Accepted Manuscript

Title: Efficient Nucleophilic Difluoromethylation of Aldehydes with (Phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylzinc and (Phenylsulfonyl)d ifluoromethylcadmium Reagents

Author: Fanzhou Jiang Chuanfa Ni Jinbo Hu



PII:	S0022-1139(16)30435-3
DOI:	http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1016/j.jfluchem.2016.12.005
Reference:	FLUOR 8913
To appear in:	FLUOR
Received date:	3-11-2016
Revised date:	6-12-2016
Accepted date:	6-12-2016

Please cite this article as: Fanzhou Jiang, Chuanfa Ni, Jinbo Hu, Efficient Nucleophilic Difluoromethylation of Aldehydes with (Phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylzinc and (Phenylsulfonyl)d ifluoromethylcadmium Reagents, Journal of Fluorine Chemistry http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jfluchem.2016.12.005

This is a PDF file of an unedited manuscript that has been accepted for publication. As a service to our customers we are providing this early version of the manuscript. The manuscript will undergo copyediting, typesetting, and review of the resulting proof before it is published in its final form. Please note that during the production process errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.

Efficient Nucleophilic Difluoromethylation of Aldehydes with (Phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylzinc and (Phenylsulfonyl)d ifluoromethylcadmium Reagents

Fanzhou Jiang, Chuanfa Ni, and Jinbo Hu*

Key Laboratory of Organofluorine Chemistry, Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 345 Ling-Ling Road, Shanghai 200032, China

* Correspondence author. Tel.: +86 21 54925174; Fax: +86 21 64166128; E-mail: jinbohu@sioc.ac.cn.

Invited Contribution for "Special Issue: Bremen Fluorine Days 2016"



Highlights

- 1. (Phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylzinc and –cadmium reagents were prepared for the first time.
- 2. The two reagents reacted smoothly with aldehydes under mild conditions.
- 3. The phenylsulfonyl group increased the thermodynamic stability and nucleophilicity of the difluoromethanide anion.

Abstract

A new strategy for nucleophilic addition to aldehydes with difluoromethyl organometallic reagents has been developed by functionalizing the difluoromethyl moiety with the phenylsulfonyl group (SO₂Ph). This electron-withdrawing group influences both the thermodynamic stability and the nucleophilicity of difluoromethyl organometallic reagents, which plays an important role in the nucleophilic difluoromethylation of aldehydes.

Keywords: difluoromethylation; sulfone; aldehyde; organozinc reagent;

organocadmium reagent

1. Introduction

Fluoroalkylation reactions have undergone extensive development in the field of organofluorine chemistry over the past decades.[1] Among various fluoroalkyl groups, the difluoromethyl group (-CF₂H) is considered to be isosteric and isopolar to a carbinol (-CH₂OH) or thiol (-SH) unit.[2] It also can behave as a more lipophilic hydrogen donor through hydrogen bonding.[3] Moreover, selective incorporation of a difluoromethylene moiety into medicinal molecules not only has the potential to modify their interaction with neighboring functional groups, but also has an impact on their receptor bindings and metabolic processes.[4] Therefore, difluoromethylated analogues of biologically active molecules promise to be good candidates for pharmaceuticals. Recent years have witnessed the increasing number of methods for blocks.[4b] difluoromethylated building Nucleophilic the introduction of difluoromethylation has been known as a convenient and efficient method to prepare difluoromethylated compounds.[5] TMSCF₂H, as a potentially useful difluoromethanide anion (CF2H) precursor, has been successively applied for the nucleophilic addition to different substrates, such as aldehydes, ketones and imines.[5a-5d] In contrast to this organosilicon compound, difluoromethyl organometallic reagents are still supposed to be incapable of undergoing nucleophilic difluoromethylation of carbonyl compounds related electrophiles.[6] and Difluoromethylzinc (HCF₂ZnX) and cadmium (HCF₂CdX) reagents were prepared via direct insertion of the corresponding metal into the C-X bond of CF_2HX (X = Br

and I).[6] These sluggish difluoromethyl reagents demonstrated fairly good thermal stability at even 65~75 °C and only exhibited reactivities with allylic halides, propargyl halides and other high chemically reactive derivatives. Difluoromethylcopper reagents (HCF₂CuX) derived from difluoromethylcadmium reagent was more reactive with these halides, whereas easily decomposed when the temperature was elevated to higher than -30 °C.[6] The difluoromethylcopper species prepared from TMSCF₂H was extensively investigated and successfully applied to the synthesis of difluoromethylated arenes.[7] Shen's group reported that a structurally well-defined difluoromethyl silver complex could difluoromethylate aryl bromides and iodides under mild conditions in the presence of palladium catalyst.[8]

Mikami and co-workers succeeded in the trifluoromethylation of Recently, carbonyl compounds with the stable bis(trifluoromethyl)zinc reagent Zn(CF₃)₂(TMEDA).[9] As analogues of this isolated organozinc species, the corresponding bis(difluoromethyl)zinc reagent and its analogues were also synthesized for palladium or copper catalyzed cross-coupling reactions with aryl difluoromethylation halides.[10] However, of carbonyl compounds with difluoromethylzinc reagents has not been achieved yet. In general, trifluoromethyl exhibit higher thermodynamic stability organometallic reagents than the corresponding difluoromethyl species.[11] For example, trifluoromethylcopper reagents are stable at ambient temperature, while the difluoromethylcopper species could be only maintained below -30 °C.[6,12]

5

The (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethyl group (PhSO₂CF₂) was regarded as a useful functionality, which can undergo further transformation into various groups, such as difluoromethylene (-CF₂-), difluoromethyl (CF₂H) and difluoromethylidene (=CF₂) moieties.[4a, 13] In addition, the phenylsulfonyl group could enhance the nucleophilicity of difluoromethyl anion towards different electrophilic substrates.[13] The corresponding difluoromethylated organometallic reagents are expected to be obtained by direct insertion of an appropriate metal into the C–X (X = Br and I) bond of iodo- or bromodifluoromethyl phenyl sulfone (PhSO₂CF₂I/PhSO₂CF₂Br (**2**)). Herein, we disclose an efficient nucleophilic difluoromethylation of aldehydes with (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylzinc and (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylcadmium reagents under mild conditions.[14]



