



Cite this: *RSC Adv.*, 2022, 12, 12983

Received 17th April 2022  
Accepted 21st April 2022

DOI: 10.1039/d2ra02473j

rsc.li/rsc-advances

# Palladium-catalysed difluoroolefination of benzyl tosylates toward the synthesis of *gem*-difluoro-2-trifluoromethyl styrene derivatives†

Jie Xu,<sup>a</sup> Jiangjun Liu,<sup>a</sup> Gang Chen,<sup>a</sup> Baojian Xiong,<sup>b</sup> Xuemei Zhang<sup>b</sup>  
and Zhong Lian<sup>ib\*ab</sup>

We have presented an efficient method to access *gem*-difluoro-2-trifluoromethyl styrene derivatives via palladium catalysis. This method features mild reaction conditions, broad substrate scope and good product yields. Moreover, gram-scale reactions demonstrated the robustness and potential of this method. Control experiments revealed that the  $-\text{CF}_3$  group was essential to the success of this transformation. Finally, the practicality of this method was successfully proven by three synthetic applications.

## Introduction

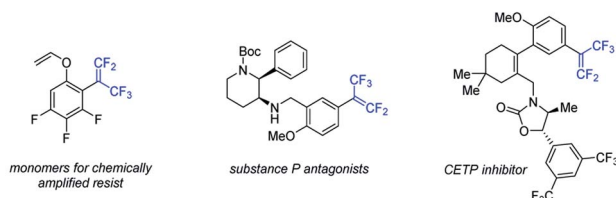
Fluorinated compounds have found wide applications in various fields due to their unique properties.<sup>1</sup> Among them, *gem*-difluorostyrenes have been frequently used in the design of potential enzyme inhibitors.<sup>2</sup> Introducing  $\alpha$ - $\text{CF}_3$  group into *gem*-difluoroolefins could not only retain its high electrophilicity towards many nucleophiles at the terminal carbon, but also increase the biological activity of the molecules (Fig. 1a).<sup>3</sup>

Compared with considerable efforts devoted to the development of *gem*-difluorostyrenes,<sup>4,5</sup> the synthesis of *gem*-difluoro-2-trifluoromethyl styrenes is less investigated. The most common method is Wittig *gem*-difluoroolefination of trifluoroacetophenone (Fig. 1b(1)).<sup>6</sup> Another pathway is a multi-step strategy involving nucleophilic addition of an aryl metallic reagent to chloropentafluoroacetone,  $\text{S}_{\text{N}}2$  type substitution of chloride anions and dechlorination with Zn (Fig. 1b(2)).<sup>7</sup> However, stoichiometric phosphine oxide as a by-product, utilization of organometallic reagents and multistep operation have greatly restricted substrate scope and applications of the methods above. Therefore, it is of great significance to develop a complementary method for the synthesis of *gem*-difluoro-2-trifluoromethyl styrenes.

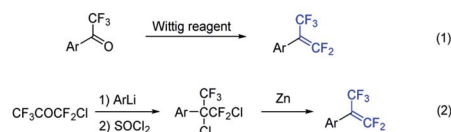
On the other hand, transition-metal catalysis plays an irreplaceable role in modern organic synthesis.<sup>8</sup> We hypothesize that a method including two elementary reactions to access

*gem*-difluoro-2-trifluoromethyl styrenes from trifluoromethyl-substituted benzyl tosylate by transition metal catalysis could be developed (Fig. 1c). From the perspective of elementary reactions, the oxidative addition of palladium catalyst into  $\text{Csp}^3\text{--O}$  bond<sup>9</sup> and  $\beta$ -F elimination of palladium complex<sup>10</sup> have been realized in different transformations in the reported work respectively. Therefore, the key to success of this strategy is to find a suitable catalyst system which is compatible with the two elementary reactions above.

a) Biologically active compounds containing *gem*-difluoro-2-trifluoromethyl olefin moiety.



b) Previous pathways to access *gem*-difluoro-2-trifluoromethyl olefins.



c) Our strategy (this work)

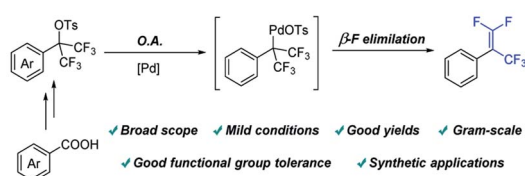


Fig. 1 Importance of *gem*-difluoro-2-trifluoromethyl olefins and synthetic strategy.

