

Anhydrous Tetramethylammonium Fluoride for Room-Temperature S_NAr Fluorination

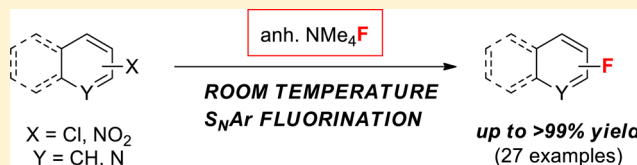
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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: This paper describes the room-temperature S_NAr fluorination of aryl halides and nitroarenes using anhydrous tetramethylammonium fluoride (NMe₄F). This reagent effectively converts aryl-X (X = Cl, Br, I, NO₂, OTf) to aryl-F under mild conditions (often room temperature). Substrates for this reaction include electron-deficient heteroaromatics (22 examples) and arenes (5 examples). The relative rates of the reactions vary with X as well as with the structure of the substrate. However, in general, substrates bearing X = NO₂ or Br react fastest. In all cases examined, the yields of these reactions are comparable to or better than those obtained with CsF at elevated temperatures (i.e., more traditional S_NAr fluorination conditions). The reactions also afford comparable yields on scales ranging from 100 mg to 10 g. A cost analysis is presented, which shows that fluorination with NMe₄F is generally more cost-effective than fluorination with CsF.



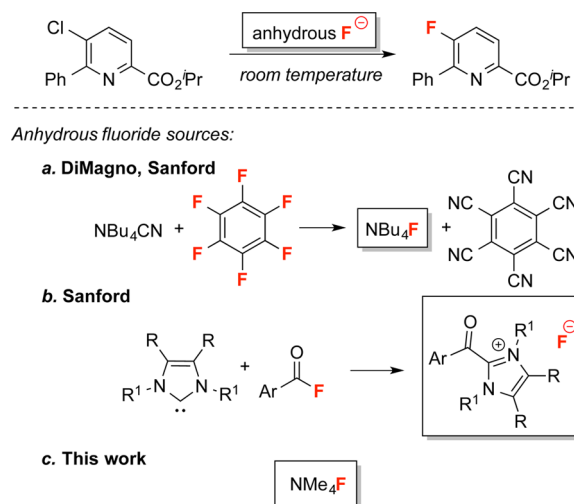
INTRODUCTION

Fluorinated arenes and heteroarenes are finding increasing application in agrochemicals and pharmaceuticals.¹ The substitution of a hydrogen atom with a fluorine atom in biologically active molecules often imparts improvements in bioavailability and/or metabolic stability.² However, despite the importance of the incorporation of fluorine into organic molecules, there are relatively few selective and mild synthetic methods for C–F bond formation, particularly on a process scale.

One of the most common reactions for the industrial preparation of aryl and heteroaryl fluorides is nucleophilic aromatic fluorination (S_NAr).³ This involves the reaction of an electron-deficient (hetero)aryl halide or nitroarene with a nucleophilic fluoride source to generate the corresponding aryl fluoride.^{3,4} Anhydrous alkali metal fluorides (MF) are most typically employed as the fluoride source. However, these salts are poorly soluble in organic solvents. As a result, high temperatures and long reaction times are necessary to obtain high conversions. These forcing conditions often limit functional group tolerance and lead to the formation of undesired side products.³

Several recent reports have shown that replacing alkali metal fluorides with more soluble, anhydrous fluoride reagents can enable S_NAr fluorination to proceed under significantly milder conditions. For example, DiMaggio and co-workers have shown that anhydrous (anh) tetrabutylammonium fluoride (NBu₄F) can be generated in situ from tetrabutylammonium cyanide (TBACN) and hexafluorobenzene (C₆F₆).⁵ This NBu₄F (anh) participates in S_NAr fluorination reactions with chloro- and nitroarenes at room temperature (Scheme 1a).^{5,6} Similarly, our group has recently reported that the combination of acid

Scheme 1. Soluble Anhydrous Fluoride Sources for Room-Temperature S_NAr Fluorination



fluorides and *N*-heterocyclic carbenes (NHCs) produces anhydrous acyl azolium fluorides that effect room-temperature S_NAr fluorinations (Scheme 1b).^{7,8} However, both of these methods are limited by the requirement for expensive stoichiometric reagents (C₆F₆, NHCs) that preclude implementation in an industrial-process scale.

To address this challenge, we have pursued anhydrous tetramethylammonium fluoride (NMe₄F) as a more practical

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source of soluble anhydrous fluoride for S_NAr fluorination. NMe_4F (anh) offers the advantage that it can be prepared from inexpensive precursors (e.g., from NMe_4Cl and KF or from NMe_4OH and HF).⁹ Furthermore, it can be rigorously dried at elevated temperatures (unlike NBu_4F , which is susceptible to Hoffman elimination upon heating).¹⁰ Grushin and Marshall have reported that NMe_4F (anh) reacts with unactivated aryl bromides in DMSO at 90–110 °C to form regioisomeric mixtures of fluoroarene products in 10–65% yield.¹¹ However, this transformation is proposed to proceed via an aryne mechanism rather than S_NAr . Clark has demonstrated a variety of examples of S_NAr fluorodenitration reactions using anhydrous NMe_4F .^{12,13} These reactions are typically conducted at temperatures ranging from 60 to 100 °C, and a variety of side products (e.g., arylenes, phenols) are formed in these systems. In contrast, there are very few literature reports of halide substitution with NMe_4F (anh), and the scope of these transformations has not been extensively explored.^{13a,b,14} Indeed, in some cases, the conversion of aryl chlorides to aryl fluorides is reported as an undesired side reaction during fluorodenitration processes.^{13a,b}

Herein, we demonstrate the room-temperature S_NAr fluorination of a variety of aryl halides and nitroarenes using anhydrous tetramethylammonium fluoride (Scheme 1c). We show that the reaction rates vary dramatically as a function of the leaving group, with nitroarenes and aryl bromides providing the fastest reactions. We demonstrate that NMe_4F (anh) is effective for the S_NAr fluorination of industrially relevant chloropicolinate as well as other electron-deficient (hetero)-aromatic substrates. The reactions generally proceed in excellent yield on scales ranging from 100 mg to 10 g, and the mild temperature limits the formation of side products derived from competing transesterification and/or deprotonation pathways. Finally, we provide a comparative cost analysis, which shows that S_NAr fluorination with NMe_4F (anh) is more cost-effective than analogous reactions with CsF .

