

Sulfur Tetrafluoride (SF₄) as a Deoxyfluorination Reagent for Organic Synthesis in Continuous Flow Mode

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Fluorinated molecules are prevalent in biologically active substances, as medicinal chemists integrate carbon-fluorine bonds in prospective therapeutic drugs to modulate their metabolic stability for example. This importance has driven the development of methodologies for the introduction of fluorine into organic molecules. Relying on the abundance of carbon-oxygen bond containing molecules, deoxyfluorination is a promising and widely used methodology to achieve this transformation, which is usually costly and/or highly hazardous when performed in batch. We report the development of a deoxyfluorination protocol using sulfur tetrafluoride (SF₄) as reagent to prepare organofluorine compounds in continuous flow mode. The method uses mild conditions, without the use of HF, which provides an improved safety profile. The methodology was applied to successfully convert various alcohols, aldehydes, and carboxylic acids to their corresponding fluorinated compounds. Advantages of the protocol include the tolerance of protecting groups, high enantioselective control and easy incorporation of inline reaction monitoring.
