

Electronic Supplementary Information

**Synthesis of 2-Fluoroalkylbenzimidazoles via
Copper(I)-catalyzed Tandem Reactions**

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General:

Melting points were measured on a Melt-Temp apparatus andw uncorrected. ^1H NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl_3 on a Bruker AM-300 spectrometer (300 MHz) with TMS as internal standard. ^{19}F NMR spectra were taken on a Bruker AM-300 (282 MHz) spectrometer using CFCl_3 as external standard. ^{13}C NMR spectra were taken on a Bruker AM-400 (100 MHz) spectrometer. IR spectra were obtained with a Nicolet AV-360 spectrophotometer. Solvents and reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used as received. DMF was distilled from calcium hydride. All reactions were carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere in a Schlenk tube, with a stir bar and capes with a Teflon screw-cap. TLC analysis was performed on silica gel plates, column chromatography over silica gel (mesh 200-300) and petroleum ether/ethyl acetate combination was used as the eluent. The imidoyl chloride was synthesized according to the literature.¹

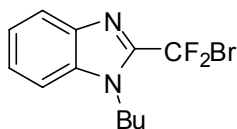
General procedure for benzimidazoles synthesis.

Method A: A Schlenk tube was charged with CuI (8 mg, 0.04mmol), and K_2CO_3 (220 mg, 1.6mmol), evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen. Amine (0.5mmol), DMF (2ml) and imidoyl chloride (0.4mmol) was successively added. Then the reaction mixture was stirred at 60°C for 3h. The mixture was partitioned between ethyl acetate and water, the organic layer was washed with brine, dried over MgSO_4 , and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide the desired product.

Method B: A Schlenk tube was charged with CuI (8 mg, 0.04mmol), and K_3PO_4 (339 mg, 1.6mmol), evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen. Amine (0.5mmol), DMF (2ml) and imidoyl chloride (0.4mmol) was successively added. Then the reaction mixture was stirred at 60°C for 3h. the mixture was partitioned between ethyl acetate and water, the organic layer was washed with brine, dried over MgSO_4 , and concentrated

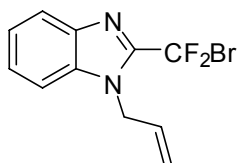
in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide the desired product.

2-(bromodifluoromethyl)-1-butyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (**3a**)



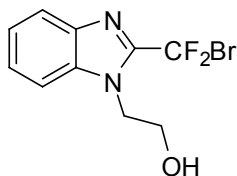
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.79 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.22-7.35 (m, 3H), 4.20-4.28 (m, 2H), 1.72-1.86 (m, 2H), 1.28-1.45 (m, 2H), 0.91 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H); ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -46.10 (s); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 144.8 (t, $J = 28.3$ Hz), 140.9, 135.5, 125.0, 123.4, 121.5, 111.7 (t, $J = 299.8$ Hz), 110.5, 45.1, 31.6, 20.0, 13.5; IR (film): 3059, 2962, 2935, 1615, 1589, 1501, 1457, 1455, 1253, 1177, 1141, 1082, 910 cm^{-1} ; MS: m/z (%): 302 (10.60) [M^+], 181 (100.00); Anal. Calcd. For $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrF}_2\text{N}_2$: C, 47.54; H, 4.32; N, 9.24; Found: C, 47.68; H, 4.61; N, 9.30.

1-allyl-2-(bromodifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (**3b**)



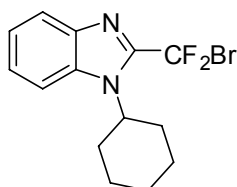
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.84-7.91 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.43 (m, 3H), 5.88-6.05 (m, 1H), 5.27 (dt, $J_1 = 10.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.13 (dt, $J_1 = 17.3$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.98 (d, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 2H); ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -46.09 (s); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 144.9 (t, $J = 22.8$ Hz), 140.8, 135.5, 130.8, 125.2, 123.6, 121.5, 118.4, 111.5 (t, $J = 239.9$ Hz), 110.8, 47.4; IR (film): 3087, 3068, 2928, 1647, 1615, 1589, 1503, 1464, 1412, 1254, 1171, 1141, 929 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI): m/z : 287 [$\text{M} + \text{H}^+$]; HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_9\text{N}_2\text{BrF}_2$: 285.9917, Found: 285.9920.

