Recent trends in dehydroxylative trifluoromethylation, -methoxylation, -methylthiolation, and -methylselenylation of alcohols

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Owing to the prevalence of hydroxyl groups on molecules, much attention has been paid to the synthesis of functionalized organic compounds by dehydroxylative functionalization of parent alcohols. In this context, dehydroxylative trifluoromethylation, trifluoromethoxylation, trifluoromethylthiolation, and trifluoromethylselenylation of readily available alcohols have recently emerged as intriguing protocols for the single-step construction of diverse structures bearing C–CF₃, C–OCF₃, C–SCF₃, and C–SeCF₃ bonds, respectively. This Mini-Review aims to summarize the major progress and advances in this appealing research area with special emphasis on the mechanistic features of the reaction pathways.

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1. Introduction

The incorporation of fluorinated moieties and particularly the trifluoromethyl (CF$_3$), trifluoromethoxy (OCF$_3$), trifluoromethylthio (SCF$_3$), and trifluoromethylseleno (SeCF$_3$) groups into organic molecules such as pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals can often substantially improve their physical, chemical, and biological properties because of the electronic properties, unique size, lipophilicity, and metabolic stability of these groups.$^{1,2}$ There are different examples of commercially available human and veterinary drugs that contain a CF$_3$, OCF$_3$, or SCF$_3$ moiety in their structures (Scheme 1).$^3$ However, there are no analogous CF$_3$Se-containing drugs, which is likely due to the limited synthetic options for their preparation.$^4$

Compounds containing the titled functionalities are versatile synthetic intermediates and can function as suitable building blocks for the preparation of many valuable functional materials.$^5$ Considering the widespread biological activities and synthetic usefulness of CF$_3$/OCF$_3$/SCF$_3$/SeCF$_3$-containing compounds, it has been of great synthetic interest to develop new, efficient, and practical methods for the introduction of these privileged moieties into organic molecules.$^6$–$^9$

In recent years, direct dehydroxylative functionalization of alcohols has become one of the hottest research topics in organic chemistry because it is a powerful and general strategy for the construction of various valuable functionalized organic compounds from inexpensive and abundantly available alcohols without isolation of intermediates.$^{10}$ In this regard, dehydroxylative trifluoro-methylation, -methoxylation, -methylthiolation, and -methylselenylation of alcohols have captured the imagination of the organic chemical community and have become promising synthetic methods for constructing C-CF$_3$, C-OCF$_3$, C-SCF$_3$, and C-SeCF$_3$ bonds, respectively. These synthetic processes are advantageous because the starting materials possess high selectivity and stability, are abundant and inexpensive, with low toxicity, and there is no need for isolation of intermediates. In continuation of our interest in organofluorine chemistry$^{11}$ and modern organic synthesis,$^{12}$–$^{18}$ in this Mini-Review, we will highlight the most important advances and progress in the arena of dehydroxylative trifluoro-methylation, -methoxylation, -methylthiolation, and -methylselenylation of alcohols (Scheme 2), with a particular emphasis on the mechanistic aspects of the reaction pathways.

2. Dehydroxylative trifluoromethylation

After their seminal work on the conversion of allylic alcohols to trifluoromethanes through a two-step esterification/decarboxylative trifluoromethylation procedure,$^{19}$ Altman and

