

Stable Vinylogous Amino Salt as a Reactive Synthons for the Synthesis of Homologated β -Fluoroenamides

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Cite This: *Org. Lett.* 2025, 27, 7342–7348



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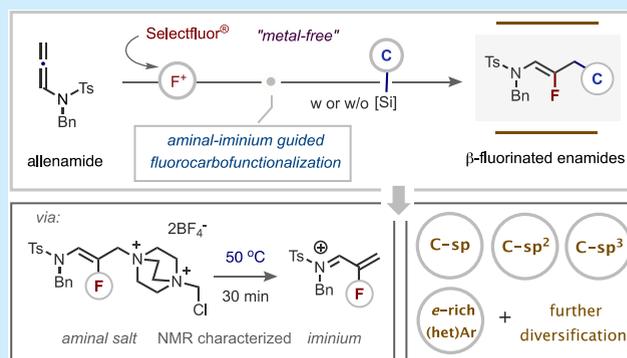


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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Described herein is a versatile method in which allenamide and Selectfluor are efficiently combined to produce a stable and isolable vinylogous amino salt. This innovative salt possesses the unique ability to irreversibly convert into a reactive iminium salt at 50 °C, as evidenced by NMR spectroscopy, serving as a synthon for the synthesis of homologated β -fluoroenamides. This metal-free approach accommodates a broad range of silylated C-nucleophiles across all hybridizations as well as electron-rich (hetero)aryls, with additional functionalization further showcasing its synthetic potential.



Fluorine's unique ability to influence the physical and biological characteristics of organic molecules has made its incorporation via C–F bond formation a fundamental approach in drug discovery.¹ Among the various approaches, fluorinative functionalization of C–C π frameworks is a powerful strategy to enhance molecular complexity while simultaneously adding extra functionality.² Specifically, carbofluorination reactions introduce both C–C and C–F bonds, orchestrating the simultaneous incorporation of molecular complexity alongside the fluorination step.³ While a plethora of methods emerged in recent years, only a handful of successful examples of such fluorinative difunctionalization of allenic frameworks have been reported.^{4,5} Reported examples showcase metal-bound aryl electrophiles as coupling carbon fragments, with fluorination terminated by F-nucleophiles in both intra- and intermolecular reactions to access allyl fluorides (top, Scheme 1A).⁴

Alternative activation methods utilizing N–F reagents through radical and electrophilic mechanisms have also been reported that could engage allenes, specifically through heterofluorination reactions, notably, with no examples of C-nucleophile interception.⁵ These seminal contributions, however, in some cases, use a metal activator.^{5b,c} Furthermore, the corresponding activation mode for selectively integrating both fluorine and carbon atoms into allenic bonds remains significantly underdeveloped, particularly in achieving compatibility across the diverse range of C-nucleophiles for vinyl fluoride synthesis (bottom, Scheme 1A).

Given the structural similarities between conjugated hydrogen and halo-iminium species, which serve as an ideal class of electrophiles for studying C-nucleophile addition, their fluorinated counterparts can be similarly anticipated through

the use of a fluorinating reagent. To achieve selective carbofluorination, we aimed to extend our previous strategy, which involved trapping an iminium intermediate, activated by Brønsted acid and bromonium or iodonium reagents, intercepting various nucleophiles at distal C of allenamide (top, Scheme 1B).⁶ Notably, the halo-iminium-enabled alkylation utilizes electronic cooperation with a neighboring halogen and N-electron-withdrawing groups (EWG) on the allene unit, exclusively engaging premetalated (zinc)-alkynyl species, for the synthesis of non-fluorinated ynamides.^{6c} However, previous carbofluorination attempts were unsuccessful, primarily due to the instability of the fluoro iminium intermediate. While optimizing conditions for intermediates, we successfully isolated a stable vinylogous amino salt. This observation led us to envision that this stable iminium precursor could be as a versatile synthon for synthesizing homologated β -fluoroenamide, a largely underexplored class of compounds with significant synthetic potential.⁷

