

Supporting Information

**Silver-catalyzed one-pot cyclization/fluorination of
2-alkynylanilines: highly efficient synthesis of structurally
diverse fluorinated indole derivatives**

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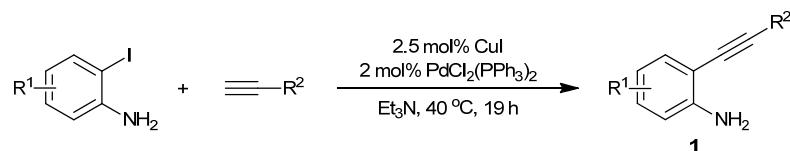
I. General remarks

NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker AV II-400 MHz spectrometer (^1H NMR at 400 MHz, ^{13}C NMR at 100 MHz, and ^{19}F NMR at 376 MHz). The ^1H NMR chemical shifts were measured relative to CDCl_3 or $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ as the internal reference (CDCl_3 : $\delta = 7.26$ ppm; $\text{DMSO}-d_6$: $\delta = 2.50$ ppm). The ^{13}C NMR chemical shifts were given using CDCl_3 or $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ as the internal standard (CDCl_3 : $\delta = 77.16$ ppm; $\text{DMSO}-d_6$: $\delta = 39.52$ ppm). High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained with a Waters-Q-TOF-Premier (ESI). Melting points were determined with Hanon MP300 and are uncorrected.

Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. AgNO_3 and Ag_2CO_3 were purchased from Chengdu Kelong Chemical Engineering Reagent (China) CO., Ltd and Tianjin Yingda Chemical Engineering Reagent (China) CO., Ltd, respectively. Selectfluor and NFSI were purchased from Beijing Innochem Science & Technology (China) CO., Ltd. 1,4-Dioxane (HPLC) was purchased from J & K Chemical Limited in China and used without further purification. CH_3CN was dried over CaH_2 and stored under N_2 over activated 4Å molecular sieves. Starting materials **1**¹ and **3**² were prepared according to the literature procedure. Starting materials **1a**¹, **1b-1d**³, **1e**⁴, **1f**⁵, **1h**⁶, **1j**⁷, **1k**⁸, **1l-1m**³, **1n**⁹, **3a**¹⁰, **3b**¹¹, **3c**¹², and **3j**¹⁰ are known compounds and were identified by comparison of their spectral data with those reported in the literature.

II. Synthesis and characterization of the starting materials

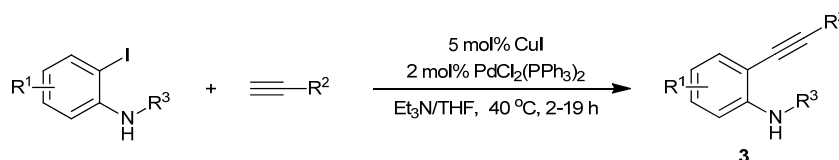
i. General procedure for the synthesis of *N*-unprotected 2-(1-alkynyl)anilines **1**¹



A mixture of 2-iodoaniline (2.0 mmol), terminal alkyne (2.4 mmol), CuI (9.6 mg, 2.5 mol%) and $\text{PdCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2$ (28 mg, 2.0 mol%) in Et_3N (8 ml) was heated at 40 °C for 19 h under an nitrogen atmosphere. The volatile was then evaporated and the residue was partitioned between EtOAc (3 x 10 mL) and water (10 mL). The combined organic

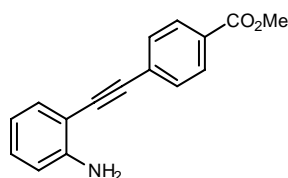
phases were washed with water (10 mL) and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to afford the desired products.

ii. General procedure for the synthesis of *N*-substituted-2-(1-alkynyl)anilines **3**²



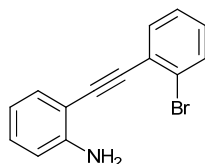
A mixture of *N*-substituted-2-iodoaniline (2.0 mmol), terminal alkyne (2.4 mmol), CuI (11 mg, 5.0 mol%) and PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂ (28 mg, 2.0 mol%) in Et₃N/THF (1:1, 10 mL) was heated at 40 °C under a nitrogen atmosphere for 2-19 h. The solvent was then evaporated and the residue was partitioned between EtOAc (3 x 10 mL) and water (10 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with water (10 mL) and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The volatile was evaporated and the residue was purified by column chromatography on neutral Al₂O₃ to afford the desired products.

iii. Characterization of the unknown starting materials



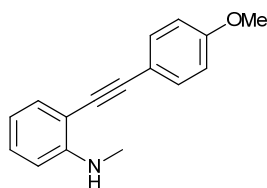
Methyl 4-((2-aminophenyl)ethynyl)benzoate (**1g**)

Compound **1g** was obtained as a white solid in 95% yield. M.p.: 97-99 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 3.93 (s, 3H), 4.26 (br. s, 2H), 6.71-6.74 (m, 2H), 7.16 (td, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (dd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 52.3, 89.2, 94.1, 107.4, 114.6, 118.2, 128.2, 129.5, 129.7, 130.4, 131.4, 132.4, 148.1, 166.6 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₆H₁₃KNO₂ [M+K]⁺ 290.0583, found 290.0583.



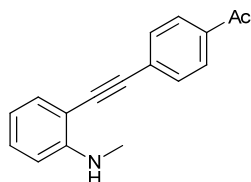
2-((2-Bromophenyl)ethynyl)aniline (**1i**)

Compound **1i** was obtained as a yellow solid in 82% yield. M.p.: 253-255 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 4.40 (br. s, 2H), 6.72-6.76 (m, 2H), 7.15-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.31 (td, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (dt, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (dd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (dd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 91.2, 93.5, 107.5, 114.5, 118.0, 125.2, 125.7, 127.3, 129.3, 130.3, 132.2, 132.5, 133.1, 148.5 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₄H₁₀BrNNa [M+Na]⁺ 293.9894, found 293.9889.



2-((4-Methoxyphenyl)ethynyl)-*N*-methylaniline (**3d**)

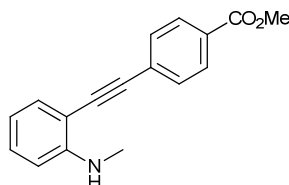
Compound **3d** was obtained as a white solid in 82% yield. M.p.: 103-104 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.94 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 4.70 (br. s, 1H), 6.62 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.88-6.91 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 30.5, 55.4, 84.7, 95.0, 107.8, 109.1, 114.1, 115.6, 116.3, 129.9, 132.1, 133.0, 149.8, 159.7 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₆H₁₅KNO [M+K]⁺ 276.0791, found 276.0782.



1-(4-((2-(Methylamino)phenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)ethanone (**3e**)

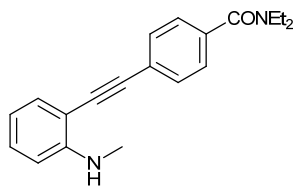
Compound **3e** was obtained as a yellow solid in 86% yield. M.p.: 103-105 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.94 (s, 3H), 4.70 (br. s, 1H), 6.63 (d, *J* =

8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (td, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.38 (dd, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.93 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 26.7, 30.4, 89.8, 94.4, 106.7, 109.3, 116.4, 128.36, 128.40, 130.8, 131.5, 132.4, 136.1, 150.1, 197.3$ ppm. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 250.1232, found 250.1230.



