Transition metal- and organophotocatalyst-free perfluoroalkylation reaction of amino(hetero)aromatics initiated by the complex [(TMEDA)I·I₃] and visible light†

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Radical initiation for the perfluoroalkylation reaction of amino(hetero)aromatics has been accomplished employing the complex [(TMEDA)I·I₃] and visible light. This methodology circumvents the use of metal(organocatalysts and biologically-relevant substrates are easily substituted with Rₘ moieties employing a mild and environmentally benign radical strategy starting from readily-available perfluoroalkyl iodides RₘI.

Introduction

Aminoaromatic compounds such as aniline derivatives can be perfluoroalkylated with ease¹,² by radical reactions due to the electrophilic nature of the fluoroalkyl radical³,⁴ and the high electron density of the aromatic ring. Even more so, fluoroalkylation can be attempted under visible light through the homolytic cleavage of the Rₘ–I bond upon irradiation (ca. 201 kJ mol⁻¹, 590 nm), albeit, in poor yields. Reports on visible-light photocatalytic perfluoroalkylations utilizing photoredox organocatalysts⁵,⁶ have provided alternative routes to better-yielding perfluoroalkyl-substituted compounds (Scheme 1).

Motivated by the results of Noel and collaborators⁵ for the RS–H photosubstitution of cysteine derivatives employing TMEDA, Rₘ–I and a transition metal photocatalyst (POC) in MeCN, we replaced our reported strategy for the radical perfluoroalkylation reactions of anilines that employed Cs₂CO₃/POC in TMEDA and used a commercial fluorescent light CFL in the absence of organophotocatalyst to attempt the visible-light perfluoroalkylation of amino aromatic compounds in the presence of TMEDA. In this work, we will show that radical initiation can take place from visible light-irradiation of TMEDA/I₂ complex and that organophotocatalysts are not necessary for improved substitution yields.

Results and discussion

At start of our studies it was not clear the species responsible for the visible-light absorption, in the absence of photoorganocatalyst POC Rose Bengal³ (RB), since product formation seemed to improve substantially upon illumination (cf. entries 2 & 5, Table 1), and none of the reagents alone (i.e.: n-C₄F₉I, aniline, or TMEDA) showed enough optical density at the irradiation wavelengths.

When aniline was subjected to the visible-light irradiation in the presence of n-C₄F₉I and TMEDA in MeCN as solvent, in the absence of photocatalyst, 62% yield of substitution product was obtained (entry 2, Table 1). By irradiating at 370 nm (with a black fluorescent light lamp), a 64% yield of substitution product was obtained (entry 4, Table 1). The dark reaction (entry 5, Table 1) afforded only 11% yield of product, whereas the absence of TMEDA reduced the yield significantly (entry 6, Table 1).

When we inspected the UV-vis spectrum of the solution mixture of aniline and n-C₄F₉I to be irradiated at the working concentrations, we noticed an absorption band at λₘₐₓ = 458 nm, corresponding to the absorption of iodine in MeCN (Fig. S1, ESIF), with enough optical density to initiate the radical reaction through the production of iodine atoms.⁵,⁶ Concerned about this absorption, we excluded iodine from the reagent n-C₄F₉I, passing the neat liquid through a neutral alumina column, and subjected the mixture of aniline, iodine-free n-C₄F₉I, and TMEDA to the photoreaction under visible-light (CFL) in MeCN as solvent. Under these latter reaction conditions, we obtained only 23% yield of substitution product, indicating that an iodine-containing species is intervening in the initiation process (entry 7, Table 1). However, when we purposely added tetra butyl ammonium iodide (TBAl) and iodine (entry 8, Table 1) to a solution of purified n-C₄F₉I (I₂-free), a low yield of substitution product was again obtained (36%), indicating that I₃⁻ (λₘₐₓ = 291 nm and 364 nm in MeCN) was not responsible for the photoinitiation. Conducting the irradiation of aniline with a medium pressure Hg lamp (employing...
Scheme 1 Methods for radical perfluoroalkylation of aniline derivatives.