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colleagues developed bench-stable phenyl bromodifluorodiacetate (PhO$_2$CCF$_2$Br) as a new nucleophilic trifluoromethylation reagent, which can directly convert alcohols to trifluoromethanes in a single operation without isolation of intermediates. They showed that treatment of various allylic alcohols with over-stoichiometric amounts of phenyl bromodifluorodiacetate in the presence of the CuI/DMEDA/HO$_2$CCF$_2$Br combination as a catalytic system in DMF at room temperature afforded the corresponding deoxytrifluoromethylated products in good to high yields (Scheme 3a). The substrate scope was evaluated on nine terminally substituted allylic alcohols, which proved that various linear cinnamyl alcohols and endocyclic alkenols were compatible with this reaction. Moreover, this strategy was successfully applied for the direct deoxytrifluoromethylation of a series of propargylic alcohols (by replacement of the DMEDA ligand with Phen) and (hetero)benzylic alcohols (by employing MeO$_2$CCF$_2$Br reagent instead of HO$_2$CCF$_2$Br and using over-stoichiometric amounts of KI) (Scheme 3b and c). Of note, propargylic alcohols underwent rearrangement and resulted in allenyl structures. Furthermore, the synthetic utility of this procedure was highlighted by gram-scale synthesis of (4,4,4-trifluorobut-1-en-1-yl)benzene (75% yield on a 20 mmol scale). Finally, the synthetic potentiality of this strategy was showcased by preparing a fluorinated analogue of tebufenpyrad, an acaricide. Regrettably, the authors did not investigate the applicability of secondary and tertiary alcohols in their methodology. On the basis of several control experiments, a plausible mechanism was proposed by the authors for this trifluoromethylation protocol involving the following key steps (Scheme 4): (i) transesterification between phenyl
bromodifluoroacetate 2 and the starting alcohol 1 to generate alkyl bromodifluoroacetate intermediate A; (ii) formation of the active Cu–CF₃ species B via interaction of the L₅CuI precatalyst with HO₂CCF₂Br; (iii) direct nucleophilic trifluoromethylation of intermediate A with Cu–CF₃ species B to give the desired product 3 and carboxylate-coordinated [Cu] complex C; and (iv) CO₂ liberation and halogen exchange to recover the active Cu–CF₃ species B and completion of the catalytic cycle.

Scheme 4  The plausible mechanism for the reactions in Scheme 2.

(b) The proposed pathways for the formation of (2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)arenes 10.

Scheme 5  (a) Wu-Xiao’s synthesis of (2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)arenes 10. (b) The proposed pathways for the formation of (2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)arenes 10.
In another report, this research group also developed [1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl-2-bromo-2,2-difluoroacetate (BBDFA) as an efficient trifluoromethylation reagent for Cu-catalyzed dehydroxylative trifluoromethylation of alcohols. The reagent was synthesized on a 100 g scale in 93% yield via chlorination of commercially available bromodifluoroacetic acid with oxalyl chloride in the presence of a catalytic amount of DMF, followed by esterification of the resulting acid chloride with 4-phenylphenol, and it showed good thermal stability and high ability for trifluoromethylation of examined alcohols. However, the usefulness of this reagent was only demonstrated by deoxytrifluoromethylation of cinnamyl alcohol and 2-naphthalenemethanol, without any substrate scope exploration.

Drawing inspiration from these works, very recently, the Wu group, in collaboration with the Xiao group, described an interesting Cu(0)-catalyzed dehydroxylative trifluoromethylation of a library of (hetero)benzylic alcohols with Chen’s reagent (methyl trifluorosulfonyldifluoroacetate; 9) in the presence of the Ph3P/ICH2CH2I system, which acted as the activator of the hydroxyl group. The reactions were performed in DMF at 80 °C, tolerated a series of synthetically useful functionalities [e.g., -Br, -I, -CO2Me, -CN, -NO2], and provided the desired (2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)arenes in modest to good yields (Scheme 5a).

Regarding the influence of electronic effects of substituent groups in the phenyl ring periphery of benzylic alcohols, electron-rich substrates afforded higher yields compared to electron-poor ones. It is noteworthy that although aryl bromides remained intact under these conditions, undesired trifluoromethylation of C–I bonds was observed in the case of aryl iodides. Regrettably, alkyl alcohols did not exhibit reactivity under standard reaction conditions. It was noteworthy that under relatively similar conditions, dehydroxytrifluoromethylation and trifluoromethylthiolation of a diverse range of aliphatic alcohols with TMSCF2H and AgSCF3, respectively, also effectively proceeded to afford the corresponding difluoromethylated and trifluoromethylthiolated compounds in reasonable yields. While the detailed mechanistic picture remains unclear, the authors speculated that phosphonium A, iminium C, or (hetero)benzyl halide D might be key intermediates for this trifluoromethylation reaction (Scheme 5b).

