


 Cite this: *RSC Adv.*, 2025, 15, 10265

Palladium-catalyzed cross-coupling of *gem*-difluorocyclopropanes with *gem*-diborylalkanes: facile synthesis of a diverse array of *gem*-diboryl-substituted fluorinated alkenes†

 Ebrahim-Alkhalil M. A. Ahmed,^{ab} Hongchen Zhang,^c Wen-Gen Cao^b and Tian-Jun Gong^{ib}*^a

This study introduces an efficacious palladium-catalyzed method for the regioselective and stereoselective cross-coupling of *gem*-difluorinated cyclopropanes with an array of *gem*-diborylalkanes under mild reaction conditions. The innovative methodology facilitates the synthesis of 2-fluoroallylic *gem*-diboronic esters with exceptional *Z*-stereo- and chemo-selectivity. Notably, this protocol extended to the ligand-modulated regio- and stereoselectivity divergence cross-coupling of 1,1-difluoro-2-vinylcyclopropane as a reaction partner. Furthermore, we explore further transformations of the fluorinated *gem*-diboronates, encompassing the oxidation to form ketone and hydrogenation to generate mono-fluorinated alkylated *gem*-diboronate.

Received 24th January 2025

Accepted 5th March 2025

DOI: 10.1039/d5ra00581g

rsc.li/rsc-advances

Introduction

Organoboronates play a critical role in organic synthesis.¹ Among them, *gem*-diborylalkanes, as a new class of organoboron compounds possess multiple transformable sp³-hybridized carbon units,² have gained prominence in organic synthesis due to their stability and ready availability, serving as versatile intermediates in organic synthesis with valuable applications in materials science and medicinal chemistry. Over the past two decades, significant efforts have been dedicated towards construction and transformation of *gem*-diboron compounds,³ this includes transition metal-catalyzed or transition metal-free multi-borylation of readily available *gem*-dihalides,⁴ alkynes,⁵ alkenes,⁶ and so on.⁷ Additionally, the classic “lithiation-substitution” strategy provided a modular and straightforward route to *gem*-bis(boronates), leveraging readily available 1,1-diborylalkanes.⁸ Given the important value of *gem*-diborylalkanes in organic synthesis, the synthesis of multi-functional substituted *gem*-diboron compounds remains an important research topic.

On the other hand, fluorinated compounds have found widespread applications across diverse fields, primarily due to the introduction of fluorine moieties that significantly enhance hydrophobicity and metabolic stability.⁹ Recently, *gem*-difluorinated cyclopropanes (*gem*-F₂CPs)¹⁰ an easily accessible fluorinated building block,¹¹ has undergone diverse metal-catalyzed transformations to fluorinated functional molecules. In 2015, Fu and co-workers pioneered a Pd-catalyzed C–C/C–F activation ring-opening reaction of *gem*-F₂CPs, achieving C–N, C–O, and C–C cross-coupling reactions to produce mono-fluorinated alkenes with high linear selectivity.¹² Since this groundbreaking work, this reaction mode has been extended to a variety of transition metal catalysts (Pd, Ni, Rh, and Co) and nucleophiles afford linear/branched monofluoroalkenes.¹³ For example, Li, Lv and co-workers reported the regioselective Pd/NHC-catalyzed ring-opening hydrodefluorination/defluorinative functionalization of *gem*-F₂CPs.^{10b,e,13h,j} Xia and co-workers reported the Rh-catalyzed regio-switchable cross-coupling of *gem*-F₂CPs to afford different types of fluorinated compounds.^{10d,13g,13i,k,m,r} Recently, our group reported Pd-catalysed cross-coupling of *gem*-F₂CPs with *gem*-diborylalkanes and Cu/Pd bimetallic-catalyzed three-component reaction for synthesizing of boryl-substituted fluorinated alkenes.¹⁴ Despite these advancements, no effective method for the synthesizing of *gem*-diboryl-substituted fluorinated alkenes has been reported until now. Herein, we demonstrate an example of palladium-catalyzed cross-coupling of *gem*-difluorinated cyclopropanes with *gem*-diborylalkanes using LDA as a base to produce *gem*-diboryl-substituted fluorinated alkenes under mild reaction conditions with high stereoselectivity. When 1,1-difluoro-2-

^aSchool of Chemistry and Materials Science, CAS Key Laboratory of Urban Pollutant Conversion, Anhui Provincial Key Laboratory of Biomass Chemistry, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei 230026, China. E-mail: gongtj@ustc.edu.cn

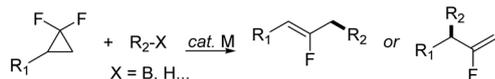
^bCollege of Chemistry and Materials Engineering, Wenzhou University, Wenzhou 325035, China

^cCollege of Pharmacy, Wenzhou Medical University, Wenzhou 325035, China

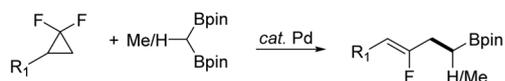
† Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available: Detailed experimental procedures and spectra data for all compounds. See DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1039/d5ra00581g>



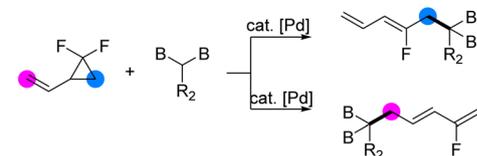
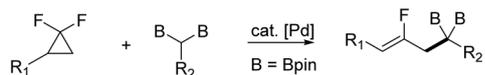
a) Previous work: C-C coupling of *gem*-difluorinated cyclopropanes



b) Deborated cross-coupling of *gem*-diboryl methane with *gem*-difluorinated cyclopropanes (our previous work)



c) Regioselective cross-coupling of *gem*-difluorinated cyclopropanes with *gem*-diborylalkanes: access to *gem*-diboryl-substituted fluorinated alkenes (This work)



- ◆ Readily available substrates
- ◆ Regio- & stereo-selectivity
- ◆ Divergence cross-coupling of 1,1-difluoro-2-vinylcyclopropane

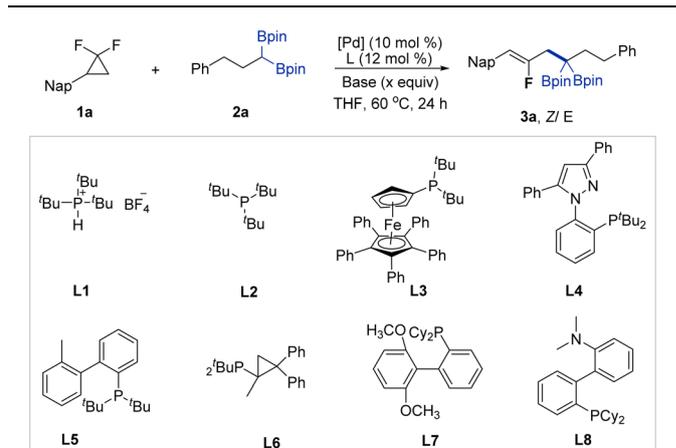
Scheme 1 Transition metal-catalyzed cross-coupling of *gem*-difluorinated cyclopropanes.

vinylcyclopropane is used as the substrate, ligand-modulated regio- and stereoselectivity cross-coupling can be achieved. Incorporating these versatile scaffolds with fluoroalkyls, particularly considering the unique properties of fluorine atoms, would enrich the building blocks of *gem*-diborylalkanes (Scheme 1).

