Straightforward synthesis of novel acene-based aryne precursors

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Dedicated to Prof. K. Peter C. Vollhardt

Abstract: Large polycyclic *o*-(trimethylsilyl)aryl triflates are easily obtained by reaction of commercially available bisaryne precursors with cyclopentadienones. The transformation involves controlled generation of one of the aryne functionalities, trapping by Diels-Alder reaction with a dienone, and chelotropic extrusion of CO. The newly synthetized triflates are precursors of acene-based arynes, including a didehydropentacene

Key words: arynes, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), acenes, Diels-Alder reaction, cycloadditions

In recent years the chemistry of arynes[1] has experienced a significant resurgence mainly due to the availability of suitable methods for their generation.[2] Most of the work published in the last decade used the fluoride-induced elimination from *o*-(trimethylsilyl)aryl triflates for the generation of arynes and hetarynes under mild conditions. This method, first described by Kobayashi *et al.*[3] and further developed by our group and others, spelled the discovery of novel reaction venues, including metal-catalyzed transformations,[4,5] and facilitated the application of aryne chemistry to the synthesis of complex natural products[6] and novel polycyclic aromatic systems.[7]

The preparation of simple *o*-(trimethylsilyl)aryl triflates is usually achieved in one or two synthetic steps from the corresponding *o*-bromophenols[8] which, in many cases, are accessible by selective *o*-bromination of phenols. This procedure has been proved useful for the synthesis of a variety of benzyne, naphthyne or phenanthryne precursors, starting from easily available phenols, naphthols or phenanthrols. The preparation of slightly more complex polycyclic *o*-(trimethylsilyl)aryl triflates, such as the precursors of 2,3-triphenylyne[9], 2,3-biphenylyne[10] or corannulyne[11] required longer, less efficient, synthetic routes. Here we report a straightforward method for the synthesis extended polycyclic *o*-(trimethylsilyl)aryl triflates by means of controlled [4+2] cycloadditions between cyclopentadienones and bistriflates **1**[12] or **2**[13], which are formal precursors of the 1,4-benzodiyne and 2,6-naphthodiyne respectively.

In the course of one of our research projects, focused to the synthesis of large PAHs with application in organic electronics, we recently reported the use of the *masked bisbenzyne* approach for the synthesis of the benzotriphenylyne precursor **3**.[14]

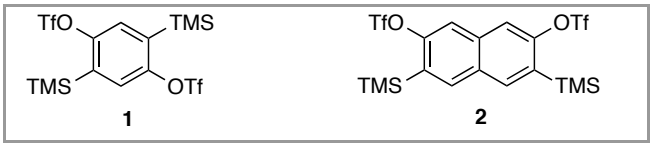
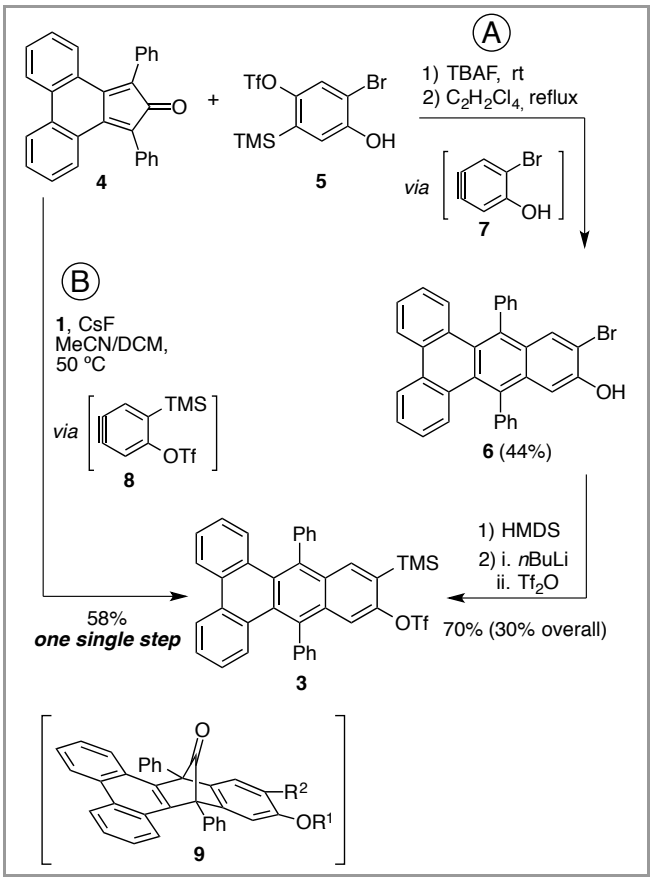


Figure 1

Thus, treatment of cyclopentadienone **4**[15] with 3-bromo-4-hydroxy-6-(trimethylsilyl)phenyl triflate (**5**) and TBAF afforded bromophenol **6**, through a [4+2] cycloaddition of the dienone with aryne **7**, followed by chelotropic decarbonylation (Scheme 1, route **A**).

