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## Synthesis of tetra-substituted 5-trifluoromethylpyrazoles *via* sequential halogenation/palladium-catalyzed C–C and C–N cross-coupling†

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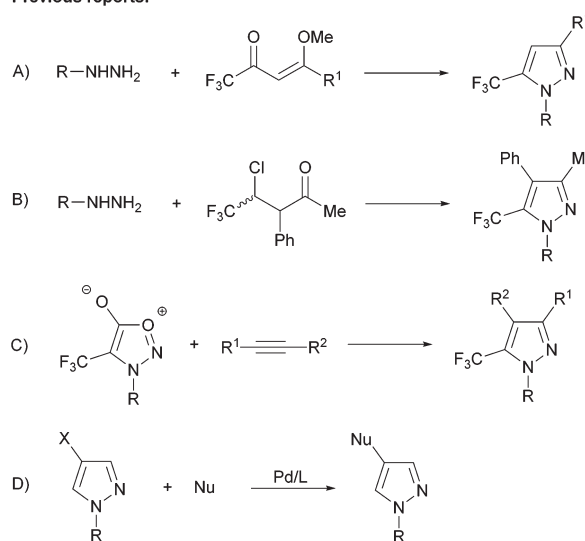
A mild and efficient protocol for the assembly of tetra-substituted 5-trifluoromethylpyrazoles is presented, involving halogenation at the 4-position of readily prepared tri-substituted 5-trifluoromethylpyrazoles to give 4-halo-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethyl pyrazoles, and subsequent palladium-catalyzed Negishi or Buchwald–Hartwig cross-couplings to install carbon or nitrogen-based 4-substituents. Key to the success of these challenging cross-couplings is the use of XPhos and JosiPhos CyPF–tBu ligands, respectively.

### Introduction

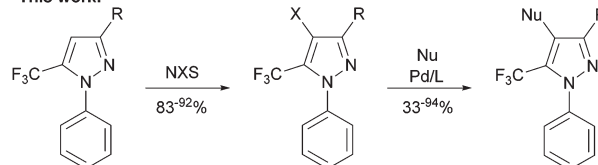
In recent years, *N*-aryl trifluoromethyl-substituted pyrazoles have emerged as important synthetic targets in both pharmaceutical and agricultural chemistry, owing to their unique biological properties.<sup>1</sup>

The traditional condensation reaction between  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl compounds provides an inexpensive and high-yielding route to tri-substituted trifluoromethylpyrazoles (Scheme 1A).<sup>2</sup> Conversely, effective protocols for the assembly of related *tetra-substituted* structures are still lacking, mainly due to the difficulty in building the requisite synthons, and the low yields associated with such procedures (Scheme 1B and C).<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, despite significant advances in palladium-catalyzed C–C and C–N cross-coupling methods, reactions involving five-membered heterocyclic electrophiles bearing more than one heteroatom have proven to be particularly challenging, with the majority of examples reported to date involving non-substituted pyrazoles (Scheme 1D), and in a few cases, involving 3-trifluoromethylpyrazoles.<sup>4</sup> In this context, there exists a dearth of reports pertaining to the selective assembly of tetra-substituted 5-trifluoromethylpyrazoles. Given the potential utility of such compounds, in particular *N*-phenyl derivatives,<sup>1c,d</sup> we sought to develop protocols for the halogenation of the 3-substituted 1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethyl-

#### Previous reports:



#### This work:



Scheme 1 Synthesis of substituted trifluoromethylpyrazoles.

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pyrazoles,<sup>2</sup> and subsequent elaboration into tetra-substituted heterocycles by use of palladium-catalyzed Negishi coupling or Buchwald–Hartwig amination (Scheme 1).

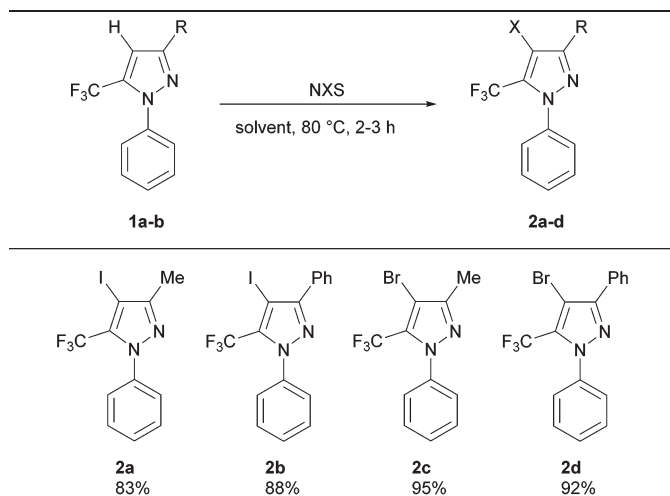


We report herein on our successful development of such modular syntheses, in many cases leading to previously unreported tetra-substituted trifluoromethylpyrazoles, whereby the second step is enabled by the judicious selection of ancillary ligand for use in palladium catalysis.

## Results and discussion

We commenced our investigations by targeting an expedient procedure for the halogenation of 3-substituted 1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylpyrazoles at the 4-position (Table 1). Our initial efforts in this regard employing mild conditions reported by Zhao and Wang<sup>5</sup> for the halogenation of non-CF<sub>3</sub> containing pyrazoles were unsuccessful; this is likely due to the presence of the electron-withdrawing trifluoromethyl group at the adjacent position, which is known to decrease considerably the reactivity of the heterocycle. On the other hand, the use of more forcing conditions (*i.e.*, high temperatures over long reaction times) resulted in the partial halogenation of the *N*-phenyl group. Given the similar polarity of the starting material and mono/poly-halogenated products, reaction conditions that afforded clean pyrazole monohalogenation selectivity were required. The 4-iodopyrazoles **2a,b** were obtained in good yields by using an adapted protocol inspired by that described by Li and co-workers<sup>6</sup> for the iodination of non-CF<sub>3</sub> containing pyrazoles, employing NIS in TFA/AcOH medium (3 h, 80 °C), and using conventional rather than microwave heating. Whereas the same methodology when extended to NBS resulted in polyhalogenation, further optimization of the methodology described by Jeong and co-workers<sup>4e</sup> employing DMF as solvent furnished the 4-bromopyrazoles **2c,d** in excellent yields after 2 h of stirring at 80 °C (Table 1).

