

Supporting Information

1,1-Difluoroethyl Chloride (CH₃CF₂Cl), A Novel Difluoroalkylating Reagent for 1,1-Difluoroethylation of Arylboronic Acids

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1. General Information and Materials

General Information: ^1H , ^{13}C and ^{19}F NMR spectra were recorded on a 400 MHz NMR spectrometer. ^1H NMR spectroscopy chemical shifts were determined relative to internal Me_4Si (TMS) at δ 0.0 or to the signal of the residual protonated solvent CDCl_3 δ 7.26, ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy chemical shifts were determined relative to internal TMS at δ 0.0. For the reaction mixtures, ^{19}F NMR spectroscopy chemical shifts were determined relative to PhCF_3 at δ -62.0 . Data for ^1H , ^{13}C and ^{19}F NMR spectra are recorded as follows: chemical shift (δ , ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet, q = quartet, br = broad).

FT-IR spectra were obtained with a Nicolet 5700 spectrophotometer. GC-MS data were recorded on a Finnigan 4021 instrument and GCMS-QP2010. Melting points were recorded on a SGW X-4 melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. High resolution mass data were recorded on Waters Micromass GCT Premier and Bruker MicroTof Q II 10410. All reactions were monitored by TLC or ^{19}F NMR spectroscopy.

Materials: All reagents were used as received from commercial sources and used without further purification. DME, 1,4-dioxane, DMF, MeCN and DCE were distilled under reduced pressure from CaH_2 , and stored over activated molecular sieve. THF and toluene were distilled from sodium and benzophenone immediately before use. The anhydrous K_2CO_3 was ground into a fine powder and was dried in vacuo. DMAP was recrystallized from toluene before used. All (hetero)arylboronic acids were used from commercial suppliers.

Preparation of $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}$ Stock Solution: DME was added to a Schlenk tube under N_2 atmosphere. $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}$ gas was then slowly bubbled through the DME until the total volume of the solution reach the maximum. The concentration of the $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}$ stock solution was determined by ^{19}F NMR using trifluorobenzene as an internal standard (generally 1.3 mol/L).

Preparation of $\text{PhCF}_2\text{Cl}^{[1]}$: Into a round-bottom teflon flask, was added a

magnetic stirrer and 20 g of Olah's reagent (HF 65-70%). Thereafter, 5g of PhCl₃ was slowly added to the HF-pyridine solution at 15°C, and then keep the reaction at 15-20 °C. A gas-outlet was placed on the top of the reaction flask for the purpose of HCl gas collection. The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 h and the progress of fluorination was monitored by GC-MS. After the reaction was finished, the reaction mixture was poured into iced water, and extracted with cold diethyl ether. The combined organic phase was washed with cold saturated NaHCO₃ aqueous solution and brine. After drying over MgSO₄ and solvent removal, the product was purified by distillation as a colorless oil (purity>95%, determined by ¹⁹F NMR). The impurities were mainly PhCF₃ and PhCFCl₂. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -48.5 (s, 2F). GC-MS (*m/z*): 162 (M⁺), 127 (M⁺-Cl), 77 (M⁺-CF₂Cl).

2. Optimization of Ni-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling of CH₃CH₂Cl with Aryl boronic Acids

General procedure of optimization of Ni-catalyzed cross-coupling of CH₃CH₂Cl with aryl boronic acid (2a): To a 10 mL of Schlenk tube were added 4-biphenylboronic acid (39.6 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), Nickel catalyst (1.5-7 mol%), ligand(1.5-7 mol%), base (1.5-4 equiv.) and additive (0.1-1.0 equiv.). The mixture was evacuated and backfilled with N₂ for three times, solvent (2 mL) and CH₃CF₂Cl (generally 1.3 mol/L in DME) were then added. The Schlenk tube was screw capped and put into a preheated oil bath (90-130 °C). After stirring for 5-12 h, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and was purified with silica gel chromatography (petroleum ether) to give product **3a**.

Table S1. Optimization of Ligands^[a]

CH3CF2Cl (**1a**) + Ph-B(OH)2 (**2a**) $\xrightarrow[\text{DME, 110 }^\circ\text{C, 5h}]{\text{Ligand (5 mol\%), NiCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2 \text{ (5 mol\%), K}_2\text{CO}_3 \text{ (2.0 equiv.)}}$ Ph-CF2CH3 (**3a**)

bpy

L1

L2

L3

L4

phen

L5

Entry	Ligand	Yield ^[b] [%]
1	bpy	5
2	L1	15
3	L2	7
4	L3	7
5	L4	5
6	phen	trace
7	L5	trace

[a] Reaction conditions: **2a** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), **1a** (2.6 mmol), DME (2 mL). [b] Isolated

yields.

Table S2. Optimization of Additives^[a]

Entry	Additive (x mol%)	Yield ^[b] [%]
1	none	15
2	DMAP(10)	30
3	DMAP(30)	42
4	DMAP(50)	49
5	DMAP(70)	61
6	DMAP(100)	59
7	Py (10)	trace
8	3-CNPy (10)	trace
9	4-CNPy (10)	trace
10	DMAP(70)+LiCl(1.0 eq.)	58

[a] Reaction conditions: **2a** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), **1a** (2.6 mmol), DME (2 mL). [b] Isolated yields.

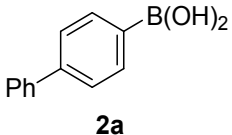
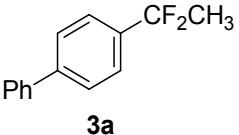
Table S3. Optimization of Ratio of Nickel Catalyst and Ligand^[a]

Entry	x/y	Yield ^[b] [%]
1	7/7	43
2	5/5	61
3	3/3	70
4	1.5/1.5	63
5	0/3	0
6	3/0	trace

[a] Reaction conditions: **2a** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), **1a** (2.6 mmol), DME (2 mL). [b] Isolated

yields.

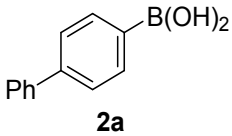
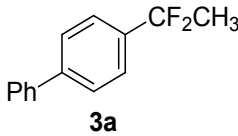
Table S4. Optimization of Nickel Catalyst^[a]

$\text{CH}_3\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}$ (**1a**) +  $\xrightarrow[\text{DME, 110 }^\circ\text{C, 5h}]{\begin{array}{l} \text{[Ni]} (3 \text{ mol}\%) \\ \text{L1} (3 \text{ mol}\%) \\ \text{DMAP} (70 \text{ mol}\%) \\ \text{K}_2\text{CO}_3 (2.0 \text{ equiv.}) \end{array}}$  (**3a**)

Entry	[Ni]	Yield ^[b] [%]
1	NiCl ₂ (PPh ₃) ₂	70
2	NiCl ₂ ·dppe	65
3	NiCl ₂ ·DME	49
4	NiCl ₂	41
5	NiCl ₂ (PCy ₃) ₂	45
6	Ni(NO ₃) ₂ ·6H ₂ O	37

[a] Reaction conditions: **2a** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), **1a** (2.6 mmol), DME (2 mL). [b] Isolated yields.