Table 1 Substitution yields (%) of aniline (0.6 mmol) with n-C4F9I and 3 additional equiv. of I2 under visible light irradiation (65 watt CFL or otherwise noted) in MeCN (3 mL) as solvent, under Ar atmosphere (20 h reaction)

| Entry | Product yield (%) | Isomer ratio (o : p) |
|-------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1     | 76                 | 1 : 1                |
| 2     | 62                 | 0.9 : 1.1            |
| 3     |                   | 0.5                  |
| 4     | 64                 | 0.9 : 1.2            |
| 5     | 11                 | 1 : 3                |
| 6     | 3                  | 1 : 1.5              |
| 7     | 23                 | 0.8 : 1.2            |
| 8     | 36/6f              | 1 : 1.5              |
| 9     | 65/5e              | 1 : 1                |
| 10    |                   | -1 : 1 : 5           |
| 11    |                   | -1 : 1 : 5           |

* In the presence of Rose bengal RB, 0.1 equiv. of λirradiation = 550–680 nm (λmax = 585 nm). BDE C4F9I = 201 kJ mol⁻¹ corresponds to λmax = 590 nm. † λirradiation = 370 nm (black fluorescent light bulb, 40 watt). ‡ Dark reaction. § In the absence of TMEDA, I2 was removed from the reagent n-C4F9I by neutral alumina column chromatography. ¶ 0.5 equiv. TBAI + 0.5 equiv. I2. ‡ Only para-product observed. † I2 was thoroughly removed from the reagent C4F9I by neutral alumina column chromatography and then additional 0.5 mM of I2 to the reaction mixture was added. ‡ 3 equiv of iodine added. * λirradiation = 410–490 nm (λmax = 425 nm).

A complex between TMEDA and I2 (i.e.: [(TMEDA)I₂]) has been informed by Adam and colleagues, with λmax = 360 nm in MeCN, (ε = 4 × 10⁴ M⁻¹ cm⁻¹), a complex formation constant ca. 4.7 × 10⁷ M⁻¹ and ECT = 4.35 eV. Due to the traces of I2 present in the neat starting n-C4F9I, we deem proper to investigate whether complexation of these trace amounts of I2 present in n-C4F9I with TMEDA could trigger the radical initiation process. Fig. S2 and S3,† show the UV-vis spectra of mixtures of TMEDA and I2, corroborating the remarkable increase in the absorbptivity at 360 nm, responsible for the absorption of light. This charge transfer complex would be responsible, upon visible light absorption (λmax = 360 nm from a commercial fluorescent light CFL or λmax = 370 nm from a black fluorescent light bulb), of the initiation process, producing excited iodine atoms, as in eqn (1).†

\[
[\text{TMEDA}]I_3 \xrightarrow{\text{hv}} \text{TMEDA} + I^* + I_2 + I^+
\]

The iodine atoms thus produced (eqn (1)) could then abstract I atoms from perfluoroalkyl (and alkyl) iodides such as n-C4F9I, thus initiating the chain reaction with the production of C4F9 radicals (eqn (2)).

\[
\text{C}_4\text{F}_9\text{I} + \text{I}^* \xrightarrow{k_1} \text{C}_4\text{F}_9^* \xrightarrow{k_2} \text{I}_2
\]

Rate constant \(k_2\) is a very exothermic process with very low activation energy provided abstraction of iodine is carried out by excited iodine atoms,† which has been demonstrated to be the case when irradiation wavelengths lower than 500 nm (ref. 11) are employed.†

In order to corroborate that the complex [(TMEDA)I₂] does produce I⁺ atoms upon 370 nm irradiation, we attempted the iodine atom-induced cis/trans radical isomerization of oleic fatty acid methyl ester. However, elaidic acid methyl ester was not obtained, indicating that the complex [(TMEDA)I₂] does not produce iodine atoms upon irradiation at 370 nm, as in eqn (1), responsible for the cis/trans isomerization process.
The dark reaction ([TMEDA, n-C₄F₉I and substrate]) excluding iodine, does not yield any substitution product, purporting that also the dark component accounting for product formation (entry 11, Table 1) arises from a thermal ET initiation within the complex [[TMEDA]I⁻].

