

Supporting Information

Iron-Catalyzed [2+2+2] Cyclotrimerization and Carbocyclization Reactions Using Trifluoromethyl Group Substituted Unsymmetrical Internal Alkynes

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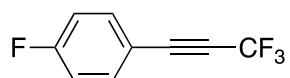
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Contents of Supporting Information:

1) General Information	S-2
2) Characterization of trifluoromethylated alkynes	S-2
3) General procedure for the cyclotrimerization reaction	S-3
4) Characterization of the cyclotrimerization products	S-4
5) General procedure for the carbocyclization reaction	S-9
6) Characterization of the carbocyclization product	S-9
7) References	S-15
8) ^1H , ^{13}C , and ^{19}F NMR spectra	S-16
9) X-ray Crystallography	

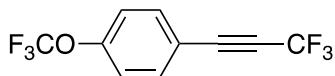
General and Materials: All manipulations were carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere. All the chemicals (FeCl₂, FeI₂, FeBr₂, Fe(OTf)₂, FeCl₃, DPPP, DPPE, DPPB, PPh₃, 1,6-diyne **4c**, 1,6-diyne **4d**, and other reagents include solvents) were purchased from common commercial sources, unless otherwise noted, and used without further purification. All trifluoromethylated alkynes^{S1} **1a-m**, 1,6-diynes^{S2} **4a**, **4b**, and **4e-g** were prepared according to the literatures. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on plates coated with 0.25 mm thick Silica Gel 60 F-254 (Merck Ltd.). Column chromatography was performed using neutral Silica Gel 60 N (Kanto Chemical co., Ltd.). The nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded on a JEOL EX-270 spectrometer (270 MHz for ¹H), JEOL JNM ECA-500 spectrometer (500 MHz for ¹H, 125 MHz for ¹³C, and 470 MHz for ¹⁹F) and Bruker Biospin AVANCE II 600 (150 MHz for ¹³C). Chemical shifts (δ) are given in ppm relative to SiMe₄ (0.00 ppm) in CDCl₃ for ¹H NMR spectra, CDCl₃ (77.0 ppm) or CD₃COCD₃ (29.8 ppm) for ¹³C NMR, and C₆F₆ (0.00 ppm) in CDCl₃ for ¹⁹F NMR. ¹H, ¹³C, and ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ or CD₃COCD₃ at 25 °C unless otherwise noted. The absolute values of the coupling constants are given in Hertz (Hz), regardless of their signs. Multiplicities are abbreviated as singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q), multiplet (m). IR spectra were obtained using a JASCO FT/IR-4100 spectrophotometer. Melting points were determined using Yanaco micro melting point apparatus MP-500P and are uncorrected. ESI mass spectra were recorded on JEOL AccuTOFLC-plus JMS T100LP spectrometer.

Characterization of trifluoromethylated alkynes **1a-m:** All alkynes **1a-m** were prepared according to Konno's procedure.^{S1a} The spectral data for compounds are in agreement with previously reported values.^{S1} New compounds **1b**, **1e**, and **1k** were characterized as follows:



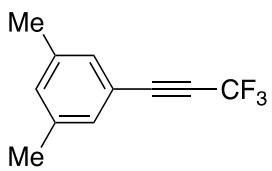
1-(4-fluorophenyl)-3,3,3-trifluoropropyne (1b): Colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.09 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (dd, J = 5.7, 8.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 75.6 (q, J_{CF} = 52.8 Hz), 85.5 (q, J_{CF} = 6.8 Hz), 114.7, 114.8 (q, J_{CF} = 257.1 Hz), 116.2 (d, J_{CF} = 21.6 Hz), 134.7

(d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 10.8$ Hz), 164.1 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 254.3$ Hz). ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 55.7-55.8 (m, 1F), 111.9 (s, 3F). IR (neat) 2930, 2258, 1603, 1509, 1316, 1240, 1156 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI): m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_5\text{F}_4^+ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 189.0327, found 189.0307.



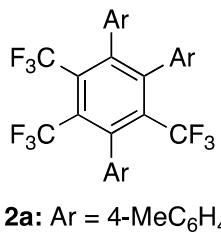
1-(4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl)-3,3,3-trifluoropropyne

(1e): Colorless oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.23 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 76.5 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 53.2$ Hz), 84.9 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 6.4$ Hz), 114.8 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 257.1$ Hz), 117.2, 120.4 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 258.7$ Hz), 121.0, 134.3, 151.0. ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 104.2 (s, 3F), 111.8 (s, 3F). IR (neat) 2931, 2260, 1608, 1509, 1318, 1259, 1213, 1164, 1139 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI): m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_4\text{F}_6\text{O} [\text{M}]$ 254.0166, found 254.0166.