Scheme 1. Preparation of bromodifluoromethyl phenyl sulfone

2. Results and Discussion

Bromodifluoromethyl phenyl sulfone (2) could be readily prepared from bromodifluoromethyl phenyl sulfide (PhSCF₂Br, 1) and NaIO₄ in the presence of RuCl₃·xH₂O according to the literature procedures (**Scheme 1**).[15] With this difluoromethyl equivalent in hand, we initially began to investigate the reaction conditions for preparing (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylzinc reagent. TMSCl was

used to in situ activate zinc powder before PhSO₂CF₂Br was added into the mixture. The moderately polar solvent THF was not effective for the insertion of zinc metal into C–Br bond of PhSO₂CF₂Br (2) even at an elevated temperature (50 °C) (Scheme 2a). The Highly polar solvent DMF was found to be much better and the insertion proceeded smoothly at room temperature within 15 minutes to afford the corresponding difluoromethylzinc reagent " $XZnCF_2SO_2Ph$ (X = Br, CF_2SO_2Ph)" (3) as a mixture of mono- and bisdifluoromethylzinc in 73% ¹⁹F NMR yield (Figure 1). The mono/bis species were tentatively assigned via their characteristic ¹⁹F NMR spectrum, which exhibited the singlet at -105.6 ppm (25%) and -106.0 ppm (75%), respectively.[6b,16] However, these organozinc species gradually decomposed to difluoromethyl phenyl sulfone (PhSO₂CF₂H) at room temperature. A lower temperature could keep "XZnCF₂SO₂Ph" (3) relatively stable (Scheme 2b). Similarly, the reaction between zinc powder and PhSO₂CF₂Br (2) conducted in NMP also rapidly produced "XZnCF₂SO₂Ph" (3), which also maintains stable at 0 °C (Scheme **2c**).





(phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylzinc reagent



Figure 1. The composition of (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylzinc reagent prepared in DMF at room temperature

Using the optimized reaction conditions for the preparation of (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylzinc reagent, we made a survey on its reaction with aldehydes, choosing 2-naphthaldehyde as a model substrate. The difluoromethylzinc species prepared in DMF exhibited a higher nucleophilicity than that in NMP. The nucleophilic difluoromethylation proceeded smoothly, providing the difluoromethyl carbinol in excellent yield within 5 hours at ambient temperature (**Table 1**).

 Table 1. Survey of nucleophilic difluoromethylation of 2-naphthaldehyde with

 (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylzinc reagent



^{*a*}The amount of PhSO₂CF₂Br and Zn is 2.0 and 3.0 equivalents relative to that of 2-naphthaldehyde, respectively. ^{*b*}Determined by ¹⁹F NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture using PhCF₃ as an internal standard.

Encouraged by the above results, we next examined the substrate scope of the difluoromethylation reaction with (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylzinc reagent. As shown in Scheme 3, this method exhibited a good tolerance to both aromatic and aliphatic aldehydes. Aldehydes with electron-withdrawing groups could smoothly undergo the reaction to give the corresponding difluoromethyl carbinols, whereas the reaction of aldehydes with electron-donating groups required anhydrous LiCl to promote the nucleophilic addition process due to their relatively low reactivity. Besides aromatic aldehydes with various substituents, this reaction was also amenable to heteroaromatic aldehydes (**Table 2**).



Table 2. Nucleophilic difluoromethylation of various aldehydes with

(phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylzinc reagent^a

^{*a*}The amount of PhSO₂CF₂Br and Zn is 2.0 and 3.0 equivalents relative to that of the aldehyde, respectively. Isolated yield is reported. ^{*b*}2.0 equivalents of LiCl is added to the mixture. ^{*c*}1.0 equivalent of LiCl is added to the mixture.

Having accomplished the nucleophilic difluoromethylation of aldehydes with (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylzinc reagent, we continued our study with investigations of the preparation and reaction of other organometallic species for (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylation of aldehydes.

The generation of (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylcadmium reagent was found to be feasible via the insertion of cadmium metal into C–Br bond of PhSO₂CF₂Br (**2**). This reaction performed in DMF could complete within 15 minutes and the organocadmium species was stable at the temperature of 0 °C (**Scheme 3**). The cadmium reagent "XCdCF₂SO₂Ph (X = Br, CF₂SO₂Ph)" (**5**) was formed as a mixture of mono- and bisdifluoromethylcadmium in 90% ¹⁹F NMR yield when the reaction was conducted at room temperature (**Figure 2**). The mono/bis species were tentatively assigned via their characteristic ¹⁹F NMR spectrum, which showed the expected singlet at –100.5 ppm (42%) and –100.9 ppm (58%), respectively, for the CF₂ group with the distinctive ¹¹¹Cd/¹¹³Cd satellites.[6b,16-18]

BrCF₂SO₂Ph
2

$$Cd, TMSCI$$

 $DMF, temperature$
 $temperature = r.t.$ $t = 15 min, 90\%$
 $t = 30 min, 75\%$
 $temperature = 0 °C$ $t = 15 min, 93\%$
 $t = 30 min, 93\%$

Scheme 3. Optimized reaction conditions for the preparation of

(phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylcadmium reagent



Figure 2. The composition of (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylcadmium reagent prepared in DMF at room temperature

Then we investigated the optimal reaction conditions for difluoromethylation of the model substrate 2-naphthaldehyde with (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylcadmium reagent. The nucleophilic addition reaction could occur at room temperature in good yield as determined by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy analysis. In contrast to the reaction of organozinc reagent, a certain amount of by-product was detected by GC-MS analysis. We proposed that it might result from the formylation of (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethyl carbinol product by DMF. Further investigation demonstrated that anhydrous LiCl could not only guarantee the efficiency of the desired addition reaction, but also inhibit the formation of the formylated by-product. Compared with the nucleophilic addition to 2-naphthaldehyde with (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylzinc reagent, this reaction proceeded more easily even

at the temperature of 0 $^{\circ}$ C, suggesting that (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylcadmium reagent had a better nucleophilicity toward aldehydes than the (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylzinc species (**Table 3**).

