



## Recent Trifluoromethylation Reactions. (A Mini Review)

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### ABSTRACT

This review highlights recent improvement in trifluoromethylene functionalization processes with  $\text{CF}_3$  reagents, includes: Togni's, Umemoto's,  $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_2\text{Cl}$ ,  $\text{CF}_3\text{I}$ , Yagupol'skii-Umemoto,  $\text{TMSCF}_3$ , Langlois ( $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_2\text{Na}$ ) and clarifies the several designing to result the corresponding trifluoromethylated products. In this article, the selective trifluoromethylation reactions with Togni's reagents and their analogs are detailed, which work transition metals or photoactivated Ru or Ir catalysts as single electron giver to yield  $\text{CF}_3$  radical intermediate species. This issue is to introduce a draft of diverse reports, presenting the modern reaction collect and mechanics produced during the past five years. This task is demanded by the key protocol connected with the trifluoromethylation reactions, designing to sustain researchers a straight forward understanding of such reactions and to award information for further implements.

**Keywords:** Trifluoromethylation, Photocatalyst process, Togni's reagent, Umemoto's reagent, Langlois' reagent, diastereoselectivity.

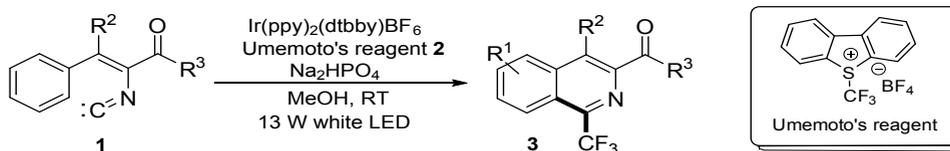
### INTRODUCTION

The first of fluorine chemistry began with the synthesis and an actual separation of elemental fluorine ( $\text{F}_2$ ) by Henri Moissan in 1886<sup>1</sup>. Compounds including fluorinated groups are encounter quite interest in pharmaceuticals, materials, and agrochemicals<sup>2</sup>, due to the remarkable advantages of it such as great electronegativity impact (4.0 in Pauling scale), steric hindrance, solubility, lipophilic feature, metabolic duration, and bioactivity<sup>3,4</sup>. Within fluorine-inclusive functional groups, trifluoromethyl moiety ( $\text{CF}_3$ ) is one of the most common and electron-withdrawing group,

which result in unusual effect on the pKa value of nearer functional groups, for example, amines, carboxylic acids, and alcohols<sup>5</sup>. The growth of actual and efficient of trifluoromethylation ( $\text{CF}_3$ ) group into organic framework is highly strenuous research field<sup>6</sup>. Moreover, the building block protocol and stereo-planned trifluoromethylation reactions have active method of installing fluorine onto organic compounds framework and the procedure widely used these last years<sup>7</sup>. In this mini-review we detail some recent developments of trifluoromethylation of alkenes synthesis and discuss select strategy examples of this process.



In 2014, Yu and co-workers<sup>8</sup> disclosed a flexible protocol for installing of  $\text{CF}_3$  group on the isoquinoline backbone utilized through the photoredox process (Scheme 1). Under the optimal conditions, various of vinyl isocyanide substrates **1** inserted with Umemoto's reagent **2** as model substrate for the generation of  $\text{CF}_3\cdot$ , followed by irradiation step, using white LED (13W), photocatalyst  $\text{Ir}(\text{ppy})_2(\text{dtbbpy})\text{PF}_6$  and  $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4$  in MeOH at room temperature. The reaction demonstrated its efficiency through the cyclization process, forming the corresponding 1-trifluoromethylisoquinoline

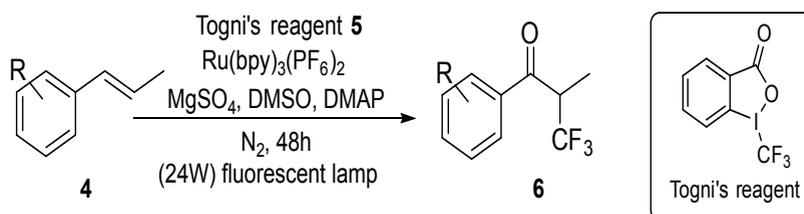


Scheme 1. Synthesis of 1-trifluoromethylisoquinolines enabled by photoredox vinyl isocyanide insertion