<sup>a</sup>West China School of Pharmacy, Sichuan University, Chengdu 610041, China

<sup>b</sup>Department of Dermatology, State Key Laboratory of Biotherapy and Cancer Center, West China Hospital, Sichuan University, Chengdu 610041, China. E-mail: lianzhong@scu.edu.cn

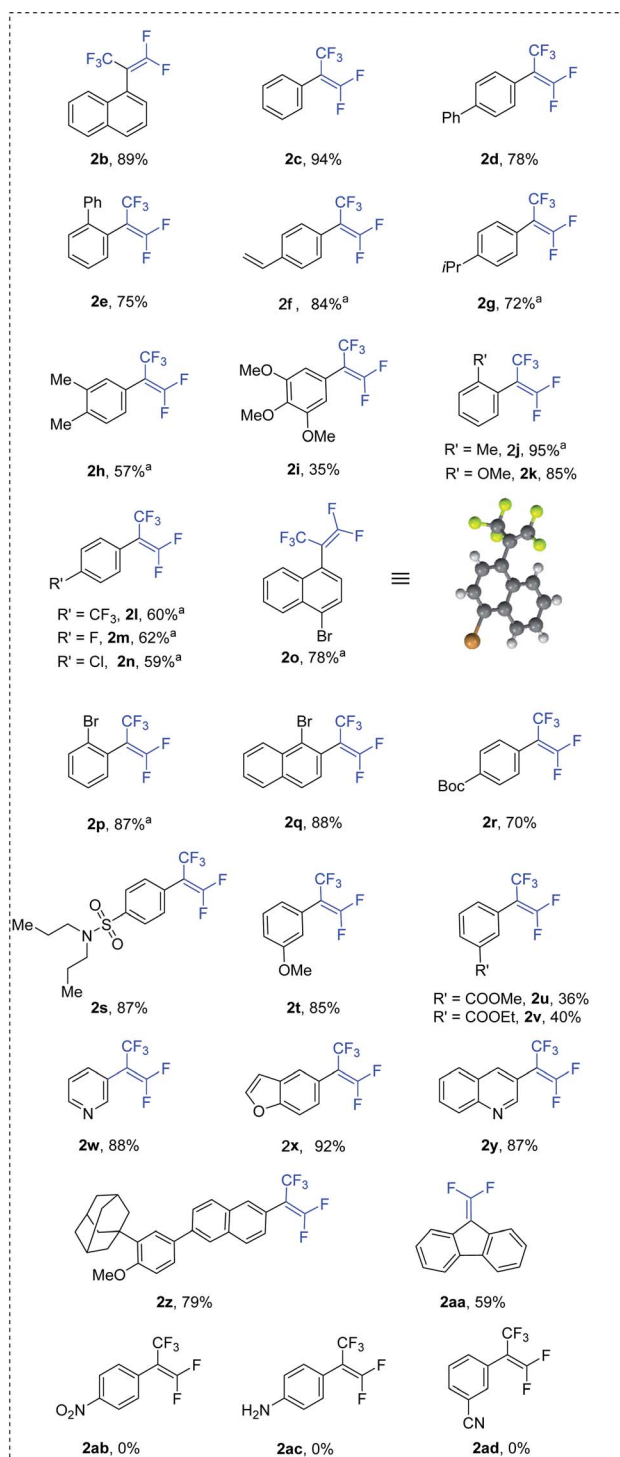
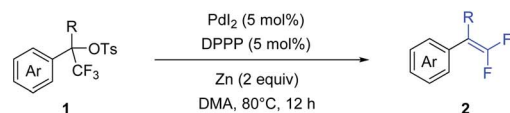
† Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available. CCDC 2074740. For ESI and crystallographic data in CIF or other electronic format see <https://doi.org/10.1039/d2ra02473j>