Table 3. Survey of nucleophilic difluoromethylation of 2-naphthaldehyde with

BrCF ₂ SO ₂ Ph 2	Cd, TMSCI TMF S	D ₂ Ph"	CHO , additive DMF	HO CF ₂ SO ₂ Ph H 4a
entry ^a	additive	time (h)	temperature (°C)	yield $(\%)^b$
1	-	3 h	r.t.	75
2	-	5 h	r.t.	92
3	-	5 h	0	91
4	LiCl (1.0 eq)	5 h	r.t.	93
5	LiCl (2.0 eq)	5 h	r.t.	82

(phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylcadmium reagent

^{*a*}The amount of PhSO₂CF₂Br and Cd is 2.0 and 3.0 equivalents relative to that of 2-naphthaldehyde, respectively. ^{*b*}Determined by ¹⁹F NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture using PhCF₃ as an internal standard. ^{*c*}The formylation product is detected by GC-MS analysis.



Similar to the reaction of (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylzinc species, this method also proved to be amenable to diverse substrates including both (hetero)aryl and aliphatic aldehydes (**Table 4**). However, the further formylation of the (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethyl carbinols in the absence of LiCl was found to be general. Therefore, the addition of anhydrous LiCl is of great importance to inhibit the undesired formylation process.

Table 4. Nucleophilic difluoromethylation of various aldehydes with



 $(phenyl sulfonyl) diffuor omethyl cadmium \ reagent^a$



^{*a*}The amount of PhSO₂CF₂Br ,Cd and LiCl is 2.0, 3.0 and 1.0 equivalents relative to that of the aldehyde, respectively. Isolated yield is reported. ^{*b*}2.0 equivalents of LiCl are added to the mixture.

3. Conclusions

have developed a new method for nucleophilic In summary, we difluoromethylation of aldehydes by using (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylzinc and (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylcadmium reagents. The phenylsulfonyl group plays a crucial role in increasing the stability of the difluoromethyl anion. Meanwhile, the introduction of phenylsulfonyl group can also enhance the nucleophilicity of the difluoromethanide anion towards various aldehydes. By taking advantage of the dual roles of phenylsulfonyl group, an efficient nucleophilic addition of difluoromethyl organometallic reagent to aldehydes has been achieved under mild conditions. This method also promises to be useful for the development of other new difluoromethylation reactions.

4. Experimental

Unless otherwise mentioned, solvents and reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used as received. Chlorotrimethylsilane (TMSCl) was distilled over CaH₂. The solvent DMF and NMP were distilled over CaH₂. The

16

solvent THF was distilled over Na. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on a *Shimadzu IR-440 or Bio-Rad FTS-185* spectrometer. ¹H, ¹³C and ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on a *Bruker DPX-400 NMR*, Agilent *MR-400 NMR or MR-500 NMR* spectrometer. ¹H NMR chemical shifts were determined relative to internal (CH₃)₄Si (TMS) at δ 0.0 or to the signal of a residual protonated solvent: CDCl₃ δ 7.26. ¹³C NMR chemical shifts were determined relative to internal TMS at δ 0.0. ¹⁹F NMR chemical shifts were determined relative to CFCl₃ at δ 0.0. MS (EI-MS) were obtained on a Agilent *5975C* gas chromatography and *HP5989A* mass spectrometer. HRMS (EI) were recorded on a *SATURN 2000* mass spectrometer. MS (ESI) were obtained on an *AGILENT1100* mass spectrometer. HRMS (ESI) were recorded on a *FTMS-7* mass spectrometer.

4.1. Preparation of (bromodifluoromethyl)(phenyl)sulfane (1)[17a]

Under an inert atmosphere, NaH (5.760 g, 240 mmol, 60% in w.t.) was added to a dried round-bottom flask. Anhydrous DMF (250 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred in an ice-water cold bath. Five minutes later, PhSH (20.5 mL, 200 mmol) was gradually injected into the flask. After the injection, the mixture continued to be stirred in the cold bath for another 10 minutes. The cold bath was removed and the temperature was elevated to room temperature for 20 minutes. The mixture was stirred in the ice-water cold bath once again. After 5 minutes, CF₂Br₂ (27.3 mL, 320 mmol) was added into the mixture in three parts, and then the cold bath was removed 10 minutes later. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature for another 4 hours. Excess sodium hydride was quenched by dropwise addition of water (150 mL), and 2 M HCl was used to neutralize the reaction mixture. After extraction with ethyl acetate for three times, the organic phase was washed with brine, and then dried over anhydrous Na2SO4. After the solution was filtered and most of the solvent was evaporated under vacuum, the residue was distilled under vacuum (about 2 mmHg) and the fraction from 63 to 66 °C was collected. The collection was distilled again to give (bromodifluoromethyl)(phenyl)sulfane (1) as a colorless liquid (20.239 g, 42%).

(Bromodifluoromethyl)(phenyl)sulfane (1)

CF₂Br

Colorless liquid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -22.12 (s). MS (EI, m/z): 238 (M⁺, 14.29), 159 (100.00), 77 (25.29), 109 (16.17), 240 (14.90), 238 (14.29), 160 (9.76), 65 (7.84), 161 (5.72).

