# Boron-Catalyzed $\alpha$ -C-H Fluorination of Aryl Acetic Acids

Haipeng Hu,\*<sup>a</sup> Cuilin Wang,<sup>b</sup> Xin Wu,<sup>b</sup> Yangu Liu,<sup>a</sup> Guizhou Yue,<sup>a</sup> Gehong Su,<sup>a</sup> Juhua Feng<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>College of Science Sichuan Agricultural University, Ya'an, Sichuan, 625014 (P. R. China)

<sup>b</sup>Sichuan Normal University, Chengdu 610068, (P. R. China).

E-mail: chemhhp@yeah.net.

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# **1. General Information**

Unless otherwise noted, all the reactions were performed under nitrogen atmosphere in the glove box. The solvents (THF, toluene and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) were dried according to the standard procedures. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DRX400 (400 MHz), Bruker DRX600 (600 MHz) by using CDCl<sub>3</sub> as solvent. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) values were reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane with the solvent resonance as the internal standard. Spectra were reported as follows: chemical shift ( $\delta$  ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz), integration and assignment. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectra were collected on commercial instruments (150 MHz) with complete proton decoupling. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm from the tetramethylsilane with the solvent resonance as internal standard (CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$  = 77.0). <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra were collected at 565 MHz. HRMS was recorded on a commercial apparatus (ESI Source). The aryl acetic acids **2a-9a**, **11a-24a**, **30a-34a**, **39a-42a** and boron catalysts (PhB(OH)<sub>2</sub>, B(OH)<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>B(OH)<sub>2</sub>, B<sub>2</sub>pin<sub>2</sub>) were commercially available. Carboxylic acids **1a**,<sup>1</sup> **10a**,<sup>1</sup> **25a-29a**,<sup>2-6</sup> (AcO)<sub>4</sub>B<sub>2</sub>O<sup>7</sup> were prepared according to reported procedures.

# 2. Optimization of Reaction Conditions.

	COOH + Selectfluor	[B] (20 mol%) DBU (2.5 equiv) Toluene (1.0 mL) 40 °C, 24 h	СООН	
	1a 2		1b	
Entry <sup>[a]</sup>	Catalyst	Base	Yield <sup>[b]</sup> (%)	
1	(AcO)4B2O	DBU	88	
2	PhB(OH)2	DBU	64	
3	<b>B(OH)</b> 3	DBU	74	
4	C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> B(OH) <sub>2</sub>	DBU	66	
5	B2pin2	DBU	60	
6 <sup>[c]</sup>	(AcO)4B2O	DBU	22	

# Table S1. The screening of catalyst and [F] sources.

[a] All the reactions were performed with **1a** (0.10 mmol), **2** (0.10 mmol), [**B**] (20 mol%), DBU (2.5 equiv) in toluene (1.0 mL) at 40 °C under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere for 24 h. [b] The yield was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR by using dimethyl terephthalate as internal standard. [c] The reaction was performed with **1a** (0.10 mmol), NFSI (0.10 mmol), [B] (20 mol%), DBU (2.5 equiv) in toluene (1.0 mL) at 40 °C under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere for 24 h.

	COOH +	Selectfluor	(AcO) <sub>4</sub> B <sub>2</sub> O (20 mol%) Base (2.5 equiv) Toluene(1.0 mL) 40 °C, 24 h	СООН
	1a	2		1b
Entry <sup>[a]</sup>	Base		Cat.	Yield <sup>[b]</sup> (%)
1	Pyrrolidine		(AcO) <sub>4</sub> B <sub>2</sub> O	NR
2	Pyridine		$(AcO)_4B_2O$	24
3	Et <sub>3</sub> N		$(AcO)_4B_2O$	NR
4	DABCO		$(AcO)_4B_2O$	NR
5	DMAP		(AcO) <sub>4</sub> B <sub>2</sub> O	60
6	DBU		$(AcO)_4B_2O$	88
7	TMG		(AcO) <sub>4</sub> B <sub>2</sub> O	54
8	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>		$(AcO)_4B_2O$	NR

# Table S2. The screening of base.

[a] All the reactions were performed with **1a** (0.10 mmol), **2** (0.10 mmol), (AcO)<sub>4</sub>B<sub>2</sub>O (20 mol%), base (2.5 equiv) in toluene (1.0 mL) at 40 °C under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere for 24 h. [b] The yield was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR by using dimethyl terephthalate as internal standard; NR = No Reaction.

	COOH +	Selectfluor	(AcO) <sub>4</sub> B <sub>2</sub> O (20 mol%) DBU (2.5 equiv) Solvent (1.0 mL) 40 °C, 24 h	СООН
	1a	2		1b
Entry <sup>[a]</sup>	Solvent		Base	Yield <sup>[b]</sup> %
1	MTBE		DBU	NR
2	MeCN		DBU	NR
3	Et <sub>2</sub> O		DBU	NR
4	THF		DBU	70
5	DME		DBU	84
6	Toluene		DBU	96
7 <sup>[c]</sup>	Toluene		DBU	67
8 <sup>[d]</sup>	Toluene		DBU	91
9 <sup>[e]</sup>	Toluene		DBU	60

#### Table S3. The screening of solvents and reaction temperature.

[a] All the reactions were performed with **1a** (0.10 mmol), **2** (0.10 mmol), (AcO)<sub>4</sub>B<sub>2</sub>O (20 mol%), DBU (2.5 equiv) in toluene (1.0 mL) at 40 °C under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere for 24 h. [b] The yield was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR by using dimethyl terephthalate as internal standard. [c] The reaction temperature was 0 °C. [d] The reaction temperature was 35 °C. [e] The reaction temperature was 60 °C. NR = No Reaction.

