

Radical trifluoromethylation of ketone Li enolates

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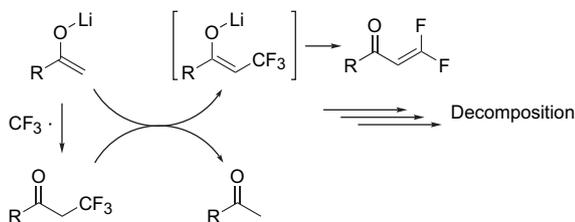
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Abstract—It has generally been believed that highly basic Li enolates cannot be applied as substrates for radical trifluoromethylation due to defluorination of the α -CF₃ product. However, Li enolates can be in fact employed for radical trifluoromethylation. Moreover, the reaction is extremely fast and the minimum reaction time is only ~1 s.

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1. Introduction

CF₃ units could make a significant functional modification of an organic molecule as a new material and medicine.¹ In recent years, we have been engaged in exploring the synthetic potential of α -CF₃ carbonyl compounds as a new building block for CF₃ containing organic compounds.² The α -CF₃ carbonyl compounds are sensitive to basic conditions and facile defluorination is always a problem in the synthesis (Scheme 1). Only several synthetic methodologies for introducing CF₃ unit to α -position of carbonyl group have been developed.^{2d,e,3–7} We have already reported the radical trifluoromethylation of Li^{2c} enolates. Further exploration of this reaction is herein reported.



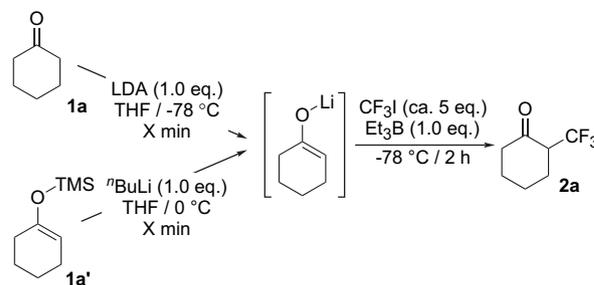
Scheme 1.

2. Results and discussion

There are two methods for the preparation of the Li enolate. One is the reaction of ketone with LDA at $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ and the other is the reaction of silyl enol ether with ⁿBuLi at $0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$

(silyl-to-lithium method).⁸ The former method could generate kinetic Li enolate and the latter could afford both kinetic and thermodynamic enolates depending on the parent silyl enol ether. The effect of the preparation time of the Li enolate was first investigated (Table 1). In the case of LDA method, 60 min of preparation time was necessary to give sufficient yield of the α -CF₃ product (entry 3). However, longer preparation time (120 min) was not necessary (entry 4). Without radical initiator Et₃B (entry 2), no product was detected and a large amount of cyclohexanone was recovered, indicating the radical reaction mechanism. On the other hand, in the case of silyl-to-lithium transmetalation method,

Table 1. Preparation time of the Li enolate



Entry	Substrate	X (min)	Yield (%) ^a
1	1a	30	63
2 ^b		30	0
3		60	73
4		120	72
5	1a'	15	77
6		30	77
7		60	74
8		120	74

^a Determined by ¹⁹F NMR using BTF as an internal standard.

^b The reaction was carried out without Et₃B.

Keywords: Trifluoromethylation; Li enolate; Radical addition.

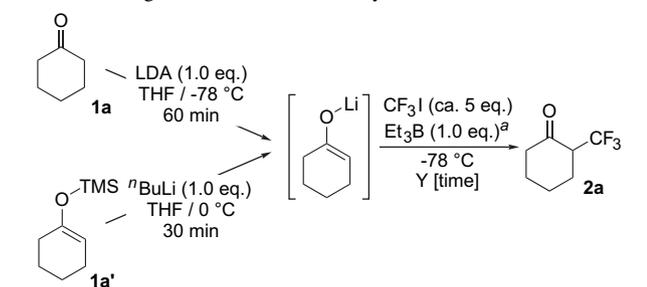
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the yields of the α -CF₃ product did not change over the preparation time investigated (entries 5–8, 15–120 min). This indicates that silyl-to-lithium transmetallation is completed within 15 min. However, 30 min was adopted to ensure that the transmetallation was completed.

