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Synthetic Methods

Synthesis of Billard–Langlois Reagents and their Derivatives by Copper-Catalyzed *N*-Trifluoromethylthiolation of Arylamines with a Trifluoromethanesulfonyl Hypervalent Iodonium YlideZhongyan Huang, Yu-Dong Yang, Etsuko Tokunaga, and Norio Shibata*^[a]

Abstract: A one-step synthesis of Billard–Langlois reagents and their derivatives, trifluoromethanesulfenamides, is reported. A series of primary and secondly arylamines were directly *N*-H trifluoromethylthiolated by a trifluoromethanesulfonyl hypervalent iodonium ylide under mild, copper-catalyzed reaction conditions in high yields. Heteroaromatic amines were also successfully trifluoromethylthiolated under the same reaction conditions. An arylamine with an NH-pyrrole moiety was chemoselectively *N*-trifluoromethylthiolated.

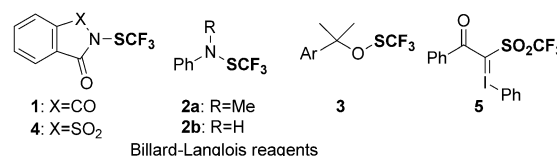


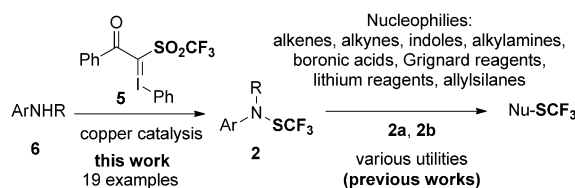
Figure 1. Shelf-stable reagents for electrophilic trifluoromethylthiolation.

As is generally recognized in modern pharmaceutical research, fluoro-functionalization such as fluorination and trifluoromethylation of organic compounds is one of the most rational strategies designing biologically active molecules with rather high probability.^[1] In this context, the use of fluoro-functionalization reagents and their reactions are key for the successful synthesis of target molecules.^[2] Among them, the development of trifluoromethylthiolation has now come into full bloom in this research area in recent years.^[2e,g] The trifluoromethylthio (trifluoromethanesulfonyl, or trifluoromethanesulfanyl) group (SCF₃) is of great interest because of its remarkable hydrophobicity (Hansch parameter $\pi_R = 1.44$), and electronegativity, which permeates cell membranes well.^[1a]

Several methods for the introduction of this group into organic substrates have been developed, and the use of gaseous CF₃SCl, CF₃SH, and CF₃SSCF₃ served as synthetic approaches in the early days.^[3] Due to the toxic nature of these classical reagents, shelf-stable and easy-to-handle reagents have emerged as proposed alternatives,^[4,5] in particular, electrophilic trifluoromethylthiolation reagents^[5] in recent years (Figure 1) such as *N*-(trifluoromethylthio)phthalimide **1** by Munavalli et al.,^[5a] trifluoromethanesulfenamides **2** by Billard and Langlois,^[5b,c] *O*-trifluoromethylthio-ether **3** by Lu, Shen, and co-workers,^[5d,e,i] *N*-(trifluoromethylthio)saccharin **4** by Shen and co-workers,^[5j] and a few more examples of NSCF₃-type reagents.^[5k–m] In 2013, we

developed a reagent, a trifluoromethanesulfonyl hypervalent iodonium ylide **5**, for the trifluoromethylthiolation reaction of enamines, indoles, and β -keto esters.^[6a] Reagent **5** is easily synthesized from ubiquitous trifluoromethanesulfonyl (SO₂CF₃) compounds and is now commercially available as the Shibata reagent II.^[6b] The utility of reagent **5** was expanded to the functionalization of pyrroles,^[6c] allylsilanes, and silyl enol ethers^[6d] in recent years.

Although these reagents are equally useful for the trifluoromethylthiolation of a wide variety of nucleophiles, Billard–Langlois reagents,^[5b,c,7] trifluoromethanesulfenamides (ArNSCF₃ **2a** and **2b**) are a very attractive subset among these. Many kinds of functionalization have been achieved with **2a** and **2b** including of alkenes, alkynes, indoles, alkylamines, boronic acids, Grignard reagents, lithium reagents, allylsilanes, and more.^[7] The Billard–Langlois reagents **2a** and **2b** are accessed in steps starting from diethylaminosulfur trifluoride, the Rupprecht–Prakash reagent (CF₃SiMe₃), and arylamines.^[8,9] Because of the wide utility of **2a** and **2b** for trifluoromethylthiolation and the potential bioactivity of general aryl NSCF₃ compounds **2**, which is directed by the high Hansch's hydrophobicity parameter of NSCF₃ ($\pi_R = 1.50$),^[7h,10] we herein explored the one-step synthesis of Billard–Langlois reagents and their derivatives **2** by trifluoromethylthiolation of arylamines with trifluoromethanesulfonyl hypervalent iodonium ylide **5** under copper catalysis (Scheme 1). Heteroaromatic amines are also successfully tri-



Scheme 1. Trifluoromethanesulfenamides **2**: Synthesis of **2** with trifluoromethanesulfonyl hypervalent iodonium ylide **5** (this work) and the utility of **2a** and **2b** for various trifluoromethylthiolation reactions (previous works).