4.2. Preparation of (bromodifluoromethyl)(phenyl)sulfone (2)[17a]

(Bromodifluoromethyl)(phenyl)sulfane (1) (20.239 g, 84.7 mmol) was added to a dried round-bottom flask. Acetonitrile (60 mL), water (150 mL) and CCl₄ (60 mL) were added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature. NaIO₄ (36.233 g, 169.4 mmol) and RuCl₃·xH₂O (15 mg) were added into the mixture. After 30 minutes, another portion of NaIO₄ (36.233 g, 169.4 mmol) was added. The mixture continued to be stirred until the completion of the reaction as monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC). The crude mixture was filtered by the diatomaceous earth and the precipitate was washed with CH₂Cl₂. After most of the solvent was evaporated under vacuum, the water phase was extracted with ethyl acetate for three times. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After the solution was filtered and evaporated under vacuum, the residue was subjected to silica gel column chromatography (eluting with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) give to bromodifluoromethyl phenyl sulfone (2) as a white solid (17.932 g, 78%).

((Bromodifluoromethyl)sulfonyl)benzene (2)



White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.04 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -57.62 (s). MS (EI, m/z): 270 (M⁺, 5.55), 141 (100.00), 77 (78.67), 51 (14.69), 125 (8.63), 142 (8.11), 50 (6.29), 272 (6.14), 143 (5.8).

4.3. Nucleophilic difluoromethylation of aldehydes with organozinc and organocadmium reagents

4.3.1. Typical procedures for nucleophilic difluoromethylation of aldehydes with (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylzinc reagent (Method A)

In the glove box, zinc powder (206.0 mg, 3.15 mmol) was added into a Schlenk tube. Anhydrous DMF (10.5 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature. Chlorotrimethylsilane (66.5 μ L, 0.52 mmol) was then added into the mixture to activate zinc powder. Five minutes later, PhSO₂CF₂Br (**2**) (2.1 mmol) was added into the suspension. The reaction proceeded smoothly in 15 minutes to give (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylzinc reagent ("XZnCF₂SO₂Ph", **3**). The mixture was kept at room temperature to precipitate the remaining zinc powder, and the solution was directly used for next step.

In the glove box, 2-naphthaldehyde (156.2 mg, 1.0 mmol) was added into another Schlenk tube. Anhydrous DMF (5 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature. The DMF solution of "XZnCF₂SO₂Ph" (**3**) (10 mL, corresponding to the reaction of ca. 2.0 mmol of PhSO₂CF₂Br and ca. 3.0 mmol of zinc powder) was added to the solution of 2-naphthaldehyde dropwise. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 hours, and aqueous HCl (2 M, 10 mL) was added to quench the reaction. After extraction with ethyl acetate for three times, the organic phase was washed with brine, and then dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After the solution was filtered and evaporated under vacuum, the residue was subjected to silica gel column chromatography (eluting with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) to give the corresponding difluoromethylated carbinol **4a** as a white solid (307.5 mg, 88%).

4.3.2. Typical procedures for nucleophilic difluoromethylation of aldehydes with (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylcadmium reagent (Method B)

In the glove box, cadmium powder (354.1 mg, 3.15 mmol) was added into a Schlenk tube. Anhydrous DMF (10.5 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature. Chlorotrimethylsilane (66.5 μ L, 0.52 mmol) was then added into the mixture to activate cadmium powder. Two and a half minutes later, PhSO₂CF₂Br

(2) (569.3 mg, 2.1 mmol) was added into the suspension. The reaction proceeded smoothly in 15 minutes to give (phenylsulfonyl)difluoromethylcadmium reagent ("XCdCF₂SO₂Ph", **5**). The mixture was kept at room temperature to precipitate the remaining zinc powder, and the solution was directly used for next step.

In the glove box, 2-naphthaldehyde (156.2 mg, 1.0 mmol) and anhydrous LiCl (42.4 mg, 1.0 mmol) was added into another Schlenk tube. Anhydrous DMF (5 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature. The DMF solution of "XCdCF₂SO₂Ph" (**5**) (10 mL, corresponding to the reaction of ca. 2.0 mmol of PhSO₂CF₂Br and ca. 3.0 mmol of zinc powder) was added to the solution of 2-naphthaldehyde dropwise. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 hours, and aqueous HCl (2 M, 10 mL) was added to quench the reaction. After extraction with ethyl acetate for three times, the organic phase was washed with brine, and then dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After the solution was filtered and evaporated under vacuum, the residue was subjected to silica gel column chromatography (eluting with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) to give the corresponding difluoromethylated carbinol **4a** as a white solid (314.7 mg, 90%).

4.3.3. Characterization data for the isolated carbinol compounds 4

2,2-Difluoro-1-(naphthalen-2-yl)-2-(phenylsulfonyl)ethan-1-ol (4a) [17c]



88% yield (Method A); 90% yield (Method B). White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.02 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.97 (s, 1H), 7.89 – 7.80 (m, 3H), 7.75 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.64 – 7.55 (m, 3H), 7.54 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 5.76 (d, J = 20.8 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (s, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -103.68 (d, J = 237.9 Hz), -118.98 (dd, J = 238.0, 21.3 Hz). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 135.6 , 133.9 , 133.0 , 132.8 , 131.1 , 130.7 , 129.4 , 128.4 , 128.4 , 128.2 , 127.8 , 126.9 , 126.5 , 125.0 , 120.5 (dd, J = 298.8, 289.1 Hz), 71.5 (dd, J = 26.4, 19.8 Hz). MS (EI, m/z): 348 (M⁺, 11.24), 157 (100.00), 129 (46.89), 128 (27.56), 127 (14.75), 159 (11.93), 77 (11.71), 158 (11.47).