**Table 1** Halogenation of 1-phenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-pyrazoles<sup>a</sup>

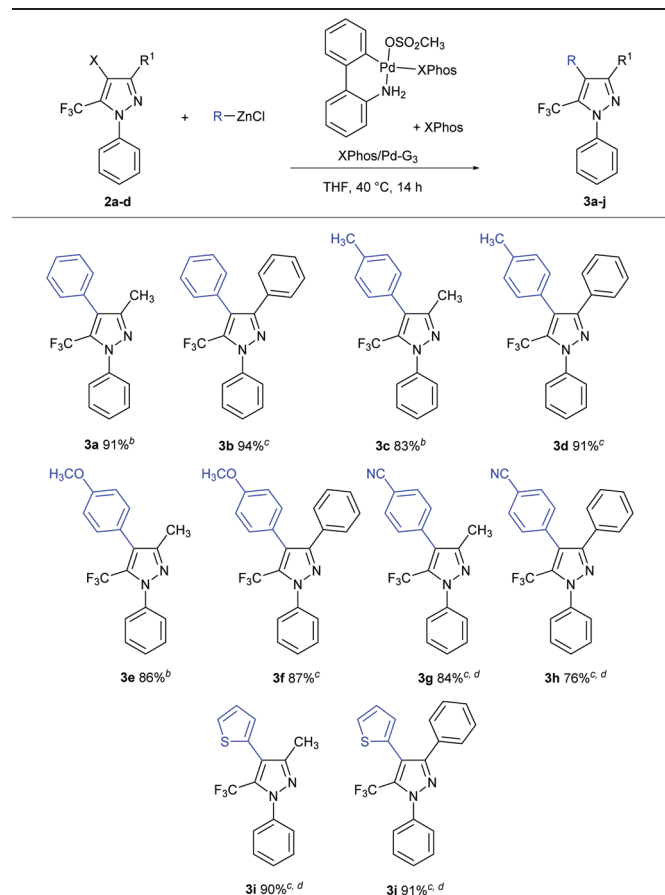


<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: (i) iodinated pyrazoles (**2a,b**): **1a,b** (5 mmol), NIS (6 mmol), TFA/AcOH (10 ml, 1 : 1), 80 °C, 3 h. (ii) Brominated pyrazoles (**2c,d**): **1a,b** (5 mmol), NBS (12.5–15 mmol), DMF (10 ml), 80 °C, 2 h.

With the 4-halopyrazoles **2a–d** in hand, we turned our attention to the application of relatively inexpensive and readily accessed organozinc reagents in Negishi cross-coupling chemistry as a means of (hetero)arylation the trifluoromethylpyrazole core. Initial screening involving the reaction between **2a** and 3 equivalents of phenylzinc chloride (60 °C, 24 h) employing 10 mol% of Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> as catalyst provided a conversion rate of 45%. Further efforts to optimize the catalyst performance (*i.e.*, longer reaction times, higher catalyst loadings) were ineffective, thereby underscoring the relative inefficiency of this simple catalyst for such challenging substrates.

In 2013 Buchwald and co-workers reported on Negishi cross-couplings involving various heterocycles, including a single example of a cross-coupling featuring a 5-chloro-3-trifluoromethylpyrazole, enabled by the use of biarylphosphine palladacycle pre-catalysts.<sup>7</sup> Among the phosphines tested, XPhos exhibited optimal catalytic performance, providing excellent results under relatively low catalytic loadings (1 mol%). Encouraged by this report, we focused our attention

**Table 2** Negishi cross-coupling with 4-halo-1-phenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-pyrazoles<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: pyrazole **2a–d** (0.5 mmol), (hetero)arylzinc chloride (1.8 equiv., 0.9 mmol), XPhos/Pd-G3 + XPhos (2 mol%, 1 : 1), THF, 40 °C, 14 h. Isolated yields reported throughout. <sup>b</sup> 4-Iodopyrazole was employed. <sup>c</sup> 4-Bromopyrazole was employed. <sup>d</sup> 2.5 equiv. organozinc employed.

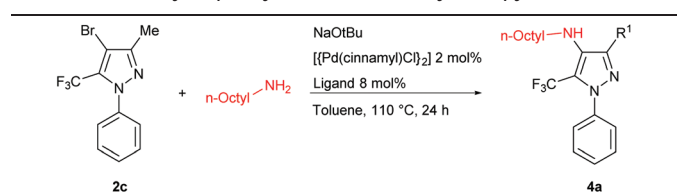


on the use of the **XPhos**/**Pd-G3** pre-catalyst; given the potential difficulties associated with purifying remaining pyrazole starting material from the products in such transformations, our main focus in optimizing was on achieving full conversion. While the original conditions described for such reactions with halopyrazoles (1.5 equiv. organozinc chloride, 1 mol% **XPhos**/**Pd-G3** plus additional **XPhos** (1 : 1), room temperature, 12 h) were promising,<sup>7</sup> we found that optimal yields for our substrates of interest (**2a–d**) were obtained by use of 1.8 equiv. organozinc and double the catalyst loading at 40 °C, over 14 h. Such conditions afforded excellent yields of the target C–C cross-coupling product when using electron-neutral or electron-rich arylzinc reagents (**3a–f**, 83–94%; Table 2), with little difference in reactivity observed between bromo and iodo pyrazoles. The use of 2.5 equiv. of the Negishi reagent derived from 4-bromobenzonitrile proved necessary to achieve the full conversion *en route* to products **3g,h**. The stereoelectronic influence of the trifluoromethyl group was apparent in reactions involving heterocyclic Negishi reagents in which the heteroatom features non-shared electron pairs, as evidenced by the required use of 2.5 equiv. of the Negishi reagent derived from 2-chlorothiophene (**3i,j**). Notably, analogous reactions

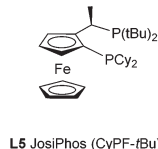
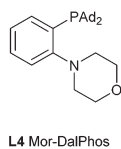
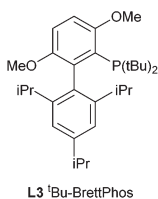
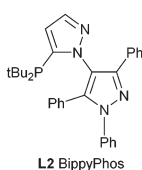
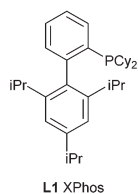
employing 2- or 3-pyridylzinc chlorides were unsatisfactory (<25% conversion on the basis of GC data).