While, a flexible access of trifluoromethylation of electron-rich non-terminal styrenes was described by Guo and co-workers (Scheme 2)<sup>9</sup>. This methodology disclosed the efficient role of Togni's reagent **5** as a catalyst in the synthesis route of  $\alpha$ -trifluoromethyl ketone derivatives **6**, under Fluorescent light photoredox conditions. Furthermore, mechanistic experiments suggested two mechanism paths, involving radical processes. In the first path, the  $\text{Ru}(\text{II})$  catalyst undergoes metal-to-ligand transfer when subjected to light, giving the photoexcited state  $\text{Ru}^*(\text{II})$ . On the other hand, Togni's

products<sup>3</sup> with higher yields. The authors suggested two possible mechanisms for the generation of  $\text{CF}_3\cdot$  radical from Umemoto's reagent supported by visible light photoredox catalyst cycle. The  $\text{CF}_3\cdot$  radical intermediate is trapped by vinyl isocyanide substrate to form imidoyl radical, which can undergo intramolecular cyclization to produce aryl radical. Subsequently, the aryl radical is then oxidized by  $\text{Ir}(\text{IV})$  catalyst to aryl cation and regenerated  $\text{Ir}(\text{III})$ , followed by deprotonation by base and yield the desired product.

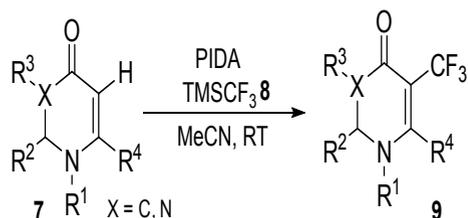
reagent plays as an oxidative quencher, transform  $\text{Ru}^*(\text{II})$  into  $\text{Ru}(\text{III})$ , and generates a  $\text{CF}_3\cdot$  radical. While the latter radical adds to alkene **4**, yielding the final product after abstraction of an oxygen atom from DMSO. Whilst in the second path,  $\text{Ru}(\text{III})$  catalyst oxidizes the electron-rich alkene substrate into a radical cation intermediate, which undergoes cycloaddition reactions under photocatalyst operation. This intermediate undergoes further stabilization by DMSO, leading finally to combine with  $\text{CF}_3\cdot$  radical and producing cation intermediate then the expected product.



Scheme 2. Synthesis of  $\alpha$ -trifluoromethyl ketone from alkenes by visible-light driven photoredox catalysis

Independently, Georg group<sup>10</sup> have used trimethyl(trifluoromethyl)silane in the synthesis of medicinally remarkable 3-trifluoromethylpiperidine derivatives<sup>9</sup> (Scheme 3). Under transition Metal-Free reaction condition, the protocol here relied on using 2,3-dihydropyridin-4(1H)-ones **7** with  $\text{TMSCF}_3$  **8**, (PIDA),  $\text{KF}$ , and promoted by MeCN solvent at room temperature. The advantage of such reaction that can proceed smoothly with cyclic enaminone substrates, including both electron-withdrawing and -donating

