Supporting Information for:

Nickel(IV)-Catalyzed C–H Trifluoromethylation of (Hetero)arenes

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General Procedures

NMR spectra were obtained on a Varian VNMR 700 (699.76 MHz for 1 H; 175.95 MHz for 13 C; 224.51 MHz for ¹¹B; 283.29 MHz for ³¹P) or a Varian VNMR 500 (500.09 MHz for ¹H; 470.56 MHz for ¹⁹F) spectrometer. ¹H and ¹³C chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to TMS, with the residual solvent peak used as an internal reference. ^{19}F and ^{11}B chemical shifts are reported in ppm and are referenced on a unified scale, where the single primary reference is the frequency of the residual solvent peak in the ¹H NMR spectrum. Abbreviations used in the NMR data: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; dt, double of triplets; bq, broad quartet. Elemental analyses were conducted by Midwest Microlabs. X-ray crystallographic data were collected on a Bruker SMART APEX-I CCD-based X-ray diffractometer. Cyclic voltammetry was performed using a CHI600C potentiostat from CH Instruments. EPR spectra were collected at -176 °C using a Bruker EMX ESR Spectrometer with a nitrogen-cooled cryostat. Flash chromatography was conducted using a Biotage Isolera One system with cartridges containing high performance silica gel. Cyclic voltammetry was performed using a CHI600C potentiostat from CH Instruments.

Materials and Methods

 $\textsf{Ni}(\textsf{PEt}_3)_4^1, \ \textsf{K}[(\textsf{Tp})\textsf{Ni}^{\textsf{II}}(\textsf{C}_6\textsf{H}_4\textsf{-}o\textsf{-} \textsf{C}_6\textsf{H}_4)]^2, \ 2(2\textsf{-fluorophenyl})\textsf{pyridine}, ^3 2(4\textsf{-fluorophenyl})\textsf{pyridine}, ^3 \textsf{and}$ 2-(2-bromophenyl)pyridine⁴ were prepared according to literature procedures. Ni(COD)₂ and KTp were purchased from Strem. 1-Chloromethyl-4-fluoro-1,4-diazoniabicyclo[2.2.2]octane bis(tetrafluoroborate) (Selectfluor), 2,2'-bipyridine, *N*-fluorobenzenesulfonamide, and 2-picoline were purchased from Acros. Xenon difluoride was purchased from Matrix Solutions. 1-Fluoro-2,4,6-trimethylpyridinium triflate was purchased from TCI. Sodium tetrakis(3,5 bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)borate (NaBAr $_F$) was purchased from Astatech. Biphenylene was purchased from Oxchem. Dichloromethane (Fisher), pentane (Fisher), and tetrahydrofuran (Fisher) were de-aerated via a nitrogen sparge and were dried using a solvent purification system. Acetonitrile, *N,N*-dimethylformamide, dioxane, 1,2-dimethoxyethane, and pyridine were purchased from Acros, de-aerated via a nitrogen sparge, and stored over activated 3 Å molecular sieves. CD_3CN and C_6D_6 were obtained from Cambridge Isotopes Laboratories and were all sparged with N₂ before being stored over 3 Å molecular sieves under an N₂ atmosphere. Celite was dried under vacuum for 12 h at 50 °C. Unless otherwise noted, all glassware was dried overnight in an oven at 150 °C and cooled under an inert atmosphere before use. All commercial reagents were used without further purification/drying unless explicitly stated in the experimental section.

II. Synthesis of Complexes

Synthesis of $[(MeCN)_2Ni^I(CF_3)_3]$ **(S1).** An oven-dried 500 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir was charged with AgF (3.30 g, 26.0 mmol, 2 equiv), MeCN (250 mL), and TMSCF3 (4.80 mL, 32.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv) in the glovebox. The mixture was stirred vigorously for 2 h and then $NiBr_2$ ·DME (4.01 g, 13.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added. After stirring for 24 h, the reaction was transferred to several centrifuge tubes, which were sealed and centrifuged at 5000 rpm for 20 min. The yellow-orange supernatant was carefully separated from the gray pellet and reduced to dryness in vacuo. The resulting orange residue was dissolved in $CH₂Cl₂ (100 mL)$ and filtered through a 3 cm Celite pad using vacuum filtration. The solvent was removed from the filtrate under vacuum to yield a dark yellow solid (2.79 g, 77% yield). The ¹⁹F NMR spectrum matched that reported in the literature.¹

Synthesis of $[(Tp)Ni^{II}(CF₃)₂NMe₄]$ **(I).** A 20 mL scintillation vial equipped with a magnetic stir was charged with (MeCN)₂Ni^{II}(CF₃)₃ (**S1**) (178 mg, 0.64 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NMe₄Tp (183 mg, 0.64 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and MeCN (10 mL). The mixture was vigorously shaken for 1 min and then the solvent was removed under vacuum. The orange residue was washed with pentanes (2 x 10 mL) and diethyl ether (2 x 10 mL) and dried under vacuum to yield a light orange solid (299 mg, 97% yield). ¹H NMR and ¹⁹F NMR spectra matched those reported in the literature.²

Synthesis of [(Tp)NiIV (CF3)3] (II): In a nitrogen atmosphere glovebox, an oven-dried 250 mL round bottom flask equipped with magnetic stir bar was charged with $TpNi^{II}(CF₃)₂NMe₄]$ (**I**) (500 mg, 1.03 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and CH₂Cl₂ (250 mL). 2,8-Difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5Hdibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (496 mg, 1.13 mmol, 1.1 equiv) was added, and the reaction was vigorously stirred for 1.5 h. The brown reaction mixture was removed from the glovebox and filtered, and the filtrate was reduced to dryness under vacuum. The brown residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (mobile phase:

hexanes/ethyl acetate with a gradient from 99:1 to 90:10). The product was obtained as a canary yellow solid (233 mg, 47% yield). ${}^{1}H$, ${}^{19}F$, ${}^{13}C$, and ${}^{11}B$ NMR spectra matched those reported in the literature.³

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 23 °C): δ 7.95 (s, 3H), 7.70 (s, 3H), 6.27 (s, 3H), 4.53 (bq, B–**H**, 1H).

¹³C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl₃, 23 °C) δ 144.1, 135.5, 108.8 (q, J_{CF} = 401 Hz), 105.9.

¹¹B NMR (225 MHz, CDCl₃, 23 °C): δ –4.50 (d, J_{BH} = 112 Hz, *B*–H).

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃, 23 °C): δ –18.4 (s, 3F)

III. Stoichiometric C–H Trifluoromethylation of Arenes

In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL glass vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with substrate (1.0 equiv, 5.0 equiv or neat), complex **II** (6 mg, 0.015 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and anhydrous DMSO (600 μL or 0 μL for entry 2). The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. After this time, trifluorotoluene (1.53 μL, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added, and the yield of the trifluoromethylated product was determined by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy.

Yields determined by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy using trifluorotoluene as an internal standard

Figure S1. ¹⁹F NMR spectrum showing formation of compound 1-CF₃ under conditions outlined in entry 1.

Figure S2.¹⁹F NMR spectrum showing formation of compound 1-CF₃ under conditions outlined in entry 2.

in entry 3.

Figure S4. ¹⁹F NMR spectrum showing formation of compound 2-CF₃ under conditions outlined in entry 4.

In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL glass vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with complex **I** (10 mg, 0.021 mmol, 1.0 equiv), trifluorotoluene (2.5 μL, 0.02 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and anhydrous DMSO (700 μL). This solution was added to a screw-top NMR tube, which was sealed and removed from the glovebox. A solution of $TsOH·H₂O$ (7.8 mg, 0.041 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in DMSO (300 μL) was added to the NMR tube via syringe. The NMR tube was shaken, and then the reaction was analyzed by 19 F NMR spectroscopy. As shown in Figure S5, a significant upfield shift was observed for the CF_3 signal, consistent with the proposed protonation reaction. This new signal has the same chemical shift as that of the Ni^{II} product observed in the above trifluoromethylation reactions, indicating that this Ni^{II} product is the protonated derivative of complex **I** (**I-H⁺**)

Figure S5. 19F NMR spectrum showing formation of compound **I-H⁺** through treatment of complex I with TsOH \cdot H₂O.

In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial was charged with trimethoxybenzene (10.5 mg, 0.0625 mmol, 5 equiv), complex **II** (6.0 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv), and DMSO (625 μL). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 2 h and then transferred to a screw-cap NMR tube and analyzed by ^{19}F NMR spectroscopy to confirm complete formation of 2-CF₃ and relative concentration of **I-H⁺** (Figure S6a). A solution of **B** (8.2 mg, 0.0187 mmol, 1.5 equiv) in DMSO (100 μL) was added to this NMR tube, and the contents were shaken before the sample was inserted back into the spectrometer to determine the relative consumption of **I-H⁺** and formation of **II** (Figure S6b).

