

## A Deoxyfluoroalkylation-Aromatization Strategy to Access Fluoroalkyl Arenes

Pankaj Bhattarai, Suvajit Koley, Krttika Goel, Ryan A. Altman\*

### Contents

General Considerations .....	S2
Preparation of Ar-C <sub>n</sub> F <sub>m</sub> Products.....	S3
Preparation of Ar-CF <sub>2</sub> R and Perfluorophenyl Arene Products .....	S9
NMR Spectra of Compounds .....	S17
References .....	S33

## **General Considerations**

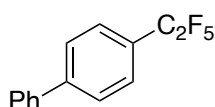
Air- and moisture-sensitive reactions were carried out in oven-dried one-dram vials or 20 mL scintillation vials sealed with poly(tetrafluoroethylene) (PTFE)-lined septa or round bottom flasks fitted with rubber septum under an atmosphere of dry nitrogen (N<sub>2</sub>). Plastic syringes equipped with stainless-steel needles were used to transfer air- and moisture-sensitive liquid reagents. Reactions were stirred using a teflon-coated magnetic stir bar, and elevated temperatures were maintained using thermostat-controlled heating mantles. Organic solvents were removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator with a diaphragm vacuum pump or a BioChromato's smart evaporator with a diaphragm vacuum pump and a spiral plug (vacuum vortex concentration). Thin-layer analytical chromatography was performed on silica gel UNIPLATE Silica Gel HLF UV254 plates, and spots were visualized by quenching of ultraviolet light ( $\lambda = 254$  nm). Purification of products was accomplished by automated flash column chromatography on silica gel (VWR Common Silica Gel 60 Å, 40–60  $\mu\text{m}$ ; normal phase chromatography) or C18 silica gel (Teledyne RediSep Gold C18 High Performance Columns, 100 Å, 20–40  $\mu\text{m}$ , reverse phase chromatography). The reverse phase flash chromatography was performed with gradient elution from 5% acetonitrile (MeCN) in water (H<sub>2</sub>O) (with 0.1% AcOH) to 95% MeCN in H<sub>2</sub>O (with 0.1% AcOH)

Unless otherwise noted, reagents were purchased from various commercial sources and used as received. NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker DRX 500 MHz (<sup>1</sup>H at 500 MHz and <sup>19</sup>F at 470 MHz) or Bruker Avance III 800 with a QCI cryoprobe (<sup>1</sup>H at 800 MHz and <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} at 201 MHz) nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometers. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were calibrated against the peak of the residual CHCl<sub>3</sub> (7.26 ppm). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectra were calibrated against the peak of CDCl<sub>3</sub> (77.2 ppm). <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra were calibrated against the peak of CFCl<sub>3</sub> (0.0 ppm). <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra were calibrated against the peak of PPh<sub>3</sub> (4.3 ppm). NMR data are represented as follows: chemical shift (ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, hept = heptet, m = multiplet), coupling constant in hertz (Hz), integration. High-resolution mass determinations were obtained by atmospheric-pressure chemical ionization (APCI) on a Waters LCT Premier mass spectrometer. Infrared spectra were measured on a PerkinElmer Spectrum Two Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer by drying samples on a diamond ATR sample base plate. Uncorrected melting points were measured on a Chemglass Digital Melting Point apparatus.

The chemical abbreviations utilized in this document include nitrogen (N<sub>2</sub>), argon (Ar), water (H<sub>2</sub>O), ethyl acetate (EtOAc), diethyl ether (Et<sub>2</sub>O), tetrahydrofuran (THF), acetonitrile (MeCN), dichloromethane (DCM), *o*-dichlorobenzene (*o*-DCB), ammonium chloride (NH<sub>4</sub>Cl), sodium sulfate (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), tetra-*n*-butylammonium fluoride (TBAF), cesium fluoride (CsF), magnesium

(Mg<sup>0</sup>), Zinc (Zn<sup>0</sup>), hexamethylphosphoramide (HMPA), trimethylpentafluoroethylsilane (TMSC<sub>2</sub>F<sub>5</sub>), trimethylheptafluoropropylsilane (TMSC<sub>3</sub>F<sub>7</sub>), perfluorobutyl iodide (*n*-C<sub>4</sub>F<sub>9</sub>I), perfluoropentyl iodide (*n*-C<sub>5</sub>F<sub>11</sub>I), perfluorohexyl iodide (*n*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>13</sub>I), heptafluoroisopropyl iodide (I-C(CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-F), *n*-butyl lithium (*n*-BuLi) lithiumbis(trimethylsilyl)amide (LiHMDS), thionyl chloride (SOCl<sub>2</sub>), 4-dimethylamino-pyridine (DMAP), *p*-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (PTSA•H<sub>2</sub>O), 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-*p*-benzoquinone (DDQ), room temperature (rt), and melting point (M.P.), aqueous (aq.), saturated (sat.).

### Preparation of Ar-C<sub>n</sub>F<sub>m</sub> Products

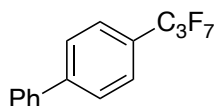


#### **4-(Pentafluoroethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (3a)**

A 20 mL scintillation vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with 4-phenylcyclohexan-1-one (87 mg, 1.0 equiv. 0.50 mmol). The vial was then brought into a N<sub>2</sub> filled glovebox. CsF (8 mg, 0.1 equiv., 50 μmol) was added followed by the addition of dry *o*-DCB (1.0 mL). The vial was then sealed with a PTFE septa and taken out of the glovebox. TMSC<sub>2</sub>F<sub>5</sub> (105 μL, 1.20 equiv., 0.600 mmol) was injected via syringe, and the reaction was stirred for 15 h at rt. Reaction progress was monitored by <sup>19</sup>F NMR and GC-FID. Upon complete conversion, the vial was opened and PTSA•H<sub>2</sub>O (192 mg, 2.00 equiv., 1.00 mmol) and DDQ (341 mg, 3.00 equiv., 1.50 mmol) were added sequentially. *o*-DCB (1.5 mL) was then added, and the vial was purged with a constant flow of N<sub>2</sub> for 2 mins, and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at 140 °C. The reaction was cooled to rt, whereupon complete conversion and yield were verified by <sup>19</sup>F NMR (92% yield). Solvents were removed *in vacuo* using a smart evaporator, and the residue was filtered through a plug of silica using Et<sub>2</sub>O as an eluent to remove the baseline impurities. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator. The residue was then purified by normal phase silica gel flash column chromatography with 100% pentane to afford desired product **3a** as a colorless powder (106 mg, 78% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR of the isolated compound matched a previous report.<sup>1</sup>

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 7.73 – 7.68 (m, 4H), 7.63 – 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.51 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.44 – 7.41 (m, 1H).

**<sup>19</sup>F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ –85.2 (s, 3F), –115.2 (s, 2F).

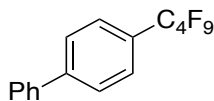


#### 4-(Heptafluoropropyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (**3b**)

A 20 mL scintillation vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with 4-phenylcyclohexan-1-one (87 mg, 1.0 equiv. 0.50 mmol). The vial was then brought into a N<sub>2</sub> filled glovebox. CsF (8 mg, 0.1 equiv., 50 μmol) was added followed by the addition of dry *o*-DCB (1.0 mL). The vial was then sealed with a PTFE septa and taken out of the glovebox. TMS-C<sub>3</sub>F<sub>7</sub> (73 mg, 1.2 equiv., 1.5 mmol) was injected via syringe, and the reaction was stirred for 15 h at rt. Reaction progress was monitored by <sup>19</sup>F NMR and GC-FID. Upon complete conversion, the vial was opened and PTSA•H<sub>2</sub>O (192 mg, 2.00 equiv., 1.00 mmol) and DDQ (341 mg, 3.00 equiv., 1.50 mmol) were added sequentially. Dry *o*-DCB (1.5 mL) was then added, the vial was purged with a constant flow of N<sub>2</sub> for 2 mins, and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at 140 °C. The reaction was cooled to rt, whereupon complete conversion and yield were verified by <sup>19</sup>F NMR (61% yield). Solvents were removed *in vacuo* using a smart evaporator, and the residue was filtered through a plug of silica using Et<sub>2</sub>O as an eluent to remove the baseline impurities. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator. The residue was then purified by normal phase silica gel flash column chromatography with 100% pentane to afford desired product **3b** as a colorless powder (85 mg, 53% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR of the isolated compound matched a previous report.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.74 – 7.62 (m, 5H), 7.51 – 7.41 (m, 3H), 7.22 – 7.20 (m, 1H).

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ –80.4 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 3F), –112.0 (q, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2F), –126.8 (s, 2F).



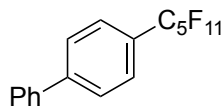
#### 4-(Nonafluorobutyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (**3c**)

The 1,2-addition reaction was performed with a slight modification to a known procedure.<sup>3</sup> A 25 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with 4-phenylcyclohexan-1-one (87 mg, 1.0 equiv., 0.50 mmol) and lithium bromide (86 mg, 2.0 equiv., 1.0 mmol). The flask was evacuated and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> (3x). Dry Et<sub>2</sub>O (5.0 mL) was then added, followed by a slow addition of *n*-C<sub>4</sub>F<sub>9</sub>-I (190 μL, 2.2 equiv., 1.1 mmol). The reaction mixture was then cooled to –78 °C, whereupon MeLi (1.6 M in Et<sub>2</sub>O, 625 μL, 2.00 equiv., 1.00 mmol) was added slowly, and the reaction was stirred for 2 h at –78 °C under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>. The reaction was then quenched

with aq. sat.  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  (5 mL) at  $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  and extracted with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (10 mL x 3). The combined  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  layers were dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . Reaction progress was monitored by  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR and GC-FID.  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  was then removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator, and the resulting solution was transferred to a 20 mL scintillation vial equipped with a stir bar using  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (2 mL). This  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  was removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator, and the reaction was charged with  $\text{PTSA}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (192 mg, 2.00 equiv., 1.00 mmol) and DDQ (341 mg, 3.00 equiv., 1.50 mmol). The vial was evacuated and backfilled with  $\text{N}_2$  (3x). Dry *o*-DCB (2.5 mL) was added, and the reaction was stirred for 14 h at  $140\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  under an atmosphere of  $\text{N}_2$ . The reaction was then cooled to rt, and complete conversion and yield were verified by  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (52% yield). The solvents were removed *in vacuo* using a smart evaporator, and the residue was filtered through a plug of silica using  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  to remove the baseline impurities. The residue was then purified by normal phase silica gel flash column chromatography with 100% pentane to afford the desired product **3c** as a colorless solid (87 mg, 47% yield).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of the isolated compound matched a previous report.<sup>2</sup>

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR (800 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )**  $\delta$  7.75 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.66 – 7.63 (m, 2H), 7.51 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H).

**$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (470 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )**  $\delta$   $-81.5$  (t,  $J = 12.2$  Hz, 3F),  $-111.3$  (t,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, 2F),  $-123.1$  –  $-123.3$  (m, 2F),  $-126.1$  (t,  $J = 14.5$  Hz, 2F).



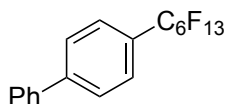
#### 4-(Undecafluoropentyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (**3d**)

The 1,2-addition reaction was performed with a slight modification to a known procedure.<sup>3</sup> A 25 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with 4-phenylcyclohexan-1-one (87 mg, 1.0 equiv., 0.50 mmol) and lithium bromide (86 mg, 2.0 equiv., 1.0 mmol). The flask was evacuated and backfilled with  $\text{N}_2$  (3x). Dry  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (5.0 mL) was then added, followed by a slow addition of  $\text{I-C}_5\text{F}_{11}$  (210  $\mu\text{L}$ , 2.2 equiv., 1.1 mmol). The reaction mixture was then cooled to  $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ , whereupon  $\text{MeLi}$  (1.6 M in  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ , 625  $\mu\text{L}$ , 2.00 equiv., 1.00 mmol) was added slowly, and the reaction was stirred for 2 h at  $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  under an atmosphere of  $\text{N}_2$ . The reaction was then quenched with aq. sat.  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  (5 mL) and extracted with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (10 mL x 3). The combined  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  layers were dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . Conversion was checked by  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR.  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  was then removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator, and the resulting solution was transferred to a 20 mL scintillation vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar using  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (2 mL). This  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  was removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator, and the reaction was charged with  $\text{PTSA}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (192 mg, 2.00 equiv., 1.00 mmol) and DDQ (341 mg, 3.00 equiv., 1.50 mmol). The vial was evacuated and backfilled with  $\text{N}_2$

(3x). Dry *o*-DCB (2.5 mL) was added, and the reaction was stirred for 14 h at 140 °C under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>. The reaction was then cooled to rt, and complete conversion and yield were verified by <sup>19</sup>F NMR (94% yield). The solvents were removed *in vacuo* using a smart evaporator, and the residue was filtered through a plug of silica using Et<sub>2</sub>O to remove the baseline impurities. The residue was then purified by normal phase silica gel flash column chromatography with 100% pentane to afford the desired product **3d** as a colorless solid (154 mg, 73% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR of the isolated compound matched a previous report.<sup>2</sup>

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (800 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H).

**<sup>19</sup>F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ -81.3 (t, *J* = 10.7 Hz, 3F), -111.1 (t, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 2F), -122.6 (d, *J* = 102.2 Hz, 4F), -126.7 (s, 2F)



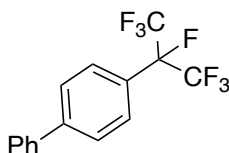
#### 4-(Tridecafluorohexyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (**3e**)

The 1,2-addition reaction was performed with a slight modification to a known procedure.<sup>3</sup> A 25 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with 4-phenylcyclohexan-1-one (87 mg, 1.0 equiv., 0.50 mmol) and lithium bromide (86 mg, 2.0 equiv., 1.0 mmol). The flask was evacuated and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> (3x). Dry Et<sub>2</sub>O (5.0 mL) was then added, followed by a slow addition of I-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>13</sub> (238 μL, 2.20 equiv., 1.10 mmol). The reaction mixture was then cooled to -78 °C, whereupon MeLi (1.6 M in Et<sub>2</sub>O, 625 μL, 2.00 equiv., 1.00 mmol) was added slowly, and the reaction was stirred for 2 h at -78 °C under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>. The reaction was then quenched with aq. sat. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (5 mL) and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL x 3). The combined Et<sub>2</sub>O layers were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Conversion was checked by <sup>19</sup>F NMR. Et<sub>2</sub>O was then removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator, and the resulting solution was transferred to a 20 mL scintillation vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar using Et<sub>2</sub>O (2 mL). This Et<sub>2</sub>O was removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator, and the reaction was charged with PTSA•H<sub>2</sub>O (192 mg, 2.00 equiv., 1.00 mmol) and DDQ (341 mg, 3.00 equiv., 1.50 mmol). The vial was evacuated and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> (3x). Dry *o*-DCB (2.5 mL) was added, and the reaction was stirred for 14 h at 140 °C under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>. The reaction was then cooled to rt, and complete conversion and yield were verified by <sup>19</sup>F NMR (99% yield). The solvents were removed *in vacuo* using a smart evaporator, and the residue was filtered through a plug of silica using Et<sub>2</sub>O to remove the baseline impurities. The residue was then purified by normal phase silica gel flash column

chromatography with 100% pentane to afford the desired product **3e** as a colorless solid (195 mg, 83% yield).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of the isolated compound matched a previous report.<sup>4</sup>

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (800 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.72 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d,  $J$  = 10.0 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t,  $J$  = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d,  $J$  = 5.9 Hz, 1H).

$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (470 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -81.2 (t,  $J$  = 11.4 Hz, 3H), -111.1 (t,  $J$  = 15.3 Hz, 2H), -122.0 (s, 2F), -122.3 (s, 2F), -123.3 (s, 2F), -126.7 (s, 2F).

