Copper-Catalyzed Aromatic Trifluoromethylation *via* **Group Transfer from Fluoral Derivatives**

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Abstract: Starting from a readily available fluoral derivative, catalytic aromatic trifluoromethylation has been successfully achieved. A small amount of copper(I) iodide-phenanthroline complex catalyzed the cross-coupling reactions of aryl/heteroaryl iodides with the *O*-silylated hemiaminal of fluoral (trifluoroacetaldehyde) to provide trifluoromethylated arenes in moderate to high yields.

Keywords: aromatic substitution; copper; cross-coupling; retro reactions; trifluoromethylation

Trifluoromethylated aromatic compounds (Ar-CF₃) are substances of considerable interest in various industrial fields. The high lipophilicity, strong electronwithdrawing ability, and charasteristic size of the trifluoromethyl group are key influences in biologically active molecules.^[1] Due to these attractive properties, Ar-CF₃ structural motifs have been widely employed in the design of pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, dyes, liquid crystals, and polymers (Scheme 1).^[2] Therefore, the development of highly efficient methodologies for aromatic trifluoromethylation is of significant importance for wide fields of science and technology.

With respect to the high regiochemical fidelity in aromatic substitution, the cross-coupling of aryl halides with organometallic reagents is one of the most powerful and versatile tools in organic synthesis.^[4] Trifluoromethylcopper (CF₃Cu), which is unstable and needs to be generated *in situ*, acts as a prominent cross-coupling participant of aromatic trifluoromethylation.^[5-8] In order to generate CF₃Cu species, there have been several protocols using CF₃I/Cu,^[5a-d] CF₃Br/Cu-anode,^[5e] CF₃N(NO)Tf/Cu,^[5f] CF₂Br₂/Cu/DMAc,^[5g,h] (CF₃)₂Hg/Cu,^[5i] CF₃CdX/CuX,^[5j,k]



Scheme 1. Selected examples of trifluoromethylated phamaceuticals.

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mations.^[5n,12-18] Recently, Watson and Buchwald et al. have demonstrated the palladium-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions of aryl chlorides with trifluoromethyl-(triethyl)silane (CF₃SiEt₃).^[14] In 2009, we reported an efficient procedure for aromatic trifluoromethylation using a diamine ligand, which makes possible a reaction using catalytic copper.^[15] In the presence of a small amount of CuI and 1,10-phenanthroline (phen), the cross-coupling reactions of iodoarenes with CF₃SiEt₃ proceeded smoothly to afford trifluoromethylated aromatics in good yields. Despite its efficiency for catalytic aromatic trifluoromethylation,^[14,15] CF₃SiEt₃ is a highly expensive reagent with limited availability.^[7c] Therefore, more convenient CF₃ sources have been required for cross-coupling reactions.

Meanwhile, fluoral (trifluoroacetaldehyde) and its derivatives are one of the most available and common organofluorine compounds. Hemiaminals of fluoral are stable compounds and they are known to be convenient sources of trifluoromethyl anion.^[19,20] O-Silvlated hemiaminal derivative 2 was readily prepared from commercially available CF₃CH(OH)-(OEt) (hemiacetal of fluoral) and morpholine.^[20a] Previously, Langlois and Billard reported the nucleophilic trifluoromethylation of aldehydes and ketones by the use of compound **2** as a CF_3 anion equivalent.^[20b] In spite of the great synthetic utility, to the best of our knowledge, there has been no successful report of aromatic trifluoromethylation using O-silyl hemiaminal 2.^[21] Herein, we disclose a new catalytic procedure for aromatic trifluoromethylation by the use of trifluoroacetaldehyde hemiaminal derivative 2 as a cross-coupling partner (Scheme 2).

Our initial studies were focused on a survey of suitable reaction conditions such as ligand, base, and solvent for the Cu-catalyzed aromatic trifluoromethylation (Table 1).