## Results and discussion

To demonstrate our hypothesis, we began the study by evaluating *gem*-difluoroolefination of trifluoromethyl-substituted benzyl tosylate (**1a**) via palladium catalysis (Table 1). Compound **1a** could be easily synthesized from corresponding aryl carboxylic acid.<sup>11</sup> After evaluation of all reaction parameters, reaction conditions which could provide a high yield of **2a** was identified. The optimum reaction conditions consisted of PdI<sub>2</sub> (5 mol%) with bidentate ligand DPPP (5 mol%) as catalyst, zinc (2.0 equiv.) as reductant, and DMA as solvent at 80 °C (entry 1). Using other palladium sources as catalyst resulted in lower yields (entries 2–5). Variation of monodentate and other bidentate phosphine ligands from DPPP led to moderate yields of **2a** (entries 6–11), while nitrogen ligands would inhibit the reaction with the majority of **1a** unconverted (entries 12–13). Solvents screening revealed that DMA was the best choice for this transformation (entries 14–18). Lastly, reaction temperature investigation suggested that the desired product **2a** could be formed in the highest yield at 80 °C, although the yield was acceptable at 40 °C (entries 19–21).

With the optimized conditions in hand, the substrate scope of this transformation was investigated and the results are summarized in Scheme 1. Initially, substrates with electron-



Scheme 1 Substrate scope. <sup>a</sup>The temperature is 100 °C and PdI<sub>2</sub> (10 mol%), DPPP (10 mol%) were used.

Table 1 Optimization of the reaction conditions<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Variation from std. conditions	Yield of <b>2a</b> <sup>b</sup>
1	None	93% (90%) <sup>c</sup>
2	Pd(dba) <sub>2</sub> instead of PdI <sub>2</sub>	60%
3	PdCl <sub>2</sub> instead of PdI <sub>2</sub>	61%
4	Pd(acac) <sub>2</sub> instead of PdI <sub>2</sub>	86%
5	Pd(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> instead of PdI <sub>2</sub>	82%
6	PPh <sub>3</sub> instead of DPPP	64%
7	PCy <sub>3</sub> instead of DPPP	68%
8	( <i>n</i> -Bu)P(ad) <sub>2</sub> instead of DPPP	65%
9	DPEPhos instead of DPPP	27%
10	DPPF instead of DPPP	43%
11	XantPhos instead of DPPP	73%
12	1,10-Phenanthroline instead of DPPP	9%
13	2,2-Bipyridine instead of DPPP	20%
14	DMF instead of DMA	54%
15	MeCN instead of DMA	57%
16	THF instead of DMA	34%
17	Toluene instead of DMA	29%
18	1,4-Dioxane instead of DMA	31%
19	100 °C instead of 80 °C	85%
20	60 °C instead of 80 °C	86%
21	40 °C instead of 80 °C	75%

<sup>a</sup> Standard reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), PdI<sub>2</sub> (5 mol%), DPPP (5 mol%), Zn (2 equiv.), DMA (1.0 mL), 80 °C, 12 h. <sup>b</sup> Yields were determined by GC analysis using dodecane as an internal standard.

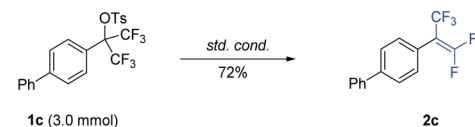
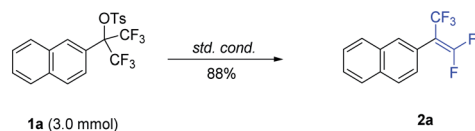
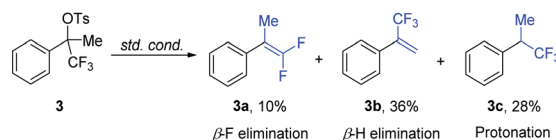
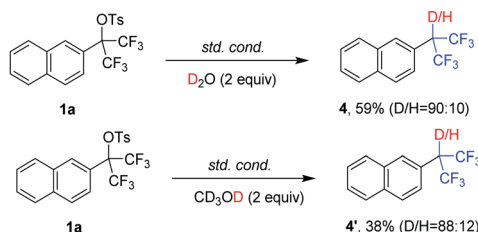
<sup>c</sup> Isolated yield in the parenthesis.