Figure S6. Determining ability of oxidant **B** to convert **I-H⁺** into complex **II**. (a) 19F NMR spectrum of reaction after stirring for 2 h. (b) 19F NMR spectrum of reaction after addition of **B**

IV. Catalytic C–H Trifluoromethylation of Arenes

In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL glass vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with trimethoxybenzene (8 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 22 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and anhydrous DMSO (0.9 mL). Complex **II** (100 μL of a 0.025 M stock solution in DMSO) was then added. The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, and the reaction was stirred inside the glovebox for 24 h at room temperature. After this time, trifluorotoluene (6.14 μL, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added, and the yield of 2 -CF₃ was determined by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy.

Entry	Modification	Yield (%)
1	none	35
$\overline{2}$	no II	$\pmb{0}$
3	no light	37
$\overline{4}$	no II, 45 °C	$\overline{4}$
5	no II, 65 °C	9
6	no II, 85 °C	$\overline{7}$
$\overline{7}$	no II, 105 °C	$\overline{7}$
8	I as catalyst	25
9	A used as oxidant	25
10	0.025M	20
11	2.5M	40
12	MeCN solvent	24
13	Dioxane solvent	$\overline{\mathbf{4}}$
14	DMF solvent	35
15	THF solvent	$\mathbf{1}$
16	60 °C	38
17	48 h	42
18	2 equiv arene	62
19	5 equiv arene	93
20	0.1 equiv Cp ₂ Co, 1.0 equiv TsOH·H ₂ O	25

Table S2. Optimizing Ni^{IV}-catalyzed trifluoromethylation

Yields determined by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy using trifluorotoluene as an internal standard and are based on oxidant.

NMR Scale: In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL glass vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with trimethoxybenzene (42 mg, 0.25 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)- 5*H*-dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 22 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and anhydrous DMSO (0.9 mL). Complex **II** (100 μL of a 0.025 M stock solution in DMSO) was then added. The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, and the reaction was stirred inside the glovebox for 24 h at room temperature. Trifluorotoluene (6.14 μL, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added and the yield of 2-CF₃ was determined by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy (Figure S7, 92% yield). Yield of 2-CF₃ obtained from reaction conducted in absence of **II** was 1% (Figure S8).

Figure S7. 19F NMR spectrum showing formation of compound **2-CF3**.

Figure S8. 19F NMR spectrum of control reaction with compound **2** and **B** in absence of **II**.

Isolation Scale: In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 20 mL glass vial equipped with stir bar was charged with trimethoxybenzene (420 mg, 2.5 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)- 5*H*-dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 220 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv), complex **II** (12 mg, 0.025 mmol, 5 mol %), and anhydrous DMSO (10 mL). The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, and the reaction was stirred inside the glovebox for 24 h at room temperature. After this time, the reaction was removed from the glovebox, transferred to a separatory funnel. Et₂O (60 mL) was added, and the organic layer was then washed with DI H₂O $(2 \times 25 \text{ mL})$. The aqueous layers were combined and re-extracted with Et₂O (60 mL). The organic layers were combined and washed with DI $H₂O$ (4 x 25 mL), 5% aqueous LiCl (1 x 25 mL), and sat. aqueous NaCl (1 x 25 mL). The organic extracts were dried over Mg_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. The deep purple residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (mobile phase: hexanes/ethyl acetate with a gradient from 100:0 to 90:10) to yield 2-CF₃ as a white crystalline solid (103 mg, 87% yield). 1 H, 19 F, and 13 C NMR spectra matched those reported in the literature.⁴

NMR Scale: In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with resorcinol (28 mg, 0.25 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 22 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and anhydrous DMSO (0.9 mL). Complex **II** (100 μL of a 0.025 M stock solution in DMSO) was added. The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. Trifluorotoluene (6.14 μL, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added, and the yield of **3-** **CF₃-2** and **3-CF₃-4** were determined by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy (Figure S9, 2 isomers, 2.5 : 1 ratio, 24% yield **3-CF3-2** and 60% yield of **3-CF3-4**, 84% combined yield). No **3-CF3-2** or **3-CF3-4** was detected from reaction conducted in absence of **II** (Figure S10).

Figure S9.¹⁹F NMR spectrum showing formation of compound 3-CF₃.

Figure S10. 19F NMR spectrum of control reaction with compound **3** and **B** in absence of **II**.

Isolation Scale: In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 20 mL glass vial equipped with stir bar was charged with resorcinol (275mg, 2.5 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 220 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv), complex **II** (12 mg, 0.025 mmol, 5 mol %), and anhydrous DMSO (10 mL). The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined screw cap and the reaction was stirred inside the glovebox for 24 h at room temperature. After this time, the reaction was removed from the glovebox, transferred to a separatory funnel. After this time, the reaction was removed from the glovebox, transferred to a separatory funnel. Et₂O (60 mL) was added, and the organic layer was then washed with DI H₂O $(2 \times 25 \text{ mL})$. The aqueous layers were combined and re-extracted with Et₂O (60 mL). The organic layers were combined and washed with DI $H₂O$ (4 x 25 mL), 5% aqueous LiCl (1 x 25 mL), and sat. aqueous NaCl (1 x 25 mL). The organic extracts were dried over Mg_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. The deep purple residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (mobile phase: 75:25 hexanes/EtOAc) to yield **3-CF3-2** as a white powder (20 mg, 22% yield). We were unable to separate 3-CF₃-4 from residual starting material 3.

NMR Data for 3-CF₃-2:

¹H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl₃, 23 °C): δ 7.23 (t, *J*_{HH} = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (d, *J*_{HH} = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 5.74 (s, 2H).

¹³C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl₃, 23 °C): δ 154.9, 133.6, 125.1 (q, *J*_{CF} = 273.2 Hz), 109.8.

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃, 23 °C): δ –54.2 (s).

 NMR Scale: In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with tadalafil (97 mg, 0.25 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*-dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 22 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and anhydrous DMSO (0.9 mL). Complex **II** (100 μL of a 0.025 M stock solution in DMSO) was then added. The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. Trifluorotoluene (6.14 μ L, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added, and the yield of 4 -CF₃ was determined by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy (Figure S11, 65% yield). Yield of 4-CF₃ obtained from reaction conducted in absence of **II** was 4% (Figure S12).

Figure S11. ¹⁹F NMR spectrum showing formation of compound 4-CF₃.

Figure S12. 19F NMR spectrum of control reaction with compound **4** and **B** in absence of **II**.

Isolation Scale: In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 20 mL vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with tadalafil (487 mg, 2.5 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 220 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv), complex **II** (12 mg, 0.025 mmol, 5 mol %), and anhydrous DMSO (10 mL). The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. After this time, the reaction was removed from the glovebox, and transferred to a separatory funnel. Ethyl acetate (60 mL) was added, and the organic layer was then washed with DI H₂O (2 x 25 mL). The aqueous layers were combined and re-extracted with EtOAc (60 mL). The organic layers were combined and washed with DI H_2O (4 x 25 mL), 5% aqueous LiCl (1 x 25 mL), and sat. aqueous NaCl (1 x 25 mL). The organic extracts were dried over Mg_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. The deep purple residue was purified by flash chromatography on reverse-phase silica gel (mobile phase: MeCN/H₂O) with a gradient from 100:0 to 90:10) to yield 4 -CF₃ as a white powder (49 mg, 43% yield). The structure of the product was assigned as depicted in Figure S13 and was informed by the assigned ¹H NMR data for 4.⁵

Figure S13. ¹H NMR spectra and assignment of the aromatic regions of 4 and 4-CF₃.

1 H NMR (700 MHz, DMSO-*d*6, 23 ºC): δ 11.75 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.79 (s, 2H), 6.18 (s, 1H), 5.93 (s, 2H), 4.42 (dd, *J* = 11.8, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (d, *J* = 17.0 Hz, 1H), 3.96 (d, *J* = 17.0 Hz, 1H), 3.64-3.60 (m, 1H), 3.01 – 2.96 (m, 1H), 2.93 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (176 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 23 °C): δ 167.2, 166.7, 147.5, 146.6, 137.5, 137.4, 136.9, 126.2, 121.4, 120.73, 119.6, 118.9, 117.3 (CF₃ extracted from HMBC), 116.6, 108.6, 107.34, 103.9, 101.4, 55.9, 55.5, 51.8, 33.3, 24.6.

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 23 °C): δ –57.1 (s).