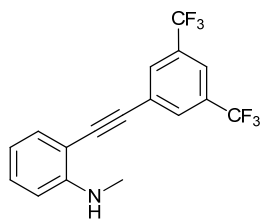
Methyl 4-((2-(methylamino)phenyl)ethynyl)benzoate (**3f**)

Compound **3f** was obtained as a yellow solid in 86% yield. M.p.: 179-181 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 2.94$ (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 4.69 (d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.68 (td, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.38 (dd, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (dd, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 8.02 (dd, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1.6 Hz, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 30.4, 52.3, 89.4, 94.4, 106.7, 109.2, 116.4, 128.2, 129.4, 129.6, 130.7, 131.4, 132.4, 150.0, 166.6$ ppm. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 266.1181, found 266.1178.



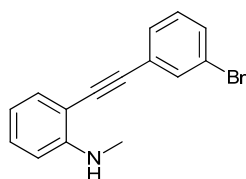
N,N-Diethyl-4-((2-(methylamino)phenyl)ethynyl)benzamide (**3g**)

Compound **3g** was obtained as a white solid in 90% yield. M.p.: 116-118 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 1.12$ (s, 3H), 1.24 (s, 3H), 2.93 (s, 3H), 3.26 (s, 2H), 3.54 (s, 2H), 4.73 (br. s, 1H), 6.62 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.66 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.54 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 13.0, 14.3, 30.5, 39.5, 43.4, 87.4, 94.4, 107.1, 109.2, 116.4, 124.4, 126.6, 130.4, 131.5, 132.3, 136.8, 149.9, 170.7$ ppm. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{NaO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 329.1630, found 329.1633.



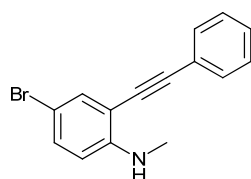
2-((3,5-Bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethynyl)-N-methylaniline (3h)

Compound **3h** was obtained as a yellow solid in 80% yield. M.p.: 141-142 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.97 (s, 3H), 4.67 (br. s, 1H), 6.66 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.40 (dd, J = 7.6 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.95 (s, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 30.4, 90.1, 92.1, 105.9, 109.5, 116.6, 121.4-121.5 (m), 123.1 (q, J = 271.2 Hz), 125.9, 131.29, 131.33, 132.1 (q, J = 33.5 Hz), 132.7, 150.3 ppm. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = -63.1. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_6\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 344.0874, found 344.0872.



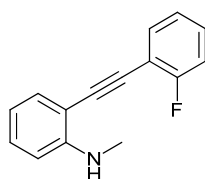
2-((3-Bromophenyl)ethynyl)-N-methylaniline (3i)

Compound **3i** was obtained as yellow liquid in 87% yield. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.95 (s, 3H), 4.66 (br. s, 1H), 6.63 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (td, J = 7.6 Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.37 (dd, J = 7.6 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.69 (t, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 30.5, 87.6, 93.5, 106.8, 109.2, 116.4, 122.3, 125.5, 129.9, 130.1, 130.6, 131.3, 132.4, 134.2, 150.0 ppm. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrN}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 286.0231, found 286.0230.



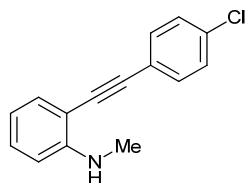
4-Bromo-*N*-methyl-2-(phenylethynyl)aniline (**3k**)

Compound **3k** was obtained as yellow liquid in 82% yield. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.91 (s, 3H), 4.71 (br. s, 1H), 6.49 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (dd, J = 8.8 Hz, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.41 (m, 3H), 7.49 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.55 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 30.5, 84.7, 96.0, 107.4, 109.3, 110.6, 122.9, 128.5, 128.6, 131.6, 132.8, 134.2, 148.9 ppm. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrN}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 286.0231, found 286.0231.



2-((2-Fluorophenyl)ethynyl)-*N*-methylaniline (**3l**)

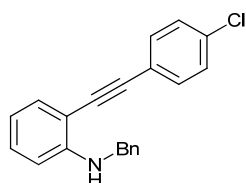
Compound **3l** was obtained as colorless liquid in 85% yield. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.96 (s, 3H), 4.86 (s, 1H), 6.64 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.11-7.17 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.41 (dd, J = 7.6 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (td, J = 7.6 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 30.4, 88.4, 91.7 (d, J = 3.3 Hz), 106.9, 109.1, 112.2 (d, J = 15.5 Hz), 115.5 (d, J = 20.9 Hz), 116.2, 124.2 (d, J = 3.6 Hz), 129.8 (d, J = 7.9 Hz), 130.5, 132.0, 132.9 (d, J = 0.9 Hz), 150.1, 162.4 (d, J = 248.8 Hz) ppm. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = -110.3. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{FN}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 226.1032, found 226.1034.



2-((4-Chlorophenyl)ethynyl)-*N*-methylaniline (**3m**)

Compound **3m** was obtained as pale yellow liquid in 84% yield. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.94 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 3H), 4.66 (br. s, 1H), 6.63 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (td, J = 8.0 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (td, J = 8.8 Hz, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (dd, J = 7.6 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dd, J = 8.4 Hz, 2.0 Hz, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR

(100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 30.5, 87.2, 93.9, 107.0, 109.2, 116.4, 122.0, 128.8, 130.4, 132.3, 132.8, 134.2, 149.9 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₅H₁₃ClN [M+H]⁺ 242.0737, found 242.0742.



***N*-Benzyl-2-((4-chlorophenyl)ethynyl)aniline (3n)**

Compound **3n** was obtained as a pale yellow solid in 89% yield. M.p.: 64-66 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 4.48 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 5.12 (br. s, 1H), 6.61 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (td, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.36-7.43 (m, 7H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 47.8, 87.1, 94.3, 107.3, 110.1, 116.8, 121.9, 127.2, 127.4, 128.8, 130.4, 132.3, 132.7, 134.3, 139.2, 148.8 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₁H₁₆ClNNa [M+Na]⁺ 340.0869, found 340.0876.

III. Ag-catalyzed tandem cyclization/difluorination of *N*-unprotected 2-alkynylanilines

i. Optimization of the aminofluorination of 2-(phenylethynyl)aniline 1a

The mixture of 2-(phenylethynyl)aniline **1a** (58 mg, 0.3 mmol), catalyst, fluorinating reagent (0.6 mmol) and solvent (3.0 mL) was stirred at the indicated temperature for 12 h under air. The reaction was then cooled to ambient temperature. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 80/1, v/v) to provide the desired product **2a**.