UV-vis spectra of mixtures of n-C₄F₉I and TMEDA do not show a distinct change in absorption or extinction coefficients. The TMEDA-2-CF₃I complex has been postulated by Ritter™ and colleagues, based on calculations, X-ray crystallographic analysis, and spectroscopic data (¹H, ¹³C NMR). A complex between a nitrogen base and RF in the ¹F NMR spectra of n-C₄F₉I has very recently been postulated to generate RF radicals upon visible light irradiation.14-20 We have also observed the same trends for the formation of a complex TMEDA-2-CF₃I based on NMR data (¹F, ¹³C NMR), where spectral changes are observed when going from free reagents to the complexed mixture, as indicated in Table S1.†

The ¹F NMR upfield shifts observed in the 1-CF₂-C₂F₂ are indicative of a debilitated I-C bond in n-C₄F₉I when TMEDA is present, being the largest shift when a stoichiometry of the complex TMEDA : 2-CF₃I is reached (Table S1†). Also, from Table S1† there seems to be the presence of complexes between perfluoroalkyl iodides and aminoroaromatic compounds,16 the existence of which result in chemical shift changes of the signal from ICF₂-Rp in the ¹F NMR spectra when n-C₄F₉I is in the presence of the amino substrate as compared with the innate chemical shift value of ICF₂-Rp signal, interpreted as halogen bonding to the nitrogen atom of the substrate. The -CF₃I signals in the ¹F NMR spectra of n-C₄F₉I in mixtures with amino aromatics (2,4,6-triaminopyrimidine, 2,4-dihydroxy-6-methylpyrimidine, 2,4-diamino-6-hydroxyprymidin, respectively) are reported in Table S1† where the similar upfield chemical shifts of the ICF₂-Rp can be observed. Analysis of the data presented in Table S1† also reveals that the substituent amino group in amino aromatic compounds exerts a more favored halogen-bonding interaction with 1-CF₃I than the ring-nitrogen does, based on the magnitude of the upfield shifts. Also, this effect is increased when TMEDA is present in the mixture. This is consistent with electron lone pair availability on the nitrogen atom. We therefore could postulate a more facile iodine atom abstraction from TMEDA : 2n-C₄F₉I complex, as depicted in eqn (3).

\[
\text{TMEDA}} - 2n\text{-C}_4\text{F}_9\text{I} + \mathbf{I}^{-} \xrightarrow{k_i} n\text{-C}_4\text{F}_9\text{I}^+ + n\text{-C}_4\text{F}_9\text{I} + \text{TMEDA} + \mathbf{I}_2
\]

With these reaction conditions in hand, we undertook the perfluoroalkylation reactions of a series of aniline derivatives employing the [[TMEDA]I⁻] complex (ca. 0.25 mM) as initiator. The reaction of 2-anisidine afforded 57% yield of substitution product 1 (4-perfluorobutyl-2-methoxy aniline and 2-perfluorobutyl-2-methoxy aniline, 1 : 5) (Table 2), leading predominantly to the para isomer. 2,5-Dimethoxy aniline afforded 63% yield of product 2 (i.e.: 4-perfluorobutyl-2,5-dimethoxyaniline). By using other perfluoroalkyl iodides, such as I-(CF₃)₃-I, I-(CF₃)₄-I, and n-C₁₀F₂₁I, the corresponding substituted products 3-5 were obtained in 18, 76, and 10% yields, respectively, as indicated in Table 2. 2,3-Dimethylaniline afforded 35% yield of substitution products 6 (â : p isomer ratio = 1 : 2); whereas the yields for the substituted products derived from 2,3-dimethylaniline with n-C₆F₁₇I, I-(CF₃)₃-I, and I-(CF₃)₄-I, and n-C₁₀F₂₁I (i.e.: products 6-10, respectively), are 79, 71, 53, and 6% respectively, as indicated in Table 2. The less activated anilines, i.e.: 2,5-difluoroaniline, 2,5-dibromoaniline, 2-chloro-6-methylideneaniline, and 2,5-dichloroaniline, afforded products 11-14 in 9%, 15%, 15% and 16% yields respectively, as shown in Table 2. The low yields isolated from these products, i.e.: 11-14, are attributed to volatility during the work-up/purification process.