NMR Scale: In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with indole (30 mg, 0.25 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*-dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5 ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 22 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and anhydrous DMSO (0.9 mL). Complex **II** (100 μL of a 0.025 M stock solution in DMSO) was added. The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. Trifluorotoluene (6.14 μ L, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added, and the yield of 5 -CF₃ was determined by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy (Figure S14, 2 : 1 ratio of isomers, 43% yield 5-CF₃-2 and 21% yield of **5-CF3-3**, 64% combined yield). Reaction conducted in absence of **II** yielded 2% **5- CF3-2** and 3% **5-CF3-3** (Figure S15).

Figure S14. 19F NMR spectrum showing formation of compound **5-CF3-2** and **5-CF3-3**.

Figure S15. 19F NMR spectrum of control reaction with compound **5** and **B** in absence of **II**.

Isolation Scale: In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 20 mL vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with indole (293 mg, 2.5 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 220 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv), complex **II** (12 mg, 0.025 mmol, 5 mol %), and anhydrous DMSO (10 mL). The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined screw cap and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. After this time, the reaction was removed from the glovebox and transferred to a separatory funnel. Et₂O (60 mL) was added, and the organic layer was then washed with DI H₂O (2 x 25 mL). The aqueous layers were combined and re-extracted with $Et₂O$ (60 mL). The organic layers were combined and washed with DI H₂O (4 x 25 mL), 5% aqueous LiCl (1 x 25 mL), and sat. aqueous NaCl (1 x 25 mL). The organic extracts were dried over Mg_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. The deep purple residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (mobile phase: hexanes/ethyl acetate with a gradient from 99:1 to 95:5) to yield the major product of 5-CF₃-2 as a white solid (29 mg, 32% yield). 1 H, 19 F, and 13 C NMR spectra matched those reported in the literature.⁶

 NMR Scale: In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with 3-methylindole (33 mg, 0.25 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 22 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and

anhydrous DMSO (0.9 mL). Complex **II** (100 μL of a 0.025 M stock solution in DMSO) was then added. The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. Trifluorotoluene (6.14 μL, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added, and the yield of 6-CF₃ was determined by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy (Figure S16, 100% yield). Reaction conducted in absence of **II** yielded 14% **6-CF**₃ (Figure S17).

Figure S16. ¹⁹F NMR spectrum showing formation of compound 6-CF₃.

Figure S17. 19F NMR spectrum of control reaction with compound **6** and **B** in absence of **II**.

Isolation Scale: In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 20 mL vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with 3-methylindole (328 mg, 2.5 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 220 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv), complex **II** (12 mg, 0.025 mmol, 5 mol %), and anhydrous DMSO (10 mL). The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. After this time, the reaction was removed from the glovebox and transferred to a separatory funnel. $E_{2}O$ (60 mL) was added, and the organic layer was then washed with DI H_2O (2 x 25 mL). The aqueous layers were combined and re-extracted with $Et₂O$ (60 mL). The organic layers were combined and washed with DI H₂O (4 x 25 mL), 5% aqueous LiCl (1 x 25 mL), and sat. aqueous NaCl (1 x 25 mL). The organic extracts were dried over Mg_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. The deep purple residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (mobile phase: hexanes/ethyl acetate with a gradient from 100:0 to 55:45) to yield 6 -CF₃ as an off-white crystalline solid (91 mg, 91% yield). 1 H, 19 F, and 13 C NMR spectra matched those reported in the literature. 4

 NMR Scale: In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with melatonin (58 mg, 0.25 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*-

dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 22 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and anhydrous DMSO (0.9 mL). Complex **II** (100 μL of a 0.025 M stock solution in DMSO) was then added. The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. Trifluorotoluene (6.14 μL, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added, and the yield of 7-CF₃ was determined by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy (Figure S18, 67% yield). Reaction conducted in absence of **II** yielded 12% **7-CF**₃ (Figure S19).

Figure S18. ¹⁹F NMR spectrum showing formation of compound 7-CF₃.

Figure S19. 19F NMR spectrum of control reaction with compound **7** and **B** in absence of **II**.

Isolation Scale: In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 20 mL vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with melatonin (581 mg, 2.5 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 220 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv), complex **II** (12 mg, 0.025 mmol, 5 mol%), and anhydrous DMSO (10 mL). The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. After this time, the reaction was removed from the glovebox and transferred to a separatory funnel. $Et₂O$ (60 mL) was added, and the organic layer was then washed with DI H₂O (2 x 25 mL). The aqueous layers were combined and re-extracted with $Et₂O$ (60 mL). The organic layers were combined and washed with DI H_2O (4 x 25 mL), 5% aqueous LiCl (1 x 25 mL), and sat. aqueous NaCl (1 x 25 mL). The organic extracts were dried over Mg_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. The deep purple residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (mobile phase: 100% ethyl acetate) to yield **7-CF**₃ as a white powder (96 mg, 64% yield). ¹H, ¹⁹F, and ¹³C NMR spectra matched those reported in the literature.⁷

NMR Scale: In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with boc-L-tryptophan (76 mg, 0.25 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 22 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and

anhydrous DMSO (0.9 mL). Complex **II** (100 μL of a 0.025 M stock solution in DMSO) was then added. The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. Trifluorotoluene (6.14 μL, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added, and the yield of 8-CF₃ was determined by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy (Figure S20, 81% yield). Reaction conducted in absence of **II** yielded 7% 8-CF₃ (Figure S21).

Figure S20. ¹⁹F NMR spectrum showing formation of compound 8-CF₃.

Figure S21. 19F NMR spectrum of control reaction with compound **8** and **B** in absence of **II**.

Isolation Scale: In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 20 mL vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with Boc-L-tryptophan (760 mg, 2.5 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 220 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv), complex **II** (12 mg, 0.025 mmol, 5 mol %), and anhydrous DMSO (10 mL). The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. After this time, the reaction was removed from the glovebox and transferred to a separatory funnel. EtOAc (60 mL) was added, and the organic layer was then washed with DI H₂O (2 x 25 mL). The aqueous layers were combined and re-extracted with EtOAc (60 mL). The organic layers were combined and washed with DI H₂O (4 x 25 mL), 5% aqueous LiCl (1 x 25 mL), and sat. aqueous NaCl (1 x 25 mL). The organic extracts were dried over Mg_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. The deep purple residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (mobile phase: 1% AcOH, 28% EtOAc, 71% hexanes). Fractions containing 8-CF₃ were combined and washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (3 x 25 mL), dried over Mg₂SO₄, and concentrated in vacuo to yield **8-CF**₃ as a white powder (120 mg, 64% yield).

1 H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl3, 23 ºC): δ 8.59 (br. d, 1H), 7.73 (dd, *J* = 24.0, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (dd, *J* = 24.0, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (q, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (m, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 5.15 (s, 1H), 4.58 (bd, 1H), 3.47 (m, 1H), 3.27 (s, 1H), 1.36 (s, 6H), 0.99 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl₃, 23 °C): δ 175.3, 156.3, 155.4, 135.2, 127.7, 127.4, 124.9, 121.7 (q, *J*_{CF} = 269 Hz), 120.9, 120.3, 113.6, 112.5, 111.7, 81.1, 80.2, 28.1, 27.5.

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃, 23 °C): δ –57.8 (s).

NMR Scale: In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with 7-azaindole (30 mg, 0.25 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5H-7-azaindole (30 mg, 0.25 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 22 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and anhydrous DMSO (0.9 mL). Complex **II** (100 μL of a 0.025 M stock solution in DMSO) was then added. The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. Trifluorotoluene (6.14 μL, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added, and the yield of 9-CF₃ was determined by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy (Figure S22, 3 : 1 ratio of isomers, 60% yield of 9-**CF3-2** and 19% yield of **9-CF3-3**, 79% combined yield). Reaction conducted in absence of **II** yielded 0% **9-CF3-2** and 0% **9-CF3-3** (Figure S23).

Figure S23. 19F NMR spectrum of control reaction with compound **9** and **B** in absence of **II**.

Isolation Scale: In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 20 mL vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with 7-azaindole (295 mg, 2.5 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 220 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv), complex **II** (12 mg, 0.025 mmol, 5 mol%), and anhydrous DMSO (10 mL). The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. After this time, the reaction was removed from the glovebox and transferred to a separatory funnel. EtOAc (60 mL) was added, and the organic layer was then washed with DI H₂O (2 x 25 mL). The aqueous layers were combined and re-extracted with EtOAc (60 mL). The organic layers were combined and washed with DI H₂O (4 x 25 mL), 5% aqueous LiCl (1 x 25 mL), and sat. aqueous NaCl (1 x 25 mL). The organic extracts were dried over Mg_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. The deep purple residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (mobile phase: hexanes/ethyl acetate with a gradient from 100:0 to 65:35) to yield 9-CF₃-2 as a white powder (59 mg, 63% yield) and **9-CF3-3** as a white powder (7 mg, 7% yield).

Characterization for 9-CF3-2:

¹H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl₃, 23 °C): δ 12.06 (br. s, 1H), 8.13 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.23 (m).