Table S5. Optimization of Reaction Parameters^[a]

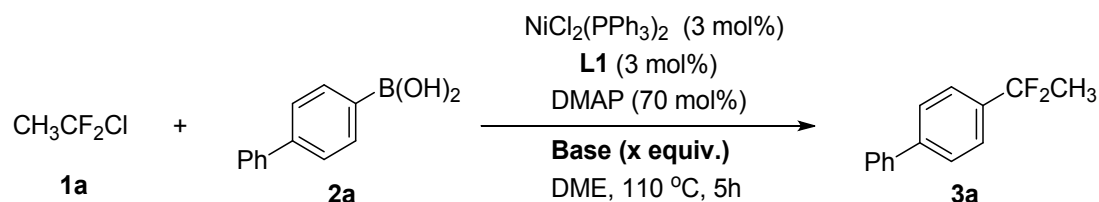
$\text{CH}_3\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}$ (**1a**) +  $\xrightarrow[\text{DME, Temp. Time}]{\begin{array}{l} \text{NiCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2 (3 \text{ mol}\%) \\ \text{L1} (3 \text{ mol}\%) \\ \text{DMAP} (70 \text{ mol}\%) \\ \text{K}_2\text{CO}_3 (2.0 \text{ equiv.}) \end{array}}$  (**3a**)

Entry	CF ₂ CH ₃ Cl (equiv.)	Temp (°C)	Time (h)	Yield ^[b] [%]
1	13	110	12	69
2	13	110	5	70
3	13	110	4	59
4	10	110	5	65
5	6	110	5	46
6	13	130	5	43

7	13	90	5	25
8	13	90	12	57

[a] Reaction conditions: **2a** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), **1a** (1.2-2.6 mmol), DME (2 mL). [b] Isolated yields.

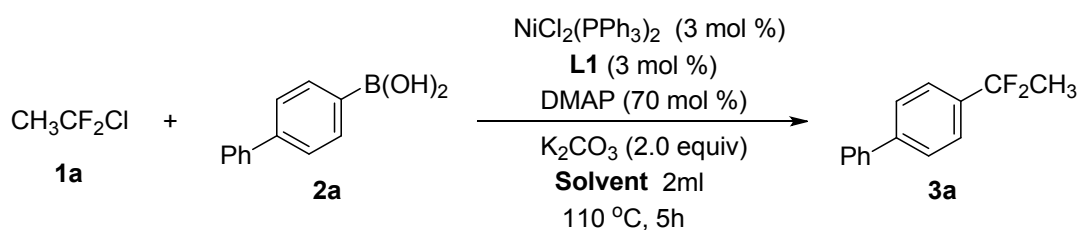
Table S6. Optimization of Bases^[a]



Entry	Base(x equiv.)	Yield ^[b] [%]
1	K ₂ CO ₃ (1.5)	57
2	K ₂ CO ₃ (2)	70
3	K ₂ CO ₃ (3)	64
4	K ₂ CO ₃ (4)	51
5	LiO ^t Bu (2)	33
6	NaO ^t Bu (2)	nd
7	K ₃ PO ₄ (2)	29
8	Na ₂ CO ₃ (2)	9
9	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (2)	nd

[a] Reaction conditions: **2a** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), **1a** (2.6 mmol), DME (2 mL). [b] Isolated yields.

Table S7. Optimization of Solvents^[a]



Entry	Solvent	Yield ^[b] [%]
1	DME	70
2	triglyme	34
3	1,4-dioxane	31
4	THF	25
5	NMP	nd
6	DMSO	nd
7	DMF	21

8	DCE	trace
9	toluene	trace
10	tert-butanol	8
11	MeCN	23

[a] Reaction conditions: **2a** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), **1a** (2 mmol, 10 equiv.) [b] Isolated yields.

Table S8. The Effect of H₂O on the Ni-Catalyzed Reaction^[a]

Entry	Solvent	Yield ^[b] [%]
1	DME (without further purification)	70
2	DME (distilled from CaH ₂)	69
3	Add H ₂ O(1.0 equiv.) to DME (without further purification)	66

[a] Reaction conditions: **2a** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), **1a** (2.6 mmol), DME (2 mL). [b] Isolated yields.

Table S9. The Effect of Ligands with DMAP^[a]

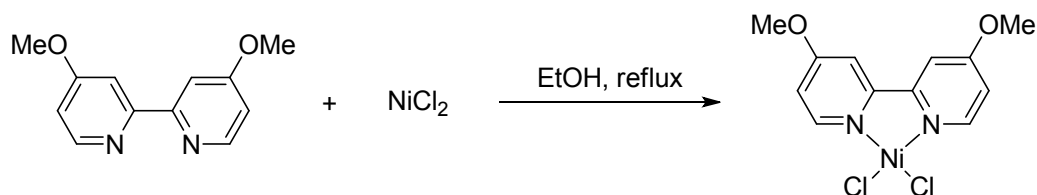
L1, G = OMe
L2, G = NH₂
L3, G = ^tBu

Entry	Ligand	Yield ^[b] [%]
1	L1	70
2	L2	24
3	L3	61

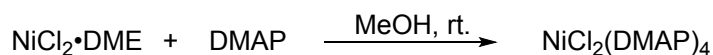
[a] Reaction conditions: **2a** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), **1a** (2.6 mmol), DME (2 mL). [b] Isolated yields.

3. The Role of DMAP

3.1 Preparation of NiCl₂(diOMebpy) and NiCl₂(DMAP)₄

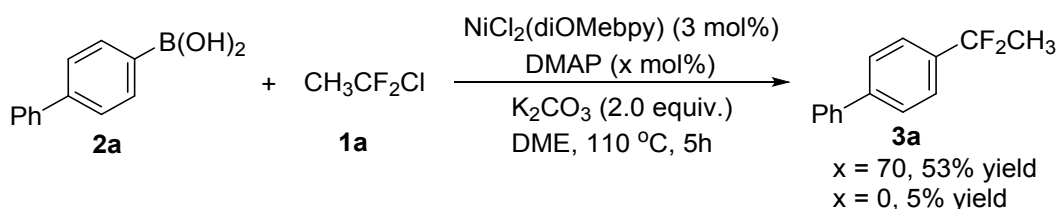


Preparation of NiCl₂(diOMebpy) ^[2]: To a solution of NiCl₂ (65 mg, 0.5 mmol) in ethanol (10 mL) was added a solution of 4,4'-diOMebpy (108 mg, 0.5 mmol) in ethanol (10 mL). The reaction mixture was refluxed with stirring for 10 h. The yellow solution slowly became green. The solution was filtrated and the filtrate was evaporated in vacuo to give a crude product NiCl₂(diOMebpy) 152mg (88% yield). The crude product was recrystallized from methanol.