Herein, we present a metal-free strategy for the carbofluorination of allenamides, enabling the efficient incorporation of diverse C-nucleophiles (bottom, Scheme 1B). Our study explores TMS-protected C(sp³, sp², and sp) centers as well as electron-rich aryl and heteroaryl motifs as potential C-nucleophiles. This approach facilitates regio- and stereo-

Received: May 20, 2025

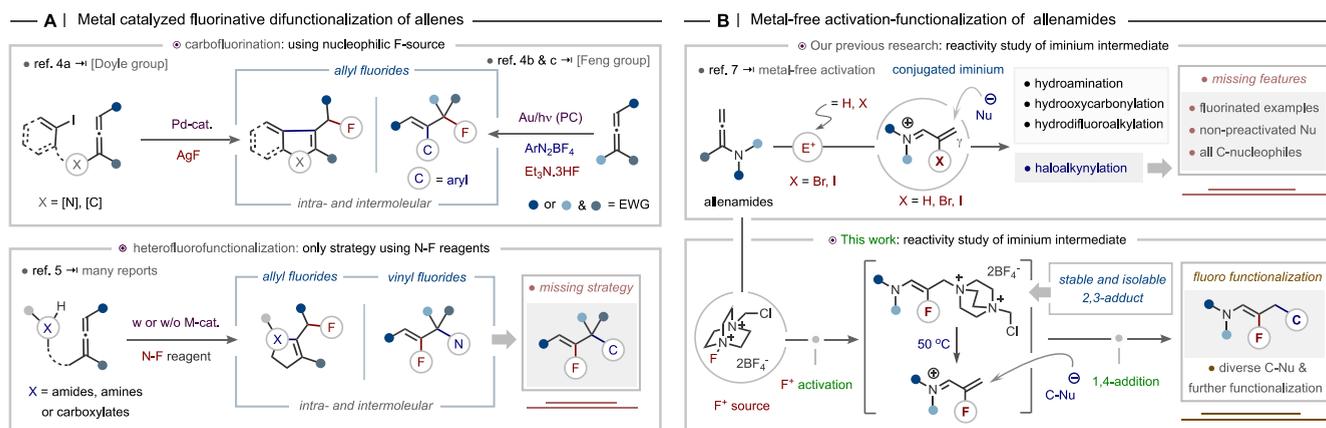
Revised: June 20, 2025

Accepted: June 23, 2025

Published: June 26, 2025



Scheme 1. Inspiration for the Development of the Allenamide Carbofluorination



selective formal fluoro-carbofunctionalization of allenamides under metal-free conditions.