1-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)-2,2-difluoro-2-(phenylsulfonyl)ethan-1-ol (4b)



86% yield (Method A); 88% yield (Method B). White solid. m.p.: 141-143 °C. IR (KBr): 3559.7, 3092.9, 3062.2, 3030.3, 1599.8, 1581.9, 1567.1, 1519.4, 1487.5, 1448.3, 1408.1, 1387.4, 1331.6, 1312.9, 1253.3, 1200.5, 1186.6, 1154.0, 1109.2, 1089.4, 1081.3, 1023.8, 1001.3, 856.4, 833.5, 794.3, 753.2, 753.2, 720.6, 669.8, 684.5, 629.4, 617.2, 589.0, 555.8, 530.3, 431.9. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.02 (d, J =7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.77 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.66 – 7.52 (m, 8H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 5.63 (d, J = 20.5 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (s, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -103.82 (d, J = 237.8 Hz), -119.17 (dd, J = 237.8, 21.2 Hz). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.5, 140.5, 135.7, 132.8, 132.6, 130.8, 129.5, 128.9, 128.6, 127.7, 127.3, 127.3, 120.3 (dd, J = 298.7, 288.9 Hz), 71.2 (dd, J = 26.5, 19.9 Hz). MS (EI, m/z): 374 (M⁺, 5.72), 183 (100.00), 155 (22), 184 (14.91), 77 (13.9), 152 (10.59), 153 (8.03), 154 (7.84), 165(7.45). HRMS (EI): m/z calcd. For C₂₀H₁₆O₃F₂S (M⁺) 374.0788, found 374.0797. Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₁₆F₂O₃S: C, 64.16; H, 4.31. Found: C, 64.10; H, 4.54.

2,2-Difluoro-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(phenylsulfonyl)ethan-1-ol (**4c**) [17c] HO_CF₂SO₂Ph H

MeO

80% yield (Method A, 2.0 equiv of LiCl was used as an additive); 80% yield (Method B, 2.0 equiv of LiCl was used as an additive). White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.52 (dt, J = 21.2, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.24 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -104.05 (d, J = 237.2 Hz), -119.30 (dd, J = 237.2, 21.1 Hz). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.5 , 135.5 , 132.8 , 130.6 , 129.4 , 129.3 , 125.7 , 120.3 (dd, J = 298.3, 288.4 Hz), 113.9 ,

70.9 (dd, *J* = 26.5, 19.8 Hz), 55.3 . MS (EI, m/z): 328 (M⁺, 3.43), 137 (100.00), 77 (11.96), 109 (10.49), 138 (8.29), 139 (6.14), 94 (5.2), 51 (3.3).

4-(2,2-Difluoro-1-hydroxy-2-(phenylsulfonyl)ethyl)benzonitrile (4d)

88% yield (Method A). White solid. m.p.: 132-134 °C. IR (KBr): 3396.7, 3097.4, 2237.0, 1607.4, 1583.8, 1505.0, 1448.7, 1404.7, 1348.8, 1337.0, 1314.9, 1298.0, 1245.6, 1200.5, 1177.2, 1158.3, 1104.6, 1091.6, 1008.5, 863.4, 829.3, 791.2, 755.2,6, 742.0, 700.2, 681.7, 617.9, 590.4, 564.3, 552.8, 481.4, 457.0, 428.7. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.83 – 7.77 (m, 1H), 7.72 – 7.58 (m, 6H), 5.65 (dt, J = 20.5, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -104.31 (d, J = 238.5 Hz), -118.95 (dd, J = 238.4, 20.5 Hz). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.9 , 136.0 , 132.4 , 132.2 , 130.8 , 129.6 , 129.0 , 119.8 (dd, J = 299.1, 289.9 Hz), 118.4 , 113.3 , 70.6 (dd, J = 26.0, 20.1 Hz). MS (EI, m/z): 323 (M⁺, 0.66), 132 (100.00), 77 (26.65), 134 (14.9), 104 (14.49), 78 (14.31), 143 (14.06), 51 (9.37), 133 (9.01). HRMS (EI): m/z calcd. For C₁₅H₁₁NO₃F₂S (M⁺) 323.0428, found 323.0421.

2,2-Difluoro-1-(3-iodophenyl)-2-(phenylsulfonyl)ethan-1-ol (4e)



90% yield (Method A). White solid. m.p.: 117-118 °C. IR (KBr): 3535.3, 3067.8, 1810.5, 1683.8, 1591.0, 1581.5, 1567.0, 1540.6, 1469.8, 1448.1, 1424.3, 1394.2, 1333.1, 1311.3, 1179.0, 1155.2, 1107.8, 1087.4, 1074.3, 1060.7, 1025.1, 1007.7, 996.6, 914.5, 903.4, 845.9, 814.8, 767.0, 756.6, 717.9, 683.6, 658.2, 637.4, 616.6, 586.2, 541.6, 518.1, 476.3, 455.0, 440.2, 420.6. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.83 – 7.73 (m, 1H), 7.75 – 7.67 (m, 1H), 7.68 – 7.59 (m, 2H), 7.44 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 5.52 (d, J = 21.3 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (s, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -103.79 (d, J = 238.3 Hz), -119.38 (dd, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H).

= 238.0, 21.2 Hz). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.7 , 137.0 , 135.9 , 135.8 , 132.5 , 130.8 , 130.2 , 129.5 , 127.5 , 119.9 (dd, *J* = 299.2, 289.5 Hz), 94.2 , 70.5 (dd, *J* = 26.4, 20.0 Hz). MS (EI, m/z): 424 (M⁺, 8.93), 233 (100.00), 78 (35.41), 77 (27.05), 91 (26.03), 203 (19.38), 144 (18.16), 127 (11.78), 51 (10.92). HRMS (EI): m/z calcd. For C₁₄H₁₁O₃F₂SI (M⁺) 423.9442, found 423.9948.

1-(4-Bromothiophen-2-yl)-2,2-difluoro-2-(phenylsulfonyl)ethan-1-ol (4f)

88% yield (Method A); 79% yield (Method B). White solid. m.p.: 122-124 °C. IR (KBr): 3853.2, 3648.8, 3447.0, 3117.9, 3088.4, 3064.5, 2905.4, 1583.5, 1525.6, 1478.7, 1450.8, 1427.2, 1389.4, 1355.3, 1324.5, 1314.1, 1288.6, 1203.4, 1182.4, 1153.2, 1122.0, 1081.6, 1024.8, 988.7, 872.2, 856.5, 825.4, 798.5, 771.9, 746.9, 728.3, 683.4, 621.8, 596.6, 582.0, 556.9, 518.0, 453.4, 427.4. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.84 – 7.75 (m, 1H), 7.67 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.28 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 5.79 (d, J = 19.9 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (s, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -104.53 (dd, J = 237.0, 2.5 Hz), -119.18 (dd, J = 237.0, 20.0 Hz). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.3, 135.9, 132.5, 130.8, 130.3, 129.6, 124.7, 119.3 (dd, J =299.3, 289.7 Hz), 109.7, 67.8 (dd, J = 27.3, 20.9 Hz). MS (EI, m/z): 382 (M⁺, 4.16), 191 (100.00), 193 (97.5), 84 (31.41), 77 (30.37), 51 (14.34), 78 (10.79), 242 (10.76), 240 (10.09). HRMS (EI): m/z calcd. For C₁₂H₉O₃F₂S₂Br (M⁺) 381.9145, found 381.9143.