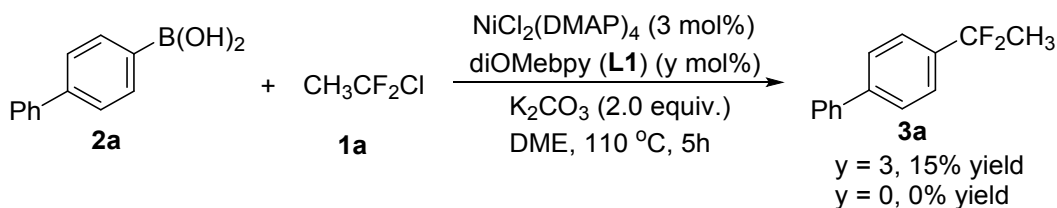
Preparation of NiCl₂(DMAP)₄ ^[2]: To a stirring solution of DMAP (293 mg, 2.4 mmol) in MeOH (5 mL) was added dropwise a solution of NiCl₂·DME (66 mg, 0.3 mmol) in MeOH (5 mL). After the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for another 6 h, the solution was filtrated. The filtrate was evaporated in vacuo to give a blue solid NiCl₂(DMAP)₄ 172 mg (93% yield). The crude product was recrystallized from methanol.

3.2 Reaction of Nickel complex with CH₃CF₂Cl

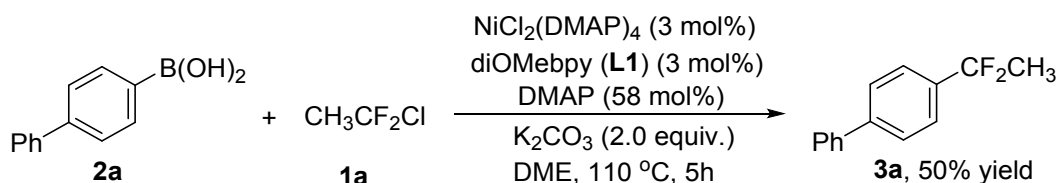


Procedure: To a 10 mL of Schlenk tube were added 4-biphenylboronic acid (39.6 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), NiCl₂(diOMebpy) (2 mg, 3 mol%), K₂CO₃ (55.2 mg, 2.0 equiv.), DMAP(70 mol% or none). The mixture was evacuated and backfilled with N₂ for three times, DME (2 mL) and CH₃CF₂Cl (generally 1.3 mol/L in DME) were then

added. The Schlenk tube was screw capped and put into a preheated oil bath (110 °C). After stirring for 5h, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and was purified with silica gel chromatography (petroleum ether) to give product **3a**.



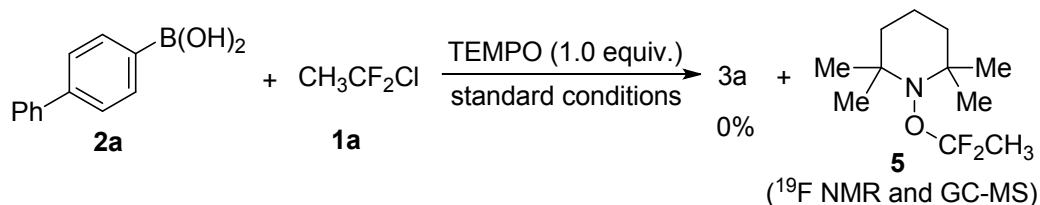
Procedure: To a 10 mL of Schlenk tube were added 4-biphenylboronic acid (39.6 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), NiCl₂(DMAP)₄ (3.7 mg, 3 mol%), **L1** (3 mol% or none), K₂CO₃ (55.2mg, 2.0 equiv.). The mixture was evacuated and backfilled with N₂ for three times, DME (2 mL) and CH₃CF₂Cl (generally 1.3 mol/L in DME) were then added. The Schlenk tube was screw capped and put into a preheated oil bath (110 °C). After stirring for 5h, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and was purified with silica gel chromatography (petroleum ether) to give product **3a**.



Procedure: To a 10 mL of Schlenk tube were added 4-biphenylboronic acid (39.6 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), NiCl₂(DMAP)₄ (3.7 mg, 3 mol%), **L1** (1.3 mg, 3 mol%), K₂CO₃ (55.2 mg, 2.0 equiv.), DMAP(14.1mg, 58 mol%). The mixture was evacuated and backfilled with N₂ for three times, DME (2 mL) and CH₃CF₂Cl (generally 1.3 mol/L in DME) were then added. The Schlenk tube was screw capped and put into a preheated oil bath (110 °C). After stirring for 5h, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and was purified with silica gel chromatography (petroleum ether) to give product **3a** 22mg (50% yield).

4. Radical Inhibition and Clock Experiments^[a]

4.1 Radical inhibition experiment



Procedure: To a 10 mL of Schlenk tube were added 4-biphenylboronic acid (39.6 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), NiCl₂(PPh₃)₂ (3.9 mg, 3 mol%), L1 (1.3 mg, 3 mol%), K₂CO₃ (55.2mg, 2.0 equiv.) DMAP (17.1 mg, 70 mol%) and TEMPO (31.2 mg, 1.0 equiv.). The mixture was evacuated and backfilled with N₂ for three times, DME (2 mL) and CH₃CF₂Cl (generally 1.3 mol/L in DME) were then added. The Schlenk tube was screw capped and put into a preheated oil bath (110 °C). After stirring for 5h, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature. The yield was determined by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy using PhCF₃ as an internal standard.