	COOH +	Selectfluor	(AcO) <sub>4</sub> B <sub>2</sub> O (x mol%) DBU (y equiv) Toluene (1.0 mL) 40 °C. 24 h	СООН
	1a	2		1b
Entry <sup>[a]</sup>	<b>1a:2</b> (x:y)		DBU (x equiv)	Yield <sup>[b]</sup> (%)
1	1:1		2.5	88
2	1:1.05		2.5	88
3	1:1.2		2.5	95
4	1:1.5		2.5	96
5	1:2		2.5	32
6	1:3		2.5	20
7	1:1.5		1.0	69
8	1:1.5		1.5	84
9	1:1.5		2.0	96
10 <sup>[c]</sup>	1:1.5		2.0	trace
11 <sup>[d]</sup>	1:1.5		2.0	26
12 <sup>[e]</sup>	1:1.5		2.0	90

Table S4. Screening on the base and catalyst loading, and the ratio of carboxylic acid to selectfluor.

[a] All the reactions were performed with **1a** (0.10 mmol), **2** (0.10 mmol),  $(AcO)_4B_2O$  (20 mol%), DBU (2.5 equiv) in toluene (1.0 mL) at 40 °C under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere for 24 h. [b] The yield was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR by using dimethyl terephthalate as internal standard. [c]. The catalyst loading was 5 mol%. [d] The catalyst loading was 10 mol%. [e] The catalyst loading was 15 mol%.

# 3. General Procedure for the Catalytic α-Fluorination Reaction of Free Carboxylic acids.



**Procedure**: In the glove-box, a dry reaction tube was charged with free carboxylic acids **1a-34a** (0.1 mmol),  $(AcO)_4B_2O$  (20 mol%, 5.5 mg), DBU (2.0 equiv, 38.1 mg) and toluene (1.0 mL). After stirring for 0.5 h, the selectfluor **2** (1.5 equiv) was added to the mixture and kept stirring at 40 °C for the indicated time.

**Work up**: The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and 1M HCl was added to the obtained residue. Next, the mixture was extracted with MTBE (2 mL  $\times$  3), and the combined organic phase was extracted with 1.0 M NaOH<sub>(</sub>aq.) (2 mL  $\times$  3). The collected aqueous phase was acidified with 1M HCl to PH =1, and subsequently extracted with MTBE (2 mL  $\times$  3). The combined organic phase was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with petroleum ether–ethyl acetate (20% EA to 100% EA) to afford the corresponding product **1b-34b**.

#### 4. Gram-Scale Synthesis.



**Procedure for the gram-scale synthesis of 1b**: In the glove-box, a dry reaction tube was charged with free carboxylic acids **1a** (8.0 mmol, 1.09 g),  $(AcO)_4B_2O$  (20 mol%, 0.44 g), DBU (16.0 mmol, 2.43 g) and toluene (40.0 mL). After stirring for 0.5 h, the selectfluor **2** (12.0 mmol, 4.20 g) was added to the mixture. And the reaction mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 24 h.

**Procedure for the gram-scale synthesis of 4b:** In the glove-box, a dry reaction tube was charged with free carboxylic acids **4a** (7.0 mmol, 1.50 g),  $(AcO)_4B_2O$  (20 mol%, 0.38 g), DBU (14.0 mmol, 2.10 g) and toluene (70.0 mL). After stirring for 0.5 h, the selectfluor **2** (10.5 mmol, 3.70 g) was added to the mixture. Then, the reaction mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 24 h.

**Work up**: The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and 1M HCl was added to the obtained residue. Next, the mixture was extracted with MTBE ( $20 \text{ mL} \times 3$ ), and the combined organic phase was extracted with 1.0 M NaOH<sub>(</sub>aq.) ( $20 \text{ mL} \times 3$ ). The collected aqueous phase was acidified with 1M HCl to PH =1, and subsequently extracted with MTBE ( $20 \text{ mL} \times 3$ ). The combined organic phase was removed under reduced pressure and thhe residue was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with petroleum ether–ethyl acetate (v/v, 4:1 to 1:1) to afford the corresponding product.

# 5. Failed Examples.

The following alkyl carboxylic acids **39a-42a** were not applicable under the standard reaction conditions, possibly due to the lack of conjugation effect of the phenyl ring leading to poorer nucleophilicity of  $\alpha$ -position of alkyl carboxylic acids.



#### 6. The X-ray Structure of Product 4b.



Single crystal of compound **4b** [C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>BrFO<sub>2</sub>] was obtained in PE and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. CCDC 2120636 contains the supplementary crystallographic data which can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center via <u>https://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/structures/</u>.

