

# Reactions of some nitrogen heterocycles with chlorodifluoromethane under conditions of phase-transfer catalysis

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## Abstract

Aromatic heterocyclic compounds containing one to four nitrogen atoms react with chlorodifluoromethane in the presence of concentrated aqueous sodium hydroxide and a catalyst, benzyltriethylammonium chloride (TEBAC) in dichloromethane or THF (phase-transfer catalysis, PTC) with formation of N-difluoromethyl substituted derivatives. The process takes place by reaction of N-anions from these heterocycles with difluorocarbene and protonation of difluoromethyl anions thus formed.

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**Keywords:** Phase-transfer catalysis; Difluorocarbene; N-difluoromethylation; Nitrogen heterocycles

## 1. Introduction

Chlorodifluoromethane (**1**) treated with a base generates difluorocarbene [1,2], possibly without intervention of chlorodifluoromethyl anion [3]. This electrophilic carbene generated from **1** under different basic conditions has been utilized for difluoromethylation of nitrogen heterocycles. Thus, the reaction with pyrazole, benzopyrazoles or perimidines was carried out in aqueous-acetone solution of potassium hydroxide [4], with 4-ethoxycarbonylpyrazole in the presence of solid potassium carbonate in DMF [5], with phenylazoles with sodium hydride in THF or DMF [6], and with 2-mercaptoazoles with potassium hydroxide in *i*-propanol–water mixture or DMF [7]. In the case of indoles, the process was performed with sodium *t*-butoxide [8] or sodium hydride in DMF [9]; the former base was also applied for the reaction of carbostyryl, giving mixture of N- and O-derivatives [8]. Similarly, quinoxalin-2-ones afforded mixtures of N- and O-difluoromethylated compounds in moderate yield when solid potassium carbonate or cesium fluoride in DMF were applied [10], while the reaction of spiro[imidazolidine(quinazoline)]trione with sodium hydride in DMF led to formation only of the N-derivative [11].

Little is known about the application of alkali metal hydroxides and a quaternary ammonium salt as a catalyst (phase-transfer catalysis, PTC [12–14]) for difluoromethylation of nitrogen heterocycles with **1**. The preparation of N-difluoromethylated herbicides from aryltriazolinones, under these conditions, was patented [15,16].

## 2. Results and discussion

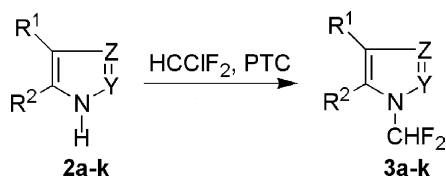
Chlorodifluoromethane (**1**) is not suitable for the preparation of *gem*-difluorocyclopropanes from alkenes under PTC conditions [17,18] since difluorocarbene generated from **1** by a concerted  $\alpha$ -elimination [3] at the interface of the two-phase system, hydrolyzed at a high rate [19]. However, literature data indicate that even large amounts of water in the basic system do not disturb the reaction of **1** with nitrogen heterocycles, and N-difluoromethylated products were formed in satisfactory yields [4,7].

These results encouraged us to investigate reaction of aromatic heterocycles which possess one to four nitrogen atoms **2a–k** and **6** with **1**, carried out in the presence of 50% aqueous sodium hydroxide and benzyltriethylammonium chloride (TEBAC) as a catalyst in dichloromethane or THF (liquid–liquid variant of PTC).

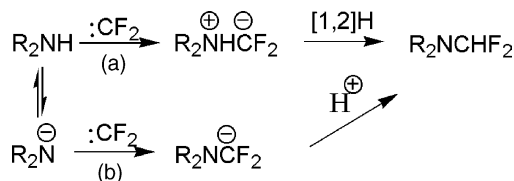
Reaction of indole (**2a**) with **1** led to formation of N-derivative **3a** (yield 50%), while the products from

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Scheme 1.



Scheme 3.

3-methylindole and carbazole were insufficiently stable for isolation either by column chromatography or by vacuum distillation. According to the literature, when 2,3-dimethylindole was allowed to react with ethyl chlorodifluoroacetate and potassium *t*-butoxide, 3-difluoromethyl-2,3-dimethyl-3H-indole was formed [20]. Under the conditions studied, pyrrole formed by PTC the product in ca. 8% yield (determined by GC).