Benzocaine,† a local anesthetic, affords 12% yield of the C₃F₉ substitution product 15 (Table 2). Starting from 2-mercaptoaniline, under the reaction conditions of Table 2, 2-((perfluorobutyl)thio)aniline 16 is obtained in almost quantitative yield (~95%) in 2 h reaction.

We have attempted a large scale reaction of 2-anisidine (see Experimental) and obtained a 36% yield of purified 1 (1.474 g), indicating that a scale-up process is applicable with this methodology.

Taking into account the presence of dissolved iodine in commercial RₓI, the use of TMEDA can aid in the initiation process through the [[TMEDA]I⁻] complex formation. This is likely the case in many studies23,24,25 where a combination of RₓI, TMEDA, and visible light is employed.

The reactions of 2-anisidine in the presence of DBTN (di-tert-butyl nitroxide, a well-known radical scavenger) as well as in the presence of 1,4-dinitrobenzene afford no substitution products, indicating the presence of radicals. The reaction of 2-anisidine in the presence of p-cresol (0.4 equiv.) affords only 20% yield of products 1.

From Table 3, the C₃F₉ substitution yields of a series of aminoopyrimidines and aminopyridines is illustrated. 2,4,6-Triaminopyrimidine affords 5-perfluorobutyl-2,4,6-triaminopyrimidine 17 in 48% yield. 2,5-Diamino-6-hydroxy-2-pyrimidin affords 5-perfluorobutyl-2,4-diamino-6-hydroxy-2-pyrimidin 18 in 64% yield. 2-Aminopyridine affords a mixture of 5-perfluorobutyl-2-aminopyridine 19 in 34% yield and 3-perfluorobutyl-2-aminopyridine 20 in 23% yield. 4-Aminopyridine affords 3-perfluorobutyl-4-aminopyridine 21 in 25% yield, whereas 2,3-diaminopyridine affords 4-perfluorobutyl-2,3-diaminopyridine 22 in 12% yield. 5-Methyl-2-aminopyridine and 5-bromo-2-aminopyridine afford 4-perfluorobutyl-5-methyl-2-aminopyridine 23 and 3-perfluorobutyl-5-bromo-2-aminopyridine 24 in 47 and 50% yields, respectively. The low substitution yields encountered for compounds 19-22 is due to volatility, as these products evaporate in the rotary evaporator during the extraction and purification processes.

A large-scale reaction of 5-bromo-2-aminopyridine with n-C₄F₉I was attempted under the protocol proposed (see Experimental), and a 45% yield of purified product 24 (2.111 g) was isolated.

A proposed reaction mechanism is illustrated in Scheme 2. The complex formed by I₂ and TMEDA (i.e.: [[TMEDA]I⁻]), absorbs light from either a commercial fluorescent light bulb
CFL, or black light fluorescent bulb, \( \lambda_{\text{max}} = 370 \) nm) populating an excited state, which collapses into the excited iodine radicals (and ground state iodine radicals and \( I_2 \)). Then, an iodine atom abstraction from \( n-C_4F_9I \) takes place (as in eqn (3)), generating \( n-C_4F_9^* \) radicals, which enter the electron-catalyzed cycle (Scheme 2) and substitute the amino-substrate, to generate a radical intermediate such as \( B \), which by ET to \( n-C_4F_9I \) produces more \( n-C_4F_9^* \) radicals and the final product \( C \). Interestingly, \([\text{TMEDA}]I\cdot I_3\) complex could be \textit{in situ} re-generated through recombination of two molecules of iodine, one arising from the very decomposition of the complex, the other from \( n-C_4F_9I \) by iodine atom abstraction. This photocatalytic initiation accounts for the increased yield of product upon visible light illumination.

Radical adduct \( B \) (Scheme 2) acts as a reductant to \( n-C_4F_9I \), generating \( n-C_4F_9^* \) radicals and a cyclohexadienyl-type substituted cation (not shown) which gets deprotonated by TMEDA to afford \( C \). To supply more evidence in favor of the mechanism proposed in Scheme 2, we monitored the absorbance of the complex \([\text{TMEDA}]I\cdot I_3\) through irradiation time, and did not observe any decrease in absorbance, purporting that the complex concentration is not depleted with irradiation time in the presence of \( n-C_4F_9I \) through regeneration of cycles \( E \) and \( F \) (Scheme 2).