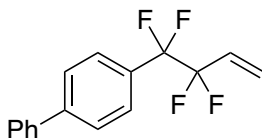


#### 4-(Perfluoropropan-2-yl)-1,1'-biphenyl (**3f**)

A 25 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with 4-phenylcyclohexan-1-one (87 mg, 1.0 equiv., 0.5 mmol). The flask was evacuated and backfilled with  $\text{N}_2$  (3x). Dry  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (2.5 mL) was then added followed by the addition of  $\text{I}-\text{C}(\text{CF}_3)_2-\text{F}$  (178  $\mu\text{L}$ , 2.50 equiv., 1.00 mmol). The reaction mixture was cooled to  $-78^\circ\text{C}$ , whereupon  $\text{MeLi}$  (1.6 M in  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ , 937  $\mu\text{L}$ , 3.00 equiv., 1.50 mmol) was added slowly, and the reaction was stirred for 2 h at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  under an atmosphere of  $\text{N}_2$ . The reaction was then quenched with aq. sat.  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  (5 mL) and extracted with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (10 mL x 3). The combined  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  layers were dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . Conversion was checked by GC-FID, and yield was calculated by  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR.  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  was then removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator, and the resulting solution was transferred to a 20 mL scintillation vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar using  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (2 mL). This  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  was removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator, and the reaction was charged with  $\text{PTSA}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (192 mg, 2.00 equiv., 1.00 mmol) and DDQ (341 mg, 3.00 equiv., 1.50 mmol). The vial was evacuated and backfilled with  $\text{N}_2$  (3x). Dry *o*-DCB (2.5 mL) was added, and the reaction was stirred for 36 h at  $140^\circ\text{C}$  under an atmosphere of  $\text{N}_2$ . The reaction was then cooled to rt, and complete conversion and yield were verified by  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (51% yield). The solvents were evaporated *in vacuo* using smart evaporator, and the residue was again filtered through a small plug of silica using  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  as eluent to remove the baseline impurities. The residue was purified by normal phase silica gel flash chromatography with 100% pentane to deliver the desired product **3f** as a colorless solid (72 mg, 45% yield).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of the isolated compound matched a previous report.<sup>5</sup>

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.74 – 7.66 (m, 4H), 7.64 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.48 (ddd,  $J$  = 7.8, 6.3, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.44 – 7.39 (m, 1H).

$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (470 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -76.2 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 6F), -182.9 (hept,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1F).



#### 4-(1,1,2,2-Tetrafluorobut-3-en-1-yl)-1,1'-biphenyl (**3g**)

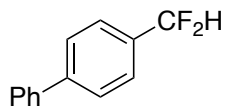
A 25 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with 4-phenylcyclohexan-1-one (87 mg, 1.0 equiv., 0.5 mmol). The flask was evacuated and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> (3x). Dry Et<sub>2</sub>O (2.5 mL) was then added followed by the addition of 4-bromo-3,3,4,4-tetrafluorobut-1-ene (150 μL, 2.2 equiv., 1.1 mmol). The reaction mixture was then cooled to –78 °C, whereupon MeLi (1.6 M in Et<sub>2</sub>O, 625 μL, 2.00 equiv., 1.00 mmol) was added slowly, and the reaction was stirred for 2 h at –78 °C under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>. The reaction was then quenched with aq. sat. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (5 mL) and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL x 3). Conversion was checked by <sup>19</sup>F NMR. The combined Et<sub>2</sub>O layers were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Et<sub>2</sub>O was then removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator, and the resulting solution was transferred to a 20 mL scintillation vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar using Et<sub>2</sub>O (2 mL). This Et<sub>2</sub>O was removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator, and the reaction was charged with PTSA•H<sub>2</sub>O (192 mg, 2.00 equiv., 1.00 mmol) and DDQ (341 mg, 3.00 equiv., 1.50 mmol). The vial was evacuated and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> (3x). Dry *o*-DCB (2.5 mL) was added, and the reaction was stirred for 14 h at 140 °C under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>. The reaction was then cooled to rt, and complete conversion and yield were verified by <sup>19</sup>F NMR (47% yield). The solvents were removed *in vacuo* using a smart evaporator, and the residue was filtered through a plug of silica using Et<sub>2</sub>O to remove the baseline impurities. The residue was then purified by normal phase silica gel flash column chromatography with 100% pentane to afford the desired product **3g** as a colorless solid (64 mg, 46% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR of the isolated compound matched a previous report.<sup>6</sup>

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.66 – 7.59 (m, 4H), 7.48 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 6.3, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.45 – 7.37 (m, 1H), 6.06 (dq, *J* = 17.4, 11.8 Hz, 1H), 5.87 (dt, *J* = 17.3, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 5.72 (d, *J* = 11.1 Hz, 1H).

**<sup>19</sup>F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ –112.3 (s, 2F), –114.8 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 2F).



## Preparation of Ar-CF<sub>2</sub>R and Perfluorophenyl Arene Compounds

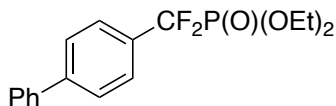


### **4-(Difluoromethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (3h)**

A 20 mL scintillation vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with 4-phenylcyclohexan-1-one (87 mg, 1.0 equiv., 0.50 mmol). The vial was brought into a N<sub>2</sub> filled glovebox, where CsF (15 mg, 0.20 equiv., 0.10 mmol) and dry THF (1 mL) were added in sequence. The vial was taken out of the glovebox, where HMPA (435 μL, 5.00 equiv., 2.50 mmol) and (difluoromethyl)(trimethyl)silane (140 μL, 2.0 equiv., 1.0 mmol) were injected in sequence. The resulting mixture was subsequently stirred at 60 °C for 48 h under an Ar-filled balloon. TBAF (1 M in THF, 1.5 mL, 3.0 equiv., 1.5 mmol) was added at the end of this period, and the mixture was stirred for another 1 h. THF was then removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator, and the reaction was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with EtOAc (10 mL x 3). The combined EtOAc layers were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, then concentrated *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator. The resulting residue was dissolved in Et<sub>2</sub>O (1 mL) and transferred to a 25 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar. The Et<sub>2</sub>O was removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator. DMAP (6.0 mg, 0.10 equiv., 0.050 mmol) was added and the flask was evacuated and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> (3x). Dry THF (1 mL) was then added followed by a sequential addition of pyridine (120 μL, 3.0 equiv., 1.5 mmol), and SOCl<sub>2</sub> (110 μL, 3.0 equiv., 1.5 mmol). The reaction was then stirred at 50 °C for 18 h under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>. After 18 h, complete conversion was verified by <sup>19</sup>F NMR. The crude reaction mixture was then filtered through a plug of silica with Et<sub>2</sub>O as an eluent. The solvents were removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator, and the resulting residue was dissolved in Et<sub>2</sub>O (2 mL) and transferred to a 20 mL scintillation vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar. This Et<sub>2</sub>O was removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator and DDQ (340 mg, 3.00 equiv., 1.50 mmol) was added. The vial was evacuated and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> (3x). Dry *o*-DCB (2.5 mL) was then added, and the reaction was stirred for 14 h at 120 °C under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>. The reaction was cooled to rt, and complete conversion and yield were verified by <sup>19</sup>F NMR (49% yield). The solvents were removed by a smart evaporator, and the residue was filtered through a plug of silica using Et<sub>2</sub>O as eluent to remove the baseline impurities. The residue was then purified by normal phase silica gel flash column chromatography with 100% pentane to afford the desired compound (46 mg, 45% yield) as a colorless solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR of the isolated compound matched a previous report.<sup>7</sup>

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (800 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (dd, *J* = 12.3, 7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.83 – 6.60 (t, *J* = 56.5, 1H).

**<sup>19</sup>F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ –110.8 (d, *J* = 56.5 Hz, 2F).



### Diethyl ([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)difluoromethylphosphonate (3i)

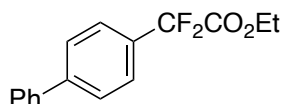
A 25 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with diisopropylamine (77 μL, 1.1 equiv., 550 μmol). Dry THF (5 mL) was then added, and the flask was cooled to 0 °C. A solution of *n*-BuLi (2.1 M in hexanes, 260 μL, 1.1 equiv., 550 μmol) was added in a dropwise fashion. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 20 min and then cooled to –78 °C. A solution of diethyl(difluoromethyl)phosphonate (78 μL, 1.0 equiv., 0.5 mmol) was added in a dropwise fashion, followed by stirring at –78 °C for 30 min. An anhydrous solution of 4-phenylcyclohexan-1-one (87 mg, 1.0 equiv., 0.50 mmol) in dry THF (2 mL) was then added. The mixture was stirred for 4 h at –78 °C under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub> and then warmed to 0 °C. The reaction was then quenched with aq. sat. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (5 mL) and THF was removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator. The resulting residue was then extracted with EtOAc (10 mL x 3). Conversion and yield were determined by GC-FID and <sup>19</sup>F NMR respectively. EtOAc was dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, then concentrated *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator and transferred to a 25 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar with DCM. The DCM was further removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator. To this crude reaction mixture, DMAP (6 mg, 0.1 equiv., 50 μmol) was added and the vial was evacuated and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> (3x). Dry THF (1 mL) was then added followed by a sequential addition of pyridine (120 μL, 3.0 equiv., 1.5 mmol) and SOCl<sub>2</sub> (110 μL, 3.0 equiv., 1.5 mmol). The reaction was stirred for 50 °C for 18 h under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>. After 18 h, complete conversion was verified by <sup>19</sup>F NMR. The crude reaction mixture was then filtered through a plug of silica with DCM as an eluent. The solvents were removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator, and the resulting residue was transferred to a 20 mL scintillation vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar with DCM. The DCM was further removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator and DDQ (340 mg, 3.00 equiv., 1.50 mmol) was added. The vial was evacuated and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> (3x). *o*-DCB (2.5 mL) was then added, and the reaction was stirred for 14 h at 120 °C under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>. The reaction was cooled to rt, and complete conversion and yield were verified by <sup>19</sup>F NMR (40% yield). The solvents were evaporated by using smart evaporator, and the residue was again filtered through a plug of silica with DCM as an eluent to remove the baseline impurities. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator. The residue

was then purified by normal phase silica gel flash chromatography using 0→40% EtOAc in hexanes to afford the desired product (61 mg, 36% yield) as a colorless solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR of the isolated compound matched a previous report.<sup>8</sup>

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (800 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 7.68 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 4H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.28 – 4.16 (m, 4H), 1.34 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6H).

**<sup>19</sup>F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ –108.8 (d, *J* = 115.0 Hz, 2F).

**<sup>31</sup>P NMR (202 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 7.4 (t, *J* = 116.7 Hz, 1P).



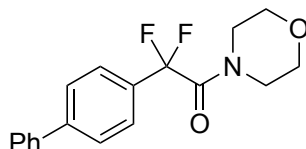
### **Ethyl 2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2,2-difluoroacetate (3j)**

A 20 mL scintillation vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with Zn<sup>0</sup> (65 mg, 2.0 equiv., 1.0 mmol) followed by an addition of 1,2-dibromoethane (2.0 μL, 0.050 equiv., 25 μmol) and dry THF (1.0 mL). The vial was heated with a heat gun till it suddenly boiled and then was cooled down. This heating and cooling cycle was repeated 4 more times. Ethyl bromodifluoroacetate (130 μL, 2.0 equiv., 1.0 mmol) and 4-phenylcyclohexan-1-one (87 mg, 1.0 equiv., 0.5 mmol) were added in the N<sub>2</sub>-filled glove box. The vial was taken outside of the glove box and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at rt under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>. After 24 h, aq. sat. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (5 mL) and aq. sat. NaCl (5 mL) were added. THF was removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (10 mL x 3). Conversion and yield were determined by GC-FID and <sup>19</sup>F NMR respectively. EtOAc was dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, then concentrated *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator and transferred to a 25 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar with DCM. The DCM was further removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator. To this crude reaction mixture, DMAP (6 mg, 0.1 equiv., 50 μmol) was added and the vial was evacuated and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> (3x). Dry THF (1 mL) was then added followed by sequential addition of pyridine (120 μL, 3.0 equiv., 1.5 mmol) and SOCl<sub>2</sub> (110 μL, 3.0 equiv., 1.5 mmol). The reaction was stirred for 50 °C for 18 h under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>. After 18 h, complete conversion was verified by <sup>19</sup>F NMR. The crude reaction mixture was then filtered through a plug of silica with DCM as an eluent. The solvents were removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator, and the resulting residue was transferred to a 20 mL scintillation vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar with DCM. The DCM was further removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator, and DDQ (340 mg, 3.00 equiv., 1.50 mmol) was added. The vial was evacuated and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> (3x). Dry *o*-DCB (2.5 mL) was then added, and the reaction was stirred for 14 h at 120 °C under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>. The reaction was cooled to rt, and complete conversion and yield

were verified by  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (83% yield). The solvents were evaporated by using smart evaporator, and the residue was again filtered through a plug of silica with DCM as an eluent to remove the baseline impurities. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator. The residue was then purified by normal phase silica gel flash chromatography using 0→20% EtOAc in hexanes gradient to afford the desired compound **3j** (85 mg, 62%) yield as an amber oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of the isolated compound matched a previous report.<sup>9</sup>

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (800 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.72 – 7.69 (m, 4H), 7.62 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (t,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.35 (q,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.35 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (470 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  –104.2 (s, 2F).



### 2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2,2-Difluoro-1-morpholinoethan-1-one (**3k**)

A 25 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with 4-phenylcyclohexan-1-one (87 mg, 1.0 equiv., 0.5 mmol). The flask was evacuated and backfilled with  $\text{N}_2$  (3x). Dry  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (2.5 mL) was then added followed by the addition of 2-bromo-2,2-difluoro-1-morpholinoethan-1-one (305 mg, 2.50 equiv., 1.25 mmol). The reaction mixture was cooled to  $-78$  °C, whereupon MeLi (1.6 M in  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ , 937  $\mu\text{L}$ , 3.00 equiv., 1.50 mmol) was added slowly, and the reaction was stirred for 2 h at  $-78$  °C under an atmosphere of  $\text{N}_2$ . The reaction was then quenched with aq. sat.  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  (5 mL) and extracted with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (10 mL x 3). Conversion and yield were determined by GC-FID and  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR respectively.  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  was dried with anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , then concentrated *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator and transferred to a 25 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . The  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  was further removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator. To this crude reaction mixture, DMAP (6 mg, 0.1 equiv., 50  $\mu\text{mol}$ ) was added and the vial was evacuated and backfilled with  $\text{N}_2$  (3x). Dry THF (1 mL) was then added followed by sequential addition of pyridine (120  $\mu\text{L}$ , 3.0 equiv., 1.5 mmol) and  $\text{SOCl}_2$  (110  $\mu\text{L}$ , 3.0 equiv., 1.5 mmol). The reaction was stirred for 50 °C for 18 h under an atmosphere of  $\text{N}_2$ . After 18 h, complete conversion was verified by  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR. The crude reaction mixture was then filtered through a plug of basic alumina with DCM as an eluent. The solvents were removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator, and the resulting residue was transferred to a 20 mL scintillation vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar with DCM. The DCM was further removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator, and DDQ (340 mg, 3.00 equiv., 1.50 mmol) was added. The vial was evacuated and backfilled with  $\text{N}_2$  (3x). Dry *o*-DCB (2.5 mL) was then added, and the reaction was stirred for

14 h at 80 °C under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>. The reaction was cooled to rt, and complete conversion and yield were verified by <sup>19</sup>F NMR (45% yield). The solvents were evaporated by using smart evaporator, and the residue was again filtered through a plug of silica with DCM as an eluent to remove the baseline impurities. The filtrate was concentrated in *vacuo* using a rotary evaporator. The residue was purified by reverse phase flash chromatography with gradient elution from 5% acetonitrile (MeCN) in water (H<sub>2</sub>O) (with 0.1% AcOH) to 95% MeCN in H<sub>2</sub>O (with 0.1% AcOH) to deliver the desired product **3k** as a colorless solid (68 mg, 43% yield).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (800 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.64 – 7.58 (m, 4H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 4H), 3.54 (s, 4H).