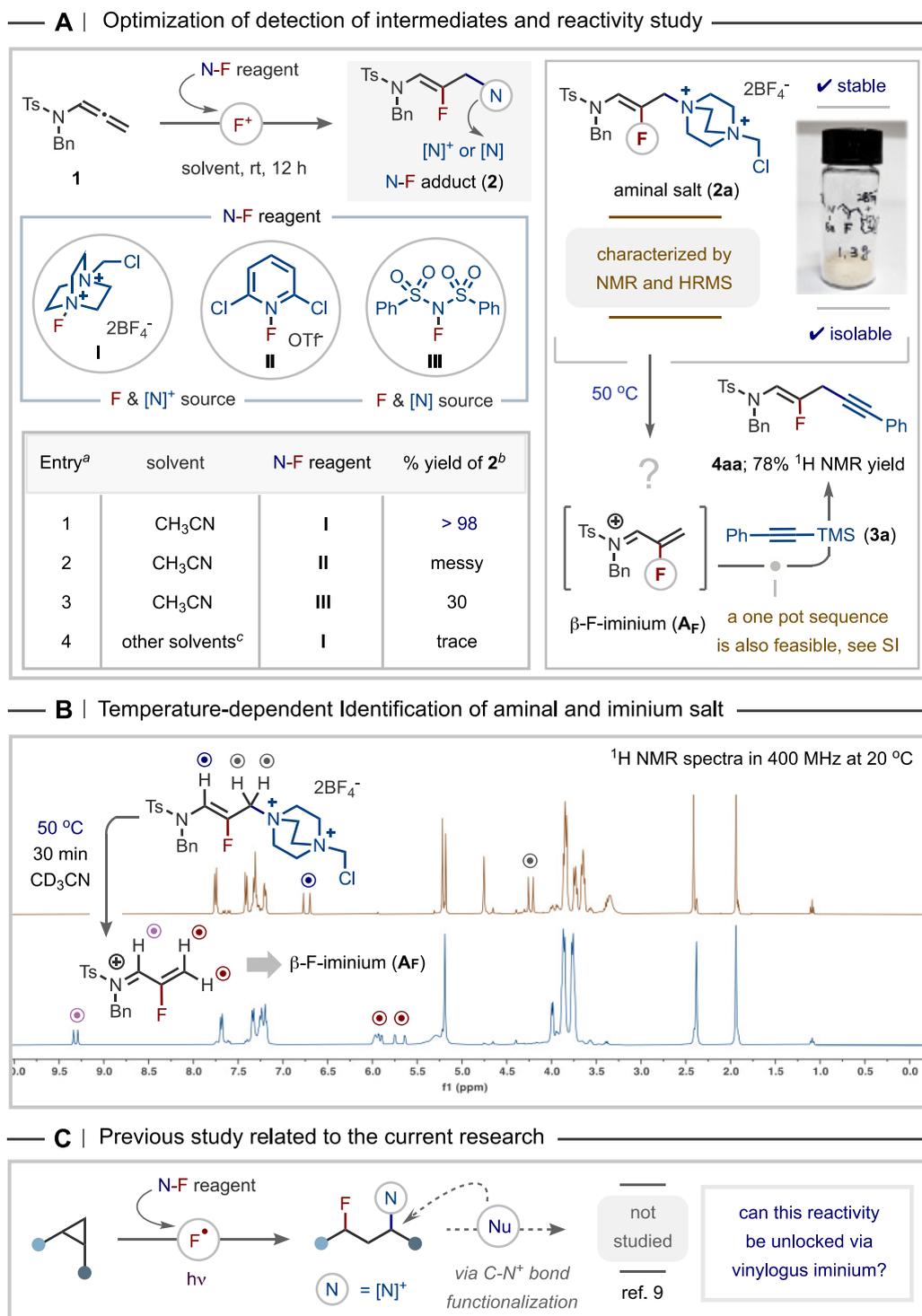
We began our search for β -fluoroiminium species A_F by evaluating several N–F reagents with allenamide **1** (left, Scheme 2A). The fluorinating agents tested included 1-chloromethyl-4-fluoro-1,4-diazoniabicyclo[2.2.2]octane bis(tetrafluoroborate) (Selectfluor, **I**), 2,6-dichloro-1-fluoropyridinium triflate (**II**), and *N*-fluorobenzenesulfonamide (NFSI, **III**). Interestingly, Selectfluor uniquely facilitated the exclusive formation of solid fluorinated DABCO (N–F) adduct **2a**, which is characterized by its easy isolation and stability (right, Scheme 2A). However, attempts using reagents **II** and **III** were unsuccessful, likely due to the lower nucleophilicity of the pyridyl unit and imide anion compared to that of the DABCO unit in reagent **I**. This unique success can be attributed to Selectfluor's specific compatibility with both the nucleophilicity of the cyclic amine and the electrophilicity of the iminium intermediate.⁸ It is worth mentioning to note here that a similar N–F (1,3)-adduct has been previously observed to form from strained cyclopropanes via the homolytic cleavage of N–F reagents (Scheme 2C).⁹ This strategy offers notable advantages; however, investigating the reactivities of these closely related scaffolds with other nucleophiles remains valuable, as only the SCN nucleophile was studied, and further nucleophilic substitution of the C–N⁺ bond was not explored.