Alternatively, we could also postulate that vertical excitation of the \([\text{TMEDA}]I\cdot I_3\) complex would produce an internal ET giving iodine atom radical \( I^* \), triiodide \( I_3^- \), and the radical cation of TMEDA, which would promptly deprotonate giving the radical of TMEDA, according to Scheme 3. TMEDA radical \( G \) could act as an electron reductant to \( n-C_4F_9I \), generating \( n-C_4F_9^* \) radicals and the iminium ion \( H \) (Scheme 3). We did not observe any product derived from decomposition of TMEDA, through attempts of trapping any carbonyl intermediate with 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine/HPLC, indicating that ET from TMEDA radical \( G \) (Scheme 3) is not a major contributor to product formation.

The role of TMEDA is relevant in the complexation with iodine, and the deprotonation (path \( D \), Scheme 2). In the

| Substitution product yields (%) of aniline derivatives (0.6 mmol) with \( n-C_4F_{2n+1}I \) (3 equiv.), and TMEDA (1.8 mmol) ([TMEDA]I\cdot I_3\) complex ca. 0.25 mM) promoted by visible light irradiation (CFL, 65 watts) in MeCN (3 mL) as solvent, under Ar atmosphere (20 h) or otherwise noted |
|---|
| Table 2 |

| Aniline derivative \( 1.8 \) mmol. | \( a \) In the presence of \( 0.1 \) equiv. RB. | \( b \) In the presence of \( I_2 \) \( 0.55 \) mM. | \( c \) Aniline derivative \( 1.8 \) mmol. | \( d \) \( n-C_4F_{2n+1}I \) \( 0.17 \) equiv. | \( e \) TMEDA \( 0.33 \) equiv. | \( f \) Aniline derivative \( 0.3 \) mmol. | \( g \) \( \frac{n-C_4F_{2n+1}I}{2} \) equiv. | \( h \) TMEDA \( 1 \) equiv. | \( i \) 72 h-reaction. | \( j \) 96 h-reaction. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1, 57% (\( \alpha:p = 1:5 \)) | 2, 63% | 3, 18% \( b, c, d, e \) | 4, 78% (\( m:p = 1:1 \)) \( b, c, d, e \) | 5, 10% \( b, f, g, h \) |
| \( \text{Ar} \) 20 h |

\( \text{CFL} \) or black light fluorescent bulb, \( \lambda_{\text{max}} = 370 \) nm) populating an excited state, which collapses into the excited iodine radicals (and ground state iodine radicals and \( I_2 \)). Then, an iodine atom abstraction from \( n-C_4F_9I \) takes place (as in eqn (3)), generating \( n-C_4F_9^* \) radicals, which enter the electron-catalyzed cycle (Scheme 2) and substitute the amino-substrate, to generate a radical intermediate such as \( B \), which by ET to \( n-C_4F_9I \) produces more \( n-C_4F_9^* \) radicals and the final product \( C \). Interestingly, \([\text{TMEDA}]I\cdot I_3\) complex could be \textit{in situ} re-generated through recombination of two molecules of iodine, one arising from the very decomposition of the complex, the other from \( n-C_4F_9I \) by iodine atom abstraction. This photocatalytic initiation accounts for the increased yield of product upon visible light illumination.

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Table 3  Product yields (%) of amino-substituted heteroaromatics (0.6 mmol) with \( n\)-C\(_4\)F\(_9\)I (3 equiv.), and TMEDA (1.8 mmol) ([(TMEDA)I\(_2\)]) complex ca. 0.25 mM) promoted by visible light irradiation (CFL, 65 watts) in MeCN (3 mL) as solvent or otherwise indicated, under Ar atmosphere (20 h)

| R    | X    | 17, 48\(^a\) | 18, 64\(^b\) | 19, 5-C\(_4\)F\(_9\), 34\(^c\) | 20, 3-C\(_4\)F\(_9\), 23\(^c\) | 21, 25\(^c\) | 22, 12\(^d\) | 23, 47\(^c\) | 24, 50% |
|------|------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|

\(^a\) MeOH. \(^b\) Cs\(_2\)CO\(_3\) used instead of TMEDA, and Rose bengal as photocatalyst/DMF. \(^c\) Rose bengal as photocatalyst. \(^d\) MeCN : MeOH 5 : 1.

