 3% AcOEt in hexane). $R_f = 0.29$ (20% EtOAc in hexane); IR (neat) 2940, 2874, 2248, 1610, 1518, 1434, 1282, 1210, 1117, 818, 779; ¹H NMR δ 1.96 (quint, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H, ArCH₂CH₂), 2.34 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H, CH₂CN), 2.75 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H, ArCH₂), 6.88– 6.93 (m, 1H, CFCHCH), 6.99 (ddd, *J* = 2.2, 7.8, 11.2, 1H, CFCHC), 7.10 (td, *J* = 8.3, 10.2, 1H, CFCHCH); ¹³C NMR δ 16.5, 26.9, 33.7 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz), 117.3 (d, *J* = 16.9 Hz), 117.5 (d, *J* = 16.6 Hz), 119.3, 124.5 (dd, *J* = 3.6, 6.2 Hz), 136.8 (dd, *J* = 4.0, 5.5 Hz), 149.3 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 246.8 Hz), 150.5 (dd, *J* = 12.8, 248.4 Hz). Anal. calcd for C₁₀H₉F₂N C, 66.29; H, 5.01; N, 7.73. found C, 66.34; H, 5.09; N, 7.57.

Synthesis of *N*-[3-(3,4-difluorophenyl)propyl]indole (16)



The reaction was carried out according to the typical procedure A on a 1.0 mmol scale by using 3,4difluorophenylmagnesium bromide (2.76 mL, 0.87 M THF solution, 2.40 mmol) and *N*-(3iodopropyl)indole (0.285 g, 1.00 mmol). Conditions: 60 °C, 3 h. The title compound (0.225 g, 83% yield, > 99% pure on GC analysis) was obtained as an orange liquid after silica gel column chromatography (1 and 3% AcOEt in hexane). $R_f = 0.21$ (3% EtOAc in hexane); IR (neat) 3051, 2936, 2864, 1609, 1513, 1280, 1208, 1115, 738; ¹H NMR δ 2.16 (quint, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂), 2.58 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H, ArCH₂), 4.14 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H, NCH₂), 6.51 (dd, *J* = 0.8, 3.0 Hz, 1H, NCHC*H*), 6.81–6.87 (m, 1H, CFCHC*H*), 6.95 (ddd, *J* = 2.2, 7.6, 11.3 Hz, 1H, CFC*H*C), 7.06 (td, *J* = 8.4, 10.1, 1H, CFC*H*CH), 7.08 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H, NC*H*), 7.11 (ddd, *J* = 1.2, 6.8, 8.2 Hz, 1H, NCCHC*H*C*H*), 7.21 (ddd, *J* = 1.2, 6.8, 8.2 Hz, 1H, NCCHC*H*C*H*), 7.29 (dd, *J* = 1.2, 8.2 Hz, 1H, NCC*H*), 7.64 (ddd, *J* = 0.8, 1.2, 8.2 Hz, 1H, NCCHCHCHC*H*); ¹³C NMR δ 31.5, 32.3, 45.6, 101.4, 109.4, 117.2 (d, *J* = 16.6 Hz), 117.2 (d, *J* = 16.9 Hz), 119.5, 121.2, 121.6, 124.3 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 6.0 Hz), 127.7, 128.8, 136.0, 138.0 (dd, *J* = 4.0, 5.4 Hz), 150.0 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 254.9 Hz), 150.3 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 248.0). Anal. calcd for C₁₇H₁₅F₂N C, 75.26; H, 5.57; N, 5.16. found C, 75.24; H, 5.82; N, 5.13.