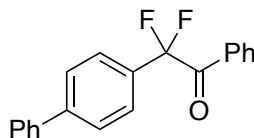
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (201 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 162.2 (t, *J* = 30.4 Hz), 143.9, 139.8, 132.2 (t, *J* = 25.0 Hz), 129.0, 128.1, 127.5, 127.3, 125.7 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz), 115.8 (t, *J* = 250.9 Hz), 66.7, 66.4, 46.7, 43.5.

**<sup>19</sup>F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ –94.9 (s, 2F).

**IR (film)** 2858, 2923, 1670, 1488, 1459, 1440, 1141, 1115, cm<sup>-1</sup>

**HRMS (APCI)<sup>+</sup>** *m/z* calc'd C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 318.1305, found 318.1309

**M.P.** 103-105 °C



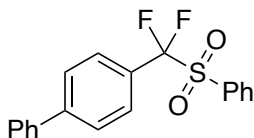
### **2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2,2-difluoro-1-phenylethan-1-one (3l)**

A 25 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with 4-phenylcyclohexan-1-one (87 mg, 1.0 equiv., 0.50 mmol). The flask was evacuated and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> (3x), and (2,2-difluoro-1-phenylvinyl)oxy)trimethylsilane (342 mg, 3.00 equiv., 1.50 mmol) and Dry DCM (1.0 mL) were then added followed by a slow addition of TiCl<sub>4</sub> (110 μL, 2.0 equiv., 1.0 mmol), and the reaction was stirred at 0 °C for 2 h under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>. Conversion and yield were determined by GC-FID and <sup>19</sup>F NMR respectively. The reaction was quenched with ice water, and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (10 x 3 mL). DCM was dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, concentrated *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator and transferred to a 25 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar with DCM. The DCM was further removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator. To this crude reaction mixture, DMAP (6 mg, 0.1 equiv., 50 μmol) was added and the vial was evacuated and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> (3x). Dry THF (1 mL) was then added followed by sequential addition of pyridine (120 μL, 3.0 equiv., 1.5 mmol) and SOCl<sub>2</sub> (110 μL, 3.0 equiv., 1.5 mmol). The reaction was stirred for 50 °C for 18 h under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>. After 18 h, complete conversion was verified by <sup>19</sup>F NMR. The crude reaction mixture was

then filtered through a plug of silica with DCM as an eluent. The solvents were removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator, and the resulting residue was transferred to a 20 mL scintillation vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar with DCM. This DCM was removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator and DDQ (340 mg, 3.00 equiv., 1.50 mmol) was added. The vial was evacuated and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> (3x). Dry *o*-DCB (2.5 mL) was then added, and the reaction was stirred for 14 h at 120 °C under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>. The reaction was cooled to rt, and complete conversion and yield were verified by <sup>19</sup>F NMR (99% yield). The solvents were evaporated by using smart evaporator, and the residue was again filtered through a plug of silica with DCM as an eluent to remove the baseline impurities. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator. The residue was then purified by normal phase silica gel flash chromatography using 0→20% EtOAc in hexanes to deliver the desired product **3I** as a colorless solid (130 mg, 84% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR of the isolated compound matched a previous report.<sup>10</sup>

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 8.07 (dt, J = 7.6, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (s, 4H), 7.66 – 7.55 (m, 3H), 7.53 – 7.43 (m, 4H), 7.41 – 7.34 (m, 1H).

**<sup>19</sup>F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ –97.8 (s, 2F).



#### **4-(difluoro(phenylsulfonyl)methyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (3m)**

The 1,2-addition was performed with a slight modification to a known procedure.<sup>11</sup> A 25 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with 4-phenylcyclohexan-1-one (174 mg, 2.00 equiv., 1.00 mmol). The flask was evacuated and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> (3x). Dry THF (1.0 mL) and HMPA (1.3 mL, 15 equiv., 7.5 mmol) were added followed by an addition of ((difluoromethyl)sulfonyl)benzene (96 mg, 1.0 equiv., 0.50 mmol). The flask was then cooled to –78 °C. LiHMDS (1 M in THF, 1.0 mL, 2.0 equiv., 1.0 mmol) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was then stirred at –78 °C for 2 h under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub> and quenched with NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (10 mL) at –78 °C. The reaction was warmed to rt and was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL × 3). Conversion and yield were determined by GC-FID and <sup>19</sup>F NMR respectively. Et<sub>2</sub>O was dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, then concentrated *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator and transferred to a 25 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar with Et<sub>2</sub>O. The Et<sub>2</sub>O was further removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator. To this crude reaction mixture, DMAP (6 mg, 0.1 equiv., 50 μmol) was added and the vial was evacuated and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> (3x). Dry THF (1 mL) was

then added followed by sequential addition of pyridine (120  $\mu\text{L}$ , 3.0 equiv., 1.5 mmol) and  $\text{SOCl}_2$  (110  $\mu\text{L}$ , 3.0 equiv., 1.5 mmol). The reaction was stirred for 50  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 18 h under an atmosphere of  $\text{N}_2$ . After 18 h, the reaction was cooled to rt and complete conversion was verified by  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR. The crude reaction mixture was then filtered through a plug of silica with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  as an eluent. The residue mixture was purified using normal phase silica gel flash chromatography with 0 $\rightarrow$ 20%  $\text{EtOAc}$  in hexanes to afford an amber colored viscous oil (79% yield). A 20 mL scintillation vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with the isolated product and DDQ. The vial was evacuated and backfilled with  $\text{N}_2$  (3x). *o*-DCB (2.5 mL) was then added, and the reaction was stirred for 14 h at 120  $^\circ\text{C}$  under an atmosphere of  $\text{N}_2$ . The reaction was cooled to rt, and complete conversion and yield were verified by  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (63% yield). The solvents were evaporated by using smart evaporator, and the residue was again filtered through a plug of silica with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  as an eluent to remove the baseline impurities. The filtrate was concentrated in *vacuo* using a rotary evaporator. The residue was then purified by normal phase silica gel flash chromatography using 0 $\rightarrow$ 20%  $\text{EtOAc}$  in hexanes to deliver the desired product **3m** as a colorless solid (106 mg, 62% yield).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.04 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.81 – 7.72 (m, 5H), 7.64 (dd,  $J = 15.7, 7.6$  Hz, 4H), 7.49 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.42 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H).

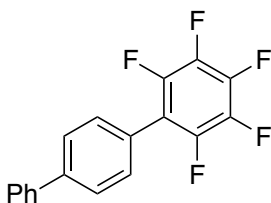
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (201 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  145.3, 139.7, 135.2, 132.8, 130.9, 129.1 (d,  $J = 59.5$  Hz), 128.5 – 128.0 (m), 127.3 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz), 125.1 (t,  $J = 22.1$  Hz), 121.9 (t,  $J = 286.1$  Hz).

$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (470 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  –102.4 (s, 2F)

IR (film) 2955, 2922, 1609, 1564, 1406, 1171, 1142  $\text{cm}^{-1}$

HRMS (APCI) $^+$   $m/z$  calc'd  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{14}\text{F}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$   $[\text{M}]^+$  344.0682, found 344.1491

M.P. 202–204  $^\circ\text{C}$



### 2,3,4,5,6-pentafluoro-1,1':4',1''-terphenyl (**3n**)

To a 25 mL round bottom flask equipped with a stir bar was added  $\text{Mg}^0$  (24 mg, 2.0 equiv., 1.0 mmol), dry  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (2 mL), and 1,2-dibromoethane (2.0  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.050 equiv., 25  $\mu\text{mol}$ ). The flask was cooled to 0  $^\circ\text{C}$  and bromoperfluorobenzene (68  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.0 equiv., 550  $\mu\text{mol}$ ) was added. The reaction was stirred at 0  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 30 mins and then stirred at rt for 14 h under an atmosphere of  $\text{N}_2$ . Then, 4-phenylcyclohexan-1-one (87.1 mg, 1.0 equiv., 0.5 mmol) dissolved in dry  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (2 mL) was added,

and the reaction was refluxed for 4 h. At completion, the reaction was quenched with aq. sat.  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ . The aqueous layer was extracted with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (10 mL x 3). Conversion and yield were checked by GC-FID and  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR respectively. The combined organic layer was dried with anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , then concentrated *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator and transferred to a 25 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . The  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  was further removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator. To this crude reaction mixture, DMAP (6 mg, 0.1 equiv., 50  $\mu\text{mol}$ ) was added, and the vial was evacuated and backfilled with  $\text{N}_2$  (3x). Dry THF (1 mL) was then added followed by sequential addition of pyridine (120  $\mu\text{L}$ , 3.0 equiv., 1.5 mmol) and  $\text{SOCl}_2$  (110  $\mu\text{L}$ , 3.0 equiv., 1.5 mmol). The reaction was stirred for 50  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 18 h under an atmosphere of  $\text{N}_2$ . After 18 h, complete conversion was verified by  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR. The crude reaction mixture was then filtered through a plug of silica with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  as an eluent. The solvents were removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator, and the resulting residue was transferred to a 20 mL scintillation vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . The  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  was further removed *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator, and DDQ (340 mg, 3.00 equiv., 1.50 mmol) was added. The vial was evacuated and backfilled with  $\text{N}_2$  (3x). Dry *o*-DCB (2.5 mL) was then added, and the reaction was stirred for 14 h at 120  $^\circ\text{C}$  under an atmosphere of  $\text{N}_2$ . The reaction was cooled to rt, and complete conversion and yield were verified by  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (51% yield). The solvents were evaporated by using smart evaporator, and the residue was again filtered through a plug of silica with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  as an eluent to remove the baseline impurities. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* using a rotary evaporator. The residue was then purified by normal phase silica gel flash column chromatography with 100% pentane as an eluent to afford the desired product **3n** (75 mg, 47% yield) as colorless powder.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of the isolated compound matched a previous report.<sup>12</sup>

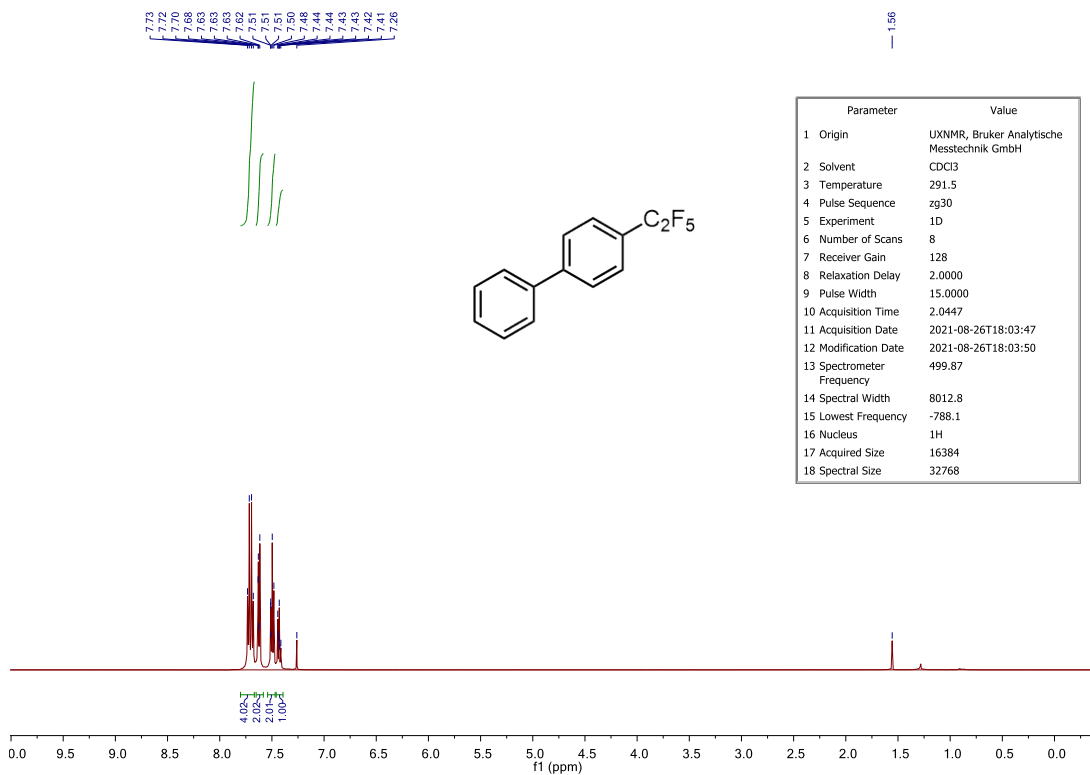
**$^1\text{H}$  NMR (800 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )**  $\delta$  7.72 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 1H).

**$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (470 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )**  $\delta$  -143.6 – -143.8 (m, 2F), -156.0 (t,  $J$  = 22.1 Hz, 1F), -162.1 – -163.0 (m, 2F).