In our standard procedure, Selectfluor (1.1 equiv) is added to a prestirred solution of compound **1a** in acetonitrile (0.2 M) at room temperature for 12 h to furnish 2,3-fluoroamination adduct **2a** in >98% ¹H NMR yield (94% isolated by precipitation at 0 °C, entry 1). The formation of adduct **2a** is verified through ¹H NMR spectroscopy, specifically by observing a doublet peak at $\delta = 4.24$ ppm (resulting from H–F coupling) of the α -proton to the aminal unit (top ¹H NMR, Scheme 2B). Notably, other solvents failed to produce any traces of the desired adducts (entry 4, Scheme 2A). For further functionalization studies, we determined the 2,3-adduct **2a** with silylated alkyne **3a** under various conditions (see the Supporting Information for details); the heating condition would enable us to observe the γ -alkynylation product in 78% ¹H NMR yield. With this in mind, could the iminium species be the actual reactive species, isolable or detectable, as strongly suggested by the above results, with temperature modulation likely playing a key role? Indeed, adjusting the temperature to 50 °C could reflect such an idea: compound **2a** undergoes full conversion to iminium salt A_F (Scheme 2B). This was

subsequently subjected to careful characterization using NMR spectroscopy and ESI–HRMS; interestingly, this process is irreversible; once formed, iminium salt A_F remained as such and is stable at room temperature for a week (see details in the Supporting Information). We ascribed the observed behavior solely to the good leaving ability of the DABCO unit in compound **2a**.

Following the detection of iminium ion formation, we initially explored its potential for regioselective C–C coupling reactions with a TMS–alkyne nucleophile, aiming to establish the feasibility of a metal-free protocol to complement a previously achieved method that requires a metallic Lewis acid activator.¹⁰ Indeed, simply incorporating trimethyl-(phenylethynyl)silanes (**3a**) enabled us to achieve the desired fluoroalkynylation product **4aa** with a yield of 92% in MeCN. The notion of an electrophilic fluorination followed by C-nucleophile interception (via iminium A_F) of aminal salt **2a** further prompted us to devise a streamlined one-pot sequential reaction that is amenable for easy diversification, as illustrated in Scheme 3. Precisely, the overall process initiates with the complete formation of the iminium adduct at 50 °C for 30 min, followed by nucleophile coupling at 80 °C (method A) or at the same temperature (method B, *vide infra*). We propose that highly electrophilic iminium intermediate A_F is intercepted by a silyl carbon nucleophile through the formation of a β -silyl vinyl cation (in the case of alkynylation), which subsequently delivers the desired product via nucleophilic attack at the distal carbon of iminium intermediate A_F .¹¹ Furthermore, the *Z* selectivity of the product can be attributed to iminium intermediate A_F favoring the *S-cis* ground-state conformation over the *trans* isomer, as previously studied for Cl–iminium species.^{6c}

With this optimized process, we first investigated the scope of the reaction with various TMS-protected C-nucleophiles (sp, sp², and sp³), and the results are summarized in Scheme 3A. Our scope studies indicate that different substitution patterns on the aromatic unit of trimethyl(phenylethynyl)silanes generally maintained reaction efficiency, regardless of their electronic, steric, or ring position (**4aa–4ak**) (top, Scheme 3A). Of note, EWGs at the *para* position of aryl-alkynylsilanes diminished the nucleophilicity of alkynyl carbon, affecting the reaction yield (**4ab–4ae**). In addition, TMS-alkynes possessing multi-aromatics, naphthyl (**4al**) and thiophene-substituted heteroaryl alkyne (**4am**) both performed well with comparable yield and selectivity. Interest-