neutral aryl groups, such as naphthalene ring and benzene ring, were examined. The reactions proceeded smoothly and produced the corresponding *gem*-difluoroolefins in excellent

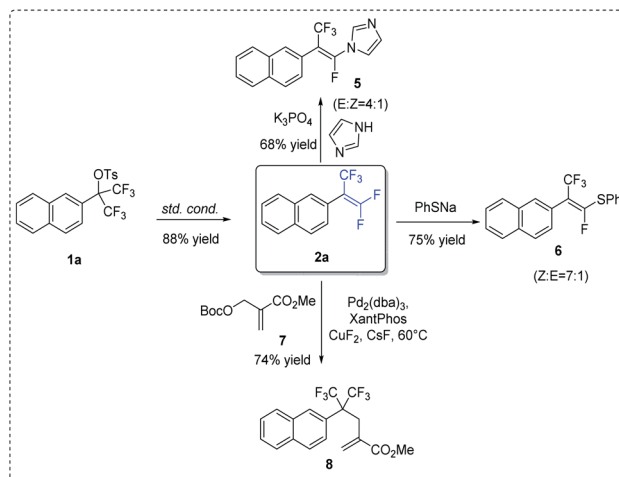


yields (**2b–2c**). Benzene ring bearing a phenyl substituent at the *para* and *ortho* position also afforded the corresponding products in good yields (**2d–2e**). In addition, vinyl group were also well tolerated (**2f**). Next, compounds with electron-rich substituents were evaluated. The usage of isopropyl-, methyl-, methoxy-substituted substrates led the formation of corresponding products in moderated to good yields (**2g–2k**). Various electron-poor substrates were also investigated. Compounds containing halogen and trifluoromethyl groups in *para* position were adapted to the reactions and gave desired products in moderate yields (**2l–2o**). The configuration of compound **2o** was confirmed by X-ray crystallography.<sup>12</sup> Notably, aryl ring bearing bromide at the *ortho* position had positive hindrance effect on the reaction, resulting in good yields (**2p–2q**). In addition, both Boc- and sulfonamide-substituted tosylates were tolerated, giving the corresponding products **2r** and **2s** in 70% and 87% yields respectively. Aryl ring containing methoxy at the *meta* position (**2t**) obtained 85% yield, while substrate with an ester group (**2u–2v**) led to a lower yield. Pleasingly, the reaction was compatible with a range of heterocycles, as demonstrated by the excellent yields obtained for a series of substrates containing pyridine, furan and quinoline ring (**2w–2z**). Lastly, diaryl-trifluoromethyl tosylate could also be converted to corresponding *gem*-difluorostyrene (**2aa**) in moderate yield. Unfortunately, nitro (**2ab**), amino (**2ac**) and cyano (**2ad**) groups were found to unsuitable for the reaction.

## a) Gram-scale reactions.

b) Effect of CF<sub>3</sub> group.c) D<sub>2</sub>O and CD<sub>3</sub>OD quenching reaction.

Scheme 2 Gram-scale reactions and control experiments.



Scheme 3 Synthetic applications.

The robustness and potential of this method have also been successfully demonstrated by **2a** (88% yield) and **2c** (72% yield) in gram-scale reactions (Scheme 2a). Next, the effect of –CF<sub>3</sub> group was investigated (Scheme 2b). Mono-CF<sub>3</sub>-substituted benzyl tosylate **3** was subjected to the standard conditions, resulting in β-F elimination product **3a** (10%), β-H elimination product **3b** (36%) and protonated product **3c** (28%). To gain more insight into the mechanism, a control experiment was carried out (Scheme 2c). The reaction was carried out in the presence of D<sub>2</sub>O (2.0 equiv.) or CD<sub>3</sub>OD (2.0 equiv.) under the standard conditions, leading to the formation of protonated product D-4 or D-4'. This result indicated that Pd(0) was oxidatively added into C–OTs bond rather than C–F bond.

