Supporting Information

Synthesis of Fused 3-Trifluoromethyl-1,2,4-Triazoles via

Base-Promoted [3+2] Cycloaddition of Nitrile Imines and

1H-Benzo[d]imidazole-2-thiols

Kaili Cen,^{+a} Jiahao Wei,^{+c} Yuting Feng,^{+d} Yuan Liu,^d Xinye Wang,^d Yangyu Liu,^d Yalin Yin,^a Junhong Yu,^a Dahan Wang^{*b} and Jinhui Cai^{*a}

^aCollege of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, University of South China, Hengyang 421001,

Hunan, China

^bDepartment of Food and Chemical Engineering, Shaoyang University, Shaoyang 422100, Hunan,

China

^cSchool of Pharmaceutical Science, University of South China, Hengyang 421001, Hunan, China

^dChuanshan College University of South China, Hengyang 421001, Hunan, China

E-mail: jinhuicai@usc.edu.cn; syudhwang@163.com

⁺*These authors contributed equally to this work*

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1. General Information

Unless otherwise noted, all experiments were carried out under nitrogen atmosphere. Reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC). TLC was performed using Huanghai $8\pm0.2 \ \mu\text{m}$ precoated glass plates (0.25 mm) and visualized by UV fluorescence quenching and KMnO4. Huanghai silica gel (particle size 200 – 300 mesh) was used for chromatography. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded at room temperature on a Bruker ADVANCE III 500 MHz spectrometer and were reported relative to residual CDCl₃ (δ 7.26 ppm). ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker ADVANCE III 500 MHz spectrometer (125 MHz) and were reported relative to CDCl₃ (δ 77.16 ppm). ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker ADVANCE III 500 MHz spectrometer (471 MHz). Data for ¹H NMR were reported as chemical shift (δ ppm) (multiplicity, coupling constant (Hz), integration) using standard abbreviations for multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet. Data for ¹³C NMR and ¹⁹F NMR were reported in terms of chemical shifts (δ ppm). High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained by use of a Bruker Compact TOF mass spectrometer in electrospray ionization mode (ESI⁺).

Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were purchased commercially from Adamas, Innochem, Alfa, Energy Chemical, Sigma-Aldrich and used without further purification. Petroleum ether (PE) (60 ~ 90 °C), ethyl acetate (EA) and dichloromethane (DCM) were used as eluent for silica gel chromatography. Dry solvents were purchased commercially. Nitrile imines derivatives were synthesized smoothly according to literature.¹⁻²

2. General Procedure for Synthesis of Fused 3-Trifluoromethyl-1,2,4-Triazoles via Base-Promoted [3+2] Cycloaddition of Nitrile Imines and 1*H*-Benzo[d]imidazole-2-thiols



A mixture of 1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole-2-thiol **1** (15.3 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv.), nitrile imines **2** (0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), Et₃N (2 equiv.), and EA (1 mL) was added to a 10 mL Schlenk-tube, and the mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 12 hours. After the reaction was completed, the mixture was diluted with EA (20 mL) and filtered. The filtrates were concentrated under reduced pressure to give a crude residue which was purified by flash column chromatography to provide the desired product **3a** in 96% yield as a pale solid. R_f = 0.4 (PE : EA = 20 : 1). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.25 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.35 – 7.28 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.7, 149.9, 137.0, 129.8 (q, *J* = 43.8 Hz), 129.7, 126.7, 126.2, 124.5, 121.5, 120.0, 117.94 (q, *J* = 267.5 Hz), 117.90, 112.1. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -64.79. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calc'd for C₁₅H₁₀F₃N₄⁺ [M+H]⁺ : 303.0852, found 303.0855

3. Spectra Data of 3a-3x



1-Phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H***-benzo**[4,5]**imidazo**[2,1-*c*][1,2,4]**triazole (3a)** Following the general procedure, the desired product **3a** (29.0 mg) was obtained in 96% yield as a pale solid. $R_f = 0.4$ (PE : EA = 20 : 1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.25 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.35 – 7.28 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.7, 149.9, 137.0, 129.75 (q, J = 43.8 Hz), 129.71, 126.7, 126.2, 124.5, 121.5, 120.0, 117.94 (q, J = 267.5 Hz), 117.90, 112.1. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -64.79. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calc'd for C₁₅H₁₀F₃N₄⁺ [M+H]⁺ : 303.0852, found 303.0855.