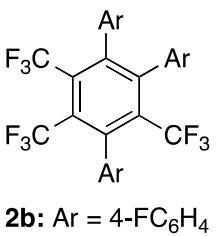


1-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-3,3,3-trifluoropropyne (1k): Colorless oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.29 (s, 6H), 7.07 (s, 1H) 7.14 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 20.9, 75.0 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 52.2$ Hz), 87.2 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 6.4$ Hz), 115.0 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 256.7$ Hz), 118.2, 130.1, 132.8, 138.4. ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 112.33 (s, 3F). IR (neat) 2925, 2242, 1600, 1467, 1382, 1340, 1250, 1145 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI): m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_9\text{F}_3\text{Na}^+ [\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 221.0549, found 221.0582.

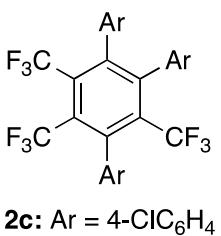
General Procedure for the iron catalyzed [2+2+2] cyclotrimerization of trifluoromethylated alkynes 1a-m: A typical procedure is given for the reaction of **1a** (Table 1, entry 5). In a nitrogen-filled glove box, a solution of FeCl_2 (1.3 mg, 0.01 mmol), dppp (8.2 mg, 0.02 mmol) in anhydrous CH_3CN (0.33 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. Subsequently Zn dust (39.2 mg, 0.60 mmol), ZnI_2 (4.8 mg, 0.015 mmol) and **1a** (36.8 mg, 0.2 mmol) were added to the mixture at 80 °C, and stirred for 36 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through Celite and Florisil. The combined organic layers were evaporated. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel (hexane/diethyl ether = 9/1) to give 32 mg (87%) of **2a** and **3a**. The ratio of the products was determined using ^{19}F NMR of the crude materials to be **2a/3a** = 95/5. The peak at 115 to 116 ppm in the ^{19}F NMR spectra is minor (symmetric) product.



Benzene derivative 2a^{S3}: Isolated yield: 87% (Table 1, Entry 5). White solid. Mp 210-213 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.22 (s, 3H), 2.24 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 6.83-6.93 (m, 8H), 7.21-7.26 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 21.1, 21.2, 21.4, 122.7 (q, J_{CF} = 278.0 Hz), 122.8 (q, J_{CF} = 277.0 Hz), 123.0 (q, J_{CF} = 278.3 Hz), 127.5, 127.6, 128.0, 129.6, 129.7, 129.9 (q, J_{CF} = 30.7 Hz), 130.4, 131.8 (q, J_{CF} = 31.7 Hz), 132.5 (q, J_{CF} = 26.9 Hz), 133.1, 133.3, 133.6, 137.0, 137.2, 138.3, 141.9, 144.7, 144.8. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 110.7 (q, J = 17.3 Hz, 3F), 111.99 (q, J = 17.3 Hz, 3F), 113.7 (s, 3F). IR (KBr) 2999, 1515, 1412, 1341, 1175, 1036 cm⁻¹.

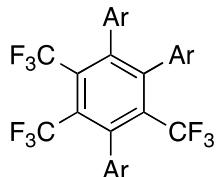


Benzene derivative 2b: Isolated yield: 96% (Table 2, Entry 1). White solid. Mp 168-171 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.80-6.88 (m, 4H), 6.88-6.98 (m, 4H), 7.09-7.17 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.38 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, acetone-d6): δ 114.66, 114.70, 114.8, 114.9, 115.2, 115.4, 123.7 (q, J_{CF} = 276.7 Hz), 123.8 (q, J_{CF} = 276.3 Hz), 124.0 (q, J_{CF} = 277.9 Hz), 130.6 (q, J_{CF} = 30.8 Hz), 132.4 (q, J_{CF} = 31.2 Hz), 132.7 (d, J_{CF} = 8.4 Hz), 132.9 (d, J_{CF} = 8.4 Hz), 133.4 (q, J_{CF} = 27.6 Hz), 133.6 (d, J_{CF} = 8.4 Hz), 142.0, 145.1, 147.1, 162.9 (d, J_{CF} = 245.9 Hz), 163.0 (q, J_{CF} = 245.9 Hz), 163.9 (q, J_{CF} = 245.9 Hz). ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 48.3-48.4 (m, 1F), 48.6-48.6 (m, 1F), 49.1-49.2 (m, 1F), 110.7 (q, J = 16.5 Hz, 3F), 111.9 (q, J = 16.5 Hz, 3F), 113.8 (s, 3F). IR (KBr) 3079, 1898, 1607, 1341, 1323, 1232 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI): *m/z*: calcd for C₂₇H₁₁F₁₂⁻ [M-H]⁻ 563.0669, found 563.0669.