Table S1 Optimization of the aminofluorination of 2-(phenylethynyl)aniline **1a**^{a,b}

Entry	Catalyst (equiv)	"F ⁺ " Source	Solvent	Temp. (°C)	Yield (%) ^b
1	NiCl ₂ ·6H ₂ O (0.2)	NFSI	MeCN	80	0
2	CuCl (0.2)	NFSI	MeCN	80	0
3	Cu(OAc) ₂ ·H ₂ O (0.2)	NFSI	MeCN	80	0

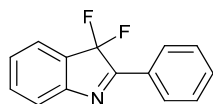
4	FeCl ₃ ·6H ₂ O (0.2)	NFSI	MeCN	80	0
5	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (0.1)	NFSI	MeCN	80	7
6	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (0.1)	NFSI	1,4-dioxane	80	81
7	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (0.1)	NFSI	THF	80	71
8	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (0.1)	NFSI	toluene	80	53
9	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (0.1)	NFSI	DCE	80	69
10	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (0.1)	NFSI	EtOH	80	30
11	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (0.1)	NFSI	DMF	80	trace
12	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (0.1)	NFSI	1,4-dioxane	60	81
13	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (0.1)	NFSI	1,4-dioxane	r. t.	41
14 ^c	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (0.1)	NFSI	1,4-dioxane	60	68
15	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (0.1)	Selectfluor	1,4-dioxane	60	N. D. ^d
16	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (0.1)	None	1,4-dioxane	60	N. D. ^e
17	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (0.05)	NFSI	1,4-dioxane	60	70
18	AgNO ₃ (0.1)	NFSI	1,4-dioxane	60	67
19	AgOAc (0.1)	NFSI	1,4-dioxane	60	63
20	AgOTs (0.1)	NFSI	1,4-dioxane	60	62
21 ^f	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (0.1)	NFSI	1,4-dioxane	60	89

^a Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv), catalyst, fluorinating reagent (2.0 equiv), and solvent (3.0 mL) at the indicated temperature for 12 h under air. ^b Isolated yield. ^c NFSI (3.0 equiv) was used. ^d 2-Phenyl-1*H*-indole was obtained in 49% NMR yield. ^e 2-Phenyl-1*H*-indole was obtained in 71% NMR yield. ^f 1.0 equiv of 2,6-di-*tert*-butyl-4-methylphenol was added. N. D. = not detected, NFSI = *N*-fluorobenzenesulfonimide, AgOTs = silver *p*-toluenesulfonate, THF = tetrahydrofuran, DCE = 1,2-dichloroethane, DMF = *N,N*-dimethylformamide.

ii. General procedure for the Ag-catalyzed tandem cyclization/fluorination of *N*-unprotected 2-alkynylanilines **1**

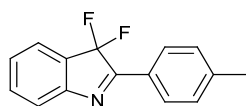
A tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with Ag₂CO₃ (8.3 mg, 0.03 mmol), 2-(1-alkynyl)anilines **1** (0.3 mmol), NFSI (189 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (3.0 mL) under air. The resulting solution was stirred at 60 °C until the reaction was complete as monitored by TLC. The solution was then cooled to ambient temperature and the solvent was evaporated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to afford the desired product **2**.

iii. Characterization of 3,3-difluoroindoles **2**



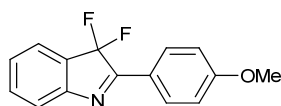
3,3-Difluoro-2-phenyl-3*H*-indole (**2a**)¹³

The reaction time was 12 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 80/1, v/v) afforded **2a** as an orange solid (56 mg, 81% yield). M.p.: 52-53 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.60 (m, 6H), 8.23 (dd, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 0.4 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 122.1, 123.18, 123.22 (t, *J* = 254.7 Hz), 127.6 (t, *J* = 1.5 Hz), 128.7, 129.0, 129.1 (t, *J* = 24.0 Hz), 132.6, 133.4, 152.7 (t, *J* = 9.6 Hz), 169.3 (t, *J* = 24.6 Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -116.4. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₄H₁₀F₂N [M+H]⁺ 230.0781, found 230.0779.



3,3-Difluoro-2-(*p*-tolyl)-3*H*-indole (**2b**)⁶

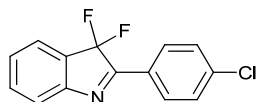
The reaction time was 6 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 75/1, v/v) afforded **2b** as an orange solid (59 mg, 81% yield). M.p.: 84-85 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.45 (s, 3H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.48-7.57 (m, 3H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 21.9, 121.9, 123.1, 123.3 (t, *J* = 254.6 Hz), 126.4 (t, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 127.4, 128.7, 129.1 (t, *J* = 24.1 Hz), 129.8, 133.4, 143.5, 152.9 (t, *J* = 9.7 Hz), 169.3 (t, *J* = 24.6 Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -115.9. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₅H₁₂F₂N [M+H]⁺ 244.0938, found 244.0937.



3,3-Difluoro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3*H*-indole (**2c**)⁶

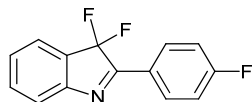
The reaction time was 6 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1, v/v) afforded **2c** as an orange solid (47 mg, 60% yield). M.p.: 101-103 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 3.88 (s, 3H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.64 (m, 2H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 55.6, 115.0, 120.5 (t, *J* =

2.4 Hz), 121.6, 123.0 (t, $J = 254.7$ Hz), 123.4, 127.5, 127.6 (t, $J = 23.6$ Hz), 130.2, 134.0, 152.2 (t, $J = 10.0$ Hz), 163.1, 167.5 (t, $J = 24.4$ Hz) ppm. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, DMSO): $\delta = -114.1$. HRMS (ESI $^{+}$): calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_2\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^{+}$ 260.0887, found 260.0882.



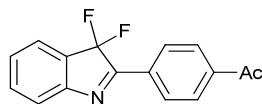
2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-3,3-difluoro-3H-indole (**2d**)⁶

The reaction time was 12 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 80/1, v/v) afforded **2d** as an orange solid (59 mg, 75% yield). M.p.: 82-83 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 7.31$ (td, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.53 (m, 4H), 7.57 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 122.2$, 123.1 (t, $J = 254.6$ Hz), 123.3, 127.5 (t, $J = 2.8$ Hz), 127.8, 128.9 (t, $J = 23.9$ Hz), 129.4, 129.9, 133.5, 139.0, 152.6 (t, $J = 9.6$ Hz), 168.3 (t, $J = 24.8$ Hz) ppm. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = -116.7$. HRMS (ESI $^{+}$): calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_9\text{ClF}_2\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^{+}$ 264.0392, found 264.0387.



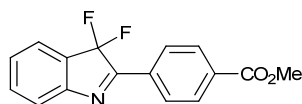
3,3-Difluoro-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-3H-indole (**2e**)

The reaction time was 12 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 80/1, v/v) afforded **2e** as an orange solid (50 mg, 67% yield). M.p.: 81-83 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 7.21$ (t, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.57 (m, 3H), 8.20-8.23 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 116.4$ (d, $J = 21.9$ Hz), 122.1, 123.1 (t, $J = 254.6$ Hz), 123.2, 125.4 (q, $J = 3.0$ Hz), 127.6, 128.9 (t, $J = 23.8$ Hz), 131.1 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz), 133.5, 152.7 (t, $J = 9.7$ Hz), 165.5 (d, $J = 253.3$ Hz), 168.2 (t, $J = 25.0$ Hz) ppm. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = -105.4$, -116.3. HRMS (ESI $^{+}$): calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_9\text{F}_3\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^{+}$ 248.0687, found 248.0686.



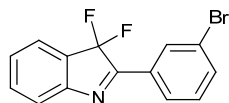
1-(4-(3,3-Difluoro-3H-indol-2-yl)phenyl)ethanone (**2f**)

The reaction time was 12 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20/1, v/v) afforded **2f** as a pale yellow solid (61 mg, 75% yield). M.p.: 107-109 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.66 (s, 3H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.28 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 26.9, 122.6, 123.0 (t, *J* = 254.6 Hz), 123.3, 128.3, 128.8, 129.0 (t, *J* = 24.0 Hz), 132.8 (t, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 133.6, 139.6, 152.4 (t, *J* = 9.4 Hz), 168.4 (t, *J* = 24.8 Hz), 197.5 ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -117.3. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₆H₁₁F₂NNaO [M+Na]⁺ 294.0706, found 294.0712.



