# Multicomponent Cascade Synthesis of Trifluoroethyl Isoquinolines from Alkynes and Vinyl Azides

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**Supporting Information** 



internal alkynes. Experimental results suggest that Togni's reagent might act as a CF<sub>3</sub> radical supplier.

T he trifluoromethyl group stands out among fluorine functional groups because of its remarkable potential for modulating a molecule's chemical, physical, and biochemical properties.<sup>1</sup> It has been incorporated into many pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals,<sup>1a</sup> and diverse trifluoromethylating reagents have been developed.<sup>2–7</sup> Togni's reagent is a particularly appealing trifluoromethylating reagent because of its easy preparation, versatile reactivity, and shelf stability.<sup>6</sup> Togni's reagent has been used to smoothly trifluoromethylate various compounds, usually in the presence of Cu salts as the catalysts. These compounds include arenes and heteroarenes, <sup>8a,b</sup> alkenes, <sup>8c,d</sup> allenes, <sup>8e</sup> alkynes, <sup>8f,g</sup> alcohols, <sup>8h</sup> thiols, <sup>8i</sup> and phosphines.<sup>8j</sup>

Apart from direct trifluoromethylation, Togni's reagent has also been used in multicomponent reactions, though these have been limited primarily to alkene difunctionalization. In 2012, Li et al. reported the trifluoromethylaminoxylation of alkenes in the absence of transition metals.<sup>9a</sup> In the following year, Ilchenko et al. and Liang et al. reported Cu-catalyzed cyanotrifluoromethylation of styrenes in a three-component reaction.<sup>9b,c</sup> More recently, He et al. described the threecomponent Cu-catalyzed intermolecular cyanotrifluoromethylation of alkenes and the cyanotrifluoromethylation/ azidotrifluoromethylation of 1,6-enynes.9d,e Wang et al. and Liang et al. reported three-component Cu-catalyzed intermolecular trifluoromethylarylation, trifluoromethylazidation, and trifluoromethlithiocyanation of alkenes.9f-h Despite these advances, we are unaware of reports using Togni's reagent in a multicomponent cascade reaction in which trifluoromethylation is combined with C-H activation catalyzed by  $[Cp*RhCl_2]_2$ .

This is an important area to investigate because direct C–H activation/cyclization catalyzed by  $[Cp^*RhCl_2]_2$  has emerged

as a powerful and promising tool for constructing diverse heterocyclic systems in organic synthesis.<sup>10</sup> Therefore, as part of our continuing studies of heterocycle construction,<sup>11</sup> we report here a new three-component cascade reaction involving  $\alpha$ -phenyl vinyl azides, internal alkynes, and Togni's reagent in the presence of a Rh–Cu bimetallic catalytic system. We demonstrate that this trifluoromethylation/C–H activation reaction provides facile access to complex structures of trifluoroethyl isoquinolines.

We began investigating this multicomponent reaction using  $\alpha$ -phenyl vinyl azide 2a, Togni's reagent 3, and diphenylacetylene 1a as model substrates in the presence of Rh (5 mol %) and  $Cu(OAc)_2$  (1 equiv) at 90 °C under N<sub>2</sub> (Table 1). The target product was obtained in 38% yield in N-methyl-2pyrrolidone (NMP) (entry 1). Screening numerous solvents showed that CH<sub>3</sub>CN performed better, generating the desired product in 55% yield (entries 2-4). Other Cu salts, including CuI and CuBr<sub>2</sub>, also promoted the reaction, albeit with low yields (entries 5 and 6). Decreasing the  $Cu(OAc)_2$  load to 0.2 equiv led to a poor yield (entry 7). To our delight, increasing the load of the Rh catalyst to 9.5 mol % improved the yield to 69% and allowed a shorter reaction time of 3 h (entries 8-10). We were able to further improve the yield to 82% by adding 2 equiv of 2a and 1.8 equiv of 3a to the system (entries 11 and 12).  $[Cp*Rh(OAc)_2]$  proved to be less efficient than [Cp\*RhCl<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (entry 13). Changing the temperature resulted in lower yields (entries 14 and 15). Eventually, the optimal conditions were identified as 1a (1 equiv), 2a (2 equiv), 3a (1.8 equiv), Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (1 equiv), and [Cp\*RhCl<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (9.5 mol %) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN at 90 °C under N<sub>2</sub>.