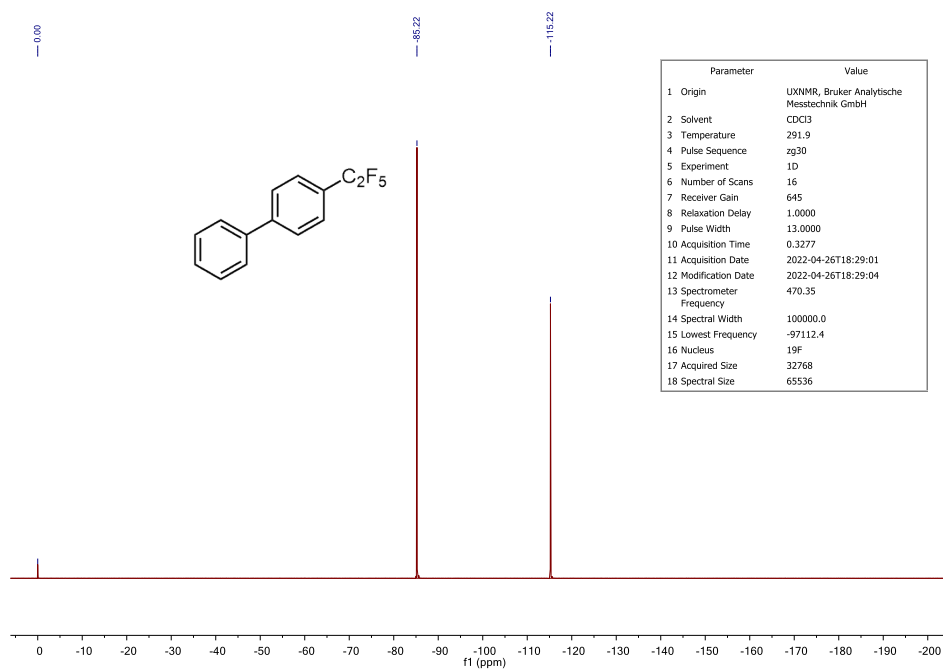


## NMR Spectra of Compounds

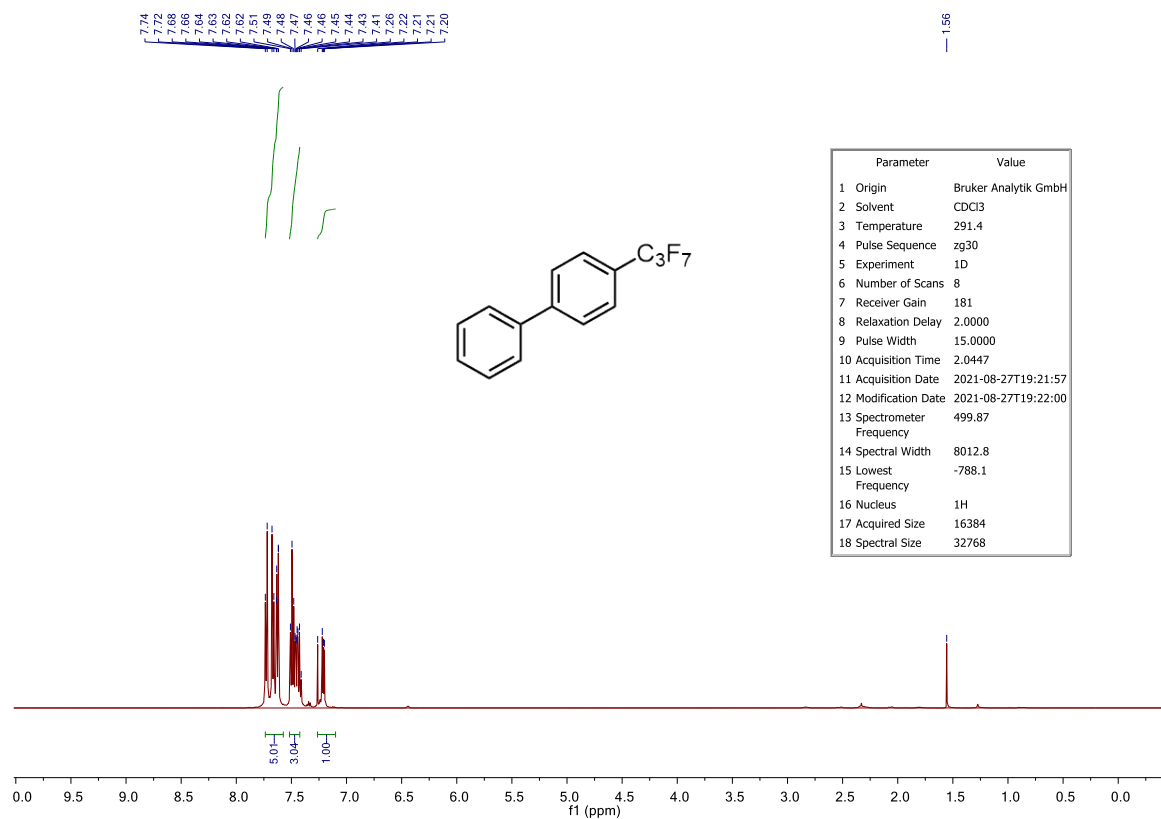
### <sup>1</sup>H NMR of 3a



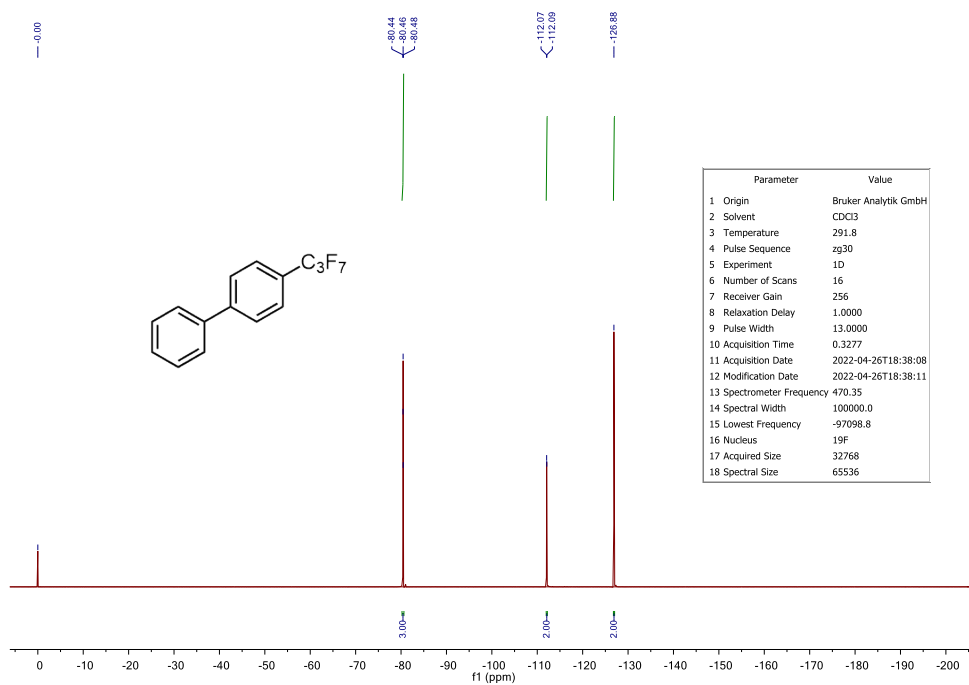
### <sup>19</sup>F NMR of 3a



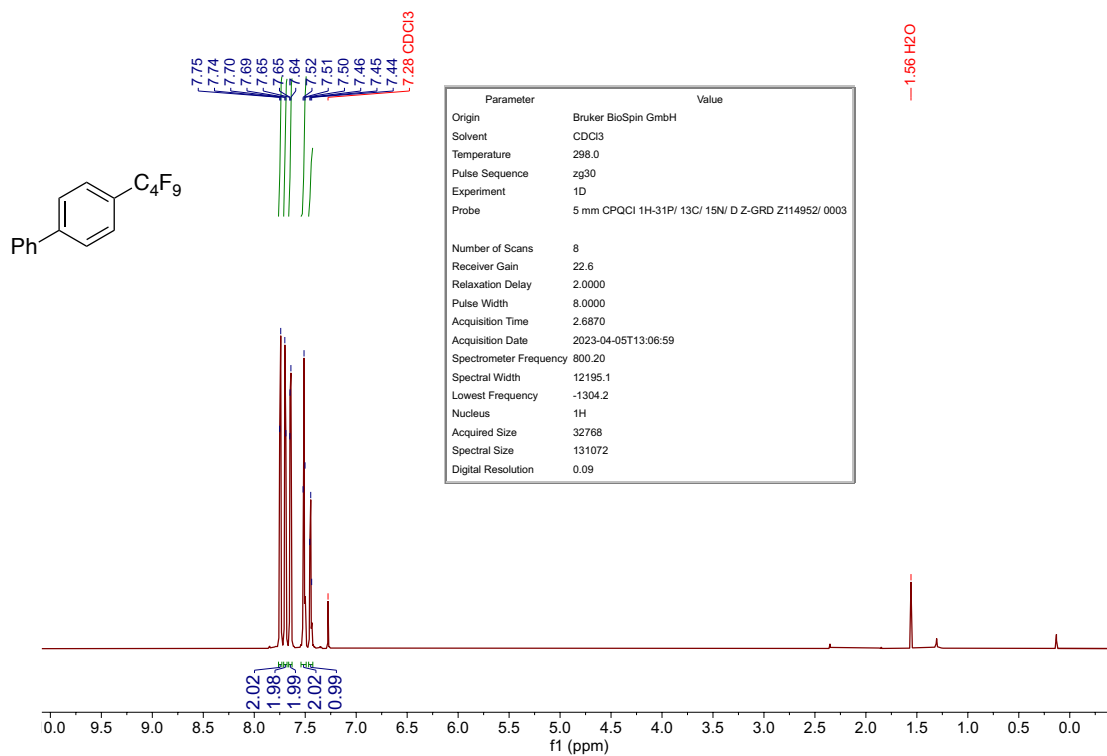
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **3b**:



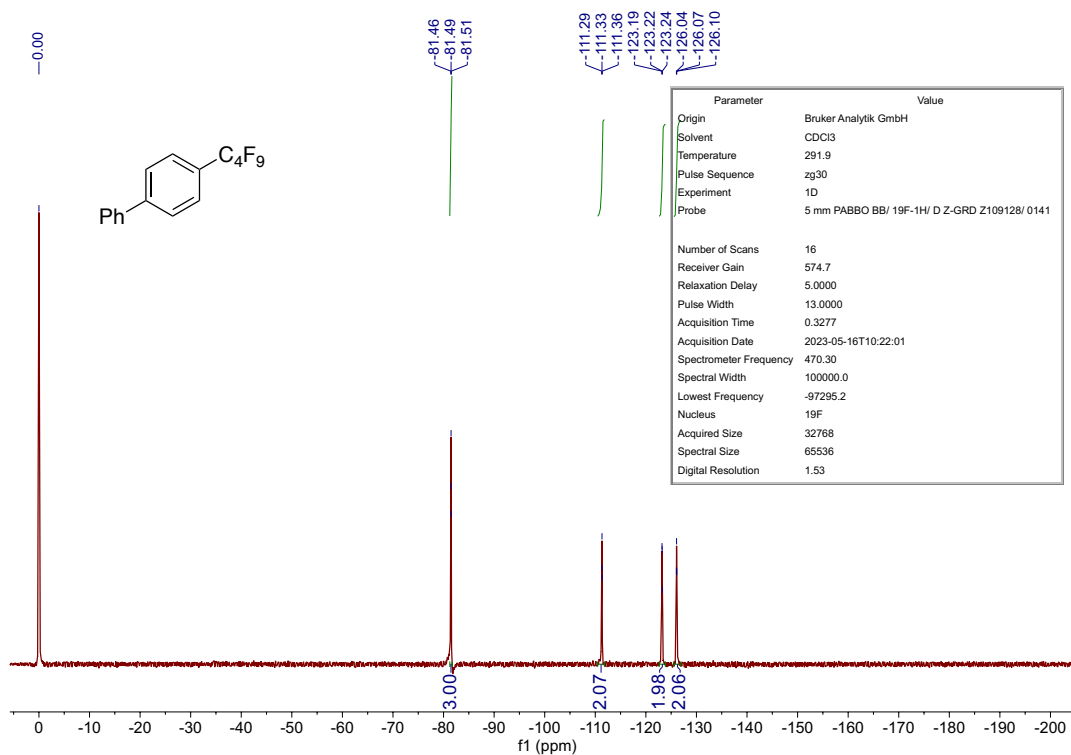
<sup>19</sup>F NMR of **3b**



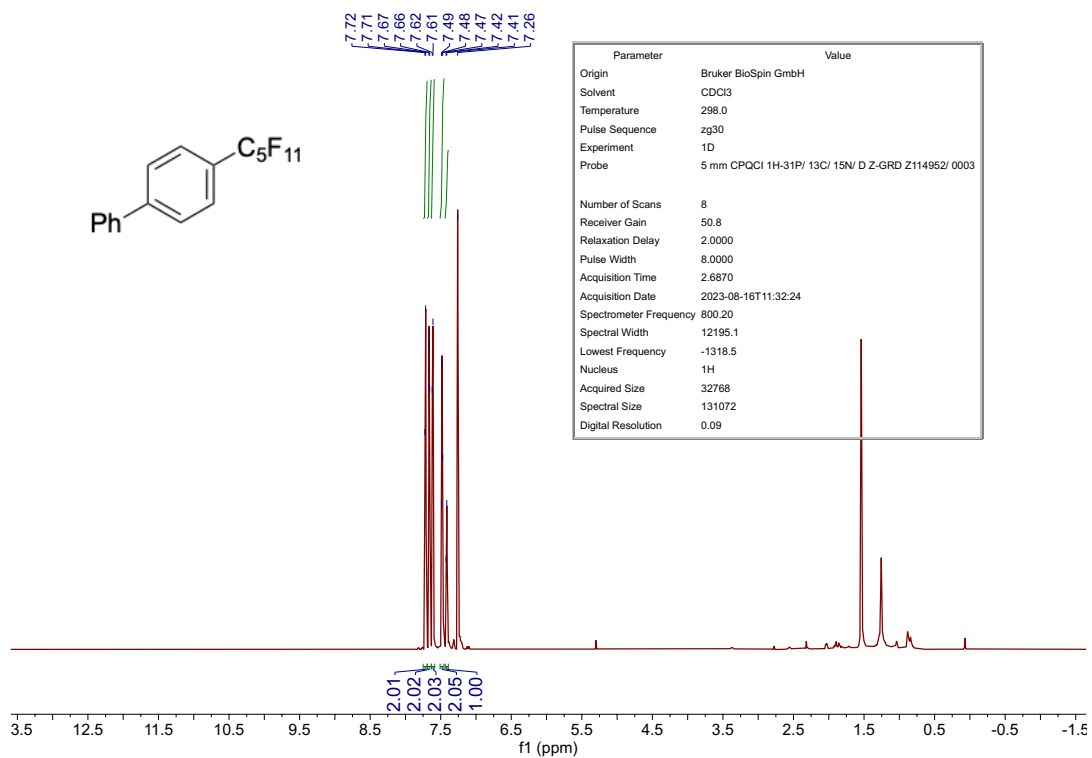
### <sup>1</sup>H NMR of 3c



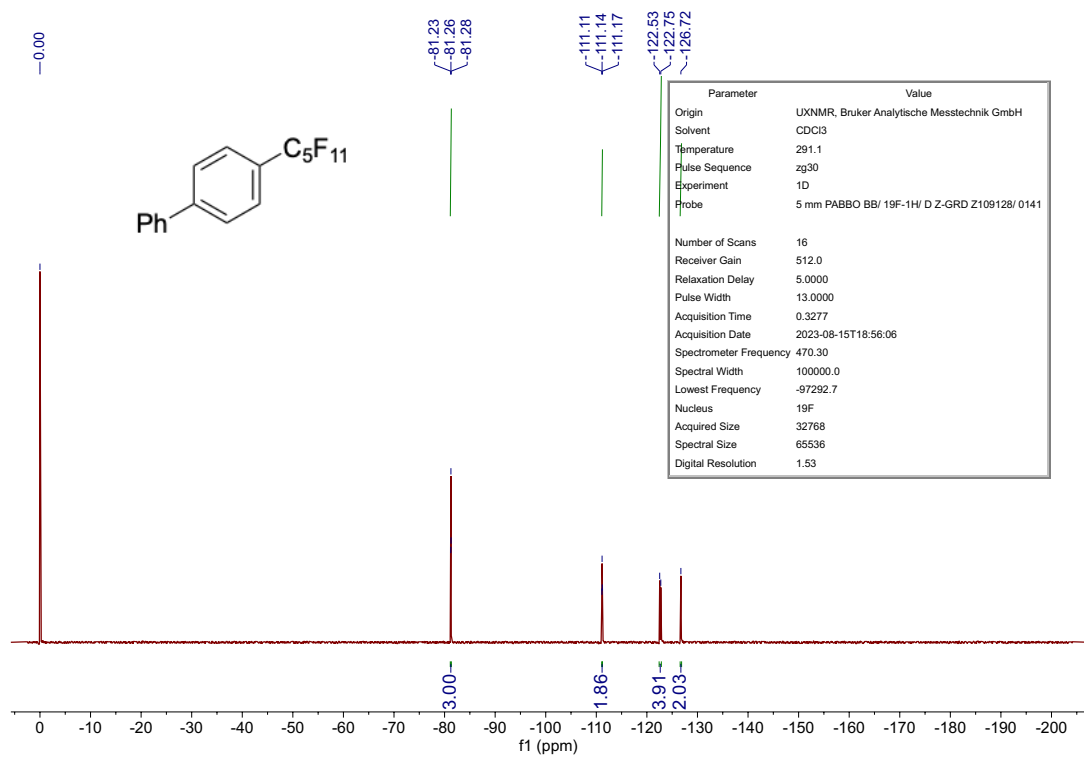
### <sup>19</sup>F NMR of 3c



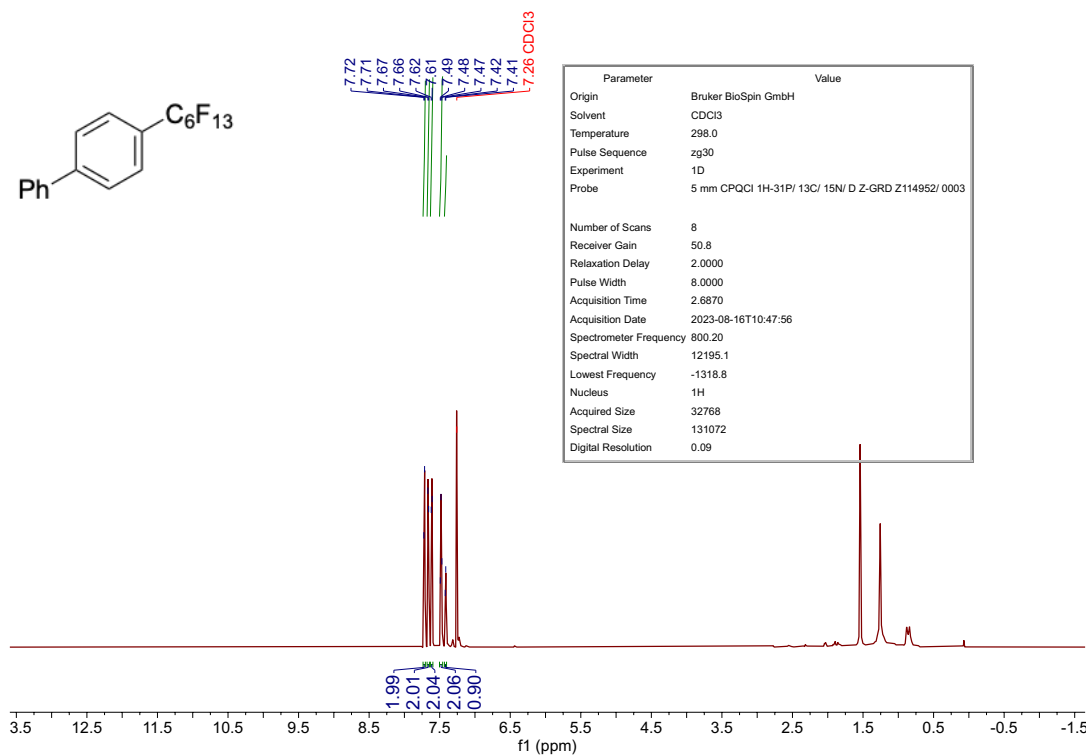
# <sup>1</sup>H NMR of 3d



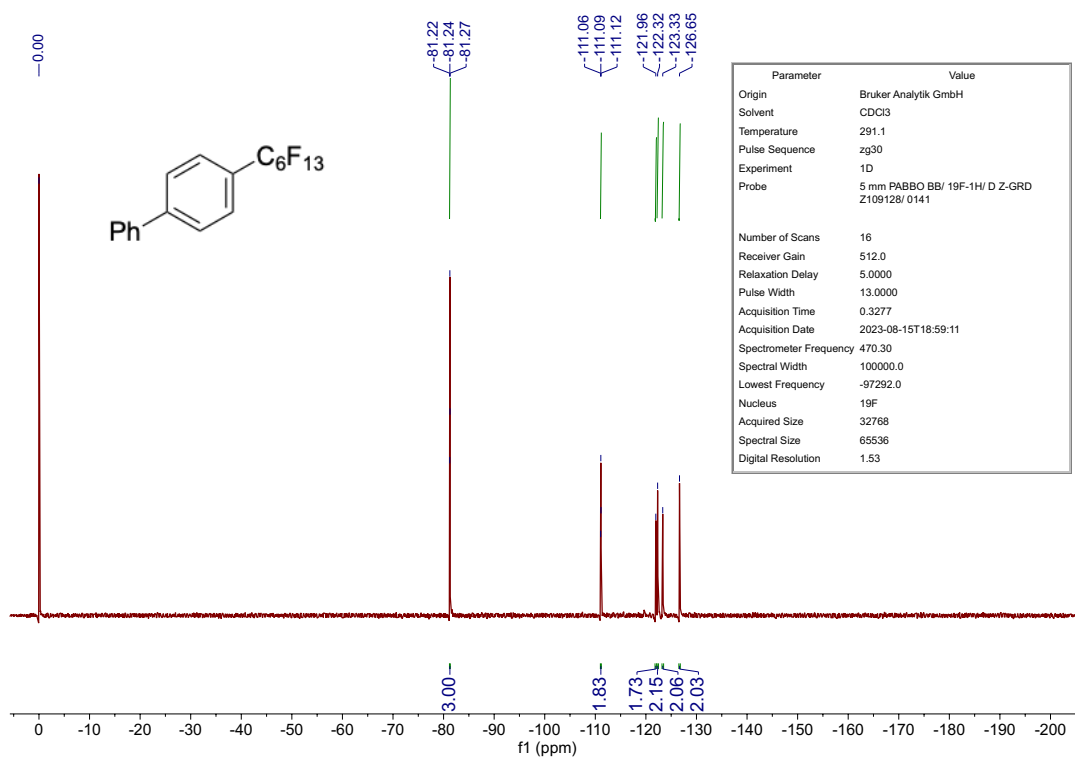
# <sup>19</sup>F NMR of 3d



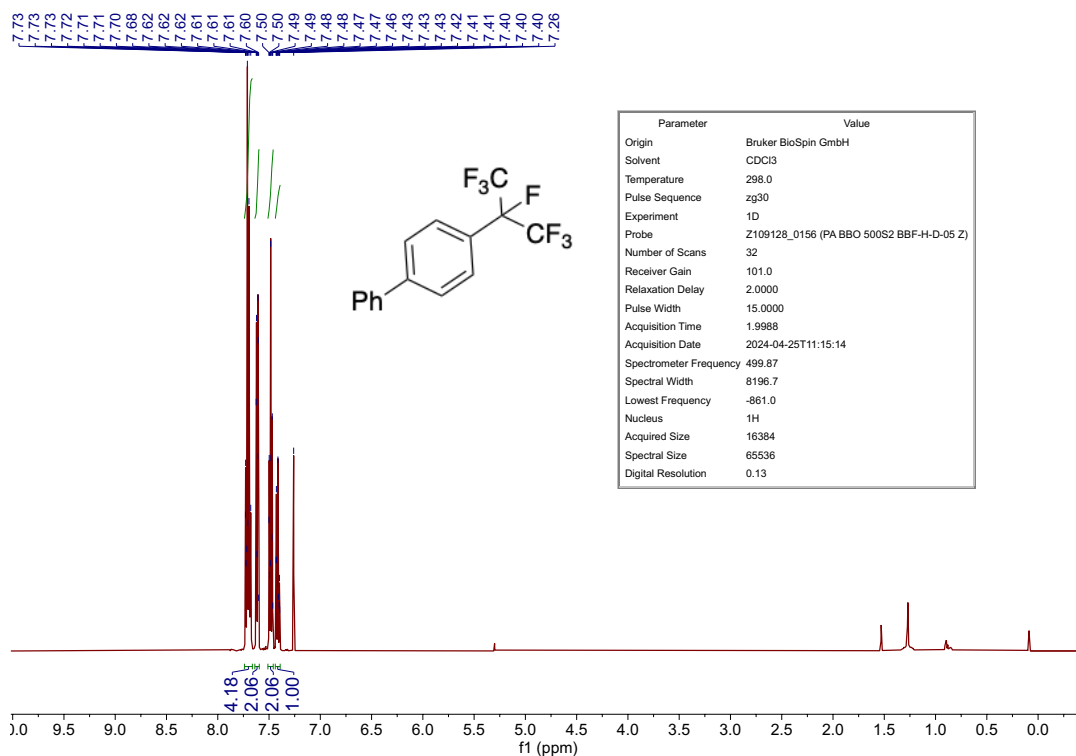
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of 3e