To illustrate synthetic utility of this methodology, previously synthesized **2a** was subjected to subsequent transformations (Scheme 3). Firstly, the reaction of compound **2a** with imidazole in the presence of K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> could provide the *N*-(α-fluorovinyl)azole product **5**.<sup>13,15</sup> Likewise, treatment of **2a** with sodium phenyl thiolate in THF at room temperature for 12 h resulted in the formation of vinyl sulfide **6** (*Z* : *E* = 7 : 1) in 75% yield.<sup>14,15</sup> Lastly, in the presence of palladium catalyst, allylic alkylation between **2a** and allyl *tert*-butyl carbonate **7** could take place, in which the nucleophilic addition of external fluoride onto *gem*-difluoroalkenes was the initial step.<sup>16</sup>

## Conclusions

In conclusion, we have developed an efficient pathway to access *gem*-difluoro-2-trifluoromethyl styrene derivatives *via* palladium catalysis. This transformation features mild reaction conditions, broad functional group tolerance and good yields. Gram-scale reactions have demonstrated the robustness and potential of this method, and various synthetic applications have proved the practicality of this strategy.

## Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

## Acknowledgements

This work is supported by National Natural Science Foundation of China (21901168), “1000-Youth Talents Plan”, Sichuan Science and Technology Program (2021YJ0395) and “1.3.5 project for disciplines of excellence, West China Hospital, Sichuan University”. We also thank Jing Li from the Comprehensive Training Platform of Specialized Laboratory in College of Chemistry at Sichuan University for sample analysis.