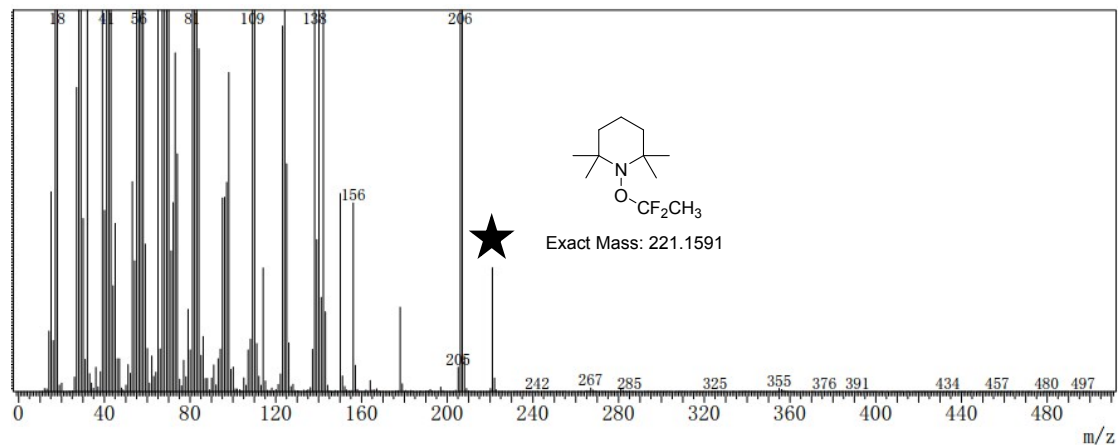


Figure S1. GC-MS analysis of adding TEMPO to Standard reaction conditions

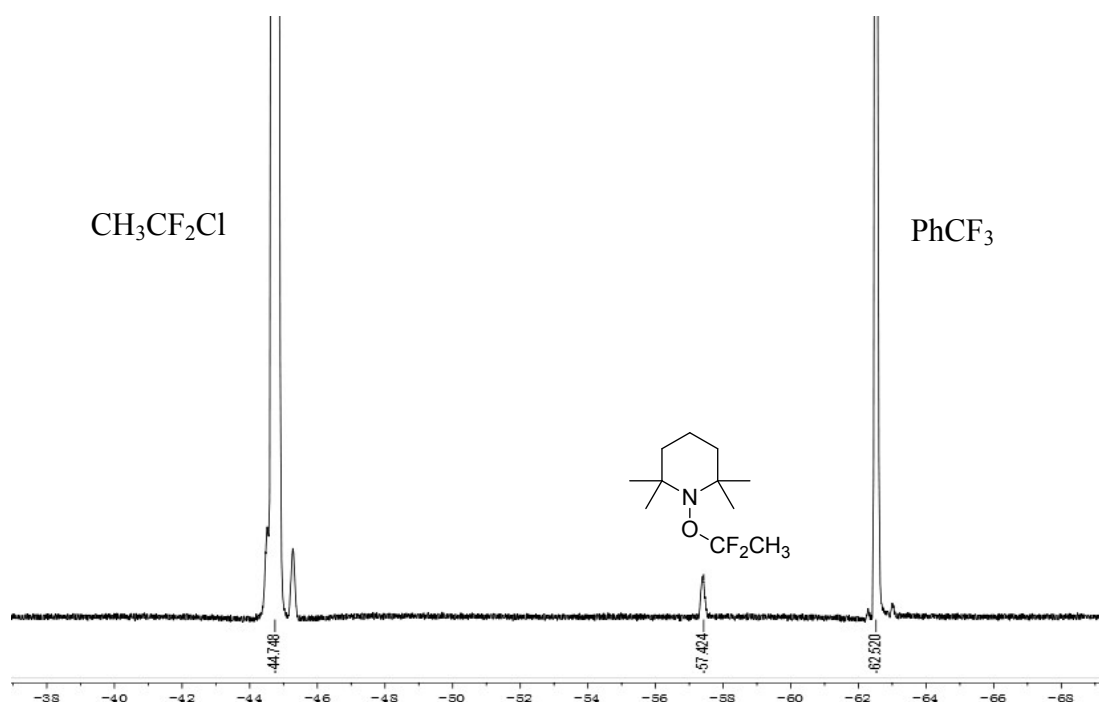
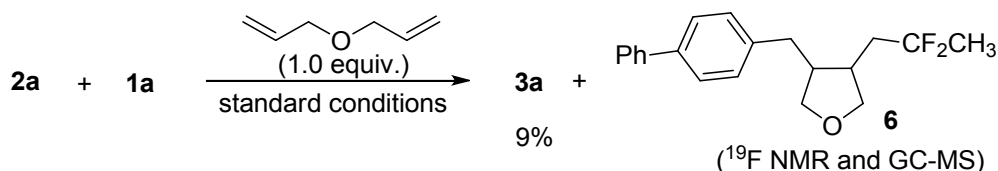


Figure S2. ^{19}F NMR analysis of adding TEMPO to standard reaction conditions

4.2 Radical clock experiment



Procedure: To a 10 mL of Schlenk tube were added 4-biphenylboronic acid (39.6 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), $\text{NiCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2$ (3.9 mg, 3 mol%), **L1** (1.3 mg, 3 mol%), K_2CO_3 (55.2 mg, 2.0 equiv.), DMAP (17.1 mg, 70 mol%) and allyl ether (19.6 mg, 1.0 equiv.). The mixture was evacuated and backfilled with N_2 for three times, DME (2 mL) and $\text{CH}_3\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}$ (generally 1.3 mol/L in DME) were then added. The Schlenk tube was screw capped and put into a preheated oil bath (110 °C). After stirring for 5h, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature. The yield was determined by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopy using PhCF_3 as an internal standard.