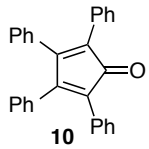
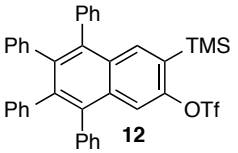
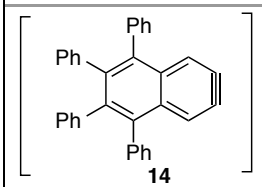
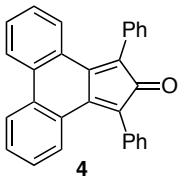
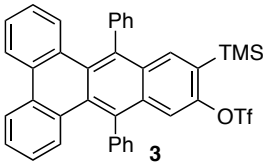
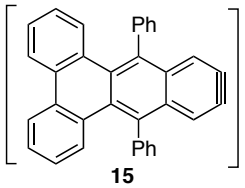
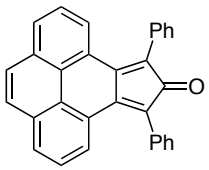
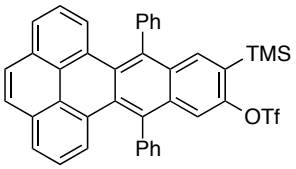
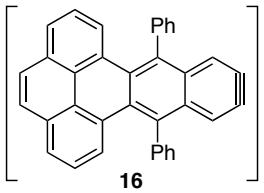
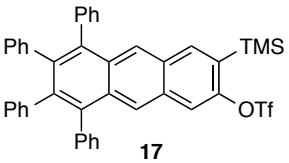
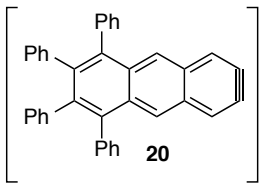
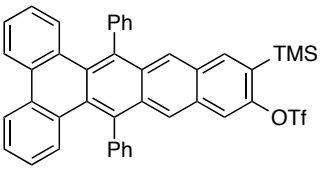
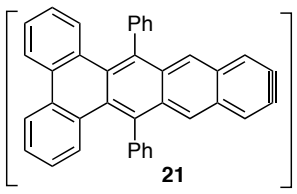
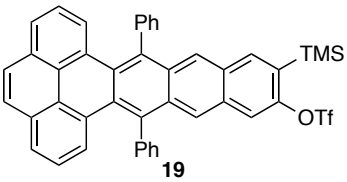
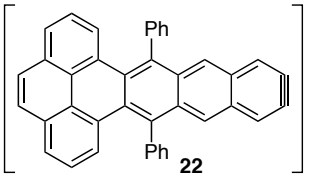


Scheme 1 Synthesis of **3**: (A) two-step procedure (*masked bisbenzyne* approach)[14], (B) one step procedure using bistriflate **1**

Transformation of **6** into the corresponding *o*-(trimethylsilyl)aryl triflate following our general established protocol,[8] afforded benzotriphenylyne precursor **3** in 30% overall yield, which was

subsequently subjected to Pd-catalyzed cyclotrimerization to build a clover-shaped 16-ring nanographene. In an attempt to synthetize **3** more efficiently, we explored the reaction of **4** with 2,5-bis(trimethysilyl)-1,4-phenylene bis(triflate) (**1**), under controlled conditions for the selective generation and trapping of funtionalized monoaryne **8**. Successfully, we found that treatment of **1** with 120 mol% anhydrous CsF in a 2:1 CH_3CN/CH_2Cl_2 mixture, in the presence of 1,3-diphenyl-2*H*-cyclopenta[*l*]phenanthren-2-one (**4**), afforded triflate **3** in 58% yield (Scheme 1, route B).