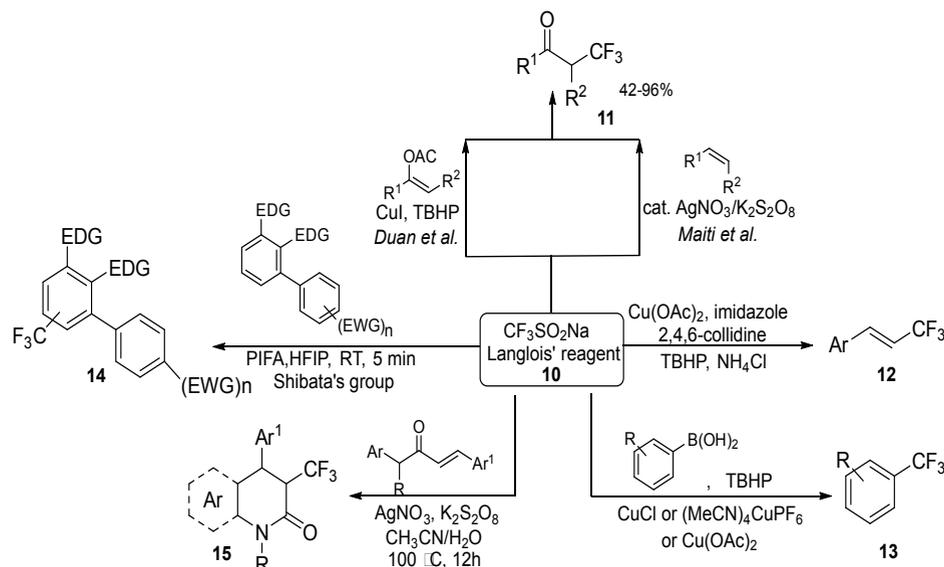
groups, which proposed a helpful level to yield the expected products with good yields. A sensible mechanistic for such radical reaction proceeds firstly through formation of hypervalent iodine (III) from the ligand exchange between PIDA and  $\text{TMSCF}_3$  in the presence of  $\text{KF}$ . Subsequently, the generation of  $\text{CF}_3\cdot$  radical and reaction it with enaminone, produce the cationic intermediate via (SET) process with iodine radical. Finally, the deprotonation by acetate anion yields the desired product.



**Scheme 3. Transition Metal-Free direct trifluoromethylation of 2,3-Dihydropyridin-4(1H)-ones**

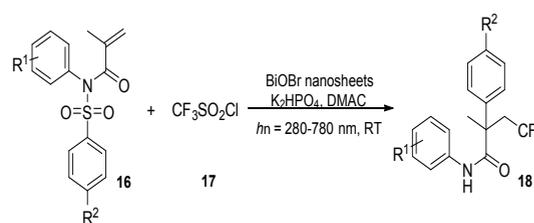
While Zhang<sup>11</sup> published recent review, included novel and useful methods for selective

introducing of CF<sub>3</sub> group into various organic compounds framework, by employing trifluoromethylation reactions, with Langlois' reagent<sup>10</sup> (Scheme 4). Generally, this paper described the efficient role of sodium trifluoromethanesulfinate (CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>Na) as a source generation of CF<sub>3</sub>• electrophile radical intermediate species in the four main methods of trifluoromethylation reactions, such as: alkenes 11, vinyl- or arylboronic acids 12, 13 and potassium organotrifluoroborates, (arenes, heterocycles)<sup>14</sup> and finally in the cyclization processes<sup>15</sup>.



**Scheme 4. Application of langlois reagent in trifluoromethylation reactions**

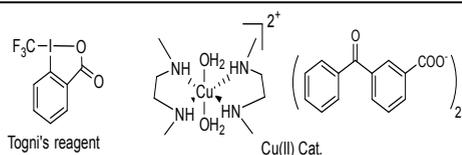
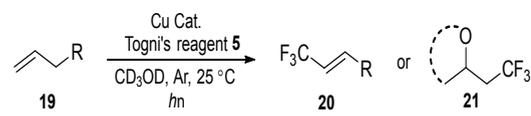
Recently, Zhang and co-workers<sup>12</sup> detailed the efficient role of BiOBr Nano sheets as photocatalyst in cascade transformation of activated alkenes 16 (Scheme 5). The reaction is value by its wide substrate range, one pot, and simple protocol under mild conditions for the synthesis of  $\alpha$ -aryl- $\beta$ -trifluoromethyl amide compounds in medium to good yields. To set the postulate, N-phenyl-N-tosylmethacrylamide substrate and CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>Cl reagent (CF<sub>3</sub> source) 17 are selected as samples in incorporation with BiOBr nanosheets, K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> in DMAC under photoredox conditions. Generally, this reaction mechanism suggested to proceed smoothly via sequential trifluoromethylation/aryl migration/desulfonylation and N-H bond formation styles. This strategy enables a practical access to a series of  $\alpha$ -aryl- $\beta$ -trifluoromethyl amides<sup>18</sup> bearing a quaternary stereocenter in moderate to good yields.