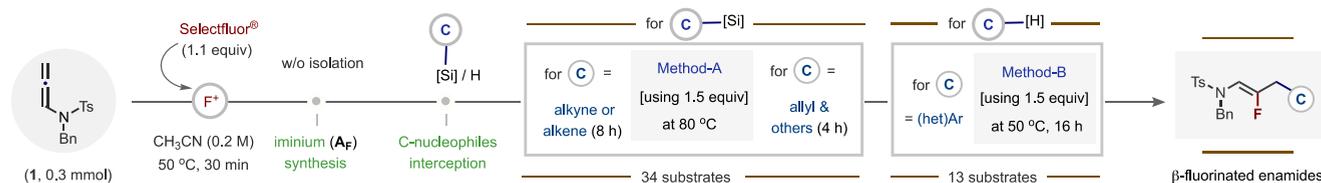
Scheme 2. Optimization, Intermediate Detection, and Reaction Development^a

^aUnless otherwise noted, optimization studies for the synthesis of compound **2a** were carried out using 0.2 mmol of allenamide **1**, N-F reagent (1.1 equiv), and solvent (0.2 M). ^bYields are determined by ¹H NMR using CH₂Br₂ as an internal standard. ^c1,2-Dichloroethane, dioxane, toluene, DMF, and EtOH were tested.

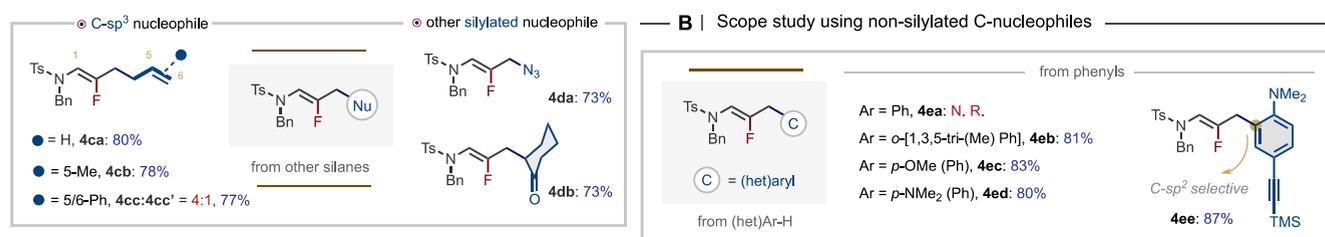
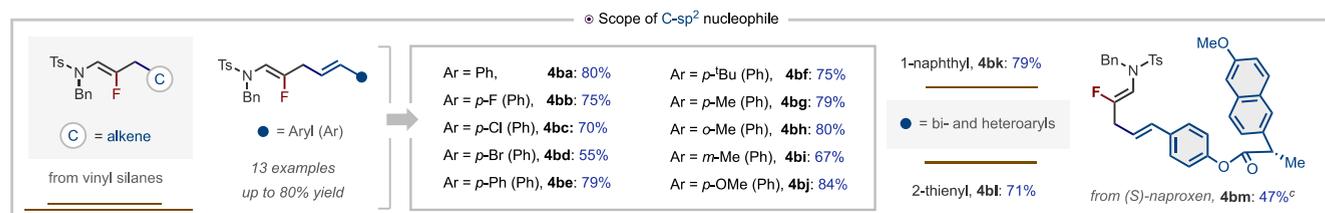
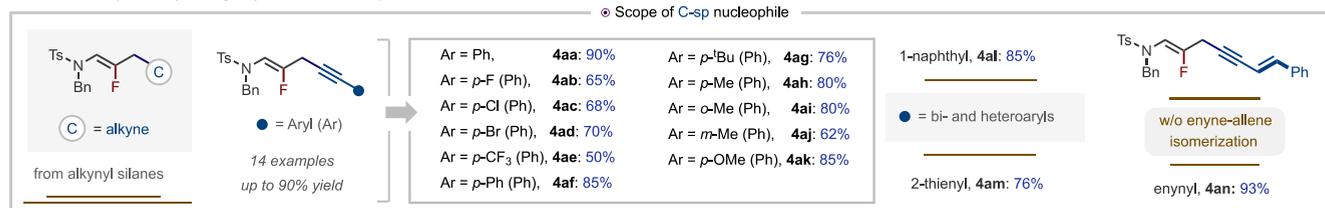
ingly, incorporation of additional conjugation through an olefinic bond was feasible (**4an**), remarkably, without any isomerization to allene.