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Table 1. Screening of Optimal Conditions<sup>4</sup>



<sup>*a*</sup>Reactions were performed in sealed tubes containing 1a (0.2 mmol), 2a (0.3 mmol), Togni's reagent 3 (0.3 mmol), additive, Rh catalyst, and solvent (1 mL) under N<sub>2</sub>. <sup>*b*</sup>Determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR using PhSiMe<sub>3</sub> as internal standard. <sup>*c*</sup>Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (0.04 mmol) was used. <sup>*d*</sup>Togni's reagent 3a (0.36 mmol) was used. <sup>*e*</sup>Vinyl azide 2a (0.4 mmol) was used. <sup>*f*</sup>At 80 °C. <sup>*g*</sup>At 100 °C. <sup>*h*</sup>Solvent was CH<sub>3</sub>CN (0.75 mL).

Using these optimized conditions, we explored the substrate scope of the multicomponent cascade reaction of vinyl azides with Togni's reagent and internal alkynes (Table 2). Various  $\alpha$ phenyl vinyl azides reacted with diphenylacetylene to give the corresponding products 4a-4n in moderate to good yields. Vinyl azides substituted at the para position with electrondonating substituents (-OMe, -Me, t-Bu, -SMe) reacted smoothly to afford the desired products 4b-4e in 66-74% vields. Additionally, the molecular structure of 4b was unambiguously confirmed by X-ray diffraction analysis (Figure 1). In contrast, substrates with conjugated phenyl or electronwithdrawing groups (-Cl, -Br) at the same position slightly inhibited the reaction, affording products 4f-4h in 62-68% yields. Interestingly, meta-bromo-substituted vinyl azide reacted exclusively at the less sterically hindered position on the phenyl ring, generating 4i in 48% yield. Ortho-methoxy-substituted vinyl azide provided the desired product 4j in good yield. Dimethoxy-substituted vinyl azides showed a preference to react with 1a at the less sterically hindered position to generate 4k in 54% yield, although the 4k' isomer was also isolated in 21% yield (see Supporting Information). Interestingly, dimethyl-substituted vinyl azide reacted with 1a regioselectively to afford product 4l in 85% yield, due to the hindrance effect of methyl group. We attributed the generation of 4k' to the stronger electron-donating effect of the methoxy group rather than the methyl group, which might activate the C-H bond at the *ortho*-position of the methoxyl group to generate 4k'. Both naphthalene-based vinyl azide and thiophene-based vinyl azide worked in the reaction, affording the desired products in respective yields of 63% and 45%.



Table 2. Reaction of Various Vinyl Azides and Internal

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 1 (0.2 mmol), 2 (0.4 mmol), 3 (0.36 mmol),  $[Cp*RhCl_2]_2$  (9.5 mol %), Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (0.2 mmol), CH<sub>3</sub>CN (1 mL), 90 °C, 3 h, under N<sub>2</sub>. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yield.

Next we examined the substrate scope of various internal alkynes. Symmetric diarylacetylenes reacted smoothly with vinyl azide 2a and delivered the desired isoquinolines 4o-4q in 68-72% yields. Dithiophenylacetylene reacted smoothly under the standard conditions and afforded the target 4r in excellent 82% yield. Interestingly, the nonsymmetrical alkynes reacted regioselectively to form, respectively, 4s in 70% yield or 4t in 74% yield. Ethyl 3-phenylpropiolate reacted in a similar manner with 1g giving the regioselective product 4u in 40% yield. Dialkyl-substituted alkyne also performed well in this system to afford the product 4v in 63% yield.

To gain insight into the mechanism of this multicomponent reaction, we conducted several controlled experiments (Scheme 1). Adding the radical scavenger 2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-1-piper-



Figure 1. ORTEP diagram of 4b with ellipsoids shown at the 30% probability level.



idinyloxyl (TEMPO) to the reaction under standard conditions led to only trace amounts of the desired product 4a. Instead, compound 5 was detected by <sup>19</sup>F NMR (Scheme 1a).<sup>8g</sup> Using TEMPO instead of Togni's reagent led to compound 6 in 35% yield (Scheme 1b). These results suggest that a CF<sub>3</sub> radical may be generated in the system and added to the C–C double bond of the azide. Using compound 7 could not produce product 4a (Scheme 1c). The result suggested that trifluoromethylation might occur prior to isoquinoline assembly. Consistent with this idea, we were able to rule out 2H-azirine 2a' as a possible intermediate because it did not give the desired product under standard conditions (Scheme 1d). In addition, in the control experiment of **2a** and **3a** with  $Cu(OAc)_2$  (2 equiv) but without [Cp\*RhCl<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>, compound 8 was detected after addition of AcOH (4 equiv) and an additional 2 h of reaction (Scheme 1e). The result indicated that intermediate B in Scheme 2 might be

generated in the reaction although the imine intermediate could not detected due to its instability.