## Notes and references

- (a) K. Müller, C. Faeh and F. Diederich, Fluorine in Pharmaceuticals: Looking Beyond Intuition, *Science*, 2007, **317**, 1881–1886; (b) E. P. Gillis, K. J. Eastman, M. D. Hill, D. J. Donnelly and N. A. Meanwell, Applications of Fluorine in Medicinal Chemistry, *J. Med. Chem.*, 2015, **58**, 8315–8359; (c) L. Xing, D. C. Blakemore, A. Narayanan, R. Unwalla, F. Lovering, R. A. Denny, H. Y. Zhou and M. E. Bunnage, Fluorine in Drug Design: A Case Study with Fluoroanisoles, *ChemMedChem*, 2015, **10**, 715–726.
- (a) J.-M. Altenburger, G. Y. Lassalle, M. Matrougui, D. Galtier, J.-C. Jetha, Z. Bocskei, C. N. Berry, C. Lunven, J. Lorrain, J.-P. Herault, P. Schaeffer, S. E. O'Connor and J.-M. Herbert, SSR182289A, a selective and potent orally active thrombin inhibitor, *Bioorg. Med. Chem.*, 2004, **12**, 1713–1730; (b) M. A. Rogawski, Diverse mechanisms of antiepileptic drugs in the development pipeline, *Epilepsy Res.*, 2006, **69**, 273–294; (c) W. R. Moore, G. L. Schatzman, E. T. Jarvi, R. S. Gross and J. R. McCarthy, Terminal difluoro olefin analogs of squalene are time-dependent inhibitors of squalene epoxidase, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1992, **114**, 360–361.
- (a) N. Mutsuo, H. Jun, W. Atsushi and H. Yuji, *Styrenes as monomers for chemically amplified resist base polymers*, JP 2001181226, A 2001; (b) L. Seohee, O. Jungtaek, L. Jaekwang, L. Jaewon, B. Suyee, H. Nina and L. Sera, *Preparation of cycloalkenyl aryl derivatives as therapeutic CETP inhibitor*, WO 2012141487, A2 2012; (c) S. Kunio, S. Yuji and W. Hiroaki, *Preparation of substituted benzylaminopiperidines as substance P antagonists*, WO 9708144, A1, 1997.
- For selected reviews on the synthesis of *gem*-difluorostyrenes, see: (a) G. Chelucci, Synthesis and Metal-Catalyzed Reactions of *gem*-Dihalovinyl Systems, *Chem. Rev.*, 2012, **112**, 1344–1462; (b) J. Ichikawa, *gem*-Difluoroolefin synthesis: general methods *via* thermostable difluorovinylmetals starting from 2,2,2-trifluoroethanol derivatives, *J. Fluorine Chem.*, 2000, **105**, 257–263; (c) X. X. Zhang and S. Cao, Recent advances in the synthesis and C-F functionalization of *gem*-difluoroalkenes, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 2017, **58**, 375–392; (d) F. T. Tian, G. B. Yan and J. Yu, Recent advances in the synthesis and applications of  $\alpha$ -(trifluoromethyl)styrenes in organic synthesis, *Chem. Commun.*, 2019, **55**, 13486–13505.
- Selected examples, see: (a) Q. Pan, Y. Y. Ping, Y. F. Wang, Y. Guo and W. Q. Kong, Ni-Catalyzed Ligand-Controlled Regiodivergent Reductive Dicarbofunctionalization of Alkenes, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2021, **143**, 10282–10291; (b) J. Zheng, J. Cai, J. H. Lin, Y. Guo and J. C. Xiao, Synthesis and decarboxylative Wittig reaction of difluoromethylene phosphobetaine, *Chem. Commun.