We were pleased to find that the developed alkylation conditions were also effective for incorporating the olefin unit, enabling the synthesis of a C-skeleton bearing a dienamide unit via metal-free fluoro-carbofunctionalization (middle, **Scheme**

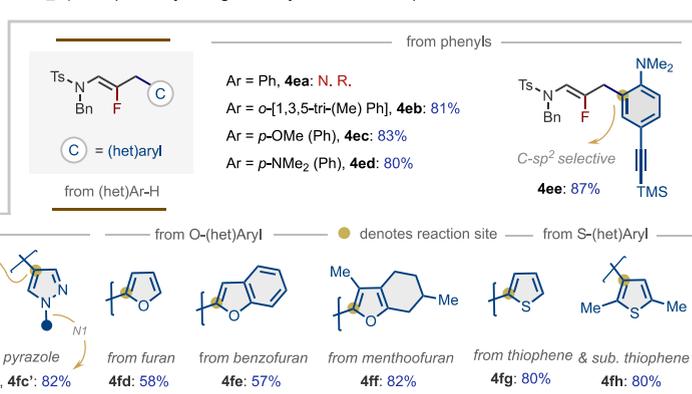
3A). A study with various functional groups on (*E*)-aryl vinylsilanes showed compatibility for a range of functional groups at the *para*, *meta*, and *ortho* positions with diverse electronic properties (**4ba–4bj**). Both linear and fused biaryls (**4be** and **4bk**) as well as the *S*-heterocycle, thiophene (**4bl**), were successfully accommodated, enabling the synthesis of conjugately distinct dienamides. Complex molecule modifica-

Scheme 3. Scope of Fluoro-carbofunctionalization Reactions^{a,b}

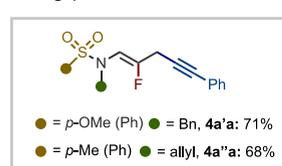
A | Scope study using silylated C-nucleophiles