We subsequently turned our attention to the use of Buchwald–Hartwig amination chemistry as a means of preparing nitrogen-functionalized trifluoromethylpyrazoles. The cross-coupling of the pyrazole **2c** and *n*-octylamine was selected as a preliminary test reaction, in which a selection of ligands with established capability in amination chemistry were examined (Table 3). In contrast to the Negishi couplings discussed above, the application of **XPhos** (**L1**) proved ineffective under the Buchwald–Hartwig amination test conditions employed (entry 1). The use of **BippyPhos** (**L2**), a ligand that has been successfully employed in a range of challenging amination reactions,<sup>8</sup> also did not provide any appreciable conversion (entry 2). We were surprised to find that *t*Bu-BrettPhos (**L3**), which has been employed successfully in aminations involving pyrazole electrophiles,<sup>9</sup> provided only modest conversion under the test conditions (entry 3). The ligand **Mor-DalPhos** (**L4**) has proven useful in a range of primary amine monoarylations,<sup>10</sup> and displayed some competence in the test reaction; however, a high amount of dehalogenated

**Table 3** Ligand effects in the palladium-catalyzed amination of 4-bromo-3-methyl-1-phenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-pyrazole (**2c**)<sup>a</sup>

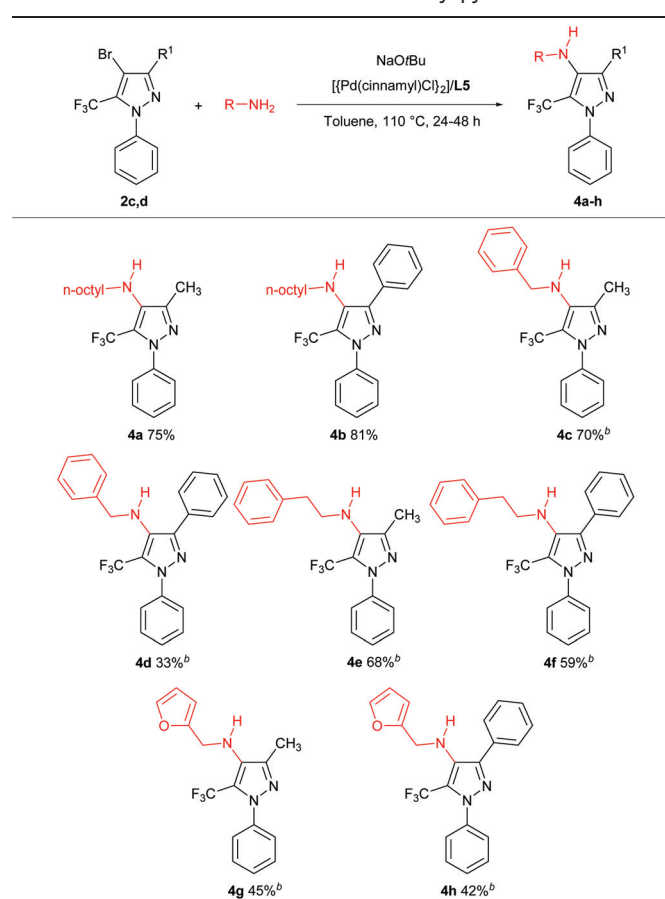


Entry	Ligand	Conversion to <b>4a</b> <sup>b</sup>
1	<b>L1</b>	<5%
2	<b>L2</b>	<5%
3	<b>L3</b>	<10%
4	<b>L4</b>	60%
5	<b>L5</b>	>90% <sup>c</sup>



<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: pyrazole **2c** (0.2 mmol), *n*-octylamine (0.4 mmol), NaOtBu (0.4 mmol). <sup>b</sup> Determined on the basis of GC data. <sup>c</sup> 4 mol% of **L5** was employed.

**Table 4** Amination of 4-halo-5-trifluoromethyl pyrazoles<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: pyrazole **2c,d** (0.5 mmol), amine (1 mmol, 2 equiv.), NaOtBu (1 mmol, 2 equiv.), [Pd(cinnamyl)Cl]<sub>2</sub> (2 mol%), **L5** (4 mol%). <sup>b</sup> [Pd(cinnamyl)Cl]<sub>2</sub> (3 mol%), **L5** (6 mol%), 48 h.



product was also observed (entry 4). In contrast, we were pleased to observe that the use of the JosiPhos ligand variant L5 (CyPF-*t*Bu)<sup>11</sup> afforded high conversion to **4a**, without significant accompanying hydrodehalogenation, and without the need for excess ligand (Pd: L5 = 1 : 1; entry 5).

Having identified a suitable catalyst system for the amination of **2c**, we then turned our attention to exploring the scope of reactivity (Table 4); for simplicity, we focused on the use of the bromides **2c,d** and each proved to be a suitable substrate.

In keeping with the successful screening results using L5, the tetra-substituted trifluoromethylpyrazole **4a** was obtained in 75% isolated yield and the analogous 3-phenyl derivative **4b** was obtained in 81% isolated yield. Related cross-couplings using benzylamine required longer reaction times (48 h), and whereas the reaction involving **2c** afforded **4c** in 70% yield, the use of **2d** proved more challenging, with the derived amination product **4d** obtained in 33% isolated yield. Analogous transformations involving phenethylamine leading to **4e,f**, and furfurylamine leading to **4g,h**, also proved viable. Collectively, these observations highlight the feasibility and challenges associated with promoting such C–N cross-couplings within the highly substituted frameworks of **2c,d**. Our efforts to effect the amination of such hindered trifluoromethylpyrazoles by use of (hetero)aryl amines were unsuccessful, as were transformations involving secondary amines, such as morpholine.