Results and discussion

We set out to investigate the cross-coupling reaction using 2-(2,2-difluorocyclopropyl)naphthalene (**1a**) and 2,2'-(3-phenylpropane-1,1-diyl)bis(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolane) (**2a**) as model substrates (Table 1). Based on our prior studies, we initially investigated the impact of phosphorus ligands and Pd catalysts. In the presence of Pd^{II} and LDA, the reaction produced the target product **3a** in low to moderate yields with monodentate ligands (Table 1, entries 1–8). When, switching to Pd⁰ catalysts, such as Pd₂(dba)₃ and [{Pd(μ-Br)(P^tBu₃)₂}] along with phosphorus ligands, yields remained moderate but regioselectivity decreased (entries 9, 10). Delightedly, when employing [{Pd(μ-Br)(P^tBu₃)₂}] in the presence of LDA as the base in THF, **3a** could be obtained in good yield with perfect *Z*-selectivity (28 : 1 *Z/E* ratio, entry 11). Subsequently, Buchwald's palladacycle pre-catalyst controlled the ring-coupling reaction effectively, providing reasonable yield and regioselectivity (entry 15). We also screened a variety of organic and inorganic bases and found that LDA was the most suitable, as other bases were incompatible in the process (entries 12–14, see ESI† for further details). The transformation did not conduct in the absence of LDA or palladium catalyst (entries 16, 17).