![Scheme 2](image_url)  
Proposed electron-catalyzed HAS of amino-substrates in the presence of TMEDA.
presence of catalyst (POC), Noel and colleagues found that TMEDA acts as an electron donor to the catalyst, involved in a reductive quenching pathway. Being the mechanism still under investigation, a third possibility should be considered: the outer-sphere ET from $\text{[TMEDA]}^{-}\cdot\text{I}_3$ to $n$-$\text{C}_4\text{F}_9\text{I}$ generating $n$-$\text{C}_4\text{F}_9$ radicals (and iodide anion) in conjunction with the radical cation of TMEDA, which could act as an oxidant to intermediate B in Scheme 2 to re-generate thermoneutral TMEDA. Iodine could also intervine in the oxidation of intermediate B. These mechanistic alternatives are being studied at the moment.

Conclusions

A simple and metal-/photoorganocatalyst-free strategy has been presented for the perfluoroalkylation of aminoaromatics employing a complex $\text{[TMEDA]}^{-}\cdot\text{I}_3$ that upon visible light illumination produces I atoms that generate $\text{R}_3^+\cdot\text{I}$ radicals from $\text{R}_3\cdot\text{I}$ sources. These $\text{R}_3^+$ radicals are capable of substituting biologically-relevant targets such as local anesthetic benzocaine, etc. This convenient, high-yielding and metal/photoorganocatalyst-free strategy outperforms traditional near-UV photocatalytic methods while operating under visible light and in the presence of only an additive (TMEDA).

Caution has to be exercised when employing $\text{R}_3\cdot\text{I}$ and TMEDA, since traces of iodine in the reagents (i.e. $\text{R}_3\cdot\text{I}$) can form a stable complex with TMEDA which could be responsible for the radical initiation process upon visible light irradiation. Moreover, given the high extinction coefficient of the complex $\text{[TMEDA]}^{-}\cdot\text{I}_3$ at the visible light wavelengths (>365 nm), iodine atom production is a key element in the radical process.

Experimental

General procedure for the $\text{[TMEDA]}^{-}\cdot\text{I}_3$-initiated reactions

In a 4 mL screw-cap vial provided with a micro stir bar, TMEDA (1.8 mmol, $\text{[TMEDA]}^{-}\cdot\text{I}_3$ complex, ca. 0.25 mM), substrate (0.6 mmol, aniline derivative or aminoheteroaromatic compound), or photocatalyst (PC) Rose bengal where needed (0.05 equiv.) and 3 mL of acetonitrile were introduced. The mixture was de-oxygenated with a stream of Ar for 15 min and $n$-$\text{C}_4\text{F}_9\text{I}$ or other $\text{R}_3\cdot\text{I}$ (3 equiv.) was introduced by microliter syringe, and the vial sealed. The closed reaction vessel was placed in front of a 60 watt household fluorescent light bulb (or 20 watt fluorescent black light, $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 370$ nm) and illuminated, under constant vigorous stirring, for 24 h or otherwise noted. After the reaction time was completed, the mixture was extracted thrice with CH$_2$Cl$_2$/water/brine. The organic layers were gathered and dried over anhydrous Na$_2$SO$_4$, filtered and evaporated under vacuo. The crude reaction mixture was purified by silica-gel (60 mesh) column chromatography, with the eluants indicated in the TLC conditions (vide infra, spectral data). When a PC was used, the polarity of the dye did not introduce any particular difficulty in the separation and purification protocol, as the several CH$_2$Cl$_2$ extractions eliminated the PC. The eluants employed are referred to in the TLC conditions of each compound.