Methyl 4-(3,3-difluoro-3H-indol-2-yl)benzoate (**2g**)

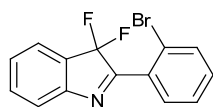
The reaction time was 12 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20/1, v/v) afforded **2g** as an orange solid (60 mg, 70% yield). M.p.: 109-110 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 3.96 (s, 3H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.59 (m, 2H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 8.26 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 52.6, 122.5, 123.0 (t, *J* = 254.8 Hz), 123.3, 128.2, 128.5, 129.0 (t, *J* = 23.9 Hz), 130.1, 132.8 (t, *J* = 2.6 Hz), 133.3, 133.6, 152.4 (t, *J* = 9.5 Hz), 166.4, 168.5 (t, *J* = 24.9 Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -117.3. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₆H₁₁F₂NNaO₂ [M+Na]⁺ 310.0656, found 310.0664.



2-(3-Bromophenyl)-3,3-difluoro-3H-indole (**2h**)⁶

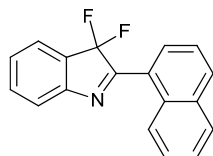
The reaction time was 12 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel

(petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 80/1, v/v) afforded **2h** as a yellow solid (69 mg, 75% yield). M.p.: 157-158 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.32 (td, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.58 (m, 3H), 7.69 (dd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 122.4, 122.9 (t, *J* = 254.8 Hz), 123.25, 123.29, 127.2 (t, *J* = 1.4 Hz), 128.1, 128.9 (t, *J* = 23.9 Hz), 130.5, 130.9 (t, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 131.3, 133.5, 135.4, 152.3 (t, *J* = 9.4 Hz), 168.0 (t, *J* = 24.9 Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -117.0. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₄H₉BrF₂N [M+H]⁺ 307.9886, found 307.9882.



2-(2-Bromophenyl)-3,3-difluoro-3H-indole (**2i**)

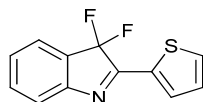
The reaction time was 6 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 80/1, v/v) afforded **2i** as yellow liquid (58 mg, 63% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.33-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.45 (td, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 122.7, 122.87, 122.92 (t, *J* = 255.6 Hz), 123.3, 127.4, 128.1, 128.3, 128.4, 130.5 (t, *J* = 3.1 Hz), 132.0, 133.5, 134.8, 152.2 (t, *J* = 9.4 Hz), 169.2 (t, *J* = 24.8 Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -119.9. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₄H₉BrF₂N [M+H]⁺ 307.9886, found 307.9882.



3,3-Difluoro-2-(naphthalen-1-yl)-3H-indole (**2j**)⁶

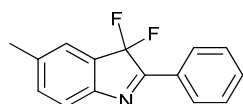
The reaction time was 12 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 80/1, v/v) afforded **2j** as an orange solid (60 mg, 72% yield). M.p.: 111-112 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.65 (m, 4H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (dd, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.40 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 9.66 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz,

1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 122.3, 123.0, 124.2 (t, J = 256.6 Hz), 124.9, 125.2 (t, J = 2.6 Hz), 126.6, 127.1, 127.7, 128.3 (t, J = 24.4 Hz), 128.4, 129.0, 130.7 (t, J = 4.9 Hz), 132.0, 133.4, 133.5, 134.4, 152.9 (t, J = 10.0 Hz), 169.6 (t, J = 23.2 Hz) ppm. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = -112.7. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_2\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 280.0938, found 280.0940.



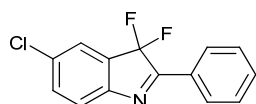
3,3-Difluoro-2-(thiophen-2-yl)-3H-indole (2k)

The reaction time was 12 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 80/1, v/v) afforded **2k** as a yellow solid (61 mg, 86% yield). M.p.: 122-124 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.22-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.56 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.87-7.88 (m, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 121.9, 122.5 (t, J = 254.8 Hz), 123.3, 127.3, 128.4 (t, J = 23.6 Hz), 128.8, 132.7, 133.0 (t, J = 1.8 Hz), 133.2 (t, J = 3.0 Hz), 133.6, 153.2 (t, J = 9.5 Hz), 164.7 (t, J = 25.7 Hz) ppm. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = -115.0. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_8\text{F}_2\text{NS}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 236.0346, found 236.0342.



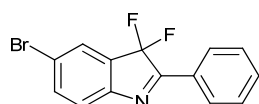
3,3-Difluoro-5-methyl-2-phenyl-3H-indole (2l)

The reaction time was 12 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 80/1, v/v) afforded **2l** as a pink solid (55 mg, 75% yield). M.p.: 139-140 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.42 (s, 3H), 7.30 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (s, 1H), 7.43 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.58 (m, 3H), 8.19 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 21.5, 121.7, 123.3 (t, J = 254.7 Hz), 124.0, 128.5, 129.0, 129.18-129.24 (m), 132.4, 133.6, 138.0, 150.4 (t, J = 9.6 Hz), 168.6 (t, J = 24.6 Hz) ppm. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = -116.1. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_2\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 244.0938, found 244.0935.



5-Chloro-3,3-difluoro-2-phenyl-3H-indole (**2m**)

The reaction was stirred at 100 °C for 2 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100/1, v/v) afforded **2m** as an orange solid (52 mg, 66% yield). M.p.: 71-72 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.45-7.61 (m, 6H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 122.7 (t, *J* = 256.2 Hz), 123.0, 123.9, 128.7, 129.1, 130.6 (t, *J* = 24.2 Hz), 132.9, 133.3, 133.5 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz), 151.2 (t, *J* = 9.4 Hz), 169.5 (t, *J* = 24.4 Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -116.0. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₄H₉ClF₂N [M+H]⁺ 264.0392, found 264.0390.



5-Bromo-3,3-difluoro-2-phenyl-3H-indole (**2n**)

The reaction was stirred at 100 °C for 2 h. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100/1, v/v) afforded **2n** as a yellow solid (65 mg, 70% yield). M.p.: 216-218 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.58-7.61 (m, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 121.1 (t, *J* = 1.8 Hz), 122.7 (t, *J* = 256.3 Hz), 123.4, 126.7, 128.7, 128.8, 129.1, 130.9 (t, *J* = 24.2 Hz), 133.0, 136.3, 151.6 (t, *J* = 9.4 Hz), 169.4 (t, *J* = 24.3 Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -115.9. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₄H₉BrF₂N [M+H]⁺ 307.9886, found 307.9889.

IV. Ag-catalyzed one-pot synthesis of 3,3-difluoroindolin-2-ols

i. Optimization of the Ag-catalyzed cyclization of 2-alkynylanilines

A mixture of *N*-methyl-2-(phenylethynyl)aniline **3a** (41 mg, 0.2 mmol), catalyst, and solvent (1.0 mL) was stirred at the indicated temperature under an air atmosphere.

After the completion of the reaction as monitored by TLC, the solution was cooled to ambient temperature. The solvent was evaporated and the residue was analyzed by crude ^1H NMR with mesitylene as the internal standard.