1-(*p***-Tolyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1***H***-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-***c***][1,2,4]triazole (3b) Following the general procedure, the desired product 3b (29.1 mg) was obtained in 92% yield as a pale solid. R_f = 0.4 (PE : EA = 20 : 1).**

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.09 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.36 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.7, 150.0, 136.6, 134.7, 130.2, 129.5 (q, J = 43.8 Hz), 126.1, 124.6, 121.3, 120.0, 118.0 (q, J = 268.8 Hz), 117.8, 112.1, 21.2. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -64.74. HRMS (ESI⁺): calc'd for C₁₆H₁₂F₃N₄⁺ [M+H]⁺: 317.1009, found 317.1009.



1-(4-(*tert*-Butyl)phenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*c*][1,2,4]tri azole (3c)

Following the general procedure, the desired product **3c** (32.2 mg) was obtained in 90% yield as a pale solid. $R_f = 0.4$ (PE : EA = 20 : 1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.14 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.8

Hz, 1H), 1.37 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.9, 150.0, 134.6, 129.6 (q, *J* = 43.8 Hz), 126.6, 126.2, 124.7, 121.3, 120.0, 119.1, 118.0 (q, *J* = 268.8 Hz), 116.9, 112.1, 34.8, 31.5. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -64.73. HRMS (ESI⁺): calc'd for C₁₉H₁₈F₃N₄⁺ [M+H]⁺: 359.1478, found 359.1476.

3-(Trifluoromethyl)-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1*H*-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*c*][1,2,4]triazole (3d)

Following the general procedure, the desired product **3d** (26.6 mg) was obtained in 72% yield as a colorless oil. $R_f = 0.4$ (PE : EA = 20 : 1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.40 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.81 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.5, 149.8, 139.6, 130.6 (q, J = 43.8 Hz), 128.5 (q, J = 32.5 Hz), 127.0 (q, J = 3.8 Hz), 126.5, 124.6, 123.9 (q, J = 271.9 Hz), 122.0, 120.2, 117.79 (q, J = 268.8 Hz), 117.77, 112.2. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.29, -64.94. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calc'd for C₁₆H₉F₆N₄⁺ [M+H]⁺ : 371.0726, found 371.0725.

4-(3-(Trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*c*][1,2,4]triazol-1-yl)benzonitril e (3e)

Following the general procedure, the desired product **3e** (20.9 mg) was obtained in 64% yield as a pale solid. $R_f = 0.3$ (PE : EA = 10 : 1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.42 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.87 – 7.80 (m, 3H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.3, 149.7, 140.1, 133.9, 131.1 (q, J = 45.0 Hz), 126.6, 124.6, 122.3, 120.3, 118.4, 118.0, 117.7 (q, J = 268.8 Hz), 112.2, 109.9. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -64.98. HRMS (ESI⁺): calc'd for C₁₆H₉F₃N₅⁺ [M+H]⁺: 328.0805, found, 328.0802.

 F_3C NNN NO_2

1-(4-Nitrophenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*c*][1,2,4]triazole (3f)

Following the general procedure, the desired product **3f** (22.9 mg) was obtained in 66% yield as a pale solid. $R_f = 0.2$ (PE : EA = 10 : 1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.49 – 8.43 (m, 2H), 8.42 – 8.37 (m, 2H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.2, 149.6, 145.4, 141.5, 131.3 (q, J = 43.8 Hz), 126.6, 125.6, 124.7, 122.4, 120.4, 117.8, 117.6 (q, J = 270.0 Hz), 112.2. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -65.17. HRMS (ESI⁺): calc'd for C₁₅H₉F₃N₅O₂⁺ [M+H]⁺: 348.0703, found 348.0698.