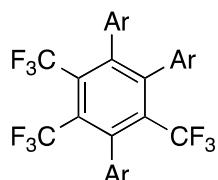


Benzene derivative 2c^{S3}: Isolated yield: 96% (Table 2, Entry 2). White solid. Mp 290 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.88 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, acetone-d6): δ 122.1 (q, J_{CF} = 276.1 Hz), 123.6 (q, J_{CF} = 274.9 Hz), 123.7 (q, J_{CF} = 274.9 Hz), 128.0, 128.1, 128.5, 130.6 (q, J_{CF} = 30.6 Hz), 132.3, 132.3 (q, J_{CF} = 30.8 Hz), 132.5, 133.2 (q, J_{CF} = 27.3 Hz), 133.2, 134.2, 134.4, 135.3, 135.5, 135.8, 136.1, 141.9, 144.6, 146.6. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz,

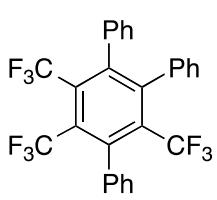
CDCl_3): δ 110.7 (q, $J = 17.3$ Hz, 3F), 111.9 (q, $J = 17.3$ Hz, 3F), 113.8 (s, 3F). IR (KBr) 2964, 2105, 2078, 2022, 1597, 1495, 1414, 1238, 1174, 1093, 1031 cm^{-1} .



Benzene derivative 2d: Isolated yield: 86% (Table 2, Entry 3). White solid. Mp 210-217 °C. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 6.82 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, acetone-d6): δ 122.5, 122.8, 123.63, 123.64 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 276.7$ Hz), 123.8 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 276.7$ Hz), 123.9 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 278.3$ Hz), 130.8 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 31.2$ Hz), 131.10, 131.14, 131.5, 132.5 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 31.2$ Hz), 132.7, 132.8, 133.2 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 27.6$ Hz), 133.5, 136.0, 136.3, 136.6, 142.0, 144.7, 146.6. ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 110.8 (q, $J = 16.5$ Hz, 3F), 112.0 (q, $J = 16.5$ Hz, 3F), 113.9 (s, 3F). IR (KBr) 3439, 2965, 2317, 1717, 1590, 1491, 1412, 1240, 1174, 1012 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI): m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{12}\text{Br}_3\text{F}_9$ [M] 743.8345, found 743.8321.

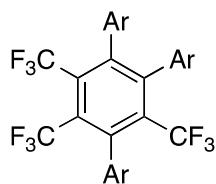


Benzene derivative 2e: Isolated yield: 80% (Table 2, Entry 4). White solid. Mp 155-160 °C. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 6.91-7.00 (m, 8H), 7.27 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 119.68, 119.73, 120.5 (q, 2H). ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 120.6 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 269.9$ Hz), 120.7 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 256.7$ Hz), 122.4 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 277.1$ Hz), 122.5 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 277.1$ Hz), 122.7 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 279.9$ Hz), 130.9 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 22.8$ Hz), 131.2, 131.3, 131.9, 132.4 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 26.4$ Hz), 132.9 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 27.6$ Hz), 133.9, 134.7, 134.8, 141.3, 143.9, 145.4, 148.9, 149.0, 149.1, 149.9. ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 103.6 (s, 3F), 103.7 (s, 3F), 104.1 (s, 3F), 110.9 (q, $J = 16.5$ Hz, 3F), 112.1 (q, $J = 16.5$ Hz, 3F), 114.0 (s, 3F). IR (KBr) 3430, 3116, 1612, 1513, 1325, 1252, 1174, 1033 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI): m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{11}\text{F}_{18}\text{O}_3^-$ [M-H]⁻ 761.0421, found 761.0429.

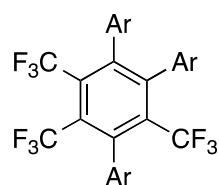


Benzene derivative 2f⁴: Isolated yield: 79% (Table 2, Entry 5). White solid. Mp 218-221 °C. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 6.98 (m, 4H), 7.09-7.12 (m, 6H), 7.38-7.45 (m, 5H). ^{13}C NMR (125

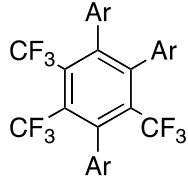
MHz, CDCl₃): δ 122.6 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 278.0$ Hz), 122.7 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 277.3$ Hz), 122.9 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 278.6$ Hz), 126.8, 126.9, 127.3, 127.4, 127.6, 128.5, 129.7, 129.8, 129.9, 130.0 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 30.7$ Hz), 131.8 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 30.7$ Hz), 132.3 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 27.9$ Hz), 135.9, 136.2, 136.4, 141.9, 144.6, 146.4. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 110.7 (q, $J = 17.3$ Hz, 3F), 112.0 (q, $J = 17.3$ Hz, 3F), 113.8 (s, 3F). IR (KBr) 3061, 2103, 2075, 1602, 1495, 1233, 1182, 1060 cm⁻¹.