Scheme 2. Plausible Mechanism for the Cascade Reaction Step 1. Generation of CF<sub>3</sub> radical



Step 2. Formation of trifluoromethylated iminyl copper species B



Step 3. Formation of product 4a



Based on the experimental results and the literature,  ${}^{8g,12}_{P}$  the reaction mechanism was proposed as depicted in Scheme 2. First, the CF<sub>3</sub> radical may be generated under the reaction conditions from Togni's reagent in the presence of Cu(II) (step 1).<sup>8g</sup> The CF<sub>3</sub> radical may add to the vinyl azide **2a** to form the putative radical intermediate **A**, which then could be trapped by Cu(II) to give **B** (step 2).<sup>12a,b</sup> Intermediate **B** would react with Rh(III) via an iminyl rhodium intermediate **C** to generate rhodacyclic intermediate **D**.<sup>12c</sup> Insertion of alkyne **1a** would afford intermediate **E**, which undergoes reductive elimination to produce **4a**, along with the Rh(I) species.<sup>12c</sup> A redox reaction between Rh(I) and Cu(III) regenerates the Rh(III) species (step 3).<sup>12c</sup>

In summary, we have developed a multicomponent cascade protocol that provides direct, concise access to trifluoroethylisoquinolines in moderate to good yield with good chemoselectivity. This protocol combines, for the first time, traditional Rh-catalyzed C-H activation and Togni's reagent. In this way, it provides a novel approach to constructing complex trifluoromethylated compounds in a single operation. The convenience of this method suggests that it is likely to find broad application in drug synthesis, given the frequent use of fluorine-containing compounds as bioactive agents.

## EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

All manipulations were carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere using standard Schlenk techniques. The solvents were distilled under nitrogen from sodium-benzophenone (THF, toluene, dioxane) or calcium hydride (DMF, MeCN, 1,2-DCE) before being used. (1-Azidovinyl)benzene and its derivatives<sup>13</sup> as well as  $[Cp*RhCl_2]_2^{14}$  were prepared according to the literature methods. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ , ppm) in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded using TMS as the

internal standard. Chemical shifts in <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectra were internally referenced to CHCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta$  = 77.16 ppm).

Typical Procedure for the Synthesis of Trifluoroethyl Isoquinolines (4). To a mixture of  $[Cp*RhCl_2]_2$  (11.8 mg, 0.019 mmol), Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (36.3 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1,2-diphenylacetylene (35.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), and Togni's reagent (113.7 mg, 0.36 mmol) in acetonitrile (1 mL) was added vinyl azide (58.0 mg, 0.4 mmol) under a N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 3 h, and the progress was monitored using TLC detection. After completion of the reaction, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography (PE/EA = 100:1) on silica gel to afford the desired products 4.

3,4-Diphenyl-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)isoquinoline (4a). The product 4a was obtained in 78% yield (56.7 mg) as a white solid after column chromatography (PE/EA = 100:1). Mp: 123.4–124.8 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  4.25 (2H, q, *J* = 10.4 Hz), 7.18–7.25 (5H, m), 7.34–7.39 (5H, m), 7.58–7.72 (3H, m), 8.18 (1H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  40.2 (q, *J* = 28.8 Hz), 125.1, 125.9 (q, *J* = 276.6 Hz), 126.6, 126.7, 127.4, 127.6, 127.8, 128.5, 130.3, 130.4, 131.2, 131.3, 136.8, 137.2, 140.5, 149.8, 149.9 (q, *J* = 3.4 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz)  $\delta$  –62.8 (t, *J* = 10.2 Hz); HRMS (EI, TOF) calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>16</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sup>+</sup> [M]<sup>+</sup>: 363.1235, found: 363.1233.

6-Methoxy-3,4-diphenyl-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)isoquinoline (**4b**). The product **4b** was obtained in 66% yield (51.9 mg) as a white solid after column chromatography (PE/EA = 100:1). Mp: 125.1–127.0 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 3.72 (3H, s), 4.18 (2H, q, *J* = 10.4 Hz), 6.93 (1H, d, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 7.18–7.28 (6H, m), 7.33–7.37 (5H, m), 8.08 (1H, d, *J* = 9.2 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 40.1 (q, *J* = 28.6 Hz), 55.4, 104.6, 119.9, 122.4, 125.9 (q, *J* = 277.5 Hz), 127.1, 127.3, 127.6, 127.8, 128.6, 130.3, 130.4, 131.2, 137.5, 139.0, 140.7, 149.2 (q, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 150.4, 160.8; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz) δ –62.9 (t, *J* = 10.6 Hz); HRMS (EI, TOF) calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>18</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sup>+</sup> [M]<sup>+</sup>: 393.1340, found: 393.1342.