When a mixture of 4-nitroiodobenzene (1a) and Osilylated hemiaminal 2 and KF in DMF was heated at 80°C for 24 h in the presence of a copper complex (0.1 equiv. to 1a) prepared *in situ* from CuI and 1,10phenanthroline (phen), the cross-coupling product 3a was obtained in 7% yield (entry 1). Several attempts to transform 1a to the trifluoromethylarene 3a were made by using solvents such as DMF, NMP, DMSO,



	OSiMe₃ F₃C └ N ⌒	Cul (10 mol%) ligand (10 mol%) base (2 equiv.)	CF ₃		
0 ₂ N	2 (2 equiv.)	solvent 80 °C, 24 h	0 ₂ N 3a		
Entry	Base	Solvent	Yield [%] ^[a]		
1	CsF	DMF	7		
2	CsF	NMP	17		
4	CsF	DMSO	20		
5	CsF	DME	33		
6	CsF	diglyme	77		
7	KF	diglyme	3		

^[a] NMR yield, which was calculated by ¹⁹F NMR integration of product **3a** relative to the trifluoromethoxybenze internal standard.

and DME, which were frequently employed in the catalyzed cross-coupling reactions, but they were with a limited success (entries 2–5). In particular, when utilizing diethylene glycol dimethyl ether (diglyme) as a solvent, the CuI-phen complex showed high catalytic activity and the yield of **3a** increased upto 77% (entry 6). Diglyme could play an important role to dissolve CsF efficiently by chelation.^[22] The combination of CsF as a base and diglyme as a solvent was effective for the catalytic aromatic trifluoromethylation; the use of KF as a base in place of CsF resulted in the formation of **3a** in only 3% yield (entry 7).

Representative examples of the formation of trifluoromethylarenes **3** are summarized in Table 2. Using 10 mol% of the copper(I) complex prepared *in situ* from CuI and phen in a molar ratio of 1:1 worked well for cross-coupling of aryl iodides **1** with *O*-silylated hemiaminal **2** to afford the corresponding trifluoromethylated arenes **3**. As a noteworthy advance, selective aromatic trifluoromethylation was accomplished; less than 1% yield of pentafluoroethylated by-product^[5k] was observed in each case. Iodobenzenes **1a–g** endowed with electron-withdrawing groups on the aryl rings underwent catalytic trifluoromethylation smoothly to provide the desired crosscoupling products in good yields (entries 1–8). In the



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			OSiMe₃	Cul (10 mol% phen (10 mol%	5) %)	,				
		Ar-r + F ₃ (1	2 (2 equiv.)	CsF (2 equiv.), o 80 °C, 24 h	diglyme	. ,	3 ph	en =		
Entry		lodoarene 1	Product	3 Yield [%] ^[a]	Entry		lodoarene 1		Product 3	Yield [%] ^{[a}
1	1a	O ₂ N-	3a O ₂ N-	≻−CF ₃ 77	9	1h	Br-	3h	Br-CF3	53
2 3 ^[b]	1b		3b	—CF ₃ 90 90	10	1i	Ph-	3i	Ph-CF3	53
		O₂N ∕── NO₂	O₂N	NO ₂	11 12 ^[d]	1j	Bu-	3j	Bu-CF3	40 38
4	1c		3c	—CF ₃ 47	13	1k	EtO-	3k	EtO-CF3	57
5	1d		3d NC	≻CF ₃ 93	14 ^{e)}	11	HO	31		44
6	1e	EtO ₂ C	3e	≻CF ₃ 60	15	1m		3m	CF ₃	97
7	1f		^{[i}	c] _	16	1n		3n	C	95
8	1g		3g _{CI})—CF₃ ⁹⁷	17	10	Me	30	Me CF3	75

Table 2. Scope of Cu-catalyzed aromatic trifluoromethylation.

- ^[a] NMR yield, which was calculated by ¹⁹F NMR integration of product **3a** relative to the trifluoromethoxybenze internal standard.^[a] NMR yields, which were calculated by ¹⁹F NMR integration of products **3** relative to the trifluoromethoxybenzene internal standard.
- ^[b] The reaction was carried out in the presence of CuI (5 mol%) and phen (5 mol%).
- ^[c] A complex mixture was obtained.
- ^[d] The reaction was carried out in the presence of CuI (20 mol%) and phen (20 mol%).
- ^[e] Silyl hemiaminal **2** (3 equiv.) and CsF (3 equiv.) were used.

case of 3-iodonitrobenzene (**1b**), 5 mol% catalyst loading was sufficient to complete the cross-coupling reaction (entry 3). Even *ortho*-substituted iodoarene **1c** underwent the cross-coupling reaction to produce 2-nitro(trifluoromethyl)benzene (**3c**) in 47% yield (entry 4).

