A regioselective synthesis of poly-substituted aryl triflones through self-promoting three component reaction

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<u>1. General and materials</u>

All reactions were carried out under Ar atmosphere. Melting points were uncorrected. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were taken on a 400 MHz spectrometer, and chemical shifts were reported in parts per million (ppm) using CHCl₃ (7.26 ppm) in CDCl₃ for ¹H NMR, and CDCl₃ (77.01 ppm) for ¹³C NMR as an internal standard, respectively. ¹⁹F NMR spectra were taken on a 300 MHz spectrometer, and chemical shifts were reported in parts per million using trifluoromethylbenzene (0 ppm) as a standard. Mass spectra were recorded by an electrospray ionization-time of flight (ESI-TOF) mass spectrometer or an EI mass spectrometer. Column chromatography was performed on neutral silica gel (75-150 µm). Medium pressure liquid chromatography (MPLC) was performed using 40 x 300 mm i. d. pre-packed column (silica gel, 50 µm) with UV or RI detector. Tf₂CH₂ **1** was supplied from Central Glass Co. and this material can be also prepared by the Waller's procedure in the laboratory. ¹ Tf₂CHCH₂CHTf₂ **2** was prepared from Tf₂CH₂ by the reported procedure. ² Paraformaldehyde was purchased from Tokyo Chemical Industry, Co.

2. Three component synthesis of *gem*-bis(triflyl)cyclohexenes 1-Methyl-4,4-bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)cyclohex-1-ene (3aa)

To a solution of Tf₂CH₂ 1 (150.1 mg, 0.54 mmol) in acetonitrile (0.4 mL), paraformaldehyde (90% purity, 17.9

mg, 0.54 mmol) and isoprene (107.4 μ L, 1.07 mmol) were added at room temperature. After being stirred at the same temperature for 2.5 h, the reaction mixture was evaporated. The resultant residue was purified by column chromatography on neutral silica gel (hexane/EtOAc = 20 : 1) to give the Diels–Alder adduct **3aa** in 76% yield (147.2 mg, 0.41 mmol). Likewise, the reaction of Tf₂CH₂ **1** (128.9 mg, 0.46 mmol), paraformaldehyde (90% purity, 15.3 mg, 0.46 mmol) and isoprene (92.2 μ L, 0.92 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (1.0 mL) was completed within 13 h at 40 °C to give the adduct **3aa** in 84% yield (139.1 mg, 0.39 mmol). Compared to the reaction in acetonitrile, the reaction in 1,2-dichloroethane resulted in the smooth conversion of starting materials without the formation of side products. Colorless oil; IR (neat) ν 3034, 2978, 2923, 2862, 1452, 1385, 1212, 1100 cm⁻¹; ⁻¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.74 (3H, s), 2.34 (2H, brt, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 2.73 (2H, t, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 3.13 (2H, brs), 5.35-5.38 (1H, m); ⁻¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –4.9 (6F, s); MS (ESI-TOF) *m*/*z* 383 [M+Na]⁺; HRMS calcd for C₉H₁₀F₆NaO₄S₂ [M+Na]⁺, 382.9822; found, 382.9827. Anal. Calcd for C₉H₁₀F₆O₄S₂: C, 30.00; H, 2.80. Found: C, 30.12; H, 2.89.

4,4-Bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)cyclohex-1-ene (3ab)



A mixture of Tf₂CH₂ **1** (1.42 g, 5.05 mmol) and paraformaldehyde (90% purity, 252.5 mg, 7.58 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (10 mL) was stirred at 40 °C for 4.5 h under buta-1,3-diene atmosphere. After concentration of the reaction mixture under reduced pressure, column chromatography on neutral silica gel (hexane/EtOAc = 10 : 1) of the resultant residue gave the Diels–Alder adduct **3ab** in 99.6% yield (1.74 g, 5.03 mmol). Colorless crystals (Et₂O); Mp. 33.0-33.9 °C; IR (KBr) ν 3050, 2932, 2864, 1442, 1384, 1197, 1104 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.43-2.49 (2H, m), 2.71 (2H, t, J = 6.4 Hz), 3.15 (1H, brs), 5.68-5.72 (1H, m), 5.91-5.94 (1H, m); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.9, 22.3, 25.4, 93.6, 119.5, 120.4 (q, J_{C-F} = 332.4 Hz), 126.6; ¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ –4.7 (6F, s); MS (ESI-TOF) m/z 369 [M+Na]⁺; HRMS calcd for C₈H₈F₆NaO₄S₂ [M+Na]⁺, 368.9666; found, 368.9649. Anal. Calcd for C₈H₈F₆O₄S₂: C, 27.75; H, 2.33. Found: C, 27.85; H, 2.47.