Table 1 Optimization of reaction conditions^a

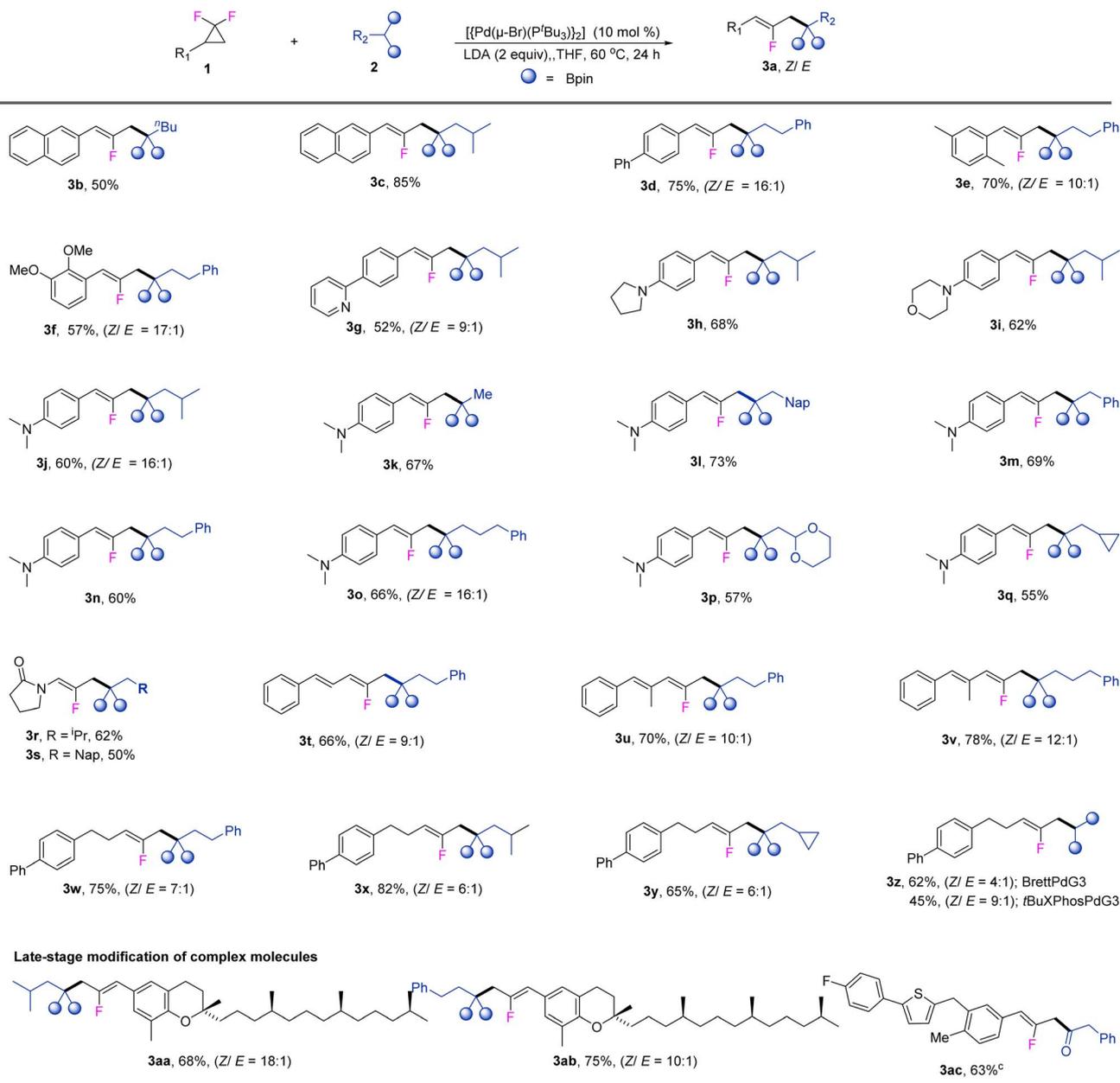


Entry	[Pd]	L	Base	Yield ^b (%)	<i>Z/E</i> ^c
1	Pd(OTFA) ₂	L1	LDA	25	<i>Z</i>
2	Pd(OTFA) ₂	L2	LDA	30	<i>Z</i>
3	Pd(OTFA) ₂	L3	LDA	35	11 : 1
4	Pd(OTFA) ₂	L4	LDA	46	9 : 1
5	Pd(OTFA) ₂	L5	LDA	65	2 : 1
6	Pd(OTFA) ₂	L6	LDA	61	2 : 1
7	Pd(OTFA) ₂	L7	LDA	13	—
8	Pd(OTFA) ₂	L8	LDA	10	—
9	Pd ₂ (dba) ₃	L5	LDA	56	2 : 1
10	[(Pd(μ-Br)(P ^t Bu ₃) ₂)]	L5	LDA	72	3.5 : 1
11	[(Pd(μ-Br)(P ^t Bu ₃) ₂)]	—	LDA	70 (65) ^d	28 : 1
12	[(Pd(μ-Br)(P ^t Bu ₃) ₂)]	—	LiO ^t Bu	n.r.	—
13	[(Pd(μ-Br)(P ^t Bu ₃) ₂)]	—	LiHMDS	Trace	—
14	[(Pd(μ-Br)(P ^t Bu ₃) ₂)]	—	LTMP	10	—
15	P ^t Bu ₃ PdG-3	—	LDA	55	22 : 1
16	[(Pd(μ-Br)(P ^t Bu ₃) ₂)]	—	—	n.r.	—
17	—	—	LDA	n.r.	—

^a Standard reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol), **2a** (1.5 equiv.), [Pd] (10 mol%), ligand (12 mol%), base (2 equiv.), in 1.0 mL of THF at 60 °C for 24 h under Ar atmosphere. ^b The yield was determined by ¹⁹F NMR using trifluoromethylbenzene as internal standard. For [(Pd(μ-Br)(P^tBu₃)₂)] and P^tBu₃PdG-3 catalysts, 10 mol% was used. ^c The ratio of *Z/E* isomer was determined by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy. ^d Yield represents isolated yield after purification by silica gel chromatography. dba = dibenzylideneacetone, OTFA = trifluoroacetate. LDA = lithium diisopropylamide. LiHMDS = Lithium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide. LTMP = Lithium tetramethylpiperidide. Nap = 2-naphthyl.

Having established the optimal reaction conditions (as described in Table 1, entry 11), a series of *gem*-F₂CPs and *gem*-diborylalkanes were employed to confirm the generality of the reaction, as depicted in Scheme 2. The ring-coupling proceeded smoothly with neutrally substituted compounds (**3b–3d**) and electron-donating groups at various positions on aromatic rings (**3e, 3f**), yielding products in the range of 50–85% with reasonable to good regioselectivity. Nitrogen-containing