Synthesis of *a mixture of trans*-4-pentyl-*trans*-4'-(4-fluorophenyl)-1,1'-bi(cyclohexyl) and *trans*-4-pentyl-*cis*-4'-(4-fluorophenyl)-1,1'-bi(cyclohexyl) (*SI*-2)

The reaction was carried out according to the typical procedure A on a 1.0 mmol scale by using 4-fluorophenylmagnesium bromide (2.33 mL, 1.03 M THF solution, 2.40 mmol) and *cis*-4-bromo*trans*-4'-pentyl-1,1'-bi(cyclohexyl) (0.315 g, 1.00 mmol). Conditions: 60 °C, 24 h. The title compound (0.285 g, 86% yield, > 99 % pure on GC analysis, *cis:trans* = 44:56) was obtained as a colorless liquid after silica gel column chromatography (hexane). $R_f = 0.54$ (hexane); IR (neat) 2918, 2847, 1603, 1509, 1447, 1220, 1159, 828, 532; ¹H NMR For *trans* isomer: δ 0.82–1.92 (m, 30H, ArCHC₁₆H₃₀), 2.43 (tt, *J* = 3.3, 12.2 Hz, 1H, ArCH), 6.92–7.00 (m, 2H, CHCFCH), 7.12–7.19 (m, 2H, CHCCH), for *cis* isomer: δ 0.82–1.92 (m, 30H, ArCHC₁₆H₃₀), 2.64 (quint, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H, ArCH), 6.93–7.01 (m, 2H, CHCFCH), 7.17–7.24 (m, 2H, CHCCCH); ¹³C NMR For *trans* isomer: δ 14.2, 22.9, 26.8, 30.4 (2C), 30.6 (2C), 32.4, 33.9 (2C), 35.0 (2C), 37.7, 38.2, 43.2, 43.7, 44.2, 115.0 (d, *J* = 20.9 Hz, 2C), 128.2 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2C), 143.7 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 161.4 (d, *J* = 243.0 Hz), for *cis* isomer: δ 14.2, 22.9, 26.8, 27.7 (2C), 29.8 (2C), 31.2 (2C), 32.4, 33.8 (2C), 37.3, 37.6, 37.9, 39.6, 42.3, 115.0 (d, *J* = 20.9 Hz, 2C), 128.5 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2C), 143.1 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz), 161.3 (d, *J* = 243.1 Hz). Anal. calcd for C₂₃H₃₅F C, 83.58; H, 10.67. found C, 83.42; H, 10.87.

Synthesis of *a mixture of trans*-4-pentyl-*trans*-4'-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-1,1'-bi(cyclohexyl) and *trans*-4-pentyl-*cis*-4'-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-1,1'-bi(cyclohexyl) (18)



The reaction was carried out according to the typical procedure A on a 1.0 mmol scale by using 3,4difluorophenylmagnesium bromide (4.07 mL, 0.59 M THF solution, 2.40 mmol) and *cis*-4-bromo*trans*-4'-pentyl-1,1'-bi(cyclohexyl) (0.315 g, 1.00 mmol). Conditions: 60 °C, 24 h. The title compound (0.296 g, 85% yield, 97% pure on GC analysis, including 3% of defluorinated compound, *cis:trans* = 44:56) was obtained as a colorless liquid after silica gel column chromatography (hexane). $R_f = 0.56$ (hexane); IR (neat) 2919, 2851, 1607, 1517, 1448, 1277, 1212, 814, 771; ¹H NMR For *trans* isomer: $\delta 0.81-1.92$ (m, 30H, ArCHC₁₆H₃₀), 2.41 (tt, *J* = 3.3, 12.1 Hz, 1H, ArCH), 6.86–7.10 (m, 3H, CHCFCFCHCH), for *cis* isomer: $\delta 0.81-1.92$ (m, 30H, ArCHC₁₆H₃₀), 2.62 (quint, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H, ArCH), 6.86–7.10 (m, 3H, CHCFCFCHCH); ¹³C NMR For *trans* isomer: $\delta 14.3$, 22.9, 26.8, 30.3 (2C), 30.3 (2C), 32.4, 33.8 (2C), 34.7 (2C), 37.6, 38.1, 43.0, 43.5, 44.0 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz), 115.5 (d, *J* = 16.9 Hz), 116.9 (d, *J* = 17.1 Hz), 122.6 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 5.7 Hz), 145.0 (dd, *J* = 3.7, 4.9 Hz), 148.7 (dd, *J* = 12.9, 245.1 Hz), 150.3 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 246.8 Hz), for *cis* isomer: $\delta 14.3$, 22.9, 26.8, 27.5 (2C), 29.5 (2C), 31.1 (2C), 32.4, 33.7 (2C), 37.1, 37.6, 37.8, 39.5, 42.2, 115.8 (d, *J* = 16.9 Hz), 116.8 (d, J = 16.0 Hz), 122.9 (dd, J = 3.5, 6.0 Hz), 144.5 (dd, J = 3.8, 4.8 Hz), 148.6 (dd, J = 12.6, 245.0 Hz), 150.3 (dd, J = 12.6, 246.8 Hz). Anal. calcd for C₂₃H₃₄F₂ C, 79.26; H, 9.83. found C, 79.16; H, 9.93.