1,2-Dimethyl-4,4-bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)cyclohex-1-ene (3ac)



According to the synthetic procedure for **3aa**, this compound was prepared in 88% yield (149.2 mg, 0.40 mmol) by the reaction of Tf₂CH₂ **1** (127.4 mg, 0.45 mmol), paraformaldehyde (90% purity, 18.2 mg, 0.45 mmol) and 2,3-dimethylbuta-1,3-diene (102.9 µL, 0.91 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (1.0 mL) at 40 °C for 6 h. Colorless oil; IR (neat) v 2997, 2924, 2865, 1448, 1384, 1200, 1101 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.69 (3H, s), 1.71 (3H, s), 2.31-2.37 (2H, m), 2.67 (2H, t, J = 6.5 Hz), 3.00 (2H, s); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 18.5, 18.6, 23.2, 27.1, 30.7, 95.1, 119.0, 120.4 (q, $J_{C-F} = 332.5$ Hz), 126.7; ¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ -5.1 (6F, s); MS (ESI-TOF) m/z 397 [M+Na]⁺; HRMS calcd for C₁₀H₁₂F₆NaO₄S₂ [M+Na]⁺, 396.9979; found,

396.9952. Anal. Calcd for $C_{10}H_{12}F_6O_4S_2$: C, 32.09; H, 3.23. Found: C, 32.38; H, 3.30.

3-Methyl-4,4-bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)cyclohex-1-ene (3ad)



According to the synthetic procedure for **3aa**, this compound was prepared in 81% yield (127.3 mg, 0.35 mmol) by the reaction of Tf₂CH₂ **1** (122.7 mg, 0.44 mmol), paraformaldehyde (90% purity, 21.9 mg, 0.66 mmol) and (*E*)-penta-1.3-diene (87.8 μ L, 0.88 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (2.0 mL) at 40 °C for 8 h. Colorless oil; IR (neat) *v* 3047, 2990, 2931, 2868, 1378, 1196, 1101 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.58 (3H, d, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 2.36-2.47 (1H, m), 2.47-2.64 (2H, m), 2.81 (1H, dt, *J* = 14.0, 5.0 Hz), 3.42-3.52 (1H, m), 5.51-5.57 (1H, m), 5.79-5.84 (1H, m); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 17.8, 21.9, 23.7, 34.3, 99.9, 120.3 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 334.7 Hz), 120.4 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 333.6 Hz), 124.7, 128.0; ¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ -4.8 (3F, s), -4.7 (3F, s); MS (ESI-TOF) *m*/*z* 383 [M+Na]⁺; HRMS calcd for C₉H₁₀F₆NaO₄S₂ [M+Na]⁺, 382.9822; found, 382.9859.

3-(Chloromethyl)-4,4-bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)cyclohex-1-ene (3ae)



According to the synthetic procedure for **3aa**, this compound was prepared in 91% yield (132.1 mg, 0.34 mmol) by the reaction of Tf₂CH₂ **1** (103.3 mg, 0.37 mmol), paraformaldehyde (18.5 mg, 0.55 mmol) and (*E*)-5-chloropenta-1,3-diene³ (75.6 mg, 0.74 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (1.0 mL) at 40 °C for 6.5 h. Colorless crystals (hexane-EtOAc); Mp. 68.5-72.0 °C; R (KBr) ν 3051, 2932, 1383, 1205, 1102 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.40-2.62 (3H, m), 2.82-2.93 (1H, m), 3.59 (1H, brd, *J* = 10.6 Hz), 3.73 (1H, t, *J* = 10.6 Hz), 4.53 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.6, 2.4 Hz), 5.97-6.04 (2H, m); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 22.1, 24.8, 43.0 (2C), 97.4, 120.1 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 334.6 Hz), 120.3 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 333.6 Hz), 122.7, 126.9; ¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ -4.6 (3F, s), -4.5 (3F, s); MS (ESI-TOF) *m*/*z* 417 [M+Na]⁺, 419 [M+2+Na]⁺; HRMS calcd for C₉H₉CIF₆NaO₄S₂ [M+Na]⁺, 416.9466; found, 416.9435. Anal. Calcd for C₉H₉CIF₆O₄S₂: C, 27.38; H, 2.30. Found: C, 27.38; H, 2.49.

Ethyl 2-(6,6-bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)cyclohex-2-enyl)acetate (3af)

EtO₂C



According to the synthetic procedure for **3aa**, this compound was prepared in 78% yield (1.71 g, 3.97 mmol) by the reaction of Tf_2CH_2 **1** (1.42 g, 5.06 mmol), paraformaldehyde (90% purity, 253 mg, 7.59 mmol) and (*E*)-ethyl hexa-3,5-dienoate⁴ (851 mg, 6.07 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (15 mL) at 40 °C for 3 h. The structure of this compound was also confirmed by an X-ray crystallographic analysis (See, Table S1). Colorless crystals (hexane-EtOAc); Mp. 89.0-90.8 °C; IR (KBr) ν 3047, 2987, 2942, 1738, 1379, 1196, 1103 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.29 (3H, t, J = 7.2 Hz), 2.38-2.61 (3H, m), 2.77 (1H, dd, J = 16.8, 1.3 Hz), 2.82-2.91 (1H, m), 3.54 (1H, dd, J = 16.8, 1.7 Hz), 3.99 (1H, brd, J = 11.3 Hz), 4.20 (2H, q), 5.51 (1H, dd, J = 10.2, 1.7 Hz), 5.81-5.89 (1H, m); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.1, 22.0, 25.0, 34.8, 36.4, 61.4, 97.1, 120.2 (q, J_{C-F} = 335.1 Hz), 120.3 (q, J_{C-F} = 334.1 Hz), 125.4, 125.5, 170.6; ¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ -4.61 (3F, s), -4.58 (3F, s); MS (ESI-TOF) m/z 433 [M+H]⁺; HRMS calcd for C₁₂H₁₅F₆O₆S₂ [M+H]⁺, 433.0214; found, 433.0193. Anal. Calcd for C₁₂H₁₄F₆O₄S₂: C, 33.34; H, 3.26. Found: C, 33.52; H, 3.54.