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Our initial investigations focused on the use of NMe_4F (anh) for the S_NAr fluorination of 5-chloropicolinate **1**, a structural motif found in many Dow AgroSciences products.¹⁵ This transformation was initially examined at 140 °C (i.e., elevated temperature conditions similar to those commonly employed for S_NAr fluorination).^{3,16} As shown in Table 1, the reaction of **1** with 2 equiv of anhydrous NMe_4F at 140 °C led to complete conversion of **1** but afforded only 66% yield of the fluoropicolinate product **2** (entry 1). At 100 °C, the conversion of **1** was again quantitative, but the yield of **2** was only 73% (entry 2). The major side products observed in these transformations are the carboxylic acid **2-CO₂H**, the isopropyl ether **1-*i*PrO**, and CH_3F ¹⁷ (eq 1).

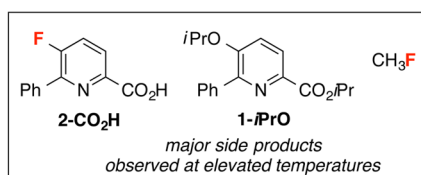
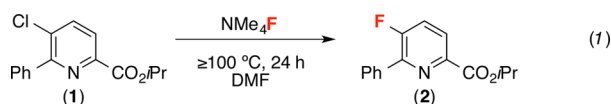


Table 1. S_NAr Fluorination of **1** with NMe_4F (anh)

entry ^a	equiv of NMe_4F	temp	% conversion	% yield ^b
1	2	140 °C	100	66
2	2	100 °C	100	73
3	2	60 °C	100	85
4	2	40 °C	100	95
5	2	rt	100	99
6	2 ^c	rt	0	<1
7	1	rt	80	80

^aConditions: Substrate **1** (0.1 mmol) and anhydrous NMe_4F were stirred in DMF for 24 h. ^bYield determined by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopy using 1,3,5-trifluorobenzene as a standard. ^c $NMe_4F \cdot 4H_2O$ was used in place of anhydrous NMe_4F .

We hypothesized that competing side product formation could be limited by lowering the reaction temperature (entries 2–5). Gratifyingly, at room temperature we observed full conversion of **1**, along with a quantitative yield of **2** (entry 5). Furthermore, with only 1 equiv of anhydrous NMe_4F , the S_NAr fluorination of **1** proceeded to 80% yield at room temperature (entry 7). These results demonstrate that NMe_4F (anh) has comparable reactivity to previously reported anhydrous NBu_4F ⁶ and acyl azolium fluoride⁷ reagents.

The use of $NMe_4F \cdot 4H_2O$ under otherwise analogous conditions afforded none of the fluorinated product (Table 1, entry 6). On the basis of this result, we next systematically explored the effect of H_2O on the room-temperature reaction of **1** with NMe_4F (anh). In this study, various quantities of water were added to reactions that were set up under anhydrous conditions (Table 2). The addition of 1 equiv of

Table 2. Effect of Water on the Reaction of **1** with NMe_4F

entry ^a	equiv of H_2O	% yield ^b
1	0	99
2	1	76
3	2	1
4	5	<1

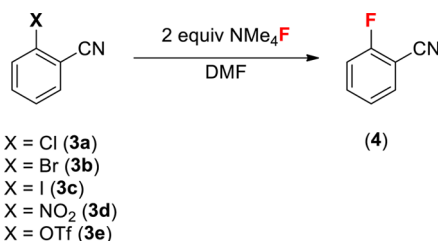
^aConditions: Substrate **1** (0.1 mmol) and anhydrous NMe_4F (0.2 mmol) were combined in a 4 mL vial. DMF (0.2 M) and water were combined and added as a solution to the solids. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. ^bYield was determined by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopy using 1,3,5-trifluorobenzene as an internal standard.

water resulted in an approximately 25% reduction in the reaction yield (from 99% to 76%, entries 1 and 2, respectively). However, the addition of ≥ 2 equiv of water completely shut down the reaction (entries 3 and 4). Bifluoride (HF_2^-) was the major species detected by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopic analysis under the conditions in entries 3 and 4 (^{19}F NMR resonance at -152.0 ppm in CH_2Cl_2).

We next examined the scope of leaving groups that can be employed in this S_NAr fluorination with NMe_4F (anh). Our

first study focused on a series of commercially available 2-substituted-benzonitrile substrates with Cl, Br, I, NO₂, and OTf as leaving groups (3a–e). Compounds 3a–e react slowly with 2 equiv of NMe₄F (anh) at room temperature, affording 4 in 2–95% yield after 48 h (Table 3). In most cases, significantly

Table 3. Comparison of Reactions of 3a–e with NMe₄F (anh) and CsF



entry	substrate	% yield		
		24 h, 25 °C ^a	3 h, 80 °C ^b	CsF, 140 °C ^c
1	3a	32	94	52
2	3b	48	95	49
3	3c	8	88	22
4	3d	95	97	73
5	3e	2	8	73

^aConditions: Substrate (0.1 mmol) and anhydrous NMe₄F (0.2 mmol) stirred in DMF (0.2 M) at 25 °C for 24 h. ^bConditions: Substrate (0.1 mmol) and anhydrous NMe₄F (0.2 mmol) stirred in DMF (0.2 M) at 80 °C for 3 h. ^cConditions: Substrate (0.1 mmol) and CsF (0.2 mmol) stirred in DMF (0.2 M) at 140 °C for 24 h. All yields were determined by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy using 1,3,5-trifluorobenzene as an internal standard.

faster rates were observed at 80 °C, and 3a–d reacted to afford 4 in 88–97% yield after 3 h at 80 °C (Table 3, entries 1–4). In contrast, aryl triflate 3e showed minimal reactivity at 80 °C, even at reaction times up to 48 h (entry 5). Notably, aryl bromides and aryl iodides have previously been reported as poor substrates for S_NAr fluorination reactions.¹⁸ However, the current study shows that they can react with NMe₄F (anh) to afford comparable yields of the fluorinated product.

Time studies were conducted to obtain more detailed insight into the relative rates of fluorination of substrates 3a–e. Notably, there are relatively few systematic studies of the rate of S_NAr fluorination reactions as a function of leaving group, and most of these have been conducted in the context of radiofluorination.¹⁹ As shown in Figure 1, the relative rates were NO₂ ≫ Br > Cl > I ≫ OTf. 2-Nitrobenzonitrile 3d reacted to afford a nearly quantitative yield of 4 in just 5 min at 80 °C, while all three of the halide substrates afforded quantitative conversion within 3 h under otherwise analogous conditions.