**Scheme 5. BiOBr nanosheets as efficient photocatalysts for the synthesis of  $\alpha$ -aryl- $\beta$ -trifluoromethyl amides**

Furthermore, Vincent and co-workers<sup>13</sup> developed the trifluoromethylation of alkenes reactions via using copper (II) as a pre-catalyst under photocatalyst process (Scheme 6). The protocol here, depended on the treatment range of alkenes 19 with Togni's reagent as the CF<sub>3</sub> source, and photoreducible Cu(II) complex. The reaction mixture managed at ambient temperature in methanol deuterium and displaying to sunlight/ambient light. A sensible mechanistic for such reaction proceeds through generation of CF<sub>3</sub>

radical intermediate and Cu(II)-carboxylate species from the direct reduction of Togni's reagent **5** by the copper catalyst, followed by rapid reaction with alkene and producing alkyl copper(III) intermediate. Subsequently, the latter undergoes  $\beta$ -hydride elimination to afford the E-isomer of the allylic trifluoromethylated alkene product **20**.



**Scheme 6. Copper(I)-photocatalyzed trifluoromethylation of alkenes**

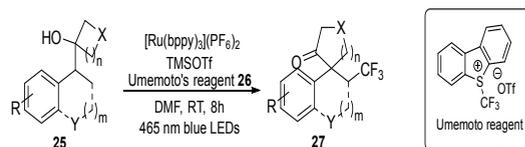
While, Cho and co-workers<sup>14</sup> have been reported a simple route toward synthesis of  $\beta$ -trifluoromethyl ketones via alternate radical fashions for the trifluoromethylation and isomerization of propargylic alcohols **22** reactions (Scheme 7). These two reactions allow new access to a variety of aromatic  $\beta$ -CF<sub>3</sub> ketones **24** in one-pot. In this case, mixture of readily available propargylic alcohols and trifluoroiodomethane, demonstrate their efficiency through the trifluoromethylation with CF<sub>3</sub>I **23** and isomerization process in presence of Ru(bpy)<sub>3</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> as the photocatalyst and DBU under blue light application, forming the corresponding products in higher yields.



**Scheme 7. Synthesis of  $\beta$ -trifluoromethylated ketones from propargylic alcohols**

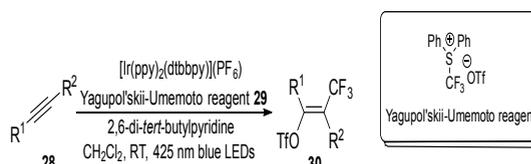
Moreover, Liu group<sup>15</sup> reported the effective usage of the transformation of readily available of  $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxycycloalkyl)-substituted styrene substrates **25** to the relating cycloalkanones **27**, containing stereogenic carbon centers (Scheme 8). Remarkably, the yielding of this reaction proceeds through radical and polar mechanisms, firstly by the trifluoromethylation of the double bond of styrene in presence of Umemoto's reagent **26** and [Ru(bpy)<sub>3</sub>](PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, under radical photoredox-catalyzed semipinacol-type rearrangement<sup>16</sup> process, and

secondly by ring expansion of the cyclo-intermediate species via ionic reaction conditions in the same pot. The authors suggested that the addition of trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (TMSOTf) (1.2 equiv) is to protect the hydroxyl group and to decrease the nucleophilicity of it.