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Identification code	compound 4b
Empirical formula	$C_{16}H_{12}O_4F_2Br_2$
Formula weight	466.08
Temperature/K	300(2)
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	Pc
a/Å	18.9959(7)
b/Å	6.0086(3)
c/Å	7.7051(3)
$\alpha/^{\circ}$	90
β/°	91.911(4)
$\gamma/^{o}$	90
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	878.96(6)
Z	2
$\rho_{calc}g/cm^3$	1.761
$\mu/mm^{-1}$	6.202
F(000)	456.0
Radiation	$CuK\alpha \ (\lambda = 1.54178)$
$2\Theta$ range for data collection/°	4.654 to 151.758
Index ranges	$-23 \le h \le 23, -7 \le k \le 7, -9 \le l \le 7$
Reflections collected	2780
Independent reflections	2780 [ $R_{int} = ?, R_{sigma} = 0.0450$ ]
Data/restraints/parameters	2780/5/226
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.107
Final R indexes [I>= $2\sigma$ (I)]	$R_1 = 0.0635, wR_2 = 0.1894$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0730, wR_2 = 0.2036$
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å <sup>-3</sup>	0.76/-0.49
Flack parameter	0.00(3)

# 7. Characterization of the Products.

#### 2-fluoro-2-phenylacetic acid (1b)

Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 96% (14.8 mg); white solid; m.p. 80 - 85 °C. **H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.46 (s, 1H), 7.48 (dd, J = 6.9, 2.9 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (q,

J = 3.8 Hz, 3H), 5.81 (d, J = 47.4 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  174.00 (d, J = 28.5 Hz), 133.47 (d, J = 21.0 Hz), 129.95, 128.92,

126.71, 126.68, 88.83 (d, *J* = 186.0 Hz);

<sup>19</sup>**F** NMR (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -180.78 (d, *J* = 45.2 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z  $[M-H]^{-}$  for  $[C_8H_8FO_2]^{-}$ : 153.0346, found: 153.0346.

## 2-fluoro-2-(4-fluorophenyl)acetic acid (2b)

F

Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 92% COOH (15.8 mg); white solid; m.p. 92 - 103 °C.

F <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.46 (s, 1H), 7.47 (dd, J = 8.5, 5.2 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.80 (d, J = 47.2 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 173.69 (d, *J* = 25.5 Hz), 163.62 (d, *J* = 247.5 Hz), 129.46, 129.44, 129.32, 129.30, 128.82, 128.78, 128.76, 128.72, 116.12, 115.97, 88.20 (d, *J* = 187.5 Hz);

<sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -110.69 – -110.75 (m, 1F), -179.30 (d, 45.2 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z  $[M-H]^{-}$  for  $[C_8H_5F_2O_2]^{-}$ : 153.0346, found: 153.0346.

#### 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-fluoroacetic acid (3b)



Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 92% (17.3 mg); white solid; m.p. 71 - 80 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.40 (s, 1H), 7.49 – 7.34 (m, 4H), 5.80 (d, *J* =

47.1 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 173.55 (d, *J* = 27.0 Hz), 136.09 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz), 131.87 (d, *J* = 21.0 Hz), 129.20, 127.99, 127.95, 88.09 (d, *J* = 186.0 Hz);

<sup>19</sup>**F** NMR (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -181.75 (d, J = 45.2 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z  $[M-H]^{-}$  for  $[C_8H_5Cl^{35}FO_2]^{-}$ : 186.9957, found: 186.9960;  $[C_8H_5Cl^{37}FO_2]^{-}$ : 188.9927, found: 188.9930.

#### 2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-fluoroacetic acid (4b)

Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 94% (21.9 mg); white solid; m.p. 96 –103 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.56 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.

2H), 5.78 (d, *J* = 47.2 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 173.28 (d, *J* = 25.5 Hz), 132.4 (d, *J* = 21.0 Hz), 132.16, 128.20 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 124.29, 88.14 (d, *J* = 187.5 Hz);

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -182.21 (d, J = 50.1 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z  $[M-H]^{-}$  for  $[C_8H_5Br^{79}FO_2]^{-}$ : 230.9451, found: 230.9458;  $[C_8H_5Br^{81}FO_2]^{-}$ : 232.9431, found: 232.9437.

#### 2-fluoro-2-(4-iodophenyl)acetic acid (5b)



Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 92%
H (25.8 mg); white solid; m.p. 129 –135 °C.
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.77 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.09 (s, 1H), 5.77 (d, J = 47.2 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.82 (d, *J* = 27.0 Hz), 138.09, 133.10 (d, *J* = 19.5 Hz), 128.27 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz), 96.11, 88.24 (d, *J* = 187.5 Hz);

<sup>19</sup>**F** NMR (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -182.61 (d, J = 45.2 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z  $[M-H]^{-}$  for  $[C_8H_5IFO_2]^{-}$ : 278.9313, found: 278.9322.