Table S2 Optimization of the Ag-catalyzed cyclization of *N*-methyl-2-(phenylethynyl)aniline **3a**^a

Reaction scheme: **3a** (N-methyl-2-(phenylethynyl)aniline) $\xrightarrow[\text{Solvent, Temp., Time}]{\text{Catalyst}}$ **4a** (2-phenyl-1-methylindole)

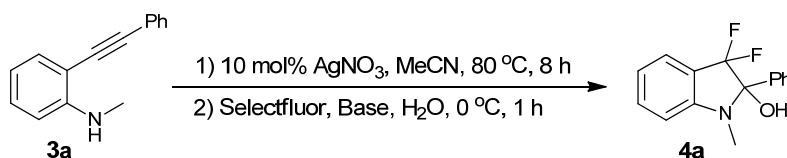
Entry	Catalyst (equiv)	Solvent	Temp. (°C)	Time (h)	Yield (%) ^b
1	AgOTf (0.1)	toluene	110	2	67
2	AgOTf (0.1)	1,4-dioxane	110	2	34
3	AgOTf (0.1)	THF	110	2	63
4	AgOTf (0.1)	EtOH	110	2	68
5	AgOTf (0.1)	DCE	110	2	84
6	AgOTf (0.1)	MeCN	110	2	92
7	AgOAc (0.1)	MeCN	110	2	90
8	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (0.05)	MeCN	110	2	22
9	AgSbF ₆ (0.1)	MeCN	110	2	84
10	AgNO ₃ (0.1)	MeCN	110	2	90 (97) ^c
11	AgNO ₃ (0.1)	MeCN	80	8	90 (99) ^c

^a Reaction conditions: **3a** (0.2 mmol), catalyst, and solvent (1.0 mL) under air. ^b NMR yield with mesitylene as the internal standard. ^c Isolated yields are given in the parentheses. AgOTf = silver trifluoromethanesulfonate, AgSbF₆ = silver hexafluoroantimonate, THF = tetrahydrofuran, DCE = 1,2-dichloroethane.

ii. Optimization of the Ag-catalyzed one-pot synthesis of 3,3-difluoroindolin-2-ols

A mixture of *N*-methyl-2-(phenylethynyl)aniline **3a** (62 mg, 0.3 mmol), AgNO₃ (5.1 mg, 0.03 mmol), and MeCN (1.5 mL) was stirred at 80 °C for 8 h under an air atmosphere. The reaction solution was then cooled to 0 °C, and successively added base (0.3 mmol), Selectfluor (212 mg, 0.6 mmol) and H₂O (16.2 μL, 0.9 mmol). After being stirred at 0 °C for 1 h, the reaction mixture was added Et₃N (0.5 mL). The solvent was then evaporated and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate/Et₃N = 10/1/0.03, v/v/v) to afford the desired products **4a**.

Table S3 Optimization of the Ag-catalyzed one-pot cyclization/difluorohydroxylation of *N*-methyl-2-(1-alkynyl)anilines **3a**

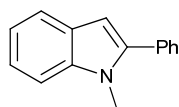


Entry	Base	Isolated Yield (%)
1	NaHCO ₃	79
2	Na ₂ CO ₃	73
3	K ₂ CO ₃	52
4	K ₃ PO ₄	61
5	None	91

iii. General procedure for the Ag-catalyzed one-pot synthesis of 3,3-difluoroindolin-2-ols

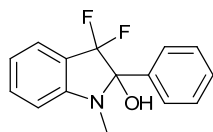
A mixture of *N*-substituted-2-(1-alkynyl)aniline **3** (0.3 mmol), AgNO₃ (5.1 mg, 0.03 mmol), and MeCN (1.5 mL) was stirred at 80 °C under an air atmosphere. After the completion of the reaction as monitored by TLC, the reaction solution was cooled to 0 °C, and successively added Selectfluor (212 mg, 0.6 mmol) and H₂O (16.2 μL, 0.9 mmol) under air. After being stirred at 0 °C for 0.5-2 h, the reaction mixture was added Et₃N (0.5 mL). The solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to afford the desired product **4**.

iv. Characterization of products 4' and 4



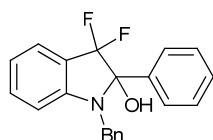
1-Methyl-2-phenyl-1H-indole (**4'**)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1, v/v) afforded **4'** as a white solid in 99% yield. M.p.: 99-100 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 3.79 (s, 3H), 6.63 (t, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.31 (td, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.58 (m, 4H), 7.70 (dd, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 31.3, 101.8, 109.7, 120.0, 120.6, 121.8, 128.0, 128.1, 128.6, 129.5, 133.0, 138.5, 141.7 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₅H₁₄N [M+H]⁺ 208.1126, found 208.1125.



3,3-Difluoro-1-methyl-2-phenylindolin-2-ol (**4a**)¹³

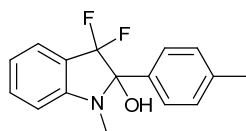
The reaction time of the cyclization and difluorohydroxylation was 8 h and 1 h, respectively. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate/Et₃N = 10/1/0.03, v/v/v) afforded **4a** as a yellow solid (71 mg, 91% yield). M.p.: >110 °C (dec.). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.72 (s, 3H), 3.15 (s, 1H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.46 (m, 5H), 7.55-7.56 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 28.4, 96.3 (dd, *J* = 31.0 Hz, 22.2 Hz), 107.9, 119.0, 119.8 (t, *J* = 25.1 Hz), 123.2 (t, *J* = 250.5 Hz), 124.6, 127.7, 128.4, 129.2, 133.7, 134.6 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz), 151.4 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -111.0 (d, *J* = 250.0 Hz), -98.5 (d, *J* = 250.0 Hz). HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₅H₁₄F₂NO [M+H]⁺ 262.1043, found 262.1042.



1-Benzyl-3,3-difluoro-2-phenylindolin-2-ol (**4b**)¹³

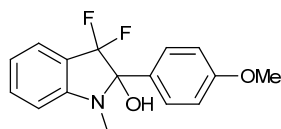
The reaction time of the cyclization and difluorohydroxylation was 12 h and 0.5 h, respectively. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate/Et₃N = 10/1/0.03, v/v/v) afforded **4b** as a yellow solid (81 mg, 80% yield). M.p.: 102-104 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 3.39 (s, 1H), 4.28 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 2H), 6.46 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.42 (m, 9H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.63 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 48.1, 97.0 (dd, *J* = 30.0 Hz, 22.3 Hz), 109.0, 119.4, 120.2 (t, *J* = 25.0 Hz), 123.1 (dd, *J* = 251.9 Hz, 249.2 Hz), 124.5, 126.8, 127.2, 127.6, 128.4, 128.8, 129.2, 133.5, 134.9 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz), 138.1, 150.9 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -107.3 (dd, *J* = 248.9 Hz, 6.8 Hz), -101.9 (dd, *J* = 248.9 Hz, 13.9 Hz). HRMS (ESI⁺):

calcd for $C_{21}H_{18}F_2NO$ $[M+H]^+$ 338.1356, found 338.1350.



3,3-Difluoro-1-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)indolin-2-ol (**4c**)¹³

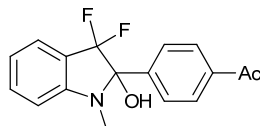
The reaction time of the cyclization and difluorohydroxylation was 8 h and 1 h, respectively. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate/ Et_3N = 10/1/0.03, v/v/v) afforded **4c** as a yellow solid (69 mg, 84% yield). M.p.: 103-104 °C. 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.72 (s, 3H), 3.14 (s, 1H), 6.67 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.41-7.46 (m, 4H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 21.3, 28.4, 96.3 (dd, J = 31.2 Hz, 22.1 Hz), 107.8, 118.9, 119.9 (t, J = 25.0 Hz), 123.2 (t, J = 250.4 Hz), 124.5, 127.6, 129.2, 131.6 (d, J = 2.5 Hz), 133.6, 139.0, 151.4 (t, J = 6.6 Hz) ppm. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = -111.6 (d, J = 249.7 Hz), -98.4 (d, J = 249.7 Hz). HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for $C_{16}H_{15}F_2NNaO$ $[M+Na]^+$ 298.1019, found 298.1019.