We also compared the reactions of 3a–e with NMe₄F (anh) to those with CsF, a more traditional reagent for S_NAr fluorination. In all cases, CsF afforded <5% yield of the fluorinated product 4 after 24 h at 80 °C. At 140 °C (more typical conditions for CsF halide reactions),^{3,20} the aryl halides 3a–c reacted with CsF to form 4 in moderate yields after 24 h (22–52%, entries 1–3). In all of these reactions, unreacted starting material remained after 24 h at 140 °C. The fluorodenitration of 2-nitrobenzonitrile (3d) with CsF at 140 °C afforded 4 in 73% yield (entry 4). In this case, the conversion of 3d was quantitative, but a variety of aryl ether side products were formed (as determined by GCMS analysis

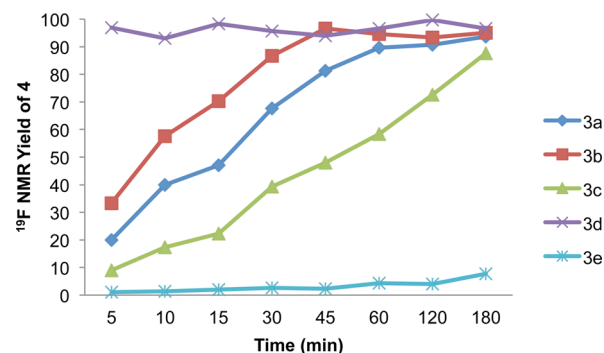
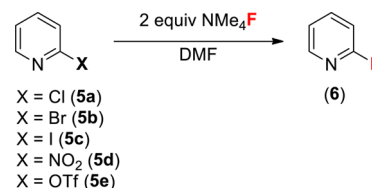


Figure 1. Reaction profiles for the reactions of 3a–e with anhydrous NMe₄F to form 4. Conditions: Substrate (0.1 mmol, 1 equiv) and anhydrous NMe₄F (0.2 mmol, 2 equiv) were stirred in DMF (0.2 M) at 80 °C for the given time. Yields determined by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy using 1,3,5-trifluorobenzene as a standard.

of the crude reaction mixture). Such side products are common in fluorodenitration reactions, as the displaced nitrite ion can act as a nucleophile.^{12,13} Finally, aryl triflate 3e afforded a significantly better yield with CsF at 140 °C (73%) than with NMe₄F (anh) at 80 °C (8%). Overall, these results highlight the advantages of the current method as well as its complementarity to more conventional S_NAr fluorination with CsF.

We conducted an analogous set of studies with the 2-substituted pyridines 5a–e. Similar to our results using 3a–e, the reactions of 2-chloro, 2-bromo, 2-iodo, and 2-nitropyridine (5a–d) with NMe₄F (anh) at 80 °C afforded 2-fluoropyridine 6 in good to excellent yield (72–98%) (Table 4, entries 1–4).

Table 4. Comparison of Reactions of 5a–e with NMe₄F (anh) and CsF



entry	substrate	% yield	
		4 h, 80 °C ^a	CsF, 140 °C ^b
1	5a	72	9
2	5b	96	17
3	5c	91	19
4	5d	98	100
5	5e	43	87

^aConditions: Substrate (0.1 mmol) and anhydrous NMe₄F (0.2 mmol) stirred in DMF (0.2 M) at 80 °C for 4 h. ^bConditions: Substrate (0.1 mmol) and CsF (0.2 mmol) stirred in DMF (0.2 M) at 140 °C for 24 h. All yields were determined by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy using 1,3,5-trifluorobenzene as an internal standard.

In all of these cases, the results compare favorably to those obtained with CsF at 140 °C (9–100% yield for 5a–d, Table 4). Pyridin-2-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate (5e) underwent fluorination with NMe₄F (anh) to afford 6 in moderate 43% yield. With this substrate, side products (most significantly aryl ether derivatives) were detected by GCMS. Interestingly, the CsF conditions afforded a significantly improved yield of 87%

with substrate **5e**. These data suggest that (hetero)aryl triflates are particularly good substrates for CsF halex reactions.

Time studies for the reactions of **5a–e** with NMe₄F (anh) are shown in Figure 2. In this system, the impact of leaving

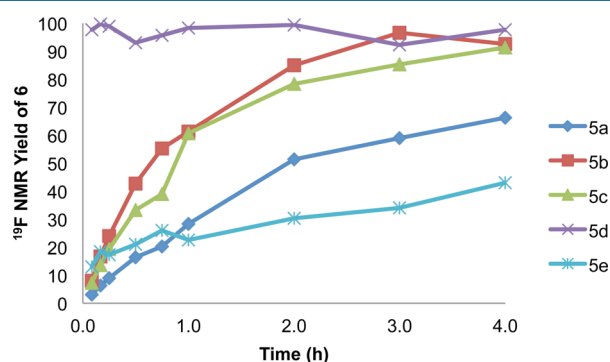


Figure 2. Reaction profiles for the reaction **5a–e** with anhydrous NMe₄F to form **6**. General conditions: Substrate (0.1 mmol, 1 equiv) and anhydrous NMe₄F (0.2 mmol, 2 equiv) were stirred in DMF (0.2 M) at 80 °C for the given time. Yield was determined by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy using 1,3,5-trifluorobenzene as a standard.

group on reaction rate is slightly different from that observed for **3a–e**, with the order of reactivity being NO₂ ≫ Br ≈ I > Cl > OTf. Notably, the initial rate with triflate substrate **5e** is actually comparable to that of the aryl bromide; however, the reaction stalls after about 20 min. A related time study of S_NAr fluorination as a function of leaving group has been reported for the radiofluorination of 2-substituted pyridines with K¹⁸F. Similar to our observations, this study showed that 2-nitropyridine and 2-bromopyridine reacted faster than the other 2-halopyridines.^{19d} Overall, a key finding from the time studies in Figures 1 and 2 is that leaving-group effects on reaction rates are substrate-dependent.