Next, radical reaction time was investigated (Table 2). In the case of Li enolate prepared by the LDA method, 1 h of reaction time gave the product in 80% yield (entry 3). The yield decreased when the reaction was carried out for 13 h (entry 1, 62% yield), probably due to the decomposition of the α -CF₃ product when the product was exposed to basic condition for prolonged time. However, shorter reaction time did not affect the yield; found to be 'long' \sim 1 s is enough to give the α -CF₃ product in 81% yield (entry 5).⁹ On the other hand, with Li enolate prepared by silyl-to-lithium transmetallation method, the maximum yield was given at 2 h reaction time (entry 7, 77%). Shorter reaction time decreases the yield and \sim 1 s reaction time gave only 34% of the α -CF₃ product (entry 9). In order to make the reaction condition almost the same as that for LDA method, the reaction was carried out in the presence of LDA (entry 10). However, LDA did not affect the reaction. The difference between these two methods is not clear. However, it can be said that 2 h of reaction time is required for silyl-to-lithium method.

A variety of ketonic substrates were investigated using LDA to generate Li enolate (Table 3). In the case of cyclohexanone (entry 1) and 4-*t*-Bu- (entry 2), 2-Me- (entry 3), and 2-Ph- (entry 4) cyclohexanones, the reactions proceeded with extremely fast reaction rates and provided the α -CF₃ products in fair to good yields. The reaction rates of cyclopentanone (entry 5) and cycloheptanone (entry 6) were relatively slow (5 min). For acyclic substrates (entries 7–9), the yields were poor. Ester and amide were also investigated but did not give the α -CF₃ product at all. From the results

Table 2. Investigation of the trifluoromethylation time



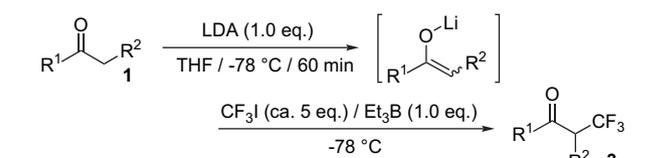
Entry	Substrate	Reaction time	Yield (%) ^b
1	1a	13 h	62
2	1a	2 h	73
3	1a	1 h	80
4	1a	1 min	83
5	1a	\sim 1 s	81
6	1a'	13 h	52
7	1a'	2 h	77
8	1a'	30 min	67
9	1a'	\sim 1 s	34
10 ^c	1a'	\sim 1 s	36

^a Et₃B was added in flat 15 s.

^b Determined by ¹⁹F NMR using BTF as an internal standard.

^c In the presence of LDA.

Table 3. Radical trifluoromethylation of Li enolates prepared by LDA method



Entry ^a	Substrate	Product	Reaction time	Yield (%) ^b
1	1a	2a	\sim 1 s	81
2	1b	2b	\sim 1 s	71 (67) [73:27]
3	1c	2c	\sim 1 s	74 [57:43]
4	1d	2d	\sim 1 s	43 (40) [57:43]
5	1e	2e	5 min	40
6	1f	2f	5 min	48
7	1g	2g	5 min	25
8	1h	2h	5 min	17
9	1i	2i	1 min	35

^a Et₃B was added in flat 15 s.

^b Determined by ¹⁹F NMR using BTF as an internal standard. The values in () refer to the yields of isolated products. The values in [] are the diastereomeric ratio.

described above, cyclohexanone derivatives are the most suitable substrate for this reaction system.

Li enolates prepared by silyl-to-lithium transmetallation method were also investigated for the most suitable cyclohexanone derivatives (Table 4). α -Me- and α -Ph-cyclohexanones provided the products, which bear quaternary carbon centers attached with CF₃, in fair yields (entries 2 and 3).