functional groups, such as pyridine, pyrrole, morpholine, dimethylamine substituents, also participated in the reaction with various *gem*-diborylalkanes, furnishing mono-fluorinated *gem*-diborylalkenes (**3g–3o**) in good yields and regioselectivities. Other functional groups, such as acetal (**3p**), pyrrolidinone (**3r, 3s**),





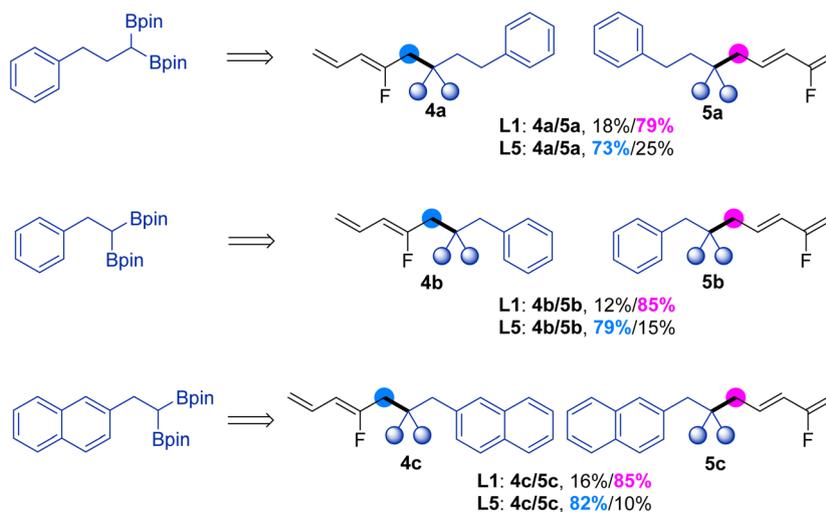
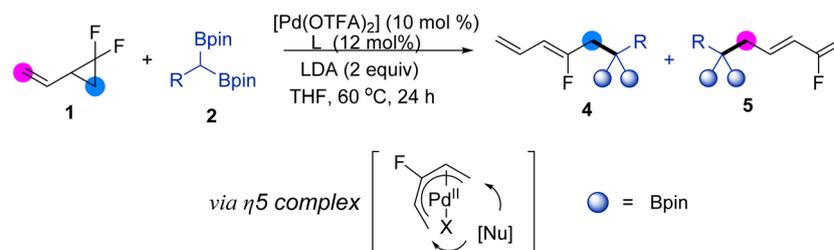
Scheme 2 Substrate Scope,^a standard reaction conditions: *gem*-F₂CP **1** (0.2 mmol), *gem*-diborylalkanes **2** (1.5 equiv.), $[(\text{Pd}(\mu\text{-Br})(\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_3))_2]$ (10 mol%), LDA (0.4 mmol), in 2 mL of THF at 60 °C for 24 h under Ar atmosphere.^b Results are an average of two experiments and yield represents isolated yield after purification by silica gel chromatography, *Z/E* selectivity $\geq 20 : 1$ unless noted. ^c Oxidant by NaBO₃·4H₂O (4 equiv.) after the reaction.

were formed smoothly when *gem*-F₂CPs reacted with *gem*-diboryl derivatives, respectively. Conjugated monofluorinated *gem*-diboronates (**3w–3y**) were synthesized using the corresponding alkenyl *gem*-F₂CPs. To our delight, alkyl-substituted *gem*-F₂CPs were well-tolerated and converted into **3t–3v**. Additionally, the simplest *gem*-diborylmethane also participated in the reaction, yielding **3z** in moderate yield when using Buchwald's precatalysts (e.g. BrettPdG3 and *t*BuXPhosPdG3) instead of $[(\text{Pd}(\mu\text{-Br})(\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_3))_2]$. Finally, late-stage modification of complex molecules, such as δ -tocopherol-derived *gem*-F₂CP, was compatible and resulted in yields of **3aa** (68%) and **3ab** (75%).

Furthermore, a *gem*-F₂CP-derived canagliflozin participated under optimized conditions, and the corresponding ketone **3ac** was formed *via* a further oxidation step. This approach provides valuable methods for modifying biologically active compounds.