Synthesis of *a mixture of trans*-4-pentyl-*trans*-4'-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-1,1'-bi(cyclohexyl) and *trans*-4-pentyl-*cis*-4'-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-1,1'-bi(cyclohexyl) (*SI*-3)



The reaction was carried out according to the typical procedure A on a 1.0 mmol scale by using 3,5difluorophenylmagnesium bromide (3.87 mL, 0.62 M THF solution, 2.40 mmol) and *cis*-4-bromo*trans*-4'-pentyl-1,1'-bi(cyclohexyl) (0.315 g, 1.00 mmol). Conditions: 60 °C, 24 h. The title compound (0.268 g, 77% yield, 96% pure on GC analysis, including 3% of defluorinated compound, *cis:trans* = 44:56) was obtained as a colorless liquid after silica gel column chromatography (hexane). R_f = 0.62 (hexane); IR (neat) 2919, 2847, 1624, 1596, 1450, 1321, 1114, 983, 850; ¹H NMR For *trans* isomer: δ 0.82–1.94 (m, 30H, ArCHC₁₆H₃₀), 2.44 (tt, *J* = 3.2 12.2 Hz, 1H, ArCH), 6.51–6.82 (m, 3H, CHCFCHCFCH), for *cis* isomer: δ 0.82–1.94 (m, 30H, ArCHC₁₆H₃₀), 2.65 (quint, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H, ArCH), 6.51–6.82 (m, 3H, CHCFCHCFCH); ¹³C NMR For *trans* isomer: δ 14.3, 22.9, 26.9, 30.3 (4C), 32.4, 33.8 (2C), 34.4 (2C), 37.6, 38.1, 43.0, 43.5, 44.6, 101.2 (t, *J* = 25.5 Hz), 109.7 (dd, *J* = 7.2 16.6 Hz, 2C), 152.1 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 163.2 (dd, *J* = 12.9, 247.4 Hz, 2C), for *cis* isomer: δ 14.3, 22.9, 26.8, 27.4 (2C), 29.2 (2C), 31.1 (2C), 32.4, 33.6 (2C), 37.2, 37.6, 37.9, 39.5, 42.7, 101.1 (t, *J* = 25.5 Hz), 109.9 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 16.8 Hz, 2C), 151.5 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 163.2 (dd, *J* = 12.9, 247.1 Hz, 2C). Anal. calcd for C₂₃H₃₄F₂ C, 79.26; H, 9.83. found C, 79.34; H, 10.01.

Synthesis of *a mixture of trans*-4-pentyl-*trans*-4'-(3,4,5-trifluorophenyl)-1,1'-bi(cyclohexyl) and *trans*-4-pentyl-*cis*-4'-(3,4,5-trifluorophenyl)-1,1'-bi(cyclohexyl) (19)



The reaction was carried out according to the typical procedure A on a 1.0 mmol scale by using 3,4,5-trifluorophenylmagnesium bromide (2.40 mL, 1.00 M THF solution, 2.40 mmol) and *cis*-4-bromo-*trans*-4'-pentyl-1,1'-bi(cyclohexyl) (0.315 g, 1.00 mmol). Conditions: 60 °C, 24 h. The title compound (0.253 g, 69% yield, 94% pure on GC analysis, including 6% of defluorinated compound, *cis:trans* = 44:56) was obtained as a colorless liquid after silica gel column chromatography (hexane); ¹H NMR For *trans* isomer: δ 0.80–1.90 (m, 30H, ArCHC₁₆H₃₀), 2.38 (tt, *J* = 2.3, 8.9 Hz, 1H, ArCH), 6.74–6.84 (m, 2H, CFCHCCHCF), for *cis* isomer: δ 0.80–1.90 (m, 30H, ArCHC₁₆H₃₀),