3,3-Difluoro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methylindolin-2-ol (**4d**)¹³

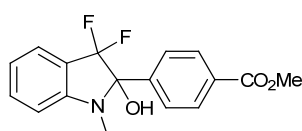
The reaction time of the cyclization and difluorohydroxylation was 8 h and 0.5 h, respectively. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate/ Et_3N = 8/1/0.03, v/v/v) afforded **4d** as yellow liquid (67 mg, 77% yield). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 2.70 (s, 3H), 3.13 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 6.65 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.90-6.94 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.46 (m, 4H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 28.3, 55.4, 96.2 (dd, J = 31.2 Hz, 22.0 Hz), 107.9, 113.8, 119.0 (d, J = 1.7 Hz), 119.9 (t, J = 25.0 Hz), 123.2 (t, J = 250.2 Hz), 124.6, 126.5 (d, J = 2.6 Hz), 129.0 (d, J = 1.0 Hz), 133.6, 151.4 (dd, J = 7.2 Hz, 5.9 Hz), 160.3 ppm. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = -112.3 (d, J = 249.3 Hz), -98.1 (d,

$J = 249.7$ Hz). HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₆H₁₆F₂NO₂ [M+H]⁺ 292.1149, found 292.1143.



1-(4-(3,3-Difluoro-2-hydroxy-1-methylindolin-2-yl)phenyl)ethanone (4e)

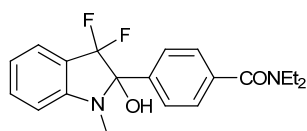
The reaction time of the cyclization and difluorohydroxylation was 16 h and 1 h, respectively. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate/Et₃N = 4/1/0.03, v/v/v) afforded **4e** as a pale yellow solid (71 mg, 78% yield). M.p.: >138 °C (dec.). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.59 (s, 3H), 2.69 (s, 3H), 3.44 (s, 1H), 6.66 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.95 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 26.8, 28.4, 96.0 (dd, J = 31.2 Hz, 22.2 Hz), 108.0, 119.3 (t, J = 1.7 Hz), 119.5 (t, J = 25.0 Hz), 123.2 (t, J = 251.2 Hz), 124.6, 128.1 (d, J = 1.4 Hz), 128.4, 133.8, 137.7, 140.0 (d, J = 2.6 Hz), 151.2 (dd, J = 7.3 Hz, 6.0 Hz), 198.1 ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -109.9 (d, J = 250.8 Hz), -98.1 (d, J = 250.8 Hz). HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₇H₁₅F₂NNaO₂ [M+Na]⁺ 326.0969, found 326.0969.



Methyl 4-(3,3-difluoro-2-hydroxy-1-methylindolin-2-yl)benzoate (4f)

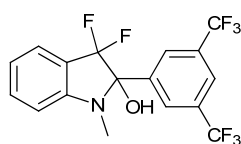
The reaction time of the cyclization and difluorohydroxylation was 12 h and 1 h, respectively. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate/Et₃N = 5/1/0.03, v/v/v) afforded **4f** as a pale yellow solid (79 mg, 82% yield). M.p.: >140 °C (dec.). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.69 (s, 3H), 3.42 (s, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 6.66 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.61 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.04 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 28.4, 52.3, 96.0 (dd, J = 31.2 Hz, 22.2 Hz), 108.0, 119.2 (d, J = 1.7 Hz),

119.5 (t, $J = 25.0$ Hz), 123.2 (t, $J = 251.2$ Hz), 124.6, 127.8 (d, $J = 1.3$ Hz), 129.6, 130.8, 133.8, 139.8 (d, $J = 2.8$ Hz), 151.2 (dd, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 6.2 Hz), 166.9 ppm. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = -110.3$ (d, $J = 250.4$ Hz), -97.7 (d, $J = 250.8$ Hz). HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_2\text{NNaO}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 342.0918, found 342.0915.



4-(3,3-Difluoro-2-hydroxy-1-methylindolin-2-yl)-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide (**4g**)

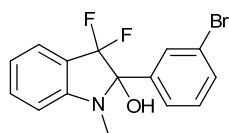
The reaction time of the cyclization and difluorohydroxylation was 12 h and 1 h, respectively. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate/ $\text{Et}_3\text{N} = 2/1/0.03$, v/v/v) afforded **4g** as a pale yellow solid (79 mg, 73% yield). M.p.: >145 °C (dec.). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 1.08$ (s, 3H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 2.61 (s, 3H), 3.23 (s, 2H), 3.50 (s, 2H), 4.25 (s, 1H), 6.62 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.83 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.53 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 12.8$, 14.2, 28.2, 39.3, 43.3, 95.9 (dd, $J = 31.5$ Hz, 21.8 Hz), 107.9, 118.8, 119.8 (t, $J = 24.9$ Hz), 123.1 (dd, $J = 251.6$ Hz, 250.2 Hz), 124.3, 126.2, 127.8, 133.4, 136.2 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz), 137.4, 151.4 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz), 171.0 ppm. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = -111.4$ (d, $J = 249.7$ Hz), -97.5 (d, $J = 249.7$ Hz). HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{23}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 361.1728, found 361.1724.



2-(3,5-Bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-3,3-difluoro-1-methylindolin-2-ol (**4h**)

The reaction time of the cyclization and difluorohydroxylation was 16 h and 2 h, respectively. NaHCO_3 (25 mg, 0.3 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture after the cyclization reaction. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate/ $\text{Et}_3\text{N} = 10/1/0.03$, v/v/v) afforded **4h** as yellow liquid (93 mg, 78%

yield). Product **4h** was obtained in 57% yield in the absence of NaHCO₃. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.72 (s, 3H), 3.47 (br. s, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.96 (s, 1H), 8.09 (s, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 28.4, 95.7 (dd, *J* = 31.6 Hz, 22.4 Hz), 108.7, 119.1 (t, *J* = 24.9 Hz), 120.0, 122.1, 123.1 (t, *J* = 251.8 Hz), 123.3-123.5 (m), 124.8, 128.5, 132.0 (q, *J* = 33.3 Hz), 134.2, 138.0 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz), 151.1 (dd, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 5.8 Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -113.5 (d, *J* = 251.5 Hz), -94.3 (d, *J* = 251.9 Hz), -62.9. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₇H₁₂F₈NO [M+H]⁺ 398.0791, found 398.0787.



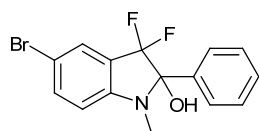
2-(3-Bromophenyl)-3,3-difluoro-1-methylindolin-2-ol (**4i**)

The reaction time of the cyclization and difluorohydroxylation was 8 h and 1.5 h, respectively. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate/Et₃N = 10/1/0.03, v/v/v) afforded **4i** as yellow liquid (84 mg, 82% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.73 (s, 3H), 3.19 (br. s, 1H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.54-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.78 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 28.4, 95.7 (dd, *J* = 31.1 Hz, 22.2 Hz), 108.1, 119.3 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz), 119.4 (t, *J* = 25.0 Hz), 122.7, 123.1 (t, *J* = 251.2 Hz), 124.7, 126.4 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz), 129.9, 131.0 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz), 132.3, 133.8 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz), 137.1 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz), 151.2 (dd, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 6.0 Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -111.1 (d, *J* = 250.8 Hz), -97.3 (d, *J* = 250.8 Hz). HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₅H₁₃BrF₂NO [M+H]⁺ 340.0149, found 340.0150.