1-(5-Bromofuran-2-yl)-2,2-difluoro-2-(phenylsulfonyl)ethan-1-ol (4g)

84% yield (Method A, 1.0 equiv of LiCl was used as an additive). White solid. m.p.: 96-97 °C. IR (KBr): 3466.7, 3137.6, 3118.2, 3058.8, 1583.4, 1497.9, 1478.0, 1448.7, 1408.3, 1364.2, 1336.8, 1312.4, 1275.5, 1227.7, 1198.3, 1178.5, 1157.9, 1108.8, 1087.2, 1074.9, 1017.5, 1000.0, 943.8, 924.8, 799.9, 768.3, 751.8, 710.3, 682.9, 605.3, 582.0, 532.3, 494.6, 438.2. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99 (d, *J* =

7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.78 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.53 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 6.32 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 5.53 (dt, J = 18.6, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -105.91 (dd, J = 237.8, 4.3 Hz), -116.43 (dd, J = 237.8, 18.5 Hz). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.9 , 135.8 , 132.7 , 130.8 , 129.5 , 123.7 , 119.6 (dd, J = 298.2, 291.3 Hz), 113.9 , 112.7 , 66.0 (dd, J = 26.7, 21.4 Hz). MS (EI, m/z): 366 (M⁺, 4.41), 175 (100.00), 177 (96.71), 77 (18.64), 51 (10.3), 224 (10.12), 226 (9.89), 178 (5.96), 101 (5.79). HRMS (EI): m/z calcd. For C₁₂H₉O₄F₂SBr (M⁺) 365.9373, found 365.9385.

Methyl 4-(2,2-difluoro-1-hydroxy-2-(phenylsulfonyl)ethyl)benzoate (4h)



95% yield (Method A); 84% yield (Method B). White solid. m.p.: 117-119 °C. IR (KBr): 3503.9, 3066.1, 2955.8, 1731.3, 1717.9, 1610.2, 1477.6, 1449.3, 1437.4, 1416.4, 1335.8, 1313.1, 1281.1, 1192.9, 1178.3, 1157.9, 1108.9, 1087.6, 1017.9, 1003.6, 962.5, 872.8, 842.4, 812.1, 763.3, 750.2, 718.0, 698.1, 684.3, 623.2, 587.2, 555.8, 535.3, 491.3, 440.2. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.04 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.00 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.78 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, J =8.1 Hz, 2H), 5.65 (dt, J = 21.4, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.54 (d, J = 3.9 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -104.01 (d, J = 238.6 Hz), -119.10 (dd, J = 238.1, 21.0 Hz). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.8, 138.6, 135.8, 132.7, 131.2, 130.8, 129.7, 129.5, 128.2, 120.1 (dd, J = 299.2, 289.5 Hz), 71.0 (dd, J = 26.1, 20.1 Hz), 52.4 . MS (EI, m/z): 356 (M⁺, 0.34), 165 (100.00), 77 (17.22), 166 (10.57), 59 (9.57), 78 (7.98), 105 (6.54), 214 (5.84), 167 (5.38). HRMS (EI): m/z calcd. For C₁₆H₁₄O₅F₂S (M⁺) 356.0530, found 356.0536. Anal. Calcd for C₁₆H₁₄F₂O₅S: C, 53.93; H, 3.96. Found: C, 53.75; H, 3.96.

1,1-Difluoro-4-phenyl-1-(phenylsulfonyl)butan-2-ol (4i) [17b]

HO CF₂SO₂Ph

78% yield (Method A); 72% yield (Method B). Light yellow liquid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.98 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.80 – 7.75 (m, 1H), 7.66 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.19 (m, 3H), 4.50 – 4.37 (m, 1H), 3.03 – 2.91 (m, 1H), 2.83 – 2.75 (m, 1H), 2.73 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 2.19 – 1.94 (m, 2H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -108.26 (dd, J = 236.7, 5.6 Hz), -116.81 (dd, J = 236.5, 18.0 Hz). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.7 , 135.6 , 132.9 , 130.7 , 129.5 , 128.7 , 128.6 , 126.3 , 121.4 (dd, J = 294.8, 291.8 Hz), 68.8 (dd, J = 24.5, 21.1 Hz), 31.1 , 31.0. MS (EI, m/z): 326 (M⁺, 1.3), 91 (100.00), 144 (41.77), 104 (41.16), 143 (39.25), 77 (18.79), 147 (18.03), 105 (14.65).

