New Trifluoromethylation Reactions with Fluoroform-Derived $CuCF_3$ and Domino Synthesis of Trifluoromethylated Heterocycles

Fluorinated molecules continue to be of major interest for the applications in pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals and functional materials. The constant search for more efficient, selective and convenient trifluoromethylation methods is an important yet challenging priority. We herein present the recent development of novel trifluoromethylation methods using the fluoroform(CF_3H)-derived $CuCF_3$. By employing common feedstocks such as terminal alkynes and simple alkenes, a variety of valuable CF_3-containing building blocks including the trifluoromethylated alkynes,[1] alkenes[2] and *β*-trifluoromethyl alcohols[3] can be synthesized in one step. These processes, namely trifluoromethylation, *hydro*trifluoromethylation and *hydroxy*trifluoromethylation, allow the distinctive construction of C(sp)-CF_3, C(sp^2)-CF_3 and C(sp^3)-CF_3 bonds, respectively. Furthermore, we have developed an unprecedented three-component vicinal *trifluoromethylation-allylation* of arynes where two carbon-carbon bonds (C-CF_3 and C-allyl) are formed in one pot to provide the trifluoromethylated allylarenes.[4] Overall, the ultimate CF_3 source in these versatile fluorinated molecules is the inexpensive industrial by-product *fluoroform* from Teflon manufacturing.

We have also investigated the synthesis of diverse trifluoromethylated heterocycles *via* domino strategies with copper. An interrupted click reaction, using CuI/phen as the catalyst and (trifluoromethyl)trimethylsilane ($TMSCF_3$) as the nucleophilic CF_3 source, has been developed to synthesize 5-trifluoromethyl 1,2,3-triazoles in one step from readily available terminal alkynes and azides.[5] The reaction shows complete regioselectivity, broad substrate scope and good functional group tolerability. Moreover, domino *5-endo-dig* cyclization/trifluoromethylation of *α,β*-alkynic tosylhydrazones and propargylic *N*-hydroxylamines allows convenient access to 4-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazoles[6] and 4-trifluoromethyl-4-isoxazolines,[7] respectively. These reactions are facilitated by the $Cu(OTf)_2$/$TMSCF_3$/KF combination. By employing easily accessible 2-alkynylanilines and the low-cost fluoroform-derived $CuCF_3$ reagent, both 2- and 3-(trifluoromethyl)indoles can be prepared in good yields with no ambiguity of the CF_3 position.[8-9] Applications of the above methods in the expedient synthesis of CF_3-containing drug analogues such as rufinamide, celecoxib, bazedoxifene and melatonin have also been successfully demonstrated.

References:

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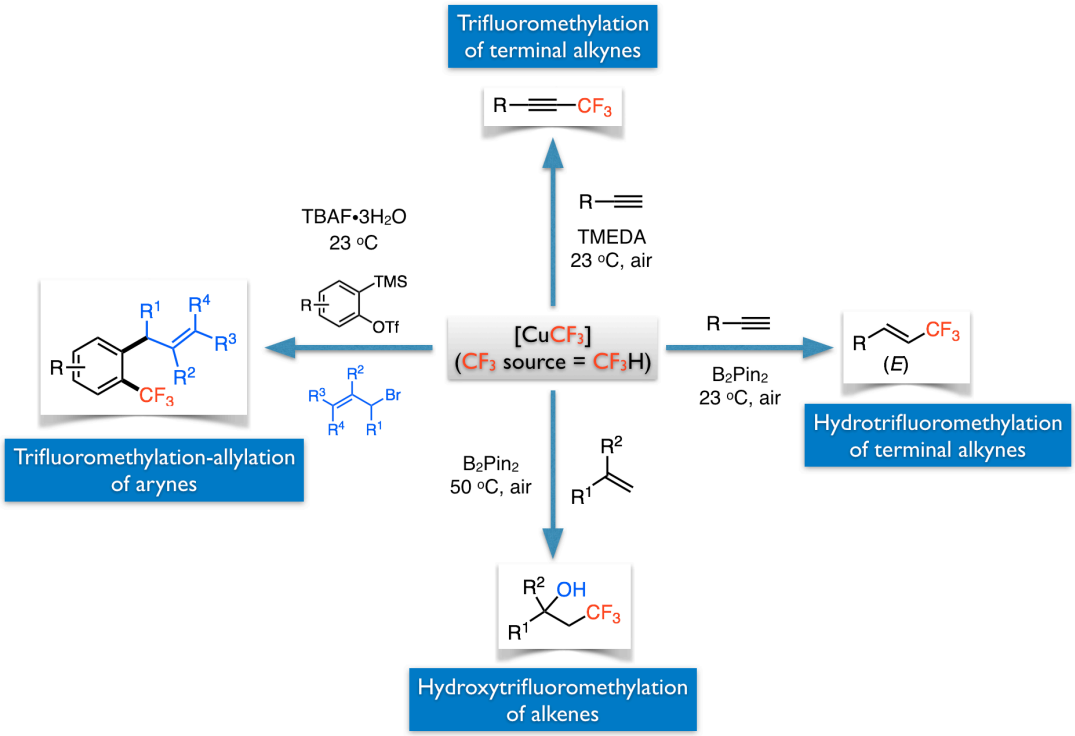
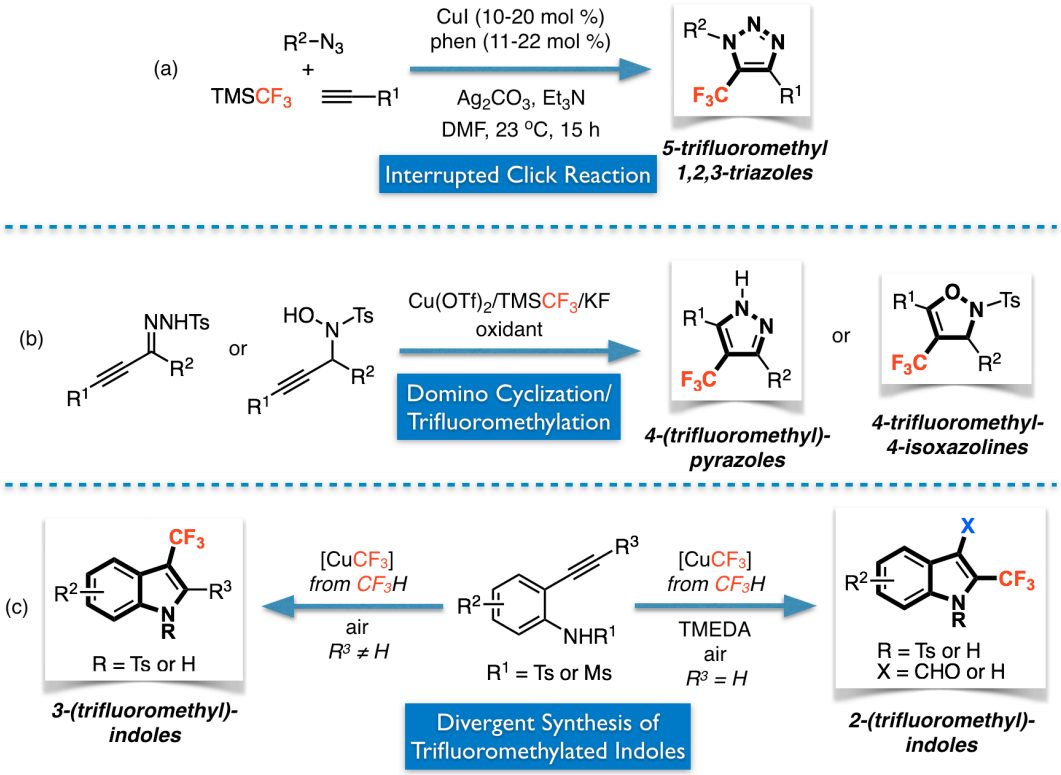


Scheme 1. New Trifluoromethylation Reactions with Fluoroform-Derived $CuCF_3$.



Scheme 2. Domino Synthesis of Trifluoromethylated Heterocycles