1-(4-(Trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*c*] [1,2,4]triazole (3g)

Following the general procedure, the desired product **3g** (29.7 mg) was obtained in 77% yield as a colorless oil. $R_f = 0.3$ (PE : EA = 15 : 1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.34 – 8.28 (m, 2H), 7.81 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.52 – 7.47 (m, 1H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.5, 149.9, 147.2, 135.5, 130.2 (q, J = 45.0 Hz), 126.4, 124.7, 122.5, 121.8, 120.6 (q, J = 256.3 Hz), 120.1, 119.2, 117.8 (q, J = 268.8Hz), 112.2. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -58.05, -64.86. HRMS (ESI⁺): calc'd for C₁₆H₉F₆N₄O⁺ [M+H]⁺: 387.0675, found 387.0672.

$F_{3}C = N$ N = NN = NN = F

1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*c*][1,2,4]triazol e (3h)

Following the general procedure, the desired product **3h** (26.9 mg) was obtained in 84% yield as a colorless oil. $R_f = 0.4$ (PE : EA = 20 : 1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.30 – 8.18 (m, 2H), 7.86 – 7.72 (m, 2H), 7.55 – 7.45 (m, 1H), 7.36 – 7.20 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.0 (d, J = 245.0 Hz), 151.6, 149.9, 133.2, 129.8 (q, J = 45.0 Hz), 126.3, 124.7, 121.6, 120.0, 119.7 (d, J = 7.5 Hz), 117.9 (q, J = 268.8 Hz), 116.6 (d, J = 23.8 Hz), 112.2. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -64.79, -114.92. HRMS (ESI⁺): calc'd for C₁₅H₉F₄N₄⁺ [M+H]⁺: 321.0758, found 321.0755.



1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*c*][1,2,4]triazol e (3i)

Following the general procedure, the desired product **3i** (27.9 mg) was obtained in 83% yield as a colorless oil. $R_f = 0.4$ (PE : EA = 20 : 1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.22 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.81 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.54 – 7.45 (m, 3H), 7.32 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.5, 149.9, 135.6, 132.1, 129.8, 129.4 (q, J = 45.0 Hz), 126.4, 124.7, 121.7, 120.1, 119.1, 117.9 (q, J = 268.8 Hz), 112.2. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -64.83. HRMS (ESI⁺): calc'd for C₁₅H₉ClF₃N₄⁺ [M+H]⁺: 337.0462, found 337.0462.



1-(4-Bromophenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*c*][1,2,4]triazol e (3j)

Following the general procedure, the desired product **3j** (25.8 mg) was obtained in 68% yield as a pale solid. $R_f = 0.4$ (PE : EA = 20 : 1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.19 – 8.15 (m, 2H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.69 – 7.64 (m, 2H), 7.52 – 7.47 (m, 1H), 7.36 – 7.30 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.6, 149.9, 136.1, 132.7, 129.2 (q, J = 267.5 Hz), 126.5, 124.7, 121.8, 120.2, 119.9, 119.4, 117.9 (q, J = 267.5 Hz), 112.2. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -64.86. HRMS (ESI⁺): calc'd for C₁₅H₉BrF₃N₄⁺ [M+H]⁺: 380.9957, found 380.9957.

$\begin{array}{c} F_3C \\ \hline \\ N \\ \hline \\ N \\ N \\ \hline \\ N \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} CH_3 \\ CH_3 \\ \hline \\ CH_3 \\ \hline \\ \end{array}$

1-(*m*-Tolyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-c][1,2,4]triazole (3k)

Following the general procedure, the desired product **3k** (28.8 mg) was obtained in 91% yield as a pale solid. $R_f = 0.4$ (PE : EA = 20 : 1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.08 – 8.03 (m, 2H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.48 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.7, 149.9, 139.9, 137.0, 129.6 (q, J = 43.8 Hz), 129.5, 127.5, 126.1, 124.6, 121.4, 120.0, 118.4, 118.0 (q, J = 268.8 Hz), 115.1, 112.1, 21.8. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ

-64.75. HRMS (ESI⁺): calc'd for $C_{16}H_{12}F_3N_4^+$ [M+H]⁺: 317.1009, found 317.1010.