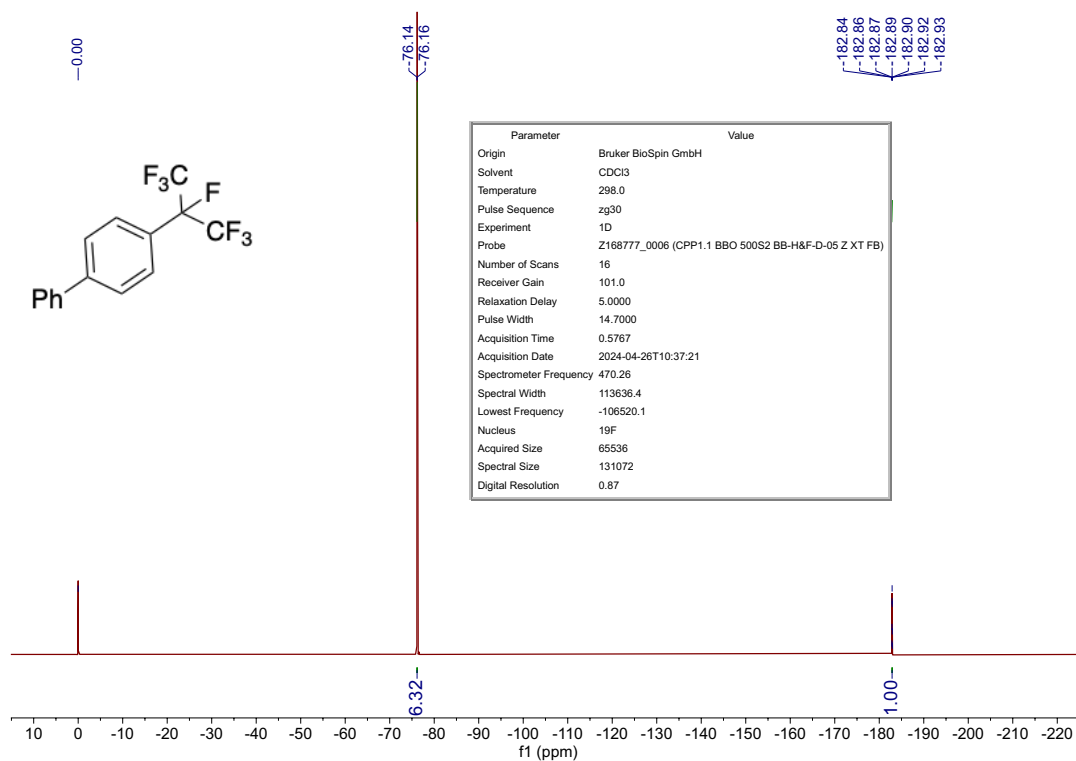
<sup>19</sup>F NMR of 3e



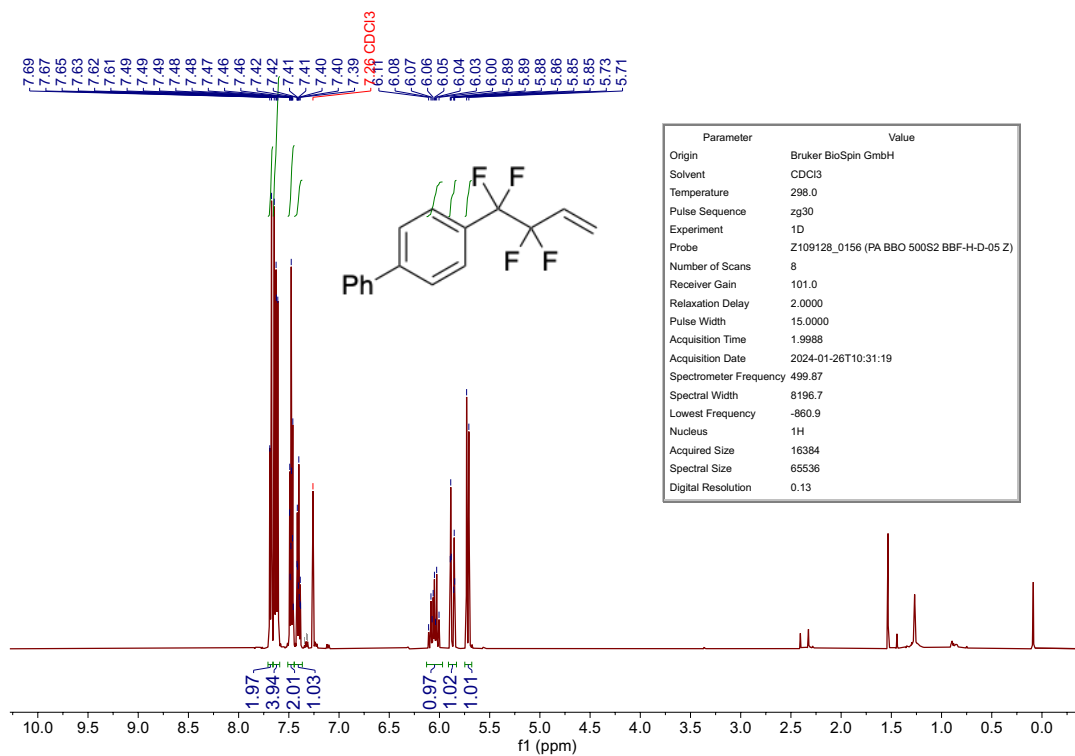
# <sup>1</sup>H NMR of 3f



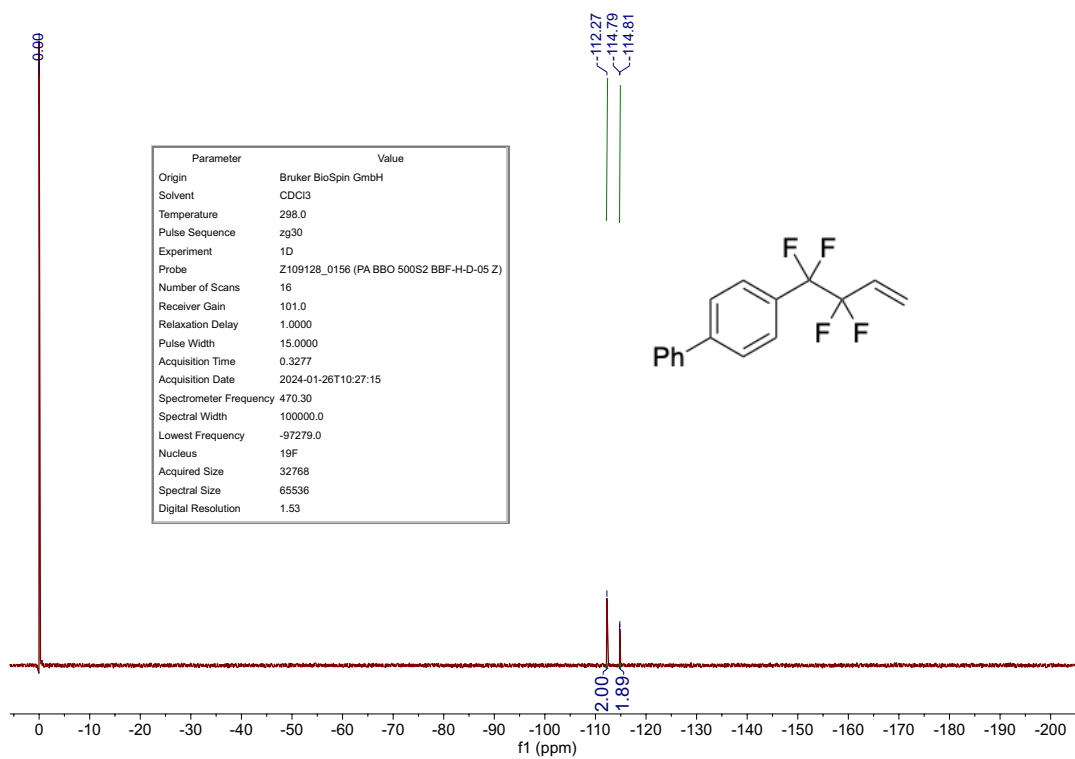
# <sup>19</sup>F NMR of 3f



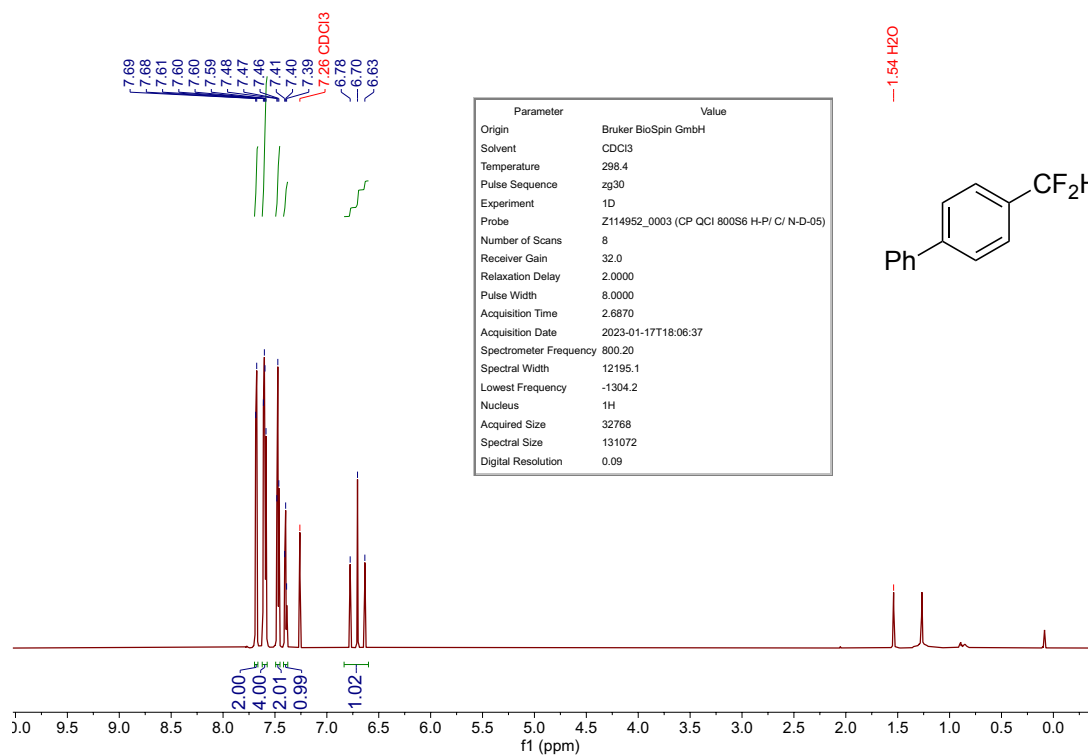
# <sup>1</sup>H NMR of 3g



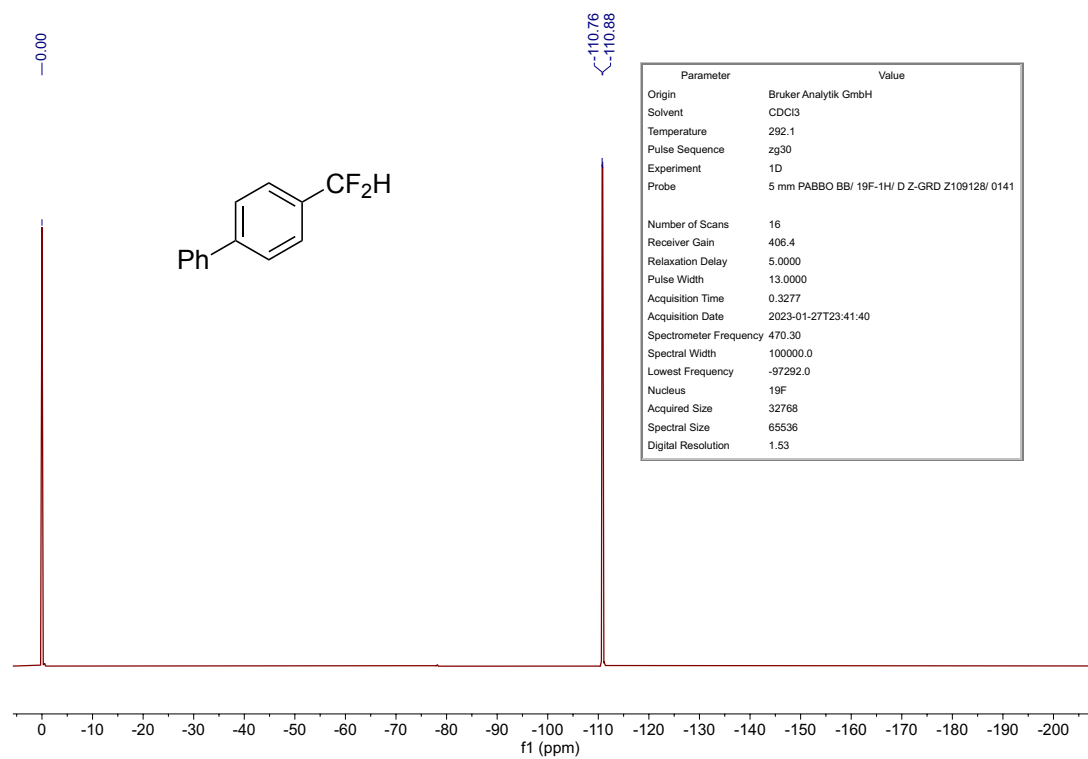
# <sup>19</sup>F NMR of 3g



# <sup>1</sup>H NMR of 3h

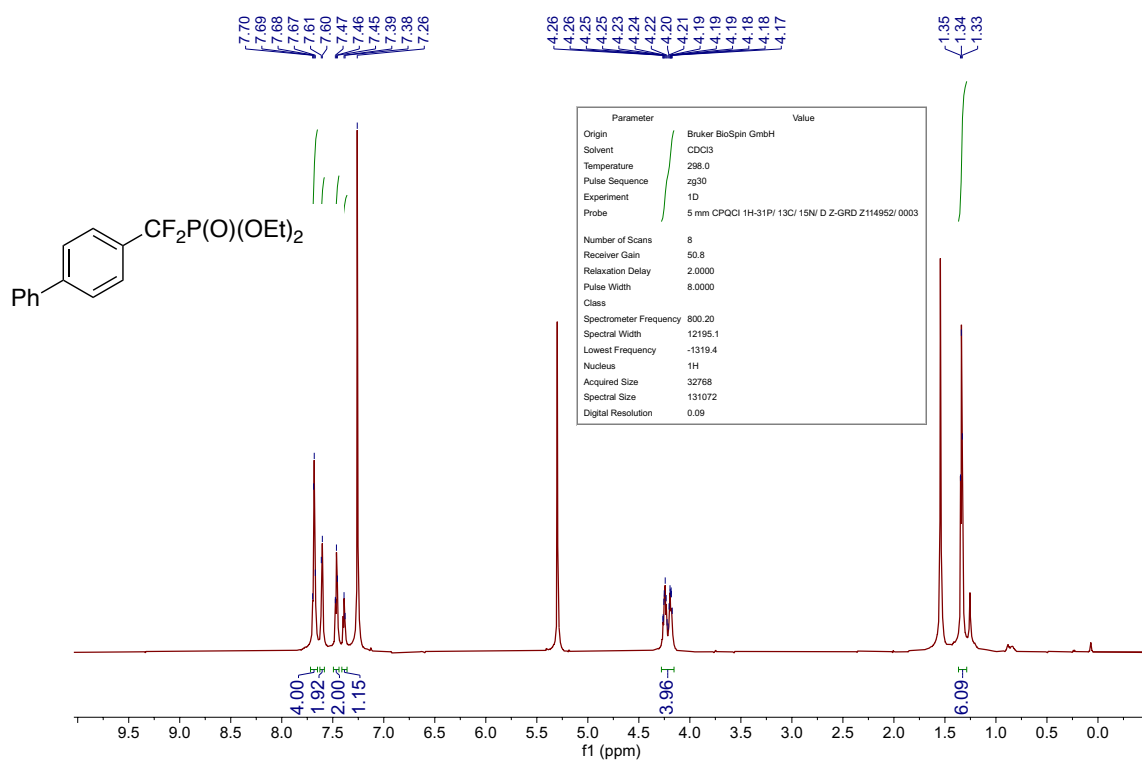


# <sup>19</sup>F NMR of 3h

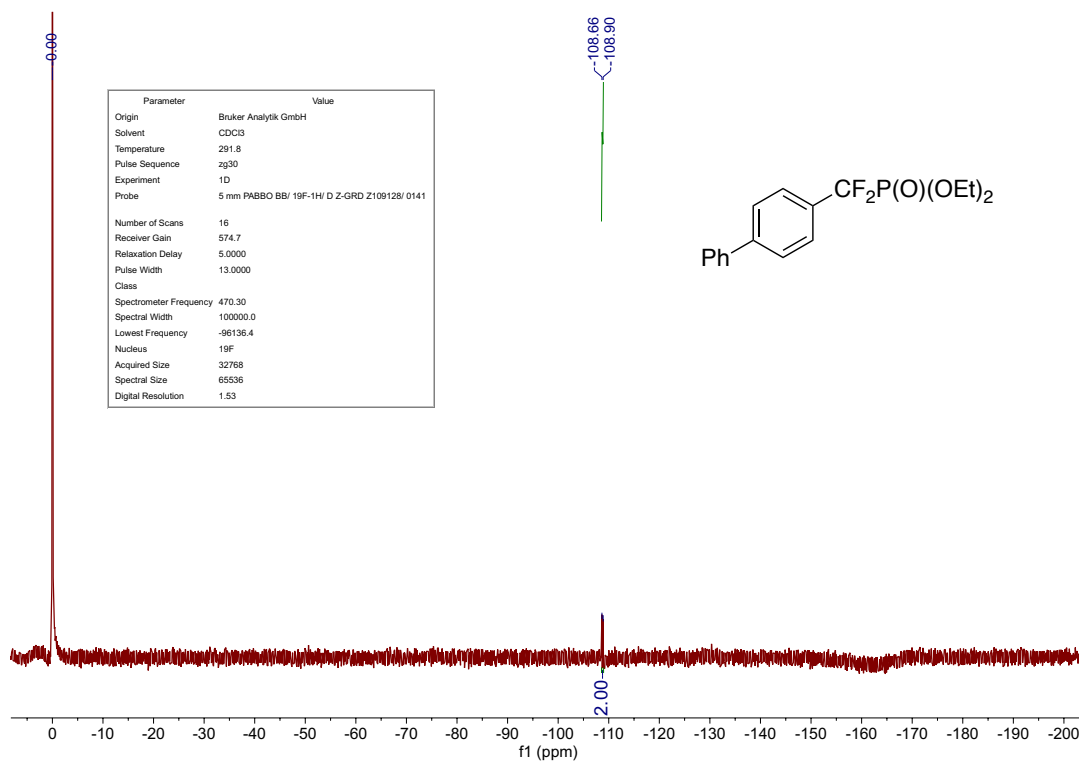




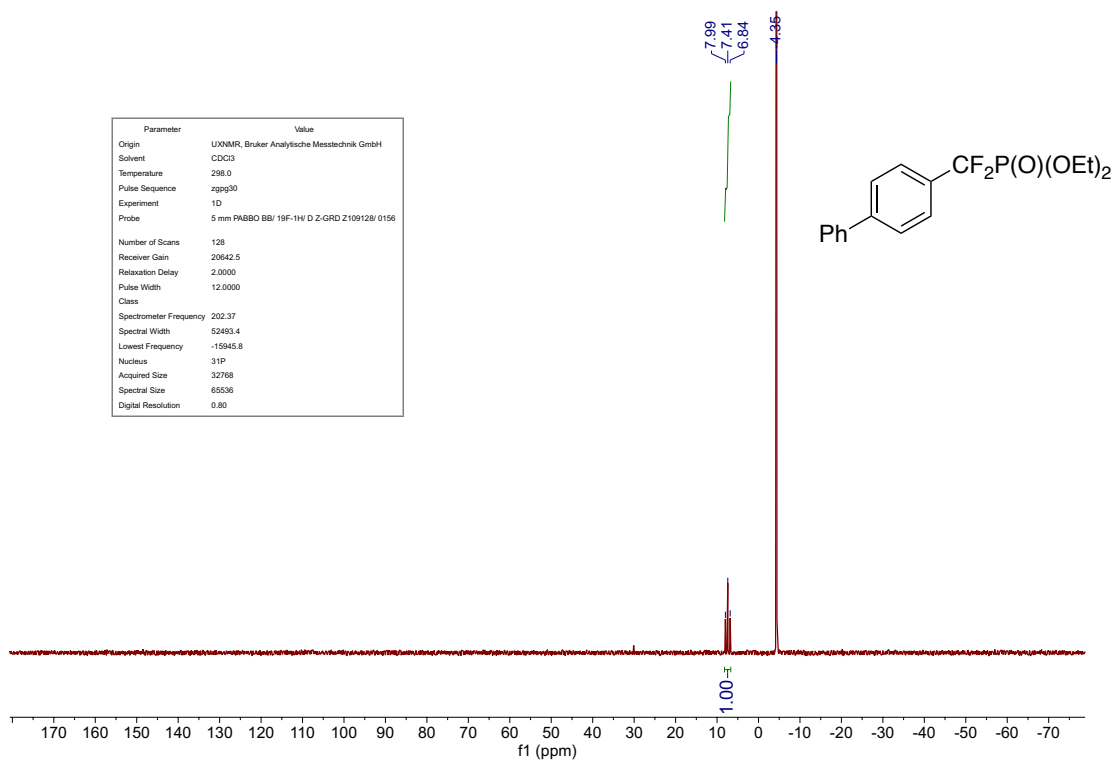
# <sup>1</sup>H NMR of 3i



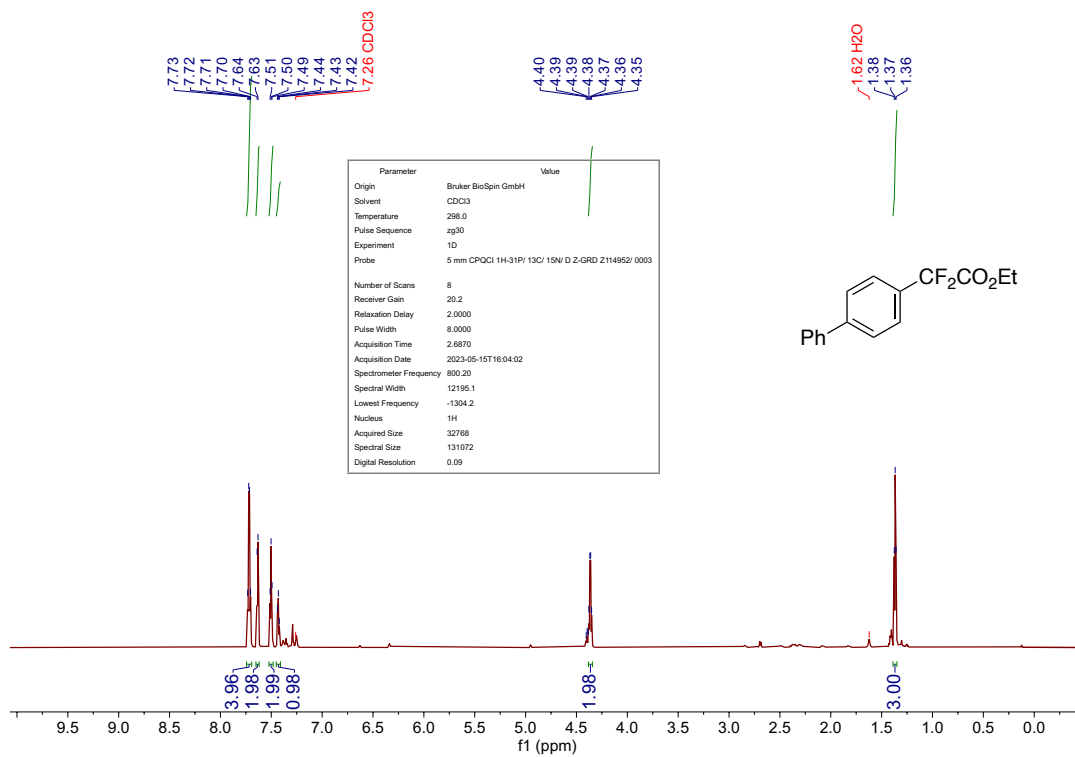
# <sup>19</sup>F NMR of 3i



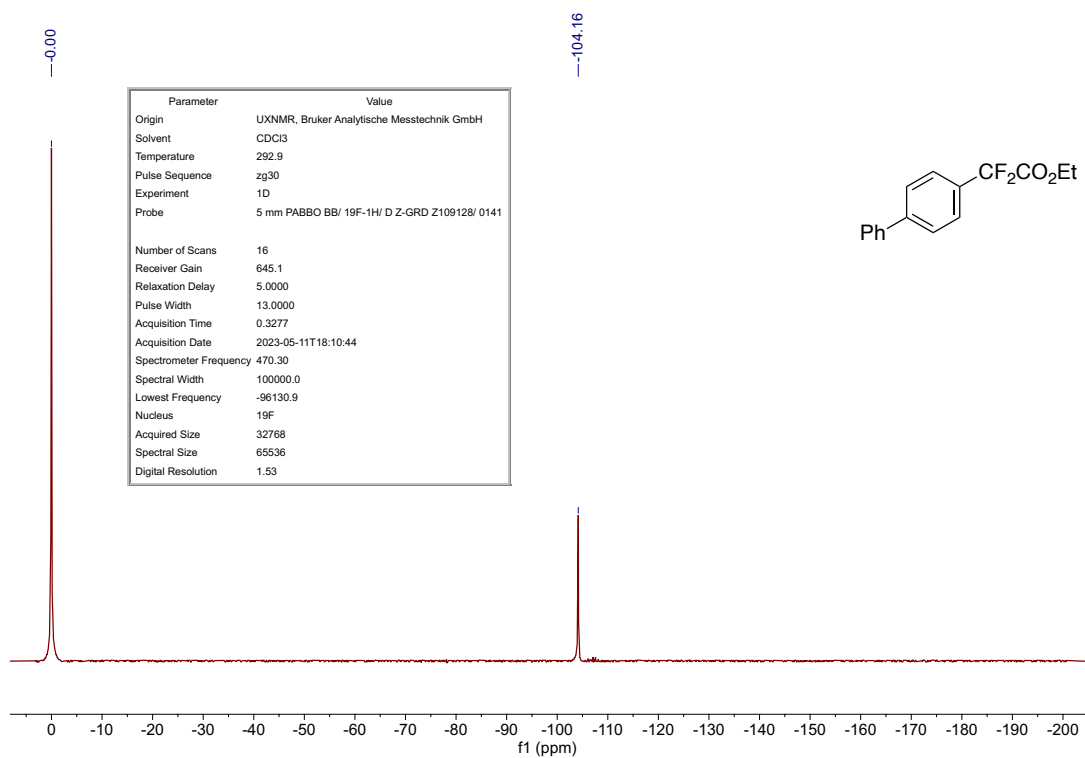
### <sup>31</sup>P NMR of 3i



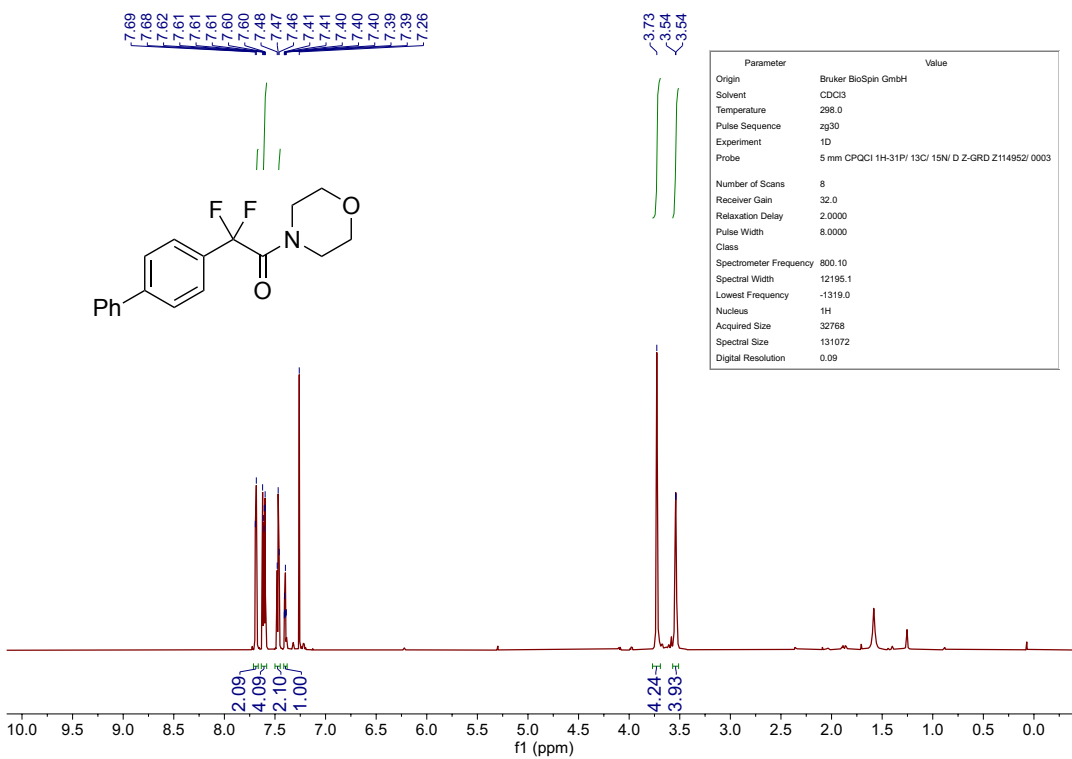
### <sup>1</sup>H NMR of 3j



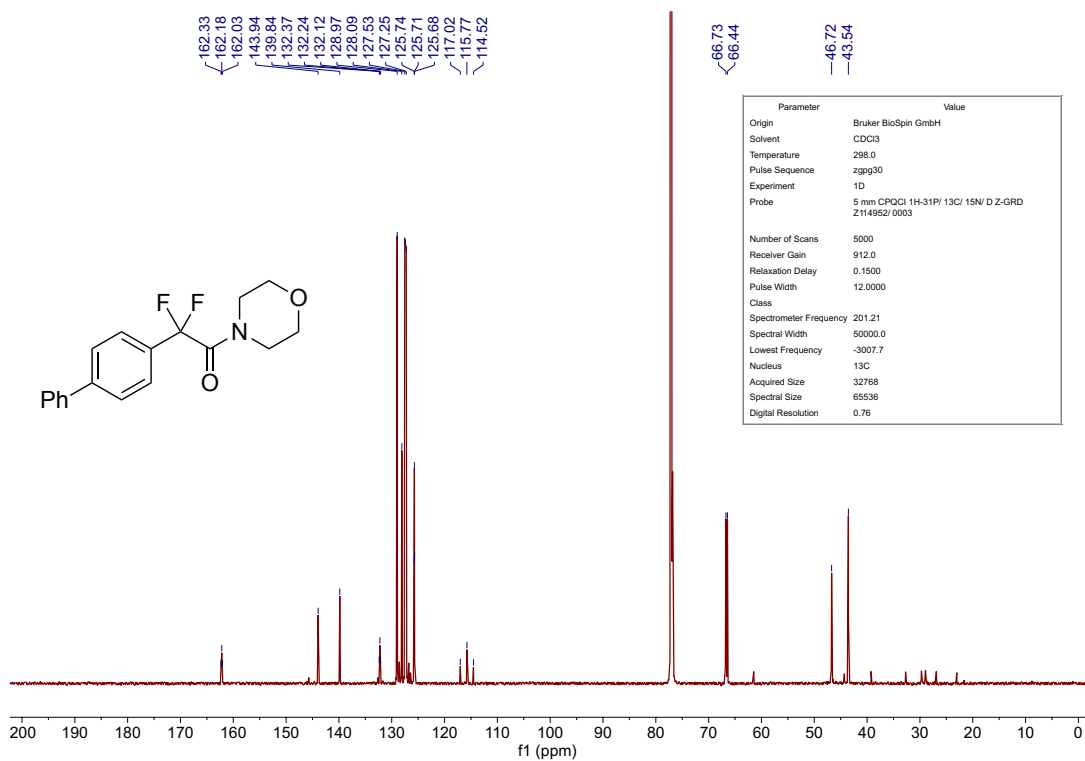
# <sup>19</sup>F NMR of 3j



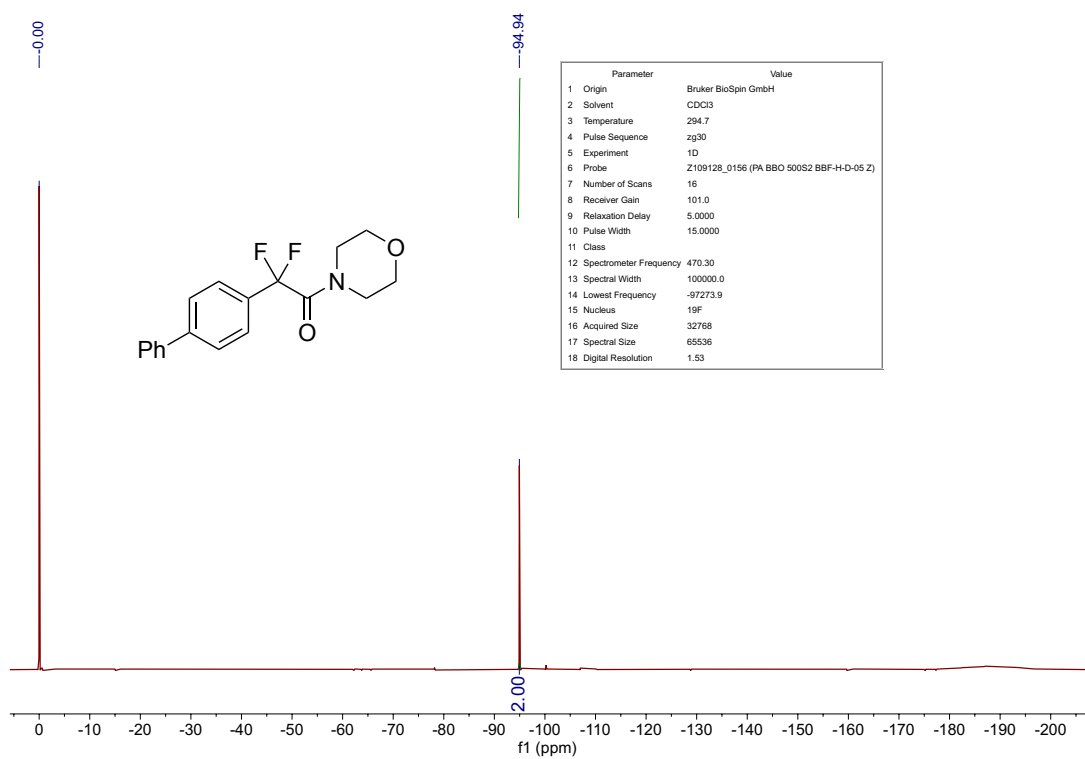
# <sup>1</sup>H NMR of 3k



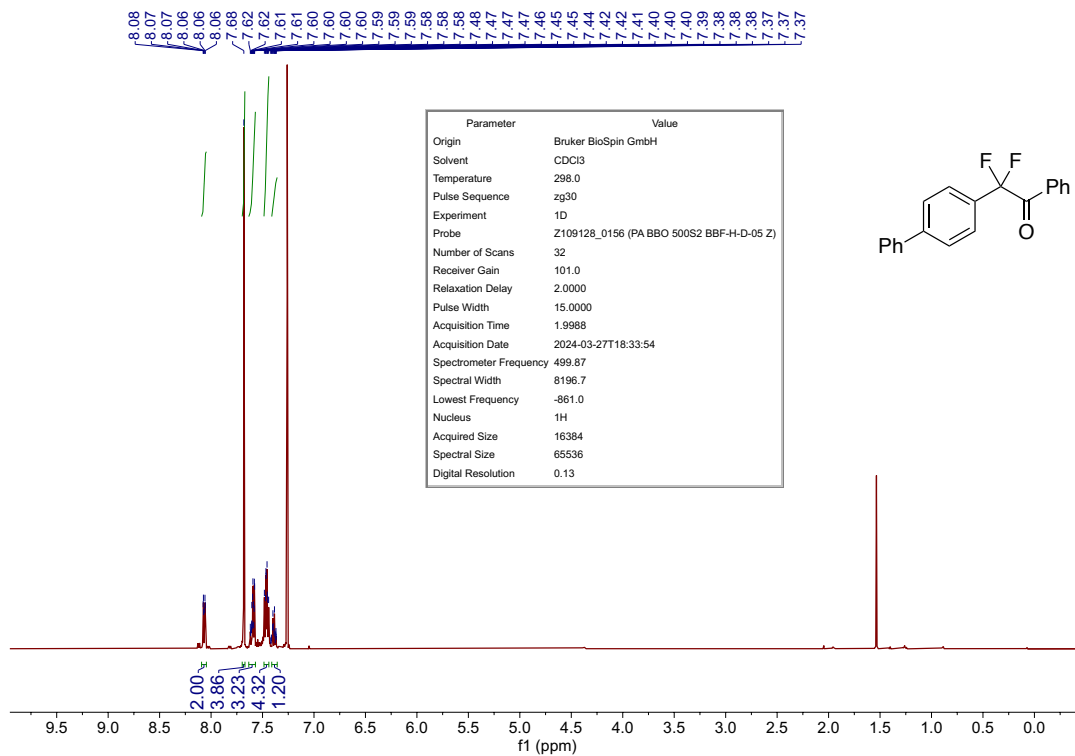
### <sup>13</sup>C NMR of **3k**



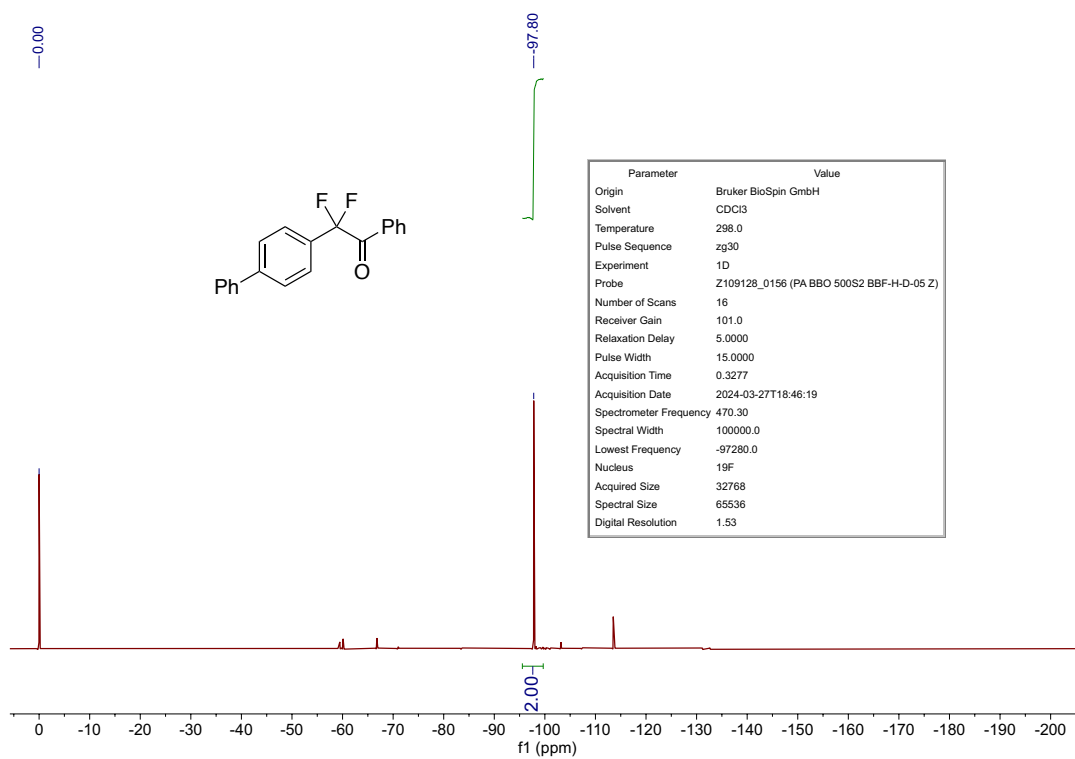
### <sup>19</sup>F NMR of **3k**



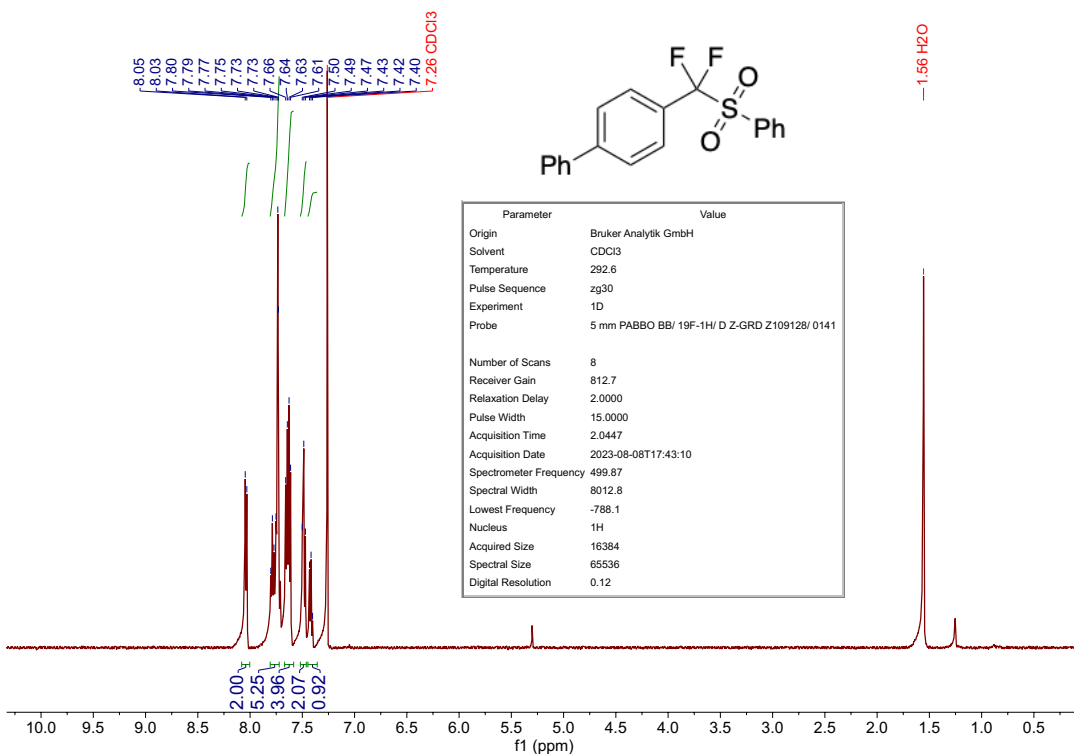
# <sup>1</sup>H NMR of 3I



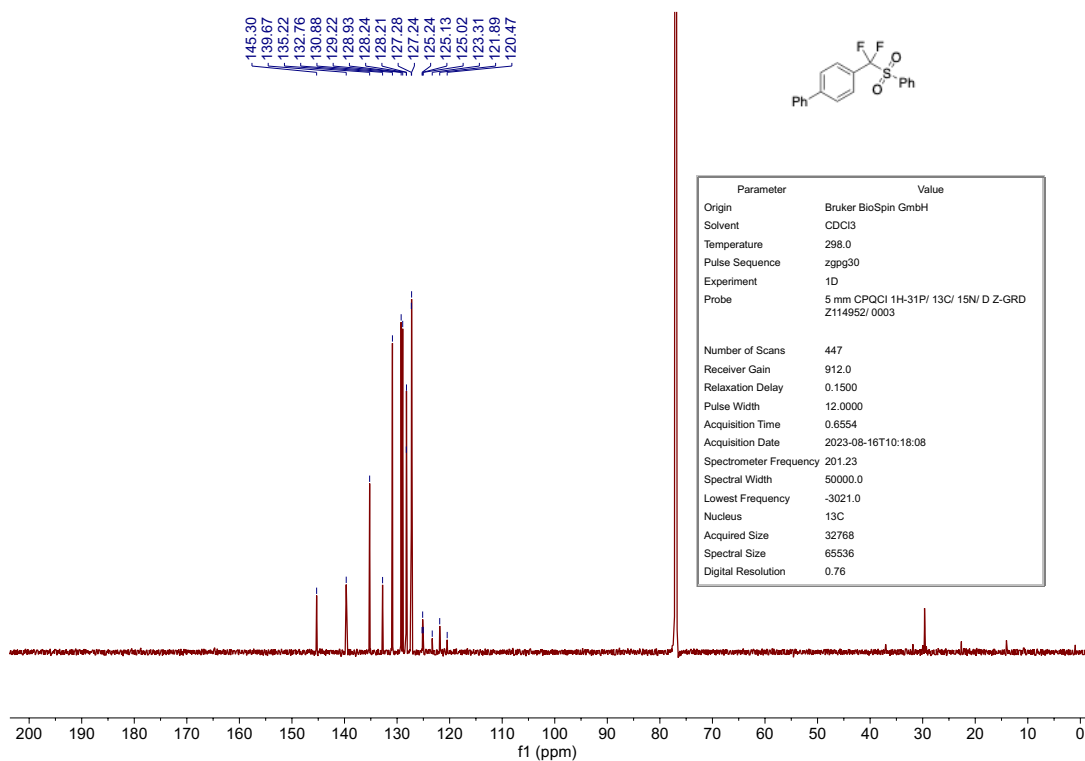
# <sup>19</sup>F NMR of 3I



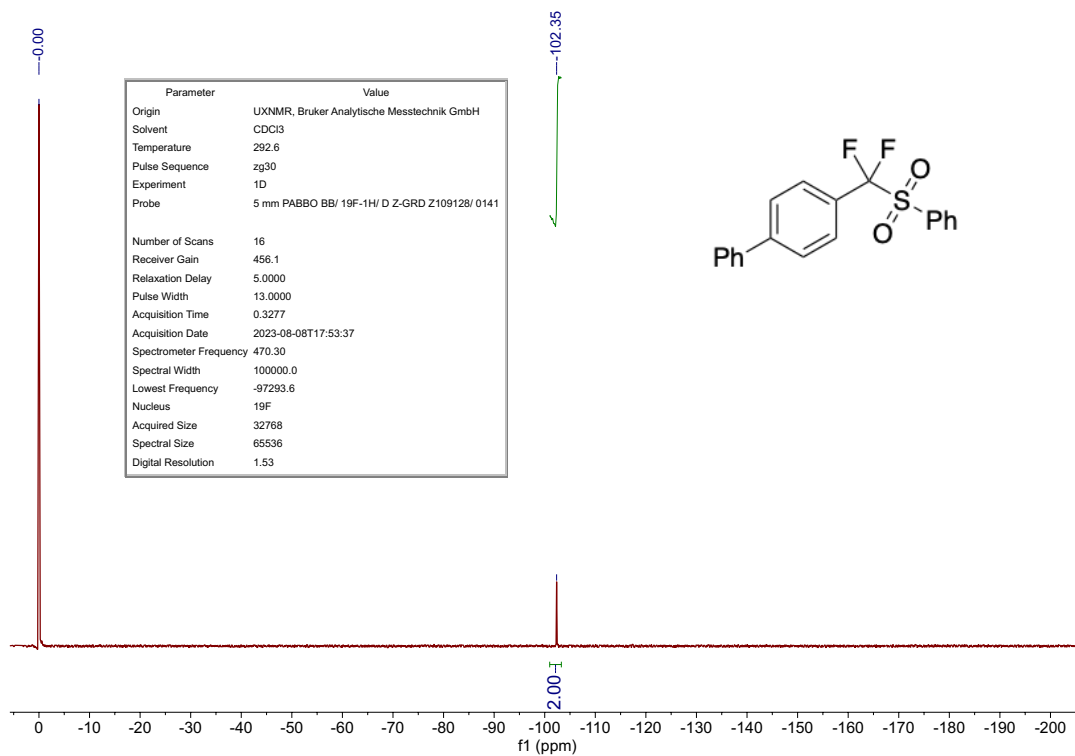
# <sup>1</sup>H NMR of 3m



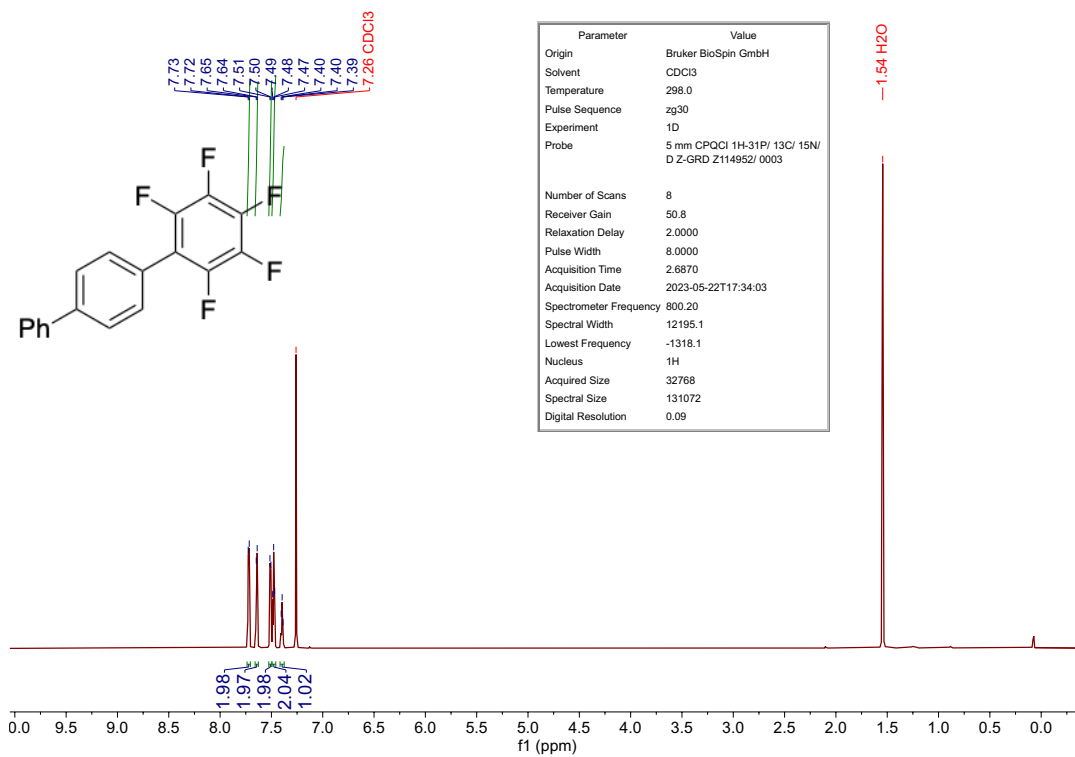
# <sup>13</sup>C NMR of 3m



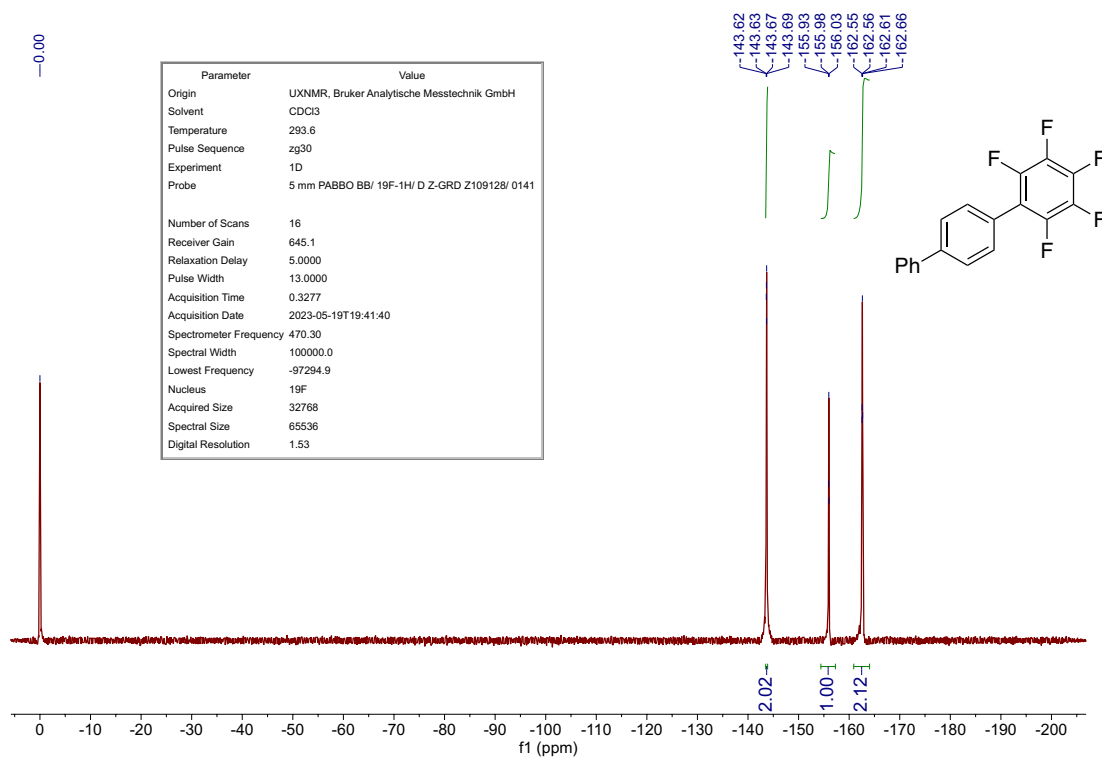
<sup>19</sup>F NMR of 3m



<sup>1</sup>H NMR of 3n