**Scheme 8. Trifluoromethylation/Ring expansion by a Radical-Polar mechanism**

In parallel, Akita group<sup>17</sup> focused on trifluoromethyl triflation and trifluoromethyl-tosylation of alkyne derivatives, utilized by photoredox catalysis style (Scheme 9). The key incorporation between the 1-phenyl-1-propyne an unsymmetric internal alkyne substrate<sup>27</sup>, catalyst [Ir(ppy)<sub>2</sub>(dtbbpy)](PF<sub>6</sub>), and Yagupol'skii-Umemoto reagent **29**, encouraging one-pot stereo controlled synthesis of the corresponding tetra-substituted CF<sub>3</sub>-substituted alkene products **30**. Furthermore, the stereo-control of the trifluoromethyl alkenes products bearing triflate (OTf) group were subjected in situ to the Pd-catalyzed coupling reactions. It resulted that the stereochemistry was nearly keep over the Pd-catalyzed reactions under mild condition.

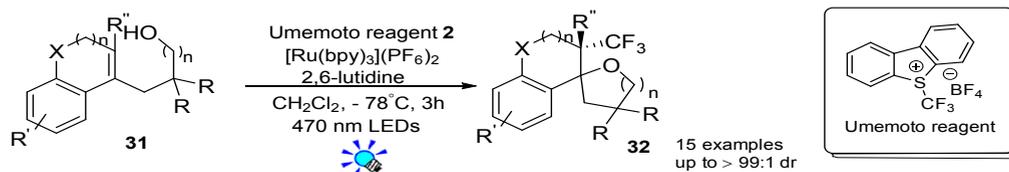


**Scheme 9. Photoredox-Catalyzed stereoselective transformation of alkynes into tetrasubstituted trifluoromethylated alkenes**

Recently, photoredox process has been employed for the synthesis of CF<sub>3</sub>- and CF<sub>2</sub>H-spiroethers from aryl-fused cycloalkenylalcohols. In this context, Akita group<sup>18</sup> reported the first example of an incoming to anti-fluoromethylated spiroethers **32** with higher diastereoselectivity (Scheme 10). The mild reaction conditions with presence of Umemoto's reagent (CF<sub>3</sub> source)<sub>2</sub>, Ru(bpy)<sub>3</sub>](PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub> as catalyst, and 2,6-lutidine in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, the corresponding product derivatives were achieved in excellent yields up to 99%. The authors suggested that the mechanism starts with generation of the fluoromethyl radical intermediate species (•CF<sub>2</sub>X)

via single-electron transfer process between the photo excited of Ru (II) to Umemoto reagent through photocatalytic, followed by radical addition reaction to cycloalkenylalkanol substrate<sup>31</sup> to produce

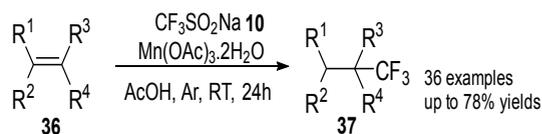
subsequently, two radical intermediates. The latter is then undergoes intramolecular nucleophilic reaction of alcohol from the opposite side, furnishing the expected anti-fluoromethylated spiroether products.



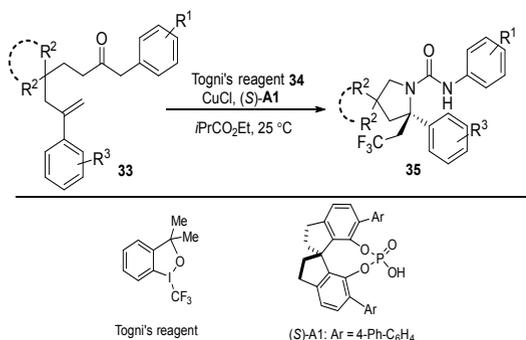
**Scheme 10.** Synthesis of  $\text{CF}_3$ - and  $\text{CF}_2\text{H}$ - Substituted spiroethers form Aryl-Fused cycloalkenylalkanols by photoredox catalysis

Later, a variety of chiral azaheterocycle cores<sup>35</sup> with  $\text{CF}_3$  group and bearing  $\alpha$ -quaternary stereogenic center have been prepared via radical asymmetric amino-trifluoromethylation of alkenes<sup>33</sup> reactions by Liu group (Scheme 11) 19. Here, the dual-catalytic system plays two efficient roles, firstly by introducing of a Cu(I)/chiral phosphoric acid and secondly by following up of both nucleophilic and directing properties of two acidic N-H bond of urea. The scope and limitation of this method allowed a positive conversion into other novel compounds in o organic synthetic fields.

noteworthy that variety of functional groups in alkene including alcohol, amide, ether, and ester, played a broad amplitude toward the reaction conditions and affording the expected products<sup>37</sup> up to 78% yields.