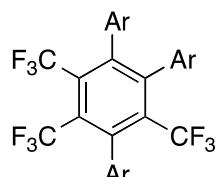
Benzene derivative 2g^{S3}: Isolated yield: 62% (Table 2, Entry 6). White solid. Mp >300 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.07 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.27-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.38 (m, 9H), 7.45-7.49 (m, 8H), 7.67-7.70 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): 122.7 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 277.3$ Hz), 122.8 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 277.3$ Hz), 125.5, 125.6, 125.94, 126.98, 127.0, 127.2, 127.4, 127.5, 127.6, 128.69, 128.70, 128.8, 130.0 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 278.9$ Hz), 130.2, 130.3, 130.4 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 30.8$ Hz), 130.9, 131.9 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 30.8$ Hz), 132.5 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 27.1$ Hz), 134.8, 135.2, 135.4, 140.15, 140.21, 140.23, 140.27, 140.31, 141.2, 141.8, 144.4, 146.3. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃ internal standard; C₆F₆): δ 110.60 (q, $J = 17.3$ Hz, 3F), 111.84 (q, $J = 17.3$ Hz, 3F), 113.57 (s, 3F). IR (KBr) 3032, 1488, 1409, 1325, 1238, 1179, 1008 cm⁻¹.



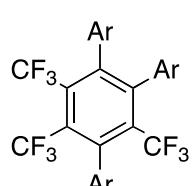
Benzene derivative 2h^{S3}: Isolated yield: 73% (Table 2, Entry 7). White solid. Mp 300 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 6.65 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 6.66 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, acetone-d6): δ 55.3, 55.4, 55.6, 113.10, 113.12, 113.7, 123.9 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 275.5$ Hz), 124.0 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 275.5$ Hz), 124.2 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 277.7$ Hz), 129.0, 129.4, 129.8, 130.1 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 29.7$ Hz), 131.9, 132.0, 132.3 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 31.4$ Hz), 132.8, 133.5 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 26.4$ Hz), 142.6, 145.8, 148.2, 159.8, 159.9, 160.9. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 110.6 (q, $J = 17.3$ Hz, 3F), 111.8 (q, $J = 17.3$ Hz, 3F), 113.6 (s, 3F). IR (KBr) 2937, 2839, 1613, 1465, 1414, 1325, 1249, 1159, 1036 cm⁻¹.



Benzene derivative 2i: Isolated yield: 65% (Table 2, Entry 8).
 White solid. Mp 236-243 °C. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.18 (s, 9H), 1.19 (s, 9H), 1.37 (s, 9H), 6.81 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.04 (d, $J = 3.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.06 (d, $J = 3.4$ Hz, 2H) 7.29 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 31.2, 31.3, 31.4, 34.3, 34.4, 34.7, 122.7 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 277.1$ Hz), 122.8 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 277.1$ Hz), 123.0 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 278.9$ Hz), 123.42, 123.44, 124.1, 129.4, 129.8 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 30.0$ Hz), 130.1, 131.5 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 30.0$ Hz), 132.2 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 27.2$ Hz), 132.9, 133.5, 133.7, 141.9, 144.9, 145.0, 146.9, 149.9, 150.1, 151.4. ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 110.9 (q, $J = 17.1$ Hz, 3F), 112.1 (q, $J = 17.1$ Hz, 3F), 113.9 (s, 3F). IR (KBr) 2966, 2906, 2870, 1907, 1411, 1325, 1237, 1164, 1134, 1102 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI): m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{39}\text{H}_{39}\text{F}_9\text{Na}^+$ [M+Na]⁺ 701.2806, found 701.2801.

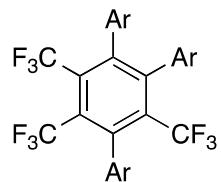


Benzene derivative 2j^{S3}: Isolated yield: 92% (Table 2, Entry 9).
 White solid. Mp 55-60 °C. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.17-2.18 (m, 3H), 2.20-2.22 (m, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 6.70-6.83 (m, 4H), 6.89-6.92 (m, 2H), 6.94-7.02 (m, 2H), 7.17-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.32 (m, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): 21.11, 21.13, 21.4, 122.7 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 277.2$ Hz), 122.8 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 277.2$ Hz), 123.0 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 279.7$ Hz), 126.4, 126.7, 127.0, 127.1, 127.6, 127.7, 128.0 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 3.8$ Hz), 128.2 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 5.8$ Hz), 129.2, 129.8 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 30.7$ Hz) 130.5, 130.8, 131.3, 131.5 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 31.3$ Hz), 131.6, 132.2 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 27.2$ Hz), 135.9, 136.1, 136.2, 136.4, 136.9, 141.9, 144.6, 146.6. ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 110.7 (q, $J = 19.2$ Hz, 3F), 112.0 (q, $J = 15.4$ Hz, 3F), 113.7 (q, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 3F). IR (KBr) 2923, 1607, 1403, 1326, 1232, 1201, 1050 cm^{-1} .