(1R*,4R*)-Ethyl 4-methyl-5,5-bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)cyclohex-2-enecarboxylate (3ag)



According to the synthetic procedure for **3aa**, this compound was prepared in 98% yield (212.7 mg, 0.492 mmol) by the reaction of Tf₂CH₂ **1** (141.1 mg, 0.50 mmol), paraformaldehyde (90% purity, 20.1 mg, 0.60 mmol) and ethyl sorbate (90.1 µL, 0.60 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (0.5 mL) at 40 °C for 2.5 h. The relative stereochemistry was determined by NOESY spectra. Colorless oil; IR (neat) ν 2988, 2951, 1739, 1385, 1196, 1096 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.24 (3H, t, J = 7.1 Hz), 1.38 (3H, d, J = 6.9 Hz), 2.87 (1H, dd, J = 15.0, 11.1 Hz), 2.97 (1H, dd, J = 15.0, 6.3 Hz), 3.44-3.52 (1H, m), 4.16 (2H, q, J = 7.1 Hz), 5.70 (1H, ddd, J = 10.2, 4.8, 2.8 Hz), 5.86 (1H, brd, J = 10.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.0, 19.4, 22.7, 31.8, 39.3, 62.0, 101.4, 120.56 (q, J_{C-F} = 333.9 Hz), 120.62 (q, J_{C-F} = 334.1 Hz), 123.3, 129.6, 170.5; ¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ -4.5 (3F, s), -2.8 (3F, s); MS (ESI-TOF) m/z 433 [M+H]⁺; HRMS calcd for C₁₂H₁₅F₆O₆S₂: [M+H]⁺, 433.0214; found, 433.0156. Anal. Calcd for C₁₂H₁₄F₆O₆S₂: C, 33.34; H, 3.26. Found: C, 33.54; H, 3.33.

(1*R**,4*R**)-5,5-Bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)bicycle[2.2.2]oct-2-ene (3ah)



According to the synthetic procedure for **3aa**, this compound was prepared in 60% yield (111.6 mg, 0.30 mmol) by the reaction of Tf₂CH₂ **1** (139.4 mg, 0.50 mmol), paraformaldehyde (90% purity, 33.2 mg, 1.00 mmol) and cyclohexa-1,3-diene (71.2 µL, 0.75 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (2.0 mL) at 80 °C for 8.5 h. Colorless crystals; Mp. 36.0-38.2 °C; IR (KBr) *v* 3064, 2958, 2893, 1382, 1192, 1097 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.33-1.38 (2H, m), 1.80-1.83 (1H, m) 2.33-2.40 (2H, m), 2.62 (1H, brd, *J* = 15.6 Hz), 2.94-3.03 (1H, m), 3.66-3.74 (1H, m), 6.35 (1H, t, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 6.45 (1H, t, *J* = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.3, 23.6, 29.1, 31.6, 33.0, 100.6, 120.3, 120.6 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 333.6 Hz), 130.3, 134.8; ¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ -4.3 (3F, s), -4.2 (3F, s); MS (ESI-TOF) *m*/*z* 395 [M+Na]⁺; HRMS calcd for C₁₀H₁₀F₆NaO₄S₂ [M+Na]⁺, 394.9822; found, 394.99843. Anal. Calcd for C₁₀H₁₀F₆O₄S₂: C, 32.26; H, 2.71. Found: C, 32.48; H, 2.77.

1-Methyl-5-pentyl-4,4-bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)cyclohex-1-ene (3ba)



According to the synthetic procedure for **3aa**, this compound was prepared in 88% yield (178.4 mg, 0.41 mmol) by the reaction of Tf₂CH₂ **1** (130.9 mg, 0.47 mmol), hexanal (58.0 µL, 0.47 mmol) and isoprene (94.2 µL, 0.94 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (1.0 mL) at room temperature for 20 h. Colorless oil; IR (neat) *v* 2959, 2931, 2962, 1383, 1200, 1099 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.90 (3H, t, *J* = 6.7 Hz), 1.22-1.40 (5H, m), 1.47-1.58 (1H, m), 1.73 (3H, s), 1.74-1.81 (1H, m), 2.22-2.36 (2H, m), 2.51 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.1, 6.4 Hz), 2.73-2.85 (1H, m), 3.07 (1H, d, *J* = 18.5 Hz), 3.18 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.5, 4.2 Hz), 5.32 (1H, brs); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.9, 22.4 (2C), 27.7, 28.6, 30.8, 31.4, 33.9, 39.9, 100.8, 112.5, 119.9 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 333.1 Hz), 120.4 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 334.8 Hz), 136.2; ¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ -8.4 (3F, s), -3.9 (3F, s); MS (ESI-TOF) *m*/*z* 431 [M+H]⁺; HRMS calcd for C₁₄H₂₁F₆O₄S₂ [M+H]⁺, 431.0785; found, 431.0741.