2-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-fluoroacetic acid (6b)



Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 60% (10.8 mg); white solid; m.p. 90 – 111 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.73 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 5.90 (d, *J* = 47.1 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 171.77 (d, *J* = 27.0 Hz), 138.43 (d, *J* = 19.5 Hz), 132.66, 126.96, 126.92, 117.98, 113.62, 87.82 (d, *J* = 189.0 Hz);

<sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -186.37 (d, J = 45.2 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z [M-H]<sup>-</sup> for [C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>5</sub>FNO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>-</sup>: 178.0299, found: 178.0300.

# 2-fluoro-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acetic acid (7b)

Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 87% (19.3 mg); white solid; m.p. 82 - 92 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.01 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (d,

J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 5.90 (d, J = 47.1 Hz, 1H);

F<sub>3</sub>C

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 173.01 (d, *J* = 30.0 Hz), 137.15 (d, *J* = 21.0 Hz), 132.02 (d, *J* = 31.5 Hz), 126.76, 126.72, 126.27, 125.94, 125.91, 125.89, 125.86, 125.82, 123.68 (d, *J* = 270.0 Hz), 88.01 (d, *J* = 187.5 Hz);

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -62.92 (s, 3F), -185.09 (d, J = 45.2 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated  $m/z [M-H]^{-}$  for  $[C_9H_5F_4O_2]^{-}$ : 221.0220, found: 221.0226.

#### 2-fluoro-2-(4-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)acetic acid (8b)



Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 92% COOH (19.5 mg); white solid; m.p. 77 - 84 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.08 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, J =

8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.89 (d, *J* = 47.3 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 177.86, 167.47, 132.37, 131.07, 127.37, 127.32, 89.23 (d, *J* = 199.5 Hz), 53.40;

<sup>19</sup>**F** NMR (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -184.35 (d, *J* = 50.9 Hz).

HRMS (ESI-): calculated m/z [M-H] for [C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>8</sub>FO<sub>4</sub>] : 211.0401, found: 211.0405.

# 2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-fluoroacetic acid (9b)



Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 95% (21.9 mg); white solid; m.p. 162 – 168 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*)  $\delta$  7.73 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.70 – 7.65 (m,

2H), 7.56 – 7.44 (m, 4H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.03 (d, *J* = 47.6 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*)  $\delta$  170.08 (d, J = 27.0 Hz), 141.50, 139.75, 134.59, 134.46,

129.33, 128.14, 127.89, 127.86, 127.37, 127.12, 88.83 (d, *J* = 178.5 Hz);

<sup>19</sup>**F** NMR (565 MHz, DMSO-*d*) δ -170.75 (d, J = 50.9 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z [M-H] for  $[C_{10}H_8FO_4]$ : 229.0659, found: 229.0665.

#### 2-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)-2-fluoroacetic acid (10b)



Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 95%
COOH (19.9 mg); white solid; m.p. 98 – 108 °C
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.70 (s, 1H), 7.47 – 7.25 (m, 4H), 5.71 (d, J = 47.5 Hz, 1H), 1.24 (s, 9H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 174.36 (J = 28.5 Hz), 153.23, 130.49 (J = 4.5 Hz), 126.60 (J = 4.5 Hz), 125.92, 88.78 (J = 186.0 Hz), 34.79, 31.24;

<sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -179.19 (d, *J* = 45.2 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z  $[M-H]^{-}$  for  $[C_{14}H_{10}FO_2]^{-}$ : 209.0972, found: 209.0977.

# 2-fluoro-2-(p-tolyl)acetic acid (11b)

Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 80% (13.4 mg); oil. **H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.29 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H)

2H), 5.71 (d, *J* = 47.5 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 173.86, 140.13, 130.55 (d, *J* = 21.0 Hz), 129.61, 126.82, 126.79, 88.83 (d, *J* = 184.5 Hz), 21.32;

<sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -178.61 (d, *J* = 45.2 Hz).

HRMS (ESI-): calculated m/z [M-H] for [C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>8</sub>FO<sub>2</sub>]: 167.0503, found: 167.0503.

#### 2-fluoro-2-(m-tolyl)acetic acid (12b)



Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 89% COOH (15.1 mg); light yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.09 (s, 1H), 7.33 – 7.19 (m, 4H), 5.77 (d, J

= 47.5 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 174.33 (d, J = 28.5 Hz), 138.85, 133.41, 133.27, 130.76, 128.83, 127.3 (d, J = 6.0 Hz) 127.32, 127.28, 123.88 (d, J = 7.5 Hz), 88.89 (d, J = 186.0 Hz), 21.36;
<sup>19</sup>F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -180.18 (d, J = 45.2 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z [M-H] for  $[C_9H_8FO_2]$ : 167.0503, found: 167.0503.

# 2-fluoro-2-(o-tolyl)acetic acid (13b)



Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 90% (15.1 mg); white solid; m.p. 47 - 54 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.42 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.33 – 7.20 (m, 3H),

6.02 (d, *J* = 47.0 Hz, 1H), 5.67 (s, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 173.87, 136.66 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz), 132.12, 131.99, 131.03, 129.96, 127.32 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 126.46 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz), 86.76 (d, *J* = 184.5 Hz), 19.19;

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -180.08 (d, J = 45.2 Hz).