Benzene derivative 2k: Isolated yield: 83% (Table 2, Entry 10).
 White solid. Mp 150-154 °C. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.15 (s, 6H), 2.16 (s, 6H), 2.36 (s, 6H), 6.55-6.56 (m, 2H), 6.58-6.59 (m, 2H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 6.98-6.99 (m, 2H), 7.06
2k: Ar = 3,5-MeC₆H₃

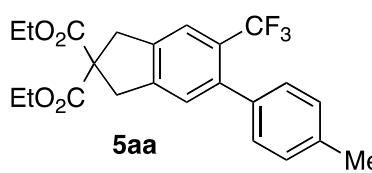
(s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 20.92, 20.94, 21.2, 122.8 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 276.7$ Hz), 122.9 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 275.9$ Hz), 123.1 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 279.1$ Hz), 127.7, 127.87, 127.88, 128.6, 128.7, 128.8, 129.5 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 31.2$ Hz), 130.0, 131.4 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 31.2$ Hz), 132.0 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 27.2$ Hz), 135.81, 135.88, 135.9, 136.2, 136.6, 141.9, 144.7, 146.8. ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 110.8 (q, $J = 16.5$ Hz, 3F), 112.1 (q, $J = 16.5$ Hz, 3F), 113.8 (s, 3F). IR (KBr) 2921, 1605, 1336, 1168, 1078 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI): m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{27}\text{F}_9\text{Na}^+ [\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 617.1861, found 617.1844.



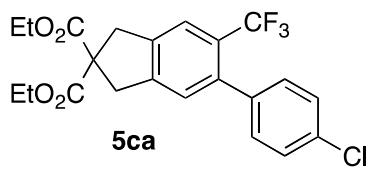
Benzene derivative 2l: Isolated yield: 84% (Table 2, Entry 11). White solid. Mp 57-61 °C. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.63-3.65 (m, 3H), 3.66-3.68 (m, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 6.48-6.70 (m, 6H), 6.93-7.07 (m, 5H), 7.32 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 55.1, 55.22, 55.23, 113.2, 113.6, 114.1, 114.2, 115.8, 116.0, 116.5, 116.6, 122.6, 122.6 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 277.1$ Hz), 122.7 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 277.1$ Hz), 122.9 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 279.5$ Hz), 123.4, 127.8, 127.9, 128.3, 129.9 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 30.8$ Hz), 131.7 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 30.0$ Hz), 132.2 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 27.6$ Hz), 137.2, 137.4, 141.7, 144.2, 146.1, 158.0, 158.1, 158.6. ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 111.0 (q, $J = 16.5$ Hz, 3F), 112.2 (q, $J = 17.1$ Hz, 3F), 113.9 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 3F). IR (KBr) 3066, 3005, 2943, 2837, 1602, 1581, 1488, 1431, 1327, 1236, 1165, 1052 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI): m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{22}\text{F}_9\text{O}_3^+ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 601.1425, found 601.1443.

General Procedure for the iron catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition of trifluoromethylated alkynes 1 with diynes 4a-g: A typical procedure is given for the reaction of **1c** with **4a** (Table 3, entry 3). A solution of FeI_2 (6.2 mg, 0.02 mmol), Zn dust (13.1 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1,6-diyne **4a** (23.6 mg, 0.1 mmol), and alkyne **1c** (61.4 mg,

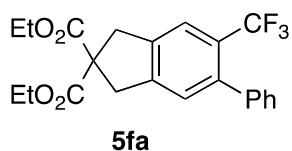
0.3 mmol) in CH₃CN (0.1 mL) was stirred at 80 °C for 12 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through Celite and Florisil. The combined organic layers were evaporated. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel (hexane/ethyl acetate = 9/1) to give 40 mg (90%) of **5ca**.



Diethyl 5-(p-tolyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-1H-indene-2,2(3H)-dicarboxylate (5aa): Isolated yield: 92% (Table 4, Entry 1). Pale yellow oil. ¹H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.27 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 3.64 (s, 2H), 3.67 (s, 2H), 4.23 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 7.18 (s, 4H), 7.55 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 14.0, 21.1, 40.1, 40.3, 60.3, 61.9, 121.8 (q, *J*_{CF} = 6.0 Hz), 124.3 (q, *J*_{CF} = 273.5 Hz), 127.4 (q, *J*_{CF} = 30.0 Hz), 127.9, 128.3, 128.8, 137.0, 137.1, 139.2, 140.6, 143.7, 171.2. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 105.3 (s, 3F). IR (neat) 2983, 1732, 1621, 1573, 1490, 1236, 1189, 911 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI): *m/z*: calcd for C₂₃H₂₃F₃NaO₄⁺ [M+Na]⁺ 443.1446, found 443.1427.