Table 1 Reaction of bistriflates **1** and **2** with cyclopentadienones[16]

Entry	Bisaryne precursor	Cyclopentadienone	Product	Yield (%)	Derived aryne
1	**1**	 **10**	 **12**	60	 **14**
2	**1**	 **4**	 **3**	58	 **15**
3	**1**	 **11**	 **13**	44	 **16**
4	**2**	**10**	 **17**	40	 **20**
5	**2**	**4**	 **18**	21	 **21**
6	**2**	**11**	 **19**	24	 **22**

The choice of the solvent mixture and the use of CsF as fluoride source seem to be crucial for the success of this chemoselective transformation.[17] On the one hand, CsF is only slightly soluble in these conditions, which allows the slow generation of the aryne. On the other hand, the lower solubility of the reaction products (with respect to the reagents) promotes their partial precipitation from the reaction mixture and minimizes the possibility of generating a second aryne.

The reaction proceeds *via* [4+2] cycloaddition reaction of monoaryne **8** to cyclopentadienone **4**, followed by chelotropic extrusion of carbon monoxide. In some experiments, the intermediate cycloadduct **9** can be detected, and forced to evolve towards **3** upon additional heating. It is worth to note that bistriflate **1** had been previously used as 1,4-

bisbenzyne synthon equivalent in a double Diels-Alder reactions to build a stable *twistacene*[12] but, to the best of our knowledge, no example of an efficient single fluoride-induced elimination to generate intermediate **8** had been described prior to our work.[18]

Application of the same protocol to the reaction of **1** with other dienones such as the commercially available 2,3,4,5-tetraphenylcyclopentadienone (**10**) and the easily accessible 9,11-diphenyl-10*H*-cyclopenta[*e*]pyren-10-one (**11**)[19] afforded the corresponding *o*-(trimethylsilyl)aryl triflates **12** and **13** in 60% and 44% yields, respectively (Table 1, entries 1 and 3). As mentioned above, compound **3** is a convenient precursor of the dibenzofused 2,3-didehydroanthracene **15** as demonstrated in the synthesis of a [16]cloverphene.[14] On the other hand, the tetraphenylnapthyne **14**, which can be generated from **12**, and the bisbenzotetracyne **16**, available through **13**, had been obtained before from other precursors[20,21] and employed in Diels-Alder reactions for the synthesis of stable, phenyl substituted and/or benzoannulated large acenes.

In order to extend the polycyclic aryne core towards larger acenes, we explored the reactions of the 2,6-naphthodiyne precursor **2**. Satisfyingly, treatment of **2** with 120 mol% CsF in the presence of dienes **4**, **10** and **11** under similar controlled conditions, afforded the corresponding *o*-(trimethylsilyl)aryl triflates **17**-**19** as major products, in reasonable yields (Table 1, entries 4-6).[22] Remarkably, triflate **19** is a stable, functionalized pentacene[23] and a potential precursor of the large pentacene-based aryne **22**. The UV/Vis spectra of **19** showed the lowest-energy absorption band at λ_{onset} = 484 nm, with a band gap of 2.56 eV, slightly lower than the HOMO-LUMO gap of a previously described pyrene-terminated pentacene.[24] On the other hand, cyclic voltammetry (CV) showed a reversible reduction process at $E_{1/2}^{red}$ = -1.48 V.

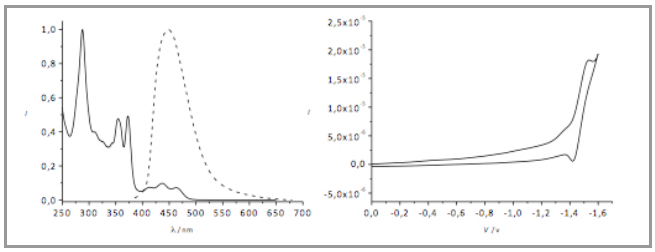


Figure 2 Electronic properties of pentacene **19**: (a) absorption (solid line) and emission (dashed line) spectra in CH_2Cl_2. (b) Cyclic voltammogram in CH_2Cl_2/0.1 M Bu_4NPF_6 using AgCl/Ag as the reference electrode

In conclusion, an expeditious method for the synthesis of novel polycyclic *o*-(trimethylsilyl)aryl triflates, based on the controlled reaction of a formal bisaryne precursor with cyclopentadienones has been described. The application of these compounds to the synthesis of novel acene, phene and starphene derivatives by means of aryne cycloaddition reactions will be reported in due course.

Supporting Information for this article is available online at http://www.thieme-connect.com/products/ejournals/journal/10.1055/s-00000083.