## Conclusions

In summary, we have developed a synthetically useful methodology for the construction of tetra-substituted trifluoromethylpyrazoles involving halogenation of 3-substituted 1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylpyrazoles, and subsequent palladium-catalyzed Negishi coupling or Buchwald–Hartwig amination employing (hetero)arylzinc chlorides and primary alkylamines, respectively. The presence of a trifluoromethyl group and the sterically encumbered nature of the requisite halopyrazole coupling partners make such transformations rather challenging; nonetheless, with the appropriate selection of ancillary co-ligand (XPhos and JosiPhos CyPF-*t*Bu), such sought-after transformations were realized. Future work will involve applying such catalytic strategies toward the construction of alternative congested heterocyclic frameworks.

## Experimental section

### General considerations

Unless otherwise indicated, all reagents and solvents used were obtained from commercial suppliers and were used without further purification. THF was purified by refluxing over Na/benzophenone followed distillation, all under nitrogen atmosphere. Toluene was deoxygenated by sparging with nitrogen followed by passage through an mBraun double column

solvent purification system packed with alumina and copper-Q5 reactant and storage over activated 4 Å molecular sieves. All Buchwald–Hartwig cross-coupling reactions were setup inside a nitrogen-filled inert atmosphere glovebox and worked up in air using benchtop procedures. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (230–400 mesh). All NMR spectra were acquired on a 400, 500 or 600 MHz spectrometer, employing tetramethylsilane or a residual non-deuterated solvent signal as an internal reference (CHCl<sub>3</sub> = <sup>1</sup>H 7.26 ppm, <sup>13</sup>C 77.0 ppm). All results are reported as follows: chemical shift ( $\delta$ ) (multiplicity, coupling constant, integration). Splitting patterns are indicated as follows: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, qui = apparent quintet, m = multiplet, b = broad. All coupling constants (*J*) are reported in Hertz (Hz). GC-MS analyses were registered with a split-splitless injector, auto-sampler, capillary column (30 m, 0.32 mm internal diameter), using helium as the carrier gas. High resolution mass spectrometry spectrometric data (HRMS) were obtained using ion trap (ESI) instruments operating in positive ion mode.

### General procedure for the synthesis of 1-phenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-pyrazoles (**1a–b**)

The pyrazoles **1a–b** were prepared following the procedures described in the literature.<sup>12</sup> A solution of phenyl hydrazine (5.5 mmol) in ethanol (20 mL) was added dropwise *via* pipette over the course of five minutes into a 100 mL round bottom flask containing a magnetic stir bar and a solution of the corresponding 1,1,1-trifluoro-4-methoxy-alken-2-one (5 mmol) in ethanol (50 mL) that was held at 0 °C under the influence of magnetic stirring. The system was subsequently left to warm to room temperature over 1 h. A reflux condenser was then affixed to the reaction flask, and the flask was submerged into an oil bath set to 78 °C with continued stirring for 24 h. The solvent was removed on the rotary evaporator under reduced pressure and the residual crude pyrazoles **1a–b** were purified by use of column chromatography employing 5% ethyl acetate in hexanes solution as eluent.

**3-Methyl-1-phenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-pyrazole (1a).** Physical aspect: yellow oil. Yield: 1.11 g – 98%. NMR: <sup>1</sup>H (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 7.47–7.41 (m, 5H), 6.58 (s, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 148.7, 131.2, 132.8 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C–F</sub> = 37, C-5), 128.8, 128.8, 125.4, 119.8 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C–F</sub> = 269, CF<sub>3</sub>), 108.4 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C–F</sub> = 2, C-4), 12.9. GC-MS (70 eV): *m/z* (%) 226 (100), 205 (21), 157 (12), 77 (18). Agrees with data previously reported in the literature.<sup>13</sup>

**1,5-Diphenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-pyrazole (1b).** Physical aspect: yellow solid. Yield: 1.37 g – 95%. NMR: <sup>1</sup>H (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 7.89–7.87 (m, 2H), 7.58–7.57 (m, 2H), 7.55–7.48 (m, 3H), 7.46–7.43 (m, 2H), 7.40–7.36 (m, 1H), 7.12 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 151.6, 139.2, 133.9 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C–F</sub> = 39), 131.7, 129.3, 129.1, 128.8, 128.63, 125.8, 125.7, 119.8 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C–F</sub> = 269, CF<sub>3</sub>), 106.1. GC-MS (70 eV): *m/z* (%) 288 (100), 267 (35), 219 (7), 77 (14). Agrees with data previously reported in the literature.<sup>13</sup>



### General procedure for the synthesis of 4-halo-1-phenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazoles (2a-d)

**4-Iodo-1-phenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazoles (2a-b).** A solution of NIS (6 mmol) in TFA (5 mL) was added dropwise *via* pipette at room temperature to a 25 mL round bottom flask containing a magnetic stir bar and a solution of the pyrazole (**1a-b**, 5 mmol) in acetic acid (5 mL), under the influence of magnetic stirring. The mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 3 h. Upon cooling to room temperature, the crude reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL) and saturated aqueous sodium bisulfite (15 mL) was added. The biphasic mixture was cooled to 0 °C and the acid medium was neutralized with 5 M aqueous sodium hydroxide. The phases were separated, and the aqueous fraction washed with diethyl ether (3 × 15 mL). The organic phases were combined, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, and the collected eluent was concentrated on a rotary evaporator under reduced pressure. The residual crude products **2a-b** were purified by use of column chromatography employing 2% ethyl acetate in hexanes solution as eluent.

