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Supporting Information for

Stereoselective synthesis of α-fluoroacrylonitriles through organocatalytic cyanation of *gem*-difluoroalkenes and TMSCN

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1. General methods and typical experimental procedures

1.1 General methods

Unless otherwise indicated, all reactions were conducted under nitrogen atmosphere in oven-dried glassware with magnetic stirring bar. Column chromatograph was performed with silica gel (200~300 mesh) and analytical TLC on silica gel 60-F₂₅₄. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃), ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) spectra were recorded on a Bruker-DMX 400 spectrometer in CDCl₃, with tetramethylsilane as an internal standard and reported in ppm (δ). Gem-difluoroalkenes were prepared according to literature procedure. ^[11] All other chemicals were obtained from commercial supplies and used as received without any further purification. Anhydrous THF and toluene were distilled from sodium and benzophenone. DMF, DMSO CH₂Cl₂ and CH₃CN were distilled from calcium hydride. Petroleum ether, where used, has a boiling point range of 60–90 °C.

1.2 General procedure for DBU-catalyzed nucleophilic substitution reaction of gem-difluoroalkenes and trimethylsilyl cyanide: To a solution of gem-difluoroalkene 1a (0.2 mmol, 44mg) and trimethylsilyl cyanide 2 (0.4 mmol, 52 μ L) in 2.0 mL anhydrous DMSO was DBU (3.0 mg, 10 mol%). The mixture was stirred at room temperature until full consumption of 1a that was indicated by TLC (12 h). Then, the mixture was diluted with 15.0 ml EtOAc and washed with water (2.0 ml × 3). The organic layer was separated, dried over Na_2SO_4 and filtered. The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure and the crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel, PE/EtOAc (v : v) = 100:1) to give the desired product **3a**.

2. Spectroscopic data for all products



(*E*)-3-(4-bromophenyl)-2-fluoroacrylonitrile (**3a**) ^[2]: yield: 84%, 38 mg; yellow liquid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 132.5, 131.4 (d, *J* = 240.0 Hz), 129.8 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 127.1 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 125.1 (d, *J* = 24.0 Hz), 125.0 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz), 112.2 (d, *J* = 46.8 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -120.7.



(*E*)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-fluoroacrylonitrile (**3b**) ^[3]: yield: 75%, 27 mg; yellow liquid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 136.7 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz), 131.4 (d, *J* = 240.6 Hz), 129.6 (d, *J* = 3.2

Hz), 129.5, 126.6 (d, J = 6.6 Hz), 124.9 (d, J = 24.9 Hz), 112.3 (d, J = 46.9 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -121.0.



(*E*)-2-fluoro-3-(p-tolyl)acrylonitrile (**3c**)^[3] and (*Z*)-2-fluoro-3-(p-tolyl)acrylonitrile (**3c'**), a mixture of inseparable regioisomers, **3c/3c'** > 20:1; yield: 59%, 19 mg; colorless liquid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 17.0 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.1 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz), 130.6 (d, *J* = 236.0 Hz), 129.9, 128.4 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 126.1 (d, *J* = 24.0 Hz), 125.2 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz), 112.6 (d, *J* = 46.6 Hz), 21.5; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -124.1; Representative peak of (**3c'**) ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -122.90.



(*E*)-2-fluoro-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)acrylonitrile (**3d**)^[3] and (*Z*)-2-fluoro-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)acrylonitrile (**3d'**), a mixture of inseparable regioisomers, **3d/3d'** > 20:1; yield: 52%, 18 mg; yellow liquid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.54 (d, *J* = 4.0Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 4.0Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.4 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz), 130.1 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 129.8 (d, *J* = 234.0 Hz), 125.8 (d, J = 24.4 Hz), 120.4 (d, J = 6.3 Hz), 114.7, 113.0 (d, J = 46.8 Hz), 55.4; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -124.1; Representative peak of (**3d'**) ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -125.72.



(*E*)-3-(3-bromophenyl)-2-fluoroacrylonitrile (**3e**) ^[3]: yield: 77%, 35 mg; yellow liquid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.57-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.30 (m, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 133.5 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz), 131.9 (d, *J* = 240.0 Hz) 131.5 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 130.7, 130.2 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz), 126.6 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 124.5 (d, *J* = 24.9 Hz), 123.2, 112.0 (d, *J* = 46.7 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -119.3.



(*E*)-3-(2-bromophenyl)-2-fluoroacrylonitrile (**3f**): yield: 65%, 30 mg; colorless liquid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.73-7.71 (m, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 133.4, 132.5 (d, *J* = 242.0 Hz), 131.7 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz), 129.1 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz), 128.9 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 128.1, 125.4 (d, *J* = 24.0 Hz), 124.7 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz), 111.8 (d, *J* = 46.9 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -117.9.