The substrate scope of S_NAr fluorination with NMe₄F (anh) was next investigated. As shown in Chart 1, a variety of monochloropicolines and dichloropicolines react to afford the corresponding mono- and difluorinated products **2** and **7–11** in good to excellent isolated yields. These transformations were all conducted at room temperature over 24 h, and the reactions of dichloropicolinate substrates required only 1.5 equiv of NMe₄F per chloride. The fluorination of **1** has been conducted on a 138 mg, a 2 g, and a 10 g scale. Comparable yields were obtained in all of these cases [82% (isolated), 93% (in pot), and 85% (isolated), respectively].

Chloroquinoline, chloroisoquinoline, and chloropyridazine substrates also undergo room-temperature fluorination to form **12–16** in excellent yields. The high-yielding synthesis of 8-(benzyloxy)-2-fluoroquinoline (**15**) is particularly noteworthy, as ¹⁸F-**15** has been used for the PET imaging of amyloid plaques.^{21,22} Methoxy, cyano, and trifluoromethyl substituents are compatible with the reaction conditions (products **8**, **11**, **13**, and **17–21**). In addition, halide (Cl, Br, and I) and nitro substituents at less-activated positions in the molecule are well-tolerated, even in the presence of excess NMe₄F (products **7**, **10**, and **23–26**). Less-activated aryl chlorides require higher temperatures to form the desired product (products **4**, **28**, and **29**). S_NAr fluorination with NMe₄F (anh) can be used to produce 2- and 4-fluorobenzonitrile (**4** and **29**) in excellent yields, while 3-fluorobenzonitrile **28** is formed in low yield. This latter result is consistent with previous reports showing that

meta-positioned electron-withdrawing groups do not activate aryl rings for S_NAr reactions.^{5a} While ethyl 4-chlorobenzoate and 4-chlorobenzophenone are not sufficiently activated for the S_NAr fluorination with NMe₄F (even at 80 °C), the nitro analogs react to afford high yields of the fluorinated products at room temperature (**30** and **31**).

Finally, we conducted a cost analysis in order to compare NMe₄F (anh) to CsF for process scale S_NAr fluorinations.²³ The cost of manufacturing (COM) for each of the cases studied was computed using the equation shown below:^{24–26}

$$\text{COM} = \text{raw material cost} + \text{waste treatment cost} + \text{conversion cost}$$

The calculations were performed for several different substrates **3a**, **5b**, **5d**, in order to demonstrate how the reaction yield impacts this analysis. All calculations were performed by assuming a product volume of 200 t per year. The results are summarized in Table 5.

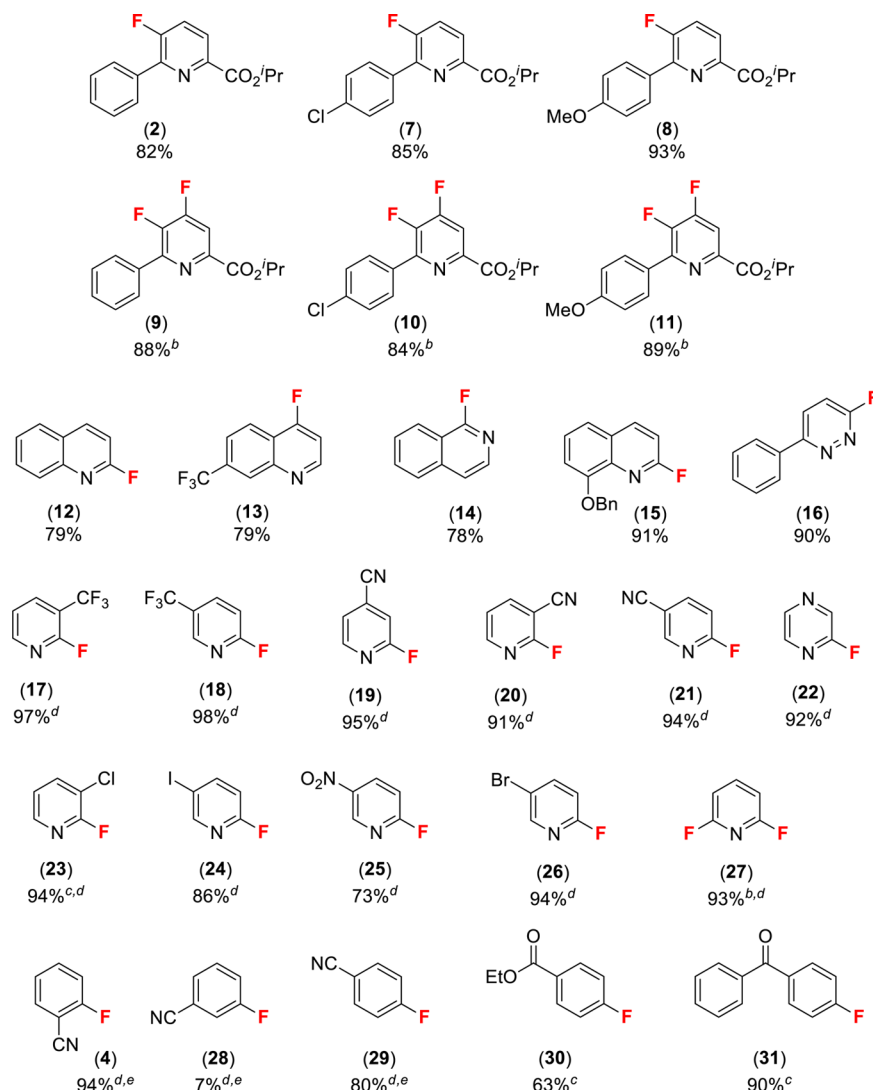
With substrates **3a** and **5b**, the yield of fluorinated product is much higher with NMe₄F (anh). As a result, the use of CsF is 3–10-fold more costly and thus not economically competitive. For substrate **5d**, the reaction yields are similar to the two fluorinating reagents. Here, NMe₄F (anh) still offers a significant advantage over CsF, since the mass of CsF required to achieve high yield is quite large. As such, the mass (and thus cost) required to deliver each fluorinating equivalent is higher than that with NMe₄F (anh). Overall, for difficult fluorinations, NMe₄F (anh) appears to offer a cost-effective alternative to CsF.