Series of aromatic diazaheterocycles **2b–j** reacted with chlorodifluoromethane (**1**) affording N-difluoromethyl substituted derivatives **3b–j**, often in good yields. In the case of derivatives possessing, a hydroxy group **2i,j** O-difluoromethylation competed with N-difluoromethylation, giving the products **3i,j** and disubstituted derivatives **4** and **5**. Bis-difluoromethylation was already noticed during reactions of 2-mercaptoazoles [6]. Amide **2f** was exclusively difluoromethylated at the ring nitrogen atom. Acetyl derivative **2g** was rather unstable under PTC conditions; hence, the yield of **3g** was only 13%.

Chlorodifluoromethane (**1**) reacted smoothly with benzotriazole (**2k**) and less easily with 5-benzyl-1H-tetrazole (**6**) giving the products **3k** or **7** in 72 and 38% yield, respectively (Schemes 1 and 2). In the latter case, a mixture of regioisomers resulted, to which structures **7a** and **7b** have been tentatively ascribed (NOE experiments did not solve this problem).

All reactions of **1** with nitrogen heterocycles were carried out under mild conditions, at 20–40 °C, and occurred at a rather high rate.

Two mechanistic pathways leading to N-difluoromethylation of heterocycles have been considered [4,6,21]: (a) reaction of difluorocarbene with p-electron pair of nitrogen atom leading to a N-ylide which further enters [1,2]H shift or (b) its reaction with a N-anion affording the basic N-difluoromethyl anion which gave the product after protonation (Scheme 3).

It is well established that the PTC conditions are sufficiently basic to cause deprotonation of a variety of azoles [22,23]; hence, mechanistic pathway (b) seems more plausible. When a weak N–H acidic compound, not able to generate a N-anion under PTC conditions is allowed to react with **1**, N-formylation occurred, e.g. morpholine gave N-formyl derivative in good yield. In this case mechanistic pathway (a) is involved and

hydrolysis of N-difluoromethyl into N-formyl derivative is facilitated by the presence of highly basic nitrogen atom. To confirm the pathway (b), reaction of **2h** with **1** was carried out under PTC conditions, in excess of carbon tetrachloride. This reagent chlorinates carbanions easily by an halophilic process [24,25]. The reaction studied afforded 1-chlorodifluoromethyl-2-phenylbenzimidazole (**8**) in 21% yield apart from the product **3h** (Scheme 4).

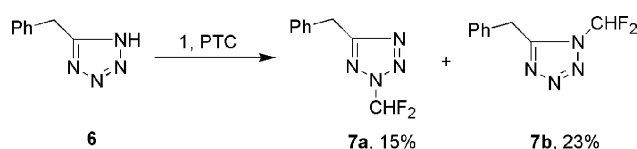
This product is not formed when **3h** was allowed to react with carbon tetrachloride under PTC conditions. The results described above testify that halogenation of N-difluoromethyl anion competed with its protonation.

A liquid–liquid variant of PTC is a convenient tool for N-difluoromethylation of a variety of aromatic nitrogen heterocycles with chlorodifluoromethane (**1**) via reaction of their N-anions with difluorocarbene. The procedure is simple and the process is rather fast affording the products often in good yields.

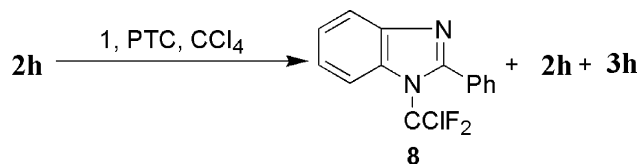
### 3. Experimental

#### 3.1. General

Melting points were measured on a capillary melting point apparatus and are uncorrected.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Mercury (at 400 MHz) or Varian Gemini (at 200 MHz),  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra on a Varian Mercury (at 100 MHz) spectrometers in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  with tetramethylsilane as internal reference.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Mercury (at 376 MHz) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  with trifluoroacetic acid as internal reference. All chemical shifts are reported in ppm ( $\delta = 0.00$ ). The abbreviations used are as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet. Gas chromatography (GC) analyses were carried out on a gas chromatograph, Agilent 6850 Series GC System equipped with HP-50+ (30 m) column. Microanalyses were obtained using a CHN/S Perkin-Elmer 2400 element analyzer. Column chromatography was performed using Merck basic aluminiumoxid 90 (70–230 mesh) with hexane and ethyl acetate mixtures (gradient) as eluents. Chlorodifluoromethane



Scheme 2.



Scheme 4.