B | Scope study using non-silylated C-nucleophiles



C | Other allenamides



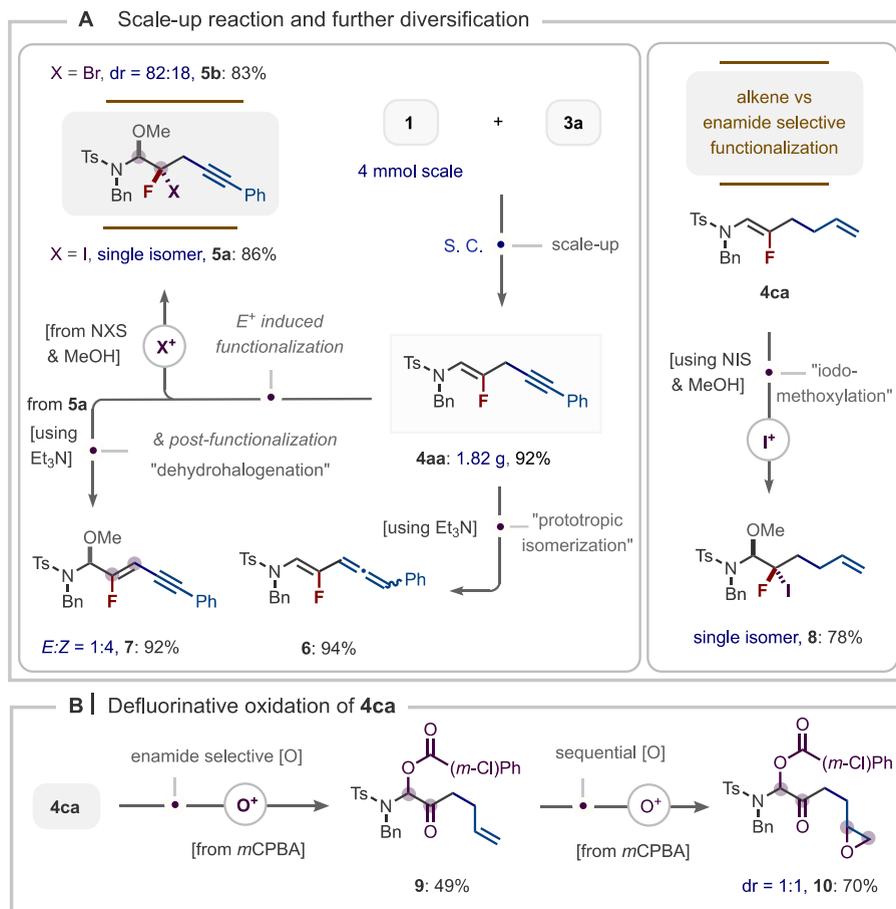
^aUnless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out in a one-pot sequential manner using 0.3 mmol of compound **1** and SelectFluor (0.33 mmol) in acetonitrile (0.2 M) at 50 °C for 30 min, and then TMS-protected carbon nucleophiles (0.45 mmol) were added to the reaction mixture under either condition A or B. ^bIsolated yields. ^cYield loss is due to the formation of the -NH(Ts)Bn byproduct, likely resulting from hydrolysis of intermediate **A_F** by residual water in the solvent, owing to the low reactivity of compound **3'm**.

tion was demonstrated by the coupling of a vinyl silane derivative of naproxen (**4bm**), a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug, further highlighting the synthetic versatility of this transformation.

To further expand the scope of our fluoro-carbofunctionalization reaction through C-C(sp³) bond formation, we next focused on using allyl trimethylsilanes (bottom left, Scheme 3A). Representative substrates include both unsubstituted and substituted internal and terminal olefins; while simple allyl and methallyl groups proved effective (**4ca** and **4cb**), cinnamyl-trimethylsilane produced two regioisomers in a 4:1 ratio, respectively, resulting from direct addition (**4cc**) and a Hosomi-Sakurai-type addition product (**4cc'**). Furthermore, we demonstrated that other silylated nucleophiles, such as silyl azides and silyl enol ethers, also coupled successfully with the same regioselectivity, furnishing the corresponding γ -azido and carbonylated fluoroenamides (**4da** and **4db**) in a synthetically acceptable yield. Unfortunately, limitations arose with the

ciano and thiociano precursors, as they did not yield the desired products (see the Supporting Information for details on the limitations of other substrates).

Direct and site-selective C-H functionalization of native arenes is a practical approach for the development of new synthetic protocols. Thus, to demonstrate the synthetic applicability of the metal-free iminium-guided fluoro-carbofunctionalization using nonsilylated C-nucleophiles, electron-rich aryl and heteroaryls were examined. Indeed, under slightly modified conditions, by lowering the temperature to 50 °C, which is the same with the iminium formation step, a variety of substrates successfully participated in this transformation (Scheme 3B). As expected, less nucleophilic arenes, such as benzene, failed to yield the desired product (**4ea**). However, we found that this lower reactivity could be counteracted by using the more nucleophilic arenes, such as mesitylene and *O*- and *N*-containing arenes, giving products **4eb**–**4ed** in $\geq 80\%$ yield. An interesting outcome was observed with the highly