### 3. Dehydroxylative Trifluoromethoxylation

At the outset of 2018, Tang and colleagues discovered that a combination of nucleophilic trifluoromethoxylation reagent (trifluoromethyl tosylate), quaternary ammonium salt...
(tetramethylammonium bromide; TMABr), and fluoride source (CsF) enabled direct dehydroxytrifluoromethoxylation of various primary and secondary alcohols 11, giving the corresponding alkyl trifluoromethyl ethers 13 in moderate to high yields, ranging from 40% to 87% (Scheme 6). The synthetic broad scope of the protocol was established using a library of various alkyl, benzyl, allyl, and propargyl alcohols. Significantly, the authors showcased the potentiality of this process by dehydroxytrifluoromethoxylation of complex bioactive molecules such as cholane-3,12,24-triol (a natural product) and pleuromutilin (an antibacterial drug). The reaction demonstrated a high degree of chemoselectivity, and in the presence of a secondary or tertiary alcohol, the reaction preferentially took place at the position of a primary alcohol.

Based on mechanistic studies (isotope labelling and $^{19}$F NMR experiments), the author proposed a plausible mechanistic pathway for the above transformation, as depicted in Scheme 7. The reaction begins with the release of trifluoromethoxide anion ($\text{CF}_3\text{O}^-$) from reagent 12 under the action of a fluoride salt. Subsequently, $\text{CF}_3\text{O}^-$ undergoes...
decomposition to produce carbonic difluoride A which, upon esterification with alcohol 11, generates alkyl fluoroformate intermediate B. Finally, nucleophilic substitution reaction of activated species B with in situ-generated CF₂O⁻ affords the final product 13. Of note, the studies indicated that the presence of TMABr in the reaction mixture is crucial for improving the nucleophilicity of OCF₃ anion, while in the absence of any quaternary ammonium salt, inferior results in terms of product yield were observed.

In an attempt to further demonstrate the strength of this novel and interesting alkyl trifluoromethyl ether synthesis, Lin and Xiao along with their co-workers documented an elegant Ph₃P/ICH₂CH₂I-promoted trifluoromethoxylation of aliphatic alcohols using AgOCF₃ as a nucleophilic trifluoromethoxylating reagent, which allowed very rapid access to the corresponding dehydroxytrifluoromethoxylated products. Through exploration and optimization of this dehydroxylative functionalization, the authors identified that the reaction rate is highly dependent on the nature of solvent. Among several solvents tested (e.g., DMSO, DMF, NMP, and toluene), DMF was found to be the most effective. Furthermore, the outcome of this transformation was also dramatically dependent on the reaction temperature. The best results were obtained by performing the process at 80 °C. A higher or lower temperature resulted in lower yields. With these optimized reaction conditions, 25 trifluoromethyl ethers 15 were synthesized in 16–76% yields from the corresponding aryl/benzyl/allyl/propargyl alcohols 14 (Scheme 8). Notably, a diverse range of functional groups such as fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, cyano, nitro, ester, and ether functionalities were demonstrated to be well-tolerated by this protocol. However, the major drawback of this synthetic protocol was its very low efficiency for functionalization of alkyl alcohols. Intriguingly, the authors nicely solved this problem by replacing Ph₃P with Ph₂PCH₂ and performing the process at 100 °C. However, the only reported case of a secondary alkyl alcohol led to a mediocre yield.