Subsequently, we investigated the scope of *gem*-F₂CPs by performing cross-coupling reactions between 1,1-difluoro-2-vinylcyclopropane and *gem*-diborylalkanes, as illustrated in Scheme 3. By adjusting the optimal conditions, we found that the utilization of a Pd^{II} catalyst, such as Pd(OTFA)₂, in combination with difference mono-dentate phosphor ligands, enabled successful regio- and stereoselectivity divergence cross-

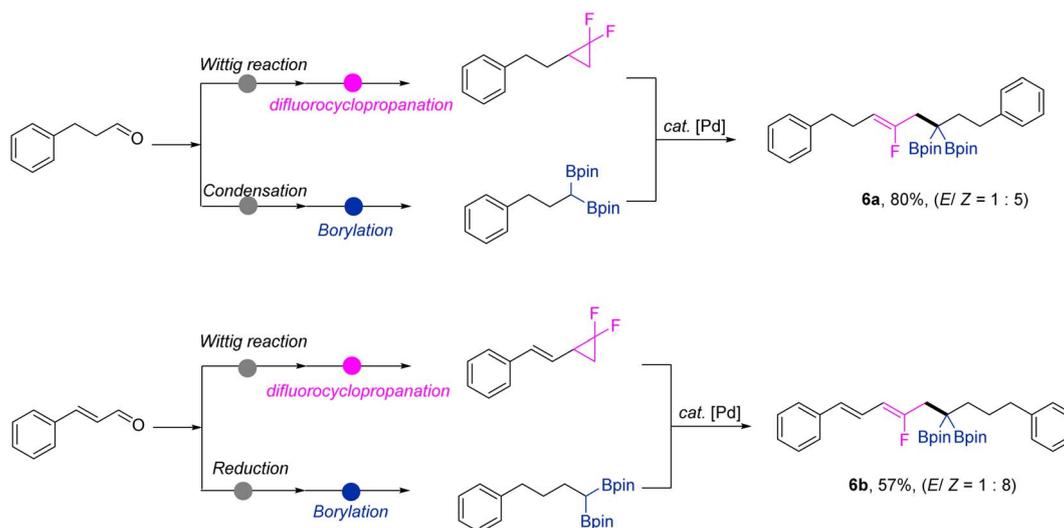




Scheme 3 Regio- and stereoselectivities of allyl-*gem*-difluorinated cyclopropane.^a Standard reaction conditions: 1,1-difluoro-2-vinylcyclopropane (0.2 mmol), *gem*-diborylalkanes (1.5 equiv.), Pd(OTFA)₂ (10 mol%), ligand L1 or L5 (12 mol%), LDA (0.4 mmol), in 1 mL of THF at 60 °C for 24 h under Ar atmosphere.^b Results are an average of two experiments and yield represents isolated yield after purification by silica gel chromatography, *Z/E* selectivity $\geq 30 : 1$ unless noted. L1 = P^tBu₃·HBF₄, L5 = di-*tert*-butyl(2'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)phosphane.

coupling. We examined the coupling of 1,1-difluoro-2-vinylcyclopropane with phenylpropane *gem*-diboronates (see ESI† for optimal conditions). For instance, using ligand L5 led to smooth ring-opening and the formation of **4a** with high stereoselectivity. Interestingly, a flipped ratio products (**4a/5a**)

was observed when P^tBu₃·HBF₄ (**L1**) was used as the ligand. This trend also proved compatible with other *gem*-diborylalkanes, yielding the corresponding compounds (**4b**, **4c**, **5b**, **5c**) under mild conditions. This represents the first regionally selectively controlled cross-coupling reaction involving 1,1-



Scheme 4 Easy access C–C coupling reaction toward *gem*-diborylfluorinated alkenes.^a Isolated yield for 0.2 mmol scale reaction.



difluoro-2-vinylcyclopropane, thereby broadening the type of difluorocyclopropane ring-opening coupling reaction.

Gem-diborylalkanes and *gem*-difluorocyclopropanes are well-known compounds that can be easily prepared in the laboratory using readily available substrates. Phenylpropanal and cinnamaldehyde, which are biomass-derived feedstocks, can be utilized to synthesize the corresponding *gem*-F₂CPs and *gem*-diborylalkanes. Utilizing our developed method, we achieved the straightforward synthesis of **6a** and **6b** under optimized conditions, yielding the target products in 80% yield and 57% yield, respectively, as illustrated in Scheme 4.

To demonstrate the utility of our cross-coupling method, we performed a gram-scale synthesis of **3c** under standard conditions, resulting in a high yield of **3c** (4.30 g, 85% yield). Furthermore, we explored the potential applications of mono-fluoroalkene diboronates as a versatile building block. Notably, **3c** was successfully oxidized by NaBO₃·4H₂O to yield the corresponding ketone **7** in moderate yield. Additionally, the

hydrogenation reaction was carried out to produce mono-fluoroalkane *gem*-diboronate **8** (Scheme 5).

The proposed reaction pathway for this strategy is elucidated based on prior studies, as depicted in Scheme 6. Initially, the Pd(0) catalyst interacts readily with *gem*-difluorinated cyclopropanes, leading to the formation of the four-membered-ring palladacycle intermediate (**I**). Subsequently, a β-F elimination step facilitates the generation of the 2-fluorinated Pd π-allyl complex (**II**). This complex then undergoes transmetalation with the *in situ* generated *gem*-diborylalkyl-lithium intermediate, leading to the formation of intermediate (**III**). Finally, a C–C bond elimination assembles the target products, while the Pd catalyst is released for further transformation.

Conclusions

In conclusion, the study demonstrates an instance of Pd-catalyzed ring-opening cross-coupling between *gem*-F₂CPs and *gem*-diborylalkanes to produce *gem*-diboryl-substituted fluorinated alkenes. This reaction proceeds under mild conditions with LDA as the base and exhibits exceptional compatibility with diverse functional groups. Ligand-controlled regio- and stereoselective cross-coupling of 1,1-difluoro-2-vinylcyclopropane can be achieved. This achievement broadens the scope of C–C coupling reactions involving *gem*-F₂CPs and *gem*-diborylalkanes, providing an efficient synthetic route to diverse *gem*-diboronate analogs. Ongoing research focuses on addressing remaining challenges in C–C coupling reactions to further advance this area of work.

Data availability

The data supporting this article have been included as part of the ESI.†

Author contributions

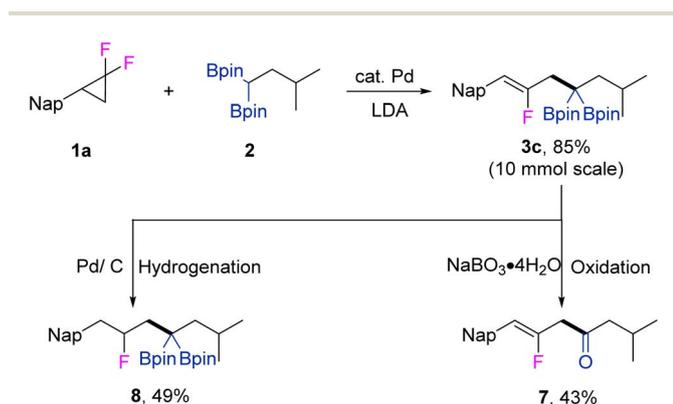
All authors have given approval to the final version of the manuscript.