 $F_{3}C$ NNNN CF_{3}

3-(Trifluoromethyl)-1-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1*H*-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*c*][1,2,4]triazole (3l)

Following the general procedure, the desired product **3l** (27.0 mg) was obtained in 73% yield as a colorless oil. $R_f = 0.4$ (PE : EA = 20 : 1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.56 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.48 (s, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.5, 149.8, 137.5, 132.4 (q, J = 32.5 Hz), 130.46 (q, J = 45.0 Hz), 130.45, 126.4, 124.7, 123.7 (q, J = 271.3 Hz), 123.1 (q, J = 3.8 Hz), 121.9, 120.8, 120.3, 117.8 (q, J = 268.8 Hz), 114.8 (q, J = 3.8 Hz), 112.2. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.70, -64.88. HRMS (ESI⁺): calc'd for C₁₆H₉F₆N₄⁺ [M+H]⁺: 371.0726, found 371.0726.



1-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-c][1,2,4]triazole~(3m)

Following the general procedure, the desired product **3m** (25.6 mg) was obtained in 77% yield as a colorless oil. $R_f = 0.4$ (PE : EA = 20 : 1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.78 – 7.73 (m, 2H), 7.51 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.30 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.7, 151.7, 149.9, 138.1, 130.6, 129.7 (q, J = 43.8 Hz), 126.2, 124.6, 121.5, 120.1, 117.9 (q, J = 268.8 Hz), 112.7, 112.1, 110.1, 103.6, 55.7. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -64.77. HRMS (ESI⁺): calc'd for C₁₆H₁₂F₃N₄O⁺ [M+H]⁺: 333.0958, found 333.0959.



1-(3-Chlorophenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*c*][1,2,4]triazol e (3n)

Following the general procedure, the desired product **3n** (23.5 mg) was obtained in 70% yield as a colorless oil. $R_f = 0.3$ (PE : EA = 20 : 1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.27 – 8.24 (m, 1H), 8.22 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.52 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.28 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.5, 149.8, 137.9, 135.7, 130.8, 130.2 (q, J = 43.8Hz), 126.7, 126.3, 124.6, 121.8, 120.2, 118.0, 117.84 (q, J = 268.8 Hz), 115.9, 112.1. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -64.95. HRMS (ESI⁺): calc'd for C₁₅H₉ClF₃N₄⁺ [M+H]⁺: 337.0462, found 337.0462.



1-(3-Bromophenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*c*][1,2,4]triazol e (30)

Following the general procedure, the desired product **3o** (24.7 mg) was obtained in 65% yield as a pale solid. $R_f = 0.4$ (PE : EA = 20 : 1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.42 (s, 1H), 8.30 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.54 – 7.41 (m, 3H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.5, 149.9, 138.0, 131.1, 130.3 (q, J = 45.0 Hz), 129.7, 126.4, 124.7, 123.5, 121.8, 120.9, 120.2, 117.8 (q, J = 268.8 Hz), 116.4, 112.2. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -64.86. HRMS (ESI⁺): calc'd for C₁₅H₉BrF₃N₄⁺ [M+H]⁺: 380.9957, found 380.9956.



1-(*o*-Tolyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*c*][1,2,4]triazole (3p) Following the general procedure, the desired product 3p (16.1 mg) was obtained in 51% yield as a pale solid. $R_f = 0.4$ (PE : EA = 20 : 1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.80 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.44 – 7.36 (m, 3H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.4, 150.1, 134.8, 134.5, 132.1, 130.0 (q, J = 43.8 Hz), 129.8, 127.3, 126.14, 126.11, 125.3, 121.1, 119.9, 118.0 (q, J = 268.8 Hz), 112.2, 18.6. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -64.81. HRMS (ESI⁺): calc'd for C₁₆H₁₂F₃N₄⁺ [M+H]⁺: 317.1009, found 317.1009.



1-(2-Chlorophenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1 H-benzo [4,5] imidazo [2,1-c] [1,2,4] triazol [2,1-c] triazol [2,1-c] [1,2,4] triaz

e (3q)

Following the general procedure, the desired product **3q** (17.5 mg) was obtained in 52% yield as a colorless oil. $R_f = 0.4$ (PE : EA = 20 : 1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.80 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.72 – 7.68 (m, 1H), 7.65 – 7.61 (m, 1H), 7.52 – 7.44 (m, 3H), 7.32 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.2, 150.0, 133.3, 131.4, 131.3, 130.3 (q, J = 43.8 Hz), 128.6, 128.2, 126.2, 125.4, 121.4, 120.0, 117.8 (q, J = 268.8 Hz), 112.2. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -64.94. HRMS (ESI⁺): calc'd for C₁₅H₉ClF₃N₄⁺ [M+H]⁺: 337.0462, found 337.0461.