6-Methyl-3,4-diphenyl-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)isoquinoline (4c). The product 4c was obtained in 72% yield (54.3 mg) as a pale yellow solid after column chromatography (PE/EA = 100:1). Mp: 101.0-102.3 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 2.43 (3H, s), 4.20 (2H, q, *J* = 10.4 Hz), 7.18-7.24 (5H, m), 7.33-7.38 (5H, m), 7.45-7.48 (2H, m), 8.07 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 22.3, 40.2 (q, *J* = 27.9 Hz), 125.0, 125.1, 125.5, 125.9 (q, *J* = 276.7 Hz), 127.3, 127.5, 127.8, 128.5, 129.6, 130.4, 130.7, 131.4, 137.1, 137.4, 140.6, 140.8, 149.6 (q, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 149.9; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz) δ -62.8 (t, *J* = 10.1 Hz); HRMS (EI, TOF) calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>18</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sup>+</sup> [M]<sup>+</sup>: 377.1391, found: 377.1388.

6-(*tert-Butyl*)-3,4-*diphenyl*-1-(2,2,2-*trifluoroethyl*)*isoquinoline* (4d). The product 4d was obtained in 67% yield (56.1 mg) as a white solid after column chromatography (PE/EA = 100:1). Mp: 141.0– 142.6 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 1.28 (9H, s), 4.21 (2H, q, *J* = 10.4 Hz), 7.16–7.25 (5H, m), 7.34–7.37 (5H, m), 7.65 (1H, d, *J* = 1.7 Hz), 7.72 (1H, dd, *J* = 1.9, 8.9 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 30.9, 35.4, 40.1 (q, *J* = 28.9 Hz), 121.6, 124.9, 125.0, 125.9 (q, *J* = 276.5 Hz), 126.3, 127.2, 127.5, 127.8, 128.4, 130.4, 131.3, 136.9, 137.3, 140.7, 149.4 (q, *J* = 3.1 Hz), 149.9, 153.4; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz) δ -62.8 (t, *J* = 10.1 Hz); HRMS (EI, TOF) calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>24</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sup>+</sup> [M]<sup>+</sup>: 419.1861, found: 419.1863.

6-(Methylthio)-3,4-diphenyl-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)isoquinoline (4e). The product 4e was obtained in 74% yield (60.5 mg) as a white solid after column chromatography (PE/EA = 100:1). Mp: 121.5– 123.0 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 2.36 (3H, s), 4.19 (2H, q, J = 10.4 Hz), 7.18–7.24 (5H, m), 7.34–7.37 (6H, m), 7.48 (1H, dd, J = 1.9 Hz), 8.04 (1H, d, J = 8.9 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 14.9, 40.1 (q, J = 29.0 Hz), 120.4, 124.3, 125.3, 125.8 (q, J = 125.8 Hz), 126.2, 127.4, 127.7, 128.8, 128.5, 130.0, 130.4, 131.2, 137.1, 137.3, 140.4, 142.8, 149.6 (q, J = 3.1 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz) δ –62.9 (t, J = 10.1 Hz); HRMS (EI, TOF) calcd for  $C_{24}H_{18}F_{3}NS^{+}$  [M]<sup>+</sup>: 409.1112, found: 409.1116.

3,4,6-Triphenyl-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)isoquinoline (4f). The product 4f was obtained in 68% yield (59.7 mg) as a pale yellow solid after column chromatography (PE/EA = 100:1). Mp: 149.0–151.0 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  4.27 (2H, q, J = 10.4 Hz), 7.20–7.24 (3H,

m), 7.27–7.29 (2H, m), 7.37–7.46 (8H, m), 7.55–7.57 (2H, m), 7.88–7.91 (2H, m), 8.26 (1H, d, J = 8.6 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  40.2 (q, J = 28.8 Hz), 124.3, 125.7, 125.8, 125.9 (q, J = 276.6 Hz), 127.1, 127.4, 127.7, 127.8, 128.3, 128.6, 129.1, 130.4, 131.3, 131.4, 137.1, 137.2, 140.2, 140.5, 142.9, 149.8 (q, J = 3.0 Hz), 150.4 Hz; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz)  $\delta$  –62.8 (t, J = 10.1 Hz); HRMS (EI, TOF) calcd for  $C_{29}H_{20}F_3N^+$  [M]<sup>+</sup>: 439.1548, found: 439.1542.

6-*Chloro-3,4-diphenyl-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)isoquinoline* (*4g*). The product *4g* was obtained in 66% yield (52.5 mg) as a pale yellow solid after column chromatography (PE/EA = 100:1). Mp: 148.5–150.5 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 4.21 (2H, q, *J* = 10.4 Hz), 7.19–7.23 (5H, m), 7.34–7.40 (5H, m), 7.57 (1H, dd, *J* = 1.0, 9.0 Hz), 7.67 (1H, d, *J* = 2.0 Hz), 8.11 (1H, d, *J* = 9.0 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 40.3 (q, *J* = 28.9 Hz), 124.9, 125.5, 125.8 (q, *J* = 276.6 Hz), 127.0, 127.6, 127.9, 128.0, 128.4, 128.7, 130.4, 130.5, 131.2, 136.5, 136.9, 137.9, 140.0, 149.9 (q, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 151.0; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz) δ –62.9 (t, *J* = 10.5 Hz); HRMS (EI, TOF) calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClF<sub>3</sub>N<sup>+</sup> [M]<sup>+</sup>: 397.0845, found: 397.0843.