2-(2-(bromodifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-1-yl)ethanol (**3c**)



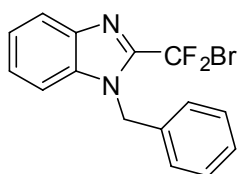
White solid, mp 84-85 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.22-7.71 (m, 4H), 4.43 (m, 2H), 3.97 (m, 2H); ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -46.46 (s); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 144.7 (t, $J = 28.9$ Hz), 140.2, 136.0, 125.2, 123.6, 120.7, 111.4, 111.3 (t, $J = 299.9$ Hz), 60.7, 47.3; IR (film): 3298, 3059, 2896, 1612, 1590, 1501, 1475, 1255, 1166, 1141, 1055, 921; MS: m/z (%): 290 (19.54) [M^+], 145(100); HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_9\text{N}_2\text{OBrF}_2$: 289.9866, Found: 289.9863.

2-(bromodifluoromethyl)-1-cyclohexyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (**3d**)



White solid, mp 91-93 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.74-7.81 (m, 1H), 7.52-7.61 (m, 1H), 7.16-7.31 (m, 2H), 4.40-4.65 (m, 1H), 1.09-2.31 (m, 10H); ^{19}F NMR (282MHz, CDCl_3): δ -46.30 (s); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 144.7, 141.5, 134.0, 124.5, 123.0, 121.9, 113.5, 111.3 (t, $J = 240.3$ Hz), 57.8, 30.7, 25.8, 25.1; IR (KBr): 3062, 2932, 2860, 1604, 1585, 1502, 1455, 1413, 1252, 1176, 1143, 1086, 927; MS (ESI): m/z : 329 [$\text{M} + \text{H}^+$]; Anal. Calcd. For $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrF}_2\text{N}_2$: C, 51.08; H, 4.59; N, 8.51; Found: C, 51.17; H, 4.70; N, 8.52.

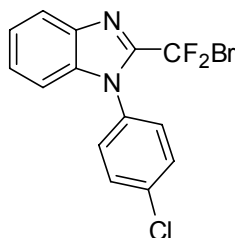
1-Benzyl-2-(bromodifluoromethyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (**3e**)



White solid, mp 65-66 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.79 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.94-7.28 (m, 8H), 5.48 (s, 2H); ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -45.77 (s); ^{13}C NMR

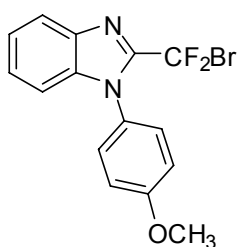
(100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 145.2, 140.8, 135.7, 134.7, 128.7, 127.9, 126.1, 125.3, 123.6, 121.5, 111.5, 111.0 (t, J = 301.8 Hz), 48.5; IR (KBr): 3088, 3062, 1614, 1589, 1498, 1451, 1260, 1167, 1135, 919; MS (ESI): m/z : 337 [$M + H^+$]; Anal. Calcd. For C₁₅H₁₄BrF₂N₂: C, 53.43, H, 3.29, N, 8.31; Found: C, 53.52, H, 3.60, N, 8.22.

2-(bromodifluoromethyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (**3g**)



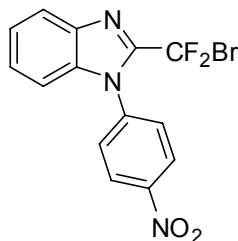
¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.92 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.10 (m, 7H); ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -44.45 (s); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 145.2 (t, J = 22.7 Hz), 140.5, 137.4, 136.1, 133.3, 129.9, 129.4, 125.9, 124.2, 121.5, 111.3 (t, J = 240.5 Hz), 110.9; IR (KBr): 3089, 3057, 1612, 1589, 1501, 1451, 1406, 1261, 1199, 1144, 1092, 991; MS (ESI): m/z : 357 [$M + H^+$]; HRMS Calcd for C₁₄H₈N₂ClBrF₂: 355.9527, Found: 355.9529.