(2-(3-Methyl-6,6-bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)cyclohex-3-enyl)ethyl)benzene (3ca)



According to the synthetic procedure for **3aa**, this compound was prepared in 89% yield (235.1 mg, 0.51 mmol) by the reaction of Tf₂CH₂ **1** (159.1 mg, 0.57 mmol), 3-phenylpropionaldehyde (74.7 µL, 0.57 mmol) and isoprene (114 µL, 1.14 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (1.0 mL) at room temperature for 24 h. Colorless oil; IR (neat) *v* 3027, 2920, 1381, 1206, 1100 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.73 (3H, s), 2.03-2.15 (1H, m), 2.36 (1H, d, *J* = 17.9 Hz), 2.52 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.9, 6.4 Hz), 2.61-2.92 (4H, m), 3.05 (1H, d, *J* = 18.2 Hz), 3.16 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.2, 4.6 Hz), 5.32 (1H, brs), 7.19-7.25 (3H, m), 7.28-7.39 (2H, m); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 22.5, 28.4, 32.2, 33.9, 34.0, 39.1, 100.5 (m), 112.6, 119.9 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 333.3 Hz), 120.3 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 334.8 Hz), 126.4, 128.4, 128.6, 136.1, 140.0; ¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ -8.3 (3F, s), -3.8 (3F, s); MS (ESI-TOF) *m*/*z* 487 [M+Na]⁺; HRMS calcd for C₁₇H₁₈F₆NaO₄S₂ [M+Na]⁺, 487.0448; found, 487.0387.

5-Isobutyl-1-methyl-4,4-bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)cyclohex-1-ene (3da)

According to the synthetic procedure for **3aa**, this compound was prepared in 89% yield (369.1 mg, 0.89 mmol) by the reaction of Tf₂CH₂ **1** (283.8 mg, 1.01 mmol), 3-methylbutanal (87 mg, 1.01 mmol) and isoprene (200 µL, 2.00 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (2.0 mL) at room temperature for 17 h. Colorless crystals (Et₂O); Mp. 36.0-37.5 °C; IR (KBr) ν 2962, 2874, 1382, 1200, 1098 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.92 (3H, d, J = 6.6 Hz), 0.99 (3H, d, J = 6.5 Hz), 1.72 (3H, s), 1.70-1.84 (2H, m), 2.00-2.09 (1H, m), 2.29 (1H, dd, J = 18.1, 10.4 Hz), 2.47 (1H, dd, J = 18.1, 6.5 Hz), 2.90-3.00 (1H, m), 3.08 (1H, d, J = 18.4 Hz), 3.17 (1H, dd, J = 18.4, 4.3 Hz), 5.32 (1H, brs); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.4, 22.5, 24.0, 25.6, 28.5, 34.1, 37.8, 39.6, 101.1,

112.4, 119.9 (q, $J_{C-F} = 333.3 \text{ Hz}$), 120.4 (q, $J_{C-F} = 334.8 \text{ Hz}$), 136.2; ¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ -8.4 (3F, s), -3.8 (3F, s); MS (ESI-TOF) m/z 439 [M+Na]⁺; HRMS calcd for C₁₃H₁₈F₆NaO₄S₂ [M+Na]⁺, 439.0448; found, 439.0455.

tert-Butyl((3-methyl-6,6-bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)cyclohex-3-enyl)methoxy)diphenylsilane (3ea)



According to the synthetic procedure for **3aa**, this compound was prepared in 78% yield (244.4 mg, 0.39 mmol) by the reaction of Tf₂CH₂ **1** (139.6 mg, 0.50 mmol), TBDPSOCH₂CHO (223.9 mg, 0.75 mmol) and isoprene (100 μ L, 1.0 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (1.0 mL) at room temperature for 20 h. Colorless oil; IR (neat) *v* 3073, 2933, 2859, 1382, 1200, 1103, 702 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.16 (9H, s), 1.76 (3H, s), 2.46 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.0, 9.0 Hz), 2.84 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.0, 6.0 Hz), 3.10-3.28 (3H, m), 4.05 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.3, 9.6 Hz), 4.52 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.3, 3.3 Hz), 5.36 (1H, brs), 7.41-7.53 (6H, m), 7.69-7.77 (4H, m); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 19.3, 22.6, 26.8, 28.0, 31.6, 41.4, 63.1, 99.5, 112.6, 120.0 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 333.3 Hz), 120.4 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 334.6 Hz), 127.8, 129.90 and 129.93, 132.8 and 133.0, 135.5, 135.8; ¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ -7.8 (3F, s), -3.7 (3F, s); MS (ESI-TOF) *m*/*z* 651 [M+Na]⁺; HRMS calcd for C₂₆H₃₀F₆NaO₅S₂Si [M+Na]⁺, 651.1106; found, 651.1059.