HRMS (ESI-): calculated m/z [M-H] for [C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>8</sub>FO<sub>2</sub>]: 167.0503, found: 167.0504.

# 2-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-fluoroacetic acid (14b)

Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 92% (17.3 mg); colorless oil.



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.52 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.40 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 6.27 (d, *J* = 46.4 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.87 (d, J = 28.5 Hz), 133.67 (d, J = 4.5 Hz), 131.68 (d, J = 21.0 Hz), 131.28, 130.06, 128.71 (d, J = 6.0 Hz), 127.41, 85.80 (d, J = 184.5 Hz);

<sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -181.06 (d, *J* = 45.2 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z  $[M-H]^{-}$  for  $[C_8H_5Cl^{35}FO_2]^{-}$ : 186.9957, found: 186.9959;  $[C_8H_5Cl^{37}FO_2]^{-}$ :188.9927, found: 188.9929.

# 2-fluoro-2-(naphthalen-1-yl)acetic acid (15b)



Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 93% (19.0 mg); white solid; m.p. 145 – 151 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.14 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.97 – 7.83 (m, 2H), 7.61 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (d, J = 46.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} **NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  174.11 (d, J = 27.0 Hz), 133.89, 130.90, 130.51, (d, J = 19.5

Hz), 128.92, 127.24, 127.00 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 126.35, 125.11, 123.58, 88.08 (d, *J* = 186.0 Hz);

<sup>19</sup>**F** NMR (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -178.63 (d, *J* = 45.2 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z [M-H] for  $[C_{12}H_8FO_2]$ : 203.0503, found: 203.0506.

#### 2-fluoro-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)acetic acid (16b)



Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 87% (17.8 mg); white solid; m.p. 161 - 171 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*) δ 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.99 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 3.9 Hz, 2H), 7.97 – 7.92 (m, 1H), 7.62 – 7.52 (m, 3H), 6.18 (d, *J* = 47.4 Hz, 1H),

3.44 (s, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*) δ 170.09 (d, *J* = 27.0 Hz), 133.43, 132.91, 132.81, 132.77, 128.88, 128.50, 128.01, 127.31, 127.08, 126.98, 126.94, 126.91, 124.28 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz), 89.2 (d, *J* = 150 Hz);

<sup>19</sup>**F** NMR (565 MHz, DMSO-*d*) δ -171.01 (d, J = 50.9 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z  $[M-H]^{-}$  for  $[C_{12}H_8FO_2]^{-}$ : 203.0503, found: 203.0507.

# 2-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-fluoroacetic acid (17b)



Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 92% (16.8 mg); white solid; m.p. 70 - 81 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.23 (s, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 20.0 Hz, 3H), 5.73 (d, *J* = 47.6 Hz, 1H), 2.33 (s, 6H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  174.25 (d, J = 37..5 Hz), 138.72, 133.29 (d, J = 19.5 Hz),

131.66, 124.55, 124.51, 88.98 (d, *J* = 184.5 Hz), 21.24;

<sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -179.42 (d, J = 45.2 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z [M-H] for  $[C_{10}H_{10}FO_2]$ : 181.0659, found: 181.0667.

# 2-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)-2-fluoroacetic acid (18b)



Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 94% (21.0 mg); white solid; m.p. 82 - 85 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.12 (s, 1H), 7.31 (dd, *J* = 14.3, 1.9 Hz, 3H), 5.69 (d, *J* = 47.0 Hz, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 172.84 (d, *J* = 27.0 Hz), 136.36 (d, *J* = 22.5 Hz), 135.68, 130.03, 124.89, 124.84, 87.27 (d, *J* = 189.0 Hz).

<sup>19</sup>**F** NMR (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -184.86 (d, J = 45.2 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z  $[M-H]^{-}$  for  $[C_8H_4Cl^{35}_2FO_2]^{-}$ : 220.9567, found: 220.9572;  $[C_8H_4Cl^{37}_2FO_2]^{-}$ : 222.9537, found: 222.9542.

#### 2-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-2-fluoroacetic acid (19b)



Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 90% (16.4 mg); white solid; m.p. 47 - 55 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.32 (s, 1H), 7.18 – 7.08 (m, 3H), 5.66 (d, J = 47.6 Hz, 1H), 2.20 (s, 6H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  174.32 (d, J = 28.5 Hz), 138.82, 137.42, 130.94 (d, J = 21.0 Hz), 130.12, 127.98 (d, J = 6.0 Hz), 124.44 (d, J = 4.5 Hz), 88.91 (d, J = 184.5 Hz), 19.77, 19.67;

<sup>19</sup>**F** NMR (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -178.73 (d, *J* = 45.2 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z  $[M-H]^{-}$  for  $[C_{10}H_{10}FO_2]^{-}$ : 181.0659, found: 181.0660.

# 2-fluoro-2-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)acetic acid (20b)



Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 90%
(18.2 mg); white solid; m.p. 103 – 111 °C
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.18 – 7.11 (m, 2H), 6.92 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 5.68 (d, J = 47.2 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 172.47 (d, *J* = 28.5 Hz), 153.10, 151.46, 149.05 (d, *J* = 186.0 Hz), 126.20, 126.15, 126.01, 123.25, 114.70 (dd, *J* = 19.5, 6.0 Hz), 113.38, 88.01 (d, *J* = 186.0 Hz), 56.29.

<sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -177.74 (d, *J* = 11.3 Hz), -133.52 (d, *J* = 45.2 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z [M-H] for  $[C_9H_7F_2O_3]$ : 201.0358, found: 201.0361.

# methyl 2-fluoro-2-mesitylacetate (21b)

Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 20% (4.3 mg); colorless oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 6.80 (s, 2H), 6.10 (d, *J* = 46.1 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 2.29 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 6H), 2.20 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  170.00, (d, J = 28.5 Hz), 139.38 (d, J = 1.5 Hz), 137.62 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 129.85, 128.22 (d, J = 16.5 Hz), 85.93 (d, J = 181.5 Hz), 52.63, 21.00, 19.83.

<sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -182.71 (d, *J* = 45.2 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-TOF):** calculated m/z  $[M-H]^-$  for  $[C_{12}H_{15}FO_2 + H^+]$ : 211.1134, found: 211.1133.

# 2-fluoro-2-phenylpropanoic acid (22b)

Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 65% (10.9 mg); colorless oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.57 – 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.43 – 7.32 (m, 3H), 6.83 (s, – 22.3 Hz, 2H).

1H), 1.95 (d, J = 22.3 Hz, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  175.69 (d, J = 22.5 Hz), 138.52 (d, J = 22.5 Hz), 128.89, 128.58,

124.75, 124.69, 94.42 (d, *J* = 220.5 Hz), 24.49 (d, *J* = 24.0 Hz);

<sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -151.26 (q, *J* = 22.6 Hz).

HRMS (ESI-): calculated m/z [M-H] for [C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>8</sub>FO<sub>2</sub>]: 167.0503, found: 167.0503.

# 2-fluoro-2-phenylbutanoic acid (23b)

CH<sub>3</sub> Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 46% (8.4 mg); light yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.51 (q, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.41 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 6.74 (s, 1H), 2.47 – 2.11 (m, 2H), 0.97 (p, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 175.38 (d, *J* = 31.5 Hz), 137.32 (d, *J* = 24.0 Hz), 128.71, 128.54, 124.86, 124.80, 97.18, 97.18 (d, *J* = 187.5 Hz), 31.27 (d, *J* = 22.5 Hz), 7.45;

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -166.72 (s, 1F).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z  $[M-H]^{-}$  for  $[C_{10}H_{10}FO_2]^{-}$ : 181.0659, found: 181.0661.

#### 2-(2,3-bis((2-chlorobenzyl)oxy)phenyl)-2-fluoroacetic acid (25b)



Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 82% (35.7 mg); colorless oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.48 (dd, *J* = 6.5, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.27 – 7.22 (m,

1H), 7.19 – 7.10 (m, 4H), 7.06 – 6.95 (m, 3H), 6.09 (d, *J* = 47.1 Hz, 1H), 5.19 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 2H), 5.12 (s, 2H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 173.59 (d, *J* = 21.0 Hz), 151.66, 146.33, 146.31, 135.02, 134.03, 132.86 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz), 129.73, 129.44, 129.31, 129.25, 129.17, 129.15, 128.49 (d, *J* = 19.5 Hz), 127.04, 126.88, 124.91, 120.82, 120.79, 115.88, 84.4 (d, *J* = 183.0 Hz), 72.48, 68.18;

<sup>19</sup>**F** NMR (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -177.57 (d, J = 50.9 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z [M-H]<sup>-</sup> for [C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>16</sub>Cl<sup>35</sup><sub>2</sub>FO<sub>4</sub>]<sup>-</sup>: 433.0404, found: 433.0414; [C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>16</sub>Cl<sup>37</sup><sub>2</sub>FO<sub>4</sub>]<sup>-</sup>: 435.0375, found: 435.0384.

#### 2-fluoro-2-(3-pentylphenyl)acetic acid (26b)

F Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 74% (16.5 mg); colorless oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.29 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 5.78 (d, *J* = 47.6 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 1.61 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.32 (ddt, *J* = 11.3, 7.4, 4.8 Hz, 4H), 0.88 (td, *J* = 7.0, 2.9 Hz, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 173.70, 143.87, 133.41 (d, *J* = 21.0 Hz), 130.03, 128.79, 126.70 (d, *J* = 21.0 Hz) 126.70 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz), 124.03 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz), 89.03 (d, *J* = 184.5 Hz), 35.80, 31.49, 31.02, 22.50, 14.01;

<sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -179.90 (d, *J* = 45.2 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z  $[M-H]^{-}$  for  $[C_{13}H_{16}FO_2]^{-}$ : 223.1129, found: 223.1134.