Large scale reactions

In a 60 mL Schlenk-type tube 2-anisidine (12 mmol), TMEDA (36 mmol), and a stir bar were placed and a volume of 60 mL of MeCN was introduced by syringe through a septum. The mixture was de-oxygenated with a stream of dry Ar for 30 min, and 36 mmol of $n$-$\text{C}_4\text{F}_9\text{I}$ were added to the mixture. The set-up was placed on a stir plate, and vigorously stirred throughout the reaction time. The vessel was placed in front (1 cm) of a 60 watt CFL, and irradiated for 40 hours. The crude reaction mixture was purified by silica-gel (60 mesh) column chromatography, with the eluants indicated in the TLC conditions (vide infra, spectral data). The large-scale reaction afforded 36% yield (1.474 g) of combined purified products 1.

In a 60 mL Schlenk-type tube 5-bromo-2-aminopyridine (12 mmol), TMEDA (36 mmol), and a stir bar were placed. A
the volume of 60 mL of MeCN was introduced by 50 mL syringe. The mixture was de-oxygenated with a stream of dry Ar for 30 min, and 36 mmol of n-C6F5I were added to the mixture by syringe through a septum. The set-up was placed on a stir plate, and vigorously stirred throughout the reaction time. The vessel was placed in front (1 cm) of a 60 watt CFL, and irradiated for 40 hours. The crude reaction mixture was purified by silica-gel (60 mesh) column chromatography, with the eluants indicated in the TLC conditions (vide infra, spectral data). The large-scale reaction afforded 45% yield (2.111 g) of purified product 24.

Characterization of compounds

All compounds are unknown chemicals, unless otherwise noted, and are reported as % yields obtained by NMR integration (from 1H and 19F NMR integration) of the crude reaction mixtures. Isolated purified masses of compounds are expressed in gram units. Characterizations employ 1H, 13C, 19F 1D-NMR techniques, and 2D NMR spectroscopic techniques (HSQC, HMBC, COSY experiments, and DEPT-135), and HRMS measurements (see ESI).
9%. Isolated and purified mass obtained: 4.6 mg. 

**2-Chloro-6-methyl-4-(perfluorobutyl)aniline (10a).** White solid. Yield = 2%. TLC (CH$_2$Cl$_2$: petroleum ether 4:6 v/v): $R_f$ = 0.88; $^1$H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl$_3$) $\delta$: 7.10 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.66 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.49 (b s, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H). $^{13}$C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl$_3$) $\delta$: 143.9, 141.2, 125.9, 122.0, 119.6, 109.8, 20.9, 12.6. $^{19}$F NMR (564.63 MHz, CDCl$_3$) $\delta$: –98.73 (t, 3F), 100.57 (m, 2F), –113.20 (m, 2F), –121.02 (m, 2F), –121.98 (m, 8F), –122.89 (m, 2F), –126.32 (m, 2F). HRMS-EI+ (M+1): calculated for C$_{18}$H$_{10}$F$_{21}$N: 654.01243; found, 654.01225.

**2-Difluoro-4-(perfluorobutyl)aniline (10b).** Pale yellow oil. Yield = 4%. Isolated and purified mass obtained: 2.5 mg. 

**2-Chloro-6-methyl-4-(perfluorobutyl)pyridin-4-amine (11).** Yellow oil. Yield = 9%. Isolated and purified mass obtained: 2.5 mg. 

**2-Chloro-6-methyl-4-(perfluorobutyl)thio)aniline (16).** Pale yellow oil. Yield = 15%. Isolated and purified mass obtained: 3.7 mg. 

**2-Chloro-6-methyl-4-(perfluorobutyl)pyrimidin-4-ol (18).** Pale yellow oil. Yield > 64%. Isolated and purified mass obtained: 39.8 mg. $^1$H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$) $\delta$: 2.97 (s). $^{13}$C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$) $\delta$: 118.4, 117.2, 112.3, 17.0. $^{19}$F NMR (564.63 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$) $\delta$: –80.73 (t, 3F), –102.69 (t, 2F), –120.37 (m, 2F), –121.79 (m, 10F), –122.67 (m, 2F), –126.08 (m, 2F). HRMS-EI+ (M+1): calculated for C$_{14}$H$_{16}$F$_{14}$N$_2$: 408.04774; found, 408.04758.