CONCLUSION

This report describes the use of NMe₄F (anh) as a broadly useful reagent for low-temperature S_NAr fluorination reactions. We demonstrate that diverse aryl halides and nitroarenes react with NMe₄F (anh) to yield aryl fluoride products at temperatures ranging from room temperature to 80 °C. The relative rates vary as a function of leaving group and substrate, but aryl bromide and nitroarene substrates generally afford the fastest rates and highest yields in these transformations. NMe₄F (anh) has been compared directly to CsF, and it generally affords comparable or enhanced reaction yields and smaller quantities of byproducts. This latter effect is likely due to the lower operating temperature required for S_NAr fluorinations with NMe₄F (25–80 °C) versus with CsF (140 °C). A cost analysis projects that NMe₄F (anh) is economically superior to CsF for the S_NAr reactions presented herein. Overall, the use of NMe₄F (anh) addresses many of the prior limitations of process-scale S_NAr fluorination reactions (e.g., high temperatures, side product formation, and costly reagents).

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Materials and Methods. NMR spectra were obtained on a 400 MHz (400.52 MHz for ¹H, 376.87 MHz for ¹⁹F, 100.71 MHz for ¹³C), a 500 MHz (500.01 MHz for ¹H, 125.75 MHz for ¹³C, 470.56 MHz for ¹⁹F), a 700 MHz (699.76 MHz for ¹H, 175.95 MHz for ¹³C), or a 500 MHz (499.90 MHz for ¹H, 125.70 for ¹³C) NMR spectrometer. ¹H and ¹³C chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to TMS, with the residual solvent peak used as an internal reference (CDCl₃; ¹H δ 7.26 ppm, ¹³C δ 77.16 ppm). ¹⁹F NMR spectra are referenced to the internal standard 1,3,5-trifluorobenzene, which appears at −108.33 ppm. Multiplicities are reported as follows: singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q), multiplet (m), doublet of doublets (dd), doublet of triplets (dt). Coupling constants (J) are

Chart 1. Substrate Scope for S_NAr Fluorination with NMe_4F (anh)^a

^aConditions: anhydrous NMe_4F (2 equiv) and substrate (1 equiv) were stirred in DMF at 25 °C for 24 h. ^bWith 3 equiv of anhydrous NMe_4F . ^cThe corresponding nitroarene was used as the substrate. ^dYield determined by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopy using 1,3,5-trifluorobenzene as a standard. ^eReaction was stirred at 80 °C for 24 h.

Table 5. Cost Analysis for S_NAr Fluorination of 3a, 5b, and 5d with CsF and NMe_4F (anh)

fluorinating agent (equiv)	substrate	% yield	consumption of fluorinating agent (kg/kg product)	cost contribution of fluorinating agent (\$/kg product)	total estimated cost (\$/kg product)
NMe_4F (2)	3a	94	1.6	53	74
CsF (2)	3a	52	4.8	237	260
NMe_4F (1)	3a	78	0.99	32	53
CsF (1)	3a	51	2.56	121	143
NMe_4F (2)	5b	96	2.0	65	127
CsF (2)	5b	17	18.42	902	1185
NMe_4F (2)	5d	98	1.96	64	214
CsF (2)	5d	100	3.13	153	297

reported in hertz. For GCMS analysis, the products were separated on a crossbond 5% diphenyl–95% dimethyl polysiloxane column (30 m length by 0.25 mm i.d., 0.25 μ m df). Helium was employed as the carrier gas, with a constant column flow of 1.5 mL/min. The injector temperature was held constant at 250 °C. The GC oven temperature program for low molecular weight compounds was as follows: 32 °C, hold for 5 min, ramp 15 °C/min to 250 °C, and hold for 1.5 min. The GC oven temperature program for medium molecular weight

compounds was as follows: 60 °C, hold for 4 min, ramp 15 °C/min to 250 °C. Melting points are uncorrected. High-resolution mass spectra were recorded on a Magnetic Sector mass spectrometer.

Commercial reagents were used as received unless otherwise noted. Anhydrous tetramethylammonium fluoride was obtained from Sigma-Aldrich. Anhydrous N,N -dimethylformamide was obtained from Alfa Aesar. Isopropyl chloroaryl picolinate were prepared using previously described methods.⁶ 2-Cyanophenyl trifluoromethanesulfonate,²⁷

pyridine-2-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate,²⁸ and 8-(benzyloxy)-2-chloroquinoline²¹ were prepared using literature procedures and dried over P₂O₅ prior to use.

General Procedures for Fluorination Reactions. *General Procedure A: Experimental Details for Fluorination Reactions Reported in Table 1.* In a drybox, substrate **1** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and anhydrous tetramethylammonium fluoride (NMe₄F) were weighed into a 4 mL vial equipped with a microsized stir bar. DMF (0.5 mL) was added, and the reaction vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, removed from the drybox, and stirred at the designated temperature for 24 h. The reaction was then cooled to room temperature and diluted with dichloromethane (2.5 mL), and an internal standard (1,3,5-trifluorobenzene, 100 μ L of a 0.5 M solution in toluene) was added. An aliquot was removed for analysis by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy.

General Procedure B: Experimental Details for Fluorination Reactions Reported in Table 2. A solution of anhydrous DMF (2 mL) and deionized water that was sparged with N₂ was prepared in a Schlenk flask and sparged with N₂ for 15 min. The Schlenk tube was then pumped into a drybox. In a drybox, substrate **1** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and anhydrous NMe₄F (0.2 mmol, 2.0 equiv) were weighed into a 4 mL vial equipped with a microsized stir bar. The water–DMF solution was then added (0.5 mL), and the reaction vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, removed from the drybox, and stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The reaction was then diluted with dichloromethane (2.5 mL), and an internal standard (1,3,5-trifluorobenzene, 100 μ L of a 0.5 M solution in toluene) was added. An aliquot was removed for analysis by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy.

General Procedure C: Experimental Details for Fluorination Reactions Reported in Tables 3 and 4 and Figures 1 and 2. For reactions with anhydrous NMe₄F, in a drybox, substrate **3a–e** or **5a–e** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and anhydrous NMe₄F (0.2 mmol, 2 equiv) were weighed into a 4 mL vial equipped with a microsized stir bar. DMF (0.5 mL) was added, and the reaction vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, removed from the drybox, and stirred at the given temperature for the given time. The reactions were cooled at 0 °C and diluted with dichloromethane (2.5 mL), and an internal standard (1,3,5-trifluorobenzene, 100 μ L of a 0.5 M solution in toluene) was added. An aliquot was removed for analysis by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy.