*, 2013, **49**, 7513–7515; (c) T. B. Xiao, L. Y. Li and L. Zhou, Synthesis of Functionalized *gem*-Difluoroalkenes *via* a Photocatalytic Decarboxylative/Defluorinative Reaction, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2016, **81**, 7908–7916; (d) L. H. Wu, J. K. Cheng, L. Shen, Z. L. Shen and T. P. Loh, Visible Light-Mediated Trifluoromethylation of Fluorinated Alkenes *via* C–F Bond Cleavage, *Adv. Synth. Catal.*, 2018, **360**, 3894–3899; (e) Y. Ma, B. R. P. Reddy and X. H. Bi, Coupling of Trifluoroacetaldehyde *N*-Triftosylhydrazone with Organoboronic Acids for the Synthesis of *gem*-Difluoroalkenes, *Org. Lett.*, 2019, **21**, 9860–9863; (f) P. Gao, G. Q. Wang, L. L. Xi, M. Y. Wang, S. H. Li and Z. Z. Shi, Transition-Metal-Free Defluorosilylation of Fluoroalkenes with Silylboronates, *Chin. J. Chem.*, 2019, **37**, 1009–1014; (g) J. L. Zeng, Y. Zhang, M. M. Zheng, Z. Q. Zhang, X. S. Xue, F. G. Zhang and J.-A. Ma, Chemodivergent and Stereoselective Construction of *gem*-Difluoroallylic Amines from Masked Difluorodiazole Reagents, *Org. Lett.*, 2019, **21**, 8244–8249; (h) X. Lu, X. X. Wang, T. J. Gong, J. J. Pi, S. J. He and Y. Fu, Nickel-catalyzed allylic defluorinative alkylation of trifluoromethyl alkenes with reductive decarboxylation of redox-active esters, *Chem. Sci.*, 2019, **10**, 809–814; (i) Y. Y. Cai, H. Zeng, C. L. Zhu, C. Liu, G. Y. Liu and H. F. Jiang, Double allylic defluorinative alkylation of 1,1-bisnucleophiles with (trifluoromethyl)alkenes: construction of all-carbon quaternary centers, *Org. Chem. Front.*, 2020, **7**, 1260–1265; (j) B. J. Xiong, T. Wang, H. T. Sun, Y. Li, S. Kramer, G.-J. Cheng and Z. Lian, Nickel-Catalyzed Cross-Electrophile Coupling Reactions for the Synthesis of *gem*-Difluorovinyl Arenes, *ACS Catal.*, 2020, **10**, 13616–13623; (k) Y. W. Wang, L. F. Deng, X. Zhang, Z. D. Mou and D. W. Niu, A Radical Approach to Making Unnatural Amino Acids: Conversion of C–S Bonds in Cysteine Derivatives into C–C Bonds, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2021, **60**, 2155–2159.
- (a) F. Wang, L. C. Li, C. F. Ni and J. B. Hu, Deoxygenative *gem*-difluoroolefination of carbonyl compounds with (chlorodifluoromethyl)trimethylsilane and triphenylphosphine, *Beilstein J. Org. Chem.*, 2014, **10**, 344–351; (b) K. Aikawa, W. Toya, Y. Nakamura and K. Mikami, Development of (Trifluoromethyl)zinc Reagent as Trifluoromethyl Anion and Difluorocarbene Sources, *Org. Lett.*, 2015, **17**, 4996–4999.
- (a) W. J. Middleton, D. Metzger and J. A. Snyder, 1-Trifluoromethyl-1,2,2-triphenylethylenes. Synthesis and postcoital antifertility activity, *J. Med. Chem.*, 1971, **14**, 1193–1197; (b) W. J. Middleton and E. M. Bingham, The synthesis of antiinflammatory  $\alpha$ -(trifluoromethyl) arylacetic acids, *J. Fluorine Chem.*, 1983, **22**, 561–574.
- (a) D. M. D'Souza and T. J. J. Müller, Multi-component syntheses of heterocycles by transition-metal catalysis, *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 2007, **36**, 1095–1108; (b) C. Zheng and