Conflicts of interest

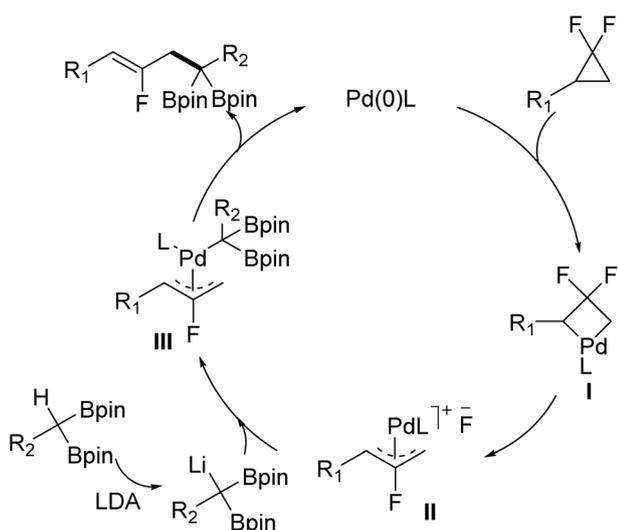
The authors declare no competing financial interest.

Acknowledgements

The authors acknowledge support from the National Natural Science Foundation of China (22071228, 22478375), the National Natural Science Foundation of China of Research Fund for International Young Scientists (RFIS-I) (22250410263), Anhui Provincial Major Science and Technology Project, award/grant number 202305a12020034 and the Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities, award/grant number WK2060000096.



Scheme 5 Gram-scale synthesis and transformation of mono-fluoroalkene diboronates.^a For preparation of **3c**, isolated yield for 10 mmol scale reaction; isolated yield for final product of oxidation and hydrogenation reactions were 0.1 mmol scale reaction.



Scheme 6 Proposed reaction mechanism.



References

- 1 (a) D. G. Hal, *Boronic Acids: Preparation and Applications in Organic Synthesis and Medicine*, Wiley-VCH, Weinheim, 2005; (b) S. G. Aiken, J. M. Bateman, V. K. Aggarwal and E. Fernández, *Science of Synthesis: Advances in Organoboron Chemistry towards Organic Synthesis*, 2019, pp 393–458; (c) R. Smoum, A. Rubinstein, V. M. Dembitsky and M. Srebnik, Boron Containing Compounds as Protease Inhibitors, *Chem. Rev.*, 2012, **112**, 4156–4220; (d) W. L. A. Brooks and B. S. Sumerlin, Synthesis and Applications of Boronic Acid-Containing Polymers: From Materials to Medicine, *Chem. Rev.*, 2016, **116**, 1375–1397; (e) E. C. Neeve, S. J. Geier, I. A. I. Mkhaliid, S. A. Westcott and T. B. Marder, Diboron(4) Compounds: From Structural Curiosity to Synthetic Workhorse, *Chem. Rev.*, 2016, **116**, 9091–9161; (f) J. Hu, M. Ferger, Z. Shi and T. B. Marder, Recent advances in asymmetric borylation by transition metal catalysis, *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 2021, **50**, 13129–13188.
- 2 (a) A. B. Cuenca and E. Fernández, Boron-Wittig olefination with gem-bis(boryl)alkanes, *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 2021, **50**, 72–86; (b) Y. Lee, S. Han and S. H. Cho, Catalytic Chemo- and Enantioselective Transformations of gem-Diborylalkanes and (Diborylmethyl)metallic Species, *Acc. Chem. Res.*, 2021, **54**, 3917–3929; (c) A. B. Cuenca and E. Fernández, Boron-Wittig olefination with gem-bis(boryl)alkanes, *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 2021, **50**, 72–86.
- 3 (a) k. Hong, X. Liu and J. P. Morken, Simple Access to Elusive α -Boryl Carbanions and Their Alkylation: An Umpolung Construction for Organic Synthesis, *Chem. Soc.*, 2014, **136**, 10581–10584; (b) J. Kim, S. Park, J. Park and S. H. Cho, Synthesis of Branched Alkylboronates by Copper-Catalyzed Allylic Substitution Reactions of Allylic Chlorides with 1,1-Diborylalkanes, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2016, **55**, 1498–1501; (c) Y. Shi and A. H. Hoveyda, Catalytic SN²'- and Enantioselective Allylic Substitution with a Diborylmethane Reagent and Application in Synthesis, *Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2016, **55**, 3455–3458; (d) S. A. Murray, J. C. Green, S. B. Taylor and S. J. Meek, Enantio- and Diastereoselective 1,2-Additions to α -Ketoesters with Diborylmethane and Substituted 1,1-Diborylalkanes, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2016, **55**, 9065–9069; (e) X. Liu, T. M. Deaton, F. Haeffner and J. P. Morken, A Boron Alkylidene-Alkene Cycloaddition Reaction: Application to the Synthesis of Aphanamal, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2017, **56**, 11485–11489; (f) M. Z. Liang and S. J. Meek, Synthesis of Quaternary Carbon Stereogenic Centers by Diastereoselective Conjugate Addition of Boron-Stabilized Allylic Nucleophiles to Enones, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2020, **142**(22), 9925–9931; (g) J. C. Green, J. M. Zanghi and S. J. Meek, Diastereo- and Enantioselective Synthesis of Homoallylic Amines Bearing Quaternary Carbon Centers, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2020, **142**(4), 1704–1709; (h) K. K. Das, S. Paul and S. Panda, Transition metal-free synthesis of alkyl pinacol boronates, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2020, **18**, 8939–8974; (i) N. Eghbarieh, N. Hanania, A. Zamir, M. Nassir, T. Stein and A. Masarwa, Stereoselective Diels-Alder Reactions of gem-Diborylalkenes: Toward the Synthesis of gem-Diboron-Based Polymers, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2021, **143**(16), 6211–6220; (j) F. Zhang, S. Liao, L. Zhou, K. Yang, C. Wang, Y. Lou, C. Wang and Q. Song, An Olefinic 1,2- α -Boryl Migration Enables 1,2-Bis(boronic esters) via Radical-Polar Crossover Reaction, *Chin. J. Chem.*, 2022, **40**, 582–588; (k) W. Sun, L. Xu, Y. Qin and C. Liu, Alkyne synthesis through coupling of gem-diborylalkanes with carboxylic acid esters, *Nat. Synth.*, 2023, **2**, 413–422.
- 4 (a) C.-T. Yang, Z.-Q. Zhang, H. Tajuddin, C.-C. Wu, J. Liang, J.-H. Liu, Y. Fu, M. Czyzewska, P. G. Steel, T. B. Marder and L. Liu, Alkylboronic Esters from Copper-Catalyzed Borylation of Primary and Secondary Alkyl Halides and Pseudohalides, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2012, **51**, 528–532; (b) T. C. Atack and S. P. Cook, Manganese-Catalyzed Borylation of Unactivated Alkyl Chlorides, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2016, **138**, 6139–6142; (c) B. Wang, X. Zhang, Y. Cao, L. Zou, X. Qi and Q. Lu, Electrooxidative Activation of B–B Bond in B2cat2: Access to gem-Diborylalkanes via Paired Electrolysis, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2023, **62**, e202218179.
- 5 (a) L. Zhang, X. Si, F. Rominger and A. S. K. Hashmi, Visible-Light-Induced Radical Carbo-Cyclization/gem-Diborylation through Triplet Energy Transfer between a Gold Catalyst and Aryl Iodides, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2020, **142**, 10485–10493; (b) J. H. Docherty, K. Nicholson, A. P. Dominey and S. P. A. Thomas, Boron-Boron Double Transborylation Strategy for the Synthesis of gem-Diborylalkanes, *ACS Catal.*, 2020, **10**, 4686–4691; (c) J. Li and S. Ge, Copper-Catalyzed Quadruple Borylation of Terminal Alkynes to Access sp³-Tetra-Organometallic Reagents, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2022, **61**, e202213057; (d) Y. Wang, Y. Li, L. Wang, S. Ding, L. Song, X. Zhang, Y.-D. Wu and J. Sun, Ir-Catalyzed Regioselective Dihydroboration of Thioalkynes toward gem-Diboryl Thioethers, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2023, **145**, 2305–2314.
- 6 (a) L. Zhang and Z. Huang, Synthesis of 1,1,1-Tris(boronates) from Vinylarenes by Co-Catalyzed Dehydrogenative Borylations-Hydroboration, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2015, **137**, 15600–15603; (b) L. Li, T. Gong, X. Lu, B. Xiao and Y. Fu, Nickel-catalyzed synthesis of 1,1-diborylalkanes from terminal alkenes, *Nat. Commun.*, 2017, **8**, 345; (c) W. J. Teo and S. Ge, Cobalt-Catalyzed Diborylation of 1,1-disubstituted Vinylarenes: A Practical Route to Branched gem-Bis(boryl)alkanes, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2018, **57**, 1654–1658; (d) M. Hu and S. Ge, Versatile cobalt-catalyzed regioselective chain-walking double hydroboration of 1,*n*-dienes to access gem-bis(boryl)alkanes, *Nat. Commun.*, 2020, **11**, 765; (e) X. Wang, X. Cui, S. Li, Y. Wang, C. Xia, H. Jiao and L. Wu, Zirconium-Catalyzed Atom-Economical Synthesis of 1,1-Diborylalkanes from Terminal and Internal Alkenes, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2020, **59**, 13608–13612; (f) Y. Zhao and S. Ge, Synergistic Hydrocobaltation and Borylcobaltation Enable Regioselective Migratory Triborylation of Unactivated Alkenes, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2022, **61**, e202116133.