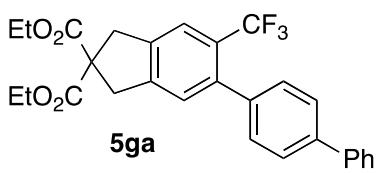


Diethyl 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-1H-indene-2,2(3H)-dicarboxylate (5ca)^{S5}: Isolated yield: 90% (Table 4, Entry 2). Yellow oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H), 3.64 (s, 2H), 3.67 (s, 2H), 4.24 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 14.0, 40.1, 40.3, 60.3, 62.0, 121.9 (q, *J*_{CF} = 5.8 Hz), 124.1 (q, *J*_{CF} = 273.5 Hz), 127.4 (q, *J*_{CF} = 28.7 Hz), 127.7, 127.9, 130.3, 133.6, 138.3, 139.2, 139.8, 143.9, 171.2. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 105.3 (s, 3F). IR (neat) 2983, 1732, 1622, 1576, 1485, 1236, 1157, 912 cm⁻¹.

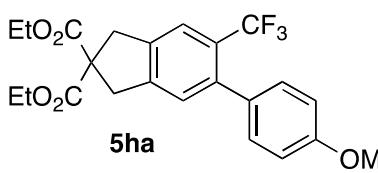


Diethyl 5-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-1H-indene-2,2(3H)-dicarboxylate (5fa): Isolated yield: 92% (Table 4, Entry 3). Pale yellow oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H), 3.64 (s, 2H), 3.68 (s, 2H), 4.23 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 7.29-7.38

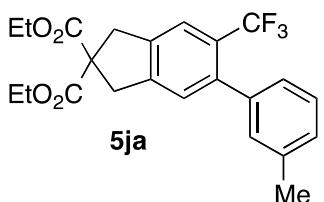
(m, 5H), 7.56 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 14.0, 40.1, 40.3, 60.3, 61.9, 121.8 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 5.8$ Hz), 124.3 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 274.8$ Hz), 127.4, 127.5 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 28.8$ Hz), 127.6, 127.8, 128.9, 133.6, 139.9, 140.5, 143.7, 171.2. ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 105.4 (s, 3F). IR (neat) 2983, 1732, 1623, 1572, 1486, 1416, 1237, 1156, 911 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI): m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{22}\text{F}_3\text{O}_4^+ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 407.1470, found 407.1463.



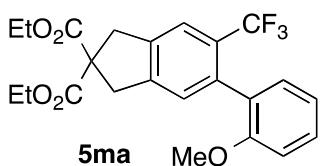
Diethyl 5-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-6-trifluoromethyl-1*H*-indene-2,2(3*H*)-dicarboxylate (5ga): Isolated yield: 90% (Table 4, Entry 4). Yellow oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.29 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 6H), 3.66 (s, 2H), 3.69 (s, 2H), 4.24 (q, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 4H), 7.19 (s, 1H), 7.36-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.46 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.61 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 14.0, 40.1, 40.3, 60.3, 62.0, 121.9 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 6.0$ Hz), 124.3 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 273.5$ Hz), 126.4, 127.1, 127.3, 127.4 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 28.7$ Hz), 127.9, 128.8, 129.4, 138.9, 139.5, 140.1, 140.2, 140.6, 143.8, 171.2. ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 105.5 (s, 3F). IR (neat) 2982, 1734, 1623, 1574, 1484, 1235, 1119, 911 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI): m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{26}\text{F}_3\text{O}_4^+ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 483.1783, found 483.1755.



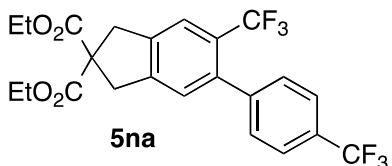
Diethyl 5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-1*H*-indene-2,2(3*H*)-dicarboxylate (5ha): Isolated yield: 94% (Table 4, Entry 5). Pale yellow oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.28 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 6H), 3.64 (s, 2H), 3.67 (s, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 4.23 (q, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 4H), 6.96 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 7.21 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.55 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 14.0, 40.1, 40.3, 55.2, 60.4, 62.0, 113.1, 121.9 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 4.8$ Hz), 124.3 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 273.4$ Hz), 127.5 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 28.8$ Hz), 128.1, 130.1, 132.3, 139.2, 140.3, 143.7, 159.0, 171.3. ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 105.3 (s, 3F). IR (neat) 2939, 1732, 1611, 1063, 837, 759 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI): m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{24}\text{F}_3\text{O}_5^+ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 437.1576, found 437.1566.