2,2-Difluoro-1-mesityl-2-(phenylsulfonyl)ethan-1-ol (4j)



93% yield (Method A, 1.0 equiv of LiCl was used as an additive). White solid. m.p.: 87-88 °C. IR (KBr): 3749.4, 3647.6, 3522.4, 3095.6, 2970.8, 2922.5, 2334.1, 2245.5, 1611.7, 1582.4, 1557.7, 1540.2, 1506.5, 1477.9, 1409.5, 1384.9, 1325.8, 1311.0, 1195.3, 1179.2, 1157.5, 1140.3, 1119.3, 1080.6, 1028.7, 987.4, 959.7, 929.7, 907.2, 849.5, 814.0, 776.7, 756.4, 731.9, 707.8, 682.9, 650.5, 625.7, 596.0, 569.3, 552.2, 540.0, 520.7, 493.9, 444.5. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.04 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.82 – 7.73 (m, 1H), 7.63 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (s, 2H), 6.14 (dd, *J* = 26.8, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.09 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (s, br., 3H), 2.33 (s, br., 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -102.65 (d, *J* = 236.4 Hz), -114.42 (dd, *J* = 236.5, 26.7 Hz). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 139.3, 138.7, 137.9, 135.6, 132.7, 131.7, 130.8, 129.5, 129.2, 127.0, 121.8 (dd, *J* = 302.8, 288.0 Hz), 68.2 (dd, *J* = 27.5, 19.7 Hz), 20.9 . MS (EI, m/z): 340 (M⁺, 3.83), 149 (100.00), 84 (41.09), 86 (28.14), 121 (13.16), 150 (12.67), 77 (9.02), 105 (8.16), 147 (6.83). HRMS (EI): m/z calcd. For C₁₇H₁₈O₃F₂S (M⁺) 340.0945, found 340.0941.

1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2,2-difluoro-2-(phenylsulfonyl)ethan-1-ol (4k) [17b]

HO CF₂SO₂Ph

88% yield (Method B). White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.82 – 7.75 (m, 1H), 7.63 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.56 (dt, *J* = 21.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.41 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -104.17 (dd, *J* = 238.0, 2.5 Hz), -119.38 (dd, *J* = 237.9, 20.9 Hz). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 135.8 , 135.6 , 132.6 , 132.2 , 130.7 , 129.5 , 129.5 , 128.8 , 120.0 (dd, *J* = 298.7, 289.2 Hz), 70.7 (dd, *J* = 26.2, 20.0 Hz). MS (EI, m/z): 332 (M⁺, 2.53), 141 (100.00), 143 (45.53), 77 (34.7), 78 (11.21), 142 (8.98), 51 (8.8), 113 (7.6), 40 (6.23).

1-(4-(tert-Butyl)phenyl)-2,2-difluoro-2-(phenylsulfonyl)ethan-1-ol (41) [17b]



68% yield (Method B). White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (s, 4H), 5.55 (dt, J = 21.5, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (d, J = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 1.30 (s, 9H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -103.65 (dd, J = 237.8, 2.5 Hz), -119.31 (dd, J = 237.7, 21.4 Hz). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.6, 135.5, 132.9, 130.6, 129.3, 127.8, 125.4, 120.3 (dd, J = 298.6, 288.6 Hz), 71.1 (dd, J = 26.7, 19.6 Hz), 34.7, 31.2. MS (EI, m/z): 354 (M⁺, 1.83), 163 (100.00), 164 (12.26), 57 (11.82), 197 (8.85), 77 (8.75), 91 (5.25), 133 (4.19), 148 (3.67).

(E)-1,1-Difluoro-4-phenyl-1-(phenylsulfonyl)but-3-en-2-ol (4m) [17b]



80% yield (Method B). White solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.01 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.77 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.44 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.39 – 7.25 (m, 3H), 6.89 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.25 (dd, J = 15.9, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 5.20 – 5.09 (m, 1H), 3.00 (d, J = 5.5 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -106.58 (dd, J =

= 237.3, 5.1 Hz), -116.22 (dd, J = 237.2, 17.1 Hz). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 136.5 , 135.7 , 133.1 , 130.8 , 129.5 , 128.8 , 128.7 , 127.1 , 120.6 (dd, J = 296.5, 292.3 Hz), 120.6 , 71.0 (dd, J = 25.3, 21.4 Hz). MS (EI, m/z): 324 (M⁺, 3.56), 133 (100.00), 115 (17.01), 134 (14.37), 77 (12.84), 182 (8.63), 55 (7.33), 103 (4.76), 78 (4.36).

2,2-Difluoro-2-(phenylsulfonyl)-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-ol (**4n**)



86% yield (Method B). White solid. m.p.: 78-80 °C. IR (KBr): 3529.8, 3064.3, 2949.6, 1940.7, 1823.0, 1708.4, 1622.1, 1583.1, 1478.1, 1449.3, 1419.8, 1399.4, 1332.7, 1165.3, 1129.5, 1114.0, 1089.6, 1068.7, 1020.1, 1008.8, 861.2, 829.2, 796.1, 763.4, 728.6, 710.3, 684.0, 658.3, 635.9, 623.8, 603.7, 584.5, 535.0, 473.9, 442.9. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.79 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.69 – 7.56 (m, 6H), 5.66 (d, J = 20.9 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (d, J = 3.1 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.85, -104.13 (d, J = 238.4 Hz), -119.23 (dd, J = 238.4, 20.9 Hz). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.6, 135.9, 132.5, 131.7 (q, J = 32.5 Hz), 130.8, 129.6, 128.6, 125.5 (q, J = 3.8 Hz), 124.0 (d, J = 272.3 Hz), 120.0 (dd, J = 299.1, 289.7 Hz), 70.8 (dd, J = 26.1, 20.1 Hz). MS (EI, m/z): 366 (M⁺, 0.37), 175 (100.00), 127 (23.49), 77 (18.87), 177 (16.19), 78 (13.51), 143 (12.55), 176 (9.26), 51 (6.41). HRMS (EI): m/z calcd. For C₁₅H₁₁O₃F ₅(M⁺) 366.0349, found 366.0363.

Acknowledgements

Support of our work by the National Basic Research Program of China (2015CB931900), the National Natural Science Foundation of China (21632009, 21421002 and 21372246), the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai Academic

Research Leader Program (15XD1504400), and the Youth Innovation Promotion Association CAS (2014231) is gratefully acknowledged.