¹³C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl₃, 23 °C): δ 147.6 (q, *J*_{CF} = 34.2 Hz), 140.0, 129.8, 129.1, 123.2, 122.6 (q, *J*_{CF} = 273.2 Hz), 112.1 (q, *J*_{CF} = 2.7 Hz), 100.9.

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃, 23 °C): δ –65.5 (s).

Characterization for 9-CF₃-3:

¹H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl₃, 23 °C): δ 14.00 (br. s, 1H), 8.48 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (dd, *J* = 4.4, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (s).

¹³C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.49, 144.5, 131.4, 127.22 (q, *J*_{CF} = 39.2 Hz), 121.2 (q, *J*_{CF} = 268.2 Hz), 119.8, 116.9, 101.4 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 3.5$ Hz).

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃, 23 °C): δ –61.1 (s).

 NMR Scale: In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with 3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene (27 μL, 0.25 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 22 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and anhydrous DMSO (0.9 mL). Complex **II** (100 μL of a 0.025 M stock solution in DMSO) was then added. The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. Trifluorotoluene (6.14 μL, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added, and the yield of **10- CF3** was determined by 19F NMR spectroscopy (Figure S24, 41% yield). Reaction conducted in absence of **II** yielded 1% **10-CF**₃ (Figure S25).

Figure S24. ¹⁹F NMR spectrum showing formation of compound 10-CF₃.

-50.0 -50.5 -61.0 -61.5 -62.0 -62.5 -53.0 -53.5 -54.0 -54.5 -55.0 -55.5 -56.0 -56.5 -57.0 -57.5 -58.0 -58.5 -59.0 -59.5 -60.0 -60.5 -61.0 -61.5 -62.0 -62.5 -63.0 -60.0 -60.5 -61.0 -61.5 -62.0 -62.5 -63.0 -69.5 -61.0 -61.5

Figure S25. 19F NMR spectrum of control reaction with compound **10** and **B** in absence of **II**.

Isolation Scale: In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 20 mL vial equipped with stir bar was charged with 3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene (267 μL, 2.5 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)- 5*H*-dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 220 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv), complex **II** (12 mg, 0.025 mmol, 5 mol%), and anhydrous DMSO (10 mL). The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. After this time, the reaction was removed from the glovebox and transferred to a separatory funnel. EtOAc (60 mL) was added, and the organic layer was then washed with DI $H₂O$ (2 x 25 mL). The aqueous layers were combined and re-extracted with EtOAc (60 mL). The organic layers were combined and washed with DI H₂O (4 x 25 mL), 5% aqueous LiCl (1 x 25 mL), and sat. aqueous NaCl (1 x 25 mL). The organic extracts were dried over Mg_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. The deep purple residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (mobile phase: hexanes/ethyl acetate with a gradient from 100:0 to 90:10) to yield **10-CF**₃ as a clear oil (33 mg, 31% yield). $\rm ^1H,~^{19}F,$ and $\rm ^{13}CNMR$ spectra matched reported values. $\rm ^8$

¹H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl₃, 23 °C): δ 6.49 (s, 1H), 4.31-4.30 (m, 2H), 4.23-4.22 (m, 2H)

¹³C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl₃, 23 °C): δ 141.9 (q, *J*_{CF} = 3.2 Hz), 141.3, 122.2 (q, *J*_{CF} = 244.4 Hz), 104.4 (q, J_{CF} = 39.1 Hz), 102.1, 64.9, 64.2.

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃, 23 °C): δ –55.4 (s).

 NMR Scale: In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with 2,6-dimethoxypyridine (33 μL, 0.25 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 22 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and anhydrous DMSO (0.9 mL). Complex **II** (100 μL of a 0.025 M stock solution in DMSO) was then added. The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. Trifluorotoluene (6.14 μL, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added, and the yield of **11- CF3** was determined by 19F NMR spectroscopy (Figure S26, 42% yield). Reaction conducted in absence of **II** yielded 0% 11-CF₃ (Figure S27).

Figure S26. ¹⁹F NMR spectrum showing formation of compound 11-CF₃.

Figure S27. 19F NMR spectrum of control reaction with compound **11** and **B** in absence of **II**.

Isolation Scale: In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 20 mL vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with 2,6-dimethoxypyridine (330 μL, 2.5 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 220 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv), complex **II** (12 mg, 0.025 mmol, 5 mol %), and anhydrous DMSO (10 mL). The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. After this time, the reaction was removed from the glovebox and transferred to a separatory funnel. $Et₂O$ (60 mL) was added, and the organic layer was then washed with DI H₂O (2 x 25 mL). The aqueous layers were combined and re-extracted with $Et₂O$ (60 mL). The organic layers were combined and washed with DI H₂O (4 x 25 mL), 5% aqueous LiCl (1 x 25 mL), and sat. aqueous NaCl (1 x 25 mL). The organic extracts were dried over Mq_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. The deep purple residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (mobile phase: 100% pentanes) to yield 11-CF₃ as a clear oil (35 mg, 34% yield). ¹H, ¹⁹F, and ¹³C NMR spectra matched those reported in the literature.⁹

 NMR Scale: In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with 2-isopropyl-6-methyl-4-pyrimidol (38 mg, 0.25 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)- 5*H*-dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 22 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and

anhydrous DMSO (0.9 mL). Complex **II** (100 μL of a 0.025 M stock solution in DMSO) was then added. The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. Trifluorotoluene (6.14 μL, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added, and the yield of **12- CF3** was determined by 19F NMR spectroscopy (Figure S28, 67% yield). Reaction conducted in absence of **II** yielded 0% 12-CF₃ (Figure S29).

Figure S28. ¹⁹F NMR spectrum showing formation of compound 12-CF₃.

Figure S29. 19F NMR spectrum of control reaction with compound **12** and **B** in absence of **II**.

Isolation Scale: In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 20 mL glass vial equipped with stir bar was charged with 2-isopropyl-6-methyl-4-pyrimidol (380 mg, 2.5 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5- (trifluoromethyl)-5*H*-dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 220 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv), complex **II** (12 mg, 0.025 mmol, 5 mol%), and anhydrous DMSO (10 mL). The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. After this time, the reaction was removed from the glovebox and transferred to a separatory funnel. Et₂O (60 mL) was added, and the organic layer was then washed with DI H₂O (2 x 25 mL). The aqueous layers were combined and re-extracted with EtOAc (60 mL). The organic layers were combined and washed with DI $H₂O$ (4 x 25 mL), 5% aqueous LiCl (1 x 25 mL), and sat. aqueous NaCl (1 x 25 mL). The organic extracts were dried over Mq_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. The deep purple residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (mobile phase: hexanes/ethyl acetate with a gradient from 100:0 to 70:30) to yield 12-CF₃ as a white powder (57 mg, 52% yield).

¹H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl₃, 23 °C): δ 12.67 (br. s, 1H), 2.93 (hept, *J*_{HH} = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (q, *J*_{HF} $= 2.8$ Hz, 3H), 1.34 (d, $J_{HH} = 7.0$ Hz, 6H).

¹³C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl₃, 23 °C): δ 167.7, 167.4, 161.4, 123.6 (q, *J*_{CF} = 273.3 Hz), 112.0 (q, J_{CF} = 30.6 Hz), 34.7, 23.9, 20.0.

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃, 23 °C): δ –57.7 (s).

Investigation of Other Substrates

In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with substrate (5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*-dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 22 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and anhydrous DMSO (0.9 mL). Complex **II** (100 μL of a 0.025 M stock solution in DMSO) was then added. The vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. Trifluorotoluene (6.14 μ L, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added, and the yield of R -CF₃ was determined by 19 F NMR spectroscopy (Table S3).

*Yields determined by 19F NMR spectrsocopy using trifluorotoluene as an internal standard

V. Mechanistic Studies

In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial was charged with trimethoxybenzene (2.1 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv) and anhydrous DMSO (100 μL). To a separate 4 mL vial was added complex **II** (6.0 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv), trifluorotoluene (1.53 μL , 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv) as an internal standard, and DMSO (425 μL). This yellow solution was added to a screw-cap NMR tube, which was then sealed and removed from the glovebox. The solution of trimethoxybenzene was added to the NMR tube, which was shaken vigorously and immediately inserted into the spectrometer. Reaction progress was monitored by tracking the consumption of complex **II** and production of product 2-CF₃ by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy over the course of 2 h (400 spectra acquired total, Figure S30).