2.59 (quint, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H, ArCH), 6.79–6.89 (m, 2H, CFCHCCHCF). R_f = 0.62 (hexane); IR (neat) 2921, 2849, 1615, 1529, 1445, 1347, 1233, 1039, 847; ¹³C NMR For *trans* isomer: δ 14.3, 22.9, 26.8, 30.2 (2C), 30.2 (2C), 32.4, 33.7 (2C), 34.5 (2C), 37.6, 38.0, 42.9, 43.4, 44.1, 110.7 (dd, J = 6.0, 14.0 Hz, 2C), 138.80 (dt, J = 15.5, 248.6 Hz), 144.2 (td, J = 4.5 6.6 Hz), 151.2 (ddd, J = 4.0, 9.7, 248.4 Hz, 2C), for *cis* isomer: δ 14.3, 22.9, 26.8, 27.3 (2C), 29.3 (2C), 31.0 (2C), 32.4, 33.6 (2C), 37.2, 37.6, 37.8, 39.5, 42.2, 111.0 (dd, J = 6.0, 14.0 Hz, 2C), 136.8 (dt, J = 15.5, 248.8 Hz), 143.6 (td, J = 4.6, 6.5 Hz), 151.2 (ddd, J = 4.0, 9.7, 248.4 Hz, 2C). Anal. calcd for C₂₃H₃₃F₃ C, 75.37; H, 9.08. found C, 75.55; H, 9.11.

Synthesis of 4-(but-3-enyl)-1,2-difluorobenzene (21)



The reaction was carried out according to the typical procedure B on a 1.0 mmol scale by using 3,4difluorophenylmagnesium bromide (2.76 mL, 0.87 M THF solution, 2.40 mmol) and cyclopropane methylbromide (0.135 g, 1.00 mmol). Conditions: 60 °C, 6 h. The yield of the title compound was determined by ¹H NMR analysis (77% yield) upon comparison with the integration of an internal standard (pyrazine, 0.012 g, 0.16 mmol). The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (pentane) to obtain the title compound (0.129 g, 77% yield, 98% pure on ¹H NMR analysis, 2 % ether) as a colorless liquid. $R_f = 0.62$ (hexane); IR (neat) 2928, 2858, 1609, 1516, 1433, 1282, 1210, 1117, 914, 867, 815, 774, 578; ¹H NMR δ 2.34 (dt, *J* = 6.5, 7.8 Hz, 2H, ArCH₂CH₂), 2.67 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H, ArCH₂), 4.99 (ddt, *J* = 1.1, 1.6, 10.3, 1H, CHHCH), 5.03 (ddt, *J* = 1.1, 1.6, 16.8, 1H, CHHCH), 5.81 (ddt, *J* = 6.5, 10.3, 16.8, 1H, CH₂CHCH₂), 6.85–6.90 (m, 1H, CFCHCH), 6.98 (ddd, *J* = 2.4, 8.1, 10.7, 1H, CFCHC), 7.05 (dt, *J* = 8.1, 10.7, 1H, CFCHCH); ¹³C NMR δ 34.5 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz), 35.2, 115.5, 116.9 (dd, *J* = 1.1, 16.1 Hz), 117.1 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz), 124.2 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 6.1 Hz), 137.3, 138.7 (dd, *J* = 3.8, 5.5 Hz), 148.7 (dd, *J* = 12.8, 243.7 Hz), 150.1 (dd, *J* = 12.8, 243.9 Hz). Anal. calcd for C₁₀H₁₀F₂ C, 71.41; H, 5.99. found C, 71.44; H, 6.07.