References References

- [1] (a) P. Kirsch, Modern fluoroorganic chemistry : synthesis, reactivity, applications, 2nd, Wiley-VCH: Weinheim, 2013.
 - (b) W. B. Farnham, Chem. Rev. 96 (1996) 1633.
 - (c) G. K. S. Prakash, A. K. Yudin, Chem. Rev. 97 (1997) 757.
 - (d) G. K. S. Prakash, M. Mandal, J. Fluorine Chem. 112 (2001) 123.
 - (e) R. P. Singh, J. M. Shreeve, Tetrahedron 56 (2000) 7613.
 - (f) J.-A. Ma, D. Cahard, J. Fluorine Chem. 128 (2007) 975.
 - (g) M. Medebielle, W. R. Dolbier Jr., J. Fluorine Chem. 129 (2008) 930.
 - (h) A. Studer, Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. 51 (2012) 8950.
 - (i) T. Umemoto, Chem. Rev. 96 (1996) 1757.

[2] (a) G. M. Blackburn, D. E. Kent, F. Kolkmann, J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun. (1981) 1188.

(b) G. M. Blackburn, D. E. Kent, F. Kolkmann, J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1 (1984) 1119.

(c) Motherwell, W. B.; Tozer, M. J.; Ross, B. C. J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun. 1989, 1437.

(d) J.-B. Han, H.-L. Qin, S.-H. Ye, L. Zhu, C.-P. Zhang, J. Org. Chem. 81 (2016) 2506.

[3] (a) J. A. Erickson, J. I. McLoughlin, J. Org. Chem. 60 (1995) 1626.

(b) R. Sasson, A. Hagooly, S. Rozen, Org. Lett. 5 (2003) 769.

(c) Y. Li, J. Hu, Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. 44 (2005) 5882.

(d) G. K. S. Prakash, C.Weber, S. Chacko, G. A. Olah, Org. Lett. 9 (2007) 1863.

[4] (a) J. Hu, W. Zhang, F. Wang, Chem. Commun. (2009) 7465.

(b) M.-C. Belhomme, T. Besset, T. Poisson, X. Pannecoucke, Chem. Eur. J. 21 (2015) 12836.

[5] (a) Y. Zhao, W. Huang, J. Zheng, J. Hu, Org. Lett. 13 (2011) 5342.
(b) G.-F. Du,; Y. Wang,; C.-Z. Gu,; B. Dai,; L. He, RSC Adv. 5 (2015) 35421.
(c) O. M. Michurin, D. S. Radchenko, I. V. Komarov, Tetrahedron 72 (2016) 1351.
(d) D. Chen, C. Ni, Y. Zhao, X. Cai, X. Li, P. Xiao, J. Hu, Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. 55 (2016) 12632; and references therein.

(e) C. Ni, L. Zhu, J. Hu, Acta Chim. Sin. 73 (2015) 90.

[6] (a) R. Eujen, B. Hoge, D. J. Brauer, J. Organomet. Chem. 519 (1996) 7.

(b) D. J. Burton, G. A. Hartgraves, J. Fluorine Chem. 128 (2007) 1198.

(c) Other method on fluorinated organozincs derived from difluorocarbene

insertion is as below: V. V. Levin, A. A. Zemtsov, M. I. Struchkova, A. D. Dilman, Org. Lett. 15 (2013) 917.

[7] (a) G. K. S. Prakash, S. K. Ganesh, J. P. Jones, A. Kulkarni, K. Masood, J. K.

Swabeck, G. A. Olah, Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. 51 (2012) 12090.

(b) P. S. Fier, J. F. Hartwig, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 134 (2012) 5524.

(c) X.-L. Jiang, Z.-H. Chen, X.-H. Xu, F.-L. Qing, Org. Chem. Front. 1 (2014) 774.

(d) C. Matheis, K. Jouvin, L. J. Goossen, Org. Lett. 16 (2014) 5984.

(e) B. Bayarmagnai, C. Matheis, K. Jouvin, L. J. Goossen, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 54 (2015) 5753.

(f) K. Jouvin, C. Matheis, L. J. Goossen, Chem. Eur. J. 21 (2015) 14324.

[8] Y. Gu, X. Leng, Q. Shen, Nature Commun. 5 (2014) 5405.

[9] K. Aikawa, W. Toya, Y. Nakamura, K. Mikami, Org. Lett. 17 (2015) 4996.

[10] (a) H. Serizawa, K. Ishii, K. Aikawa, K. Mikami, Org. Lett. 18 (2016) 3686.

(b) K. Aikawa, H. Serizawa, K. Ishii, K. Mikami, Org. Lett. 18 (2016) 3690.

(c) L. Xu, D. A. Vicic, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 138 (2016) 2536.

[11] (a) G. K. S. Prakash, J. Hu, Acc. Chem. Res. 40 (2007) 921.

(b) J. Hu, J. Fluorine Chem. 130 (2009) 1130.

- (c) C. Ni, J. Hu, Synlett (2011) 770.
- (d) W. Zhang, C. Ni, J. Hu, Top. Cur. Chem. 308 (2012) 25.
- (e) C. Ni, M. Hu, J. Hu, Chem. Rev. 115 (2015) 765.
- [12] For a previous report on nucleophilic difluoromethylation of aldehydes using
- bromodifluoromethyl phenyl sulfone as the fluoroalkylation reagent and
- tetrakis(dimethylamino)ethylene (TDAE) as the electron-transfer agent, see: G. K. S.

Prakash, Y. Wang, J. Hu, G. A. Olah, J. Fluorine Chem. 126 (2005) 1361.

- [13] J. Zhu, C. Ni, B. Gao, J. Hu, J. Fluorine Chem. 171 (2015) 139.
- [14] D. J. Burton, D. M. Wiemers, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 107 (1985) 5015.
- [15] G. A. Hartgraves, D. J. Burton, J. Fluorine Chem. 39 (1988) 425.
- [16] D. J. Burton, R. Takei, S. Shin-Ya, J. Fluorine Chem. 18 (1981) 197.
- [17] (a) J. Zhu, F. Wang, W. Huang, Y. Zhao, W. Ye, J. Hu, Synlett (2011) 899.

(b) G. K. S. Prakash, Y. Wang, J. Hu, G. A. Olah, J. Fluorine Chem. 126 (2005) 1361.

(c) C. Ni, F. Wang, J. Hu, Beilstein J. Org. Chem. 4 (2008) 21.