In view of asymmetric radical trifluoromethylation, several solvents and additives were examined (Table 5). α -Ph-cyclohexanone was adopted as the substrate in order to prevent the racemization of the product. The parent Li enolate was generated by silyl-to-lithium method in the presence of DME or TMEDA. In THF, addition of DME (entry 2) and TMEDA

Table 4. Radical trifluoromethylation of Li enolates prepared by silyl-to-lithium method

Entry ^a	Substrate	Product	Yield (%) ^b
1			77
2 ^c			58
3 ^d			44 (45)

^a Et₃B was added in flat 15 s.^b Determined by ¹⁹F NMR using BTF as an internal standard. The values in () refer to the yields of isolated products.^c Silyl enol ether of α -Me-cyclohexanone consists of thermodynamic and kinetic enol ethers (87:13).^d Silyl enol ether of α -Ph-cyclohexanone consists only thermodynamic enol ether.

(entry 3) made no significant effect. When the reaction was carried out in Et₂O solution, the α -CF₃ product was obtained only in 11% (entry 4). The reaction was accelerated by DME (entry 5, 34% yield) or TMEDA (entry 6, 26% yield) in Et₂O solution. The product was obtained only when the TMEDA was added though in only 9% (entry 9) in ⁱPr₂O solution. The reaction was also accelerated in ^tBuOMe solution. The yield was 5% without additive. Addition of DME (entry 11) and TMEDA (entry 12) increased the yield to 15 and 18%, respectively. When the reaction was carried out with 1.0 equiv

Table 5. Effect of the bidentate additive

Entry	Solvent	Additive	Yield (%)
1	THF	—	45 ^a
2		DME	38 ^a
3		TMEDA	34 ^a
4	Et ₂ O	—	11 ^b
5		DME	34 ^a
6		TMEDA	26 ^a
7	ⁱ Pr ₂ O	—	—
8		DME	—
9		TMEDA	9 ^b
10	^t BuMeO	—	5 ^b
11		DME	15 ^b
12		TMEDA	18 ^b

^a Yield of the isolated products.^b Determined by ¹⁹F NMR using BTF as an internal standard.

of (*S,S*)-hydrobenzoin dimethyl ether in Et₂O, the product was obtained in 39% yield with 27% ee. In ^tBuOMe solution, the reaction with (–)-sparteine gave the product in 13% yield with –44% ee. These results show the possibility of catalytic asymmetric radical trifluoromethylation of enolates.

In summary, we have discovered that highly basic Li enolates can be employed for radical trifluoromethylation. The reaction rate is extremely fast compared to the previous radical trifluoromethylation. The direct use of Li enolates is simpler and faster than that of Ti ate enolates or any other previous enolate equivalents.

3. Experimental

3.1. General

¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR were measured on Varian Gemini 2000 (300 MHz) spectrometer and ¹⁹F NMR was measured on Varian UNITY INOVA (400 MHz) spectrometer. Chemical shifts of ¹H NMR were expressed in parts per million downfield from tetramethylsilane as an internal standard ($\delta=0$) in CDCl₃. Chemical shifts of ¹³C NMR were expressed in parts per million downfield from CDCl₃ as an internal standard ($\delta=77.0$) in CDCl₃. Chemical shifts of ¹⁹F NMR were expressed in parts per million downfield from BTF as an internal standard ($\delta=-63.24$) in CDCl₃. IR spectra were measured on JASCO FT/IR-5000 spectrometer. EI mass spectra were measured on Shimadzu QP-5000 spectrometer. Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on glass plates and/or aluminum sheets pre-coated with silica gel (Merck Kieselgel 60 F254, layer thickness 0.25 and 0.2 mm). Visualization was accomplished by UV light (254 nm), anisaldehyde, KMnO₄, and phosphomolybdic acid. Column chromatography was performed on Merck Kieselgel 60 and KANTO Silica Gel 60N (spherical, neutral), employing hexane ethyl acetate mixture as an eluent unless otherwise noted. THF was distilled from benzophenone-ketyl under Ar prior to use. All experiments were carried out under argon atmosphere unless otherwise noted.