NC CN MeO MeO (*E*)-**3**g (Z)-3g' $(3g)^{[4]}$ (E)-2-fluoro-3-(3-methoxyphenyl)acrylonitrile and (Z)-2-fluoro-3-(3-methoxyphenyl)acrylonitrile (3g'). of a mixture inseparable regioisomers, 3g/3g' > 20:1; yield: 87%, 31 mg; colorless liquid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37 – 7.31 (m, 1H), 7.17 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 7.03 (d, J = 16.7 Hz, 1H), 7.00 – 6.95 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.0, 131.3 (d, J = 238.0 Hz), 130.2, 129.3 (d, J = 6.5 Hz), 126.0 (d, J = 24.1 Hz), 121.1 (d, J = 3.3 Hz), 116.7 (d, J =1.9 Hz), 113.1 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 112.5 (d, J = 46.9 Hz), 55.4; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -122.0; Representative peak of (**3g'**)¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -120.84.



(*E*)-2-fluoro-3-(2-methoxyphenyl)acrylonitrile (**3h**)^[5] and (*Z*)-2-fluoro-3-(2-methoxyphenyl)acrylonitrile (**3h'**), a mixture of inseparable regioisomers, **3h/3h'** > 20:1; yield: 81%, 29 mg; colorless liquid; 1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.71-7.69 (m, 1H), 7.41 – 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.03 – 7.01 (m, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.4 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 131.3 (d, *J* = 236.0 Hz), 132.0 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz), 128.1 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz), 121.4 (d, *J* = 25.5 Hz), 120.9, 117.3 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 112.7 (d, *J* = 47.4 Hz), 110.9, 55.5; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -121.7; Representative peak of (**3h'**) ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -121.78.



(*E*)-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-fluoroacrylonitrile (**3i**)^[6] and (Z)-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-fluoroacrylonitrile (**3i'**), a mixture of inseparable regioisomers, **3i/3i'** = 13:1; yield: 50%, 21 mg; white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of **3i**: δ 7.23 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.13-7.09 (m, 1H), 7.00(d, *J* = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) of **3i**: δ 151.10 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz), 149.3, 129.9 (d, *J* = 235.2 Hz), 126.2 (d, *J* = 24.6 Hz), 123.0 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 120.6 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz), 113.2 (d, *J* = 46.8 Hz), 111.3, 109.9 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 56.0, 55.9; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) of **3i**: δ -126.8. Representative peak of (**3i'**) ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of **3i**': δ 6.38 (d, *J* = 32.0Hz, 1H); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -125.65.



(*E*)-2-fluoro-3-(4-nitrophenyl)acrylonitrile (**3j**)^[5] and (*Z*)-2-fluoro-3-(4-nitrophenyl)acrylonitrile (**3j**), a mixture of inseparable regioisomers, 3j/3j' = 1:5; yield: 84%, 32 mg; white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of **3j**': δ 8.28 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.0Hz, 2H),

6.56 (d, J = 33.1 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) of **3j**': δ 135.6 (d, J = 5.0 Hz), 133.2 (d, J = 260.4 Hz), 130.9 (d, J = 8.3 Hz), 124.2, 123.8 (d, J = 25.6 Hz), 121.2 (d, J = 6.4 Hz), 112.2 (d, J = 46.3 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) of **3j**': δ -115.2; Representative peak of (**3j**) ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of **3j**: 8.31(d, J = 8.0Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.0Hz, 2H), 7.14 (d, J = 16.0Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) of (**3j**): δ 129.31 (d, J = 3.0Hz), 124.40; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -114.8.



(*E*)-2-fluoro-3-(naphthalen-1-yl)acrylonitrile (**3k**): yield: 70%, 28 mg; white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.98 – 7.83(m, 3H), 7.77 (d, J = 7.2Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, J = 14.2Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.49 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 133.6, 132.7 (d, J = 243.0Hz), 131.3 (d, J = 3.1 Hz), 131.0, 129.0, 127.2, 126.8 (d, J = 1.9 Hz), 126.7, 125.5, 125.3 (d, J = 6.0 Hz), 123.9 (d, J = 22.6 Hz), 123.2, 112.1 (d, J = 46.9 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -117.8.



(*E*)-2-fluoro-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)acrylonitrile (**3l**) ^[5]: yield: 77%, 30 mg; white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.87-7.82 (m, 3H), 7.71 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.61 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 16.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 134.0 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz), 133.1,

131.2 (d, J = 238.5 Hz), 129.5 (d, J = 4.6 Hz), 129.1, 128.5, 127.8, 127.7, 127.1, 126.2 (d, J = 24.4 Hz), 125.5 (d, J = 6.3 Hz), 124.1 (d, J = 2.1 Hz), 112.7 (d, J = 46.6 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -121.9.