1-(3-Chloro-4-methylphenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*c*][1, 2,4]triazole (3r)

Following the general procedure, the desired product **3r** (30.5 mg) was obtained in 87% yield as a pale solid. $R_f = 0.3$ (PE : EA = 20 : 1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.24 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 8.11 – 8.09 (m, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.5, 149.9, 135.7, 135.5, 134.6, 131.8, 130.0 (q, J = 43.8 Hz), 126.3, 124.7, 121.7, 120.1, 118.5, 117.9 (q, J = 267.5 Hz), 116.0, 112.1, 23.2. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -64.79. HRMS (ESI⁺): calc'd for C₁₆H₁₁ClF₃N₄⁺ [M+H]⁺: 351.0619, found 351.0618.

1-(2,4-Dichlorophenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*c*][1,2,4]tri azole (3s)

Following the general procedure, the desired product **3s** (21.1 mg) was obtained in 57% yield as a colorless oil. $R_f = 0.3$ (PE : EA = 20 : 1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82 – 7.74 (m, 2H), 7.65 – 7.63 (m, 2H), 7.51 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.0, 149.9, 136.7, 132.2, 132.0, 131.2, 131.0 (q, J = 45.0 Hz), 129.2, 128.5, 126.3, 125.4, 121.6, 120.1, 117.8 (q, J = 268.8 Hz), 112.2. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -65.00. HRMS (ESI⁺): calc'd for C₁₅H₈Cl₂F₃N₄⁺ [M+H]⁺: 371.0073, found 371.0073.



1-(Naphthalen-2-yl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-c][1,2,4]triazo le (3t)

Following the general procedure, the desired product **3t** (17.6 mg) was obtained in 50% yield as a pale solid. $R_f = 0.4$ (PE : EA = 20 : 1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.63 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (dd, J = 8.9, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.94 – 7.88 (m, 2H), 7.78 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48 – 7.38 (m, 3H), 7.24 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.7, 150.0, 134.5, 133.5, 131.7, 129.9, 129.8 (q, J = 45.0 Hz), 128.3, 127.9, 127.3, 126.3, 126.2, 124.6, 121.5, 120.1, 118.0 (q, J = 268.8 Hz), 116.8, 115.4, 112.1. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -64.70. HRMS (ESI⁺): calc'd for C₁₉H₁₂F₃N₄⁺ [M+H]⁺: 353.1009, found 353.1009.



3-(Difluoromethyl)-1-phenyl-1*H*-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*c*][1,2,4]triazole (3u)

Following the general procedure, the desired product **3u** (26.1 mg) was obtained in 92% yield as a pale solid. $R_f = 0.4$ (PE : EA = 20 : 1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.26 – 8.20 (m, 2H), 7.83 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.58 – 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.44 (m, 1H), 7.36 –7.27 (m, 2H), 7.01 (t, *J* = 52.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.8, 150.0, 137.3, 133.8 (t, *J* = 31.3 Hz), 129.7, 126.3, 125.9, 124.9, 121.2, 119.7, 117.7, 112.8, 108.1 (t, *J* = 235.0 Hz). ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -116.67 (d, *J* = 52.0 Hz). HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calc'd for C₁₅H₁₁F₂N₄⁺ [M+H]⁺: 285.0946, found 285.0945.



7-Methoxy-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-c][1,2,4]triazole(3v)and

6-Methoxy-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*c*][1,2,4]triaz

ole (3v')

Following the general procedure, a mixture of 3v and 3v' (29.4 mg) was obtained in 88% yield as a pale solid with approximately a ratio of 1:1.1. $R_f = 0.3$ (PE : EA = 20 : 1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.41 – 8.19 (m, 3.6H), 7.74 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 0.85H), 7.65 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1.09H), 7.62 – 7.49 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3.69H), 7.40 – 7.30 (m, 3.28H), 7.26 (s, 0.77H), 7.14 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 0.74H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.925 (s, 2.91H), 3.920 (s, 2.62H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.6, 155.2, 152.1, 151.2, 144.0, 137.1, 137.0, 129.7, 129.3 (q, J = 43.8 Hz), 126.6, 126.4, 124.7, 120.4, 119.0, 118.0 (q, J = 267.5 Hz), 117.9, 117.7, 114.7, 112.5, 110.7, 102.4, 96.4, 56.2, 55.8. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -64.48, -64.74. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calc'd for C₁₆H₁₂F₃N₄O⁺ [M+H]⁺: 333.0958, found 333.0958.