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(16) **General procedure**: To a solution of bisaryne precursor (**1** or **2**) and cyclopentadienone (**4**, **10** or **11**, 110 mol%), in 2:1 CH_3CN/CH_2Cl_2, finely powdered anhydrous CsF (120 mol%) was added, and the mixture was stirred at 50 ºC under argon atmosphere for 12 h. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the resulting mixture was purified by column chromatography (SiO_2, hexanes/CH_2Cl_2) to isolate the corresponding *o*-(trimethylsilyl)aryl triflate. In some experiments, the intermediate Diels-Alder adduct (e.g. **9**) was detected in other fractions eluted from the column, which were collected, concentrated under vacuum, dissolved in tetrachloroethane and refluxed for 12 h. Evaporation of the solvent under vacuum and column chromatography (SiO_2, hexanes/CH_2Cl_2) of the residue afforded an additional portion of *o*-(trimethylsilyl)aryl triflate.

9,14-Diphenyl-12-(trimethylsilyl)benzo[*f*]tetraphen-11-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate (3): Reaction of 1,3-diphenyl-2*H*-cyclopenta[*l*]phenanthren-2-one **(4**, 243 mg, 0.637 mmol), 2,5-bis(trimethylsilyl)-1,4-phenylene bis(trifluoromethanesulfonate) (**1**, 300 mg, 0.579 mmol) and CsF (105 mg, 0.695 mmol) in 2:1 CH_3CN/CH_2Cl_2 (9 mL) afforded **3** (218 mg, 58%) as a greenish solid; m.p. 219-221 ºC. ^{1}H NMR (250 MHZ, $CDCl_3$): δ = 8.29 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 8.13 (s, 1H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (m, 5H), 7.54 (m, 5H), 7.41–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.04–6.98 (m, 2H), 0.33 (s, 9H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (63 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 152.6 (C), 140.9 (C), 140.5 (C), 136.8 (CH), 135.4 (C), 135.2 (C), 132.7 (C), 132.3 (2CH), 132.2 (C), 132.1 (2CH), 132.1 (C), 131.9 (C), 130.8 (C), 130.6 (C), 130.55 (C), 130.50 (CH), 130.4 (CH), 129.8 (C), 129.3 (C), 129.1 (2CH), 129.0 (2CH), 128.0 (CH), 127.9 (CH), 127.3 (CH), 127.2 (CH), 125.9 (2CH), 123.3 (2CH), 115.7 (CH), -0.8 ($3CH_3$) ppm. MS (EI), *m/z* (%): 650 (30). HRMS (EI): m/z calcd for $C_{38}H_{29}F_3O_3SSi$: 650.1559; found: 650.1563.

5,6,7,8-Tetraphenyl-3-(trimethylsilyl)naphthalen-2-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate (12): Reaction of 2,3,4,5-tetraphenylcyclopenta-2,4-dien-1-one (**10**, 329 mg, 0.858 mmol), 2,5-bis(trimethylsilyl)-1,4-phenylene bis(trifluoromethanesulfonate) (**1**, 404 mg, 0.780 mmol) and CsF (142 mg, 0.936 mmol) in 2:1 CH_3CN/CH_2Cl_2 (11 mL) afforded **12** (305 mg, 60%) as a white solid; m.p. 249-251 ºC. ^{1}H NMR (300 MHZ, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.32–7.20 (m, 10H), 6.92–6.87 (m, 10H), 0.30 (s, 9H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 152.8 (C), 140.7 (C), 139.9 (4C), 138.7 (2C), 138.5 (C), 138.3 (C), 136.9 (CH), 133.4 (C), 131.1 (3CH), 131.1 (4CH), 130.9 (2CH), 130.5 (C), 127.7 (2CH), 127.6 (2CH), 126.9 (CH), 126.7 (4CH), 125.7 (CH), 125.6 (CH), 118.4 (q, *J* = 320 Hz, CF_3), 116.3 (CH), -0.9 ($3CH_3$) ppm. MS (EI), *m/z* (%): 652.3 (M^+, 70), 504.3 (14), 293.3 (41), 147.1 (43). HRMS (EI): m/z calcd for $C_{38}H_{31}F_3O_3SSi$: 652.1715; found: 652.1713.