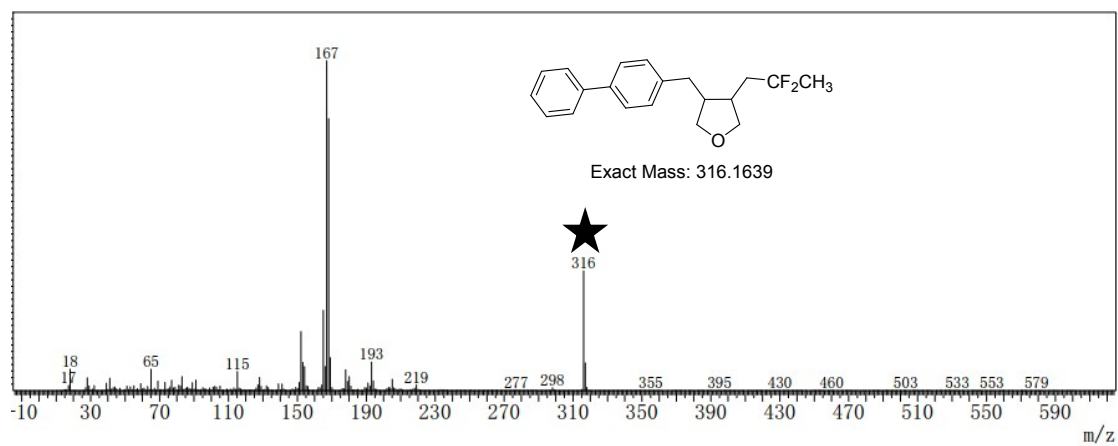


Figure S3. GC-MS analysis of adding allyl ether to standard reaction conditions

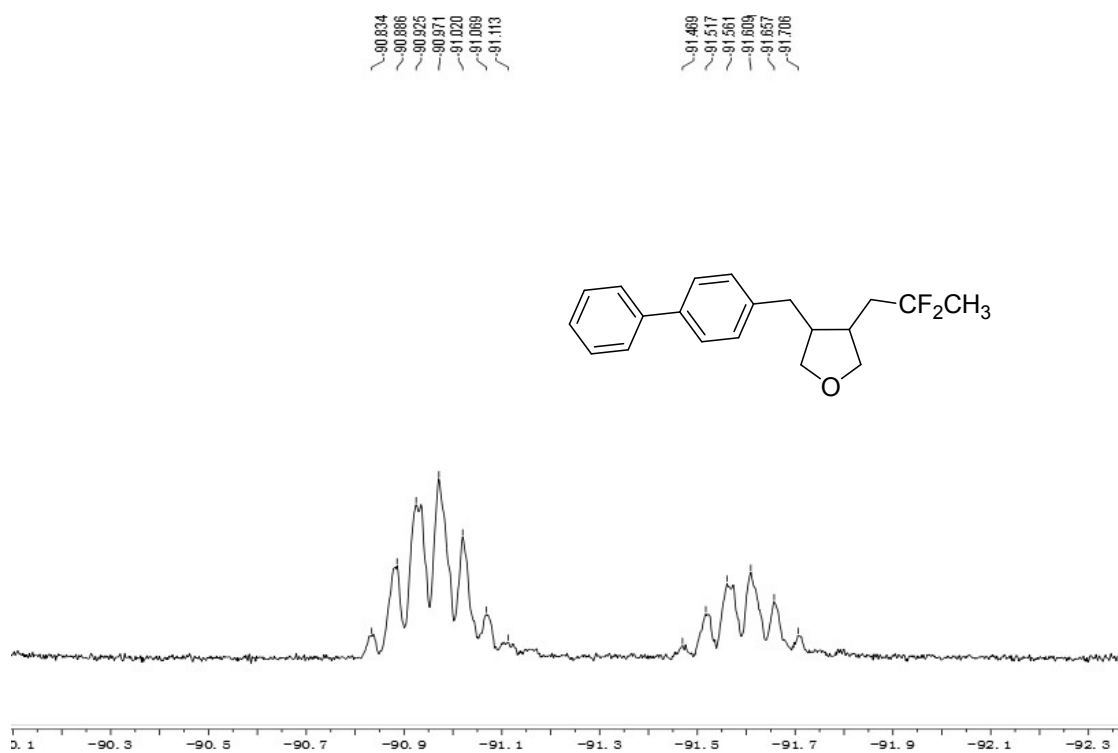
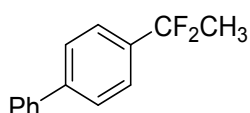


Figure S4. ^{19}F NMR analysis of adding allyl ether to standard reaction conditions

5. Experimental Procedures and Characterization Data

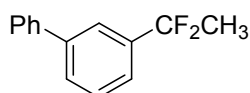
5.1 Ni-catalyzed cross-coupling of arylboronic acids with CH₃CF₂Cl.

Typical Experiment Procedure: To a 10 mL of Schlenk tube were added arylboronic acid (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), NiCl₂(PPh₃)₃ (3.9 mg, 3 mol%), **L1** (1.3 mg, 3 mol%), K₂CO₃ (55.2 mg, 2.0 equiv.), DMAP (17.1 mg, 70 mol%). The mixture was evacuated and backfilled with N₂ for three times, DME (2 mL) and CH₃CF₂Cl (generally 1.3 mol/L in DME) were then added. The Schlenk tube was screw capped and put into a preheated oil bath (110 °C). After stirring for 5 h, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and purified by silica gel chromatography to give product.



4-(1,1-Difluoroethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (**3a**)^[3]

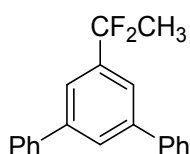
For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method was followed to provide **3a** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) as a white solid (31 mg, 70%). M.p.: 62–64 °C. IR (KBr): 3080, 3032, 3006, 1680, 1488, 1388, 1305, 1166, 1112, 921, 766, 692, 581 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.65-7.57 (m, 6H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.36 (m, 1H), 1.96 (t, *J* = 18.2 Hz, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): -87.2 (q, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 2F). GC-MS (*m/z*): 218 (M⁺), 203 (M⁺-CH₃), 153 (M⁺-CF₂-CH₃).



3-(1,1-Difluoroethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (**3b**)^[3]

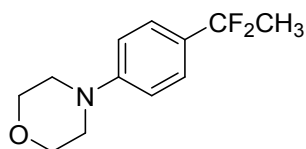
For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method was followed to provide **3b** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) as a colorless oil (24 mg, 54%). IR (thin film): 3061, 3003, 2927, 1483, 1384, 1316, 1178, 929, 759, 704,

599 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.64-7.63 (m, 1H), 7.59 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.49-7.43 (m, 4H), 7.37 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.96 (t, $J = 18.2$ Hz, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -87.6 (q, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 2F). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 141.6, 140.5, 138.7 (t, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 26.4$ Hz), 129.0, 128.9, 128.5, 127.7, 127.3, 123.52 (t, $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 6.2$ Hz), 123.48 (t, $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 5.8$ Hz), 121.9 (t, $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 237.7$ Hz), 26.1 (t, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 29.7$ Hz).



5'--(1,1-Difluoroethyl)-1,1':3',1''-terphenyl (**3c**)

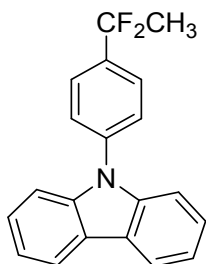
For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method was followed to provide **3c** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) as a colorless oil (23 mg, 39%). IR (thin film): 3061, 3037, 2854, 1599, 1433, 1254, 1179, 1144, 930, 759, 698 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.86 (s, 1H), 7.71 (s, 2H), 7.67, (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 4H), 7.49 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 4H), 7.41 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.00 (t, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -87.6 (q, $J = 18.2$ Hz, 2F). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 142.3, 140.5, 139.3 (t, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 26.3$ Hz), 128.9, 127.9, 127.4, 127.3, 122.4 (t, $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 6.0$ Hz), 121.9 (t, $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 238.0$ Hz), 26.2 (t, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 29.7$). GC-MS (m/z): 294 (M^+), 279 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{CH}_3$). HRMS (EI): calcd. For $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_2$ (M^+): 294.1220, found: 294.1223.



4-(4-(1,1-Difluoroethyl)phenyl)morpholine (**3h**)

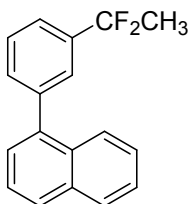
For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method was followed to provide **3h** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) as a white solid (12 mg, 28%). M.p.: 56-58 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. IR (KBr): 2965, 2861, 1615, 1521, 1385, 1239, 1115, 925, 828, 622, 579 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.41 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 3.87 (t, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 4H), 3.2 (t, $J = 5.0$ Hz, 4H), 1.91 (t,

$J = 18.0$ Hz, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -85.4 (q, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 2F). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 152.1 129.1 (t, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 26.9$ Hz), 125.8 (t, $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 5.9$ Hz), 122.1 (t, $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 236.2$ Hz), 114.8, 66.8, 48.7, 25.8 (t, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 30.3$ Hz). GC-MS (m/z): 227 (M^+), 65 (CF_2CH_3^+). HRMS (EI): calcd. For $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_2\text{NO}$ (M^+): 227.1122, found: 227.1128.