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fluoromethylthiolated under the same reaction conditions. Interestingly, an arylamine with an NH-pyrrole moiety was chemoselectively *N*-trifluoromethylthiolated.

The direct preparation of Billard–Langlois reagent **2a** from *N*-methyl aniline (**6a**) using **5** was first optimized (Table 1). The

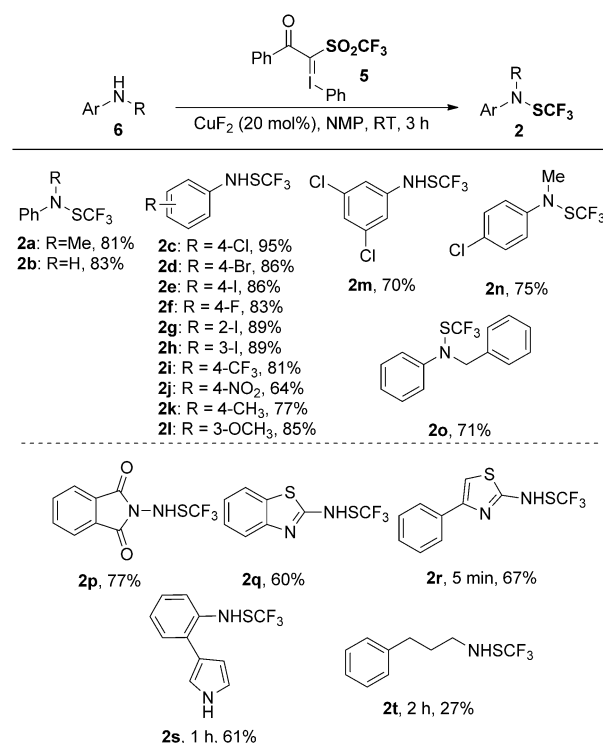
Table 1. Screening for optimal conditions for the trifluoromethylation of amine **6a** with reagent **5**.^[a]

Entry	Equiv. of 5	Cat. (mol %)	Additive	Solvent (time)	Yield [%] ^[b]
1	2	CuCl (20)	–	1,4-dioxane	33
2	2	CuCl (20)	–	THF	19
3	2	CuCl (20)	–	DMF	7
4	2	CuCl (10)	–	1,4-dioxane	8
5	2	CuCl (50)	–	1,4-dioxane	31
6	2	CuCl (20)	Et ₃ N (1.0 equiv)	1,4-dioxane	26
7	2	CuCl (20)	PhNMe ₂ (0.2 equiv)	1,4-dioxane	7
8	2	CuCl (20)	AcOH (1.0 equiv)	1,4-dioxane	11
9	2	CuCl (20)	PhOH (1.0 equiv)	1,4-dioxane	0
10	2	CuCl (20)	–	THF	19
11	2	CuCl (20)	–	DMF	7
13	2	CuF ₂ (20)	–	DMF	60
14	2	CuF ₂ (20)	–	THF	trace
15	2	CuF ₂ (20)	–	DMA	81
16	2	CuF ₂ (20)	–	NMP (3 h)	90
17	1.5	CuF ₂ (20)	–	NMP (3 h)	90
18	1.2	CuF ₂ (20)	–	NMP (3 h)	76

[a] Reaction conditions: **6a** (0.1 mmol), **5** (0.2 mmol), and solvent (0.5 mL) under a N₂ atmosphere. [b] Yield was determined by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy of the crude mixture with trifluorotoluene as the internal standard.

trifluoromethylthiolation of **6a** with **5** under the standard conditions described in a previous paper,^[6a] CuCl (20 mol %) in 1,4-dioxane under a nitrogen atmosphere at room temperature, produced **2a** in 33% yield (entry 1). In THF or *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF), **2a** was produced in even lower yields (entries 2 and 3). A lower catalyst loading sharply decreased the yield of **2a** while higher catalyst loading did not improve the yield (entries 4 and 5). Lower yields were detected independent of whether base or acid were added (entries 6–9). Reaction catalyzed by Cu(OAc)₂ and CuF₂ also afforded low yields in 1,4-dioxane (entries 10 and 11). To our surprise, when the reaction was conducted in the presence of CuF₂ in DMF, product **2a** was produced in 60% yield, whereas a trace of **2a** was detected when the reaction was run in THF (entries 13 and 14). Encouraged by this result (entry 13), we changed the solvent to *N,N*-dimethylacetamide (DMA), which offered a high yield of 81% of **2a** (entry 15). 1-Methyl-2-pyrrolidinone (NMP) was also suitable for this transformation, producing **2a** in 90% (entry 16). The high yield of **2a** was sustained with the use of 1.5 equivalents of **5** but decreased with 1.2 equivalents of **5** (entries 17 and 18). These results indicate that the reaction proceeded successfully in NMP with CuF₂ as the catalyst at room temperature to produce an excellent yield of **2a**.