**4-Iodo-3-methyl-1-phenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazole (2a).** Physical aspect: yellow solid. Melting point: 49–51 °C. Yield: 1.46 g – 83%. NMR: <sup>1</sup>H (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C) δ = 7.47–7.46 (m, 3H), 7.40–7.39 (m, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C) δ = 152.7, 139.6, 133.4 (q, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>C-F</sub> = 37), 129.5, 129.0, 126.0, 119.3 (q, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>C-F</sub> = 271, CF<sub>3</sub>), 64.0, 14.1. GC-MS (70 eV): *m/z* (%) 352 (M+, 100), 224 (5), 184 (10), 77 (60). Agrees with data previously reported in the literature.<sup>14</sup>

**4-Iodo-1,3-diphenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazole (2b).** Physical aspect: white solid. Melting point: 141–143 °C. Yield: 1.82 g – 88%. NMR: <sup>1</sup>H (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C) δ = 7.81 (d, *J* = 6.8, 2H), 7.50–7.42 (m, 5H), 7.46–7.45 (m, 2H), 7.44–7.42 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C) δ = 154.4, 139.7, 134.4 (q, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>C-F</sub> = 37), 131.5, 130.6, 129.7, 129.1, 129.0, 128.3, 126.1, 119.3 (q, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>C-F</sub> = 271, CF<sub>3</sub>), 61.5 (q, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>C-F</sub> = 2). GC-MS (70 eV): *m/z* (%) 414 (M+, 100), 287 (20), 184 (13), 77 (70). HRMS (ESI-TOF): C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>10</sub>F<sub>3</sub>IN<sub>2</sub>Na (M + Na) requires 436.9738/Found: 436.9733.

**4-Bromo-1-phenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazoles (2c-d).** An oven dried 4 dram screw top vial equipped with a stirrer bar was charged with the pyrazole (**1a-b**, 5 mmol) and NBS (12.5 mmol for **1a**; 15 mmol for **1b**). The vial was sealed with a screw cap that was fitted with a PTFE septum, and was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen *via* the PTFE septum. Anhydrous DMF (15 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 2 h. Upon cooling to room temperature, the crude reaction mixture was purified by use of column chromatography (without prior removal of the DMF), employing 2% ethyl acetate in hexanes solution as eluent.

**4-Bromo-3-methyl-1-phenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazole (2c).** Physical aspect: yellow oil. Yield: 1.45 g – 95%. NMR: <sup>1</sup>H (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C) δ = 7.48–7.45 (m, 3H), 7.43–7.40 (m, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C) δ = 149.2, 139.5, 130.2 (q, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>C-F</sub> = 38), 129.5, 129.0, 125.9, 119.4 (q, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>C-F</sub> = 271, CF<sub>3</sub>), 97.6, 12.0. HRMS (ESI-TOF): C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>9</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>

(M + H) requires 304.9901/ Found: 304.9884. Agrees with data previously reported in the literature.<sup>15</sup>

**4-Bromo1,3-diphenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazole (2d).** Physical aspect: white solid. Yield: 1.69 g – 92%. Melting point: 98–100 °C. NMR: <sup>1</sup>H (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C) δ = 7.91–7.89 (m, 2H), 7.53–7.49 (m, 5H), 7.48–7.42 (m, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C) δ = 150.7, 139.6, 131.4 (q, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>C-F</sub> = 38), 130.6, 129.7, 129.1, 129.0, 128.4, 128.3, 126.1, 119.3 (q, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>C-F</sub> = 271, CF<sub>3</sub>), 95.6. HRMS (ESI-TOF): C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>11</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub> (M + H) requires 367.0058/ Found: 367.0052.

### General procedure for the synthesis of the organozinc reagents

Into a Schlenk-flask equipped with a septum and a magnetic stirrer bar were added magnesium turnings (3 equiv.) and LiCl (1.2 equiv.). The system was dried with a heat gun under vacuum for 10 minutes. Upon cooling to room temperature, the Schlenk-flask was backfilled with argon and charged with anhydrous THF (2 mL per mmol of organic halide to be added). The magnesium turnings were activated with *i*Bu<sub>2</sub>AlH (0.2 mL 0.1 M in THF per 3 mmol of magnesium). After 5 minutes of stirring, the organic halide was added in one portion at 0 °C (25 °C for 4-bromobenzonitrile and 2-chlorothiophene). The mixture was stirred for 0.5 h (2 h for 4-bromobenzonitrile; 1 h for 2-chlorothiophene), and then was transferred *via* cannula to another Schlenk-flask (previously dried under vacuum and backfilled with argon) containing 1.1 equivalents of anhydrous ZnCl<sub>2</sub> solution in THF, cooled in an ice bath. The mixture was stirred under this condition for 10 minutes prior to use.

### General procedure for the Negishi cross-coupling reactions with 4-halo-5-trifluoromethyl-1H-pyrazoles

An oven dried Schlenk-flask, equipped with a rubber septum and a stirrer bar, was charged with 4-halopyrazole (**2a-d**, 0.5 mmol), **XPhos/Pd-G3** (2 mol%, 8.4 mg) and **XPhos** (2 mol%, 4.8 mg). The system was evacuated and backfilled with argon (operation performed three times). At room temperature THF (2 mL) and the freshly prepared organozinc reagent solution were transferred to the reaction flask *via* cannula. The reaction mixture was stirred magnetically at 40 °C for 14 h and then was quenched with 1 mL of aqueous saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution. The mixture was washed with ethyl acetate (3 × 15 mL), the organic layers were combined and dried over sodium sulfate and were filtered. The eluent was concentrated on the rotary evaporator under reduced pressure. The crude reaction products thus obtained were purified by use of column chromatography.