6,7-Dimethyl-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*c*][1,2,4]tri azole (3w)

Following the general procedure, the desired product **3w** (31.2 mg) was obtained in 95% yield as a pale solid. $R_f = 0.4$ (PE : EA = 20 : 1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.22 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.58 – 7.50 (m, 3H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.4, 148.3, 137.2, 135.3, 130.6, 129.7, 129.5 (q, J = 41.3 Hz), 126.4, 122.9, 120.1, 118.0 (q, J = 268.8 Hz), 117.8, 112.1, 20.7, 20.5. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -64.76. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calc'd for C₁₇H₁₄F₃N₄⁺ [M+H]⁺: 331.1165, found 331.1163.



6,7-Difluoro-1-phenyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*c*][1,2,4]tria zole (3x)

Following the general procedure, the desired product $3\mathbf{x}$ (27.7 mg) was obtained in 82% yield as a pale solid. $R_f = 0.4$ (PE : EA = 20 : 1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.19 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.64 – 7.51 (m, 4H), 7.37 – 7.31 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.5, 149.9 (d, J = 245.0, 13.8 Hz), 146.5 (dd, J = 242.5, 15.0 Hz), 145.6 (dd, J = 11.3, 1.3 Hz), 136.7, 129.8, 129.3 (q, J = 43.8 Hz), 127.0, 119.5 (dd, J = 10.0, 1.2 Hz), 117.9, 117.8 (q, J = 268.8 Hz), 107.8 (d, J = 20.0 Hz), 100.9 (d, J = 23.8 Hz). ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -64.49, -137.17, -142.13. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calc'd for C₁₅H₈F₅N₄⁺[M+H]⁺: 339.0664, found 339.0664.

4. Gram-scale Reaction and Derivatizations of 3j



A mixture of 1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole-2-thiol **1** (0.61 g, 4 mmol, 1 equiv.), nitrile imines **2a** (1.33 g, 6 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), Et₃N (1.11 mL, 8 mmol, 2 equiv.), and EA (40 mL) was added to a 100 mL round-bottom flask, and the mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 24 hours. After the reaction was completed, the mixture was diluted with EA and filtered. The filtrates were concentrated under reduced pressure to give a crude residue which was purified by flash column chromatography to provide 1.11 g of **3a** in 92% yield as a pale solid.



According to literature,³ under N₂ atmosphere, a mixture of **3j** (37.9 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv.), PhB(OH)₂ (26.8 mg, 0.22 mmol, 2.2 equiv.), PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂ (7.2 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.1 equiv.), Na₂CO₃ (17.0 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), and toluene:EtOH:H₂O (degassed)(0.5 mL: 0.3 mL: 0.2 mL) were added to a 10 mL-Schlenk tube, subsequently, the sealed tube was stirred at 70 °C for 8 h. After the reaction was finished, the solution was evaporated under reduced pressure to give the crude product which was purified by flash column chromatography to provide compound **4** as a colorless oil in 92% yield. $R_f = 0.3$ (PE : EA = 20 : 1). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.32 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.81 – 7.74 (m, 3H), 7.63

(d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.54 – 7.44 (m, 3H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.7, 150.0, 140.1, 139.6, 136.2, 129.9 (q, J = 43.8 Hz), 129.1, 128.3, 127.8, 127.2, 126.3, 124.7, 121.5, 120.1, 118.3, 118.0 (q, J = 268.8 Hz), 112.2. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -64.74. HRMS (ESI⁺): calc'd for C₂₁H₁₄F₃N₄⁺ [M+H]⁺: 379.1165, found 379.1164.