3.2. General procedure: starting from ketone

To a solution of ⁱPr₂NH (28.0 μ l, 0.20 mmol) in THF (2.0 ml) was added ⁿBuLi (126.3 μ l of 1.58 M solution in hexane, 0.20 mmol) at –78 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min and then cooled to –78 °C. To the solution was added cyclohexanone (20.7 μ l, 0.2 mmol) and the solution was stirred for 60 min at the temperature. Then, gaseous CF₃I (ca. 200 mg, ca. 1.0 mmol) was added with a cannula. Next, a syringe, which was filled with 0.12 ml of 5 M solution of acetic acid in THF, was set to the reaction vessel and kept untouched till quenching the reaction. Then Et₃B (0.2 ml of 1.0 M solution in hexane, 0.2 mmol) was added in flat 15 s to start the radical addition reaction. The reaction mixture was immediately quenched (in \sim 1 s) by acetic acid solution, which was set beforehand, at –78 °C. After warming to room temperature, BTF (10 μ l, 0.082 mmol) was added as an internal standard. The yield was determined by ¹⁹F NMR of the crude mixture (81%).

3.3. General procedure: starting from silyl enol ether

To a solution of 1-(trimethylsilyloxy)cyclohexene (38.9 μ l, 0.2 mmol) in THF was added n BuLi (128.2 μ l of 1.56 M solution in hexane, 0.20 mmol) at 0 °C and stirred for 30 min at the temperature. Then, the reaction mixture was cooled to –78 °C. To the mixture was added gaseous CF₃I (ca. 200 mg, ca. 1.0 mmol) with a cannula followed by Et₃B (0.2 ml of 1.0 M solution in hexane, 0.2 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at –78 °C and then quenched by acetic acid (0.12 ml of 5 M solution in THF) at –78 °C. After warming to room temperature, BTF (10 μ l, 0.082 mmol) was added as an internal standard. The yield was determined by ¹⁹F NMR of the crude mixture (77%).

3.4. 2-Trifluoromethyl-cyclohexanone (2a)

¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.62–1.88 (m, 3H), 1.92–2.14 (m, 2H), 2.24–2.39 (m, 2H), 2.42–2.53 (m, 1H), 2.98–3.13 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 23.7, 27.1, 27.5 (q, J =2.4 Hz), 42.2, 53.6 (q, J =25.7 Hz), 124.6 (q, J =279.5 Hz), 203.0. ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃): δ –69.3 (d, 7.9 Hz). IR (neat): 2954, 2876, 2364, 1729, 1272, 1170, 1125, 1060 cm^{–1}. EI-MS m/z : 166 [M⁺].

3.5. 4-Tertiarybutyl-2-trifluoromethyl-cyclohexanone (2b)

Major isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 0.94 (s, 9H), 1.42–1.68 (m, 3H), 2.18–2.20 (m, 1H), 2.26–2.42 (m, 2H), 2.44–2.56 (m, 1H), 3.00–3.16 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 27.5, 28.1, 28.6, 32.5, 41.7, 46.1, 53.0 (q, J =25.7 Hz), 124.6 (q, J =279.6 Hz), 203.2. ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃): δ –69.7 (d, J =7.9 Hz). IR (KBr): 2970, 2878, 1734, 1392, 1369, 1274, 1170, 1120, 1067 cm^{–1}. EI-MS m/z : 222 [M⁺]. Minor isomer (isomerization was observed during isolation. Therefore, only ¹⁹F NMR data could be shown): ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃): δ –66.1 (d, J =10.5 Hz).