6-Bromo-3,4-diphenyl-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)isoquinoline (**4h**). The product **4h** was obtained in 62% yield (54.8 mg) as a pale yellow solid after column chromatography (PE/EA = 100:1). Mp: 170.0–171.9 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 4.21 (2H, q, *J* = 10.4 Hz), 7.20–7.23 (5H, m), 7.33–7.36 (2H, m), 7.38–7.41 (3H, m), 7.72 (1H, dd, *J* = 1.8, 9.0 Hz), 7.86 (1H, d, *J* = 1.8 Hz), 8.04 (1H, d, *J* = 9.0 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 40.2 (q, *J* = 29.1), 125.1, 125.6, 125.8 (q, *J* = 276.6 Hz), 126.9, 127.6, 127.6, 127.9, 128.0, 128.7, 128.9, 130.3, 130.4, 130.9, 131.2, 136.4, 138.2, 140.1, 150.0 (q, *J* = 3.2 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz) δ –62.9 (t, *J* = 10.6 Hz); HRMS (EI, TOF) calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>15</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>N<sup>+</sup> [M]<sup>+</sup>: 441.0340, found: 441.0339.

7-Bromo-3,4-diphenyl-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)isoquinoline (4i). The product 4i was obtained in 48% yield (42.5 mg) as a pale yellow solid after column chromatography (PE/EA = 100:1). Mp: 150.0–152.0 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 4.19 (2H, q, *J* = 10.4 Hz), 7.19–7.22 (5H, m), 7.34–7.39 (5H, m), 7.58 (1H, d, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 7.67 (1H, q, *J* = 1.9, 9.1 Hz), 8.3 (1H, d, *J* = 1.0 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 40.1 (q, *J* = 29.1), 121.6, 125.7 (q, *J* = 276.5), 127.4, 127.6, 127.7, 127.8, 127.9, 128.6, 128.7, 130.4, 131.1, 131.2, 133.8, 135.5, 136.6, 140.0, 149.8 (q, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 150.2; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz) δ –62.8 (t, *J* = 10.6 Hz); HRMS (EI, TOF) calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>15</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>N<sup>+</sup> [M]<sup>+</sup>: 441.0340, found: 441.0330.

8-Methoxy-3,4-diphenyl-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)isoquinoline (**4***j*). The product **4***j* was obtained in 64% yield (50.4 mg) as a white solid after column chromatography (PE/EA = 100:1). Mp: 124.1– 126.0 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 4.05 (3H, s), 4.60 (2H, q, *J* = 10.6 Hz), 6.95 (1H, d, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.17–7.24 (6H, m), 7.33–7.39 (5H, m), 7.47 (1H, t, *J* = 8.3 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 40.2 (q, *J* = 27.9 Hz), 55.8, 106.8, 119.1, 119.3, 126.5 (q, *J* = 276.6 Hz), 127.3, 127.5, 127.7, 128.5, 130.3, 130.4, 131.4, 137.8, 139.4, 140.4, 149.0 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 157.0; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz) δ –63.0 (t, *J* = 10.5 Hz); HRMS (EI, TOF) calcd for  $C_{24}H_{18}F_{3}NO^{+}$ [M]<sup>+</sup>: 393.1340, found: 393.1335.

6,7-Dimethoxy-3,4-diphenyl-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)isoquinoline (4k) and 5,6-Dimethoxy-3,4-diphenyl-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)isoquinoline (4k'). The two isomers were prepared from 4-(1azidovinyl)-1,2-dimethoxybenzene 2k (82.0 mg, 0.4 mmol) following the typical procedure. The major product 4k was obtained in 54% yield (45.7 mg) as a pale yellow solid and the isomer  $4\mathbf{k}'$  was obtained in 21% yield (17.8 mg) as a pale yellow solid after column chromatography (PE/EA = 200:1). Mp, <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR were described for the major isomer 4k. Mp: 149.0-151.1 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $(\text{CDCl}_3, 400 \text{ MHz}) \delta 3.76 (3H, s), 4.07 (3H, s), 4.19 (2H, q, J = 10.4)$ Hz), 6.94 (1H, s), 7.16-7.19 (3H, m), 7.22-7.25 (2H, m), 7.32-7.37 (6H, m);  ${}^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  40.4 (q, J = 29.0 Hz), 55.9, 56.2, 103.3, 104.8, 122.9, 126.1 (q, J = 275.9 Hz), 127.1, 127.6, 127.7, 128.5, 130.3, 131.1, 133.7, 137.6, 140.6, 147.2 (q, J = 3.2 Hz), 149.1, 150.2, 152.8; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz)  $\delta$  –62.6 (t, J = 10.5 Hz); HRMS (EI, TOF) calcd for  $C_{25}H_{20}F_3NO_2^{\,+}~[M]^+\!\!:$  423.1446, found: 423.1447.