(1) and heterocycles **2a–d,h** were commercial materials, while benzimidazoles **2e** [26], **2f** [27], **2g** [28], **2i,2j** [29], benzotriazole **2k** [30] and benzyltetrazole **6** [31] were prepared by literature procedures.

### 3.2. General procedure for *N*-difluoromethylation of nitrogen heterocycles (**2a–d**)

Into a three-necked, round-bottomed flask equipped with reflux condenser, mechanical stirrer and glass pipe for introducing **1**, heterocycle **2a–d** (40 mmol), 50% aq. NaOH (6.4 ml, 9.6 g, 120 mmol), TEBAC (0.454 g, 2 mmol) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> or THF (ca. 50 ml) were placed. The content of the flask was stirred for ca. 2 min, then chlorodifluoromethane (**1**) was bubbled through the mixture for 0.5–3 h, and the progress of the reaction was monitored by GC. The mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (50 ml), the organic phase was decanted from semisolid inorganic one which sticks to the wall of the reaction flask, and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by vacuum distillation (Table 1).

### 3.3. General procedure for *N*-difluoromethylation of nitrogen heterocycles (**2e–k**) and (**6**)

The reactions were carried out as described in p. **3.1** starting from heterocycle **2e–k** or **6** (6 mmol), 50% aq. NaOH (0.96 ml, 1.44 g, 18 mmol), TEBAC (68 g, 0.3 mmol) and THF (20 ml). The mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 ml), the organic

phase was decanted, worked up and the product was isolated by column chromatography (Table 1).

**3a**, liquid, b.p. 76–78 °C/3.5 Torr, <sup>1</sup>H NMR δ 6.65 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (t, *J* = 61 Hz, 1H, CHF<sub>2</sub>), 7.29 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.24–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.56–7.58 (m, 1H), 7.64–7.66 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR δ 105.9, 110.0 (t, *J* = 246 Hz, CHF<sub>2</sub>), 110.6, 121.4, 121.9, 123.1, 129.6, 134.0. <sup>19</sup>F NMR δ –95.7 (d, *J*<sub>H–F</sub> = 61 Hz, 2F). HRMS calcd. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub>NF<sub>2</sub>: 167.0546. Found: 167.0544.

**3b**, liquid, b.p. 62–63 °C/15 Torr, literature [3] b.p. 155–156 °C/740 Torr, <sup>1</sup>H NMR δ 7.10 (t, *J* = 61 Hz, 1H, CHF<sub>2</sub>), 7.15 (s, 1H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR δ 108 (t, *J* = 251 Hz, CHF<sub>2</sub>), 114.9, 130.9, 134.4. <sup>19</sup>F NMR δ –96.2 (d, *J*<sub>H–F</sub> = 61 Hz, 2F). HRMS calcd. for C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub>: 118.0342. Found: 118.0343.

**3c1**, liquid, b.p. 65–66 °C/10 Torr, <sup>1</sup>H NMR δ 2.21 (d, *J* = 0.4 Hz, 3H), 6.79 (t, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (t, *J* = 61 Hz, 1H, CHF<sub>2</sub>), 7.67 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR δ 8.6, 108.0 (t, *J* = 248 Hz, CHF<sub>2</sub>), 110.7, 128.1, 133.7. <sup>19</sup>F NMR δ –96.6 (d, *J*<sub>H–F</sub> = 61 Hz, 2F).

**3c2**, liquid, b.p. 65–66 °C/10 Torr, <sup>1</sup>H NMR δ 2.30 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 3H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 7.00 (t, *J* = 60 Hz, 1H, CHF<sub>2</sub>), 7.70 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR δ 12.7, 108.5 (t, *J* = 248 Hz, CHF<sub>2</sub>), 110.7, 128.1, 134.6. <sup>19</sup>F NMR δ –98.3 (d, *J*<sub>H–F</sub> = 60 Hz, 2F). HRMS calcd. for C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub>: 132.0499. Found: 132.0495.