3.6. 2-Methyl-6-trifluoromethyl-cyclohexanone (2c)

Major isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.03 (d, J =6.3 Hz, 3H), 1.34–1.49 (m, 1H), 1.63–1.87 (m, 2H), 1.88–2.03 (m, 1H), 2.08–2.19 (m, 1H), 2.30–2.49 (m, 2H), 2.98–3.16 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 13.8, 24.0, 28.3, 36.3, 45.9, 53.7 (q, J =25.7 Hz), 124.8 (q, J =279.5 Hz), 204.6. ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃): δ –69.8 (d, J =8.3 Hz). IR (neat): 2942, 2874, 2366, 1731, 1456, 1392, 1332, 1272, 1170, 1137, 1123, 1038, 832, 688 cm^{–1}. EI-MS m/z : 180 [M⁺]. Minor isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.11 (d, J =6.6 Hz, 3H), 1.46–2.21 (m, 6H), 2.57–2.71 (m, 1H), 3.07–3.22 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 15.0, 20.2, 26.9, 29.6, 34.2, 44.5, 52.3 (q, J =25.7 Hz), 125.2 (q, J =280.7 Hz), 206.3. ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃): δ –66.7 (d, J =10.2 Hz). IR (neat): 2928, 2858, 2364, 2344, 1725, 1458, 1265, 1143, 801 cm^{–1}. EI-MS m/z : 180 [M⁺].

3.7. 2-Phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-cyclohexanone (2d)

Major isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.83–2.21 (m, 4H), 2.28–2.40 (m, 1H), 2.40–2.56 (m, 1H), 3.16–3.35 (m, 1H), 3.56–3.68 (dd, J =5.4, 12.6 Hz, 1H), 7.11–7.17 (m, 2H), 7.25–7.40 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 24.2, 28.3, 35.6, 54.1 (q, J =25.6 Hz), 57.8, 124.6 (q, J =280.8 Hz), 127.4,

128.4, 128.8, 137.0, 201.6. ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃): δ –69.6 (d, J =7.9 Hz). IR (KBr): 3036, 2946, 2872, 1722, 1605, 1452, 1385, 1270, 1168, 1133, 1045, 761, 704, 592 cm^{–1}. EI-MS m/z : 242 [M⁺]. Minor isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.86–2.28 (m, 5H), 2.37–2.52 (m, 1H), 3.12–3.30 (dq, J =6.0, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 3.82–3.92 (distorted t, J =6.3 Hz, 1H), 7.17–7.43 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 20.4, 27.4, 31.3, 52.0 (q, J =26.9 Hz), 55.1, 125.1 (q, J =280.8 Hz), 127.4, 127.6, 129.0, 136.7, 203.5. ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃): δ –67.9 (d, J =9.0 Hz). IR (neat): 3066, 3032, 2954, 2878, 2364, 1725, 1603, 1584, 1499, 1454, 1390, 1332, 1274, 1183, 1141, 698 cm^{–1}. EI-MS m/z : 242 [M⁺].

3.8. 2-Trifluoromethyl-cyclopentanone (2e)

¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.77–2.00 (m, 1H), 2.01–2.21 (m, 2H), 2.22–2.48 (m, 3H), 2.78–2.97 (qm, J =9.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 20.0, 24.4, 38.5, 51.1 (q, J =26.9 Hz), 124.6 (q, J =278.3 Hz), 209.4. ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃): δ –67.9 (d, J =10.5 Hz). IR (neat): 2986, 2896, 2366, 2344, 1758, 1638, 1367, 1313, 1257, 1187, 1151, 1096, 1046 cm^{–1}. EI-MS m/z : 152 [M⁺].

3.9. 2-Trifluoromethyl-cycloheptanone (2f)

¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.22–1.48 (m, 2H), 1.48–1.75 (m, 2H), 1.86–2.05 (m, 3H), 2.09–2.20 (m, 1H), 2.54–2.61 (m, 2H), 3.16–3.31 (qdd, J =4.1, 8.9, 11.1 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 24.4, 24.7 (q, J =2.4 Hz), 27.5, 29.1, 43.1, 55.5 (q, J =24.5 Hz), 124.9 (q, J =280.8 Hz), 205.9. ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃): δ –69.0 (d, 9.0 Hz). IR (neat): 2940, 2866, 1721, 1178, 1151, 1096 cm^{–1}. EI-MS m/z : 180 [M⁺].