Scheme 4. Scale-Up and Synthetic Elaboration of Carbofluorination Products^a

^aExperimental details for the scale-up and subsequent transformations are available in the [Supporting Information](#).

electron-rich arene, where *ortho*- and C-aryl-selective product **4ee** was formed preferentially over the expected alkynylation product. In addition, site-selective installation of fluorinated enamides onto a variety of electron-rich *N*-, *O*-, and *S*-heteroarenes was remarkable given the easy and mild conditions under which the coupling occurred. For example, C3- and C2-monoselective functionalization of single-*N*-atom-based heterocycles (indole and pyrrole) could be feasible (**4fa** and **4fb**). A comparatively less nucleophilic heteroarene, such as pyrazole, could also be functionalized selectively, with the *N*-Ph-protected derivative (**4fc**) favoring C4 selectivity, while the unprotected form led to *N*-selective allylation (**4fc'**). Pleasingly, both parent and C3-protected furan derivatives proved to be excellent coupling partners, yielding only C2-functionalized products (**4fd** and **4fe**). A fluorinated enamide unit was successfully installed into the pulegone metabolite menthofuran, a CYP2A6 inhibitor, furnishing product **4ff** in an excellent yield (82%). Finally, extension to use *S*-heterocycles with feasibility of selectively incorporating the enamide units at both C2 and C3 positions was likely with the strategic use of blocking units (for the latter), which made it accessible to products **4fg** and **4fh** in the same yield. Importantly, variations in *N* substituents of allenamide were also feasible, providing products **4a'a** and **4a''a** in comparable yields and with the same selectivity (Scheme 3C).

We subsequently explored the synthetic versatility of this method, as demonstrated in Scheme 4, showcasing diverse

transformations to enhance the structural and functional complexity of β -fluorinated enamide derivatives. Initially, the process was scaled up to gram quantities for the synthesis of fluoroalkynylation product **4aa**, achieving a satisfactory 92% isolated yield under the standard conditions. The series of transformations involving product **4aa** includes the following: (1) halonium-induced difunctionalization of the enamide unit through halomethoxylation to obtain *gem*-dihalide *N,O*-acetals (**5a** and **5b**), albeit with diastereoselectivity varying by halogen size (exclusive for I vs 82:18 for Br), (2) base-mediated prototropic isomerization to allene enamide **6**, and (3) post-functionalization of compound **5a** to conjugated fluorinated enynes **7** through dehydrohalogenation (left, Scheme 4A).

Similarly, iodonium-induced highly chemoselective synthesis of *gem*-dihalogenated α -*N,O*-aminal **8** was achieved through enamide-selective iodomethoxylation of allylation product **4ca** (right, Scheme 4A). Further transformations of the same product **4ca** highlighted its synthetic potential, unveiling an unexpected defluorinative C–O bond formation that selectively synthesized product **9**, the enamide-selective product, and a highly oxygenated C skeleton through excessive oxidation (**10**) (Scheme 4B). The first process is thought to proceed via the formation of an unstable hydroxy carboxylation adduct, which rapidly converts to defluorinated product **9**.

In summary, we have established a novel fluoro-carbofunctionalization approach to synthesize γ -functionalized β -fluoroenamides from allenamides via a F^+ activation pathway

mediated by Selectfluor, leveraging a pivotal facile iminium salt–iminium conversion. The subsequent utilization of an iminium intermediate was demonstrated in coupling with a broad spectrum of C-nucleophiles across all hybridization classes, maintaining consistent regio- and stereoselectivities. Experimental evidence elucidated the precise reaction intermediates, while product elaboration highlighted the broad synthetic applicability of this method.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Data Availability Statement

The data underlying this study are available in the published article and its [Supporting Information](#).

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.orglett.5c02033>.

Experimental procedures, compound characterization data, and NMR spectra ([PDF](#))

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

■ ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported by a two-year research grant from Pusan National University.

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