9-(4-(1,1-Difluoroethyl)phenyl)-9H-carbazole (**3j**)

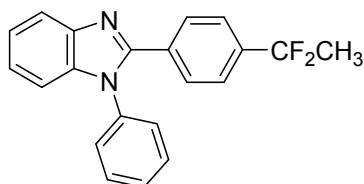
For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method was followed to provide **3j** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) as a white solid (38 mg, 62%). M.p.: 150–152 °C. IR (KBr): 3250, 3003, 1610, 1517, 1453, 1295, 1232, 1175, 907, 752, 628, 570 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.17 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.46-7.41 (m, 4H), 7.34-7.30 (m, 2H), 2.05 (t, $J = 18.2$ Hz, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -87.2 (q, $J = 18.2$ Hz, 2F). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 140.6, 139.1, 137.1 (t, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 26.9$ Hz), 127.0, 126.4 (t, $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 5.9$ Hz), 126.1, 123.6, 121.7 (t, $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 237.6$ Hz), 120.4, 120.3, 109.7, 26.0 (t, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 29.7$ Hz). GC-MS (m/z): 307 (M^+), 292 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{CH}_3$), 242 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{CF}_2 - \text{CH}_3$), 65 (CF_2CH_3^+). HRMS (ESI): calcd. For $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_2\text{N}$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}^+$): 308.1251, found: 308.1254.



1-(3-(1,1-Difluoroethyl)phenyl)naphthalene (**3k**)

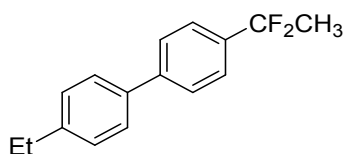
For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method was followed to provide **3k**

by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) as a colorless oil (12 mg, 26%). IR (thin film): 3060, 2927, 1591, 1509, 1394, 1313, 1180, 1083, 928, 798, 708, 601 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.94-7.84 (m, 3H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.60-7.43 (m, 7H), 1.99 (t, $J = 18.2$ Hz, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -87.3 (q, $J = 18.2$ Hz, 2F). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 141.1, 139.4, 138.3 (t, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 26.4$ Hz), 133.8, 131.5, 131.4, 128.5, 128.4, 128.1, 127.1, 126.3 (t, $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 5.9$ Hz), 126.0, 125.7, 125.4, 123.5 (t, $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 5.9$ Hz), 121.9 (t, $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 237.6$ Hz), 26.1 (t, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 29.7$ Hz). GC-MS (m/z): 268 (M^+), 203 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{CF}_2 - \text{CH}_3$). HRMS (EI): calcd. For $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{14}\text{F}_2$ (M^+): 268.1064, found: 268.1071.



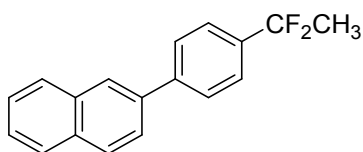
2-(4-(1,1-Difluoroethyl)phenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (**3I**)

For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method was followed to provide **3I** by column chromatography on silica gel (DCM) as a white solid (11 mg, 16%). M.p.: 98-100 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. IR (KBr): 3060, 2927, 1509, 1394, 1266, 1180, 1083, 928, 798, 779, 708, 601 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.90 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.44 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.38-7.25 (m, 5H), 1.90 (t, $J = 18.2$ Hz, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -88.0 (q, $J = 18.2$ Hz, 2F). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 151.3, 142.9, 139.0 (t, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 26.7$ Hz), 137.3, 136.8, 131.4, 130.0, 129.5, 128.8, 127.4, 124.7 (t, $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 5.9$ Hz), 123.7, 123.2, 121.6 (t, $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 237.8$ Hz), 120.0, 110.6, 25.9 (t, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 29.5$ Hz). GC-MS (m/z): 334 (M^+). HRMS (ESI): calcd. For $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{17}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$): 335.1360, found: 335.1371.



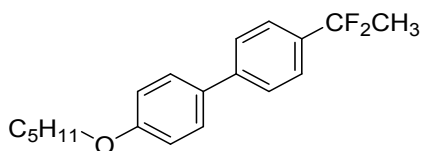
4-(1,1-Difluoroethyl)-4'-ethyl-1,1'-biphenyl (**3m**)

For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method was followed to provide **3m** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) as a white solid (30 mg, 61%). M.p.: 107–109 °C. IR (KBr): 2966, 2931, 2874, 1613, 1501, 1398, 1300, 1176, 1124, 918, 821, 651, 573 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.63 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.58–7.52 (m, 4H), 7.30 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.71 (q, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.96 (t, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 3H), 1.29 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -87.2 (q, $J = 18.2$ Hz, 2F). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 144.0, 142.6, 137.6, 136.7 (t, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 26.6$ Hz), 128.4, 127.1, 127.0, 125.1 (t, $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 5.9$ Hz), 122.0 (t, $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 237.2$ Hz), 28.6, 26.0 (t, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 29.9$ Hz), 15.6. GC-MS (m/z): 246 (M^+), 231 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{CH}_3$), 181 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{CF}_2 - \text{CH}_3$), 65 (CF_2CH_3^+). HRMS (EI): calcd. For $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_2$ (M^+): 246.1220, found: 246.1221.



2-(4-(1,1-Difluoroethyl)phenyl)naphthalene (**3n**)

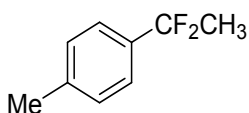
For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method was followed to provide **3n** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) as a white solid (29 mg, 55%). M.p.: 115–117 °C. IR (KBr): 3056, 2925, 1734, 1388, 1304, 1111, 922, 818, 748, 585, 477 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.96–7.88 (m, 3H), 7.79–7.74, (m, 3H), 7.64 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.56–7.50 (m, 2H), 2.00 (t, $J = 18.2$ Hz, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -87.3 (q, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 2F). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 142.6, 137.6, 137.1 (t, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 26.6$ Hz), 133.6, 132.8, 128.6, 128.3, 127.7, 127.5, 126.5, 126.3, 126.1, 125.4, 125.2 (t, $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 5.8$ Hz), 122.0 (t, $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 237.3$ Hz), 26.0 (t, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 29.8$ Hz). GC-MS (m/z): 268 (M^+), 253 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{CH}_3$), 65 (CF_2CH_3^+). HRMS (EI): calcd. For $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{14}\text{F}_2$ (M^+): 268.1064, found: 268.1068.