9,14-Diphenyl-12-(trimethylsilyl)dibenzo[*de,qr*]tetracen-11-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate (13): Reaction of 9,11-diphenyl-10*H*-cyclopenta[*e*]pyren-10-one (**11**, 100 mg, 0.246 mmol), 2,5-bis(trimethylsilyl)-1,4-phenylene bis(trifluoromethanesulfonate) (**1**, 116 mg, 0.224 mmol) and CsF (41 mg, 0.269 mmol) in 2:1 CH_3CN/CH_2Cl_2 (9 mL) afforded **13** (66 mg, 40%) as a yellow solid; m.p. 279-281 ºC. ^{1}H NMR (500 MHZ, $CDCl_3$): δ = 8.11 (s, 1H), 7.90–7.85 (m, 6H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.56–7.48 (m, 10H), 7.35 (td, *J* = 7.9, 2.2 Hz, 2H), 0.32 (s, 9H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 153.0 (C), 141.7 (C), 141.4 (C), 137.3 (CH), 136.9 (C), 136.6 (C), 133.2 (C), 132.4 (2CH), 132.2 (2CH), 131.0 (C), 131.0 (C), 130.99 (C) 130.97 (C), 130.3 (C), 130.2 (C), 130.1 (C), 129.9 (C), 129.5 (2CH), 129.4 (2CH), 129.1 (CH), 129.0 (CH), 128.2 (CH), 128.1 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 126.6 (CH), 126.4 (CH), 126.2 (C), 126.1 (C), 125.1 (CH), 125.0 (CH), 118.5 (q, *J* = 325 Hz, CF_3), 116.1 (CH), -0.6 ($3CH_3$) ppm. MS (EI), *m/z* (%): 674 (100, M+), 541 (53), 448 (16).

5,6,7,8-Tetraphenyl-3-(trimethylsilyl)anthracen-2-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate (17): Reaction of 2,3,4,5-tetraphenylcyclopenta-2,4-dien-1-one **(10**, 126 mg, 0.329 mmol), 3,6-bis(trimethylsilyl)-naphthalene-2,7-diyl bis(trifluoromethanesulfonate) (**2**, 115 mg, 0.299 mmol) and CsF (55 mg, 0.359 mmol) in 2:1 CH_3CN/CH_2Cl_2 (9 mL) afforded **17** (84 mg, 40%) as a white solid; m.p. 223-225 ºC. ^{1}H NMR (300 MHZ, $CDCl_3$): δ = 8.27 (s, 1H), 8.22 (s, 1H), 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.39–7.21 (m, 10H), 7.01–6.78 (m, 10H), 0.43 (s, 9H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 152.4 (C), 140.5 (2C), 139.91 (C), 139.59 (C), 139.52 (C), 139.4 (C), 139.0 (CH), 138.6 (C), 138.3 (C), 132.1 (C), 131.7 (C), 131.6 (CH), 131.6 (CH), 131.4 (CH), 129.6 (C), 128.1 (CH), 128.0 (CH), 127.0 (CH), 126.9 (CH), 126.9 (CH), 126.8 (CH), 126.4 (CH), 125.7 (CH), 116.2 (CH), -0.4 ($3CH_3$) ppm. MS (MALDI-TOF), *m/z* 702 (M^+).

9,16-Diphenyl-13-(trimethylsilyl)dibenzo[*a,c*]tetracen-12-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate (18): Reaction of 1,3-diphenyl-2*H*-cyclopenta[*l*]phenanthren-2-one **(4**, 148 mg, 0.388 mmol), 3,6-bis(trimethylsilyl)-naphthalene-2,7-diyl bis(trifluoromethanesulfonate) (**2**, 200 mg, 0.353 mmol) and CsF (65 mg, 0.424 mmol) in 2:1 CH_3CN/CH_2Cl_2 (9 mL) afforded **18** (50 mg, 21%) as a yellow solid. ^{1}H NMR (500 MHZ, $CDCl_3$): δ = 8.51 (s, 1 , 8.46 (s, 1 , 8.18 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.66–7.54 (m, 10H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 0.43 (s, 9H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 152.4 (C), 141.6 (2C), 141.5 (2C), 139.0 (CH), 135.4 (C), 135.0 (C), 133.0 (2CH), 133.0 (2CH), 132.6 (C), 132.6 (C), 131.8 (C), 131.5 (C), 131.5 (C), 131.4 (C), 131.2 (C), 131.0 (CH), 130.9 (CH), 130.0 (C), 129.6 (2CH), 129.5 (2CH), 128.3 (CH), 128.2 (CH), 128.06 (C), 127.6 (CH), 127.6 (CH), 126.5 (CH), 126.3 (CH), 126.0 (CH), 123.7 (CH), 118.2 (q, *J* = 321 Hz, CF_3), 116.3 (CH), -0.4 (CH3) ppm. MS (MALDI-TOF), *m/z* 700 (M^+).