6,7-Dimethyl-3,4-diphenyl-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)isoquinoline (4). The product 41 was obtained in 82% yield (66.5 mg) as a white

solid after column chromatography (PE/EA = 100:1). Mp: 105.0– 107.2 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  2.34 (3H, s), 2.49 (3H, m), 4.20 (2H, q, J = 10.5 Hz), 7.13–7.23 (5H, m), 7.32–7.38 (5H, m), 7.42 (1H, s), 7.90 (1H, s); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  20.7, 20.8, 40.0 (q, J = 28.5 Hz), 124.5, 125.7, 125.9, 126.0 (q, J = 276.2 Hz), 127.1, 127.4, 127.7, 128.4, 128.4, 130.4, 130.5, 131.3, 135.7, 137.4, 137.5, 140.7, 140.9, 148.8 (q, J = 3.2 Hz), 149.1; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 776 MHz)  $\delta$  –62.8 (t, J = 10.1 Hz); HRMS (EI, TOF) calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>20</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sup>+</sup> [M]<sup>+</sup>: 391.1548, found: 391.1549.

7-*M*ethoxy-3,4-*diphenyl*-1-(2,2,2-*trifluoroethyl*)*benzo*[*g*]isoquinoline (4*m*). The product 4*m* was obtained in 63% yield (55.8 mg) as yellow solid after column chromatography (PE/EA = 100:1). Mp: 165.1–168.0 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 3.89 (3H, s), 4.35 (2H, q, *J* = 10.4 Hz), 7.02 (1H, d, *J* = 2.2 Hz), 7.18–7.24 (4H, m), 7.31–7.34 (2H, m), 7.70–7.44 (5H, m), 7.98 (1H, d, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 8.04 (1H, s), 8.67 (1H, s); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 40.5 (q, *J* = 28.8 Hz), 55.5, 103.8, 122.1, 123.4, 123.6, 125.0, 126.0 (q, *J* = 276.6 Hz), 127.2, 127.6, 127.8, 128.5, 128.6, 129.7, 130.5, 130.7, 131.5, 134.1, 135.6, 137.8, 140.6, 147.4,151.4 (q, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 159.0; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz) δ –62.4 (t, *J* = 10.6 Hz); HRMS (EI, TOF) calcd for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>20</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sup>+</sup> [M]<sup>+</sup>: 443.1497, found: 443.1499.

4,5-Diphenyl-7-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)thieno[2,3-c]pyridine (4n). The product 4n was obtained in 45% yield (33.2 mg) as an off-white solid after column chromatography (PE/EA = 100:1). Mp: 114.1–115.4 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  3.98 (2H, q, *J* = 10.4 Hz), 7.20–7.25 (6H, m), 7.31–7.37 (5H, m), 7.66 (1H, d, *J* = 5.5 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  42.4 (q, *J* = 29.4 Hz), 124.3, 125.8 (q, *J* = 275.9 Hz), 127.5, 127.7, 127.9, 128.5, 130.2, 130.4, 130.5, 131.6, 135.7, 137.8, 139.9, 143.9 (q, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 146.9, 151.4; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz)  $\delta$  –62.9 (t, *J* = 10.0 Hz); HRMS (EI, TOF) calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NS<sup>+</sup> [M]<sup>+</sup>: 369.0799, found: 369.0789.

3,4-Bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)isoquinoline (40). The product 40 was obtained in 72% yield (60.9 mg) as a white solid after column chromatography (PE/EA = 100:1). Mp: 146.1– 147.9 °C, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  3.77 (3H, s), 3.85 (3H, s), 4.22 (2H, q, J = 10.4 Hz), 6.74–6.78 (2H, m), 6.91–6.95 (2H, m), 7.13–7.17 (2H, m), 7.32–7.36 (2H, m), 7.56–7.62 (2H, m), 7.69– 7.73 (1H, m), 8.13–8.16 (1H, m); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  40.1 (q, J = 28.9 Hz), 55.3, 55.4, 113.3, 114.1, 125.1, 125.9 (q, J = 276.8 Hz), 126.4, 126.6, 127.0, 129.5, 130.1, 130.2, 131.7, 132.4, 133.1, 137.3, 149.5, 149.6 (q, J = 3.4 Hz), 158.9, 159.0; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 76 MHz)  $\delta$  –62.8 (t, J = 10.1 Hz); HRMS (EI, TOF) calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>20</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>+ [M]+: 423.1444, found: 423.1446.