# <sup>19</sup>F NMR of 3n





## References

- (1) Ohashi, M.; Ishida, N.; Ando, K.; Hashimoto, Y.; Shigaki, A.; Kikushima, K.; Ogoshi, S. Cu<sup>I</sup>-Catalyzed Pentafluoroethylation of Aryl Iodides in the Presence of Tetrafluoroethylene and Cesium Fluoride: Determining the Route to the Key Pentafluoroethyl Cu<sup>I</sup> Intermediate. *Chemistry – A European Journal* 2018, 24 (39), 9794–9798
- (2) Huang, Y.; Ajitha, M. J.; Huang, K.-W.; Zhang, Z.; Weng, Z. A Class of Effective Decarboxylative Perfluoroalkylating Reagents: [(Phen)<sub>2</sub>Cu](O<sub>2</sub>CR<sub>F</sub>). *Dalton Transactions* 2016, 45 (20), 8468–8474.
- (3) Yamada, S.; Kinoshita, K.; Iwama, S.; Yamazaki, T.; Kubota, T.; Yajima, T.; Yamamoto, K.; Tahara, S. Synthesis of Perfluoroalkylated Pentacenes and Evaluation of Their Fundamental Physical Properties. *Organic & Biomolecular Chemistry* 2017, 15 (12), 2522–2535.
- (4) Bao, X.; Liu, L.; Li, J.; Fan, S. Copper-Catalyzed Oxidative Perfluoroalkylation of Aryl Boronic Acids Using Perfluoroalkylzinc Reagents. *The Journal of Organic Chemistry* 2018, 83 (1), 463–468.
- (5) Li, Y.; Wang, X.; Guo, Y.; Zhu, Z.; Wu, Y.; Gong, Y. Direct Heptafluoroisopropylation of Arylboronic Acids via Hexafluoropropene (HFP). *Chemical Communications* 2016, 52 (4), 796–799.
- (6) O'Duill, M.; Dubost, E.; Pfeifer, L.; Gouverneur, V. Cross-Coupling of [2-Aryl-1,1,2,2-Tetrafluoroethyl](Trimethyl)Silanes with Aryl Halides. *Organic Letters* 2015, 17 (14), 3466–3469.