Synthesis of 5-butoxy-2,2-dimethyl-3-(3,4-difluorophenylmethyl)tetrahydrofuran (23)



The reaction was carried out according to the typical procedure B on a 1.0 mmol scale by using 3,4difluorophenylmagnesium bromide (2.76 mL, 0.87 M THF solution, 2.40 mmol) and 2-iodoethanal butyl 1,1-dimethyl-2-propenyl acetal (0.312 g, 1.00 mmol). Conditions: 60 °C, 15 h. The yield of the title compound was determined by ¹H NMR analysis (84% yield) upon comparison with the integration of an internal standard (pyrazine, 0.016 g, 0.20 mmol). The crude product was purified

011

by silica gel column chromatography (hexane: $CH_2Cl_2 = 100:0$ to 50:50) to obtain the title compound (0.253 g, 85% yield, *cis:trans* = 39:61 and > 99% pure on GC analysis) as a pale yellow liquid. IR (neat) 2933, 2873, 1609, 1519, 1282, 1212, 1116, 1095, 1035, 980, 771, 543; For *cis* isomer $R_f =$ 0.50 (20% EtOAc in hexane); ¹H NMR δ 0.92 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H, CH₃CH₂), 1.23 (s, 3H, CH₃CCH₃), 1.25 (s, 3H, CH₃CCH₃), 1.30–1.43 (m, 2H, CH₃CH₂CH₂), 1.46–1.61 (m, 2H, CH₃CH₂CH₂), 1.68– 1.79 (m, 1H, OCHCHH), 1.97–2.09 (m, 1H, OCHCHH), 2.15–2.26 (m, 1H, ArCH₂CH), 2.45–2.54 (m, 1H, ArCHHCH), 2.65–2.72 (m, 1H, ArCHHCH), 3.35 (dt, *J* = 6.2, 9.4, 1H, OCHHCH₂), 3.71 (dt, *J* = 6.5, 9.4, 1H, OCH*H*CH₂), 5.02 (dd, *J* = 4.3, 5.9, 1H, OCHO), 6.84–6.90 (m, 1H, CFCHCH), 6.97 (ddd, J = 2.2, 8.2, 10.7, 1H, CFCHC), 7.06 (dt, J = 8.2, 10.7, 1H, CFCHCH); ¹³C NMR δ 13.9, 19.4, 23.3, 28.1, 31.9, 35.8 (d, J = 1.1 Hz), 38.8, 50.0, 67.7, 82.6, 102.9, 117.0 (d, J = 16.1 Hz), 117.3 (d, J = 16.6 Hz), 124.4 (dd, J = 2.8, 6.1 Hz), 137.9 (dd, J = 3.9, 5.5 Hz), 148.9 (dd, J = 12.2, 244.8 Hz), 150.2 (dd, J = 12.2, 246.5 Hz). For *trans* isomer $R_f = 0.45$ (20% EtOAc in hexane); ¹H NMR δ 0.90 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H, CH₃CH₂), 1.11 (s, 3H, CH₃CCH₃), 1.31 (s, 3H, CH₃CCH₃), 1.23– 1.40 (m, 2H, CH₃CH₂CH₂), 1.43–1.56 (m, 2H, CH₃CH₂CH₂), 1.68–1.81 (m, 1H, OCHCHH), 1.85– 1.92 (m, 1H, OCHCHH), 2.33–2.46 (m, 2H, ArCHHCH), 2.61–2.73 (m, 1H, ArCHHCH), 3.31 (dt, J $= 6.5, 9.6, 1H, OCHHCH_2$, 3.65 (dt, $J = 6.8, 9.6, 1H, OCHHCH_2$), 4.97 (d, J = 4.9, 1H, OCHO), 6.85–6.91 (m, 1H, CFCHCH), 6.98 (ddd, J = 2.2, 8.1, 10.5, 1H, CFCHC), 7.06 (dt, J = 8.1, 10.5, 1H, CFCHCH); ¹³C NMR δ 13.9, 19.4, 23.8, 29.7, 31.8, 35.7 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz), 38.9, 47.6, 66.7, 83.2, 101.7, 117.1 (dd, J = 1.1, 17.3 Hz), 117.4 (d, J = 17.2 Hz), 124.5 (dd, J = 3.4, 5.6 Hz), 137.8 (dd, J = 3.9, 5.6 Hz), 148.9 (dd, J = 12.2, 244.2 Hz), 150.2 (dd, J = 12.8, 245.9 Hz). Anal. calcd for C₁₇H₂₄F₂O₂ C, 68.43; H, 8.11. found C, 68.34; H, 8.14.