3.10. 1,1,1-Trifluoro-5-phenyl-3-pentanone (2g)

¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 2.80–3.00 (m, 4H), 3.19 (q, J =10.2 Hz, 2H), 7.14–7.35 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 29.2, 44.9, 46.5 (q, J =28.1 Hz), 123.5 (q, J =277.1 Hz), 126.4, 128.3, 128.6, 140.1, 199.1. ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃): δ –62.9 (t, J =10.2 Hz). IR (neat): 3068, 3032, 2922, 1734, 1605, 1497, 1456, 1419, 1377, 1261, 1154, 1096, 750, 700 cm^{–1}. EI-MS m/z : 216 [M⁺].

3.11. 1,1,1-Trifluoro-4,4-dimethyl-5-phenyl-3-pentanone (2h)

¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.16 (s, 6H), 2.81 (s, 2H), 3.17 (q, J =9.9 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (ddd, J =1.7, 2.1, 6.3 Hz, 2H), 7.19–7.32 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 23.8, 41.4 (q, J =28.1 Hz), 45.3, 48.9, 123.9 (q, J =277.1 Hz), 126.8, 128.2, 130.2, 136.8, 205.2. ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃): δ –63.0 (t, J =9.8 Hz). IR (neat): 3034, 2976, 1721, 1369, 1282, 1133, 1100 cm^{–1}. EI-MS m/z : 244 [M⁺].

3.12. 7-Trifluoromethyl-6-undecanone (2i)

¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 0.90 (t, J =3.9 Hz, 6H), 1.18–1.41 (m, 8H), 1.53–1.65 (m, 2H), 1.65–1.79 (m, 1H), 1.81–1.97 (m, 1H), 2.47 (dt, J =18.0, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (dt, J =7.4, 18.0 Hz, 1H), 3.11–3.26 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 13.6, 13.8, 22.4, 22.7, 25.59, 25.62, 29.0, 31.1, 43.6, 55.6 (q, J =24.4 Hz), 124.9 (q, J =280.7 Hz), 204.5. ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃): δ 67.4 (d, J =9.0 Hz). IR (neat): 2966, 2938, 2870, 1731, 1263, 1164 cm^{–1}. EI-MS m/z : 238 [M⁺].

3.13. 2-Methyl-2-trifluoromethyl-cyclohexanone (2j)

^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 1.36 (s, 3H), 1.70–2.00 (m, 5H), 2.06–2.20 (m, 1H), 2.35–2.58 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3): δ 17.7 (q, $J=2.4$ Hz), 20.5, 26.4, 33.5, 39.4, 53.7 (q, $J=23.2$ Hz), 126.5 (q, $J=283.2$ Hz), 206.2. ^{19}F NMR (CDCl_3): δ –73.6 (s). IR (neat): 2936, 2874, 1725, 1274, 1170, 1137 cm^{-1} . EI-MS m/z : 180 [M^+].

3.14. 2-Phenyl-2-trifluoromethyl-cyclohexanone (2k)

^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 1.63–1.86 (m, 3H), 1.89–2.00 (m, 1H), 2.12–2.25 (m, 1H), 2.31–2.40 (m, 2H), 2.91 (qd, $J=3.0$, 14.4 Hz, 1H), 7.29–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.47 (m, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3): δ 20.2, 27.4, 29.9 (q, $J=2.4$ Hz), 39.8, 62.2 (q, $J=22.0$ Hz), 125.1 (q, $J=283.2$ Hz), 128.7, 128.8, 129.0, 131.8, 204.7. ^{19}F NMR (CDCl_3): δ –72.9 (s). IR (neat): 3066, 2954, 2874, 1725, 1282, 1255, 1176, 1152 cm^{-1} . EI-MS m/z : 242 [M^+].

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