Not only a nitro group, but cyano and ester groups in 1d and 1e were tolerable under the nucleophilic trifluoromethylating conditions (entries 5 and 6). However, the reaction of 4-iodoacetophenone (1f) with 2 gave a complex mixture containing 1,2-adduct of the carbonyl moiety of 1f (entry 7). C–Cl and C–Br functionalities in 1g and 1h were compatible with the present reaction conditions to provide the corresponding trifluoromethyl arenes 3g and 3h, respectively (entries 8 and 9). Of significant interest, the present protocol worked well for both electron-deficient and electron-rich iodoarenes; employing CuI-phenanthroline complex engendered the cross-coupling reaction of iodobiphenyl 1i with 2 to deliver trifluoromethylated biphenyl 3i in 53% yield (entry 10). The reactions of 1j and 1k possessing electron-donating groups such as butyl and ethoxy groups with O-silylated hemiaminal 2 provided *p*-butyl(trifluoromethyl)benzene (3i) and *p*-ethoxy(trifluoromethyl)benzene (3k) in 40% and 57% yields, respectively (entries 11 and 13). Intriguingly, iodoarene 11 bearing a hydroxy group participated in the catalytic aromatic trifluoromethylation upon treatment with excess amounts of silvl hemiaminal 2 and CsF (3 equiv. to 11) (entry 14). Both 1- and 2-iodonaphthalenes 1m and 1n underwent the grouptransfer trifluoromethylation to afford the corresponding trifluoromethylnaphthalenes 3m and 3n in high yields (entries 15 and 16). Furthermore, heteroarene 10 partook in the catalytic trifluoromethylation to give **30** in 75% yield (entry 17).

One of the key features is that an aromatic trifluoromethylation that is catalytic in copper has



Scheme 3. Proposed mechanism for the Cu-catalyzed cross-coupling between aryl iodides 1 and fluoral derivative 2.

been accomplished; a small amount of copper complex is enough to complete the cross-coupling. The catalytic formation of trifluoromethylarenes **3** can be explained by assuming the pathway pictured in Scheme 3. First, the fluoride ion-induced reaction of *O*-silyl hemiaminal **2** with CuI-diamine complex **4** gives copper alkoxide **5**. Next, the migration of the trifluoromethyl group in **5** readily takes place leading to the elimination of *N*-formylmorpholine and the generation of trifluoromethyl-copper(I) complex **6**.^[23] Finally, σ -bond metathesis^[24] between CF₃Cu complex **(6)** and Ar-I **(1)** allows the formation of trifluoromethylarenes **3** and the regeneration of CuI-diamine complex **4**, which is reusable in the aromatic trifluoromethylation again.

In conclusion, we have demonstrated that a small amount of CuI-phenanthroline complex catalyzes the CF₃-group transfer cross-coupling reactions of aryl/ heteroaryl iodides^[25,26] with *O*-silylated hemiaminal **2** to give trifluoromethylated arenes in moderate to high yields. The substrate scope of the present methodology is broad and a variety of functional groups are tolerated. Starting from a readily available CF₃ source, catalytic aromatic trifluoromethylation has been successfully achieved. Thus, the ingenious design of the catalytic reactions expands remarkably the scope of organofluorine compounds in practical synthetic applications.

Experimental Section

General Procedure for Catalytic Aromatic Trifluoromethylation

An oven-dried Schlenk tube was charged with CuI (0.030 mmol, 5.7 mg), 1,10-phenanthroline (0.030 mmol, 5.4 mg) and CsF (0.60 mmol, 67.3 mg). The tube was evacuated and backfilled with argon, and then diglyme (0.60 mL), 4-nitroiodobenzene (1a, 0.30 mmol, 74.7 mg), and O-silylated hemiaminal 2 (0.60 mmol, 154 mg) were added. The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 24 h. After the reaction was complete, the mixture was cooled to room temperature, diluted with water, and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and the volatiles were removed under vacuum. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel to yield trifluoromethyl arene 3a. The identity and purity of the known products were confirmed by 1H, 19F NMR and GC-MS analysis. See the Supporting Information for full details.

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