1-(3-Methyl-6,6-bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)cyclohex-3-enyl)-4-nitrobenzene (3fa)



According to the synthetic procedure for **3aa**, this compound was prepared in 55% yield (187.0 mg, 0.39 mmol) by the reaction of Tf₂CH₂ **1** (199.5 mg, 0.71 mmol), *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde (107.8 mg, 0.71 mmol) and isoprene (142.7 µL, 1.42 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (1.0 mL) at room temperature for 16 h. Yellow crystals (hexane-EtOAc); Mp. 75.5-76.5 °C; IR (KBr) *v* 3077, 2920, 2859, 1525, 1381, 1350, 1207, 1095 cm⁻¹; ⁻¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.80 (3H, s), 2.70 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.5, 6.5 Hz), 2.80 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.5, 6.5 Hz), 3.34 (2H, s), 4.28 (1H, t, J = 6.5 Hz), 5.56 (1H, brs), 7.69 (2H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 8.17 (2H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz); ⁻¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 22.5, 27.0, 36.8, 43.5, 100.3, 113.3, 120.1 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 333.9 Hz), 120.4 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 334.0 Hz), 123.8, 130.9, 135.9, 144.5, 147.9; ⁻¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ -5.7 (3F, s), -4.2 (3F, s); MS (ESI-TOF) *m*/*z* 504 [M+Na]⁺; HRMS calcd for C₁₅H₁₃F₆NNaO₆S₂ [M+Na]⁺, 503.9986; found, 503.9991. Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₁₃F₆NO₆S₂: C, 37.43; H, 2.73; N, 2.91. Found: C, 37.48; H, 2.94; N, 3.01.

1,2-Dimethyl-5-pentyl-4,4-bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)cyclohex-1-ene (3bc)

H₃C CH3

According to the synthetic procedure for 3aa, this compound was prepared in 87% yield (630 mg, 1.41 mmol)

by the reaction of Tf₂CH₂ **1** (454.7 mg, 1.62 mmol), hexanal (198.2 µL, 1.62 mmol) and 2,3-dimethylbuta-1,3-diene (0.37 mL, 3.24 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (3.0 mL) at room temperature for 16 h. Colorless oil; IR (neat) *v* 2928, 2862, 1382, 1198, 1102 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.90 (3H, t, *J* = 6.7 Hz), 1.22-1.39 (5H, m), 1.45-1.58 (1H, m), 1.67 (3H, s), 1.68 (3H, s), 1.67-1.82 (1H, m), 2.22-2.34 (2H, m), 2.50 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.0, 6.1 Hz), 2.68-2.77 (1H, m), 2.94 (1H, d, *J* = 18.2 Hz), 3.05 (1H, d, *J* = 18.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.9, 18.2, 18.3, 22.4, 27.8, 30.5, 31.4, 33.7, 35.1, 39.9, 102.0, 118.2, 119.9 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 333.2 Hz), 120.4 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 334.8 Hz), 128.0; ¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ -9.3 (3F, s), -3.6 (3F, s); MS (ESI-TOF) *m/z* 467 [M+Na]⁺; HRMS calcd for C₁₅H₂₂F₆NaO₄S₂ [M+Na]⁺, 467.0761; found, 467.0709.

3. Synthesis of poly-substituted aryl triflones

4-Methyl-2-pentyl-1-(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)benzene (5ba)



A solution of **3ba** (215.6 mg, 0.50 mmol) in degassed xylenes (2.0 mL) was stirred at 140 °C for 4 h. The reaction mixture was directly purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc = 20 : 1) to give 1-methyl-5-pentyl-4-(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)cyclohexa-1,3-diene **4ba** in 89% yield (132.8 mg, 0.45 mmol). Colorless oil; IR (neat) *v* 2960, 2930, 2861, 1450, 1384, 1207, 1100 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CHCl₃) δ 0.87 (3H, t, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 1.18-1.40 (6H, m), 1.46-1.62 (2H, m), 1.96 (3H, s), 2.36 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.1, 1.2 Hz), 2.55 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.1, 8.4 Hz), 2.65-2.75 (1H, m), 5.95-6.02 (1H, m), 7.17 (1H, d, *J* = 5.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.0, 22.5, 24.2, 25.8, 30.7, 31.5, 31.9, 33.4, 118.3, 120.1 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 326.9 Hz), 128.9, 143.3, 149.3; ¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ -16.0 (3F, s); MS (ESI-TOF) *m*/*z* 297 [M+H]⁺; HRMS calcd for C₁₃H₂₀F₃O₃S [M+H]⁺, 297.1136; found, 297.1153.