Mechanistically (Scheme 9), the reaction may be initiated by the reaction of Ph₃P with ICH₂CH₂I to give diiodophosphonium salt A, which upon coordination with the reaction solvent DMF, furnishes complex B. Subsequently, substitution of an alcohol 14 with a DMF molecule in complex B yields complex C. Subsequently, nucleophilic attack by trifluoromethoxy anion, generated from AgOCF₃ by precipitating AgI, affords the observed alkyl trifluoromethyl ether 15. In another possibility, a sequential P–O bond formation and C–O bond cleavage process converts complex B into a triphenylphosphine oxide (Ph₃PO) and the Vilsmeier–Haack-type intermediate D. Later, nucleophilic substitution of alcohol 14 with intermediate D leads to the formation of intermediate E, which after nucleophilic trifluoromethoxylation with CF₂O⁻, provides the final product 15.

4. Dehydroxylative trifluoromethylthiolation

The first report of the direct dehydroxylative trifluoromethylthiolation of alcohols was published by Rueping. 
and co-workers in 2014,\textsuperscript{26} who disclosed that the treatment of benzylic alcohols with CuSCF\textsubscript{3} as a stable and readily available SCF\textsubscript{3} source and BF\textsubscript{3} $\cdot$Et\textsubscript{2}O as a Lewis acid additive under an air atmosphere resulted in the formation of trifluoromethylthioethers in moderate to quantitative yields within 30 min (Scheme 10). All three types of alcohols (primary, secondary, and tertiary) were applicable to this reaction, and in all cases, the corresponding trifluoromethylthioethers were selectively obtained. However, due to the strong acidic conditions, poor functional group tolerance occurs with this method. It should be mentioned that the presence of BF\textsubscript{3} $\cdot$Et\textsubscript{2}O was essential for the success of this C–S bond formation reaction.

No product was detected with the lack of this additive, even at elevated temperatures.

Other Brønsted or Lewis acids such as MsOH, TsOH, TFA, Sc(OTf)\textsubscript{3}, Bi(OTf)\textsubscript{3}, and In(OTf)\textsubscript{3} were also tested and proved to be completely ineffective. The identical reaction conditions were also applied for trifluoromethylthiolation of allylic alcohols to give the corresponding allylic trifluoromethylthioethers in good to excellent yields (9 examples, 73–96% yield) and high regioselectivities, in which regardless of the substitution pattern, conjugated aryl/olefin products were predominantly formed in the case of aryl-substituted allyl alcohols. Mechanistic investigations indicated that the reaction may occur via an S\textsubscript{n}1-type process, as evidenced by the formation of racemic products from enantiopure alcohols.

Immediately after, Qing and collaborators developed a similar dehydroxytrifluoromethylthiolation of allyl alcohols with AgSCF\textsubscript{3}, employing a large excess of the mild reagent n-Bu\textsubscript{4}NI as activator and toluene as solvent (Scheme 11).\textsuperscript{27} The reaction was shown to be quite general, and a diverse range of primary aliphatic, benzylic, allylic, and propargylic alcohols participated in the trifluoromethylthiolation. Moreover, secondary alcohols also accomplished production of the corresponding products albeit the addition of a very large amount of another activator, KI (8 equiv.), and elevated reaction temperature (120 °C) were needed to prevent the competitive elimination reaction. However, tertiary alcohols were not suitable substrates for this transformation.

Scheme 13  
Qing’s synthesis of α-aryl-β-(trifluoromethylthio)acrylates 21.

Scheme 14  
Synthesis of 3-(((trifluoromethyl)thio)methylene)indolin-2-ones 23 via n-Bu\textsubscript{4}NI-mediated dehydroxytrifluoromethylthiolation of 3-(hydroxymethylene)indolin-2-one derivatives 22 with AgSCF\textsubscript{3}.
Interestingly, several biologically active alcohols such as idebenone 18a (an anti-Alzheimer's drug), galantamine 18b (an anti-Alzheimer's and anti-dementia drug), and epiandrosterone 18c (a steroid hormone) also responded to the reaction. Notably, the authors observed that changing the ratio of AgSCF₃/n-Bu₄NI from 1:3 to 1:1 led to the selective formation of alkyl fluorides instead of the expected alkyl trifluoromethylthioethers. A plausible mechanism based on previous studies is outlined in Scheme 12.