3,4-Di-p-tolyl-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)isoquinoline (**4p**). The product **4p** was obtained in 76% yield (59.4 mg) as a white solid after column chromatography (PE/EA = 100:1). Mp: 119.3–120.5 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  2.3 (3H, s), 2.4 (3H, s), 4..22 (2H, q, *J* = 10.4 Hz), 7.02 (2H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.12 (2H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7,19 (2H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.29 (2H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.57–7.62 (2H, m), 7.68–7.71 (1H, m), 8.15 (1H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  21.3, 21.5, 40.1 (q, *J* = 28.8 Hz), 125.1, 126.0 (q, *J* = 276.5 Hz), 126.5, 126.7, 127.1, 128.6, 129.3130.1, 130.3, 130.9, 131.1, 134.3, 137.0, 137.1, 137.2, 137.7, 149.6 (q, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 149.7; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz)  $\delta$  –62.8 (t, *J* = 10.0 Hz); HRMS (EI, TOF) calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>20</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sup>+</sup> [M]<sup>+</sup>: 391.1548, found: 391.1549.

3,4-Bis(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)isoquinoline (4q). The product 4q was obtained in 68% yield (58.7 mg) as a pale yellow solid after column chromatography (PE/EA = 100:1). Mp: 126.6–128.4 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  4.23 (2H, d, *J* = 10.4 Hz), 7.16–7.23 (4H, m), 7.28–7.31 (2H, m), 7.37–7.41 (2H, m), 7.64–7.70 (3H, m), 8.18–8.20 (1H, m); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  40.1 (q, *J* = 29.0 Hz), 125.3, 125.8 (q, *J* = 276.8 Hz), 126.3, 126.7, 127.8, 128.2, 129.1, 130.0, 130.8, 131.7, 132.6, 133.7, 140.0, 135.4, 136.6, 138.6, 148.6, 150.5 (q, *J* = 3.4 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz)  $\delta$  –62.8 (t, *J* = 10.3 Hz); HRMS (EI, TOF) calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>14</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sup>+</sup> [M]<sup>+</sup>: 431.0455, found: 431.0454.

3,4-Di(thiophen-2-yl)-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)isoquinoline (4r). The product 4r was obtained in 82% yield (61.5 mg) as a pale yellow solid after column chromatography (PE/EA = 100:1). Mp: 115.1–117.5 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  4.18 (2H, q, J = 10.4 Hz),

6.80 (1H, dd, *J* = 1.0, 3.8 Hz), 6.91 (1H, dd, *J* = 3.8, 5.0 Hz), 7.11 (1H, dd, *J* = 1.0, 3.4 Hz), 7.29 (1H, dd, *J* = 3.4, 5.0 Hz), 7.31 (1H, dd, *J* = 1.0, 5.0 Hz), 7,56–7.67 (4H, m), 8.08 (1H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 39,8 (q, *J* = 29.0 Hz), 120.7, 124.9, 125.7 (q, *J* = 275.6 Hz), 126.0, 126.4, 127.3, 127.8, 127.9, 128.0, 128.1, 128.5, 129.5, 130.8, 137.3, 138.6, 144.4, 144.8, 150.8 (q, *J* = 3.1 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz) δ -62.7 (t, *J* = 10.6 Hz); HRMS (EI, TOF) calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NS<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M]<sup>+</sup>: 375.0363, found: 375.0367.

4-Methyl-3-phenyl-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)isoquinoline (4s). The product 4v was obtained in 70% yield (42.1 mg) as a white solid after column chromatography (PE/EA = 100:1). The structure of 4e was confirmed by NOESY correlation. Mp: 109.2–111.0 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 2.66 (3H, s), 4.16 (2H, d, *J* = 10.4 Hz), 7.38–7.43 (1H, m), 7.46–7.50 (2H, m), 7.57–7.60 (2H, m), 7.64–7.68 (1H, m), 7.75–7.80 (1H, m), 8.10 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 8.15 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 15.8, 40.0 (q, *J* = 28.8 Hz), 124.5, 124.9, 125.7, 125.9 (q, *J* = 275.3 Hz), 126.5, 127.1, 127.9, 128.3, 130.1, 130.3, 137.0, 141.1, 148.2 (q, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 151.2; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz) δ –63.0 (t, *J* = 10.2 Hz); HRMS (EI, TOF) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sup>+</sup> [M]<sup>+</sup>: 301.1078, found: 301.1079.