**Scheme 12.** Hydrotrifluoromethylation of unactivated alkenes using  $\text{Mn}(\text{OAc})_3$  and  $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_2\text{Na}$



**Scheme 11.** Direct asymmetric radical aminotrifluoromethylation of alkenes

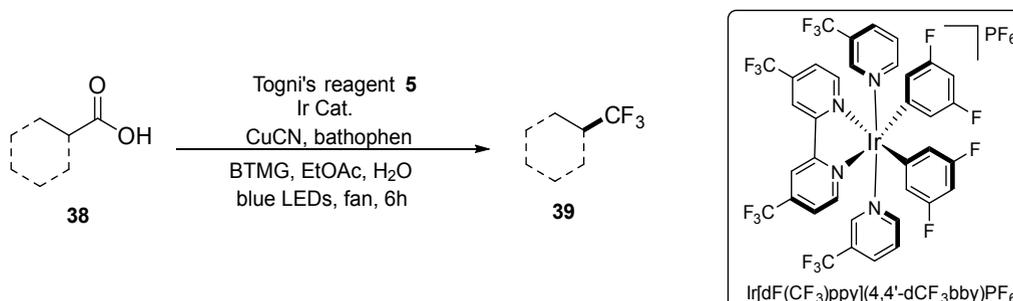
While Li and co-workers<sup>20</sup> applied Langlois' reagent for hydrotrifluoromethylation of unactivated alkenes<sup>36</sup> (Scheme 12). The protocol here, relied on using  $\text{Mn}(\text{OAc})_3 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  as the oxidant in the presence of readily available sodium trifluoromethanesulfinate (Langlois' reagent) 10. Generally, the reaction mechanism proceeded smoothly through free radical pathway. The Generation of  $\text{CF}_3\cdot$  radical in situ from the reaction between  $\text{Mn}(\text{OAc})_3 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_2\text{Na}$ . Subsequently, the Markovnikov addition of  $\text{CF}_3\cdot$  radical to the double bond of alkene, followed by hydrogen abstraction, produced the desired hydrotrifluoromethylation product. It is

Later, MacMillan group<sup>21</sup> described a novel protocol for transformation of carboxylic acids 38 to trifluoromethyl groups 39, through the incorporation with Togni's reagent under photoredox copper catalysis (Scheme 13). The reaction forward in significant with, alcohols, olefins, heterocycles, and strained ring system, producing the corresponding products in higher yields. Here, the pathway of decarboxylative trifluoromethylation mechanism starts with generation the oxidizing excited state  $^* \text{Ir}(\text{III})$  from the photoexcitation of the Ir(III) photocatalyst with visible light. In mean time, the reaction of carboxylic acid with base, produce the carboxylate ion, which can then ligate Cu(II) catalyst and delivered Cu(III) carboxylate via single-electron transfer process. Subsequently, the carboxylate ion undergoes dissociation then elimination of  $\text{CO}_2$  to generate the alkyl radical. At this point, the latter combines with Togni's reagent and yield the corresponding product.

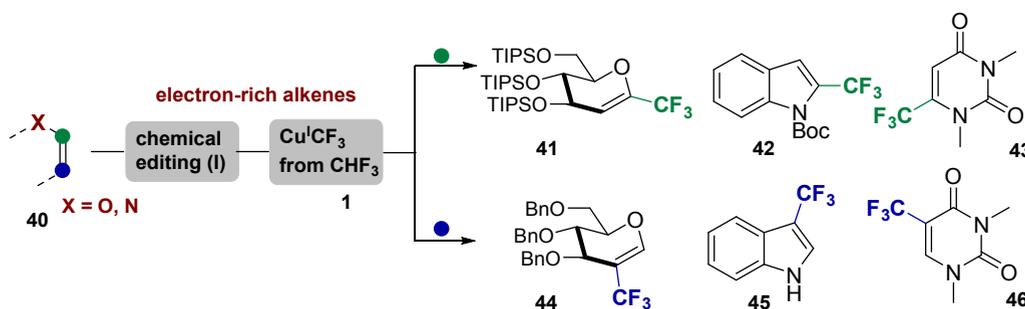
Furthermore, Boutureira and co-workers<sup>22</sup> performed insertion of  $\text{CF}_3$  units into a predefined center of electron-rich alkenes<sup>40</sup>, using fluoroform-derived "ligandless"  $\text{CuCF}_3$  (Scheme 14). Here, the reaction, allowed a good incorporation of  $\text{CF}_3$  group, that based on the selective reaction of iodine at both carbon positions