Under the optimal conditions, a broad set of arylamines **6** were very nicely trifluoromethylated with **5** in high to excellent yields independent of the electron-donating or electron-withdrawing character of the aryl group (Scheme 2, **2a–o**). First,



Scheme 2. Trifluoromethylthiolation of amine **6** with reagent **5**. Reaction conditions: **6** (0.2 mmol), **5** (0.3 mmol), CuF₂ (20 mol %), NMP (1.5 mL), stirred at RT. For **2q** CuF₂ (15 mol %)/CuCl (5 mol %) were used. For **2r** **5** (0.4 mmol) and CuCl (20 mol %) in 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL) were used. For **2s** **6s** (0.2 mmol), **5** (0.4 mmol), and CuF₂ (20 mol %), in NMP (1.5 mL) were used. For **2t**: reaction conditions: **6** (0.2 mmol), **5** (0.4 mmol), MgO (0.2 mmol), CuF₂ (20 mol %), DMF (1.5 mL), stirred at RT; the yield was determined by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy of the crude mixture with trifluorotoluene as the internal standard.

Billard–Langlois reagents **2a** and **2b** were nicely prepared by this method in 83% and 81% isolated yield, respectively. As can be seen in Scheme 2, various functional groups, including halo, nitro, methoxy, and trifluoromethyl, were well tolerated under the reaction conditions to furnish **2c–n**. Notably, the halo and nitro groups are valuable for further transformation. The position of the functional group at *o*, *m*, or *p* did not significantly influence the yield of **2**. *N*-aliphatic-substituted anilines **6n** and **6o** were also converted into the corresponding NSCF₃ products **2n** and **2o** in high yields. Even *N*-aminophthalimide (**6p**) was trifluoromethylthiolated under the same conditions to give **2p** in 77% yield. Heteroaromatic amines **6q** and **6r** were also suitable for this method with moderate yields of **2q** and **2r** of 60–67%. The reaction of substrate **6s**, containing two reactive NH moieties, aniline and pyrrole, led to chemoselective trifluoromethylthiolation on the aniline's amine group to provide **2s** in 61% yield. Aliphatic amine **6t** could not be transformed under the standard conditions, however, the de-

sired NSCF_3 product **2t** was produced in the presence of MgO (1 equiv.) and CuF_2 in DMF in 27% yield (see the details for the optimization of reaction conditions in the Supporting Information).

In summary, we have developed a copper-catalyzed trifluoromethylthiolation of arylamines with trifluoromethanesulfonyl hypervalent iodonium ylide **5**. A broad range of arylamines were transformed into the corresponding products in good to excellent yields at room temperature. Billard–Langlois reagents, **2a** and **2b** were directly prepared by this method from commercially available anilines. Other trifluoromethanesulfenylamidates **2** that were prepared are attractive not only as electrophilic trifluoromethylthiolation reagents, but also as potential bioactive fragments for drug discovery.

Experimental Section

General Procedure for the Synthesis of Arylamines

To a mixture of arylamine **6** (0.2 mmol) and reagent **5** (0.3 mmol) in NMP (1.5 mL), was added CuF_2 (0.04 mmol). The reaction was stirred at room temperature and monitored by TLC. After the reaction was complete, the reaction mixture was extracted with Et_2O , washed with water and brine, and dried over Na_2SO_4 . Column chromatography on silica gel, using *n*-hexane and AcOEt as eluents, was used to purify the desired product.

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Keywords: arylamines • copper • hypervalent iodine • trifluoromethanesulfenamidates • trifluoromethylthiolation

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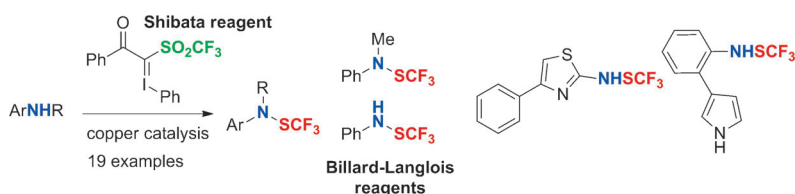
Synthetic Methods

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■■ – ■■



Synthesis of Billard–Langlois Reagents and their Derivatives by Copper-Catalyzed *N*-Trifluoromethylthiolation of Arylamines with a Trifluoromethanesulfonyl Hypervalent Iodonium Ylide



Billard–Langlois reagents from Shibata reagent: A one-step synthesis of Billard–Langlois reagents and their derivatives, trifluoromethanesulfenamides, is reported. A series of primary and secondly arylamines were directly N–H tri-

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