9,16-Diphenyl-13-(trimethylsilyl)dibenzo[*de,uv*]pentacen-12-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate (19): Reaction of 9,11-diphenyl-10*H*-cyclopenta[*e*]pyren-10-one (**11**, 118 mg, 0.290 mmol), 3,6-bis(trimethylsilyl)-naphthalene-2,7-diyl bis(trifluoromethanesulfonate) (**2**, 150 mg, 0.264 mmol) and CsF (48 mg, 0.317 mmol) in 2:1 CH_3CN/CH_2Cl_2 (9 mL) afforded **19** (46 mg, 24%) as a yellow solid. ^{1}H NMR (500 MHZ, $CDCl_3$): δ = 8.52 (s, 1H), 8.47 (s, 1H), 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.85 (m, 3H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.73 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.65–7.57 (m, 10H), 7.29 (td, *J* = 7.9, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 0.44 (s, 9H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 152.4 (C), 142.1 (C),

142.0 (C), 139.1 (CH), 136.6 (C), 136.6 (C), 132.8 (2CH), 132.76 (2CH), 132.0 (C), 131.6 (C), 131.6 (C), 131.3 (C), 131.0 (C), 130.9 (C), 130.4 (C), 130.4 (C), 130.1 (C), 129.7 (CH), 129.6 (CH), 129.4 (CH), 129.3 (CH), 128.2 (CH), 128.1 (CH), 127.0 (CH), 127.0 (CH), 126.7 (CH), 126.6 (CH), 126.6 (CH), 126.4 (C), 126.3 (C), 126.1 (CH), 125.1 (CH), 125.1 (C), 118.2 (q, J = 322 Hz, CF_3), 116.29 (CH), 116.28 (CH), -0.43 (3CH3) ppm. MS (MALDI-TOF), *m/z* 724 (M^+).

(17) The use of neat CH_3CN or CH_2Cl_2, resulted in lower conversions due to the poor solubility of either the diene (in CH_3CN) or the CsF (in CH_2Cl_2). On the other hand the use of TBAF as the fluoride source afforded lower yields of the expected triflates.

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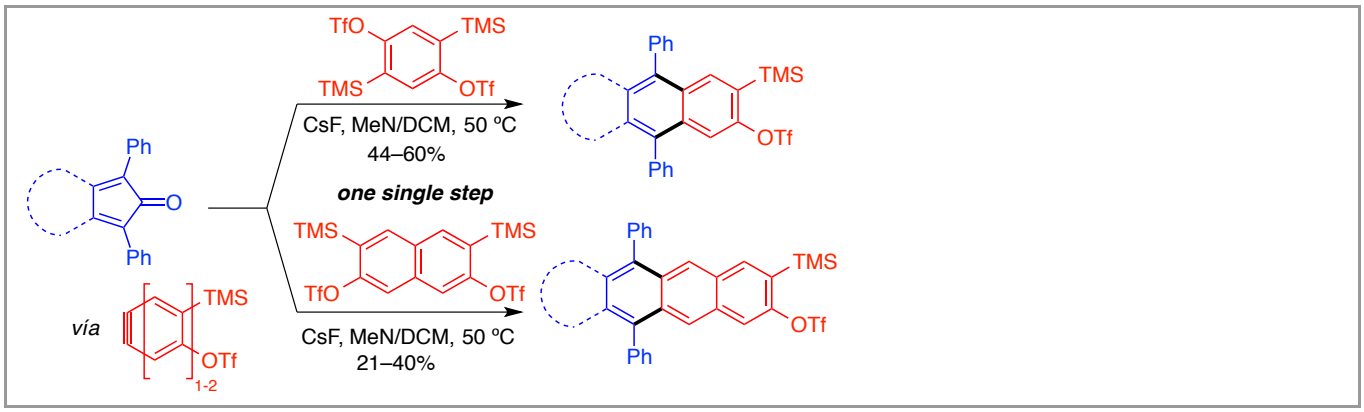
Straightforward synthesis of novel acene-based aryne precursor



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