**3-Methyl-1,4-diphenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazole (3a).** Eluted with 2% EtOAc/hexanes. Physical aspect: yellow solid. Yield: 137 mg – 91%. Melting point: 55–56 °C. NMR: <sup>1</sup>H (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C) δ = 7.52–7.50 (m, 2H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.47–7.45 (m, 2H), 7.43–7.42 (m, 2H), 7.39–7.37 (m, 1H), 7.35–7.34 (m, 2H), 2.26 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C) δ = 148.2, 139.7, 131.0, 129.8, 129.0 (q, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>C-F</sub> = 37, C-5), 129.0, 128.2, 127.8, 125.9, 124.0, 120.1 (q, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>C-F</sub> = 271, CF<sub>3</sub>), 12.0. GC-MS (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* (%) 302 (100), 233 (10),



165 (10), 77 (14). Elemental Analysis:  $C_{17}H_{13}F_3N_2$  requires: C 67.54; H 4.33; N 9.27. Found: C 67.32; H 4.17; N 9.15. Agrees with data previously reported in the literature.<sup>3</sup>

**1,3,4-Triphenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazole (3b).** Eluted with 2% EtOAc/hexanes. Physical aspect: white solid. Yield: 171 mg – 94%. Melting point: 131–133 °C. NMR:  $^1H$  (600 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 7.60–7.54 (m, 2H), 7.51–7.46 (m, 3H), 7.42–7.41 (m, 2H), 7.37–7.36 (m, 3H), 7.33–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.23–7.22 (m, 3H).  $^{13}C\{^1H\}$  (150 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 150.4, 139.8, 131.8, 131.1, 130.4 (q,  $^2J_{C-F}$  = 37), 130.4, 129.2, 129.0, 128.4, 128.2, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0, 126.1, 123.3, 120.1 (q,  $^1J_{C-F}$  = 271,  $CF_3$ ). GC-MS (EI, 70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) 364 (M+, 100), 323 (7), 295 (9), 77 (13). Elemental Analysis:  $C_{22}H_{15}F_3N_2$  requires: C 72.52; H 4.15; N 7.69. Found: C 72.30; H 4.21; N 7.54.

**3-Methyl-1-phenyl-4-(*p*-tolyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazole (3c).** Eluted with 2% EtOAc/hexanes. Physical aspect: white solid. Yield: 131 mg – 83%. Melting point: 120–121 °C. NMR:  $^1H$  (600 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 7.51–7.43 (m, 5H), 7.25–7.22 (m, 4H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H).  $^{13}C\{^1H\}$  (150 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 148.3, 139.8, 137.5, 129.7, 129.0, 129.0, 128.9, 128.9 (q,  $^2J_{C-F}$  = 37), 128.0, 125.8, 124.0 (q,  $^3J_{C-F}$  = 1), 120.2 (q,  $^1J_{C-F}$  = 271,  $CF_3$ ), 21.2, 12.0. GC-MS (EI, 70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) 316 (M+, 100), 77 (11). Elemental Analysis:  $C_{18}H_{15}F_3N_2$  requires: C 68.35; H 4.78; N 8.86. Found: C 68.19; H 4.52; N 8.94.

**1,3-Diphenyl-4-(*p*-tolyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazole (3d).** Eluted with 2% EtOAc/hexanes. Physical aspect: white solid. Yield: 172 mg – 91%. Melting point: 159–161 °C. NMR:  $^1H$  (600 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 7.59–7.58 (m, 2H), 7.50–7.43 (m, 5H), 7.23–7.17 (m, 7H), 2.38 (s,  $CH_3$ ).  $^{13}C\{^1H\}$  (150 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 150.5, 139.9, 137.8, 131.9, 130.3 (q,  $^2J_{C-F}$  = 37), 130.2, 129.2, 129.1, 129.0, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0, 128.0, 126.1, 123.3, 120.1 (q,  $^1J_{C-F}$  = 271,  $CF_3$ ), 21.3. GC-MS (EI, 70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) 378 (M+, 100), 363 (12), 77 (13). Elemental Analysis:  $C_{23}H_{17}F_3N_2$  requires: C 73.01; H 4.53; N 7.40. Found: C 73.07; H 4.46; N 7.07.

**4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-1-phenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazole (3e).** Eluted with 3% EtOAc/hexanes. Physical aspect: white solid. Yield: 143 mg – 86%. Melting point: 113–115 °C. NMR:  $^1H$  (600 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 7.51–7.43 (m, 5H), 7.28–7.25 (m, 2H), 6.99–6.96 (m, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H).  $^{13}C\{^1H\}$  (150 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 159.3, 148.4, 139.8, 131.0, 129.1, 129.0, 128.9 (q,  $^2J_{C-F}$  = 37), 125.9, 123.8 (q,  $^3J_{C-F}$  = 1), 123.2, 120.2 (q,  $^1J_{C-F}$  = 270,  $CF_3$ ), 113.8, 55.2, 12.1. GC-MS (EI, 70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) 332 (M+, 100), 317 (27), 77 (5). Elemental Analysis:  $C_{18}H_{15}F_3N_2O$  requires: C 65.06; H 4.55; N 8.43. Found: C 64.96; H 4.40; N 8.53.

**4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1,3-diphenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazole (3f).** Eluted with 2% EtOAc/hexanes. Physical aspect: white solid. Yield: 172 mg – 87%. Melting point: 172–175 °C. NMR:  $^1H$  (600 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 7.60 (d,  $J$  = 7, 2H), 7.53–7.47 (m, 3H), 7.44–7.43 (m, 2H), 7.26–7.23 (m, 5H), 6.93–6.91 (m, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H).  $^{13}C\{^1H\}$  (150 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 159.3, 150.4, 139.8, 131.8, 131.4, 130.2 (q,  $^2J_{C-F}$  = 36), 129.2, 129.0, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0, 126.0, 123.1, 122.9 (q,  $^3J_{C-F}$  = 1), 120.1 (q,  $^1J_{C-F}$  = 271,  $CF_3$ ), 113.8, 55.2. GC-MS (EI, 70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) 394 (M+, 100), 379 (8), 77 (13). Elemental Analysis:

$C_{23}H_{17}F_3N_2O$  requires: C 70.04; H 4.34; N 7.10. Found: C 70.32; H 4.02; N 6.96.