#### 2-fluoro-2-(9-oxo-9,10-dihydroanthracen-2-yl)acetic acid (27b)



Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 30% (8.1 mg); white solid; m.p. 165 - 174 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*)  $\delta$  8.27 (dt, J = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (dd, J = 7.9,

1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (ddd, *J* = 8.7, 7.1, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (d, *J* = 46.2 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*) δ 176.07, 169.86 (d, *J* = 27.0 Hz), 155.50, 153.66 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz), 136.30, 135.91 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz), 128.26, 126.50, 125.29, 124.98 (d, *J* = 21.0 Hz), 124.68, 121.93, 121.36, 118.52, 84.72 (d, *J* = 21.0 Hz);

<sup>19</sup>**F** NMR (565 MHz, DMSO-*d*) δ -176.66 (d, J = 50.9 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z  $[M-H]^{-}$  for  $[C_{15}H_8FO_4]^{-}$ : 271.0401, found: 271.0410.

#### 2-fluoro-2-(2-fluoro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)acetic acid (28b)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 7.66 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.41 (m, 2H),

6.12 (d, *J* = 47.4 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 169.79 (d, *J* = 27.0 Hz), 160.06, 158.43, 137.37, 137.32, 137.23, 137.19, 134.91, 131.72, 131.70, 129.54 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz), 129.28, 129.15, 128.64, 123.62, 123.59, 123.56, 114.99 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz), 88.36 (d, *J* = 180.0 Hz);

<sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (565 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ -117.64 (t, J = 11.3 Hz), -177.36 (d, J = 50.9 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z [M-H]<sup>-</sup> for [C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>9</sub>F<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>]<sup>-</sup>: 247.0565, found: 247.0571.

# 2-fluoro-2-(4-(((trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl)oxy)phenyl)propanoic acid (29b)



Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 93% H (29.4 mg); white solid; m.p. 132 - 138 °C.

TfO<sup>1</sup> H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.64 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (s, 1H),

7.31 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 1.97 (d, *J* = 22.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 175.22 (d, *J* = 24.0 Hz), 149.74, 138.88 (d, *J* = 22.5 Hz), 127.00,

126.94, 121.90, 121.59, 119.77, 117.65, 115.52, 93.69 (d, *J* = 187.5 Hz), 24.76 (d, *J* = 24.0 Hz);

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -72.82 (s, 1F), -152.48 (g, J = 22.6 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z  $[M-H]^{-}$  for  $[C_{10}H_7F_4O_5S]^{-}$ : 314.9945, found: 314.9953.

#### 2-fluoro-2-(4-isobutylphenyl)propanoic acid (30b)



Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 54% (12.2 mg); white solid; m.p. 70 - 76 °C

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.30 (s, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.48 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.95 (d, *J* = 22.2 Hz, 3H), 1.86 (dq, *J* = 13.5, 6.7, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 0.90 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 176.57 (d, *J* = 27.0 Hz), 142.73, 135.58 (d, *J* = 22.5 Hz), 129.33, 129.22, 124.56 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 94.84, 93.61, 45.03, 30.16, 24.40, 24.25, 22.38;

<sup>19</sup>**F** NMR (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -150.42 (q, J = 22.6 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z [M-H] for  $[C_{13}H_{16}FO_2]$ : 223.1129, found: 223.1134.

#### 2-(3-benzoylphenyl)-2-fluoropropanoic acid (31b)



Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 80% (21.8 mg); colorless oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*)  $\delta$  7.92 (t, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (ddd, *J* = 9.5, 6.7, 3.0 Hz, 4H), 7.55 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.43 (dt, *J* = 22.3, 7.8 Hz, 3H), 6.05 (s, 1H), 1.92 (d, *J* = 22.3 Hz, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*) δ 196.37, 174.85 (d, *J* = 28.5 Hz), 138.97 (d, *J* = 28.5 Hz), 137.90, 137.08, 132.85, 130.64, 130.16, 128.72 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 128.66, 128.45, 126.35 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 94.05 (d, *J* = 186.0 Hz), 24.69, 24.54;

<sup>19</sup>**F** NMR (565 MHz, DMSO-*d*) δ -151.98 (q, J = 22.6 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z  $[M-H]^{-}$  for  $[C_{16}H_{12}FO_3]^{-}$ : 271.0765, found: 271.0773.

#### 2-fluoro-2-(2-fluoro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)propanoic acid (32b)



Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 95% (24.9 mg); white solid; m.p. 98 - 107 °C.

F <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.55 – 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.45 (dt, *J* = 11.7, 7.9 Hz, 3H), 7.41 – 7.33 (m, 3H), 1.98 (d, *J* = 22.1 Hz, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  175.94, 159.59 (d, J = 247.5 Hz), 139.78, 139.73, 139.62, 139.57, 134.98, 130.99 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 129.67 (d, J = 13.5 Hz), 128.99, 128.97, 128.55, 128.04,

120.76, 120.74, 120.71, 120.68, 113.17, 113.12, 113.01, 112.94, 94.38, 93.13, 24.59 (d, *J* = 22.5 Hz);

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -116.50 (m, 1F), -151.59.

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z [M-H] for [C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>11</sub>F<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>] : 261.0722, found: 261.0729.