Figure S30. Reaction profile for the trifluoromethylation of 1 equiv trimethoxybenzene with complex **II**.
In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial was charged with trimethoxybenzene (10.5 mg, 0.0625 mmol, 5 equiv) and anhydrous DMSO (100 μL). To a separate 4 mL vial was added complex **II** (6.0 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv), trifluorotoluene (1.53 μL , 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv) as an internal standard, and DMSO (425 μL). This yellow solution was added to a screw-cap NMR tube, which was then sealed and removed from the glovebox. The solution of trimethoxybenzene was added to the NMR tube, which was shaken vigorously and immediately inserted into the spectrometer. Reaction progress was monitored by tracking the consumption of complex **II** and production of product **2-CF**₃ by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy over the course of 2 h (400 spectra acquired total, Figure S31).

Figure S31. Reaction profile for the trifluoromethylation of 5.0 equiv trimethoxybenzene with complex **II**.

In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial was charged with trimethoxybenzene (21.0 mg, 0.0625 mmol, 10 equiv) and anhydrous DMSO (100 μL). To a separate 4 mL vial was added complex **II** (6.0 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv), trifluorotoluene (1.53 μL , 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv) as an internal standard, and DMSO (425 μL). This yellow solution was added to a screw-cap NMR tube, which was then sealed and removed from the glovebox. The solution of trimethoxybenzene was added to the NMR tube, which was shaken vigorously and immediately inserted into the spectrometer. Reaction progress was monitored by tracking the consumption of complex **II** and production of product **2-CF**₃ by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy over the course of 2 h (400 spectra acquired total, Figure S32).

Figure S32. Reaction profile for the trifluoromethylation of 10.0 equiv trimethoxybenzene with complex **II**.

In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial was charged with trimethoxybenzene (42.0 mg, 0.25 mmol, 20 equiv) and anhydrous DMSO (100 μL). To a separate 4 mL vial was added complex **II** (6.0 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv), trifluorotoluene (1.53 μL , 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv) as an internal standard, and DMSO (425 μL). This yellow solution was added to a screw-cap NMR tube, which was then sealed and removed from the glovebox. The solution of trimethoxybenzene was added to the NMR tube, which was shaken vigorously and immediately inserted into the spectrometer. Reaction progress was monitored by tracking the consumption of complex **II** and production of product **2-CF**₃ by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy over the course of 2 h (400 spectra acquired total, Figure S33).

Figure S33. Reaction profile for the trifluoromethylation of 20.0 equiv trimethoxybenzene with complex **II**.

In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial was charged with trimethoxybenzene (84.1 mg, 0.5 mmol, 40 equiv) and anhydrous DMSO (100 μL). To a separate 4 mL vial was added complex **II** (6.0 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv), trifluorotoluene (1.53 μL, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv) as an internal standard, and DMSO (425 μL). This yellow solution was added to a screw-cap NMR tube, which was then sealed and removed from the glovebox. The solution of trimethoxybenzene was added to the NMR tube, which was shaken vigorously and immediately inserted into the spectrometer. Reaction progress was monitored by tracking the consumption of complex **II** and production of product **2-CF**₃ by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy over the course of 2 h (400 spectra acquired total, Figure S34).

Figure S34. Reaction profile for the trifluoromethylation of 40.0 equiv trimethoxybenzene with complex **II**.

Using the data acquired in the above series of reactions, the initial rate of the reaction after completion of the induction period was determined through fitting this region of the reaction profile. These rates were plotted against substrate concentration. The initial rate was observed to increase with increasing concentration of trimethoxybenzene until saturation was reached at approximately 10 equiv of trimethoxybenzene.

Figure S35. Fit region of reaction progress profile for the trifluoromethylation of 1.0 equiv trimethoxybenzene with complex **II**.

Figure S36. Fit region of reaction progress profile for the trifluoromethylation of 5.0 equiv trimethoxybenzene with complex **II**.

Figure S37. Fit region of reaction progress profile for the trifluoromethylation of 10.0 equiv trimethoxybenzene with complex **II**.

Figure S38. Fit region of reaction progress profile for the trifluoromethylation of 20.0 equiv trimethoxybenzene with complex **II**.

Figure S39. Fit region of reaction progress profile for the trifluoromethylation of 40.0 equiv trimethoxybenzene with complex **II**.

Figure S40. Initial rate vs. concentration data for the trifluoromethylation of trimethoxybenzene with complex **II**.

In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial was charged with N-Boc pyrrole $(11 \mu L, 0.0625 \text{ mmol})$ 5 equiv) and anhydrous DMSO (100 μL). To a separate 4 mL vial was added complex **II** (6.0 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv), trifluorotoluene (1.53 μL , 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv) as an internal standard, and DMSO (425 μL). This yellow solution was added to a septum screw-cap NMR tube, which was then sealed and removed from the glovebox. The solution of N-Boc pyrrole was added to the NMR tube, which was shaken vigorously and immediately inserted into the spectrometer. Reaction progress was monitored by tracking the consumption of complex **II** and production of product **S2** by 19F NMR spectroscopy over the course of 2 h (400 spectra acquired total. Figure S41).

Figure S41. Reaction profile for the trifluoromethylation of N-Boc pyrrole with complex **II**.

In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with
In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with trimethoxybenzene (10.5 mg, 0.0625 mmol, 5 equiv), TEMPO (1.95 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv), complex **II** (6.0 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv), trifluorotoluene (1.53 μL , 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv) as an internal standard, and DMSO (1 mL). The vial was sealed, and the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The reaction was then transferred to a screw-cap NMR tube and analyzed by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy. The yield of 2 was 4% and $TEMPO-CF₃(15)$ was detected in 7% yield (Figure $S42$).¹⁰

Figure S42. Trifluoromethylation of trimethoxybenzene by complex **II** in the presence of TEMPO.

In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with trimethoxybenzene (10.5 mg, 0.0625 mmol, 5 equiv), complex **III** (5.6 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv), complex **II** (6.0 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv), trifluorotoluene (1.53 μL , 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv) as an internal standard, and DMSO (1 mL). The vial was sealed, and the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 45 min. The reaction was then transferred to a screw-cap NMR tube and the analyzed by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy. The yield of 2-CF₃ was 1% (Figure S43).

Figure S43. Trifluoromethylation of trimethoxybenzene by complex **II** in the presence of complex **III**.

In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial was charged with trimethoxybenzene (11 mg, 0.0625 mmol, 5 equiv), cobaltocene (0.25 mg, 0.00125 mmol, 0.1 equiv), and anhydrous DMSO (200 μ L). A second 4 mL vial was charged with TsOH \cdot H₂O (0, 0.1, or 1.0 equiv) and anhydrous DMSO (200 μL). To a third 4 mL vial was added complex **II** (6.0 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv), trifluorotoluene (1.53 μL, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv) as an internal standard, and DMSO (600 μL). This yellow solution was added to a screw-cap NMR tube, which was then sealed and removed from the glovebox. To this NMR tube was added the solution of trimethoxybenzene and cobaltocene, immediately followed by addition of the $TsOH·H₂O$ solution. The NMR tube was shaken vigorously and immediately inserted into the spectrometer. Reaction progress was monitored by tracking the production of 2-CF₃ by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy over the course of 2 h (400 spectra acquired total, Figure S44).

Figure S44. Reaction profile for the trifluoromethylation of trimethoxybenzene with complex **II** in the presence of cobaltocene and varying amounts of $TsOH·H₂O$.

In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with trimethoxybenzene (10.5 mg, 0.0625 mmol, 5 equiv), complex **II** (6.0 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv), and anhydrous DMSO (600 μL). Two drops of the reaction mixture were removed after 30 s, 35 min, 45 min, and 85 mins of stirring. These samples were diluted in 300 μL of PrCN that had been precooled to -35 °C and transferred to an EPR tube. The EPR tube was sealed, removed from the glovebox, and flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen until analysis.

Figure S45. EPR spectra of aliquots of the complex **II**-mediated trifluoromethylation of trimethoxybenzene taken (**a**) 30 s, (**b**) 35 min, (**c**) 45 min, and (**d**) 85 min after the start of the reaction.

In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with 4 *tert*-butylanisole (11 μL, 0.0625 mmol, 5 equiv), complex **II** (6.0 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv), and anhydrous DMSO (600 μL). Two drops of the reaction mixture were removed after 30 s, 20 min, 25 min, 30 min, 40 min, and 120 min of stirring. These samples were diluted in 300 μL PrCN that had been precooled to -35 °C and transferred to an EPR tube. The EPR tube was sealed, removed from the glovebox, and flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen until analysis.

Figure S46. EPR spectra of aliquots of the complex **II**-mediated trifluoromethylation of 4-*tert*butylanisole taken (**a**) 30 s, (**b**) 20 min, (**c**) 25 min, (**d**) 30 min, (**e**) 40 min, and (**f**) 120 min after the start of the reaction.