**4-(3-Methyl-1-phenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl) benzonitrile (3g).** Eluted with 5% EtOAc/hexanes. Physical aspect: white solid. Yield: 137 mg – 84%. Melting point: 117–119 °C. NMR:  $^1H$  (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 7.75–7.73 (m, 2H), 7.51–7.49 (m, 5H), 7.48–7.46 (m, 2H), 2.26 (s, 3H).  $^{13}C\{^1H\}$  (125 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 147.8, 139.3, 136.1, 132.1, 130.6, 129.4 (q,  $^2J_{C-F}$  = 37), 129.4, 129.1, 125.8, 122.2, 119.8 (q,  $^1J_{C-F}$  = 271,  $CF_3$ ), 118.5, 111.8, 12.0. HRMS (ESI-TOF):  $C_{15}H_{12}F_3N_2$  (M + H) requires 328.1062/Found: 328.1051.

**4-(1,3-Diphenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl) benzonitrile (3h).** Eluted with 5% EtOAc/hexanes. Physical aspect: off-white solid. Yield: 148 mg – 76%. Melting point: 222–224 °C. NMR:  $^1H$  (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 7.70–7.68 (m, 2H), 7.61–7.58 (m, 2H), 7.57–7.51 (m, 3H), 7.47–7.45 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.31–7.27 (m, 3H).  $^{13}C\{^1H\}$  (125 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 150.4, 139.3, 136.1, 132.1, 131.2, 130.9, 130.4 (q,  $^2J_{C-F}$  = 37), 129.6, 129.2, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 125.9, 121.2, 119.7 (q,  $^1J_{C-F}$  = 271,  $CF_3$ ), 118.5, 112.0. HRMS (ESI-TOF):  $C_{23}H_{15}F_3N_2$  (M + H) requires 390.1218/Found: 390.1200.

**3-Methyl-1-phenyl-4-(thiophen-2-yl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazole (3i).** Eluted with 3% EtOAc/hexanes. Physical aspect: yellow solid. Yield: 139 mg – 90%. Melting point: 62–64 °C. NMR:  $^1H$  (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 7.51–7.45 (m, 5H), 7.42 (dd,  $J$  = 5.1, 1.1, 1H), 7.12 (dd,  $J$  = 5.1, 3.5, 1H), 7.08 (dd,  $J$  = 3.4, 0.8, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H).  $^{13}C\{^1H\}$  (125 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 149.4, 139.8, 131.0, 130.1 (q,  $^2J_{C-F}$  = 37), 129.4, 129.2, 128.7, 127.3, 126.8, 126.1, 120.1 (q,  $^1J_{C-F}$  = 271,  $CF_3$ ), 116.9, 12.4. GC-MS (EI, 70 eV):  $m/z$  (%) 308 (M+, 100), 198 (8), 77 (11). HRMS (ESI-TOF):  $C_{15}H_{12}F_3N_2S$  (M + H) requires 309.0673/Found: 309.0662.

**1,3-Diphenyl-4-(thiophen-2-yl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazole (3j).** Eluted with 3% EtOAc/hexanes. Physical aspect: off-white solid. Yield: 168 mg – 91%. Melting point: 158–159 °C. NMR:  $^1H$  (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 7.60–7.58 (m, 2H), 7.55–7.49 (m, 5H), 7.42 (dd,  $J$  = 4.9, 1.4, 1H), 7.31–7.27 (m, 3H), 7.11–7.08 (m, 2H).  $^{13}C\{^1H\}$  (125 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 151.3, 139.6, 131.4 (q,  $^2J_{C-F}$  = 37), 131.3, 130.7, 129.4, 129.2, 129.1, 128.4, 128.3, 128.0, 127.2, 127.1, 126.0, 119.7 (q,  $^1J_{C-F}$  = 271,  $CF_3$ ), 115.5. HRMS (ESI-TOF):  $C_{20}H_{14}F_3N_2S$  (M + H) requires 371.0830/Found: 371.0817.

#### General procedure for Buchwald–Hartwig cross-coupling reactions with 4-bromo-1-phenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazoles

Inside a nitrogen-filled inert atmosphere glovebox, [Pd(cinnamyl)Cl]<sub>2</sub> (2–3 mol%), JosiPhos CyPF-**4Bu** (4–6 mol%), Na<sup>o</sup>Bu (96.1 mg, 1 mmol), 4-bromo pyrazole **2a–b** (0.5 mmol), amine (1 mmol) and toluene (3 mL) were added to a screw capped vial containing a magnetic stir bar. The vial was sealed with a cap containing a PTFE septum, removed from the glovebox and placed in a temperature-controlled aluminum heating block set at 110 °C for the established time. The crude reaction mixture was filtered over a silica plug, followed by rinsing of the plug with 60 mL of  $CH_2Cl_2$ . The combined eluent was col-



lected, concentrated on the rotary evaporator, and the crude product thus obtained was purified by use of column chromatography.

**3-Methyl-N-octyl-1-phenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-amine (4a).** Eluted with 5% EtOAc/hexanes. Physical aspect: yellow oil. Yield: 132 mg – 75%. NMR:  $^1\text{H}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 7.44–7.37 (m, 5H), 3.06 (t,  $J$  = 7.1, 2H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 1.57 (qui,  $J$  = 7.2, 2H), 1.39–1.26 (m, 10H), 0.89 (t,  $J$  = 6.9, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 142.4, 140.0, 132.8, 128.9, 128.4, 125.5, 121.1 (q,  $^1J_{\text{C-F}}$  = 269,  $\text{CF}_3$ ), 120.1 (q,  $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$  = 36, C-5), 49.2, 31.8, 30.5, 29.4, 29.2, 26.8, 22.6, 14.0, 12.0. HRMS (ESI-TOF):  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{27}\text{F}_3\text{N}_3$  (M + H) requires 354.2157/Found: 354.2135.

**3-Methyl-N-octyl-1,3-diphenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-amine (4b).** Eluted with 5% EtOAc/hexanes. Physical aspect: pale oil. Yield: 168 mg – 81%. NMR:  $^1\text{H}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 7.89–7.88 (m, 2H), 7.52–7.43 (m, 7H), 7.39–7.35 (m, 1H), 2.95 (t,  $J$  = 7.1, 2H), 1.52 (qui,  $J$  = 7.1, 2H), 1.31–1.25 (m, 10H), 0.88 (t,  $J$  = 7.0, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 144.5, 140.0, 132.1, 132.0, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.2, 127.5, 125.7, 121.4 (q,  $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$  = 37), 120.9 (q,  $^1J_{\text{C-F}}$  = 269,  $\text{CF}_3$ ), 49.5, 31.7, 30.1, 29.3, 29.2, 26.7, 22.6, 14.0. HRMS (ESI-TOF):  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{28}\text{F}_3\text{N}_3\text{Na}$  (M + Na) requires 438.2123/Found: 438.2129.