2-(bromodifluoromethyl)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (**3h**)



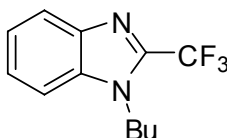
White solid, mp 94-96 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.89-7.95 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.43 (m, 4H), 7.03-7.11 (m, 3H), 3.91(s, 3H); ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -44.50(s); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.4, 145.6, 140.4, 137.9, 129.3, 127.1, 125.6, 123.9, 121.3, 114.7, 111.3 (t, J = 301.4 Hz), 111.2, 55.6; IR (KBr): 2958, 2933, 1610, 1587, 1514, 1441, 1253, 1141, 1109, 989; MS: m/z (%): 352 (14.11) [M^+], 273 (100); Anal. Calcd. For C₁₅H₁₁BrF₂N₂O: C, 51.01; H, 3.14, N, 7.93; Found: C, 50.94; H, 3.42; N, 7.86.

2-(bromodifluoromethyl)-1-(4-nitrophenyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (**3i**)



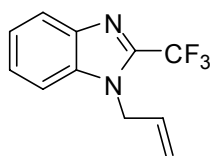
Yellow solid, mp 133-134 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.49 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.42-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H); ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -44.3 (s); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 148.4, 144.9 (t, *J* = 28.9 Hz), 140.5, 140.3, 136.9, 129.2, 126.4, 125.3, 124.7, 124.0, 111.1 (t, *J* = 300.8 Hz), 110.6; IR (KBr): 3111, 3084, 1610, 1595, 1525, 1407, 1353, 754; MS: *m/z* (%): 367 (8.58) [*M*⁺], 242 (100); Anal. Calcd. For C₁₄H₈BrF₂N₃O₂: C, 45.68; H, 2.19; N, 11.41; Found: C, 45.96; H, 2.34; N, 11.42.

1-butyl-2-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (**3j**)



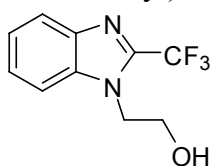
¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.41 (m, 3H), 4.21-4.29 (m, 2H), 1.75-1.87 (m, 2H), 1.32-1.46 (m, 2H), 0.94 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H); ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -62.49 (s); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 135.9, 135.2 (q, *J* = 38.0 Hz), 130.2, 119.9, 118.2, 114.0 (q, *J* = 270.3 Hz), 116.3, 105.3, 39.7, 26.7, 14.8, 8.3; IR (film): 3050, 2964, 2938, 2876, 1583, 1521, 1479, 1456, 1268, 1198, 746; MS: *m/z* (%): 242 (70.78) [*M*⁺], 199 (100); HRMS Calcd for C₁₂H₁₃N₂F₃: 242.1031, Found: 242.1034.

1-allyl-2-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (**3k**)²



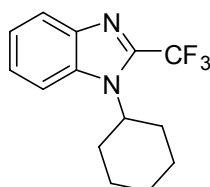
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.34-7.89 (m, 4H), 5.88-6.03 (m, 1H), 5.27 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1H), 5.11 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 4.93 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 2H); ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -62.53 (s); MS(ESI): m/z : 227.1 [$\text{M} + \text{H}^+$].

2-(2-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-1-yl)ethanol (**3l**)²



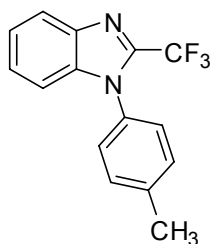
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.15-7.85 (m, 4H), 4.43 (t, J = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 3.98 (t, J = 5.5 Hz, 2H); ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -61.89 (s); MS (ESI): m/z : 231.1 [$\text{M}^+ + \text{H}$].

1-cyclohexyl-2-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (**3m**)²



^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.88 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.33-4.53 (m, 1H), 1.22-2.48 (m, 10H); ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -62.06 (s); MS (ESI): m/z : 269.2 [$\text{M}^+ + \text{H}$].