4-(1,1-Difluoroethyl)-4'-(pentyloxy)-1,1'-biphenyl (**3o**)

For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method was followed to provide **3o** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) as a white solid (31 mg, 51%). M.p.: 117–119 °C. IR (KBr): 2957, 2875, 1606, 1501, 1385, 1305, 1171, 1130, 1051, 922, 820, 604, 536 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.61-7.51 (m, 6H), 6.98 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 4.01 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.96 (t, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 3H), 1.86-1.79 (m, 2H), 1.51-1.36 (m, 4H), 0.95 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -87.1 (q, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 2F). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.1, 142.3, 136.3 (t, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 26.6$ Hz), 132.5, 128.2, 126.7, 125.1 (t, $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 5.9$ Hz), 122.0 (t, $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 237.1$ Hz), 114.9, 68.1, 29.0, 28.2, 26.0 (t, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 29.9$ Hz), 22.5, 14.1. GC-MS (m/z): 304 (M^+), 233 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{C}_5\text{H}_{11}$). HRMS (EI): calcd. For $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_2$ (M^+): 304.1639, found: 304.1635.

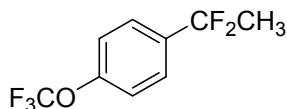
Typical Experiment Procedure for highly volatile products: To a 10 mL of Schlenk tube were added arylboronic acid (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), $\text{NiCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_3$ (3.9 mg, 3 mol%), **L1** (1.3 mg, 3 mol%), K_2CO_3 (55.2 mg, 2.0 equiv.), DMAP (17.1 mg, 70 mol%). The mixture was evacuated and backfilled with N_2 for three times, DME (2 mL) and $\text{CH}_3\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}$ (generally 1.3 mol/L in DME) were then added. The Schlenk tube was screw capped and put into a preheated oil bath (110 °C). After stirring for 5h, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature. The yield was determined by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopy using PhCF_3 as an internal standard.



1-(1,1-difluoroethyl)-4-methylbenzene (**3d**)¹⁴

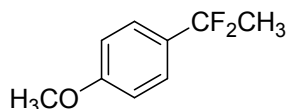
For 0.2 mmol scale, the yield (34%) was determined by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopy using PhCF_3 as an internal standard. Characterization of **3d** in reaction solution: ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -86.1 (q, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 2F). GC-MS (m/z): 156 (M^+), 141

($M^+ - CH_3$), 91 ($M^+ - CF_2 - CH_3$), 65 ($CF_2CH_3^+$)



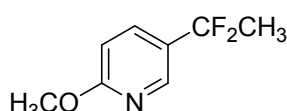
1-(1,1-difluoroethyl)-4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzene (3g)

For 0.2 mmol scale, the yield (35%) was determined by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopy using $PhCF_3$ as an internal standard. Characterization of **3g** in reaction solution: ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ -57.2 (s, 3F), -86.7 (q, $J = 18.2$ Hz, 2F). GC-MS (m/z): 226 (M^+), 211 ($M^+ - CH_3$).



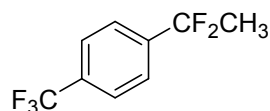
1-(1,1-difluoroethyl)-4-methoxybenzene (3e) ^[4]

For 0.2 mmol scale, the yield (33%) was determined by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopy using $PhCF_3$ as an internal standard. Characterization of **3e** in reaction solution: ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ -84.8 (q, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 2F). GC-MS (m/z): 172 (M^+), 65 ($CF_2CH_3^+$).



5-(1,1-difluoroethyl)-2-methoxypyridine (3i)

For 0.2 mmol scale, the yield (27%) was determined by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopy using $PhCF_3$ as an internal standard. Characterization of **3i** in reaction solution: ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ -86.3 (q, $J = 18.4$ Hz, 2F). GC-MS (m/z): 173 (M^+), 158 ($M^+ - CH_3$).

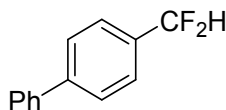


1-(1,1-difluoroethyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (3f) ^[4]

For 0.2 mmol scale, the yield (40%) was determined by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopy using PhCF_3 as an internal standard. Characterization of **3f** in reaction solution: ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -62.2 (s, 3F), -87.7 (q, $J = 18.2$ Hz, 2F). GC-MS (m/z): 210 (M^+), 195 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{CH}_3$), 145 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{CF}_2 - \text{CH}_3$).

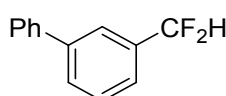
5.2 Ni-catalyzed cross-coupling of arylboronic acids with alkyl halides.

Procedure: To a 10 mL of Schlenk tube were added arylboronic acid (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), $\text{NiCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_3$ (3.9 mg, 3 mol%), **L1** (1.3 mg, 3 mol%), K_2CO_3 (55.2 mg, 2.0 equiv.), DMAP (17.1 mg, 70 mol%). The mixture was evacuated and backfilled with N_2 for three times, DME (2 mL) and CF_2HCl (generally 10.0 equiv) were then added. The Schlenk tube was screw capped and put into a preheated oil bath (110 $^\circ\text{C}$). After stirring for 5 h, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and purified by silica gel chromatography to give product.



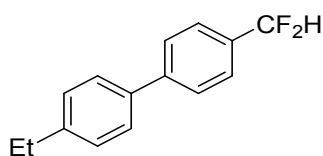
4-(Difluoromethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (**4a**)^[3]

For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method was followed to provide **4a** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) as a white solid (20 mg, 50%). M.p:70-72 $^\circ\text{C}$. IR (KBr): 3059, 2965, 1614, 1488, 1380, 1226, 1077, 1025, 839 766, 694 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.68 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.60 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 4H), 7.48 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.71, (t, $J = 56.6$ Hz, 1H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -110.3 (d, $J = 56.4$ Hz, 2F). GC-MS (m/z): 204 (M^+), 127 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{Ph}$).



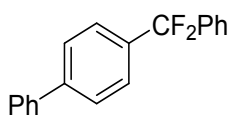
3-(Difluoromethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (**4b**)^[3]

For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method was followed to provide **4b** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) as a colorless oil (12 mg, 29%). IR (thin film): 3359, 3063, 2921, 1481, 1370, 1120, 1030, 899, 804, 759, 700, 615, 550 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.73-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.61 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.56-7.45 (m, 4H), 7.39 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.72 (t, $J = 56.6$ Hz, 1H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -110.6 (d, $J = 56.4$ Hz, 2F). GC-MS (m/z): 204 (M^+), 153(M^+ - CF_2H), 127 (M^+ -Ph),



4-(Difluoromethyl)-4'-ethyl-1,1'-biphenyl (**4c**)

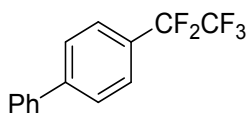
For 0.2 mmol scale, the standard procedure of method was followed to provide **4c** by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) as a white solid (21 mg, 46%). M.p.: 102-104 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. IR (KBr): 3031, 2970, 2878, 1611, 1500, 1402, 1075, 1026, 818, 730, 552, 521 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.69 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.60-7.54 (m, 4H), 7.33 ($J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.71 (t, $J = 56.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.74 (q, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.31 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -110.2 (d, $J = 56.6$ Hz, 2F). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 144.2, 143.7, 137.5, 132.9 (t, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 22.3$ Hz), 128.5, 127.3, 127.2, 126.0 (t, $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 5.9$ Hz), 114.8 (t, $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 236.9$ Hz), 28.6, 15.6. GC-MS (m/z): 232 (M^+), 217 (M^+ - CH_3), 181 (M^+ - CF_2H). HRMS (EI): calcd. For $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{F}_2$ (M^+): 232.1064, found: 232.1067.