Diethyl 5-(*m*-tolyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-1*H*-indene-2,2(3*H*)-dicarboxylate (5ja): Isolated yield: 88% (Table 4, Entry 6). Pale yellow oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.28 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 6H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 3.64 (s, 2H), 3.68 (s, 2H), 4.23 (q, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 4H), 7.09-7.19 (m, 4H), 7.26 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.56 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 14.0, 21.4, 40.1, 40.3, 60.4, 62.0, 121.8 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 6.0$ Hz), 124.3 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 273.5$ Hz), 126.1, 127.2 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 30.1$ Hz), 127.5, 127.8, 128.2, 129.7, 137.2, 139.3, 139.8, 140.7, 143.6, 171.2. ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 105.4 (s, 3F). IR (neat) 2983, 1733, 1607, 1574, 1482, 1238, 1190, 910 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI): m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{24}\text{F}_3\text{O}_4^+ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 421.1627, found 421.1649.

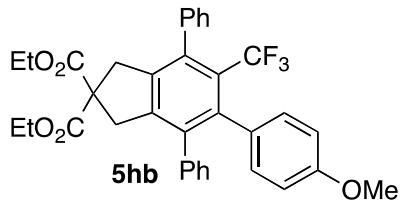


Diethyl 5-(2-methoxyphenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-1*H*-indene-2,2(3*H*)-dicarboxylate (5ca): Isolated yield: 82% (Table 4, Entry 7). Pale yellow oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.27 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 6H), 3.65 (s, 2H), 3.68 (s, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 4.23 (q, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 4H), 6.93-6.98 (m, 2H), 7.09-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.35 (q, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.55 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 14.0, 40.2, 40.4, 55.5, 60.3, 62.0, 110.5, 119.8, 121.9 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 4.8$ Hz), 124.3 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 273.5$ Hz), 127.9, 128.1 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 29.9$ Hz), 128.6, 129.2, 130.8, 136.6, 139.4, 143.6, 156.8, 171.3, 171.5. ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 102.9 (s, 3F). IR (neat) 2982, 1732, 1611, 1574, 1490, 1298, 1121, 912 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI): m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{23}\text{F}_3\text{NaO}_5^+ [\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 459.1395, found 459.1377..

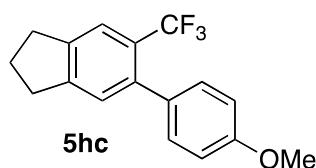


Diethyl 5-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-1*H*-indene-2,2(3*H*)-dicarboxylate (5na): Isolated yield: 94% (Table 4, Entry 8). Pale yellow oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.28 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 6H), 3.65 (s, 2H), 3.68 (s, 2H), 4.24 (q, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 4H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 7.41 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 14.0, 40.1, 40.3, 60.3, 62.0, 122.0 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 4.9$ Hz), 124.2 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 273.5$ Hz), 124.3 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 273.5$ Hz), 124.6 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 3.6$ Hz), 127.3 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 28.8$ Hz), 127.5, 129.4, 129.7 (q, J_{CF}

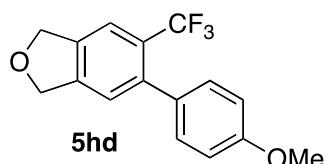
= 32.4 Hz), 138.9, 140.2, 143.5, 144.0, 171.1. ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 99.2 (s, 3F), 105.4 (s, 3F). IR (neat) 2985, 1733, 1619, 1574, 1447, 1325, 1159, 912 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI): m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{F}_6\text{NaO}_4^+ [\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 497.1164, found 497.1163.



Diethyl 5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4,7-diphenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-1*H*-indene-2,2(3*H*)-dicarboxylate (5hb**):** Isolated yield: 97% (Table 4, Entry 9). White solid. Mp 167-173 °C. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.18 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 6H), 3.30 (s, 2H), 3.39 (s, 2H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 4.23 (q, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 4H), 6.65 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.13-7.19 (m, 3H) 7.31 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.38-7.46 (m, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 13.9, 40.8, 41.1, 55.0, 59.5, 61.8, 112.4, 124.5 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 279.1$ Hz), 126.5, 126.6 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 27.5$ Hz), 127.2, 127.8, 128.1, 128.2, 129.4, 131.0, 131.1, 137.1, 138.6, 139.40, 139.41, 139.9, 140.0, 142.1, 158.1, 171.2. ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 113.9 (s, 3F). IR (KBr) 2985, 1734, 1613, 1578, 1440, 1245, 1186, 1038 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI): m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{35}\text{H}_{32}\text{F}_3\text{O}_5^+ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 589.21964 found 589.2181.

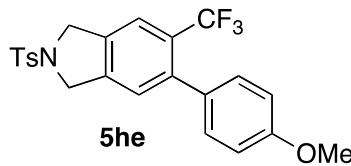


5-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indene (5hc**):** Isolated yield: 79% (Table 4, Entry 10). Colorless oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.12-2.18 (m, 2H), 2.94-3.00 (m, 4H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 6.91 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 7.23 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.57 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 25.4, 32.5, 32.8, 55.2, 113.0, 121.8 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 4.8$ Hz), 124.6 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 273.5$ Hz), 126.5 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 28.8$ Hz), 128.2, 130.2, 132.8, 139.3, 143.3, 147.9, 158.8. ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 105.5 (s, 3F). IR (neat) 2955, 2838, 1612, 1579, 1487, 1249, 1152, 927 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI): m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_3\text{O}^+ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 293.1153 , found 293.1164.