# 2-fluoro-2-(3-phenoxyphenyl)propanoic acid (33b)

Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 65% (16.9 COOH mg); colorless oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.29 – 7.24 (m, 3H), 7.19 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (tt, *J* = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.98 – 6.92 (m, 2H), 6.89 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 2.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 1.86 (d, *J* = 22.3 Hz, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 175.83 (d, *J* = 28.5 Hz), 157.60, 156.64, 140.34 (d, *J* = 22.5 Hz), 129.98, 129.90, 123.70, 119.41 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 119.12, 118.86, 115.40 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 94.47 (d, *J* = 186.0 Hz), 24.60, 24.45;

<sup>19</sup>**F** NMR (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -151.45 (q, J = 22.6 Hz).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z  $[M-H]^{-}$  for  $[C_{15}H_{13}FO_3]^{-}$ : 259.0765, found: 259.0773.

2-fluoro-2-(4-((2-oxocyclopentyl)methyl)phenyl)propanoic acid (34b)



Ph

Following the general procedure, the optimized time is 24 h. Yield: 60% (15.8 mg); light yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.41 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 8.1

Hz, 2H), 7.06 – 6.82 (m, 1H), 3.06 (dd, *J* = 14.0, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 2.50 – 2.43 (m, 1H), 2.34 – 2.24 (m, 2H), 2.09 – 1.97 (m, 2H), 1.93 – 1.83 (m, 4H), 1.71 – 1.60 (m, 1H), 1.46 (dtd, *J* = 12.7, 11.0, 6.7 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 175.54 (d, *J* = 28.5 Hz), 140.89, 136.40 (d, *J* = 22.5 Hz), 129.11, 124.92, 124.87, 94.22 (d, *J* = 184.5 Hz), 50.94, 38.19, 35.15, 29.17, 24.48, 24.46, 24.32, 24.30, 20.52;

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -150.62 (m, 1F).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z [M-H] for  $[C_{15}H_{16}FO_3]$  : 263.1078, found: 263.1086.

#### N-(2-bromophenyl)-2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-fluoroacetamide (35)



Following the reported procedure,<sup>8</sup> the reaction time is 24 h. Yield: 72% (14.8 mg); white solid; m.p. 121 - 129 °C.

Br  $^{-1}$  H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.76 (s, 1H), 8.33 (ddd, J = 8.2, 4.1, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (dddd, J = 7.0, 5.2, 4.0, 1.2 Hz, 3H), 7.47 – 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.33 (tdd, J = 8.3, 4.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (dddd, J = 7.8, 6.2, 4.1, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 5.89 (dd, J = 48.0, 3.8 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.06 (d, J = 21.0 Hz), 134.44, 133.27 (d, J = 21.0 Hz), 132.47,

132.04, 128.51, 128.15 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 126.12, 124.00, 121.87, 113.97, 91.25 (d, *J* = 190.5 Hz);

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -178.19 (m, 1F).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z [M-H]<sup>-</sup> for [C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>9</sub>Br<sub>2</sub><sup>79</sup>FNO]<sup>-</sup>: 383.9029, found: 383.9039; [C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>5</sub>Br<sup>81</sup>FO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>-</sup>: 385.9009, found: 385.9019.

#### 2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-fluoroethan-1-ol (36)



Following the reported procedure,<sup>9</sup> the reaction time is 24 h. Yield: 79% (14.8 mg); colorless oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.45 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 5.44 (ddd, *J* = 48.3, 7.5, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 3.84 – 3.65 (m, 2H), 2.24 (s, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 135.48, 135.35, 131.80, 127.45, 127.41, 122.85, 94.74, 93.59, 66.37, 66.21.

<sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -187.48 (m, 1F).

**HRMS (ESI-)**: calculated m/z [M-H] for  $[C_8H_7Br^{79}FO]$ : 216.9659, found: 216.9660;  $[C_8H_5Br^{81}FO_2]$ : 218.9638, found: 218.9643.

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# 9. Copy of <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} and <sup>19</sup>F NMR Spectra.

# **Compound 1b**













110 100 f1 (ppm) -10 





10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -10 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 f1 (ppm)



90 100 90 f1 (ppm) 







10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 f1 (ppm)



-10 f1 (ppm) 




#### **Compound 9b**

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- 3.35

100 90 f1 (ppm) -20 210 190 150 140 80 70 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 200 180 170 160 130 120 110 60







## **Compound 11b**







<sup>10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210</sup> fl (ppm)









-60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 f1 (ppm)



-40

-50

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10 0 -10 -20







10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 f1 (ppm)

#### **Compound 15b**





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0

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3.5 9.0 8.0 7.5 8.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 f1 (ppm) 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 -0.5 -1.0

<-178.59
<-178.67</pre>



10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 fl (ppm)

## Compound 17b



210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 fl (ppm)











-177.95
 -178.04
 -178.04









**Compound 23b** 





f1 (ppm) -10 





10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 f1 (ppm)









-90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 f1 (ppm) -10 -20 -30 -50 -60 -70 -80 -40

## Compound 28b











# 







10 -10 -30 -50 -70 -90 -110 -130 -150 -170 -190 -210 f1 (ppm)



f1 (ppm) -10 






## **Compound 34b**





## Compound 35

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10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 fl (ppm)





10	-10	-30	-50	-70	-90	-110	-130	-150	-170	-190	-210
					f1	(ppm)					