In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial was charged with trimethoxybenzene (11 mg, 0.0625 mmol, 5 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*-dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 5.5 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and anhydrous DMSO (100 μL). A second 4 mL vial was charged with TsOH \cdot H₂O (2.4 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and anhydrous DMSO (200 μL). A third 4 mL vial was charged complex **I** (6.0 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv), trifluorotoluene (1.53 μL, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv) as an internal standard, and DMSO (600 μL). This orange solution was added to a screw-cap NMR tube, which was then sealed and removed from the glovebox. The solution of trimethoxybenzene and **B** was added via syringe to this NMR tube immediately followed by the solution of TsOH, and the contents were shaken vigorously. The NMR tube was then immediately inserted into the spectrometer. Reaction progress was monitored through production of 2-CF₃ by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy over the course of 2 h (400 spectra acquired total, Figure S47).

Figure S47. Reaction profile for the trifluoromethylation of trimethoxybenzene mediated by complex **I** in the presence of **B** and TsOH.

Condition **A**: In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial was charged with trimethoxybenzene (11 mg, 0.0625 mmol, 5 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*-dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 5.5 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and anhydrous DMSO (200 μL). A second 4 mL vial was charged complex **I** (6.0 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv), trifluorotoluene (1.53 μL, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv) as an internal standard, and DMSO (600 μL). This orange solution was added to a septum screw-cap NMR tube, which was then sealed and removed from the glovebox. The solution of trimethoxybenzene and **B** was added via syringe to this NMR tube, and the contents were shaken vigorously. The NMR tube was then immediately inserted into the spectrometer. Reaction progress was monitored through production of product 2-CF₃ by 19 F NMR spectroscopy over the course of 2 h (400 spectra acquired total, Figure S48).

Condition **B**: In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial was charged with trimethoxybenzene (11 mg, 0.0625 mmol, 5 equiv) and anhydrous DMSO (200 μL). A second 4 mL vial was charged complex **II** (6.0 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv), trifluorotoluene (1.53 μL, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv) as an internal standard, and DMSO (600 μL). This yellow solution was added to a septum screwcap NMR tube, which was then sealed and removed from the glovebox. The solution of trimethoxybenzene was added via syringe to this NMR tube, and the contents were shaken vigorously. The NMR tube was then immediately inserted into the spectrometer. Reaction progress was monitored through production of product 2 -CF₃ by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy over the course of 2 h (400 spectra acquired total, Figure S48).

Figure S48. Reaction profile for the trifluoromethylation of trimethoxybenzene mediated by complex **I** (condition **A**, blue line) or complex **II** (condition **B**, red line).

In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL glass vial was charged with trimethoxybenzene (42 mg, 0.25 mmol, 5.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*-dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 22 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), trifluorotoluene (6.14 μL, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv) as an internal standard, and anhydrous DMSO (700 μ L). This solution was transferred to a septum screw-cap NMR tube, which was then sealed and removed from the glovebox. Complex **I** (1.2 mg, 0.0025 mmol, 0.05 equiv) or complex **II** (1.2 mg, 0.0025 mmol, 0.05 equiv) was dissolved in anhydrous DMSO (300 μL) and then added to the NMR tube via syringe. The NMR tube was shaken vigorously and immediately inserted into the spectrometer. Reaction progress was monitored through tracking the appearance of product 2 -CF₃ by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy over the course of 2 h (400 spectra acquired total, Figure S49).

Figure S49. Reaction profile for the trifluoromethylation of trimethoxybenzene catalyzed by complex **I** (blue line) or complex **II** (red line).

In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL vial was charged with trimethoxybenzene (2.1 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*-dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 5.5 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and anhydrous DMSO (200 μL). A second 4 mL vial was charged complex **I** (6.0 mg, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv), trifluorotoluene (1.53 μL, 0.0125 mmol, 1 equiv) as an internal standard, and DMSO (600 μL). This orange solution was added to a septum screw-cap NMR tube, which was then sealed and removed from the glovebox. The solution of trimethoxybenzene and **B** was added via syringe to this NMR tube, and the contents were shaken vigorously. The NMR tube was then immediately inserted into the spectrometer. Reaction progress was monitored through the appearance and consumption of complex **II** and production of **2-CF3** by 19F NMR spectroscopy over the course of 2 h (400 spectra acquired total, Figure S50).

Figure S50. Tracking the formation and consumption of complex **II** during the trifluoromethylation of trimethoxybenzene mediated by complex **I**.

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In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL glass vial was charged with trimethoxybenzene (8.4 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 2,8-difluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*-dibenzo[*b,d*]thiophen-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**B**, 22 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), trifluorotoluene (6.14 μL, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv) as an internal standard, and anhydrous DMSO (700 μL). This solution was transferred to a septum screw-cap NMR tube, which was then sealed and removed from the glovebox. Complex **I** (1.2 mg, 0.0025 mmol, 0.05 equiv) was dissolved in anhydrous DMSO (300 μL) and then added to the NMR tube via syringe. The NMR tube was shaken vigorously and immediately inserted into the spectrometer. Reaction progress was monitored through tracking the appearance and consumption of complex **II** and production of 2-CF₃ by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy over the course of 2 h (400 spectra acquired total, Figure S51).

Figure S51. Tracking the formation and consumption of complex **II** during the trifluoromethylation of trimethoxybenzene catalyzed by complex **I**.

VI. Cyclic Voltammetry Data

In a nitrogen atmosphere glovebox, a 20 mL vial was charged with complex **II** (9.5 mg, 0.02 mmol) and 2 ml 0.1 M NBu_4PF_6 solution in MeCN. To the vial was added a 3 mm glassy carbon disc working electrode, a Ag/Ag⁺ reference electrode composed of Ag wire in a fritted chamber containing 0.01 M AgBF₄ and 0.1 M NBu₄PF₆ solution in MeCN, and a Pt wire counter electrode. A cyclic voltammogram was acquired at a scan rate of 100 mV/s (Figure S52).

Figure S52. Cyclic voltammogram of complex **II** acquired at a scan rate of 100 mV/s.

VII. X-Ray Crystallography Data

Structure Determination.

Yellow blocks of **II** were grown from a dimethylformamide/acetonitrile solution of the compound at 25 ºC. A crystal of dimensions 0.16 x 0.10 x 0.05 mm was mounted on a Rigaku AFC10K Saturn 944+ CCD-based X-ray diffractometer equipped with a low temperature device and Micromax-007HF Cu-target micro-focus rotating anode (λ = 1.54187 A) operated at 1.2 kW power (40 kV, 30 mA). The X-ray intensities were measured at 85(1) K with the detector placed at a distance 42.00 mm from the crystal. A total of 2028 images were collected with an oscillation width of 1.0° in ω . The exposure times were 1 sec. for the low angle images, 4 sec. for high angle. Rigaku d*trek images were exported to CrysAlisPro for processing and corrected for absorption. The integration of the data yielded a total of 23763 reflections to a maximum 2θ value of 138.47° of which 1600 were independent and 1589 were greater than 2σ(I). The final cell constants (Table S4) were based on the xyz centroids of 18004 reflections above 10σ(I). Analysis of the data showed negligible decay during data collection. The structure was solved and refined with the Bruker SHELXTL (version 2016/6) software package, using the space group Pnma with $Z = 4$ for the formula $C_{12}H_{10}BN_6F_9Ni$. The comples lies on a mirror plane of the crystal lattice. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically with the hydrogen atoms placed in idealized positions. Full matrix least-squares refinement based on $F²$ converged at $R1 = 0.0296$ and wR2 = 0.0791 [based on I > 2sigma(I)], R1 = 0.0297 and wR2 = 0.0792 for all data. Additional details are presented in Table S4 and are given as Supporting Information in a CIF file. Acknowledgement is made for funding from NSF grant CHE-0840456 for X-ray instrumentation.

Table S4. Crystal Data and Structural Refinement for **II.**

VII. Computational Details

Gaussian 09 was used at the B3LYP¹¹ level of density functional theory (DFT) for geometry optimization. The Stuttgart/Dresden ECP (SDD) was used to describe Ni,¹² and the 6-31G(d) basis set was used for other atoms to form basis set BS1. Computation was carried out for dimethylsulfoxide as the solvent utilizing the IEFPCM (SCRF) model. To further refine energies obtained from the B3LYP/BS1 calculations, single point energy calculations were computed for all structures at the B3LYP-D3 level.¹³ These calculations employed a larger basis set (BS2) utilizing the quadrupole-ξ valence polarized def2-QZVP¹⁴ basis set on Ni along with the corresponding ECP and the 6-311+G(2d,p) basis set on other atoms. All thermodynamic data were calculated at the standard state (298.15 K and 1 atm). To estimate the corresponding Gibbs free energies (ΔG), entropy corrections were calculated at the B3LYP/BS1 level and added to the single point potential energies. Additional corrections for compression of 1 mol of an ideal gas from 1 atm to the 1 M solution phase standard state (1.89 kcal/mol) ,¹⁵ and for presence of DMSO solvent as a ligand (1.6 kcal/mol),¹⁶ were applied. All transition structures contained one imaginary frequency, exhibiting atom displacements consistent with the anticipated reaction pathway. The nature of transition structures was confirmed by intrinsic reaction coordinate (IRC) searches, vibrational frequency calculations, and potential energy surface scans.