In their subsequent studies, this research group extended the scope of their methodology to enols. Thus, a library of (Z)-ethyl 2-(aryl)-3-hydroxyacrylates 20 were reacted with AgSCF₃, n-Bu₄NI, and KI in toluene at 120 °C leading to the respective α-aryl-β-(trifluoromethylthio)acrylates 21 in moderate to excellent yields and satisfactory stereoselectivities in favor of the (E)-products (Scheme 13). Under the same conditions, they also executed the direct dehydroxytrifluoromethylthiolation of a small series of 3-(hydroxymethylene)indolin-2-one derivatives 22, offering a decent yield of the desired 3-((trifluoromethyl)thiomethylene)indolin-2-ones 23 (Scheme 14). Interestingly, two electron-deficient phenols were also tested and gave products in satisfactory yields. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first and only reported example of dehydroxyative trifluoromethylthiolation of C(sp²)–OH bonds.

At the outset of 2016, Billard’s research group devised an elegant metal-free method for dehydroxyative trifluoromethylthiolation of alkyl alcohols 24 using the second-generation trifluoromethanesulfenamide reagent 25 as an SCF₃ source and n-Bu₄NI as an activator in refluxing acetone to afford the corresponding alkyl trifluoromethylthioethers 26 in an efficient manner (Scheme 15a). The experiments

![Scheme 15](image)

**Scheme 15** (a) Metal-free dehydroxyative trifluoromethylthiolation of alkyl alcohols 24 with trifluoromethanesulfenamide 25; (b) solvent-free microwave-assisted synthesis of alkyl trifluoromethylthioethers 28 from alkyl alcohols 27 and AgSCF₃.
demonstrated that the outcome of this reaction was not highly sensitive to the electronic nature of substrates, and therefore benzylic alcohols with either neutral, electron-donating, or electron-withdrawing substituents gave the trifluoromethylthiolated products in relatively similar yields. However, the steric effect was very strong (92% yield for benzyl alcohol to 46% for \(\alpha\)-methylbenzyl alcohol). Unfortunately, the applicability of tertiary alcohols as starting materials was not explored in this study.

A presumptive mechanism for this dehydroxylative trifluoromethylthiolation reaction is represented in Scheme 16.

Subsequently, a straightforward and greener approach for the synthesis of alkyl trifluoromethylthioethers 28 by the reaction between alkyl alcohols 27 and 1-\(\pi\)-butyl-3-methylimidazolium trifluoromethylthiolate ([bmim][SCF\(_3\)]) generated \textit{in situ} from [bmim][I] and AgSCF\(_3\) was reported by Pégot, Magnier, and co-workers.\(^{30}\) The reactions were implemented under microwave irradiation and solvent-free conditions, tolerated primary, secondary, as well as tertiary alcohols, and rapidly provided the desired products in poor to excellent yields (Scheme 15b). Recycling tests indicated that the ionic liquid can be reused in

\[\text{Scheme 17} \quad \text{Hünig’s base-mediated dehydroxylative trifluoromethylthiolation of alkyl/benzyl/propargyl alcohols 30 with benzothiazolium reagent 29.}\]

\[\text{Scheme 18} \quad \text{Mechanism proposed to explain the formation of trifluoromethylthioethers 31.}\]
several consecutive trials without significant loss of its activity (from 96% in the first run to 96% in the fifth run).

In 2019, Hopkinson and co-workers designed and synthesized a new bench-stable 2-trifluoromethylthio-substituted benzothiazolium salt (BT-SCF$_3$; 29) through visible-light-induced, Ir-catalyzed trifluoromethylthiolation of inexpensive 2-mercaptobenzothiazole disulfide (MBTS) with the Langlois reagent (NaSO$_2$CF$_3$) and subsequent reaction of the generated 2-SCF$_3$-substituted benzothiazole with MeOTf in DCM at room temperature (Scheme 17a).