- 7 (a) J. C. H. Lee, R. McDonald and D. G. Hall, Enantioselective preparation and chemoselective cross-coupling of 1,1-diboron compounds, *Nat. Chem.*, 2011, **3**, 894–899; (b) X. Feng, H. Jeon and J. Yun, Regio- and Enantioselective Copper(I)-Catalyzed Hydroboration of Borylalkenes: Asymmetric Synthesis of 1,1-Diborylalkanes, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2013, **52**, 3989–3992; (c) M. A. Larsen, S. H. Cho and J. Hartwig, Iridium-Catalyzed, Hydrosilyl-Directed Borylation of Unactivated Alkyl C-H Bonds, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2016, **138**, 762–765; (d) W. N. Palmer, J. V. Obligation, I. Pappas and P. J. Chirik, Cobalt-Catalyzed Benzylic Borylation: Enabling Polyborylation and Functionalization of Remote, Unactivated C(sp³)-H Bonds, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2016, **138**, 766–769; (e) L. Wang, T. Zhang, W. Sun, Z. He, C. Xia, Y. Lan and C. Liu, C-O Functionalization of α -Oxyboronates: A Deoxygenative *gem*-Diborylation and *gem*-Silylborylation of Aldehydes and Ketones, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2017, **139**, 5257–5264; (f) B. Zhao, Z. Li, Y. Wu, Y. Wang, J. Qian, Y. Yuan and Z. Shi, An Olefinic 1,2-Boryl-Migration Enabled by Radical Addition: Construction of *gem*-Bis(boryl)alkanes, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2019, **58**, 9448–9452; (g) J. Li, H. Wang, Z. Qiu, C.-Y. Huang and C.-J. Li, Metal-Free Direct Deoxygenative Borylation of Aldehydes and Ketones, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2020, **142**, 13011–13020; (h) J.-F. Ge, X.-Z. Zou, X.-R. Liu, C.-L. Ji, X.-Y. Zhu and D.-W. Gao, Ir-Catalyzed Enantioselective Synthesis of *gem*-Diborylalkenes Enabled by 1,2-Boron Shift, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2023, **62**, e202307447; (i) L. Liu, B. Zhang, Y. Liu, J. Zhao, T. Li and W. Zhao, Cobalt-catalyzed deoxygenative borylation of diaryl ketones, *Chin. Chem. Lett.*, 2023, **35**, 108631; (j) P.-F. Ning, Y. Wei, X.-Y. Chen, Y.-F. Yang, F.-C. Gao and K. Hong, A General Method to Access Sterically Encumbered *geminal* Bis(boronates) via Formal Umpolung Transformation of Terminal Diboron Compounds, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2024, **63**, e202315232.
- 8 (a) D. S. Matteson and R. J. Moody, Deprotonation of 1,1-diboronic esters and reactions of the carbanions with alkyl halides and carbonyl compounds, *Organometallics*, 1982, **1**, 20–28; (b) M. Huang, H. Sun, F. Seufert, A. Friedrich, T. B. Marder and J. Hu, Photoredox/Cu-Catalyzed Decarboxylative C(sp³)-C(sp³) Coupling to Access C(sp³)-Rich *gem*-Diborylalkanes, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2024, **63**, e202401782; (c) Y. Jin, J. Lee, W. Jo, J. Yu and S. H. Cho, Axially chiral α -boryl-homoallenyl boronic esters as versatile toolbox for accessing centrally and axially chiral molecules, *Nat. Commun.*, 2024, **15**, 9239.
- 9 (a) K. Müller, C. Faeh and F. Diederich, Fluorine in Pharmaceuticals: Looking Beyond Intuition, *Science*, 2007, **317**, 1881; (b) S. Purser, P. R. Moore, S. Swallow and V. Gouverneur, Fluorine in medicinal chemistry, *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 2008, **37**, 320–330; (c) W. K. Hagmann, The many roles for fluorine in medicinal chemistry, *J. Med. Chem.*, 2008, **51**, 4359–4369; (d) J. Wang, M. Sánchez-Roselló, J. L. Aceña, C. del Pozo, A. E. Sorochinsky, S. Fustero, V. A. Soloshonok and H. Liu, Fluorine in Pharmaceutical Industry: Fluorine-Containing Drugs Introduced to the Market in the Last Decade (2001–2011), *Chem. Rev.*, 2014, **114**, 2432–2506; (e) 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; (f) D. O'Hagan and H. Deng, Enzymatic Fluorination and Biotechnological Developments of the Fluorinase, *Chem. Rev.*, 2015, **115**, 634–649; (g) C. Ni and J. Hu, The unique fluorine effects in organic reactions: recent facts and insights into fluoroalkylations, *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 2016, **45**, 5441–5454; (h) Y. Zhou, J. Wang, Z. Gu, S. Wang, W. Zhu, J. L. Aceña, V. A. Soloshonok, K. Izawa and H. Liu, Next Generation of Fluorine-Containing Pharmaceuticals, Compounds Currently in Phase II-III Clinical Trials of Major Pharmaceutical Companies: New Structural Trends and Therapeutic Areas, *Chem. Rev.*, 2016, **116**, 422–518; (i) Q. Liu, C. Ni and J. Hu, China's flourishing synthetic organofluorine chemistry: innovations in the new millennium, *Natl. Sci. Rev.*, 2017, **4**, 303–325; (j) J. Moschner, V. Stulberg, R. Fernandes, S. Huhmann, J. Leppkes and B. Kocsch, Approaches to Obtaining Fluorinated α -Amino Acids, *Chem. Rev.*, 2019, **119**, 10718–10801.
- 10 (a) W. R. Dolbier and M. A. Battiste, Structure, Synthesis, and Chemical Reactions of Fluorinated Cyclopropanes and Cyclopropenes, *Chem. Rev.*, 2003, **103**, 1071–1098; (b) L. Lv, H. Qian and Z. Li, Catalytic Diversification of *gem*-Difluorocyclopropanes: Recent Advances and Challenges, *ChemCatChem*, 2022, **14**, e202200890; (c) T. Nanda, M. Fastheem, A. Linda, B. V. Pati, S. K. Banjare, P. Biswal and P. C. Ravikumar, Recent Advancement in Palladium-Catalyzed C-C Bond Activation of Strained Ring Systems: Three- and Four-Membered Carbocycles as Prominent C3/C4 Building Blocks, *ACS Catal.*, 2022, **12**, 13247–13281; (d) Y. Zhu, Y. Zeng, Z.-T. Jiang and Y. Xia, Recent Advances in Transition-Metal-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling Reactions of *gem*-Difluorinated Cyclopropanes, *Synlett*, 2023, **34**, 1–13; (e) L. Lv, J. Su and Z. Li, Recent developments in the ring-opening transformations of *gem*-difluorocyclopropanes, *Org. Chem. Front.*, 2024, **11**, 6518–6533.
- 11 (a) I. Nowak, J. F. Cannon and M. J. Robins, Synthesis and Properties of *gem*-(Difluorocyclopropyl)amine Derivatives of Bicyclo[n.1.0]alkanes, *Org. Lett.*, 2004, **6**, 4767–4770; (b) Y. Fujioka and H. Amii, Boron-Substituted Difluorocyclopropanes: New Building Blocks of *gem*-Difluorocyclopropanes, *Org. Lett.*, 2008, **10**, 769–772; (c) F. Wang, T. Luo, J. Hu, Y. Wang, H. S. Krishnan, P. V. Jog, S. K. Ganesh, G. K. S. Prakash and G. A. Olah, Synthesis of *gem*-Difluorinated Cyclopropanes and Cyclopropenes: Trifluoromethyltrimethylsilane as a Difluorocarbene Source, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2011, **50**, 7153–7157; (d) F. Wang, W. Zhang, J. Zhu, H. Li, K.-W. Huang and J. Hu, Chloride ion-catalyzed generation of difluorocarbene for efficient preparation of *gem*-difluorinated cyclopropenes and cyclopropanes, *Chem. Commun.*, 2011, **47**, 2411–2413; (e) S. Eusterwiemann, H. Martinez and W. R. Dolbier Jr, Methyl 2,2-Difluoro-2-(fluorosulfonyl)acetate, a Difluorocarbene Reagent with Reactivity Comparable to That of Trimethylsilyl 2,2-Difluoro-2-(fluorosulfonyl)acetate