- (7) Fier, P. S.; Hartwig, J. F. Copper-Mediated Difluoromethylation of Aryl and Vinyl Iodides. *Journal of the American Chemical Society* 2012, 134 (12), 5524–5527.
- (8) Kuriyama, M.; Maeda, G.; Kamata, K.; Kodama, Y.; Yamamoto, K.; Onomura, O. Nickel-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling of Bromodifluoromethylphosphonates with Arylboron Reagents. *Advanced Synthesis & Catalysis* 2023, 365 (1), 116–121.
- (9) Mizuta, S.; Stenhagen, I. S. R.; O'Duill, M.; Wolstenhulme, J.; Kirjavainen, A. K.; Forsback, S. J.; Tredwell, M.; Sandford, G.; Moore, P. R.; Huiban, M.; Luthra, S. K.; Passchier, J.; Solin, O.; Gouverneur, V. Catalytic Decarboxylative Fluorination for the Synthesis of Tri- and Difluoromethyl Arenes. *Organic Letters* 2013, 15 (11), 2648–2651.
- (10) Zhao, H.; Feng, Z.; Luo, Z.; Zhang, X. Carbonylation of Difluoroalkyl Bromides Catalyzed by Palladium. *Angewandte Chemie International Edition* 2016, 55 (35), 10401–10405.

- (11) Surya Prakash, G. K.; Hu, J.; Wang, Y.; Olah, G. A. Convenient Synthesis of Difluoromethyl Alcohols from Both Enolizable and Non-Enolizable Carbonyl Compounds with Difluoromethyl Phenyl Sulfone. *European Journal of Organic Chemistry* 2005, 2218–2223.
- (12) Takahashi, R.; Seo, T.; Kubota, K.; Ito, H. Palladium-Catalyzed Solid-State Polyfluoroarylation of Aryl Halides Using Mechanochemistry. *ACS Catalysis* 2021, 11 (24), 14803–14810.