For reactions with CsF, in a drybox, substrate **3a–e** or **5a–e** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and CsF (0.2 mmol, 2 equiv) were weighed into a 4 mL vial equipped with a microsized stir bar. DMF (0.5 mL) was added, and the reaction vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, removed from the drybox, and stirred at 140 °C for 24 h. The reactions were cooled to room temperature and diluted with dichloromethane (2.5 mL), and an internal standard (1,3,5-trifluorobenzene, 100 μ L of a 0.5 M solution in toluene) was added. An aliquot was removed for analysis by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy.

General Procedure D: Experimental Details for Isolated Yields Reported in Chart 1. In a drybox, anhydrous NMe₄F (93 mg, 1 mmol, 2 equiv) and the appropriate aryl chloride or nitroarene substrate (0.5 mmol, 1 equiv) were weighed into a 4 mL vial equipped with a microsized stir bar. DMF (2.5 mL) was added, and the reaction vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, removed from the drybox, and stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The reaction was then diluted with dichloromethane (15 mL) and transferred to a separatory funnel. The organic layer was washed with water (3 \times 25 mL) and brine (1 \times 25 mL), dried over magnesium sulfate, and concentrated in vacuo. The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel using gradients of hexanes and either diethyl ether or ethyl acetate as eluent.

General Procedure E: General Experimental Details for NMR Yields Reported in Chart 1. In a drybox, anhydrous NMe₄F (18.6 mg, 0.2 mmol, 2 equiv) and the appropriate aryl chloride or nitroarene substrate (0.1 mmol, 1 equiv) were weighed into a 4 mL vial equipped with a microsized stir bar. DMF (0.5 mL) was added, and the reaction vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, removed from the drybox, and stirred at room temperature unless otherwise noted for 24 h. The reaction was cooled to room temperature and an internal standard (1,3,5-trifluorobenzene, 100 μ L of a 0.5 M solution in toluene) was

added. An aliquot was removed for analysis by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy and GCMS.

Product Synthesis and Characterization. *Isopropyl 5-Fluoro-6-phenylpicolinate (2).* General procedure D was followed using isopropyl 5-chloro-6-phenylpicolinate (**1**) (138 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1 equiv), providing **2** as a colorless oil (106 mg, 82% yield, *R*_f = 0.61 in 70% hexanes/30% Et₂O). ¹H, ¹³C, and ¹⁹F NMR experimental data match those reported in the literature.⁶ HRMS ESI⁺ (*m/z*): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₅H₁₅FN₂O₂ 260.1081, found 260.1080. The yield reported in Chart 1 (82%) represents an average of two runs (82% and 81%).

Isopropyl 5-Fluoro-6-phenylpicolinate (2) on a 10 g Scale. A 250 mL three-necked round-bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was evacuated and purged about three times with nitrogen. The vessel was charged with isopropyl 5-chloro-6-phenylpicolinate (10.11 g, 36.67 mmol, 1 equiv) and then anhydrous DMF (100 mL) was added by cannula transfer under vacuum. Anhydrous NMe₄F (5.02 g, 53.92 mmol, 1.47 equiv) was added in a single portion, and the mixture was allowed to stir overnight (23 h) at ambient temperature. The reaction mixture was filtered and the filtrate was partitioned between 200 mL of distilled water and 120 mL of toluene in a 1 L separatory funnel. The bottom cloudy aqueous layer was separated and then subsequently extracted with two 50 mL portions of toluene. The three organic layers were combined and then washed with two 50 mL portions of distilled water. The upper toluene layer was separated and concentrated under vacuum. Purification by column chromatography provided the product as a colorless oil (8.04 g, 85% yield, CombiFlash using a 220 g RediSep Silica column, 90% hexanes/10% ethyl acetate). ¹H, ¹³C, and ¹⁹F NMR experimental data match those reported in the literature.⁶

Isopropyl 5-Fluoro-6-(p-chlorophenyl)picolinate (7). General procedure D was followed using isopropyl 5-chloro-6-(p-chlorophenyl)picolinate (122 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1 equiv), providing **7** as a white solid (122 mg, 83% yield, *R*_f = 0.59 in 70% hexanes/30% Et₂O, mp = 73–76 °C). ¹H, ¹³C, and ¹⁹F NMR experimental data match those reported in the literature.⁷ HRMS ESI⁺ (*m/z*): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₅H₁₄ClFNO₂ 294.0692, found 294.0689. The yield reported in Chart 1 (85%) represents an average of two runs (83% and 87%).

Isopropyl 5-Fluoro-6-(p-methoxyphenyl)picolinate (8). General procedure D was followed using isopropyl 5-chloro-6-(p-methoxyphenyl)picolinate (153 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1 equiv), providing **8** as a white solid (138 mg, 96% yield, *R*_f = 0.38 in 70% hexanes/30% Et₂O, mp = 46–48 °C). ¹H, ¹³C, and ¹⁹F NMR experimental data match those reported in the literature.⁷ HRMS ESI⁺ (*m/z*): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₆H₁₇FN₂O₃ 290.1187, found 290.1185. The yield reported in Chart 1 (93%) represents an average of two runs (96% and 90%).

Isopropyl 4,5-Difluoro-6-phenylpicolinate (9). General procedure D was followed using isopropyl 4,5-dichloro-6-phenylpicolinate (155 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1 equiv) and anhydrous NMe₄F (140 mg, 1.5 mmol, 3 equiv), providing **9** as a colorless oil (121 mg, 87% yield, *R*_f = 0.64 in 70% hexanes/30% Et₂O). ¹H, ¹³C, and ¹⁹F NMR experimental data match those reported in the literature.⁶ HRMS ESI⁺ (*m/z*): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₅H₁₄F₂NO₂ 278.0987, found 278.0986. The yield reported in Chart 1 (88%) represents an average of two runs (87% and 88%).

Isopropyl 4,5-Difluoro-6-(p-chlorophenyl)picolinate (10). General procedure D was followed using isopropyl 4,5-dichloro-6-(p-chlorophenyl)picolinate (172 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1 equiv) and anhydrous NMe₄F (140 mg, 1.5 mmol, 3 equiv), providing **10** as a white solid (138 mg, 89% yield, *R*_f = 0.69 in 70% hexanes/30% Et₂O, mp = 74–76 °C). ¹H, ¹³C, and ¹⁹F NMR experimental data match those reported in the literature.⁶ HRMS ESI⁺ (*m/z*): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₅H₁₃ClF₂NO₂ 312.0597, found 312.0597. The yield reported in Chart 1 (84%) represents an average of two runs (89% and 79%).