3,3-Difluoro-1,5-dimethyl-2-phenylindolin-2-ol (**4j**)

The reaction time of the cyclization and difluorohydroxylation was 8 h and 0.5 h, respectively. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate/Et₃N = 10/1/0.03, v/v/v) afforded **4j** as yellow liquid (56 mg, 68% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.70 (s, 3H), 3.19 (br. s, 1H), 6.61 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (s, 1H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 3H), 7.57-7.59 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 20.7, 28.5, 96.5 (dd, *J* = 31.4 Hz, 22.0 Hz), 107.9, 119.9 (t, *J* = 24.8 Hz), 123.3 (t, *J* = 250.7 Hz), 124.8, 127.7, 128.3, 128.6 (t, *J* = 1.8 Hz), 129.1, 134.1 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz), 134.7 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz), 149.4 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -111.8 (d, *J* = 249.7 Hz), -98.0 (dd, *J* = 249.7 Hz, 5.6 Hz). HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₆H₁₆F₂NO [M+H]⁺ 276.1200, found 276.1197.



5-Bromo-3,3-difluoro-1-methyl-2-phenylindolin-2-ol (**4k**)¹³

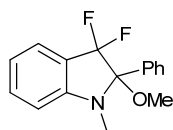
The reaction time of the cyclization and difluorohydroxylation was 12 h and 0.5 h, respectively. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate/Et₃N = 10/1/0.03, v/v/v) afforded **4k** as a yellow solid (65 mg, 64% yield). M.p.: 100-101 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.69 (s, 3H), 3.19 (br. s, 1H), 6.54 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.48-7.54 (m, 4H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 28.4, 96.4 (dd, *J* = 30.8 Hz, 21.8 Hz), 109.4, 110.2 (t, *J* = 2.0 Hz), 121.7 (t, *J* = 25.2 Hz), 122.3 (t, *J* = 251.7 Hz), 127.5 (t, *J* = 1.3 Hz), 128.5, 129.4, 134.1 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz), 136.3, 150.4 (dd, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 5.9 Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -110.6 (d, *J* = 250.4 Hz), -99.0 (d, *J* = 250.4 Hz). HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₅H₁₃BrF₂NO [M+H]⁺ 340.0149, found 340.0151.

V. Ag-catalyzed one-pot synthesis of 2-alkoxy-3,3-difluoroindolines

i. General procedure for the Ag-catalyzed one-pot cyclization/difluoroalkoxylation of **3a**

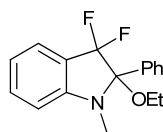
A flame-dried pressure tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with AgNO₃ (5.1 mg, 0.03 mmol), *N*-methyl-2-(phenylethynyl)aniline **3a** (62 mg, 0.3 mmol) and MeCN (1.5 mL) under N₂. After being stirred at 80 °C for 8 h, the reaction solution was cooled to 0 °C. 4Å MS (150 mg), Selectfluor (212 mg, 0.6 mmol), and alcohol (1.5 mmol) were then added successively under N₂. The resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 0.5-1 h and then added Et₃N (0.5 mL). The solution was diluted with 10 mL of CH₂Cl₂, filtered through a celite pad, and washed with 10-20 mL of CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic phases were concentrated and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to afford the desired products **5**.

ii. Characterization of products **5**



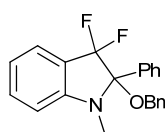
3,3-Difluoro-2-methoxy-1-methyl-2-phenylindoline (**5a**)¹³

The reaction time of the cyclization and difluoroalkoxylation was 8 h and 1 h, respectively. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate/Et₃N = 100/1/0.03, v/v/v) afforded **5a** as a white solid (61 mg, 74% yield). M.p.: 113-114 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.79 (s, 3H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.44 (m, 5H), 7.53-7.56 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 28.8, 52.8 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz), 98.8 (dd, *J* = 32.1 Hz, 21.4 Hz), 105.8, 118.4 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz), 120.3 (t, *J* = 24.6 Hz), 122.9 (dd, *J* = 255.8 Hz, 248.4 Hz), 123.7, 127.9 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz), 128.2, 128.9, 133.7 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz), 135.5 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 151.8 (dd, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 5.6 Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -115.3 (d, *J* = 256.1 Hz), -83.8 (d, *J* = 255.7 Hz). HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₆H₁₅F₂NNaO [M+Na]⁺ 298.1019, found 298.1020.



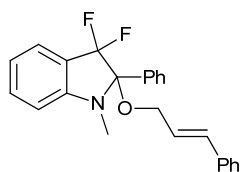
2-Ethoxy-3,3-difluoro-1-methyl-2-phenylindoline (**5b**)¹³

The reaction time of the cyclization and difluoroalkoxylation was 8 h and 1 h, respectively. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate/Et₃N = 100/1/0.03, v/v/v) afforded **5b** as a white solid (65 mg, 75% yield). M.p.: 122-124 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.24 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 2.78 (s, 3H), 3.23-3.30 (m, 1H), 3.45-3.52 (m, 1H), 6.64 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.44 (m, 5H), 7.57-7.60 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 15.4, 28.8, 60.4 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz), 98.6 (dd, *J* = 32.0 Hz, 21.3 Hz), 105.8, 118.3 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz), 120.3 (t, *J* = 24.6 Hz), 122.9 (dd, *J* = 255.8 Hz, 248.1 Hz), 123.6, 127.9 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz), 128.2, 128.8, 133.6 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz), 135.8 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 151.8 (dd, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 5.6 Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -115.2 (d, *J* = 254.9 Hz), -83.9 (d, *J* = 255.3 Hz). HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₇H₁₇F₂NNaO [M+Na]⁺ 312.1176, found 312.1178.



2-(Benzyloxy)-3,3-difluoro-1-methyl-2-phenylindoline (**5c**)¹³

The reaction time of the cyclization and difluoroalkoxylation was 8 h and 1 h, respectively. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate/Et₃N = 100/1/0.03, v/v/v) afforded **5c** as a white solid (67 mg, 64% yield). M.p.: 111-113 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.81 (s, 3H), 4.33 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 4.62 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.50 (m, 10H), 7.63-7.64 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 29.0, 66.7 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz), 98.9 (dd, *J* = 32.0 Hz, 21.3 Hz), 106.0, 118.6, 120.3 (t, *J* = 24.4 Hz), 123.0 (dd, *J* = 255.5 Hz, 248.9 Hz), 123.9, 127.4, 127.6, 128.0 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz), 128.2, 128.4, 128.9, 133.8, 135.5 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 138.2, 151.7 (dd, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 5.6 Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -113.9 (d, *J* = 255.3 Hz), -83.9 (d, *J* = 255.7 Hz). HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₂H₁₉F₂NNaO [M+Na]⁺ 374.1332, found 374.1332.