- S. L. You, Catalytic Asymmetric Dearomatization by Transition-Metal Catalysis: A Method for Transformations of Aromatic Compounds, *Chem*, 2016, **1**, 830–857; (c) M. H. Feng and X. F. Jiang, Reactions of Arynes Involving Transition-Metal Catalysis, *Synthesis*, 2017, **49**, 4414–4433; (d) R. Kancherla, K. Muralirajan, A. Sagadevan and M. Rueping, Visible Light-Induced Excited-State Transition-Metal Catalysis, *Trends Chem.*, 2019, **1**, 510–523; (e) M. Belal, Z. Q. Li, X. Q. Lu and G. Y. Yin, Recent advances in the synthesis of 1,1-diarylalkanes by transition-metal catalysis, *Sci. China: Chem.*, 2021, **64**, 513–533; (f) H. Chen, Y. A. Liu and X. B. Liao, Recent Progress in Radical Decarboxylative Functionalizations Enabled by Transition-Metal (Ni, Cu, Fe, Co or Cr) Catalysis, *Synthesis*, 2021, **53**, 1–29.
- 9 Selected examples, see: (a) X. X. Wang, B. B. Xu, W. T. Song, K. X. Sun and J. M. Lu, N-heterocyclic carbene–palladium(I)-1-methylimidazole complex-catalyzed Suzuki–Miyaura coupling of benzyl sulfonates with arylboronic acids, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2015, **13**, 4925–4930; (b) Z. C. Cao, D. G. Yu, R. Y. Zhu, J. B. Wei and Z. J. Shi, Direct cross-coupling of benzyl alcohols to construct diarylmethanes *via* palladium catalysis, *Chem. Commun.*, 2015, **51**, 2683–2686; (c) X. Q. Cao and Y. G. Zhang, Palladium catalyzed direct benzylation/allylation of malonates with alcohols – *in situ* C–O bond activation, *Green Chem.*, 2016, **18**, 2638–2641; (d) S. Tabuchi, K. Hirano and M. Miura, Palladium-Catalyzed Asymmetric Benzylic Alkylation of Active Methylene Compounds with  $\alpha$ -Naphthylbenzyl Carbonates and Pivalates, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2016, **55**, 6973–6977; (e) M. Brambilla and M. Tredwell, Palladium-Catalyzed Suzuki–Miyaura Cross-Coupling of Secondary  $\alpha$ -(Trifluoromethyl)benzyl Tosylates, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2017, **56**, 11981–11985; (f) K. J. Schwarz, C. Yang, J. W. B. Fyfe and T. N. Snaddon, Enantioselective  $\alpha$ -Benzylation of Acyclic Esters Using  $\pi$ -Extended Electrophiles, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2018, **57**, 12102–12105; (g) M. Komatsuda, K. Muto and J. Yamaguchi, Pd-Catalyzed Dearomative Allylation of Benzyl Phosphates, *Org. Lett.*, 2018, **20**, 4354–4357; (h) J. J. Chen, J. C. Xu, Y. Zhou, S. G. Xie, F. Gao, X. F. Xu, X. H. Xu and Z. Jin, Sequential *ortho*-C–H and *ipso*-C–O Functionalization Using a Bifunctional Directing Group, *Org. Lett.*, 2019, **21**, 7928–7932.
- 10 Selected examples, see: (a) K. Sakoda, J. Mihara and J. Ichikawa, Heck-type 5-endo-trig cyclization promoted by vinylic fluorines: synthesis of 5-fluoro-3H-pyrroles, *Chem. Commun.*, 2005, **37**, 4684–4686; (b) M. Yokota, D. S. Fujita and J. Ichikawa, Activation of 1,1-Difluoro-1-alkenes with a Transition-Metal Complex: Palladium(II)-Catalyzed Friedel–Crafts-Type Cyclization of 4,4-(Difluorohomoallyl)arenes, *Org. Lett.*, 2007, **9**, 4639–4642; (c) K. Fuchibe, T. Morikawa, K. Shigeno, T. Fujita and J. Ichikawa, Pinpoint-Fluorinated Phenacenes: New Synthesis and Solubility Enhancement Strategies, *Org. Lett.*, 2015, **17**, 1126–1129; (d) J. Xu, E. A. Ahmed, B. Xiao, Q. Q. Lu, Y. L. Wang, C. G. Yu and Y. Fu, Pd-Catalyzed Regioselective Activation of *gem*-Difluorinated Cyclopropanes: A Highly Efficient Approach to 2-Fluorinated Allylic Scaffolds, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2015, **54**, 8231–8235; (e) R. T. Thornbury and F. D. Toste, Palladium-Catalyzed Defluorinative Coupling of 1-Aryl-2,2-Difluoroalkenes and Boronic Acids: Stereoselective Synthesis of Monofluorostilbenes, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2016, **55**, 11629–11632; (f) S. Wada and R. F. Jordan, Olefin Insertion into a Pd–F Bond: Catalyst Reactivation Following  $\beta$ -F Elimination in Ethylene/Vinyl Fluoride Copolymerization, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2017, **56**, 1820–1824; (g) T. Fujita, K. Fuchibe and J. Ichikawa, Transition-Metal-Mediated and -Catalyzed C–F Bond Activation by Fluorine Elimination, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2019, **58**, 390–402; (h) S. Y. He and X. G. Zhang, Palladium-catalyzed selective defluorinative sulfonylation for the synthesis of fluorovinylthioethers, *Org. Chem. Front.*, 2020, **7**, 3174–3178; (i) Z. Yang, M. Möller and R. M. Koenigs, Synthesis of *gem*-Difluoro Olefins through C–H Functionalization and  $\beta$ -fluoride Elimination Reactions, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2020, **59**, 5572–5576; (j) F. P. Wu, Y. Yuan, J. W. Liu and X. F. Wu, Pd/Cu-Catalyzed Defluorinative Carbonylative Coupling of Aryl Iodides and *gem*-Difluoroalkenes: Efficient Synthesis of  $\alpha$ -Fluoroaldehydes, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2021, **60**, 8818–8822.
- 11 K. Takahashi, Y. Ano and N. Chatani, Fluoride anion-initiated bis-trifluoromethylation of phenyl aromatic carboxylates with (trifluoromethyl)trimethylsilane, *Chem. Commun.*, 2020, **56**, 11661–11664.
- 12 CCDC-2074740 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper.
- 13 Y. Xiong, X. X. Zhang, T. Huang and S. Cao, Synthesis of *N*-( $\alpha$ -Fluorovinyl)azoles by the Reaction of Difluoroalkenes with Azoles, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2014, **79**, 6395–6402.
- 14 M. S. Kim and I. H. Jeong, A highly stereoselective preparation of CF<sub>3</sub>-substituted 1-aryl-1,2-diphenylethenes: application to the synthesis of panomifene, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 2005, **46**, 3545–3548.
- 15 W. Dmowski, Nucleophilic reactions of fluoroolefins. IV. Regioselectivity in the reactions of 1-phenylpentafluoropropenes with alkylolithium reagents, *J. Fluorine Chem.*, 1984, **26**, 223–241.
- 16 P. P. Tian, C. Q. Wang, S. H. Cai, S. J. Song, L. Ye, C. Feng and T. P. Loh, F<sup>–</sup> Nucleophilic-Addition-Induced Allylic Alkylation, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2016, **138**, 15869–15872.