To a solution of diene **4ba** (30.2 mg, 101 µmol) in methylcyclohexane (2.0 mL), activated MnO₂ (Aldrich, azeotropic with toluene, 88.2 mg) was added. After being stirred at 70 °C for 4 h, the mixture was filtrated through celite pad. The filtrate was evaporated and purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc = 30 : 1) to give aryl triflone **5ba** in 80% yield (23.9 mg, 81 µmol). Colorless oil; IR (neat) v 2958, 2931, 2862, 1601, 1362, 1213, 1152, 1127, 1045, 666 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 0.69 (3H, t, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 1.08-1.23 (4H, m), 1.38-1.50 (2H, m), 2.22 (3H, s), 2.75 (2H, dd, *J* = 8.1, 7.8 Hz), 7.14 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 7.21 (1H, s), 7.73 (1H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 14.3, 21.7, 23.1, 32.5, 33.1, 34.0, 121.1 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 325.9 Hz), 126.5, 129.3, 134.3, 134.7, 148.2, 150.0; ¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ -15.9 (3F, s); MS (ESI-TOF) *m*/*z* 317 [M+Na]⁺; HRMS calcd for C₁₃H₁₇F₃NaO₂S [M+Na]⁺, 317.0799; found, 317.0790.

4-Methyl-2-phenethyl-1-(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)benzene (5ca)

According to the synthetic procedure for **5ba**, 1-methyl-5-phenethylcyclohexa-4-(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)-1,3-diene **4ca** was obtained in 95% yield (124.5 mg, 0.38 mmol) by the thermolysis of **3ca** (183.5 mg, 0.40 mmol) in degassed xylenes (3.0 mL) for 2 h at 140 °C. Pale yellow oil; IR (neat) v 2929, 1568, 1360, 1211, 1118 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.89-2.08 (2H, m), 2.02 (3H, s), 2.49 (1H, d, J = 18.1 Hz), 260-2.72 (2H, m), 2.78 (1H, ddd, J = 13.5, 9.9, 5.8 Hz), 2.84-2.92 (1H, m), 6.09 (1H, brs), 7.20-7.31 (4H, m), 7.31-7.42 (2H, m); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.2, 31.8, 32.2, 32.5, 33.5, 118.5, 120.1 (q, J_{C-F} = 326.8 Hz), 126.0, 128.3 (2C), 128.4, 141.2, 143.6, 149.5; ¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ –15.9 (3F, s); MS (ESI-TOF) m/z 353 [M+Na]⁺; HRMS calcd for C₁₆H₁₇F₃NaO₂S [M+Na]⁺, 353.0799; found, 353.0761. The above cyclohexadiene **4ca** (66.1 mg, 0.20 mmol) was oxidized to aryl triflone **5ca** in 82% yield (53.9 mg, 0.16 mmol) by treating with activated MnO₂ (Aldrich, azeotropic with toluene, 175 mg) in methylcyclohexane (2.0 mL) for 4 h at 70 °C. Colorless crystals (Et₂O); Mp. 68.5-70.0 °C; IR (KBr) v 3033, 2926, 1600,

1360, 1200, 1116, 1045, 655 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.49 (1H, s), 3.01 (1H, dd, J = 8.6, 7.9 Hz), 3.33 (1H, dd, J = 8.6, 7.9 Hz), 7.24-7.60 (7H, m), 8.04 (1H, d, J = 8.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.7, 36.1, 39.0, 120.1 (q, J_{C-F} = 326.8 Hz), 126.3, 126.4, 128.3, 128.5, 128.6, 133.6, 133.8, 141.0, 145.8, 148.0; ¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ –15.9 (3F, s); MS (ESI-TOF) m/z 351 [M+Na]⁺; HRMS calcd for C₁₆H₁₅F₃NaO₂S [M+Na]⁺, 351.0643; found, 351.0638.

2-Isobutyl-4-methyl-1-(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)benzene (5da)



According to the synthetic procedure for **5ba**, 5-isobutyl-1-methyl-4-(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)cyclohexa-1,3diene **4da** was obtained in 98% yield (141.9 mg, 0.50 mmol) by thermolysis of **3da** (212.4 mg, 0.51 mmol) in degassed xylenes (3.0 mL) for 3 h at 140 °C. Pale yellow oil; IR (neat) *v* 2959, 2872, 1568, 1359, 1214, 1129 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.89 (6H, d, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 1.26 (1H, ddd, *J* = 13.4, 10.1, 3.5 Hz), 1.54 (1H, ddd, *J* = 13.4, 10.9, 3.9 Hz), 1.56-1.68 (1H, m), 1.95 (3H, s), 2.34 (1H, d, *J* = 17.9 Hz), 2.52 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.9, 7.9 Hz), 2.73-2.81 (1H, m), 5.99 (1H, brs), 7.15 (1H, d, *J* = 5.7 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.9, 23.7, 24.3, 24.6, 29.9, 33.1, 38.9, 118.4, 120.1 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 326.7 Hz), 129.3, 143.2, 149.1; ¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ –15.9 (3F, s); MS (ESI-TOF) *m*/*z* 283 [M+H]⁺; HRMS calcd for C₁₂H₁₈F₃O₂S [M+H]⁺, 283.0980; found, 283.0951.