**3d**, solid, b.p. 67–68 °C/0.3 Torr, literature [3] b.p. 102–103 °C/2 Torr, m.p. 40–41 °C, literature [3] m.p. 42–43 °C, <sup>1</sup>H NMR δ 7.37 (t, *J* = 60 Hz, 1H, CHF<sub>2</sub>), 7.35–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.59–7.62 (m, 1H), 7.82–7.84 (m, 1H), 8.16 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR δ

Table 1

Difluoromethylation of nitrogen heterocycles **2a–k** with chlorodifluoromethane (**1**) under PTC conditions

Nos. 2 and 3	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	Y	Z	Temperature (°C)	Solvent	Product	
							Purity <sup>a</sup> (%)	Yield (%)
<b>a</b>	CH=CH– CH=CH		CH	CH	40	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	96	50 <sup>b</sup>
<b>b</b>	H	H	CH	N	20	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	99	40 <sup>b</sup>
<b>c</b>	Me	H	CH	N	40	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	99	46 <sup>b,c</sup>
<b>d</b>	CH=CH– CH=CH		CH	N	20	THF	97	65 <sup>b</sup>
<b>e</b>	CH=CH– CH=CH		CMe	N	20	THF	99	67 <sup>d</sup>
<b>f</b>	CH=CH– CH=CH		CCONH <sub>2</sub>	N	20	THF	98	69 <sup>d</sup>
<b>g</b>	CH=CH– CH=CH		CCOMe	N	20	THF	96	13 <sup>d</sup>
<b>h</b>	CH=CH– CH=CH		CPh	N	20	THF	ca. 100	91 <sup>d</sup>
<b>i</b>	CH=CH– CH=CH		CCH(OH)Me	N	20	THF	95	50 <sup>d,e</sup>
<b>j</b>	CH=CH– CH=CH		CCH(OH)Ph	N	20	THF	98	36 <sup>d,f</sup>
<b>k</b>	CH=CH– CH=CH		N	N	20	THF	99	72 <sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Determined by GC.

<sup>b</sup> Isolated by vacuum distillation.

<sup>c</sup> Mixture of 1-difluoromethyl-4-methylimidazole (**3c1**) and 1-difluoromethyl-5-methylimidazole (**3c2**), ratio 2:1.

<sup>d</sup> Isolated by column chromatography.

<sup>e</sup> Additionally, 1-difluoromethyl-2-(1-difluoromethoxy)ethylbenzimidazole (**4**) was isolated in 11% yield (purity 99%).

<sup>f</sup> Additionally, 1-difluoromethyl-2-(1-difluoromethoxy)benzylbenzimidazole (**5**) was isolated in 28% yield (purity 96%).

108.9 (t,  $J = 248.4$  Hz, 1C, CHF<sub>2</sub>), 111.1, 120.6, 124.2, 124.8, 130.3, 139.1, 143.4. <sup>19</sup>F NMR  $\delta$  –98.6 (d,  $J_{\text{H-F}} = 60$  Hz, 2F). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: C, 57.2, H, 3.6, N, 16.7. Found: C, 57.3, H, 3.5, N, 16.7.

**3e**, solid, m.p. 61–62 °C, literature [3] m.p. 62–63 °C, <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  2.70 (s, 3H), 7.28 (t,  $J = 59$  Hz, 1H, CHF<sub>2</sub>), 7.27–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.51–7.55 (m, 1H), 7.68–7.72 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  14.5, 108.8 (t,  $J = 246.5$  Hz, 1C, CHF<sub>2</sub>), 110.5, 119.7, 123.7, 123.8, 132.0, 142.5, 149.4. <sup>19</sup>F NMR  $\delta$  –99.2 (d,  $J_{\text{H-F}} = 58$  Hz, 2F). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>8</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O: C, 59.3, H, 4.4, N, 15.4. Found: C, 59.3, H, 4.5, N, 15.4.

**3f**, solid, m.p. 182–184 °C, <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  6.03 (s, 1H), 7.42–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.80–7.85 (m, 2H), 8.77 (t,  $J = 59$  Hz, 1H, CHF<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  109.5 (t,  $J = 249.5$  Hz, 1H, CHF<sub>2</sub>), 113.8, 121.3, 125.0, 126.7, 132.6, 141.1, 160.6. <sup>19</sup>F NMR  $\delta$  –100.6 (d,  $J_{\text{H-F}} = 59$  Hz, 2F). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O: C, 51.2, H, 3.3, N, 19.9. Found: C, 51.2, H, 3.4, N, 19.8.

**3g**, liquid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  2.86 (s, 3H), 7.43–7.53 (m, 2H), 7.80–7.83 (m, 1H), 7.90–7.93 (m, 1H), 8.49 (t,  $J = 59$  Hz, 1H, CHF<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  27.8, 109.4 (t,  $J = 249.6$  Hz, 1C, CHF<sub>2</sub>), 113.9, 122.3, 125.2, 127.8, 130.9, 141.6, 144.4, 192.9. <sup>19</sup>F NMR  $\delta$  –100.0 (d,  $J_{\text{H-F}} = 59$  Hz, 2F). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>8</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O: C, 57.2, H, 3.8, N, 13.3. Found: C, 57.3, H, 3.9, N, 13.5.