Isopropyl 4,5-Difluoro-6-(p-methoxyphenyl)picolinate (11). General procedure D was followed using isopropyl 4,5-dichloro-6-(p-methoxyphenyl)picolinate (170 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1 equiv) and anhydrous NMe₄F (140 mg, 1.5 mmol, 3 equiv), providing **11** as a white solid (136 mg, 89% yield, *R*_f = 0.61 in 70% hexanes/30% Et₂O, mp = 37–38 °C). ¹H, ¹³C, and ¹⁹F NMR experimental data match those reported in the literature.⁶ HRMS ESI⁺ (*m/z*): [M + H]⁺ calcd

for $C_{16}H_{16}F_2NO_3$ 308.1093, found 308.1091. The yield reported in Chart 1 (89%) represents an average of two runs (89% and 88%).

2-Fluoroquinoline (12). General procedure D was followed using 2-chloroquinoline (82 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1 equiv), providing 12 as a colorless oil (56 mg, 77% yield, $R_f = 0.51$ in 70% hexanes/30% Et_2O). 1H , ^{13}C , and ^{19}F NMR experimental data match those reported in the literature.⁶ HRMS ESI⁺ (m/z): $[M + H]^+$ calcd for C_9H_7FN 148.0557, found 148.0555. The yield reported in the text (79%) represents an average of two runs (77% and 80%).

4-Fluoro-7-(trifluoromethyl)quinoline (13). General procedure D was followed using 4-chloro-7-(trifluoromethyl)quinoline (116 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1 equiv), providing 13 as a white solid (88 mg, 82% yield, $R_f = 0.38$ in 70% hexanes/30% Et_2O , mp = 84–86 °C). 1H , ^{13}C , and ^{19}F NMR experimental data match those reported in the literature.⁶ HRMS ESI⁺ (m/z): $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{10}H_6F_4N$ 216.0431, found 216.0430. The yield reported in Chart 1 (79%) represents an average of two runs (82% and 75%).

1-Fluoroisoquinoline (14). General procedure D was followed using 1-chloroisoquinoline (82 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1 equiv), providing 14 as a colorless oil (59 mg, 80% yield, $R_f = 0.53$ in 70% hexanes/30% Et_2O). 1H , ^{13}C , and ^{19}F NMR experimental data match those reported in the literature.⁷ HRMS ESI⁺ (m/z): $[M + H]^+$ calcd for C_9H_7FN 148.0557, found 148.0555. The yield reported in Chart 1 (78%) represents an average of two runs (80% and 76%).

8-(Benzyloxy)-2-fluoroquinoline (15). General procedure D was followed using 8-(benzyloxy)-2-chloroquinoline (134.5 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv), providing 15 as a white solid (120 mg, 95% yield, $R_f = 0.38$ in 70% hexanes/30% Et_2O , mp = 67–69 °C). 1H and ^{19}F NMR experimental data match those reported in the literature.²² ^{13}C NMR (125.75 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 161.5 (d, $J = 242$ Hz), 153.4, 142.0 (d, $J = 9.5$ Hz), 138.7, 137.6 (d, $J = 15.3$ Hz), 136.8, 128.6, 128.0 (d, $J = 1.9$ Hz), 127.0, 126.9, 126.1 (d, $J = 2.9$ Hz), 119.6, 111.6, 110.6 (d, $J = 42.9$ Hz), 70.7. HRMS ESI⁺ (m/z): $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{16}H_{13}FNO$ 254.0976, found 254.0975. The yield reported in Chart 1 (91%) represents an average of two runs (95% and 86%).

3-Fluoro-6-phenylpyridazine (16). General procedure D was followed using 3-chloro-6-phenylpyridazine (95 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1 equiv), providing 16 as a white solid (79 mg, 91% yield, $R_f = 0.38$ in 70% hexanes/30% Et_2O , mp = 129–131 °C). 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 8.01–7.98 (multiple peaks, 3H), 7.53–7.49 (multiple peaks, 3H), 7.29 (dd, $J = 9.5, 2.0$ Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (175.95 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 166.7 (d, $J = 245$ Hz), 159.2 (d, $J = 3.5$ Hz), 135.1 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz), 130.2, 129.5 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 129.0, 127.0, 116.1 (d, $J = 33.4$ Hz). ^{19}F NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ -84.8 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz). IR (cm^{-1}): 1584, 1556, 1450, 1427, 1278, 1108, 852, 778, 739. HRMS ESI⁺ (m/z): $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{10}H_7FN_2$ 175.0666, found 175.0663. The yield reported in Chart 1 (90%) represents an average of two runs (91% and 88%).

2-Fluoro-3-(trifluoromethyl)pyridine (17). General procedure E was followed using 2-chloro-3-(trifluoromethyl)pyridine (18.1 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv), providing 17 in 100% yield as determined by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture. The product showed a ^{19}F NMR signals at -63.42 (3F) and -68.06 (1F) ppm in DCM [lit.^{5a} -60.62 (3F), -63.01 (1F) ppm in DMSO]. The identity of the product was further confirmed by GCMS analysis ($m/z = 165$). The yield reported in Chart 1 (97%) represents an average of two runs (100% and 94%).

2-Fluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridine (18). General procedure E was followed using 2-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridine (18.1 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv), providing 18 in 95% yield as determined by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture. The product showed ^{19}F NMR signals at -62.68 (3F) and -63.51 (1F) ppm in DCM [lit.^{5a} -60.62 (3F), -63.01 (1F) ppm in DMSO]. The identity of the product was further confirmed by GCMS analysis ($m/z = 165$). The yield reported in Chart 1 (98%) represents an average of two runs (95% and 100%).

2-Fluoro-4-cyanopyridine (19). General procedure E was followed using 2-chloro-4-cyanopyridine (13.8 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv), providing 19 in 100% yield as determined by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture. The ^{19}F NMR spectral data

matched that of an authentic sample (Synthonix; s, -64.94 ppm). The identity of the product was further confirmed by GCMS analysis ($m/z = 122$). The yield reported in Chart 1 (95%) represents an average of two runs (100% and 89%).