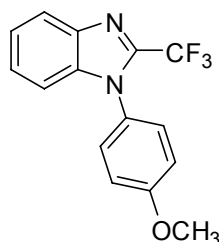
1-p-tolyl-2-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (**3n**)



White solid, mp 56-58 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.82 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H),

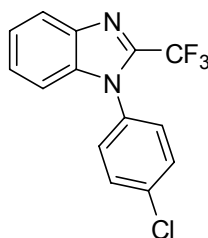
7.00-7.32 (m, 7H), 2.36 (s, 3H); ^{19}F NMR (CDCl_3): δ -60.54(s); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 135.7 (q, $J = 38.2$ Hz), 135.4, 134.9, 132.1, 126.5, 125.1, 121.9, 120.5, 113.7 (q, $J = 207.6$ Hz), 118.7, 116.1, 106.0, 16.0; IR (KBr): 3064, 2927, 1609, 1589, 1514, 1453, 1264, 753;
MS (ESI): m/z : 277.1 [$\text{M}^+ + \text{H}$]. HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_2\text{F}_3$: 276.0874, Found: 276.0877.

1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (**3o**)



White solid, mp 83-84 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.79-7.87 (m, 1H), 6.92-7.34 (m, 7H), 3.81 (s, 3H);
 ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -60.59 (s); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.4, 141.0 (q, $J = 37.3$ Hz), 140.5, 137.5, 128.5, 126.7, 125.6, 123.8, 120.2, 118.9 (q, $J = 270.3$ Hz), 114.8, 111.1, 55.5; IR (KBr): 3064, 3016, 2968, 1612, 1514, 1456, 1417, 755; MS (ESI): m/z : 293.1 [$\text{M}^+ + \text{H}$]; Anal. Calcd. For $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2$: C, 61.64, H, 3.60, N, 9.59; Found: C, 61.63, H, 3.60, N, 9.57.

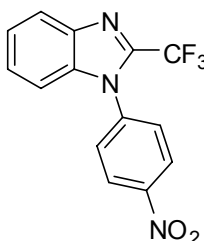
1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (**3p**)



White solid, mp 80-81 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.04 – 7.87 (m, 1H), 7.57 (d, $J = 8.7$, 2H), 7.47 – 7.31 (m, 4H), 7.22 – 7.06 (m, 1H); ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -60.63 (s); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 140.6, 140.5 (q, $J = 38.4$ Hz), 136.9,

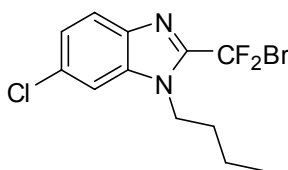
136.0, 132.8, 130.0, 128.7, 125.9, 124.1, 121.4, 118.7 (q, $J = 270.6$ Hz), 110.8; IR (KBr): 3091, 3058, 1592, 1528, 1497, 1451, 1263, 746; MS: m/z (%): 296 (100) [M^+]; Calcd. For $C_{14}H_8F_3N_3O_2$: C, 56.68; H, 2.72; N, 9.44; Found: C, 56.94; H, 2.95; N, 9.51.

1-(4-nitrophenyl)-2-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (**3q**)



White solid, mp 146-148 °C; 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 8.49 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.96 (m, 1H), 7.70 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.58 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.22 (m, 1H); ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ -60.23 (s); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): 148.3, 140.7, 140.2 (q, $J = 38.5$ Hz), 139.8, 136.4, 128.4, 126.5, 125.2, 124.6, 121.7, 118.6 (q, $J = 270.7$ Hz), 110.6; IR (KBr): 3118, 3084, 1612, 1597, 1526, 1502, 1355, 1205, 757; MS: m/z (%): 307 (100) [M^+]; Calcd. For $C_{14}H_8F_3N_3O_2$: C, 54.73; H, 2.62; N, 13.68; Found: C, 54.74; H, 2.58; N, 13.68.