**3h**, solid, m.p. 35–37 °C, <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  7.29 (t,  $J = 58$  Hz, 1H, CHF<sub>2</sub>), 7.39–7.42 (m, 2H), 7.56–7.58 (m, 3H), 7.72–7.87 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  110.1 (t,  $J = 246.8$  Hz, 1C, CHF<sub>2</sub>), 112.7, 120.4, 124.3, 124.5, 128.6, 129.2, 129.4, 130.9, 131.7, 142.9, 151.8. <sup>19</sup>F NMR  $\delta$  –99.1 (d,  $J_{\text{H-F}} = 58$  Hz, 2F). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: C, 68.9, H, 4.1, N, 11.5. Found: C, 68.8, H, 4.1, N, 11.5.

**3i**, solid, m.p. 65–67 °C, <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  1.51 (m, 3H), 5.07 (q,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 5.99 (s, 1H, OH), 7.15–7.64 (m, 4H), 8.02 (t,  $J = 59$  Hz, NCHF<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  22.1, 64.6, 109.3 (t,  $J = 246.5$  Hz, 1C, NCHF<sub>2</sub>), 112.6, 119.4, 123.9, 124.6, 131.6, 141.1, 154.9. <sup>19</sup>F NMR  $\delta$  –100.6, –101.5 (part AB of ABX,  $J_{\text{F-F}} = 229.3$  Hz,  $J_{\text{H-F}} = 59$  Hz, 2F, NCHF<sub>2</sub>). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>10</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O: C, 56.6, H, 4.8, N, 13.2. Found: C, 56.5, H, 4.7, N, 13.1.

**4**, liquid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  1.82 (d,  $J = 1.7$  Hz, 3H), 5.71 (q,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 6.35 (t,  $J = 73$  Hz, 1H, –OCHF<sub>2</sub>), 7.36–7.39 (m, 2H), 7.68 (t,  $J = 59$  Hz, 1H, –NCHF<sub>2</sub>), 7.69–7.79 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  20.9, 67.9, 108.9 (t,  $J = 246.9$  Hz, 1C, NCHF<sub>2</sub>), 112.6, 115.7 (t,  $J = 261$  Hz, 1C, OCHF<sub>2</sub>), 120.6, 124.2, 125.1, 132.0, 141.9, 150.1. <sup>19</sup>F NMR  $\delta$  –87.6, –88.1 (part AB of ABX,  $J_{\text{F-F}} = 161.7$  Hz,  $J_{\text{H-F}} = 73$  Hz, 2F, OCHF<sub>2</sub>), –99.3, –100.6 (part AB of ABX,  $J_{\text{F-F}} = 228.6$  Hz,  $J_{\text{H-F}} = 59$  Hz, 2F, NCHF<sub>2</sub>). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>10</sub>F<sub>4</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O: C, 50.4, H, 3.8, N, 10.7. Found: C, 50.3, H, 3.8, N, 10.7.

**3j**, solid, m.p. 126–128 °C, <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  6.27 (s, 1H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 7.25–7.36 (m, 7H), 7.57–7.61 (m, 2H), 7.63 (t,  $J = 58$  Hz, 1H, –NCHF<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  69.9, 108.9 (t,  $J = 247.2$  Hz, 1C, NCHF<sub>2</sub>), 112.7, 119.7, 124.1, 124.8, 125.4, 128.3, 128.8, 131.7, 138.7, 141.1, 153.7. <sup>19</sup>F NMR  $\delta$  –91.9, –92.4 (part AB of ABX,  $J_{\text{F-F}} = 213.4$  Hz,  $J_{\text{H-F}} = 58$  Hz, 2F, NCHF<sub>2</sub>). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O: C, 65.7, H, 4.4, N, 10.2. Found: C, 65.9, H, 4.8, N, 10.0.