Figure S53. Energy profile including omitted species in Figure 6. Energies ΔG (ΔH) in kcal/mol relative to $(CF_3 + 2)$, as for Figure 6.

 (II)

 (V)

 (III)

 $(TS-2/14)$

 (VI)

Figure S54. Gaussview diagrams for initiation step (**II**, **III** and DMSO adduct of **III**), and structures for Figure 6 and Figure S53 in the order of occurrence in the propagation sequence**.**

Energies of calculated species and Cartesian coordinates

All calculations related to thermodynamic effects are obtained using B3LYP/BS1; single-point data, listed immediately after BS1 data, are calculated using BS2 and B3LYP-D3.

(2)

 $E(RB3LYP) = -575.815130657$ Zero-point correction= 0.198947 (Hartree/Particle) Thermal correction to Energy= 0.211010 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.211954 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.161027 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -575.616183 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -575.604121 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -575.603177 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -575.654104 E(UB3LYP) = -913.732972289

24 (2)

$(2-CF_3)$

 $E(RB3LYP) = -912.838721890$ Zero-point correction= 0.203225 (Hartree/Particle) Thermal correction to Energy= 0.219052

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.219996 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.159557 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -912.635497 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -912.619670 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -912.618726 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -912.679165 $E(RB3LYP) = -913.175346310$

27

$(2-CF_3)$

(3)

 $E(UB3LYP) = -913.391706659$ Zero-point correction= 0.213160 (Hartree/Particle) Thermal correction to Energy= 0.229452 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.230396 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.168343 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -913.178547 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -913.162255 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -913.161311 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -913.223363 E(UB3LYP) = -913.732972289

28 **(3)** C -0.434248 -0.675617 -0.078247 C 1.040376 -0.815998 -0.391903 C 1.765417 0.496412 -0.182938 C 1.100335 1.702222 -0.117743 C -0.304835 1.745008 -0.080844 C -1.057594 0.534964 -0.003484 H 1.698381 2.603779 -0.051952 H -2.124474 0.615520 0.168315 O 3.135780 0.526047 -0.208423 O -1.022583 -1.889197 0.090777 O -1.051627 2.887458 -0.041094 C -0.371165 4.138248 -0.063660 H -1.149273 4.903055 -0.055554 H 0.268716 4.261230 0.818770 H 0.237103 4.245056 -0.970067 C 3.843168 -0.469546 0.537820 H 3.746730 -1.461451 0.084578 H 4.892329 -0.169420 0.512872 H 3.499115 -0.501906 1.578734 C -2.417423 -1.917126 0.386638 H -3.001946 -1.483374 -0.433319 H -2.678008 -2.969274 0.506897 H -2.632760 -1.373039 1.314071 C 1.246601 -1.330209 -1.838935 F 0.636191 -2.514860 -2.051033 F 0.764287 -0.460104 -2.751024 F 2.559532 -1.512069 -2.114836 H 1.455319 -1.614644 0.240592

(15)

E(UB3LYP) = -913.360870228 Zero-point correction= 0.210976 (Hartree/Particle) Thermal correction to Energy= 0.227663 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.228608 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.164426 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -913.149894 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -913.133207 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -913.132263 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -913.196444 $E(UB3LYP) = -913.705924784$

28 **(15)** C -0.419936 -0.607829 0.175345 C 1.008124 -0.696533 0.100721 C 1.737747 0.519386 0.151396

(I-H⁺)

 $E(RB3LYP) = -1549.23879783$ Zero-point correction= 0.242421 (Hartree/Particle) Thermal correction to Energy= 0.264897 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.265841 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.189744 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -1548.996377 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -1548.973901 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -1548.972957 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -1549.049054 $E(RB3LYP) = -1548.62353727$

36

(I-H⁺)

(II)

 $E(RB3LYP) = -1886.22006890$ Zero-point correction= 0.246992 (Hartree/Particle) Thermal correction to Energy= 0.272231 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.273176 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.193259 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -1885.973077 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -1885.947837 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -1885.946893 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -1886.026810 $E(RB3LYP) = -1885.71523360$

39

(III)

 $E(UB3LYP) = -1548.63365576$ Zero-point correction= 0.230503 (Hartree/Particle) Thermal correction to Energy= 0.252465 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.253409 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.178429 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -1548.403153 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -1548.381191 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -1548.380246 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -1548.455226 $E(UB3LYP) = -1548.00352339$

35

(III) N 0.445819 -1.139452 1.279022 C -0.340127 -1.962766 1.987148

(III-DMSO)

 $E(UB3LYP) = -2101.84231915$ Zero-point correction= 0.312221 (Hartree/Particle) Thermal correction to Energy= 0.341279 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.342223 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.251393 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2101.530098 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2101.501040 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2101.500096 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2101.590926 $E(UB3LYP) = -2101.32910149$

45

(III-DMSO)

N 0.636709 -1.228471 1.318428

(IV)

E(UB3LYP) = -1886.82470305 Zero-point correction= 0.255385 (Hartree/Particle) Thermal correction to Energy= 0.282818

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.283762 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.195256 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -1886.569318 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -1886.541885 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -1886.540941 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -1886.629447 $E(UB3LYP) = -1886.33627564$

40

(IV)

F 2.140762 3.201980 -1.995051

(V)

 $E(UB3LYP) = -2799.64781567$ Zero-point correction= 0.459726 (Hartree/Particle) Thermal correction to Energy= 0.504665 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.505609 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.376772 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2799.188090 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2799.143151 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2799.142206 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2799.271044 $E(UB3LYP) = -2799.50892198$

67

(V) N -0.146822 -1.058348 0.732270 C -1.236190 -1.474836 1.385717 H -2.154457 -0.912314 1.306888 C -0.972599 -2.665759 2.088223 H -1.651132 -3.241808 2.700993 C 0.360234 -2.939311 1.811926 C 3.893685 -0.043047 1.365380 C 3.988610 1.341045 1.394145 H 4.764324 1.940457 1.847294 C 2.844163 1.783689 0.711667 H 2.522680 2.789719 0.493714 H 4.542835 -0.809013 1.765202 H 1.001748 -3.750409 2.126985 N 2.104267 0.743971 0.304714 C 1.162156 1.802487 -2.394107 F 0.726986 1.538315 -3.683357 F 0.957233 3.159786 -2.264727 F 2.538135 1.693123 -2.491640 N 2.760375 -0.378479 0.708173 N 0.830043 -1.960466 1.003113 B 2.218296 -1.782717 0.366570 H 2.974700 -2.628790 0.760519 Ni 0.356404 0.506798 -0.974920 N 2.080319 -1.882975 -1.172896 C 2.616282 -2.793790 -2.014567 C 1.401660 -1.357430 -3.166106 C 2.206691 -2.495705 -3.307314 H 3.248405 -3.582808 -1.633149 H 0.886657 -0.776011 -3.914232 H 2.457061 -3.020845 -4.217218 N 1.331373 -0.996140 -1.879097 C -1.399217 -0.082326 -1.774431 C -0.598523 1.966316 -0.164020

(VI)

 $E(UB3LYP) = -2799.64666350$ Zero-point correction= 0.459506 (Hartree/Particle) Thermal correction to Energy= 0.504545 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.505490 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.375635 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2799.187158 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2799.142118 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2799.141174 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2799.271029 E(UB3LYP) = -2799.49942104

67 **(VI)**

(A)

 $E(UB3LYP) = -2799.67698693$ Zero-point correction= 0.460114 (Hartree/Particle) Thermal correction to Energy= 0.505109 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.506053 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.377738 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2799.216873 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2799.171878 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2799.170934 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2799.299249 $E(UB3LYP) = -2799.53015957$

67

F 2.481577 0.032702 3.688858 F 2.420855 2.190841 3.497317

(B)

 $E(UB3LYP) = -1886.82480987$ Zero-point correction= 0.255999 (Hartree/Particle) Thermal correction to Energy= 0.283111 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.284055 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.196507 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -1886.568811 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -1886.541699 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -1886.540755 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -1886.628302 $E(UB3LYP) = -1886.33315496$

40

(B)


```
F 0.377285 3.514473 1.898802
F -1.209055 2.043651 1.782866
F -1.245762 3.834610 0.522362
H -0.728154 -0.981360 0.071441
C 1.261493 3.418696 -1.203178
F 0.413829 4.004054 -2.106523
F 1.644172 4.444668 -0.369198
F 2.395111 3.125444 -1.923082
```
(C)