The activity of this purely organic trifluoromethylthiolating reagent has been evaluated in the dehydroxylative trifluoromethylthiolation of a broad set of alkyl/benzyl/propargyl alcohols in the presence of Hünig’s base (NEt$_2$(iPr)$_2$) in MeCN. Moderate to almost quantitative yields of the target trifluoromethyl thioethers were obtained within 1–2 h at room temperature (Scheme 17b). The reaction exhibited satisfactory tolerance for an array of catalytically reactive functional groups (e.g., F, Cl, Br, I, CF$_3$, CO$_2$Me, SM$_2$, NO$_2$), and thus, promised further elaboration of the end products. It is worthwhile to note that the authors nicely adapted this approach to the direct construction of SeCF$_3$-substituted compounds from alcohols by developing a similar trifluoromethylselenyl-substituted benzothiazolium salt (BT-SeCF$_3$).

As for the mechanism, the authors speculated that the reaction most likely proceeds through the formation of key electrophilic 2-alkoxybenzothiazolium species A via nucleophilic attack of the alcohol in the presence of NEt$_2$(Pr)$_2$ at the C2-position of the BT-SCF$_3$ reagent and subsequent nucleophilic substitution reaction with in situ generated −SCF$_3$ anion (Scheme 18). Guided by the same principle, a similar dehydroxylative functionalization strategy was applied by the same research group towards the synthesis of various perfluoroalkyl thioethers and thioesters.

In a recent report, Wu, Xiao, and colleagues accomplished the direct conversion of alcohols into the corresponding trifluoromethyl thioethers using AgSCF$_3$ as a source of F$_3$CS group and the Ph$_3$P/ICH$_2$CH$_2$I/n-Bu$_4$NI combination as an activation system in a 2:1 mixture of DMF and MeCN. The reaction was compatible with a variety of functionalized benzylic alcohols, as well as heterobenzylic alcohols such as hydroxymethyl pyridines, quinolines, thiazoles, benzothiols, even simple allylic and propargylic alcohols (Scheme 19). As
for alkyl alcohols, the corresponding products were obtained in poor yields. In this case, when \( \text{Ph}_2\text{PCH}==\text{CH}_2 \) was used instead of \( \text{Ph}_3\text{P} \), the product yields were significantly increased. The plausible mechanism for this transformation is analogous to the one depicted in Scheme 5. It should be mentioned that this mechanism is tentative and lacks experimental evidence.

5. Dehydroxylative trifluoromethylselenenylation

Compared to trifluoromethylation, trifluoromethoxylation, and trifluoromethylthiolation, the direct trifluoromethylselenenylation of alcohols is relatively less explored, although there has been much recent attention on the development of novel and efficient methodologies for the synthesis of \( \text{SeCF}_3 \)-substituted compounds. In 2019, in the same study describing the deoxytrifluoromethylthiolation of alcohols with the benzothiazolium salt BT-SCF\(_3\), Hopkinson’s research team reported the successful NET\( ^{1}\text{Pr})_2\)-promoted preparation of trifluoromethylselenoalkanes from the respective alcohols employing 2-trifluoromethylseleno-substituted benzothiazolium salt (BT-SeCF\(_3\); 35) (Scheme 20). Notably, BT-SeCF\(_3\) was synthesized via the same general strategy used to prepare BT-SCF\(_3\).