(electron-deficient and electron-rich) of (benzo-fused heterocycle, nucleo base, and glycal) substrates,

followed by a novel reaction with "ligandless"  $\text{CuCF}_3$  via specific cross-couplings with  $\text{C}(\text{sp}^2)\text{-I}$  bonds.



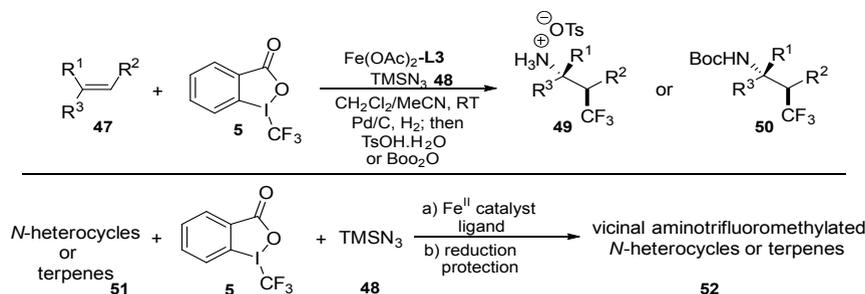
Scheme 13. Decarboxylative trifluoromethylation of aliphatic carboxylic acids



Scheme 14. Trifluoromethylation of Electron-Rich alkenyl Iodides with Fluoroform-Derived "Ligandless"  $\text{CuCF}_3$

While, Xu and co-workers<sup>23</sup> described a mild and novel procedure for the azidotrifluoromethylation reaction of N-heterocycles and terpenes, promoted by the iron catalyst and  $\text{TMSN}_3$  reagent (azido-group) 48 (Scheme 15). The reaction is value by its wide olefin 47, N-heterocycle and terpene 51 substrates range, simple protocol under mild conditions for the synthesis of vicinal trifluoromethyl primary-amine compounds, which are difficult to prepare them with the present approaches. The suggested mechanism

proceeds through formation of iron-azide-derived catalyst via activation of  $\text{Fe}(\text{OAc})_2$ -ligand complex directly by  $\text{TMSN}_3$ , followed by generation of  $\text{CF}_3\cdot$  radical through irreversible reduction with Togni's reagent under Single Electron Transfer (SET) process. The irreversible radical addition of  $\text{CF}_3\cdot$  olefin, produce carbo-radical intermediate species, which can be quickly, deposited by a high equivalent iron-azide moiety through azide-ligand switch, yielding the expected products 49, 50 and 51.



Scheme 15. Azidotrifluoromethylation of olefins and N-Heterocycles for expedient vicinal trifluoromethyl amine synthesis

## CONCLUSION

In the last four to five years, growing proof of the single electron transfer methods from metal,

inorganic salt reagents, and photoredox catalysts to out put  $\text{CF}_3$  moiety, pointing for the multilateral reductive trifluoromethylation reactions, have been widely display. In this article, the trifluoromethylation

reactions allow for dynamic building of diverse C(sp<sup>2</sup>, sp<sup>3</sup>)-CF<sub>3</sub> bonds, producing to different trifluoromethylated alkene, arene and heteroarene products with higher yields. We trust that this review can encourage chemists to perform further research task on the plan of new reagents and the employment of the old ones to improve the beneficial

trifluoromethylation reactions with variety range of substrates framework.

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