 $E(UB3LYP) = -1886.79738433$ Zero-point correction= 0.255132 (Hartree/Particle) Thermal correction to Energy= 0.283244 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.284188 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.191394 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -1886.542253 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -1886.514140 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -1886.513196 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -1886.605990 $E(UB3LYP) = -1886.31093599$

40

CF3•

 $E(UB3LYP) = -337.547888258$ Zero-point correction= 0.011982 (Hartree/Particle) Thermal correction to Energy= 0.015442 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.016386 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= -0.014746 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -337.535906 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -337.532446 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -337.531502 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -337.562635 $E(UB3LYP) = -337.679772015$

4

CF3 C -0.404373 0.697838 0.028452 F 0.057529 1.350372 1.087905 F 0.057582 -0.545957 -0.006919 F -1.730886 0.718499 -0.007167

DMSO

E(RB3LYP) = -553.191876389 Zero-point correction= 0.079967 (Hartree/Particle) Thermal correction to Energy= 0.085598 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.086542 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.051645 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -553.111909 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -553.106278 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -553.105334 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -553.140231 $E(RB3LYP) = -553.303548287$

10

DMSO

S -0.612779 1.728626 -0.776974

(TS-IV/I-H+)

 $E(UB3LYP) = -1886.79427390$ Zero-point correction= 0.254785 (Hartree/Particle) Thermal correction to Energy= 0.282188 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.283133 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.191597 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -1886.539489 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -1886.512085 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -1886.511141 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -1886.602677 E(UB3LYP) = -1886.30969388

40

(TS-V/VI)

 $E(UB3LYP) = -2799.64259851$ Zero-point correction= 0.459374 (Hartree/Particle) Thermal correction to Energy= 0.503726 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.504671 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.376236 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2799.183225 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2799.138872 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2799.137928 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2799.266363 $E(UB3LYP) = -2799.49683454$

67

(TS-V/VI)

(TS-VI/IV)

 $E(UB3LYP) = -2799.63751301$ Zero-point correction= 0.455127 (Hartree/Particle) Thermal correction to Energy= 0.499394 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.500338 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.374811 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2799.182386 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2799.138119 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2799.137175 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2799.262702 E(UB3LYP) = -2799.49350189

67

(TS-VI/IV)

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X. Spectral Data

¹⁹F NMR Spectrum of S1 at 23 °C (CD₃CN)

 -27.36

¹H NMR Spectrum of I at 23 °C (acetone- d_6)

¹³C NMR Spectrum of I at 23 °C (acetone- d_6)

230 220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70
f1 (ppm) 60 50 40 $30 \qquad 20$ 10 $\mathbf 0$ -10

¹⁹F NMR Spectrum of I at 23 °C (acetone- d_6)

 -25.821

¹¹B NMR Spectrum of I at 23 °C (acetone- d_6)

¹⁹F-¹³C HMBC Spectrum of I at 23 °C (acetone- d_6)

¹H NMR Spectrum of II at 23 °C (CDCI₃)

¹³C NMR Spectrum of II at 23 °C (CDCI₃)

230 220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10

¹⁹F NMR Spectrum of II at 23 °C (CDCI₃)

S95

¹¹B NMR Spectrum of II at 23 °C (CDCI₃)

¹H NMR Spectrum of 2-CF₃ at 23 °C (CDCI₃)

¹³C NMR Spectrum of 2-CF₃ at 23 °C (CDCl₃)

230 220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 $\overline{0}$ -10

¹⁹F NMR Spectrum of 2-CF₃ at 23 °C (CDCI₃)

 -54.196

¹H NMR Spectrum of 3-CF₃-2 at 23 °C (CDCl₃)

¹³C NMR Spectrum of 3-CF₃-2 at 23 °C (CDCl₃)

¹⁹F NMR Spectrum of 3-CF₃-2 at 23 °C (CDCl₃)

 -54.227

1 H NMR Spectrum of 4-CF $_3$ at 23 °C (DMSO-*d* $_6$)

¹³C NMR Spectrum of 4-CF₃ at 23 °C (DMSO- d_6)

19 F NMR Spectrum of 4-CF3 at 23 ºC (DMSO-*d***6)**

 -57.115

$1H-13C$ HSQC Spectrum of 4-CF₃ at 23 °C (DMSO- d_6)

¹H NMR Spectrum of 5-CF₃-2 at 23 °C (CDCl₃)

¹³C NMR Spectrum of 5-CF₃-2 at 23 °C (CDCl₃)

¹⁹F NMR Spectrum of 5-CF₃-2 at 23 °C (CDCl₃)

 -60.596

 $\begin{array}{c|cc}\n\hline\n\hline\n\end{array}\n\quad\n\begin{array}{c}\n\hline\n\end{array}\n\quad\n\begin{array}{c}\n\hline\n\end{array}\n\quad\n\begin{array}{c}\n\hline\n\end{array}\n\quad\n\begin{array}{c}\n\hline\n\end{array}\n\quad\n\begin{array}{c}\n\hline\n\end{array}\n\quad\n\begin{array}{c}\n\hline\n\end{array}\n\quad\n\begin{array}{c}\n\hline\n\end{array}\n\quad\n\begin{array}{c}\n\hline\n\end{array}\n\quad\n\begin{array}{c}\n\hline\n\end{array}\n\quad\n\begin{array$ -20 -120 -140
f1 (ppm) -160 -40 -60 -80 -100 -180 -200 -220 -240 -260 -280

¹H NMR Spectrum of 6-CF₃ at 23 °C (CDCI₃)

¹³C NMR Spectrum of 6-CF₃ at 23 °C (CDCl₃)

230 220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10

¹⁹F NMR Spectrum of 6-CF₃ at 23 °C (CDCI₃)

 -58.679

¹H NMR Spectrum of 7-CF₃ at 23 °C (CDCl₃)

¹³C NMR Spectrum of 7-CF₃ at 23 °C (CDCl₃)

¹⁹F NMR Spectrum of 7-CF₃ at 23 °C (CDCl₃)

 -57.969

 $\frac{1}{30}$ -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190
-10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 20 10 $\mathbf 0$

¹H NMR Spectrum of 8-CF₃ at 23 °C (CDCl₃)

¹³C NMR Spectrum of 8-CF₃ at 23 °C (CDCl₃)

¹⁹F NMR Spectrum of 8-CF₃ at 23 °C (CDCl₃)

 $\frac{1}{30}$ 20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190

 -57.781

¹H NMR Spectrum of 9-CF₃-2 at 23 °C (CDCI₃)

¹³C NMR Spectrum of 9-CF₃-2 at 23 °C (CDCI₃)

¹⁹F NMR Spectrum of 9-CF₃-2 at 23 °C (CDCI₃)

 -65.499

 $\frac{1}{20}$ $\overline{}$ -20 -100 -120 -140
f1 (ppm) -260 -40 -60 -80 -160 -180 -200 -220 -240 -280

¹H NMR Spectrum of 9-CF₃-3 at 23 °C (CDCl₃)

 $1.00 - 1$ $0.98 -$

 $\overline{6}$ $\overline{5}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ $\overline{3}$ $\overline{0}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 $\begin{matrix} 8 & 7 \\ 1 (ppm) \end{matrix}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ 15 16 14 13 12 11 10 $\overline{9}$

¹³C NMR Spectrum of 9-CF₃-3 at 23 °C (CDCl₃)

¹⁹F NMR Spectrum of 9-CF₃-3 at 23 °C (CDCl₃)

 -61.223

 $\frac{1}{20}$ -120 -140
f1 (ppm) $\overline{0}$ -20 -100 -160 -280 -40 -60 -80 -180 -200 -220 -240 -260

¹H NMR Spectrum of 10-CF₃ at 23 °C (CDCl₃)

¹³C NMR Spectrum of 10-CF₃ at 23 °C (CDCl₃)

¹⁹F NMR Spectrum of 10-CF₃ at 23 °C (CDCl₃)

 -55.399

 $\frac{1}{20}$ 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190
f1 (ppm)

¹H NMR Spectrum of 11-CF₃ at 23 °C (CDCI₃)

¹³C NMR Spectrum of 11-CF₃ at 23 °C (CDCI₃)

¹⁹F NMR Spectrum of 11-CF₃ at 23 °C (CDCI₃)

 -61.727

¹H NMR Spectrum of 11-CF₃ at 23 °C (CDCI₃)

¹³C NMR Spectrum of 11-CF₃ at 23 °C (CDCI₃)

¹⁹F NMR Spectrum of 11-CF₃ at 23 °C (CDCI₃)

 $\begin{array}{c|cc}\n\hline\n1 & 1 & 1 \\
30 & 20 & 10\n\end{array}$

 -57.715