Synthesis of 4-(4-bromophenethyl)-1,2-difluorobenzene (25)



The reaction was carried out according to the typical procedure B on a 1.0 mmol scale by using 3,4difluorophenylmagnesium bromide (2.76 mL, 0.87 M THF solution, 2.40 mmol) and 4bromophenethyl bromide (0.264 g, 1.00 mmol). Conditions: 60 °C, 15 h. The yield of the title compound was determined by ¹H NMR analysis (77% yield) upon comparison with the integration of an internal standard (pyrazine, 0.026 g, 0.33 mmol). The crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel (pentane) to give the title compound (0.205 g, 69% yield, 90% pure on GC analysis, including 3% of defluorinated compound, 2% of 3,4-difluoro-4'-ethylbiphenyl, 5% of 3,4-difluoro-4'-vinylbiphenyl). The compound was achieved by reversed-phase chromatography (MeOH:H₂O = 65:35 to 100:0) to give the title compound (0.180 g, 61% yield, 97% pure on GC analysis, including 3% of defluorinated compound) as a colorless liquid. R_f = 0.44 (hexane); IR (neat) 2930, 2861, 1609, 1515, 1487, 1433, 1282, 1209, 1115, 1072, 1011, 814, 777, 578, 495; ¹H NMR δ 2.85 (brs, 4H, ArCH₂CH₂), 6.77–6.83 (m, 1H, CFCHC*H*), 6.93 (ddd, *J* = 2.2, 8.1, 10.8, 1H, CFC*H*C), 6.99 (m, 2H, C*H*CHCBrCH*CH*), 7.04 (td, *J* = 8.1, 10.8, 1H, CFC*H*CH), 7.39 (m, 2H, C*H*CBrC*H*); ¹³C NMR δ 36.7 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz), 37.0 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz), 117.0 (dd, *J* = 1.1, 16.7 Hz), 117.2 (d, *J* = 16.7 Hz), 119.9, 124.3 (dd, *J* = 3.3, 6.1 Hz), 130.2 (2C), 131.5 (2C), 138.0 (dd, *J* = 3.9, 5.6 Hz), 139.8, 148.9 (dd, *J* = 12.2, 244.3 Hz), 150.1 (dd, *J* = 12.8, 245.9 Hz). Anal. calcd for C₁₄H₁₁BrF₂ C, 56.59; H, 3.73. found C, 56.71; H, 3.84.

¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of the compounds 3–5, 9–12, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 25, SI-1, SI-2, SI-3.









































 $C_{10}H_{21}$ \rightarrow OEt (11)



 $C_{10}H_{21}$ \rightarrow OEt (11)



















F \mathcal{T}_{3} F (16)



F \mathcal{T}_3 (16) F



F C₅H₁₁'''' (18)

trans major (69%)



F C₅H₁₁,... (18)

trans major (69%)





trans major (65%)





trans major (65%)





trans major (>95%)




trans major (>95%)











0 n-BuO~ F (23) F

trans major (61%)



0 n-BuO~ F (23) F

trans major (61%)



0 n-BuO~ F (23) F

trans major (85%)



,Ο. n-BuO~ F (23) F

trans major (85%)



















C₅H₁₁.... F (SI-2)

trans major (56%)



C₅H₁₁.... F (SI-2)

trans major (56%)



C₅H₁₁..... F (SI-2)

trans major (88%)



C₅H₁₁..... F (SI-2)

trans major (88%)





cis:trans = 44:56





cis:trans = 44:56