According to literature,⁴ under N₂ atmosphere, a mixture of **3j** (38.1 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv.), phenylacetylene (22 µL, 0.2 mmol, 2 equiv.), PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂ (7.0 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.1 equiv.), CuI (2.1 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.1 equiv.), and CH₃CN:Et₃N (1 mL: 0.2 mL) were added to a 10 mL-Schlenk tube, subsequently, the sealed tube was stirred at 100 °C for 12 h. After the reaction was finished, the solution was evaporated under reduced pressure to give the crude product which was purified by flash column chromatography to provide compound **5** as a colorless oil in 95% yield. R_f = 0.4 (PE : EA = 20 : 1). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.26 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.58 – 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.40 – 7.29 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.5, 149.9, 136.5, 133.0, 131.8, 130.1 (q, *J* = 45.0 Hz), 128.6, 128.5, 126.3, 124.6 123.1, 121.7, 121.6, 120.1, 117.9 (q, *J* = 268.8 Hz), 117.7, 112.1, 90.5, 88.7. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -64.80. HRMS (ESI⁺): calc'd for C₂₃H₁₄F₃N₄⁺ [M+H]⁺: 403.1165, found 403.1166.



Following the literature,⁵ under N₂ atmosphere, a mixture of **3j** (38.0 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv.), ethyl acrylate (22 μ L, 0.2 mmol, 2 equiv.), Pd(OAc)₂ (2.3 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.1 equiv.), PPh₃ (5.3 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), K₂CO₃ (28.0 mg, 0.2 mmol, 2 equiv.), and DMF (1 mL) were added to a 10 mL-Schlenk tube, subsequently, the sealed tube was stirred at 120 °C for 12 h. After the reaction was finished, the solution was added

water (15 mL) and extracted by EA (15 mL x 3). The combined organic phase was dried by anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The filtrates were evaporated under reduced pressure to give the crude product which was purified by flash column chromatography to provide compound **6** as a colorless oil in 62% yield. $R_f = 0.2$ (PE : EA = 10 : 1). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.31 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.72 – 7.68 (m, 3H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.48 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.36 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.0, 151.6, 149.9, 143.3, 138.2, 132.8, 130.3 (q, J = 45.0 Hz), 129.5, 126.4, 124.7, 121.9, 120.2, 118.9, 118.1, 117.9 (q, J = 268.8 Hz), 112.2, 60.8, 14.5. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -64.85. HRMS (ESI⁺): calc'd for C₂₀H₁₆F₃N₄O₂⁺ [M+H]⁺: 401.1220, found 401.1221.

5. X-ray Crystallography Data of 3f

F ₃ C N N N N	$= \sum_{\substack{n=1\\n \neq n}} \sum_{\substack{n=1\\n p \neq n}} \sum_{\substack{n=1\\n p \neq n} \sum_{\substack{n=1\\n p \neq n}} \sum_{n=1\\n p p p p p p p p p p p p p p p p p p p$			
3f	CCDC: 2289201			
Table S1 Crystal data and structure refinement for 3f.				
Identification code	2289201			
Empirical formula	$C_{15}H_8F_3N_5O_2$			

2289201
$C_{15}H_8F_3N_5O_2$
347.26
170.00
monoclinic
P2 ₁ /n
5.0516(6)
25.263(3)
11.1686(13)
90
101.502(4)
90
1396.7(3)
4
1.651
0.142
704.0
$0.42 \times 0.16 \times 0.15$
$MoK\alpha (\lambda = 0.71073)$
4.056 to 55.176
$-6 \le h \le 6, -32 \le k \le 29, -14 \le l \le 14$
13208
3219 [$R_{int} = 0.0475, R_{sigma} = 0.0404$]
3219/0/226
1.162
$R_1 = 0.0663, wR_2 = 0.1271$
$R_1 = 0.0938, wR_2 = 0.1430$
0.26/-0.28

6. References

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7. NMR Spectra



¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) of **3a**.







¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) of **3b**.







































¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) of **3h**.





¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) of **3i**.









¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) of **3j**.











¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) of **3**l.



¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) of **3m**.



















¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) of **30**.





















¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) of **3r**.













¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) of **3t**.















 ^{19}F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) of 3v and 3v'.











¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) of **3x**.











 ^{19}F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) of **5**.