4-(Difluorophenyl)methyl-1,1'-biphenyl (**4d**)^[5]

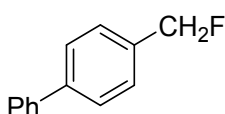
To a 10 mL of Schlenk tube were added 4-biphenylboronic acid (39.6 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), $\text{NiCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_3$ (3.9 mg, 3 mol%), **L1** (1.3 mg, 3 mol%), K_2CO_3 (55.2 mg, 2.0 equiv.), DMAP (17.1 mg, 70 mol%). The mixture was evacuated and

backfilled with N₂ for three times, DME (2 mL) and PhCF₂Cl (162 mg, 175 μl 5.0 equiv.) were then added. The Schlenk tube was screw capped and put into a preheated oil bath (110 °C). After stirring for 5h, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) to product **4d** that a white solid (6 mg, 11%). M.p.: 78-80 °C. IR (KBr): 3450, 3345, 3064, 2922, 2851, 1450, 1272, 1236, 1047, 961, 838, 755, 696, 607 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.60-7.55 (m, 6H), 7.48-7.44 (m, 5H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -88.6 (s, 2F). GC-MS (*m/z*): 280 (M⁺), 203 (M⁺-Ph), 127(PhCF₂⁺).



4-(Perfluoroethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (**4e**)^[6]

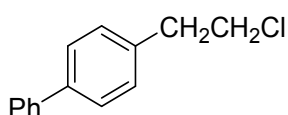
To a 10 mL of Schlenk tube were added 4-biphenylboronic acid (39.6 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), NiCl₂(PPh₃)₃ (3.9 mg, 3 mol%), **L1** (1.3 mg, 3 mol%), K₂CO₃ (55.2 mg, 2.0 equiv.), DMAP (17.1 mg, 70 mol%). The mixture was evacuated and backfilled with N₂ for three times, DME (2 mL) and CF₃CF₂Cl (generally 10.0 equiv) were then added. The Schlenk tube was screw capped and put into a preheated oil bath (110 °C). After stirring for 5h, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) to product **4e** that a white solid (10 mg, 19%). M.p.:68-70 °C. IR (KBr): 3358, 2923, 2852, 1407, 1292, 1205, 1114, 1093, 974, 841, 739, 691 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.7 (q, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 4H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -84.7 (s, 3F), -114.7 (s, 2F). GC-MS (*m/z*): 272 (M⁺), 203 (M⁺-CF₃).



4-(Fluoromethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (**4f**)^[7]

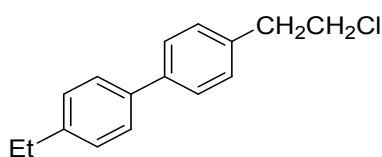
To a 10 mL of Schlenk tube were added 4-biphenylboronic acid (39.6 mg, 0.2

mmol, 1.0 equiv.), NiCl₂(PPh₃)₃ (3.9 mg, 3 mol%), **L1** (1.3 mg, 3 mol%), K₂CO₃ (55.2 mg, 2.0 equiv.), DMAP (17.1 mg, 70 mol%). The mixture was evacuated and backfilled with N₂ for three times, DME (2 mL) and CH₂FCl (generally 10.0 equiv.) were then added. The Schlenk tube was screw capped and put into a preheated oil bath (110 °C). After stirring for 5h, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) to product **4f** that a white solid (9 mg, 25%). GC-MS (*m/z*): 186 (M⁺), 109 (M⁺-Ph), 153 (M⁺-CH₂F).



4-(2-Chloroethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (**4g**)^[8]

To a 10 mL of Schlenk tube were added 4-biphenylboronic acid (39.6 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), NiCl₂(PPh₃)₃ (3.9 mg, 3 mol%), **L1** (1.3 mg, 3 mol%), K₂CO₃ (55.2 mg, 2.0 equiv.), DMAP (17.1 mg, 70 mol%). The mixture was evacuated and backfilled with N₂ for three times, DME (2 mL) and ClCH₂CH₂Cl (98 mg, 78 μl, 5.0 equiv) were then added. The Schlenk tube was screw capped and put into a preheated oil bath (110 °C). After stirring for 5h, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) to product **4g** that a white solid (34 mg, 79%). M.p.: 25-27 °C. IR (KBr): 3401, 3029, 2927, 1601, 1487, 1246, 1108, 825, 748, 698 503 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.60-7.55 (m, 4H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 3H), 3.76 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 3.12 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 140.8, 139.9, 137.1, 129.3, 128.8, 127.3, 127.2, 127.1, 44.9, 38.8. GC-MS (*m/z*): 216 (M⁺), 167 (M⁺-CH₂Cl)



4-(2-Chloroethyl)-4'-ethyl-1,1'-biphenyl (**4h**)

To a 10 mL of Schlenk tube were added (4'-Ethyl[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-boronic (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), NiCl₂(PPh₃)₃ (3.9 mg, 3 mol%), **L1** (1.3 mg, 3 mol%), K₂CO₃ (55.2 mg, 2.0 equiv.), DMAP (17.1 mg, 70 mol%). The mixture was evacuated and backfilled with N₂ for three times, DME (2 mL) and ClCH₂CH₂Cl (98 mg, 78 μ l, 5.0 equiv) were then added. The Schlenk tube was screw capped and put into a preheated oil bath (110 °C). After stirring for 5h, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether) to product **4h** that a white solid (31 mg, 64%). M.p.:83-85 °C. IR (KBr): 3027, 2961, 2868, 1497, 1400, 1245, 1144, 1004, 814, 747, 707, 499 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.58-7.52 (m, 4H), 7.30 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 4H), 3.77 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.13 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.72 (q, 2.72, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.31 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 143.4, 139.9, 138.2, 136.8, 129.2, 128.3, 127.2, 127.0, 45.00, 38.9, 28.6, 15.7. GC-MS (m/z): 244 (M⁺), 229 (M⁺-CH₃), 195 (M⁺-CH₂Cl). HRMS (EI): calcd. For C₁₆H₁₇Cl (M⁺): 244.1019, found: 244.1013.

6. References

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7. ^1H , ^{19}F and ^{13}C NMR Spectra of Isolated Products