2-(Cinnamyloxy)-3,3-difluoro-1-methyl-2-phenylindoline (**5d**)¹³

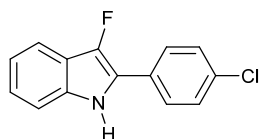
The reaction time of the cyclization and difluoroalkoxylation was 8 h and 0.5 h, respectively. NaHCO₃ (25 mg, 0.3 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture after the cyclization reaction. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate/Et₃N = 100/1/0.03, v/v/v) afforded **5d** as a white solid (70 mg, 62% yield). M.p.: 98-100 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.82 (s, 3H), 3.97 (dd, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (dd, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 6.30 (dt, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.38-7.47 (m, 7H), 7.61-7.63 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 29.0, 65.5 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz), 98.8 (dd, *J* = 32.1 Hz, 21.4 Hz), 106.0, 118.5, 120.2 (t, *J* = 24.6 Hz), 123.0 (dd, *J* = 255.5 Hz, 248.6 Hz), 123.9, 125.7, 126.6, 127.7, 127.9 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz), 128.2, 128.7, 128.9, 131.7, 133.8 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz), 135.5 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz), 136.9, 151.7 (dd, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 5.7 Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -113.4 (d, *J* = 255.3 Hz), -84.1 (d, *J* = 255.7 Hz). HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₄H₂₁F₂NNaO [M+Na]⁺ 400.1489, found 400.1496.

VI. Ag-catalyzed one-pot synthesis of 3-fluoroindoles

i. General procedure for the Ag-catalyzed one-pot synthesis of 3-fluoroindoles

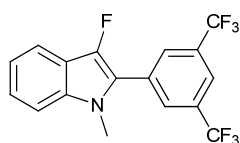
A mixture of 2-alkynylanilines **1** or **3** (0.3 mmol), AgNO₃ (5.1 mg, 0.03 mmol), and MeCN (1.5 mL) was stirred at 80 °C under a nitrogen atmosphere until the reaction was complete as monitored by TLC. The reaction solution was then cooled to room temperature, and added Selectfluor (127 mg, 0.36 mmol). After being stirred at room temperature for 6-15 h, the reaction mixture was added Et₃N (0.5 mL). The solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to afford the desired products **6**.

ii. Characterization of products 6



2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-3-fluoro-1*H*-indole (**6a**)⁶

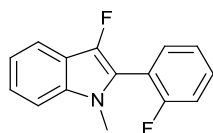
The reaction time of the cyclization and monofluorination was 30 h and 15 h, respectively. Selectfluor (138.2 mg, 0.39 mmol) was used. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 25/1, v/v) afforded **6a** as a yellow solid (42 mg, 57% yield). The difluorinated product **2d** was also obtained in 25% yield (20 mg). M.p.: 133-135 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.16 (td, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (dd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (dd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (dt, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 7.63-7.66 (m, 3H), 7.74 (br. s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 111.5 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz), 117.2 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz), 118.6 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz), 118.7, 120.7, 123.9, 126.6 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz), 128.6 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz), 129.4, 132.7 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 133.3 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz), 142.8 (d, *J* = 247.8 Hz) ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -169.5. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₄H₈ClFN [M-H]⁺ 244.0329, found 244.0320.



2-(3,5-Bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-3-fluoro-1-methyl-1*H*-indole (**6b**)

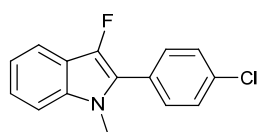
The reaction time of the cyclization and monofluorination was 16 h and 6 h, respectively. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) afforded **6b** as a white solid (62 mg, 57% yield). M.p.: 90-91 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 3.71 (s, 3H), 7.21 (td, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.98 (s, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 31.4, 110.1 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz), 116.7 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz), 117.5 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz), 120.5, 120.7, 121.4-121.6 (m), 123.3 (q, *J* = 271.2 Hz), 124.3, 129.4 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz), 131.3 (d, *J* =

3.6 Hz), 132.4 (q, $J = 33.3$ Hz), 135.1 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz), 143.1 (d, $J = 248.3$ Hz) ppm. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = -63.0$, -172.5 . HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{11}\text{F}_7\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 362.0780, found 362.0781.



3-Fluoro-2-(2-fluorophenyl)-1-methyl-1H-indole (6c)

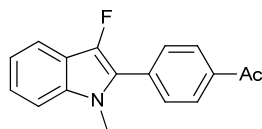
The reaction time of the cyclization and monofluorination was 16 h and 6 h, respectively. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) afforded **6c** as colorless liquid (38 mg, 52% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 3.62$ (s, 3H), 7.17-7.21 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.44-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.69 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 30.8$ (d, $J = 3.6$ Hz), 109.7 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz), 116.3 (d, $J = 21.8$ Hz), 116.6 (d, $J = 15.7$ Hz), 116.9 (d, $J = 3.3$ Hz), 117.0 (d, $J = 2.6$ Hz), 117.9 (d, $J = 22.0$ Hz), 119.8, 123.0, 124.5 (d, $J = 3.6$ Hz), 130.9 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 132.8 (t, $J = 2.2$ Hz), 134.0 (d, $J = 5.6$ Hz), 142.3 (d, $J = 244.0$ Hz), 160.3 (d, $J = 247.7$ Hz) ppm. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = -112.6$ (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz), -173.4 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz). HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_2\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 244.0938, found 244.0940.



2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-3-fluoro-1-methyl-1H-indole (6d)

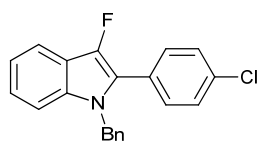
The reaction time of the cyclization and monofluorination was 12 h and 4 h, respectively. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) afforded **6d** as a white solid (45 mg, 58% yield). M.p.: 110-111 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 3.67$ (s, 3H), 7.19 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 31.2$, 109.8 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz), 116.8 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz), 117.0 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz), 120.1, 122.5 (d, $J = 20.3$ Hz), 123.2, 127.5 (d, $J =$

3.4 Hz), 129.1, 131.0 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz), 134.2 (d, $J = 4.3$ Hz), 142.0 (d, $J = 244.2$ Hz) ppm. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = -174.8$. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{ClFN}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 260.0642, found 260.0641.



1-(4-(3-Fluoro-1-methyl-1H-indol-2-yl)phenyl)ethanone (**6e**)

The reaction time of the cyclization and monofluorination was 16 h and 4 h, respectively. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10/1, v/v) afforded **6e** as a pale yellow solid (24 mg, 30% yield). M.p.: 144-145 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 2.66$ (s, 3H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 7.19 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.64 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 26.8$, 31.5, 109.9 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz), 116.8 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz), 117.2 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz), 120.3, 122.6 (d, $J = 19.6$ Hz), 123.6, 128.8, 129.6 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz), 133.8 (d, $J = 3.6$ Hz), 134.8 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz), 136.1, 142.7 (d, $J = 246.7$ Hz), 197.7 ppm. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = -172.9$. HRMS (ESI^+): calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{FNNaO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 290.0957, found 290.0961.



1-Benzyl-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-fluoro-1H-indole (**6f**)

The reaction time of the cyclization and monofluorination was 16 h and 10 h, respectively. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) afforded **6f** as pale yellow liquid (45 mg, 45% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 5.28$ (s, 2H), 7.01 (dd, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.17-7.22 (m, 3H), 7.27-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.37-7.42 (m, 4H), 7.69-7.71 (m, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 47.7$, 110.6 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz), 117.1 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz), 117.4 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz), 120.5, 122.6 (d, $J = 20.3$ Hz), 123.4, 126.0, 127.4 (d, $J = 3.5$ Hz), 127.6, 129.0, 129.1, 130.9 (d, $J =$

2.0 Hz), 134.0 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz), 134.4, 137.8, 142.3 (d, $J = 244.9$ Hz) ppm. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = -174.0$. HRMS (ESI $^+$): calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClFNNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 358.0775, found 358.0772.

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VIII. Copies of ^1H , ^{13}C and ^{19}F NMR spectra