- (TFDA), *J. Org. Chem.*, 2012, **77**, 5461–5464; (f) M. Goswami, B. de Bruin and W. I. Dzik, Difluorocarbene transfer from a cobalt complex to an electron-deficient alkene, *Chem. Commun.*, 2017, **53**, 4382–4385; (g) G. Ernouf, J.-L. Brayer, B. Folleas, J.-P. Demoute, C. Meyer and J. Cossy, Synthesis of Alkylidene(*gem*-Difluorocyclopropanes) from Propargyl Glycolates by a One-Pot Difluorocyclopropenation/Ireland-Claisen Rearrangement Sequence, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2017, **82**, 3965–3975; (h) P. S. Nosik, A. O. Gerasov, R. O. Boiko, E. Rusanov, S. V. Ryabukhin, O. O. Grygorenko and D. M. Volochnyuk, Gram-Scale Synthesis of Amines Bearing a *gem*-Difluorocyclopropane Moiety, *Adv. Synth. Catal.*, 2017, **359**, 3126–3136; (i) H. Xu, X.-J. Fang, W.-S. Huang, Z. Xu, L. Li, F. Ye, J. Cao and L.-W. Xu, Catalytic regio- and stereoselective silicon-carbon bond formations on unsymmetric *gem*-difluorocyclopropenes by capture of silyl metal species, *Org. Chem. Front.*, 2022, **9**, 5272–5280; (j) J. Li, Z. Liang, Y. Ren, J. Gao and D. Du, Facile access to *gem*-difluorocyclopropanes via an N-heterocyclic carbene-catalyzed radical relay/cyclization strategy, *Org. Chem. Front.*, 2023, **10**, 1669–1674.
- 12 J. Xu, E.-A. M. 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.
- 13 (a) E.-A. M. A. Ahmed, A. M. Y. Suliman, T.-J. Gong and Y. Fu, Palladium-Catalyzed Stereoselective Defluorination Arylation/Alkenylation/Alkylation of *gem*-Difluorinated Cyclopropanes, *Org. Lett.*, 2019, **21**, 5645; (b) E.-A. M. A. Ahmed, A. M. Y. Suliman, T.-J. Gong and Y. Fu, Access to Divergent Fluorinated Enynes and Arenes via Palladium-Catalyzed Ring-Opening Alkynylation of *gem*-Difluorinated Cyclopropanes, *Org. Lett.*, 2020, **22**, 1414–1419; (c) H. Liu, Y. Li, D.-X. Wang, M.-M. Sun and C. Feng, Visible-Light-Promoted Regioselective 1,3-Fluoroallylation of *gem*-Difluorocyclopropanes, *Org. Lett.*, 2020, **22**, 8681–8686; (d) Z. T. Jiang, J. Huang, Y. Zeng, F. Hu and Y. Xia, Rhodium Catalyzed Regioselective C–H Allylation of Simple Arenes via C–C Bond Activation of *gem*-difluorinated Cyclopropanes, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2021, **60**, 10626–10631; (e) L. Lv and C.-J. Li, Palladium-Catalyzed Defluorinative Alkylation of *gem*-Difluorocyclopropanes: Switching Regioselectivity via Simple Hydrazones, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2021, **60**, 13098–13104; (f) Z.-T. Jiang, Y. Zeng and Y. Xia, Rhodium-Catalyzed Direct Allylation of Simple Arenes by Using *gem*-Difluorinated Cyclopropanes as Allyl Surrogates, *Synlett*, 2021, **32**, 1675–1682; (g) B. Xiong, X. Chen, J. Liu, X. Zhang, Y. Xia and Z. Lian, Stereoselective *gem*-Difluorovinylolation of *gem*-Difluorinated Cyclopropanes Enabled by Ni/Pd Cooperative Catalysis, *ACS Catal.*, 2021, **11**, 11960–11965; (h) Y. Ai, H. Yang, C. Duan, X. Li and S. Yu, Cobalt-Catalyzed Fluoroallylation of Carbonyls via C-C Activation of *gem*-Difluorocyclopropanes, *Org. Lett.*, 2022, **24**, 5051–5055; (i) L. Wu, M. Wang, Y. Liang and Z. Shi, Ligand-Controlled Palladium-Catalyzed Regiodivergent Defluorinative Allylation of *gem*-Difluorocyclopropanes via σ -Bond Activation, *Chin. J. Chem.*, 2022, **40**, 2345–2355; (j) L. Lv, H. Qian, A. B. Crowell, S. Chen and Z. Li, Pd/NHC-Controlled Regiodivergent Defluorinative Allylation of *gem*-Difluorocyclopropanes with Allylboronates, *ACS Catal.*, 2022, **12**, 6495–6505; (k) X. Wang and F. W. Patureau, Pd-catalyzed access to mono- and di-fluoroallylic amines from primary anilines, *Chem. Commun.*, 2023, **59**, 486–489; (l) Y. Zeng and Y. Xia, Rhodium-Catalyzed Regio- and Diastereoselective [3+2] Cycloaddition of *gem*-Difluorinated Cyclopropanes with Internal Olefins, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2023, **62**, e202307129; (m) D. Li, C. Shen, Z. Si and L. Liu, Palladium-Catalyzed Fluorinative Bifunctionalization of Aziridines and Azetidines with *gem*-Difluorocyclopropanes, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2023, **62**, e202310283; (n) H. Qian, H. D. Nguyen, L. Lv, S. Chen and Z. Li, Chemo-, Stereo- and Regioselective Fluoroallylation/Annulation of Hydrazones with *gem*-Difluorocyclopropanes via Tunable Palladium/NHC Catalysis, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2023, **62**, e202303271; (o) J. Sun, H. Ye, F. Sun, Y.-Y. Pan, X.-W. Zhu and X.-X. Wu, Palladium-Catalyzed Allylation of P(O)H Compounds: Access to 2-Fluoroallylic Phosphorus Compounds, *Org. Lett.*, 2023, **25**, 5220–5225; (p) T.-S. Wu, Y.-J. Hao, Z.-J. Cai and S.-J. Ji, Ligand-controlled regioselective cascade C-C/C-F cleavage/annulation of *gem*-DFCPs: a divergent synthesis of pyrroles, *Org. Chem. Front.*, 2023, **11**, 1057–1061; (q) H. Qian, Z. P. Cheng, Y. Luo, L. Lv, S. Chen and Z. Li, Pd/IPrBIDEA-Catalyzed Hydrodefluorination of *gem*-Difluorocyclopropanes: Regioselective Synthesis of Terminal Fluoroalkenes, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2024, **146**, 24–32; (r) Y. Zhu, J. Jia, X. Song, C. Gong and Y. Xia, Double strain-release enables formal C-O/C-F and C-N/C-F ring-opening metathesis, *Chem. Sci.*, 2024, **15**, 13800–13806; (s) H. Yang, Y. Zeng, X. Song, L. Che, Z.-T. Jiang, G. Lu and Y. Xia, Rhodium-Catalyzed Enantio- and Regioselective Allylation of Indoles with *gem*-Difluorinated Cyclopropanes, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2024, **63**, e202403602.
- 14 (a) A. M. Y. Suliman, E.-A. M. A. Ahmed, T.-J. Gong and Y. Fu, Three-component reaction of *gem*-difluorinated cyclopropanes with alkenes and B2pin2 for the synthesis of monofluoroalkenes, *Chem. Commun.*, 2021, **57**, 6400–6403; (b) A. M. Y. Suliman, E.-A. M. A. Ahmed, T.-J. Gong and Y. Fu, Cu/Pd-Catalyzed *cis*-Borylfluoroallylation of Alkynes for the Synthesis of Boryl-Substituted Monofluoroalkenes, *Org. Lett.*, 2021, **23**, 3259–3263; (c) E.-M. A. Ahmed, H.-C. Zhang, W.-G. Cao and T.-J. Gong, Palladium-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling of *gem*-Difluorocyclopropanes with *gem*-Diborylalkanes for the Synthesis of Boryl-Substituted Fluorinated Alkenes, *Org. Lett.*, 2023, **25**, 9020–9024.