The above cyclohexadiene **4da** (54.2 mg, 192 µmol) was oxidized to aryl triflone **5da** in 83% yield (44.7 mg, 159 µmol) by treating with activated MnO₂ (Aldrich, azeotropic with toluene, 200 mg) in methylcyclohexane (2.0 mL) for 5 h at 70 °C. Colorless crystals (hexane); Mp. 55.0-58.5 °C; IR (neat) *v* 3054, 2962, 2872, 1600, 1362, 1212, 1128, cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.94 (6H, d, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 1.96-2.09 (1H, m), 2.46 (3H, s), 2.86 (2H, d, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 7.23 (1H, s), 7.26 (1H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 7.96 (1H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.7, 22.2, 30.8, 41.9, 120.0 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 326.6 Hz), 126.8, 128.0, 133.6, 133.9, 145.9, 147.4; ¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ –16.0 (3F, s); MS (EI) *m/z* 280 [M]⁺. Anal. Calcd for C₁₂H₁₅F₃O₂S: C, 51.42; H, 5.39. Found: C, 51.50; H, 5.38.

tert-Butyl(5-methyl-2-(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)benzyloxy)diphenylsilane (5ea)

OTBDPS H₂C

According to the synthetic procedure for **5ba**, *tert*-butyl((5-methyl-2-(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)cyclohexa-2,4dienyl)methoxy)diphenylsilane **4ea** was obtained in 85% yield (138.8 mg, 0.28 mmol) by thermolysis of **3ea** (207.5 mg, 0.33 mmol) in degassed xylenes (3.0 mL) for 4 h at 140 °C. Pale yellow oil; IR (neat) *v* 3072, 2932, 2859, 1567, 1360, 1214, 1129, 703, 670 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.07 (9H, s), 1.92 (3H, s), 2.54 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.3, 8.6 Hz), 2.88 (1H, d, *J* = 18.3 Hz), 2.85-3.02 (1H, m), 3.57 (1H, t, *J* = 9.7 Hz), 3.78 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.7, 4.3 Hz), 5.92-5.97 (1H, m), 7.21 (1H, d, *J* = 5.9 Hz), 7.35-7.47 (6H, m), 7.60-7.66 (4H, m); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 19.3, 24.0, 26.8, 31.2, 34.6, 61.9, 118.3, 120.0 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 326.7 Hz), 124.4, 127.71 and 127.76, 129.77 and 129.80, 133.1 and 133.3, 135.49 and 135.51, 145.5, 150.4; ¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ -15.8 (3F, s); MS (ESI-TOF) *m/z* 495 [M+H]⁺; HRMS calcd for C₂₅H₃₀F₃O₃SSi [M+H]⁺, 495.1637; found, 495.1592.

The above cyclohexadiene **4ea** (38.6 mg, 78 µmol) was oxidized to aryl triflone **5ea** in 80% yield (30.9 mg, 63 µmol) by treating with activated MnO₂ (Aldrich, azeotropic with toluene, 120 mg) in methylcyclohexane (1.0 mL) for 5 h at 70 °C. Colorless oil; IR (neat) *v* 3072, 2959, 2932, 2859, 1598, 1364, 1214, 1125, 822, 702 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.15 (9H, s), 2.52 (3H, s), 5.20 (2H, s), 7.32 (1H, d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 7.35-7.47 (6H, m), 7.64-7.69 (4H, m), 7.88 (1H, d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 8.01 (1H, s); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 19.4, 22.2, 26.9, 62.1, 119.9 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 326.9 Hz), 124.0, 127.8, 128.4, 129.1, 129.9, 132.8, 133.2, 135.4, 144.9, 148.5; ¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ –16.1 (3F, s); MS (ESI-TOF) *m*/*z* 493 [M+H]⁺; HRMS calcd for C₂₅H₂₈F₃O₃SSi [M+H]⁺, 493.1481; found, 493.1529.

5-Methyl-4'-nitro-2-(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)biphenyl (5fa)



According to the synthetic procedure for **5ba**, 1-(5-methyl-2-(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)cyclohexa-2,4-dienyl)-4nitrobenzene **4fa** was obtained in 98% yield (96.0 mg, 276 µmol) by thermolysis of **3fa** (135.2 mg, 281 µmol) in degassed xylenes (3.0 mL) for 4 h at 140 °C. Yellow crystals (hexane-Et₂O); Mp. 119–120 °C; IR (KBr) ν 3080, 2935, 1566, 1522, 1348, 1209, 1127, 855 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.87 (3H, s), 2.50 (1H, d, J = 18.3 Hz), 3.12 (1H, dd, J = 10.2 Hz), 4.12 (1H, d, J = 10.2 Hz), 6.13-6.20 (1H, m), 7.40 (2H, d, J = 8.7 Hz), 7.55 (1H, d, J = 5.9 Hz), 8.14 (2H, d, J = 8.7 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.0, 36.7, 38.3, 118.9, 119.8 (q, J_{C-F} = 326.4 Hz), 124.0, 126.2, 127.9, 145.7, 147.41, 147.44, 149.3; ¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ –15.6 (3F, s); MS (ESI-TOF) m/z 348 [M+H]⁺; HRMS calcd for C₁₄H₁₃F₃NO₄S [M+H]⁺, 348.0517; found, 348.0544.