**N-Benzyl-3-methyl-1-phenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-amine (4c).** Eluted with 5% EtOAc/hexanes. Physical aspect: pale oil. Yield: 116 mg – 70%. NMR:  $^1\text{H}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 7.46–7.39 (m, 5H), 7.37–7.34 (m, 4H), 7.33–7.29 (m, 1H), 4.26 (s, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 142.8, 139.9, 139.2, 132.0, 128.9, 128.6, 128.5, 127.9, 127.5, 125.5, 124.1, 120.9 (q,  $^1J_{\text{C-F}}$  = 269,  $\text{CF}_3$ ), 120.9 (q,  $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$  = 37), 53.6, 11.8. HRMS (ESI-TOF):  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{F}_3\text{N}_3$  (M + H) requires 332.1375/Found: 332.1365.

**N-Benzyl-1,3-diphenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-amine (4d).** Eluted with 5% EtOAc/hexanes. Physical aspect: yellow solid. Yield: 65 mg – 33%. Melting point: 56–58 °C. NMR:  $^1\text{H}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 7.95–7.93 (m, 2H), 7.50–7.46 (m, 7H), 7.41–7.38 (m, 1H), 7.36–7.29 (m, 3H), 7.28–7.26 (m, 2H), 4.13 (s, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 145.1, 140.1, 138.7, 132.2, 129.2, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 128.4, 127.9, 127.8, 126.4, 126.0, 122.7 (q,  $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$  = 38), 120.9 (q,  $^1J_{\text{C-F}}$  = 269,  $\text{CF}_3$ ), 53.8. HRMS (ESI-TOF):  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{19}\text{F}_3\text{N}_3$  (M + H) requires 394.1531/Found: 394.1532.

**3-Methyl-N-phenethyl-1-phenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-amine (4e).** Eluted with 5% EtOAc in hexanes. Physical aspect: yellow oil. Yield: 117 mg – 68%. NMR:  $^1\text{H}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 7.46–7.39 (m, 5H), 7.35–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.26–7.24 (m, 3H), 3.38 (t,  $J$  = 7.1, 2H), 3.25 (NH, 1H), 2.91 (t,  $J$  = 7.1, 2H), 2.26 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 142.3, 139.9, 138.8, 132.0, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 126.5, 125.5, 120.9 (q,  $^1J_{\text{C-F}}$  = 268,  $\text{CF}_3$ ), 120.3 (q,  $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$  = 37), 50.1, 36.6, 11.9. HRMS (ESI-TOF):  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{F}_3\text{N}_3$  (M + H) requires 346.1531/Found: 346.1523.

**N-Phenethyl-1,3-diphenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-amine (4f).** Eluted with 5% EtOAc/hexanes. Physical aspect: yellow oil. Yield: 120 mg – 59%. NMR:  $^1\text{H}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,

25 °C)  $\delta$  = 7.82–7.80 (m, 2H), 7.52–7.36 (m, 8H), 7.31–7.28 (m, 2H), 7.25–7.22 (m, 1H), 3.40 (b, 1H, NH), 3.26 (t,  $J$  = 7.0, 2H), 2.84 (t,  $J$  = 7.0, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 144.3, 140.0, 138.8, 132.1, 132.0, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 127.3, 126.4, 125.6, 121.2 (q,  $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$  = 37), 120.9 (q,  $^1J_{\text{C-F}}$  = 269,  $\text{CF}_3$ ), 50.2, 36.6. HRMS (ESI-TOF):  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{21}\text{F}_3\text{N}_3$  (M + H) requires 408.1688/Found: 408.1685.

**N-(Furan-2-ylmethyl)-3-methyl-1-phenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-amine (4g).** Eluted with 10% EtOAc/hexanes. Physical aspect: yellow oil. Yield: 72 mg – 45%. NMR:  $^1\text{H}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 7.45–7.39 (m, 5H), 7.38 (dd,  $J$  = 1.8, 0.7, 1H), 6.30 (dd,  $J$  = 3.1, 1.9, 1H), 6.17 (d,  $J$  = 3.1, 1H), 4.19 (s, 2H), 3.41 (b, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 152.6, 143.2, 142.2, 139.8, 131.1, 128.9, 128.5, 125.6, 121.6 (q,  $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$  = 37), 120.7 (q,  $^1J_{\text{C-F}}$  = 269,  $\text{CF}_3$ ), 110.2, 107.4, 46.0, 11.5. HRMS (ESI-TOF):  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{F}_3\text{N}_3\text{NaO}$  (M + Na) requires 344.0987/Found: 344.0982.

**N-(Furan-2-ylmethyl)-1,3-diphenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-amine (4h).** Eluted with 10% EtOAc/hexanes. Physical aspect: yellow oil. Yield: 81 mg – 42%. NMR:  $^1\text{H}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 7.93–7.90 (m, 2H), 7.50–7.42 (m, 7H), 7.40–7.37 (m, 1H), 7.34 (dd,  $J$  = 1.8, 0.8, 1H), 6.27 (dd,  $J$  = 3.1, 1.8, 1H), 6.07 (dd,  $J$  = 3.2, 0.7, 1H), 4.08 (s, 2H), 3.45 (b, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  = 152.4, 144.6, 142.2, 139.8, 132.0, 130.9, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.3, 127.4, 125.7, 122.2 (q,  $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$  = 37), 120.7 (q,  $^1J_{\text{C-F}}$  = 269,  $\text{CF}_3$ ), 110.1, 107.5, 45.6. HRMS (ESI-TOF):  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_3\text{N}_3\text{NaO}$  (M + Na) requires 406.1143/Found: 406.1143.

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