**2-Chloro-6-methyl-4-(perfluorobutyl)pyrimidine-2,4,6-triamine (17).** Pale yellow oil. Yield > 48%. Isolated and purified mass obtained: 56.2 mg. $^1$H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$) $\delta$: 162.4, 162.5. $^{19}$F NMR (564.63 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$) $\delta$: –80.41 (t, 3F), –101.47 (m, 2F), –122.77 (m, 2F), –125.35 (m, 2F). HRMS-EI+ (M+1): calculated for C$_{14}$H$_{16}$F$_{14}$N$_3$: 444.04795; found, 444.04779.

**3-(Perfluorobutyl)pyrimidine-2,4,6-triamine (17).** Pale yellow oil. Yield > 25%. Isolated and purified mass obtained: 25.6 mg. $^1$H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$) $\delta$: 162.4, 162.5. $^{19}$F NMR (564.63 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$) $\delta$: –80.41 (t, 3F), –101.47 (m, 2F), –122.77 (m, 2F), –125.35 (m, 2F). HRMS-EI+ (M+1): calculated for C$_{14}$H$_{16}$F$_{14}$N$_3$: 444.04795; found, 444.04779.

**2-Chloro-6-methyl-4-(perfluorobutyl)pyridin-4-amine (11).** Yellow oil. Yield = 15%. Isolated and purified mass obtained: 3.7 mg. 

**2-Chloro-6-methyl-4-(perfluorobutyl)pyrimidine-2,4,6-triamine (17).** Pale yellow oil. Yield > 64%. Isolated and purified mass obtained: 39.8 mg. $^1$H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$) $\delta$: 2.97 (s). $^{13}$C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$) $\delta$: 118.4, 117.2, 112.3, 17.0. $^{19}$F NMR (564.63 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$) $\delta$: –80.73 (t, 3F), –102.69 (t, 2F), –120.37 (m, 2F), –121.79 (m, 10F), –122.67 (m, 2F), –126.08 (m, 2F). HRMS-EI+ (M+1): calculated for C$_{14}$H$_{16}$F$_{14}$N$_2$: 408.04774; found, 408.04758.

**2-Chloro-6-methyl-4-(perfluorobutyl)pyrimidine-2,4,6-triamine (17).** Pale yellow oil. Yield > 25%. Isolated and purified mass obtained: 25.6 mg. $^1$H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$) $\delta$: 162.4, 162.5. $^{19}$F NMR (564.63 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$) $\delta$: –80.41 (t, 3F), –101.47 (m, 2F), –122.77 (m, 2F), –125.35 (m, 2F). HRMS-EI+ (M+1): calculated for C$_{14}$H$_{16}$F$_{14}$N$_3$: 444.04795; found, 444.04779.
$^{19}$F NMR (564.63 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ: −80.99 (t, 3F), −113.22 (m, 2F), −122.75 (m, 2F), −125.76 (m, 2F). HRMS-EI+ (M + 1): calcd. For C$_{10}$H$_7$F$_9$N$_2$: 327.04655; found 328.04210.

5-Methyl-4-(perfluorobutyl)pyridin-2-amine (23). Yield > 47%. Isolated and purified mass obtained: 51 mg. $^1$H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$): δ: 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 6.07 [broad s, 2H], 3.33 (s, 3H). $^{13}$C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$): δ: 122.75 (m, 2F), 125.27 (m, 2F). HRMS-EI+ (M + 1): calcd. For C$_{10}$H$_7$F$_9$N$_2$: 327.04669; found 327.04655.

5-Bromo-3-(perfluorobutyl)pyridin-2-amine (24). Yield > 50%. Isolated and purified mass obtained: 51 mg. $^1$H NMR (564.63 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$): δ: 8.31 (s, 1H), 7.79 (s, H), 6.65 (broad s, 2H). $^{13}$C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$): δ: 155.2, 153.3, 139.2, 104.1, 99.5. $^{19}$F NMR (564.63 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$): δ: −80.5 (t, 3F), −108.86 (m, 2F), −122.23 (m, 2F), −125.34 (m, 2F). HRMS-EI+ (M + 1): calcd. For C$_{10}$H$_7$BrF$_9$N$_2$: 390.94151; found 390.94141.

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