The above cyclohexadiene **4fa** (95.8 mg, 276 μ mol) was oxidized to aryl triflone **5fa** in 97% yield (93.3 mg, 270 μ mol) by treating with activated MnO₂ (Aldrich, azeotropic with toluene, 300 mg) in methylcyclohexane (2.0 mL) for 4 h at 70 °C. Colorless crystals (acetone); Mp. 157.5-159.5 °C; IR (KBr) *v* 3113, 2923, 2854, 1593, 1518, 1365, 1347, 1213, 1132 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.54 (3H, s), 7.23 (1H, s), 7.28 (2H,

d, J = 8.6 Hz), 7.54 (1H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 8.11 (1H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 8.25 (2H, d, J = 8.6 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.7, 118.6 (q, $J_{C-F} = 326.9$ Hz), 121.6, 125.4, 129.4, 129.5, 132.5, 132.8, 142.1, 143.4, 146.8, 147.1; ¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ –15.4 (3F, s); MS (ESI-TOF) m/z 368 [M+Na]⁺; HRMS calcd for C₁₄H₁₀F₃NNaO₄S [M+Na]⁺, 368.0180; found, 368.0183.

1,2-Dimethyl-4-pentyl-5-(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)benzene (5bc)

According to the synthetic procedure for **5ba**, cyclohexadiene **4bc** was obtained in 93% yield (148.2 mg, 0.48 mmol) as an inseparable mixture of 1,2-dimethyl-5-pentyl-4-(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)cyclohexa-1,3-diene and cyclohexa-1,4-diene in a ratio of 12 : 1 by thermolysis of **3bc** (228.2 mg, 0.51 mmol) in degassed xylenes (3.0 mL) for 2 h at 140 °C. Pale yellow oil; IR (neat) v 2954, 2932, 2861, 1568, 1360, 1211, 1149, 1118 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.86 (3H, t, J = 7.0 Hz), 1.14-1.37 (6H, m), 1.44-1.54 (2H, m), 1.84 (3H, s), 1.87 (3H, s), 2.33 (1H, d, J = 17.1 Hz), 2.50-2.66 (2H, m), 7.04 (1H, s); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.9, 16.7, 20.4, 22.4, 25.9, 30.6, 31.5, 31.9, 34.9, 120.1 (q, J_{C-F} = 326.8 Hz), 124.1, 128.9, 141.2, 147.6; ¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ -15.9 (3F, s); MS (ESI-TOF) m/z 311 [M+H]⁺; HRMS calcd for C₁₄H₂₂F₃O₂S [M+H]⁺, 311.1293; found, 311.1306.

The above cyclohexadiene **4bc** (69.4 mg, 224 µmol) was oxidized to aryl triflone **5bc** in 81% yield (55.9 mg, 181 µmol) by treating with activated MnO₂ (Aldrich, azeotropic with toluene, 220 mg) in methylcyclohexane (2.0 mL) for 12 h at 70 °C. Colorless oil; IR (neat) v 2956, 2929, 1490, 1215, 1200, 1119 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.91 (3H, t, J = 6.8 Hz), 1.30-1.43 (4H, m), 1.59-1.68 (2H, m), 2.31 (3H, s), 2.35 (3H, s), 2.90-2.98 (2H, m), 7.32 (1H, s), 7.79 (1H, s); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.0, 19.2, 20.1, 22.4, 31.8, 32.3, 33.0, 120.1 (q, J_{C-F} = 326.8 Hz), 126.1, 133.7, 133.8, 136.0, 144.7, 147.6; ¹⁹F NMR (282 Hz, CDCl₃) δ –15.9 (3F, s); MS (EI) m/z 308 [M]⁺, 239 [M–CF₃]⁺. Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₉F₃O₂S: C, 54.53; H, 6.21. Found: C, 54.65; H, 6.31.

4. X-ray crystallographic data of 3af

Crystallographic data for the X-ray crystal structure analysis of **3af** has been deposited with Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center (CCDC) as supplementary publication No. CCDC 821320. This data can be obtained free of charge from the CCDC *via* www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.



ORTEP diagram of 3af

Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement for 3af.	
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Empirical formula	$C_{12}H_{14}F_6O_6S_2\\$	
Formula weight	432.35	
Temperature	90 K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system	Monoclinic	
Space group	P 21/c	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 8.1916(10) Å	α= 90°.
	b = 12.7099(16) Å	β= 97.767(2)°.
	c = 16.097(2) Å	$\gamma = 90^{\circ}.$
Volume	1660.5(4) Å ³	
Z	4	
Density (calculated)	1.729 Mg/m ³	
Absorption coefficient	0.413 mm ⁻¹	
F(000)	880	
Crystal size	0.26 x 0.23 x 0.17 mm ³	
Theta range for data collection	2.05 to 27.64°.	
Index ranges	-10<=h<=8, -13<=k<=16, -20<=l<=20	
Reflections collected	9303	
Independent reflections	3765 [R(int) = 0.0213]	
Completeness to theta = 27.64°	97.6 %	
Absorption correction	Analytical	

Max. and min. transmission	0.9331 and 0.9002
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Data / restraints / parameters	3765 / 0 / 236
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.000
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0317, wR2 = 0.0757
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0385, wR2 = 0.0798
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.647 and -0.458 e.Å ⁻³













-S16-



-S17-











-S22-





-S24-









-S28-









-S32-







ppm







6. References

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