In 2020, using \([\text{Me}_4\text{N}]\text{[SeCF}_3\text{]}\) salt as a stable, non-volatile, and readily accessible source of nucleophilic \( \text{SeCF}_3 \), Zhang and colleagues engineered the direct dehydroxy trifluoromethylselenenylation of alcohols 37 for the synthesis of valuable alkyl trifluoromethyl selenoethers under catalyst-free conditions. By employing 3-phenylpropyl alcohol as the model reactant, several additives such as \( \text{CaF}_2 \), \( \text{CaCl}_2 \), \( \text{CaBr}_2 \), \( \text{Ca(OTf)}_2 \), \( \text{Ca(C}_2\text{O}_4) \), \( \text{CaSO}_4 \), \( \text{HCl} \), and \( \text{LiI} \) were carefully screened. Among them, excellent results were obtained for this transformation with \( \text{CaCl}_2 \), whereas \( \text{MeCN} \) was found to be the most effective solvent among the other common organic solvents tested (DMA, DMF, NMP, DMSO, \( \text{MeCN} \), toluene, and 1,4-dioxane). Evaluation of the substrate scope clearly demonstrated that the reaction was tolerant to a variety of primary and secondary aliphatic alcohols (Scheme 21). However, tertiary alcohols provided complicated mixtures. In order to elucidate the mechanism of the reaction, the authors performed several control experiments, such as GC-MS analyses, \(^{19}\text{F} \) NMR studies, and others.

From these results, the authors proposed two possible pathways for this transformation. The first pathway (Scheme 22, path A) starts with the formation of carbonoselenoic difluoride intermediate A through the decomposition of \( \text{SeCF}_3 \) with \( \text{CaCl}_2 \) as a fluoride scavenger, which after reaction with another equivalent of \( \text{SeCF}_3 \) in the presence of \( \text{Ca}^{2+} \) cations provides bis(trifluoromethyl)-carbonotriselenoate B (this intermediate was detected by \(^{19}\text{F} \) NMR and GC-MS analyses). Subsequently, the nucleophilic substitution of key intermediate B by alcohol 37 leads to a carbonoselenoate C. Finally, the nucleophilic attack of intermediate C with \( \text{SeCF}_3 \) anion provides the target trifluoromethylselenylated product 38. The key steps of the second possible route (Scheme 22, path B) are the generation of O-alkyl carbono difluoridoselenoate D via straightforward reaction of intermediate A with alcohol 37 and its nucleophilic substitution by \( \text{SeCF}_3 \) to form the observed product 38. According to the authors, pathway B is not likely the major process in the \( \text{Ca}^{2+} \)-mediated dehydroxy trifluoromethylselenenylation, especially when using a large excess of \([\text{Me}_4\text{N}]\text{[SeCF}_3\text{]}\).

![Scheme 21](image_url)
6. Conclusion

Because of their unique physicochemical and biological properties, there has been broad interest in fluorinated compounds in various research fields such as pharmaceuticals, medical imaging, agrochemicals, and materials science. Among all fluorine-containing functionalities, the trifluoromethyl (\(\text{CF}_3\)), trifluoromethoxy (\(\text{OCF}_3\)), trifluoromethylthiol (\(\text{SCF}_3\)), and trifluoromethylselenyl (\(\text{SeCF}_3\)) groups are becoming increasingly prominent in new drugs due to their strong electron-withdrawing nature and high lipophilic properties. Therefore, the high demand for biologically active compounds has stimulated significant efforts to develop efficient methods for the installation of these groups into organic molecules. As shown in this Mini-Review, recently direct dehydroxylative trifluoromethylation, trifluoromethoxylations, trifluoromethylthiolation, and trifluoromethylselenylation of alcohols have emerged as efficient new methods for the construction of \(\text{CF}_3/\text{OCF}_3/\text{SCF}_3/\text{SeCF}_3\)-functionalized compounds from inexpensive and readily available starting materials without the need for time-consuming prefunctionalization steps.

As illustrated, various aliphatic and benzylic alcohols were applicable in these reactions. However, aromatic alcohols were mainly unsuitable substrates. Therefore, many more studies are needed to develop efficient procedures that allow trifluoromethylation, -methoxylation, -methylthiolation, and -methylselenylation reactions of aromatic alcohols. Moreover, there are insufficient reported examples for some reactions such as trifluoromethylselenylation, and thus, additional study is necessary to determine the scope and limitations of these reactions.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

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