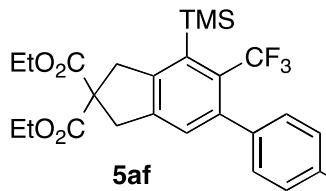
5-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-1,3-dihydroisobenzofuran (5hd**):** Isolated yield: 75% (Table 4,

Entry 11). White solid. Mp 98-101 °C. ^1H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.85 (s, 3H), 5.16 (s, 2H), 5.18 (s, 2H), 6.92 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.18 (s, 1H), 7.20 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.60 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 55.2, 73.2, 73.3, 113.2, 118.9 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 6.0$ Hz), 124.2 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 273.4$ Hz), 124.9, 128.0 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 30.1$ Hz), 130.1, 132.0, 138.3, 140.9, 142.7, 159.2. ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 105.2 (s, 3F). IR (KBr) 2941, 1614, 1577, 1489, 1292, 1159, 932 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI): m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{F}_3\text{O}_2^+ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 295.0946, found 295.0958.



5-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-tosyl-6-

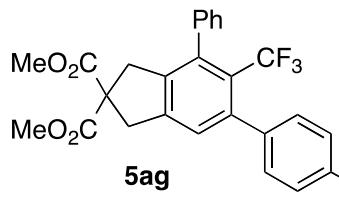
trifluoromethylisoindoline (5he): Isolated yield: 76% (Table 4, Entry 12). White solid. Mp 127-133 °C. ^1H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.42 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 4.67 (s, 2H), 4.68 (s, 2H), 6.90 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 7.16 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.79 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 21.5, 53.4, 53.5, 55.2, 113.2, 120.5 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 4.8$ Hz), 123.9 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 274.8$ Hz), 126.6, 127.6, 128.4 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 28.8$ Hz), 129.2, 130.0, 131.4, 133.4, 135.3, 139.7, 141.3, 144.0, 159.3. ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 104.9 (s, 3F). IR (KBr) 2966, 1733, 1613, 1520, 1492, 1257, 1182, 935 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI): m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{F}_3\text{NNaO}_3\text{S}^+ [\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 470.1014, found 443.1022.



Diethyl 6-(*p*-tolyl)-5-trifluoromethyl-4-trimethylsilyl-1*H*-indene-2,2(3*H*)-dicarboxylate

(5af): Isolated yield: 82%. The ratio of two regioisomers was determined by ^{19}F NMR of the crude materials to be $5\text{af}/5'\text{af} = 72/28$. The major isomer was purified by silica gel chromatography (hexane). White solid. Mp 97-101 °C. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 0.44 (s, 9H), 1.27 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 6H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 2H), 3.71 (s, 2H), 4.23 (q, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 4H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 7.18-7.20 (m, 4H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.2 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 2.6$ Hz), 14.0, 21.8, 39.0, 43.1, 60.5, 61.9, 125.2 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 275.9$ Hz), 128.4, 128.5, 131.8 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 27.7$ Hz), 136.8, 139.2, 141.6, 142.4, 145.7, 171.2. ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 114.5 (s, 3F). IR (KBr) 2986, 1730, 1598, 1541, 1426,

1297, 1173, 919 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI): *m/z*: calcd for C₂₆H₃₂F₃O₄Si⁺ [M+H]⁺ 493.2022, found 493.2038.



Dimethyl 4-phenyl-6-(*p*-tolyl)-5-trifluoromethyl-1*H*-indene-2,2(3*H*)-dicarboxylate (5ag**):** Isolated yield: 85%. The ratio of two regioisomers was determined by ¹⁹F NMR of the crude materials to be **5ag/5'ag** = 85/15. The major isomer was purified by silica gel chromatography (hexane). White solid. Mp 163-166 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.40 (s, 3H), 3.26 (s, 2H), 3.69 (s, 2H), 3.73 (s, 6H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 7.19-7.28 (m, 6H), 7.36-7.44 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 21.2, 40.3, 40.8, 53.1, 59.7, 124.5 (q, *J*_{CF} = 276.0 Hz), 125.4 (q, *J*_{CF} = 27.7 Hz), 127.2, 127.3, 128.1, 128.2, 128.39, 128.40, 136.9, 138.2, 138.7, 139.0, 139.9, 141.8, 142.4, 171.7. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 113.8 (s, 3F). IR (KBr) 2957, 1736, 1617, 1577, 1490, 1240, 1181, 915 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI): *m/z*: calcd for C₂₇H₂₄F₃O₄⁺ [M+H]⁺ 469.1627, found 469.1612.

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