2-Fluoro-3-cyanopyridine (20). General procedure E was followed using 2-chloro-3-cyanopyridine (13.8 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv), providing 20 in 93% yield as determined by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture. The product showed a ^{19}F NMR signal at -62.66 ppm in DCM (lit.²⁹ -60.0 ppm in $CDCl_3$). The identity of the product was further confirmed by GCMS analysis ($m/z = 122$). The yield reported in Chart 1 (91%) represents an average of two runs (93% and 88%).

2-Fluoro-5-cyanopyridine (21). General procedure E was followed using 2-chloro-5-cyanopyridine (13.8 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv), providing 21 in 87% yield as determined by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture. The ^{19}F NMR spectral data matched that of an authentic sample (Matrix Scientific; s, -59.41 ppm). The identity of the product was further confirmed by GCMS analysis ($m/z = 122$). The yield reported in the text (94%) represents an average of two runs (87% and 100%).

2-Fluoropyrazine (22). General procedure E was followed using 2-chloropyrazine (11.4 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv), providing 22 in 99% yield as determined by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture. The product showed a ^{19}F NMR signal at -81.00 ppm in DCM (lit.^{5a} -80.4 ppm in DMSO). The identity of the product was further confirmed by GCMS analysis ($m/z = 98$). The yield reported in Chart 1 (92%) represents an average of two runs (99% and 84%).

2-Fluoro-3-chloropyridine (23). General procedure E was followed using 2-nitro-3-chloropyridine (15.8 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv), providing 23 in 94% yield as determined by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture. The product showed a ^{19}F NMR signal at -72.54 ppm in DCM (lit.^{5a} -73.03 ppm in DMSO). The identity of the product was further confirmed by GCMS analysis ($m/z = 131$). The yield reported in Chart 1 (94%) represents an average of two runs (94% and 94%).

2-Fluoro-5-iodopyridine (24). General procedure E was followed using 2-chloro-5-iodopyridine (23.9 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv), providing 24 in 85% yield as determined by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture. The ^{19}F NMR spectral data matched that of an authentic sample (Sigma-Aldrich; m, -71.28 ppm). The identity of the product was further confirmed by GCMS analysis ($m/z = 223$). The yield reported in Chart 1 (86%) represents an average of two runs (85% and 87%).

2-Fluoro-5-nitropyridine (25). General procedure E was followed using 2-chloro-5-nitropyridine (15.8 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv), providing 25 in 70% yield as determined by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture. The ^{19}F NMR spectral data matched that of an authentic sample (Oakwood Chemicals; s, -59.14 ppm). The identity of the product was further confirmed by GCMS analysis ($m/z = 142$). The yield reported in Chart 1 (73%) represents an average of two runs (70% and 76%).

2-Fluoro-5-bromopyridine (26). General procedure E was followed using 2-chloro-5-bromopyridine (19.1 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv), providing 26 in 100% yield as determined by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture. The ^{19}F NMR spectral data matched that of an authentic sample (Oakwood Products; s, -71.69 ppm). The identity of the product was further confirmed by GCMS analysis ($m/z = 175$). The yield reported in Chart 1 (94%) represents an average of two runs (100% and 88%).

2,6-Difluoropyridine (27). General procedure E was followed using 2,6-dichloropyridine (14.7 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv) and anhydrous NMe_4F (28 mg, 0.3 mmol, 3 equiv), providing 27 in 91% yield as determined by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture. The ^{19}F NMR spectral data matched that of an authentic sample (Alfa Aesar; m, -68.91 ppm). The identity of the product was further confirmed by GCMS analysis ($m/z = 115$). The yield reported in Chart 1 (93%) represents an average of two runs (91% and 95%).

2-Fluorobenzonitrile (4). General procedure E was followed using 2-chlorobenzonitrile (13.7 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv) at 80 °C, providing

4 in 98% yield as determined by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture. The ^{19}F NMR spectral data matched that of an authentic sample (Ark Pharm; m , -108.02 ppm). The identity of the product was further confirmed by GCMS analysis ($m/z = 121$). The yield reported in Chart 1 (94%) represents an average of three runs (98%, 83%, and 100%).

3-Fluorobenzonitrile (28). General procedure E was followed using 3-chlorobenzonitrile (13.7 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv) at 80°C , providing 28 in 6% yield as determined by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture. The ^{19}F NMR spectral data matched that of an authentic sample (Oakwood Chemicals; m , -111.18 ppm). The identity of the product was further confirmed by GCMS analysis ($m/z = 121$). The yield reported in Chart 1 (7%) represents an average of two runs (6% and 7%).

4-Fluorobenzonitrile (29). General procedure E was followed using 4-chlorobenzonitrile (13.7 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv) at 80°C , providing 29 in 79% yield as determined by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture. The ^{19}F NMR spectral data matched that of an authentic sample (Oakwood Chemicals; m , -103.89 ppm). The identity of the product was further confirmed by GCMS analysis ($m/z = 121$). The yield reported in Chart 1 (80%) represents an average of two runs (79% and 81%).

Ethyl 4-Fluorobenzoate (30). General procedure D was followed using ethyl 4-nitrobenzoate (98 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1 equiv), providing 30 as a colorless oil (51 mg, 61% yield, $R_f = 0.58$ in 90% hexanes/10% EtOAc). ^1H , ^{13}C , and ^{19}F NMR experimental data match those reported in the literature.⁷ HRMS ESI⁺ (m/z): $[\text{M}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_9\text{FO}_2$ 168.0587, found 168.0584. The yield reported in Chart 1 (63%) represents an average of two runs (61% and 65%).

4-Fluorobenzophenone (31). General procedure D was followed using 4-nitrobenzophenone (114 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1 equiv), providing 31 as a white solid (89 mg, 89% yield, $R_f = 0.54$ in 90% hexanes/10% EtOAc, $\text{mp} = 47\text{--}48^\circ\text{C}$). ^1H , ^{13}C , and ^{19}F NMR experimental data match those reported in the literature.⁷ HRMS ESI⁺ (m/z): $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{10}\text{FO}$ 201.0710, found 201.0708. The yield reported in Chart 1 (90%) represents an average of two runs (89% and 90%).

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

■ Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.joc.5b02075.

Further description of the cost analysis and NMR spectra of isolated products 2, 7–16, 30, and 31 (PDF)

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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(24) Commercial prices for raw materials were obtained from John Kantzes of SACHEM, Inc. and from SRI's 2014 Yearbook.

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(26) See the [Supporting Information](#) for a more detailed discussion of the cost analysis.

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