4-Hexyl-3-phenyl-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)isoquinoline (4t). The product 4t was obtained in 74% yield (54.9 mg) as a pale yellow solid after column chromatography (PE/EA = 100:1). Mp: 58.1–59.8 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 0.85 (3H, t, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 1.19–1.25 (4H, m), 1.30–1.37 (2H, m), 1.60–1.70 (2H, m), 2.97–3.02 (2H, m), 4.15 (2H, q, *J* = 10.4 Hz), 7.39–7.43 (1H, m), 7.45–7.52 (4H, m), 7.62–7.67 (1H, m), 7.74–7.79 (1H, m), 8.10 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 8.16 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 14.2, 22.7, 28.8, 29.7, 31.3, 31.5, 40.1 (q, *J* = 29.0 Hz), 124.6, 125.9 (q, *J* = 276.5 Hz), 126.0, 127.0, 127.8, 128.4, 129.4, 130.0, 130.2, 136.2, 141.4, 148.1 (q, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 151.5; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz) δ –63.0 (t, *J* = 10.6 Hz); HRMS (EI, TOF) calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>24</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sup>+</sup> [M]<sup>+</sup>: 371.1861, found: 371.1856.

*Ethyl* 3-*Phenyl*-1-(2,2,2-*trifluoroethyl*)*isoquinoline-4-carboxylate* (*4u*). The product 4u was obtained in 40% yield (28.7 mg) as a pale yellow solid after column chromatography (PE/EA = 200:1). The structure of 4v was confirmed by NOESY correlation. Mp: 108.5–110.0 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 1.06 (3H, t, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 4.21 (2H, q, *J* = 10.3 Hz), 4.26 (2H, q, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 7.42–7.50 (3H, m), 7.66–7.81 (4H, m), 8.07 (1H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 8.17 (1H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 13.8, 40.2 (q, *J* = 29.2 Hz), 62.0, 123.9, 125.0, 125.5, 125.6 (q, *J* = 276.7 Hz), 126.1, 128.1, 128.6, 128.8, 129.0, 131.6, 134.2, 139.8, 149.8, 152.0 (q, *J* = 3.1 Hz), 168.7; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz) δ –62.8 (t, *J* = 10.1 Hz); HRMS (EI, TOF) calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M]<sup>+</sup>: 359.1133, found: 359.1129.

3,4-Diethyl-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)isoquinoline (4v). The product 4v was obtained in 63% yield (33.6 mg) as a pale yellow solid after column chromatography (PE/EA = 100:1). Mp: 42.6–44.1 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  1.29–1.37 (6H, m), 3.00 (2H, q, *J* = 7.56 Hz), 3.08 (2H, q, *J* = 7.56 Hz), 4.08 (2H, q, *J* = 10.5 Hz), 7.56 (1H, q, *J* = 7.24 Hz), 7.67–7.72 (1H, m), 8.04 (1H, d, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 8.07 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  14.8, 15.2, 20.9, 28.4, 39.9 (q, *J* = 28.7 Hz), 123.7, 125.9 (q, *J* = 125.9 Hz), 126.1, 126.5, 129.7, 129.9, 135.8, 148.0 (q, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 153.4; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz)  $\delta$  –63.2 (t, *J* = 10.3 Hz); HRMS (EI, TOF) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>16</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sup>+</sup> [M]<sup>+</sup>: 267.1235, found: 267.1232.

3,4-Diphenyl-1-(((2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxy)methyl)isoquinoline **6**. To a mixture of  $[Cp*RhCl_2]_2$  (10.5 mg, 0.017 mmol), Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (36.3 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1,2-diphenylacetylene (35.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), and TEMPO (62.4 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1 mL) was added vinyl azide (52.4 mg, 0.4 mmol) under a N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. After completion of the reaction, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography (PE/EA = 50:2) on silica gel to afford the desired products **6** in 35% isolated yield. Mp: 137.4–138.9 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$ 1.14 (6H, s), 1.4 (6H, s), 1.51–1.59 (6H, m), 5.51 (2H, s), 7.16–7.26 (6H, m), 7.33–7.39 (5H, m), 7.56–7.68 (3H, m); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  17.3, 20.4, 33.6, 39.9, 60.2, 80.8, 126.1, 126.4, 126.5, 126.6, 127.0, 127.3, 127.6, 128.4, 130.0, 130.5, 131.4, 136.7, 137.7,

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140.9, 149.2, 156.7; HRMS (EI, TOF) calcd for  $C_{31}H_{34}N_2O^+$  [M]<sup>+</sup>: 450.2671, found: 450.2676.

#### ASSOCIATED CONTENT

#### **S** Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.joc.5b01995.

Copies of <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, and <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra for products 4a-4v and 6 (PDF)

X-ray crystallographic data for 4b (CIF)

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#### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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