(*E*)-3-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-fluoroacrylonitrile (**3m**)^[3] and (*Z*)-3-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-fluoroacrylonitrile (**3m'**), a mixture of inseparable regioisomers, **3m/3m'** > 20:1; yield: 85%, 38 mg; white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.65 (s, 4H), 7.62 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.42 – 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.4 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz), 139.8, 131.0 (d, *J* = 237.0 Hz), 129.0, 128.9 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 128.1, 127.8, 127.1, 127.0 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 125.7 (d, *J* = 24.4 Hz), 112.7 (d, *J* = 46.8 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -122.4; Representative peak of (**3m'**) ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -121.54.



(*E*)-3-(benzofuran-2-yl)-2-fluoroacrylonitrile (**3n**) and (*Z*)-3-(benzofuran-2-yl)-2-fluoroacrylonitrile (**3n'**), a mixture of inseparable regioisomers, **3n/3n'** > 20:1; yield: 83%, 31 mg; white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.62-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.55-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.36 (m, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.31 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.08 (s, 1H), 6.98 (d, J = 14.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.4(d, J = 2.3 Hz), 145.3 (d, J = 7.6 Hz), 131.5 (d, J = 242.8 Hz), 127.7, 126.9 (d, J = 1.5 Hz), 123.8, 121.7, 114.8 (d, J = 30.0 Hz), 112.1 (d, J = 45.1 Hz), 111.7, 111.5 (d, J = 9.4 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -122.6; Representative peak of (**3n'**) ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -116.90.



2-fluoro-3,3-diphenylacrylonitrile (**3o**) ^[3]: yield: 96%, 43 mg; white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.49 – 7.40(m, 3H), 7.40 – 7.33 (m, 5H), 7.33 – 7.29 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.7 (d, *J* = 10.9 Hz), 134.0, 133.9, 133.8, 133.7, 130.2 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz), 130.1 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 130.0, 129.1 (d, *J* = 247.7 Hz), 128.7 (d, *J* = 36.9 Hz), 113.2 (d, *J* = 46.1 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -124.1.



2-fluoro-3,3-di-p-tolylacrylonitrile (**3p**)^[3]: yield: 93%, 47 mg; white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.3 – 7.2 (m, 8H), 2.4 (s, 3H), 2.4 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 140.4, 140.3, 140.2, 138.7 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz), 131.1 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz), 131.0 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 130.2 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz), 130.1 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 129.4 (d, *J* = 35.9 Hz), 128.6 (d, J = 246.0 Hz), 113.6 (d, *J* = 46.5 Hz), 21.5, 21.4; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl3) δ -125.7.



3,3-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-2-fluoroacrylonitrile (**3q**)^[3]: yield: 98%, 57 mg; white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.46 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.40 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.32 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.26 – 7.22 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 136.6, 136.5 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz), 136.5 (d, *J* = 2.0Hz), 136.4, 131.8, 131.7 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz), 131.5, 131.4, 129.4 (d, *J* = 250.0 Hz), 129.2 (d, *J* = 42.0 Hz), 112.8 (d, J = 45.9Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -122.2.



3,3-bis(4-bromophenyl)-2-fluoroacrylonitrile (**3r**) ^[3]: yield: 95%, 72 mg; White solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.6 – 7.6 (m, 2H), 7.6 – 7.5 (m, 2H), 7.2 – 7.2 (m, 2H), 7.2 – 7.1 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 136.7, 136.5, 132.2 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 132.1 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz), 132.1 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz), 131.6 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz), 131.5, 129.3 (d, *J* = 251.6 Hz), 125.0, 124.9 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz), 112.7 (d, *J* = 46.2 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -122.0.

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4. Copies of ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra

¹H NMR spectrum of (E)-**3**a



¹³C NMR spectrum of (E)-**3a**







¹H NMR spectrum of (E)-**3b**



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¹H NMR spectrum of (*E*)-3c

¹H NMR spectrum of (E)-**3d**

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S24

¹H NMR spectrum of (*E*)-3e

¹H NMR spectrum of (*E*)-**3** \mathbf{f}

¹³C NMR spectrum of (E)-**3f**

¹H NMR spectrum of (E)-**3**g

¹H NMR spectrum of (E)-**3h**

¹³C NMR spectrum of (E)-**3h**

¹H NMR spectrum of (*E*)-**3**i

¹⁹F NMR spectrum of (E)-**3i**

¹H NMR spectrum of (E)-**3k**

¹H NMR spectrum of (E)-**3**l

¹H NMR spectrum of (*E*)-**3m**

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¹H NMR spectrum of (*E*)-**3n**

¹H NMR spectrum of (*E*)-**3**p

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