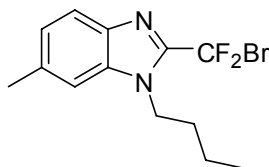
2-(bromodifluoromethyl)-1-butyl-6-chloro-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (**3r**)



White solid, mp 45-46 °C; 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.71 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.24 (m, 5H), 4.23 (m, 2H), 1.98 – 1.69 (m, 2H), 1.51 – 1.30 (m, 2H), 0.96 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H); ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, $CDCl_3$): -45.72 (s); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): 145.9, 139.7, 136.3, 131.3, 124.7, 122.8, 111.6 (t, $J = 300$ Hz), 110.8, 45.7, 31.8, 20.3, 13.8; IR (film): 2965, 2934, 2877, 1612, 1579, 1498, 1483, 1417, 1131,

772; MS: m/z (%): 336 (12.04) [M^+], 257 (100); Calcd. For $C_{12}H_{12}BrClF_2N_2$: C, 42.69; H, 3.58; N, 8.30; Found: C, 42.66; H, 3.54; N, 8.38.

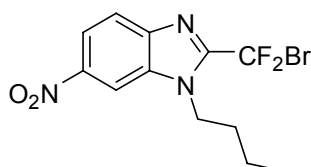
2-(bromodifluoromethyl)-1-butyl-6-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (**3s**)



White solid, mp 39-40 °C; 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 8.28 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.87 – 7.63 (m, 2H), 4.94 – 4.73 (m, 2H), 3.07 (s, 3H), 2.41 (m, 2H), 2.01 (m, 2H), 1.55 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

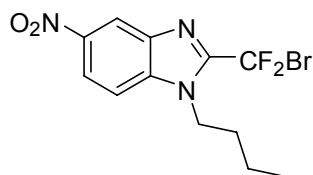
^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ -44.98 (s); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): 144.6 (t, J = 38.2 Hz), 139.3, 136.0, 135.7, 125.6, 121.2, 112.1 (t, J = 300 Hz), 110.4, 45.3, 31.9, 22.2, 20.3, 13.8; IR (film): 3034, 2962, 2935, 2874, 1624, 1585, 1505, 1476, 1233, 1177; MS: m/z (%): 316 (10.45) [M^+], 237 (100); Calcd. For $C_{13}H_{15}BrF_2N_2$: C, 49.23; H, 4.77; N, 8.83; Found: C, 48.94; H, 4.80; N, 8.93.

2-(bromodifluoromethyl)-1-butyl-6-nitro-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (**3t**)



White solid, mp 90-91 °C; 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 8.41 (s, 1H), 8.28 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (m, 2H), 2.02 – 1.82 (m, 2H), 1.60 – 1.40 (m, 2H), 1.03 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, $CDCl_3$): -46.99 (s); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): 149.1 (t, J = 29.0 Hz), 145.2, 144.8, 122.0, 119.0, 110.9 (t, J = 301.5 Hz), 107.7, 45.9, 31.8, 20.0, 13.5; IR (KBr): 3086, 2960, 2874, 1617, 1597, 1521, 1350, 1186, 1138, 735; MS (ESI): m/z: 347.8 [$M^+ + H$]; Calcd. For $C_{12}H_{12}BrF_2N_3O_2$: C, 41.40; H, 3.47; N, 12.07; Found: C, 41.41; H, 3.63; N, 11.98.

2-(bromodifluoromethyl)-1-butyl-5-nitro-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (**3u**)



White solid, mp 69-71 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.78 (d, *J* = 2.1, 1H), 8.34 (dd, *J* = 9.1, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 9.0, 1H), 4.63 – 4.20 (m, 2H), 2.15 – 1.75 (m, 2H), 1.60 – 1.30 (m, 2H), 1.02 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃): -44.65 (s); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 148.3 (t, *J* = 29.0 Hz), 144.5, 140.1, 139.3, 120.5, 118.3, 110.9 (t, *J* = 300.7 Hz), 45.9, 31.7, 20.0, 13.5; IR (KBr): 3105, 2967, 2873, 1698, 1618, 1528, 1518, 1335, 738; MS (ESI): *m/z*: 347.9 [*M*⁺ + *H*]; Calcd. For C₁₂H₁₂BrF₂N₃O₂: C, 41.40; H, 3.47; N, 12.07; Found: C, 41.13; H, 3.85; N, 12.07.

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