**5**, liquid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  6.52 (t,  $J = 73$  Hz, 1H, OCHF<sub>2</sub>), 6.73 (s, 1H), 7.35 (t,  $J = 58$  Hz, 1H, NCHF<sub>2</sub>), 7.34–7.42 (m, 7H), 7.40–7.85 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  72.9, 108.8 (t,  $J = 247.2$  Hz, 1H, NCHF<sub>2</sub>), 112.8, 115.9 (t,  $J = 262$  Hz, 1H, OCHF<sub>2</sub>), 120.8, 124.3, 125.3, 125.6, 129.1, 129.2, 132.1, 134.8, 142.1, 148.9, 166.6. <sup>19</sup>F NMR  $\delta$  –86.8, –89.4 (part AB of ABX,  $J_{\text{F-F}} = 161.1$  Hz,  $J_{\text{H-F}} = 73$  Hz, 2F, OCHF<sub>2</sub>), –100.3, –101.6 (part AB of ABX,  $J_{\text{F-F}} = 226.7$  Hz,  $J_{\text{H-F}} = 58$  Hz, 2F, NCHF<sub>2</sub>). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sub>4</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O: C, 59.3, H, 3.7, N, 8.6. Found: C, 59.3, H, 3.7, N, 8.7.

**3k**, solid, m.p. 38–40 °C, <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  7.46–7.50 (m, 1H), 7.59–7.64 (m, 1H), 7.81 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.86 (t,  $J = 58$  Hz, 1H, CHF<sub>2</sub>), 8.11–8.13 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  110.7, 111.3 (t,  $J = 249.5$  Hz, 1C, CHF<sub>2</sub>), 120.4, 125.5, 129.4, 129.9, 146.4. <sup>19</sup>F NMR  $\delta$  –101.9 (d,  $J_{\text{H-F}} = 58$  Hz, 2F). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>: C, 49.7, H, 3.0, N, 24.8. Found: C, 49.8, H, 3.1, N, 24.6.

**7a**, liquid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  4.34 (s, 2H), 7.28–7.36 (m, 5H), 7.58 (t,  $J = 56$  Hz, 1H, CHF<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  31.7, 108.7 (t,  $J = 258.2$  Hz, 1C, CHF<sub>2</sub>), 127.2, 128.7, 128.8, 135.4, 167.1. <sup>19</sup>F NMR  $\delta$  –102.6 (d,  $J_{\text{H-F}} = 58$  Hz, 2F). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>8</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N<sub>4</sub>: C, 51.4, H, 3.8, N, 26.7. Found: C, 51.4, H, 3.8, N, 26.7.

**7b**, liquid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  4.43 (s, 2H), 7.28–7.37 (m, 5H), 7.57 (t,  $J = 58$  Hz, 1H, CHF<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  29.6, 108.7 (t,  $J = 255.9$  Hz, 1C, CHF<sub>2</sub>), 127.8, 128.7, 128.9, 132.9, 153.7. <sup>19</sup>F NMR  $\delta$  –91.2 (d,  $J_{\text{H-F}} = 58$  Hz, 2F). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>8</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N<sub>4</sub>: C, 51.4, H, 3.8, N, 26.7. Found: C, 51.3, H, 3.9, N, 26.5.

### 3.4. Preparation of 1-chlorodifluoromethyl-2-phenylbenzimidazole (**8**)

To three-necked, round-bottomed flask equipped with reflux condenser, mechanical stirrer and glass pipe for introducing **1**, imidazole **2h** (970 mg, 5 mmol), 50% aq. NaOH (0.8 ml, 1.2 g, 15 mmol), TEBAAC (57 mg, 0.25 mmol), CCl<sub>4</sub> (20 ml) and THF (10 ml) were placed. The content of the flask was stirred for ca. 2 min, then **1** was bubbled through the reaction mixture at ca. 20 °C for 3 h and at 50 °C for 2 h. The mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 ml), worked up as described in p. **3.1** (GC indicated 47% of **8**, 27% of **3h** and 24% of unreacted **2h**) and the product was isolated by column chromatography.

**8**, liquid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  7.49–7.53 (m, 5H), 7.66–7.92 (m, 3H), 7.84–7.86 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $\delta$  112.9, 120.6, 121.3 (t,  $J = 290$  Hz, 1C, CHF<sub>2</sub>), 124.7, 125.1, 128.1, 129.5, 130.2, 130.3, 132.3, 142.7, 151.1. <sup>19</sup>F NMR  $\delta$  –35.6 (s, 2F). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>9</sub>ClF<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: C, 60.3, H, 3.3, N, 10.1, Cl, 12.7. Found: C, 60.3, H, 3.4, N, 10.0, Cl, 12.7.

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